



Achieving and Measuring Success at Scale

Christine Spang, Co-Founder & CTO, Nylas



```
1 {  
2   "object": "thread",  
3   "subject": "Upcoming Consultation",  
4   "snippet": "Let's talk about what matters most...",  
5   "has_attachments": true  
6 }
```

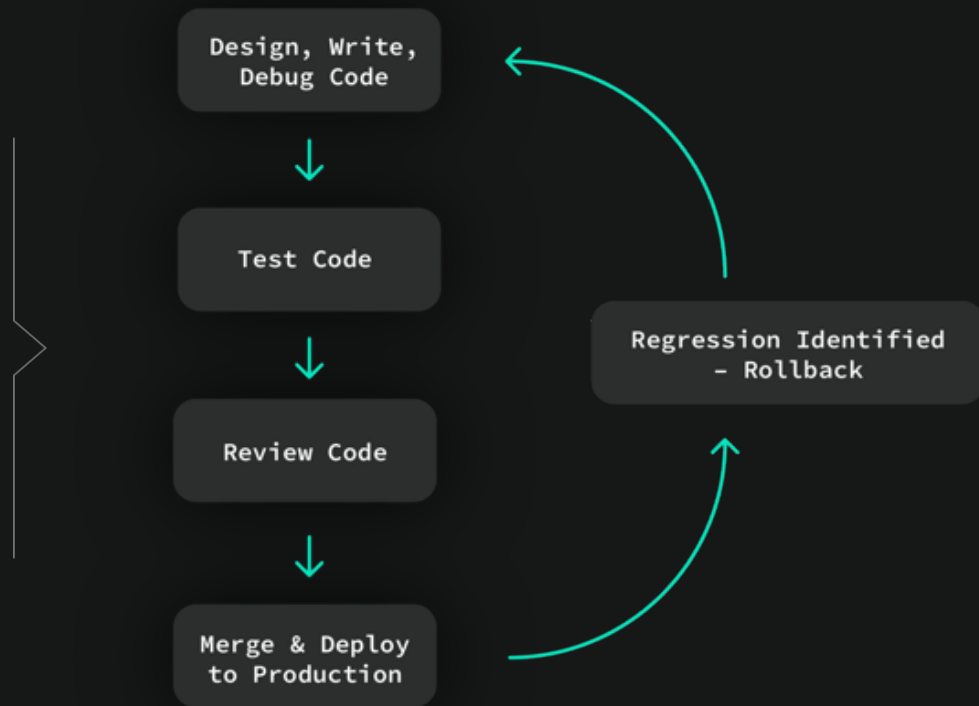
View Success Metrics in Different Stages:

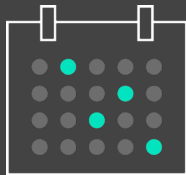
1. Building
2. Deployment





Optimizing Cycle Time





Minimize Time from Design to Production

Refine Each Step of the Process

Step 1: Measure

Instrument each step of the cycle to set a baseline.

Step 2: Optimize

Find places for improvement in each step of the process.

Step 3: 💰

A super fast feedback cycle makes happy engineers.

Step 1: Measure

- Goal is to be able to tell how long each step takes
- Don't overcomplicate it!
- Pull one-time data from GitHub API, Circle/Travis/Jenkins, etc.
- Don't get caught up in having statistical data for a large amount of time.

Step 2: Optimize

- Common sources of problems
 - Test run time
 - Deployment time / reliability
- Defect rate: how many bugs are identified/fixed **after** being shipped to production
 - Expensive because fixing requires another cycle iteration
- Code review

Step 3:



- **Fast Feedback == happy engineers.**
- Goal is to make it easy to ship to production multiple times a day
- Other ways to speed up the feedback cycle
 - Use tools like `pre-commit` to run fast linters or static type checkers locally
- Best-in-class cycle time - 15 minutes

Measuring Impact



Revenue Impact

- New revenue directly attributed to the feature
- Adoption of a free feature
 - Increases total engagement with the product
- Engagement/usage of existing features



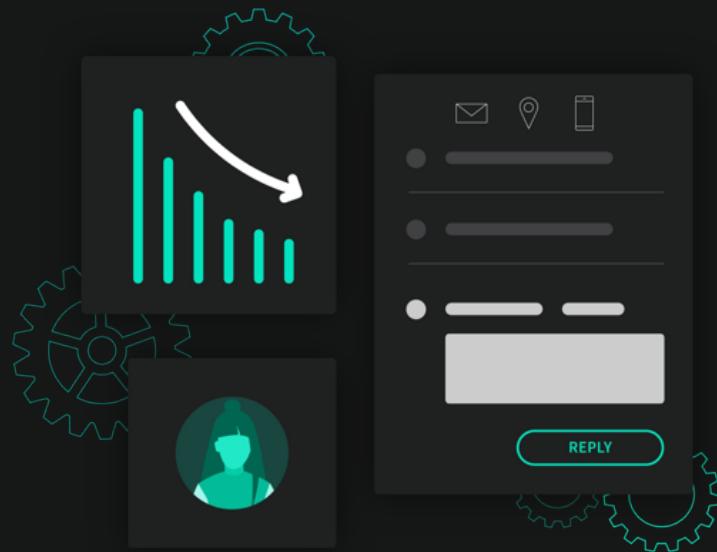
Reliability Impact

- Increased uptime / success rate
- Change in support ticket volume
- Decrease in the time it takes support to resolve tickets



Performance Impact

- P99, P95, P75 of <measurement> decreased from X to Y
- Queue wait time for <operation> decreased from X to Y



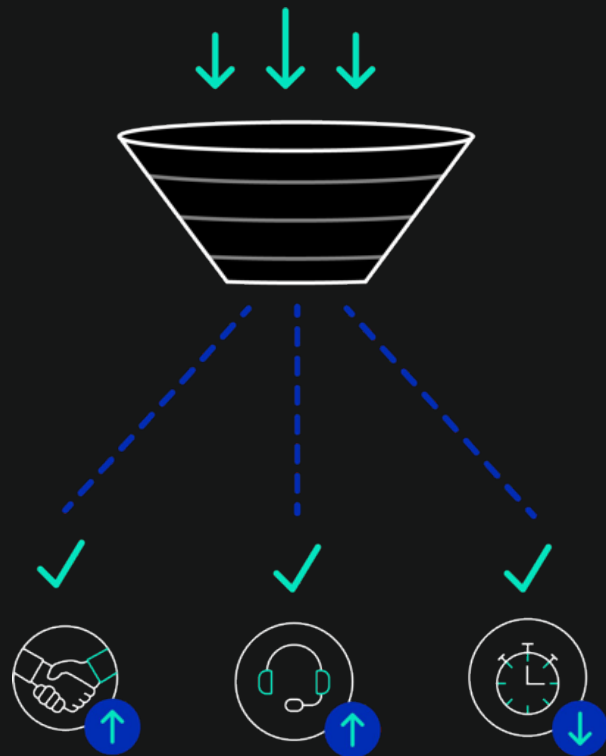
Cost Impact

- Cost to serve a <page, API request action> decreased from X to Y
- Total infrastructure spend for <service> decreased from X to Y



Inbound Funnel Impact

- Increase in signups
- Increase in outreach to sales
- Decreased time to convert a customer through a self-service buy flow



Takeaways

- 1 Care about and measure cycle time.
- 2 Fast feedback == Happy engineers
- 3 Identify and track metrics around business impact.



Thank You!

Email: spang@nylas.com

Twitter: @spang

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/christinespang/>



Nylas