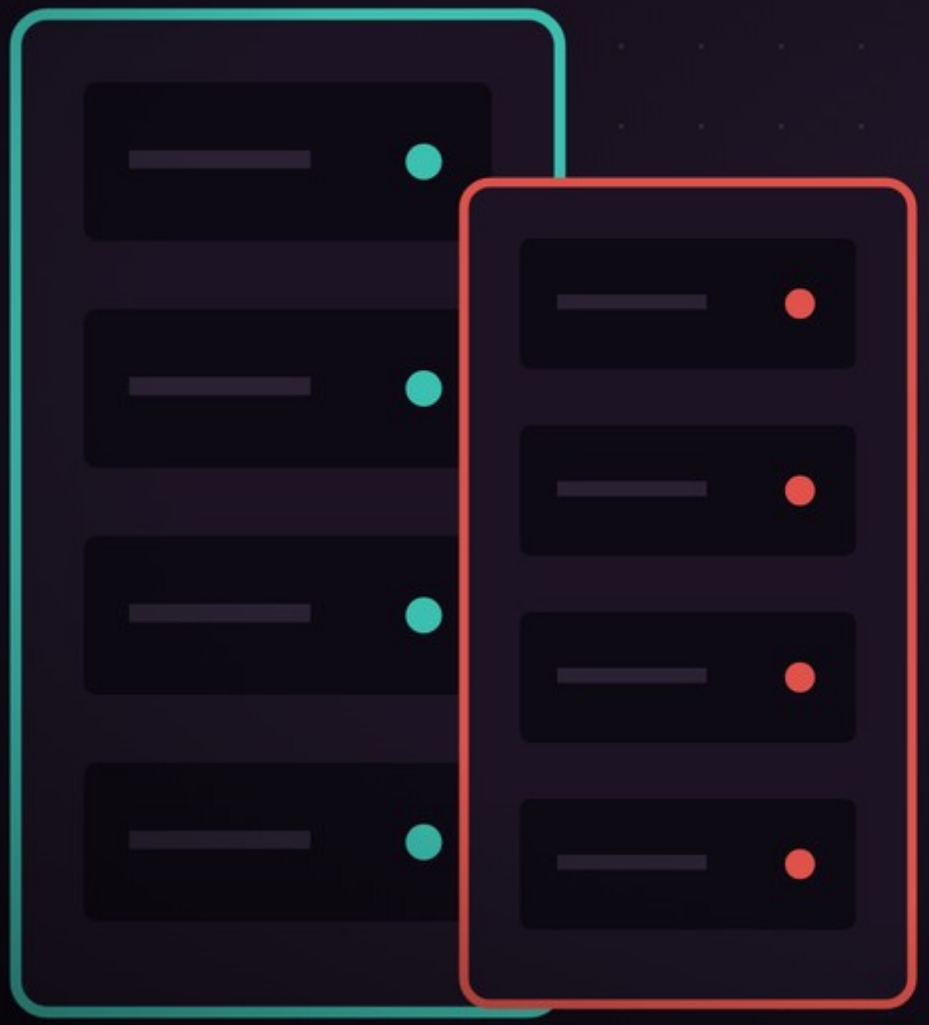
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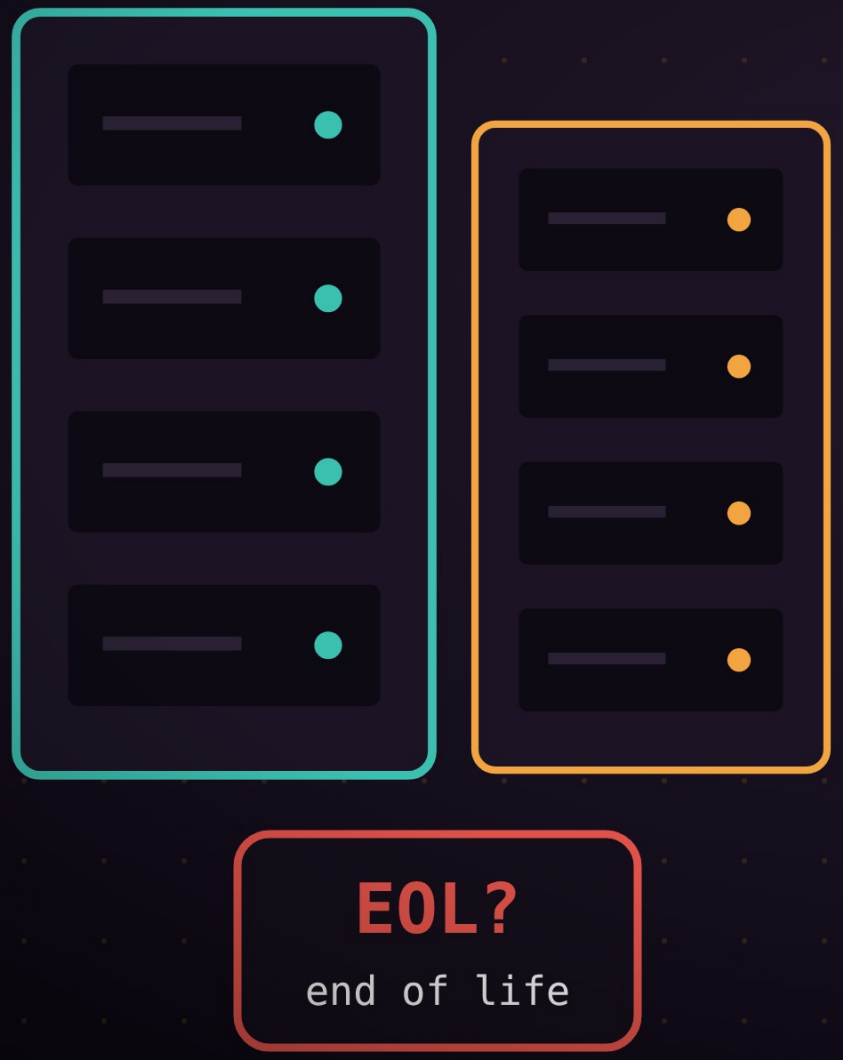
Web Servers



Apache · Tomcat · IIS
iPlanet · WebLogic

Why Old Versions Are Dangerous

EOL = NO MORE FIXES



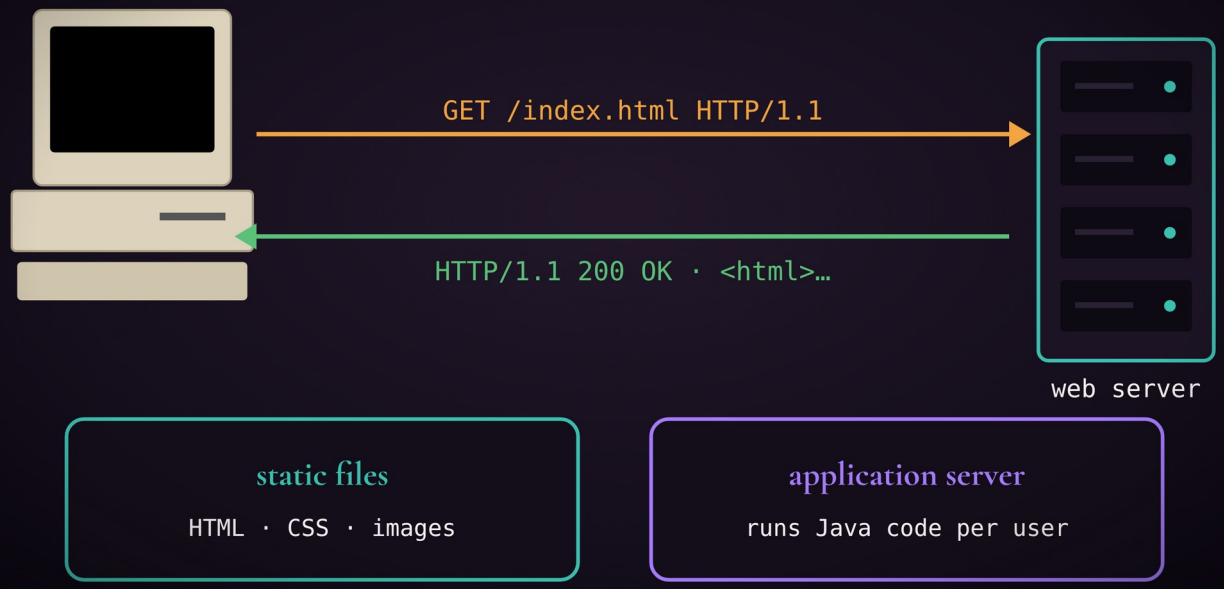
A MYWEBUNIVERSITY STORY

Web Servers

Apache · Tomcat · IIS
iPlanet · WebLogic

and Why Old Versions Are Dangerous

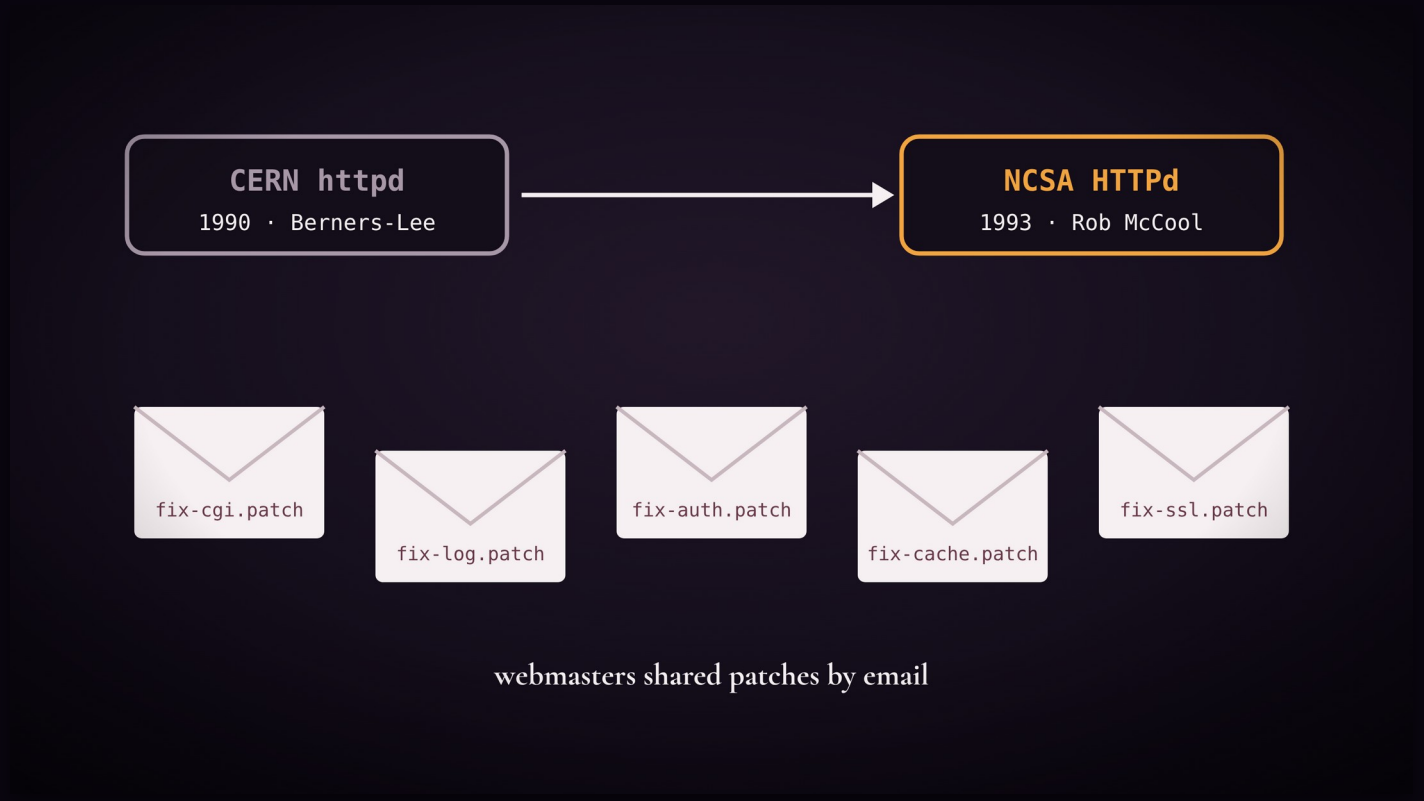
What Is a Web Server?



- Browser sends an HTTP request
- Web server returns pages, images, data
- Application servers run code (e.g. Java)

01

NCSA and the First Web Servers



- 1990: first web server at CERN (Tim Berners-Lee)
- 1993: NCSA HTTPd (Rob McCool)
- Webmasters shared patches by email

02

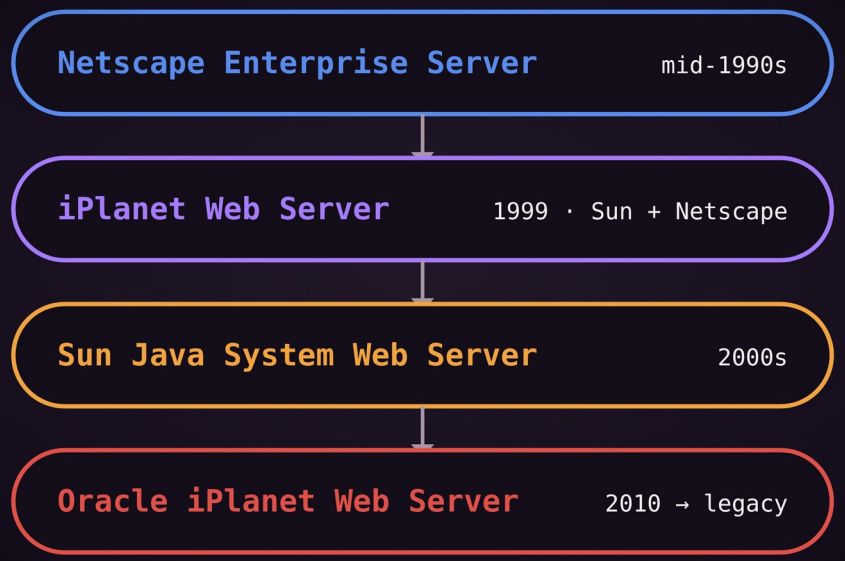
The Apache HTTP Server



- 1995: Apache HTTP Server · 1999: Apache Software Foundation
- Free, open source, modular (mod_ssl, mod_rewrite…)
- 2004: NGINX (Igor Sysoev)

03

Netscape and iPlanet

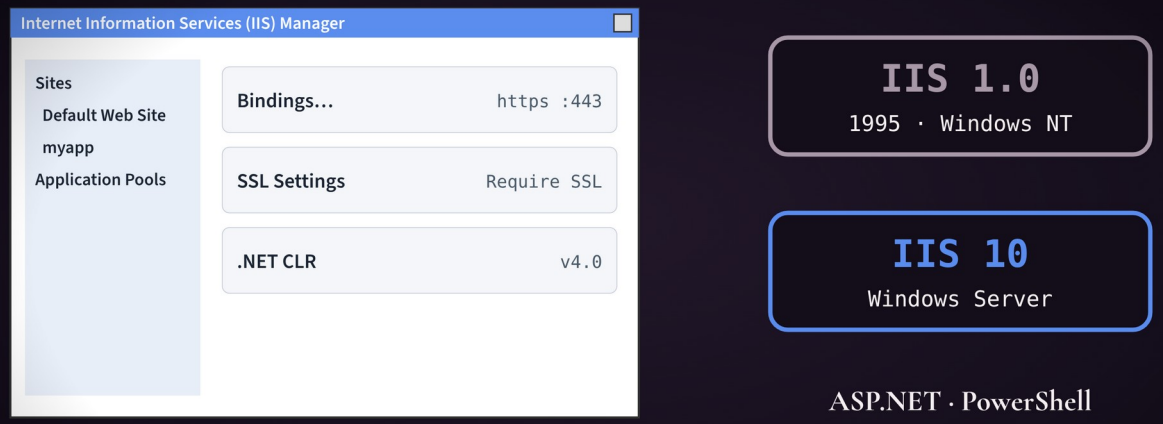


most organizations have moved away

- Netscape Enterprise Server
- 1999: iPlanet (Sun–Netscape Alliance)
- Sun Java System Web Server → Oracle iPlanet: legacy

04

Microsoft IIS



IIS 1.0
1995 · Windows NT

IIS 10
Windows Server

ASP.NET · PowerShell

support follows the Windows Server lifecycle

- 1995: IIS for Windows NT
- Runs ASP.NET; managed with Windows tools and PowerShell
- IIS 10: support follows Windows Server lifecycle

05

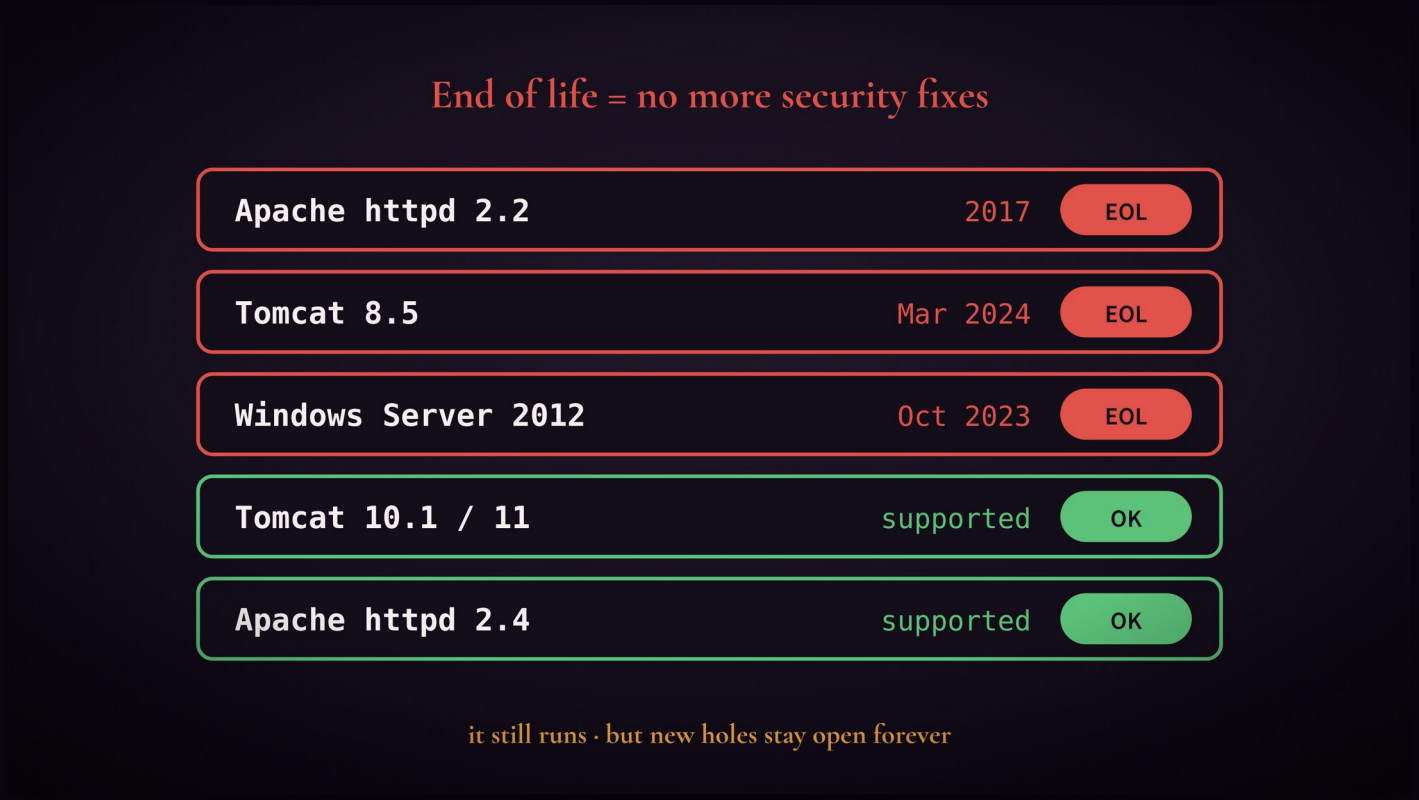
Tomcat and WebLogic: Java on the Server



- 1999: Tomcat (James Duncan Davidson) → Apache
- Servlets + JSP · light and free
- WebLogic: 1995 → BEA → Oracle (2008)

06

End of Life



- EOL = no more security fixes
- Apache 2.2 (2017) · Tomcat 8.5 (Mar 2024)
- Windows Server 2012 (Oct 2023)

07

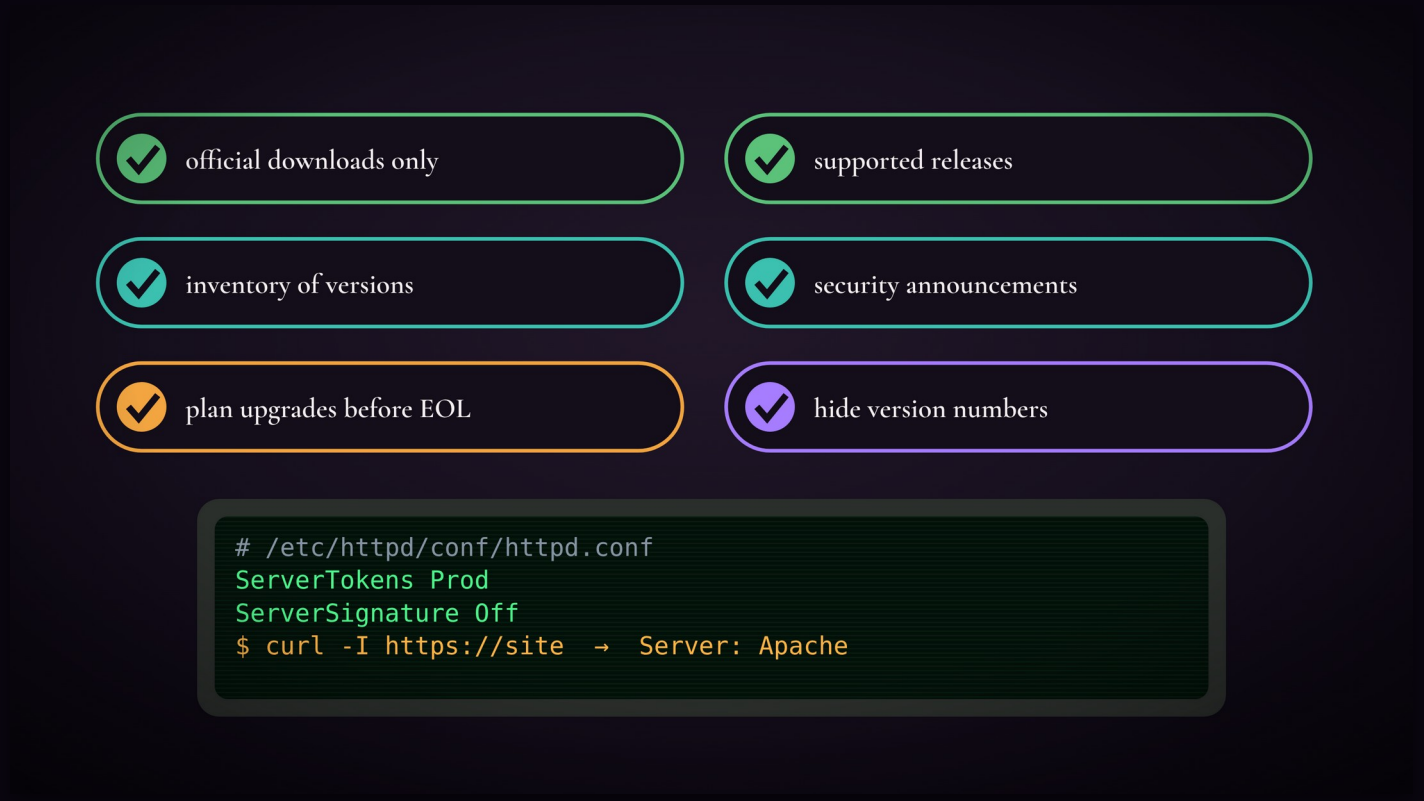
A Costly Lesson



- 2017: Equifax breached via unpatched Apache Struts
- Fix existed 2 months earlier · ~147M people affected
- Dec 2021: Log4Shell (Log4j)

08

Stay Current



- Official downloads · supported releases only
- Inventory · security announcements · plan before EOL
- Hide version numbers (ServerTokens Prod)

09

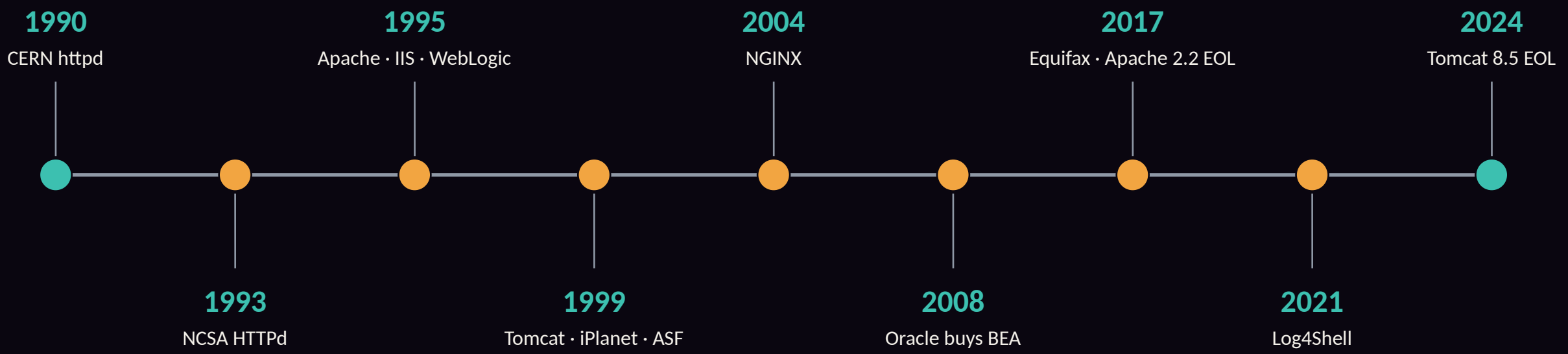
Old Software, New Risks



- Web servers carry banks, schools, hospitals
- Choosing is the start; keeping current is the job
- Configure securely · upgrade with confidence

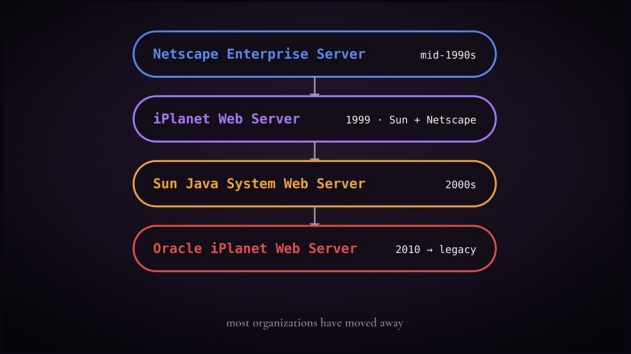
10

Timeline: 1990 to 2024



Sources and Further Reading

1. Apache HTTP Server Project, “About the Apache HTTP Server Project” — httpd.apache.org
2. Apache Tomcat, “Tomcat 8.5 end of life” announcement — tomcat.apache.org
3. U.S. GAO, “Data Protection: Actions Taken by Equifax…” (GAO-18-559), 2018
4. CISA, Apache Log4j Vulnerability Guidance (2021)
5. Microsoft Lifecycle: Windows Server 2012 — learn.microsoft.com · endoflife.date





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