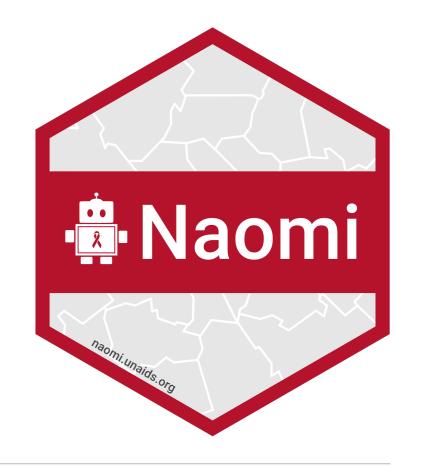
Research code as a service

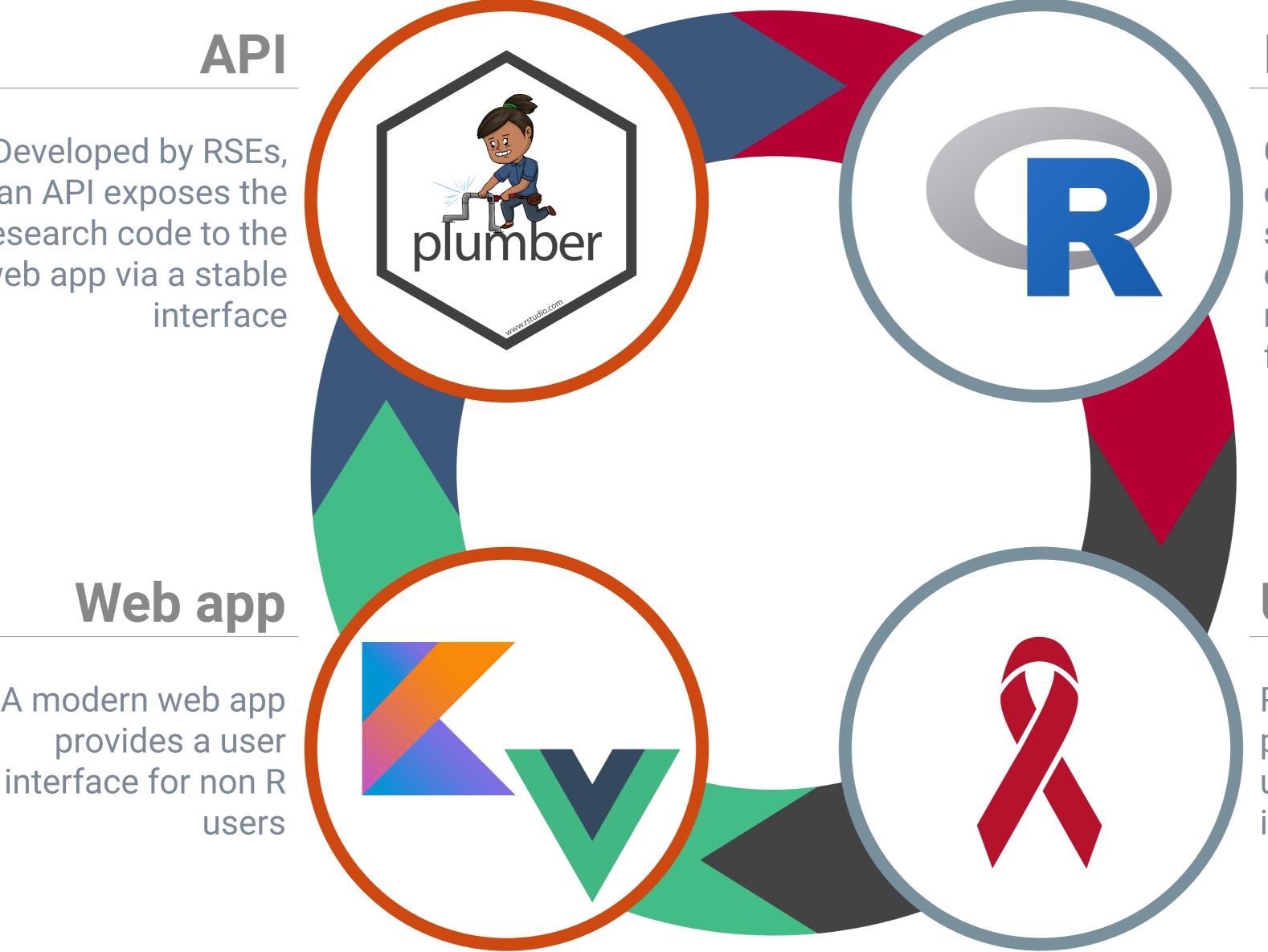
How to square the circle of providing a stable web-based user interface to evolving research code

Rob Ashton, Jeff Eaton, Rich FitzJohn, Alex Hill, Wes Hinsley, Emma Russell



API

Developed by RSEs, an API exposes the research code to the web app via a stable interface



Research

Cutting-edge research code written by scientists, which can evolve rapidly in response to user feedback

Users

R users can use the package directly - non R users can use the web interface



users

Web app

A modern web app

Domain specific knowledge is decoupled from web app and API and written in a language scientists are already familiar with



Long running processes are executed in parallel at scale using a load balancer implemented with Redis

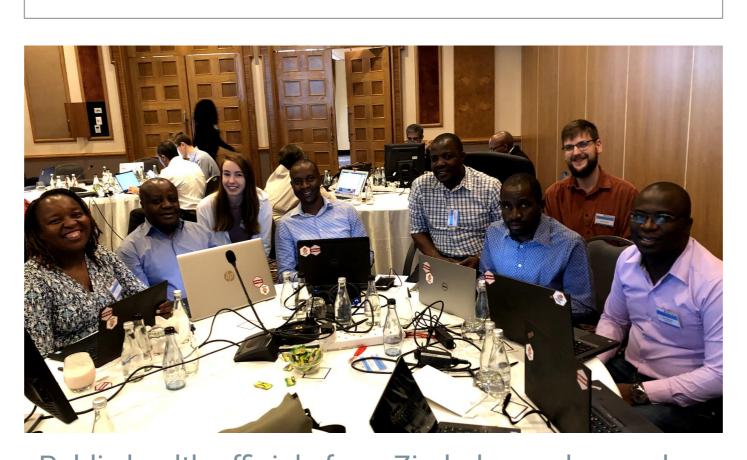


Internationalisation using i18next (JS) and traduire (R)



Interactions between API and web app are validated against JSON schemas

The web app interface is dynamically generated from metadata provided by the API



Public health officials from Zimbabwe, who used Naomi to produce estimates of people living with HIV, and their treatment needs - results will be used in their national budgeting and grant applications



Orchestration with docker allows deploying stable versions and updating of the backend without disconnecting users



Continuous integration to automatically test updates against a suite of integration tests



All code is open source and hosted on GitHub





