SEMIUG – October 2025

Forget ODBC! Here's a New Db2 Connector

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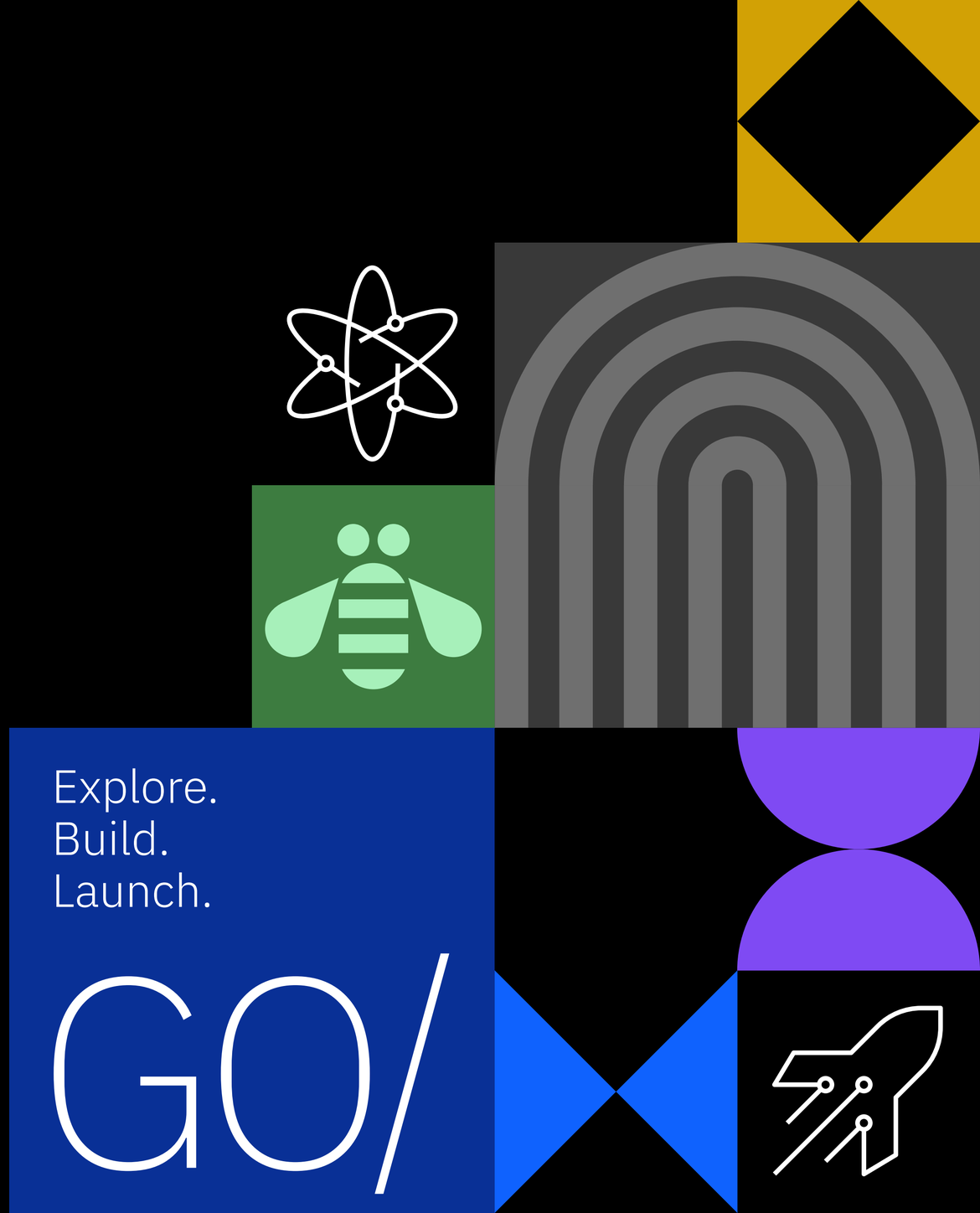
October 28

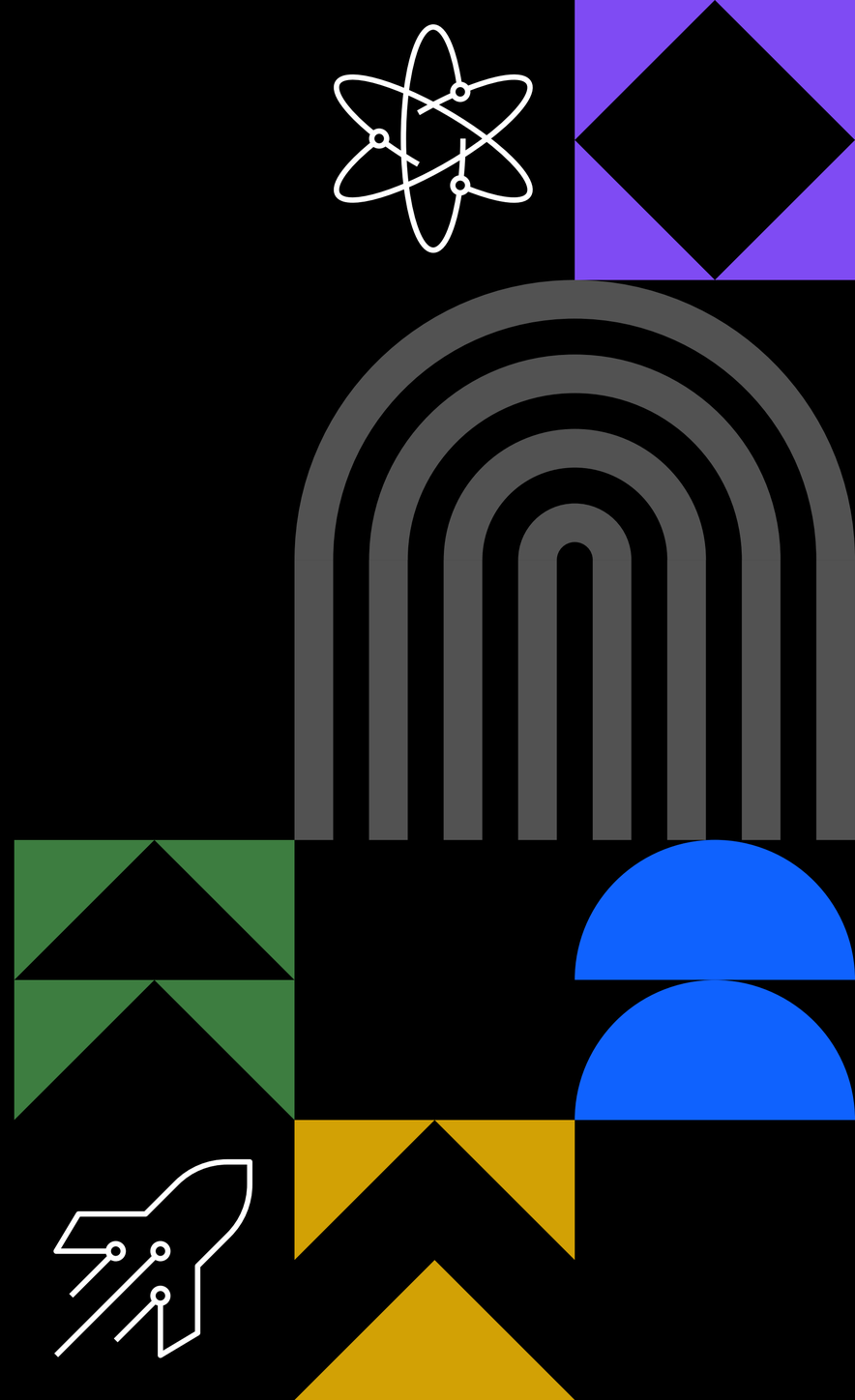


Agenda

01 What

02 Why

03 How



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What is Mapepire? https://mapepire-ibmi.github.io/

Welcome to Mapepire

A cloud-friendly IBM i database access layer, built with simplicity and performance in-mind.

Find out more →

Pick your client language ⓘ

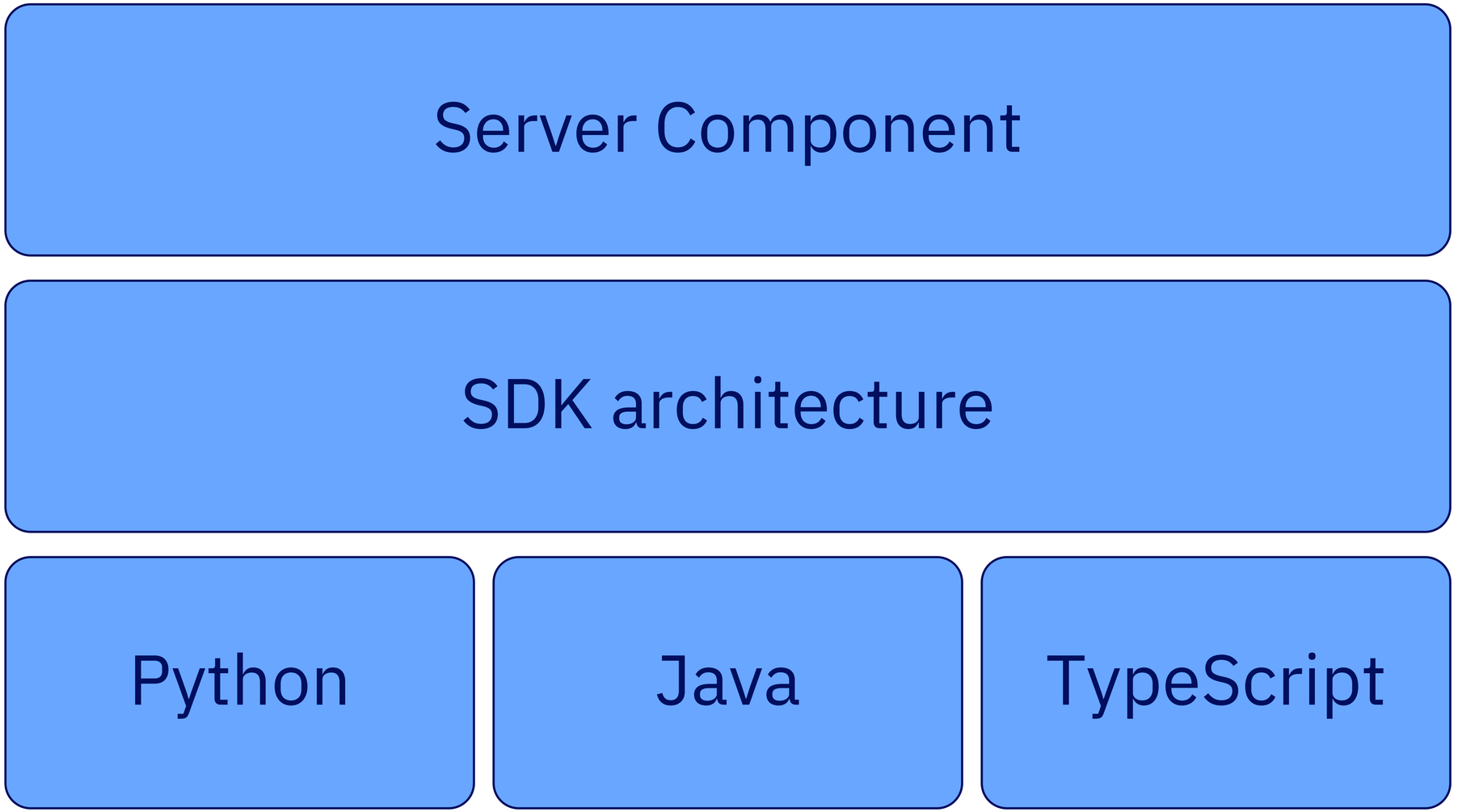
Why Mapepire?

Mapepire (pronounced ‘mapəpɪə’ or ‘MAH-pup-ee’) is a database access layer written on top of secure web sockets. It was built to make developing modern applications in .NET Core, Node.js, PHP, and the likes, easier when using Db2 for i.

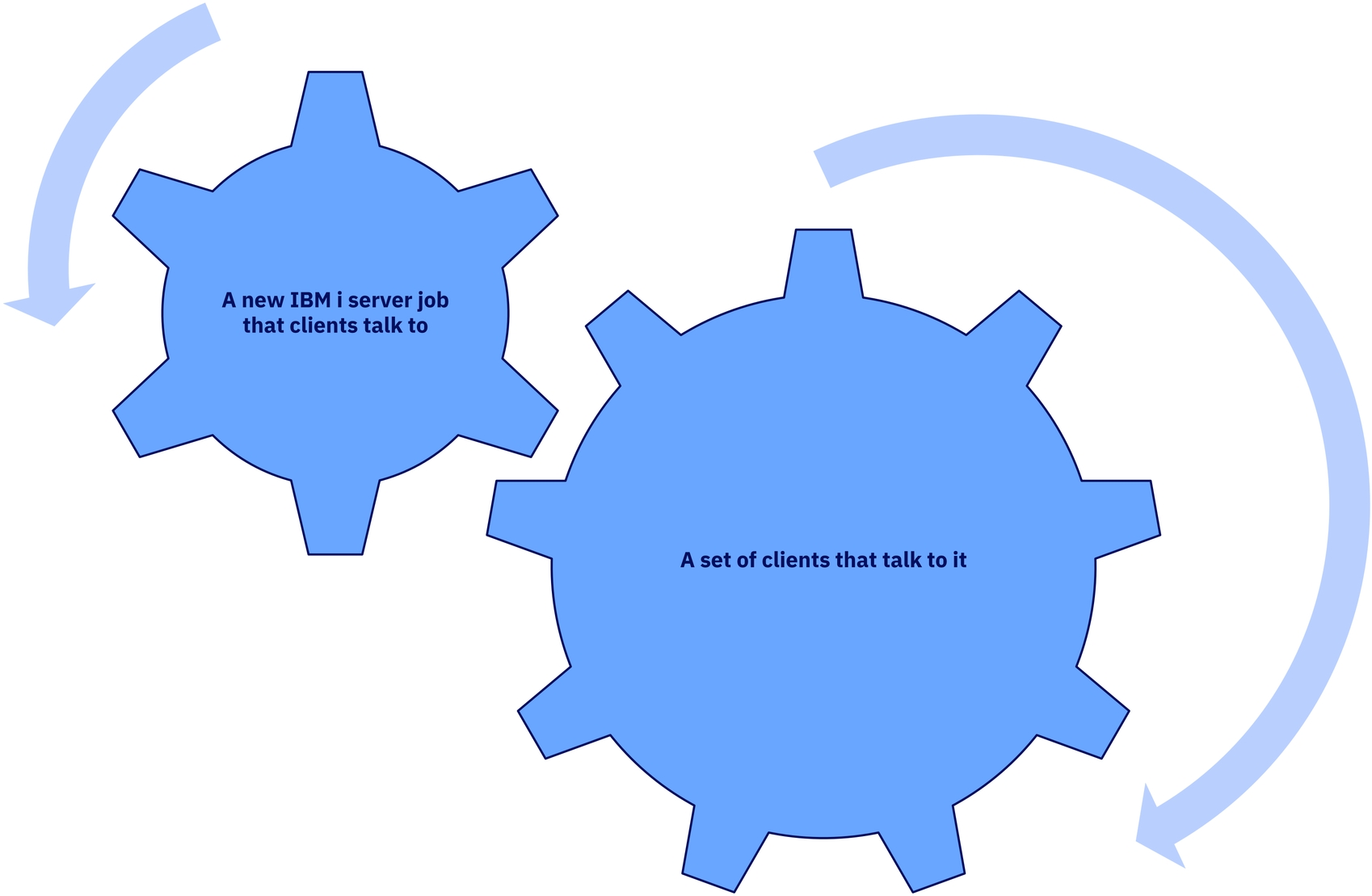
Mapepire Origin Story….

January 2020	February 2022	March 2022	July 2023	August 2024
• VSCode "Code for IBM i" extension includes basic Db2 support	• Work begins on Server component to power Db2 features in VSCode	• First release of VSCode Db2 for i extension	• VSCode Db2 for i extension publishes v0.3.0, the first release leveraging server component (v0.3.0)	• Mapepire is born!

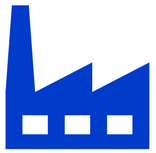
Mapepire Components



…but what IS IT?



Truth In Advertising



Already being used in production!

Technology Preview means Technology Preview

Agenda

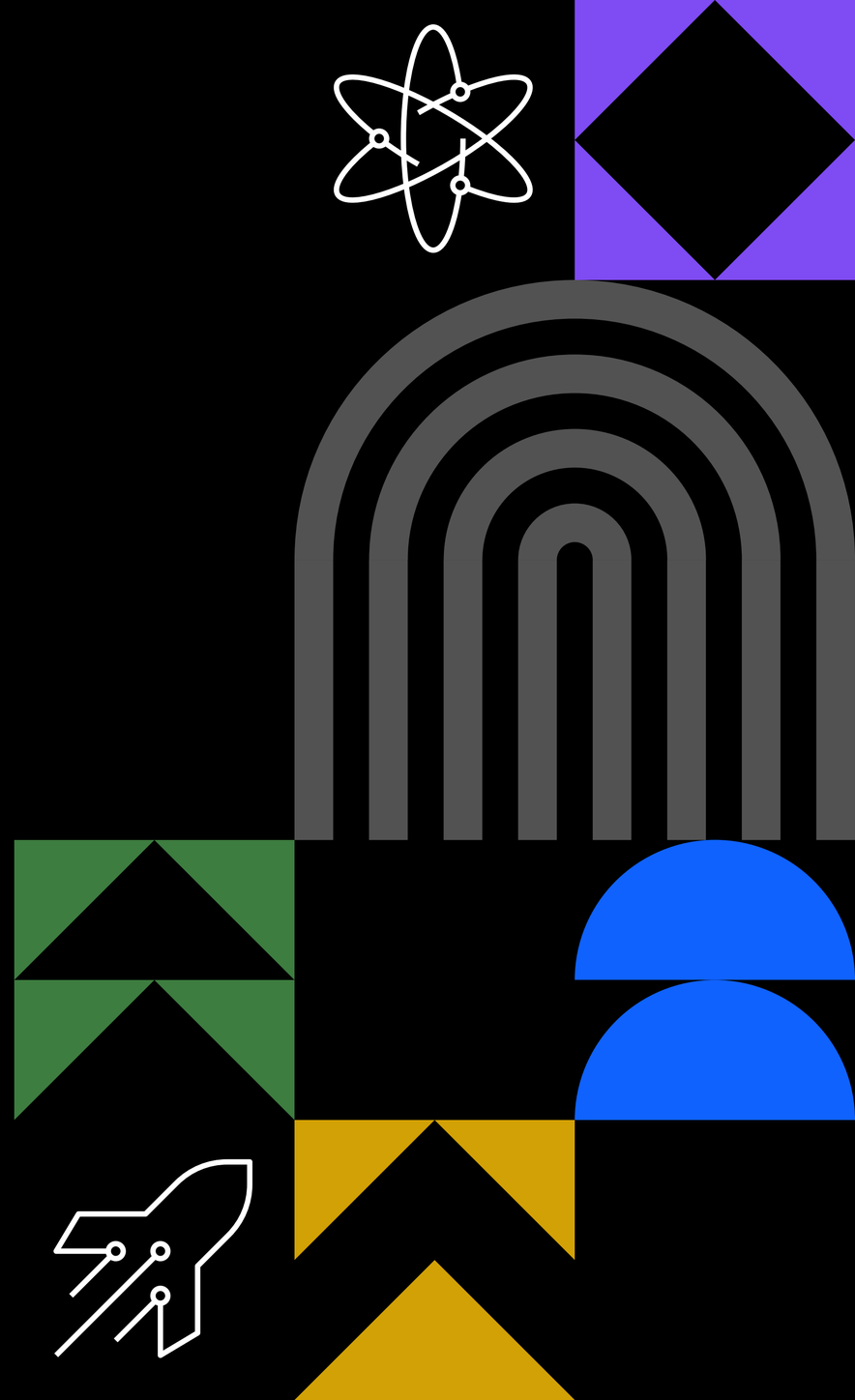
- What?
- Why?
- How?

Agenda

01 What

02 Why

03 How



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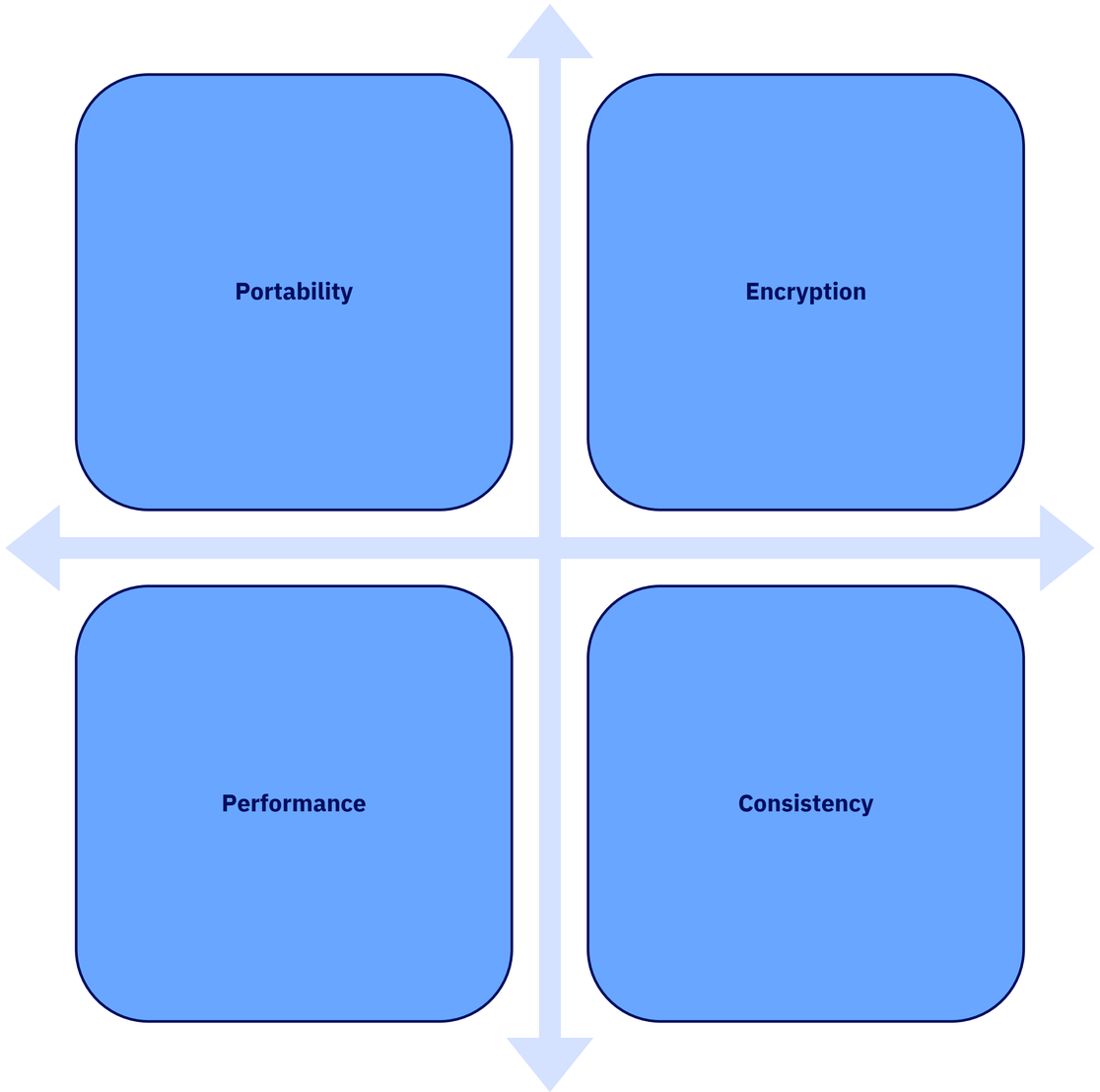
Core tenets



Mapepire vs. JDBC and ODBC

	JDBC	ODBC	Mapepire
Needs only a single port			✅
Data is always encrypted			✅
Manageable via system exit points	✅	✅	✅
Enhanced CCSID support	✅		✅
Runs in WatsonX.ai Jupyter notebooks			✅
Runs in lightweight containers (for instance Alpine Linux)	✅		✅
Directly supports multiple client languages			✅

Single port? Big deal!

TCP distance to first database operation

JDBC/ODBC

Mapepire

Sample JDBC program

```
try (AS400 hi = new AS400("myhostname", "uid".toCharArray(), "password".toCharArray())) {
    AS400JDBCDataSource ds = new AS400JDBCDataSource(hi);
    Connection conn = ds.getConnection();
    Statement s = conn.createStatement();
    s.executeQuery("select * from QIWS.QCUSTCDT");
    ResultSet rs = s.getResultSet();
    while(rs.next()) {
        System.out.println(rs.getString(1));
    }
    System.out.println("done");
}
```

11 Distinct TCP Flows!!

- Host Server
  - 1::S - 7003 - Exchange Client/Server Attributes
  - 1::R - F003 - Exchange Client/Server Attributes Reply
  - 1::S - 7004 - Retrieve Signon Information
  - 1::R - F004 - Retrieve Signon Information Reply
  - 1::S - 7006 - End Job Request
  - 2::S - 7001 - Exchange Random Seeds
  - 2::R - F001 - Exchange Random Seeds Reply
  - 2::S - 7002 - Start Server
  - 2::R - F002 - Start Server Reply
  - 2::S - 1F80 - Set Attributes
  - 2::R - 2800 - SQL Requested Data Returned
  - 2::S - 1D00 - Create and init RPB with no based-on RPB
  - 2::S - 1803 - Prepare/Describe
  - 2::R - 2800 - SQL Requested Data Returned
  - 2::S - 180E - Open/Describe/Fetch
  - ⚠ 2::R - 2800 - SQL Requested Data Returned

How to encrypt data with _DBC

1. Log into DCM
2. Create a local certificate authority (CA) store
3. Create a local CA certificate
4. Record the value of the autocreated CA label
5. Create the *SYSTEM certificate store (if needed)
6. Create a new server certificate
7. Sign the server certificate with your local CA
8. Assign new server certificate to host server applications
9. Restart Host Servers

10. On client, download the server's certificate authority to a local truststore (or configure TLS to ignore completely)

How to encrypt data with Mapepire

Step 1
- Use Mapepire

Step 2
- Go to bed

What does TLS provide?

Encryption

- Data isn't sent "in the clear"

Authentication

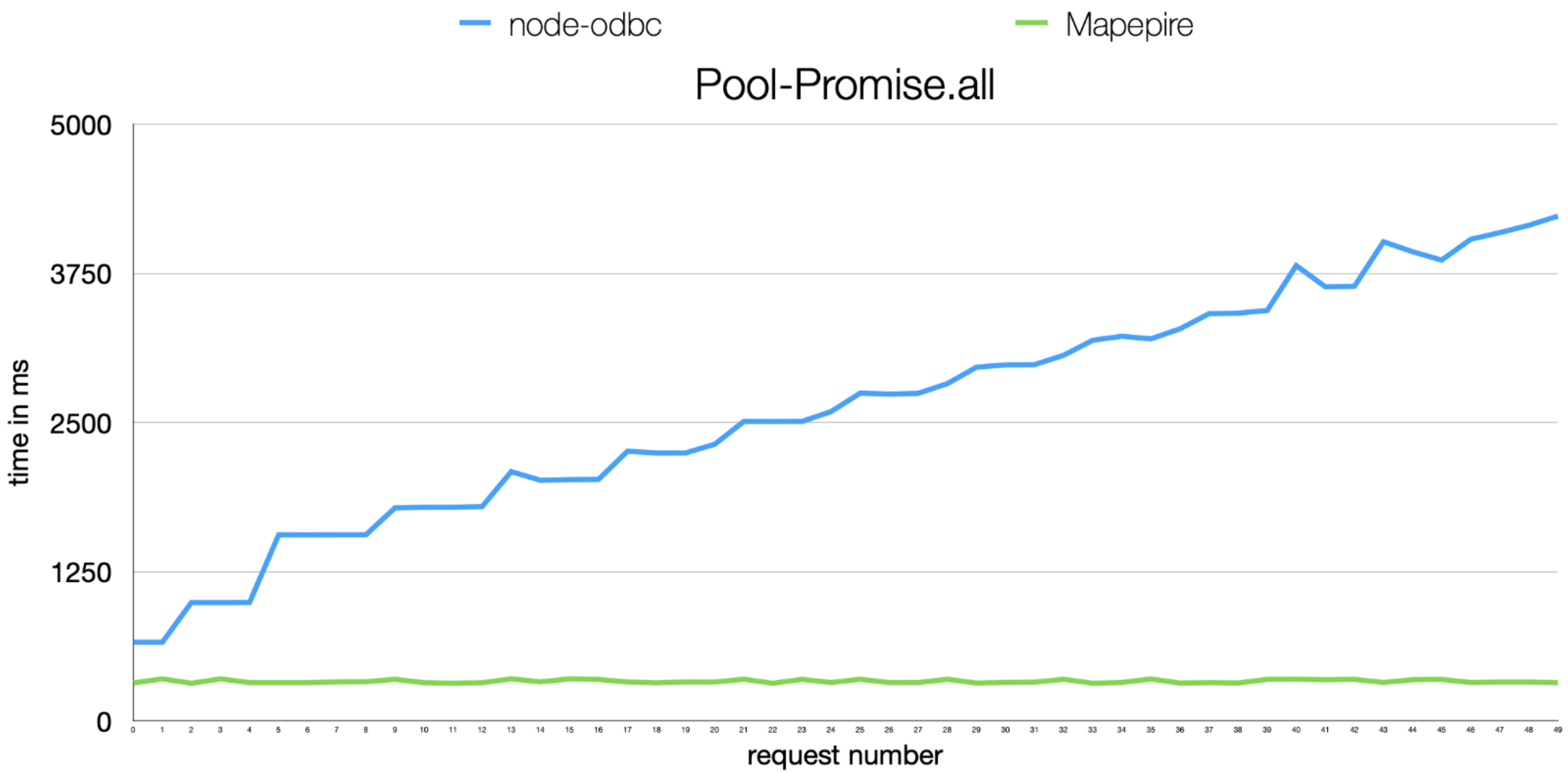
- Client ensures the server certificate is valid
- Client ensures the server certificate is signed by a trusted authority
- Client checks that the hostname matches that of the certificate

How does Mapepire make it so easy?

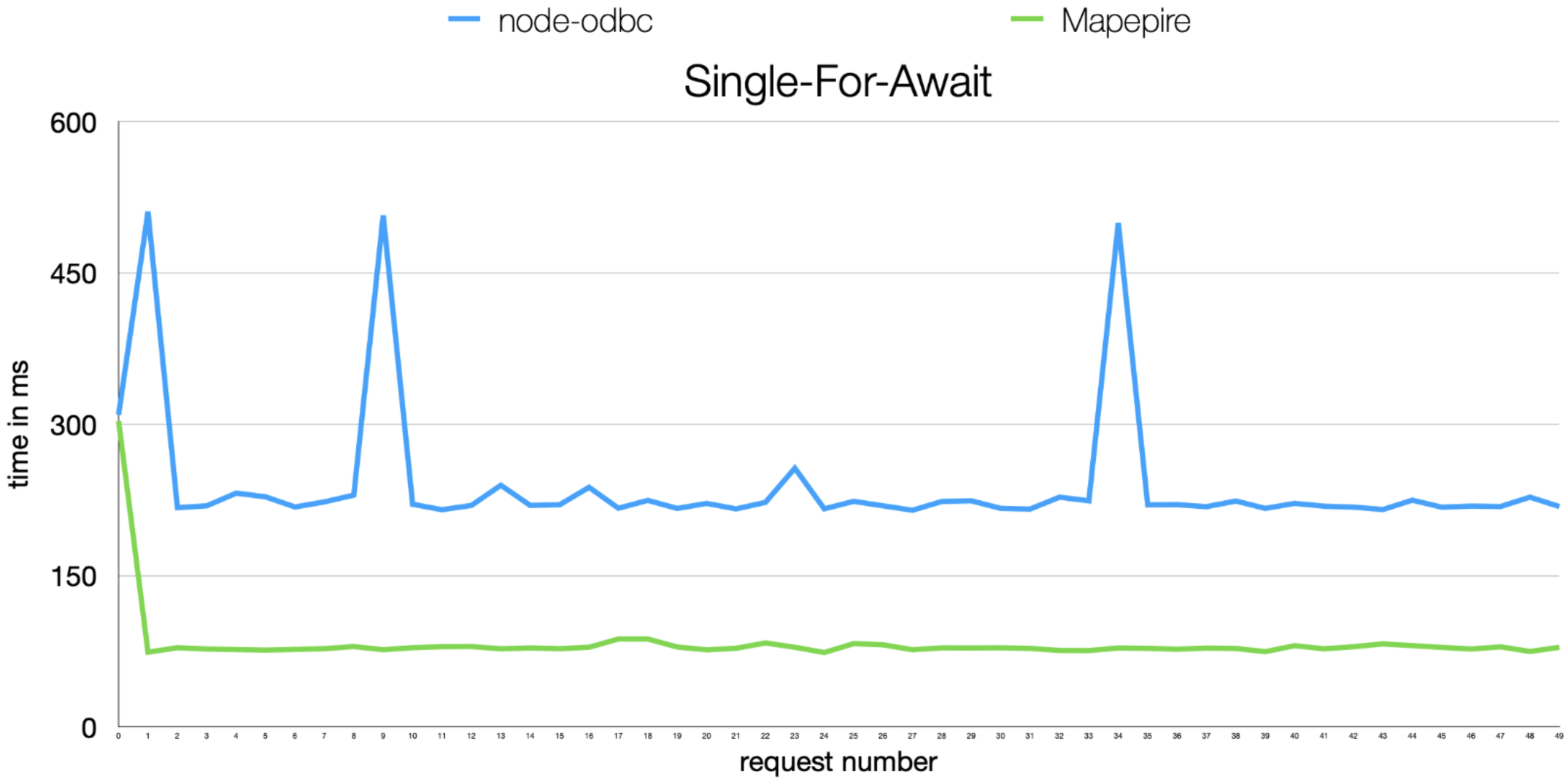
- Admin has explicitly configured a certificate
- DCM has database server configured for TLS [future enhancement]
- LetsEncrypt certificates are present

- Autogenerate a self-signed certificate

Some performance comparisons



Some performance comparisons



The biggest benefit of Mapepire….

The biggest benefit of Mapepire…. Portability!!

	JDBC	ODBC	Mapepire
Runs in WatsonX.ai Jupyter notebooks	✗	✗	✓
Runs in Rocket AI Hub programmer portal	✗	✗	✓
Runs in Rocket Cognitive Environment	✓*	✗	✓
Runs in Alpine Linux containers	✓	✗	✓
Runs in Raspberry Pi	✓	✗	✓
Runs in Arduino	✗	✗	✓

Agentic with IBM i?

📊 Agent Framework Comparison

Framework	Languages	Implementation Status	Db2i Access Method	Supports MCP	Description
🔗 LangChain	Python ✅	Complete ✅	Mapepire 🔌	Yes ✅	Popular framework for developing applications powered by LLMs
🏗️ MCP	Python ✅ TypeScript ✅	Complete ✅	Mapepire 🔌	Yes ✅	An open protocol that standardizes how applications provide context to LLMs.
🧩 Agno	Python ✅	Complete ✅	Mapepire 🔌	Yes ✅	A lightweight library for building Agents with memory, knowledge, tools and reasoning.
🐝 BeeAI	Python ✅ TypeScript ✅	Coming soon ⏳	Mapepire 🔌	Yes ✅	An open-source ecosystem that empowers developers to discover, run, and compose AI agents from any framework.
👥 CrewAI	Python ✅	Coming soon ⏳	Mapepire 🔌	No ❌	Fast and flexible Python Multi-Agent automation framework

Samples published here: https://github.com/ajshedivy/db2i-agents

sample — -zsh — 151×23

Message

What is the total compensation of employee 000010?

Tool Calls

- fetch_employee_info(id=000010)

Response (5.0s)

[{'EMPNO': '000010', 'FIRSTNME': 'CHRISTINE', 'MIDINIT': 'I', 'LASTNAME': 'HAAS', 'WORKDEPT': 'A00', 'PHONENO': '3978', 'HIREDATE': '01/01/65', 'JOB': 'PRES', 'EDLEVEL': 18, 'SEX': 'F', 'BIRTHDATE': None, 'SALARY': 52750.0, 'BONUS': 1000.0, 'COMM': 4220.0}]The total compensation for employee 000010, Christine I. Haas, is calculated as follows:

- **Salary:** $52,750.00
- **Bonus:** $1,000.00
- **Commission:** $4,220.00

Total Compensation: $52,750.00 (Salary) + $1,000.00 (Bonus) + $4,220.00 (Commission) = **$57,970.00**

ptf — -zsh — 152×32

```
$ uv run get_ptf_info.py
```

Message

Are there any PTF group updates available?

Tool Calls

- get_ptf_currency_info()

Response (7.4s)

There are indeed some PTF Group updates available. Here are the details of the available updates:

1. **SF99662 - 740 IBM HTTP Server for i**
   - **Current Level Installed:** 42
   - **Level Available:** 43
   - **Last Updated by IBM:** 05/12/2025
2. **SF99738 - 740 Group Security**
   - **Current Level Installed:** 75
   - **Level Available:** 76
   - **Last Updated by IBM:** 05/13/2025
3. **SF99739 - 740 Group Hiper**
   - **Current Level Installed:** 149
   - **Level Available:** 150
   - **Last Updated by IBM:** 05/13/2025

For the rest of the PTF Groups, the installed levels are already current. If you need assistance updating these, make sure to follow your system's maintenance procedures or seek help from your system administrator.

Is the biggest benefit also the biggest weakness?

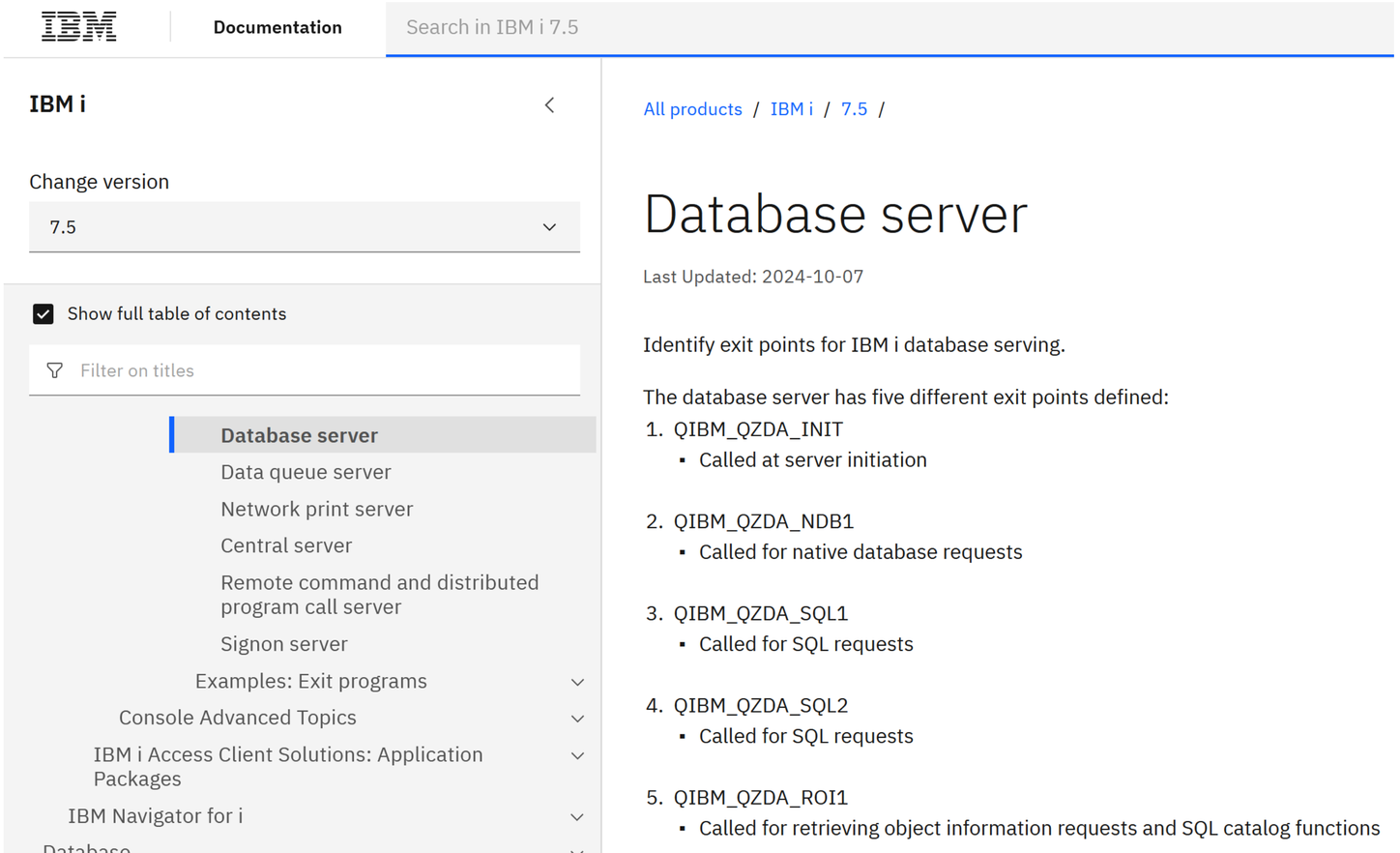
Practices for ODBC/JDBC Management and Performance Tuning Still Apply

Mapepire's back-end is JDBC

Mapepire is an interface in front of JTOpen and JDBC
Mapepire utilizes QZDASOINIT or, more likely, QZDASSINIT (S = "secure") jobs
All considerations for ODBC/JDBC server job scalability and security still apply

Security

Mapepire runs "locally" on your IBM i, which helps to control ODBC/JDBC connection sprawl
Object authority still applies
Any ODBC/JDBC exit points will still work to control traffic and access



Security BRAND NEW

Mapepire Configuration file lets you filter on users and IP addresses

```
# Allow anyone to connect
allow   * @ *

# Disallow any user profile starting with 'Q'
Deny   Q* @ *
```

Security BRAND NEW

Mapepire Configuration file lets you filter on users and IP addresses

```
# Deny by default
deny   * @ *

# Allow only specific users, and only from 192.168.*.*
allow  appusr1 @ 192.168.*
allow  appusr2 @ 192.168.*
```

How to manage the JDBC workload?

By default, all QZDASOINIT/ QZDASSINIT jobs run in QUSRWRK

Use SET_SERVER_SBS_ROUTING to apply custom memory pools or capping groups

Questions:

- How to control out-of-control queries from query tools?
- How to know which application is using up resources?
- How to manage your JDBC jobs more effectively?
- How to let critical users get the resources they need while not letting long queries take over the system?

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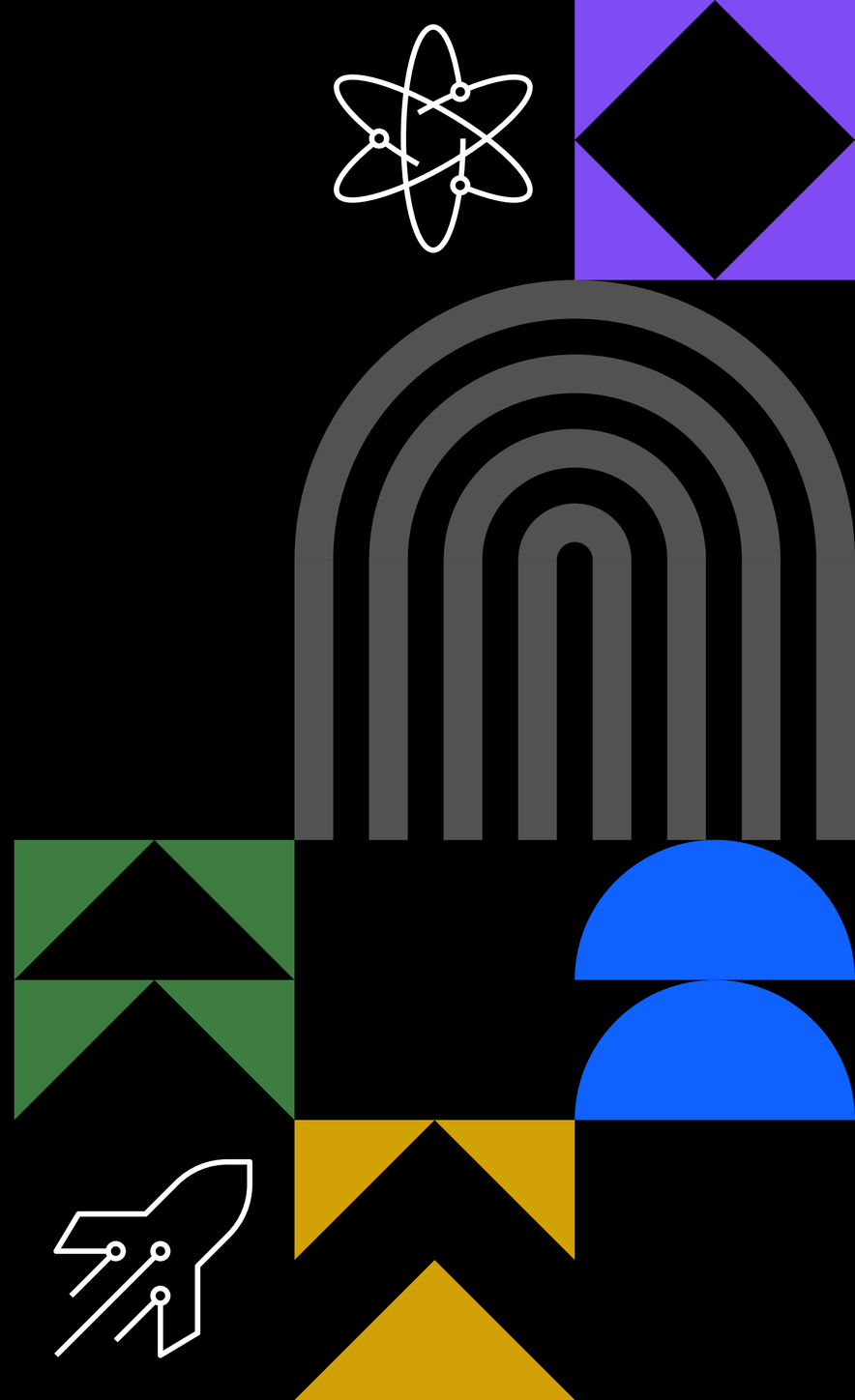

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Install the Mapepire server

Installation

Option 1: RPM (recommended)

```
yum install mapepire-server
```

(if you need help getting started with RPMs, please see http://ibm.biz/ibmi-rpms)

Option 2: manual installation

1. Make a “download” directory on IBM i by running the following from an SSH terminal:

```
mkdir -p /opt/download
```

2. Download the distribution zip file (filename will look something like `mapepire-server-v___.zip`) from the release page and save it to the download directory you created. Rename the file to

Launch the Mapepire server

- Install the Mapepire server component `yum install mapepire-server`
- Install Service Commander `yum install service-commander`
- Launch mapepire `sc start mapepire`

```
-bash-5.2$ sc start mapepire
Performing operation 'START' on service 'mapepire'
Service 'Mapepire Server' successfully started
```

JavaScript client

- Install the mapepire client with npm install @ibm/mapepire-js
- Copy the .env.sample file to a file named .env and fill in the required values

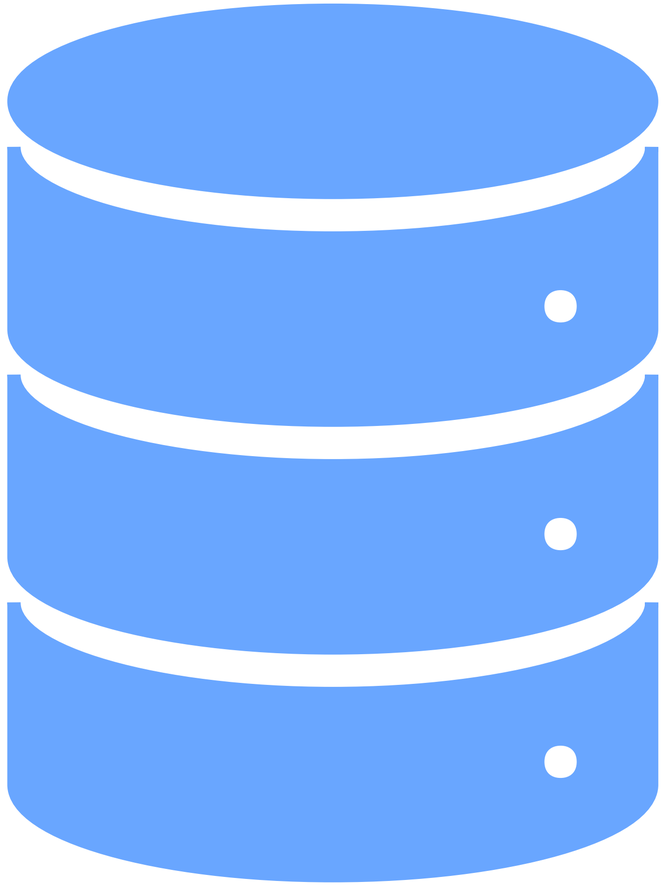
.env

```
# defaults to localhost
VITE_SERVER=mymachine.somelab.com

# defaults to 8076
VITE_PORT=8076

VITE_DB_USER=jonsmith
VITE_DB_PASS=letmein
```

Now it’s time to write some queries!

We have the following functionality available to us

- Connect to the database
- Run CL commands
- Run SQL commands
- Run SQL commands as a batch
- Get server job
- Get Mapepire version
- Check liveliness
- Set config
- Get trace data
- Close a connection



Connecting to the database

- Use the connect method of the SQLJob class

```
// Connect to the database
const creds = ENV_CREDS ;
const job = new mapepire.SQLJob();
await job.connect(creds);
```

Executing a query

Use the query method of SQLJob to construct a query
Then call the queries execute method

```
await job.connect(creds);
const query = await job.query<any>("select * from sample.department");
const res = await query.execute();
await query.close()
await job.close();
```

Executing a prepared statement

Use the query method of SQLJob to construct a query
Add the parameters for the prepared query
Then call the queries execute method

```
const job = new SQLJob();
await job.connect(creds);
const query = await job.query<any>(
  "SELECT * FROM SAMPLE.SYSCOLUMNS WHERE COLUMN_NAME = ?",
  {
    parameters: ["Value"],
  }
);
const res = await query.execute();
await query.close();
await job.close();
```

Executing a batch of statements

Use the query method of SQLJob to construct a prepared statement
Use a 2d array of parameters to ensure the query is constructed as a batch operation
Then call the queries execute method

```
let query = job.query("INSERT INTO SAMPLE.EMPLOYEES values (?, ?)", {
  parameters: [
    ["SANJULA", "416 345 0879"],
    ["TONGKUN", "647 345 0879"],
    ["KATHERINE", "905 345 1879"],
    ["IRFAN", "647 345 0879"]
  ],
});
let res = await query.execute();
```

Executing statements using a pool

Initialize a new pool object
Call the pool's execute method to run a query using any free job
Call the pool's end method to destroy the pool and cleanup resources

```
let pool = new Pool({ creds, maxSize: 5, startingSize: 5 });
await pool.init();
// Initiate a bunch of jobs
const executedPromises = [
  pool.execute("select * FROM SAMPLE.SYSCOLUMNS"),
  pool.execute("select * FROM SAMPLE.SYSCOLUMNS"),
  pool.execute("select * FROM SAMPLE.SYSCOLUMNS"),
];
const res = await Promise.all(executedPromises);
await pool.end();
```

Consistent SDK behavior across languages

Guided by a unified reference architecture

Similar experiences

- Class names
- Method names
- Throwable types
- Input parameters
- Configuration options

What’s coming…

…. in 2025?

- Kerberos
- Improved LOB capabilities
- PHP client
- Full JDBC client
- Thorough API documentation

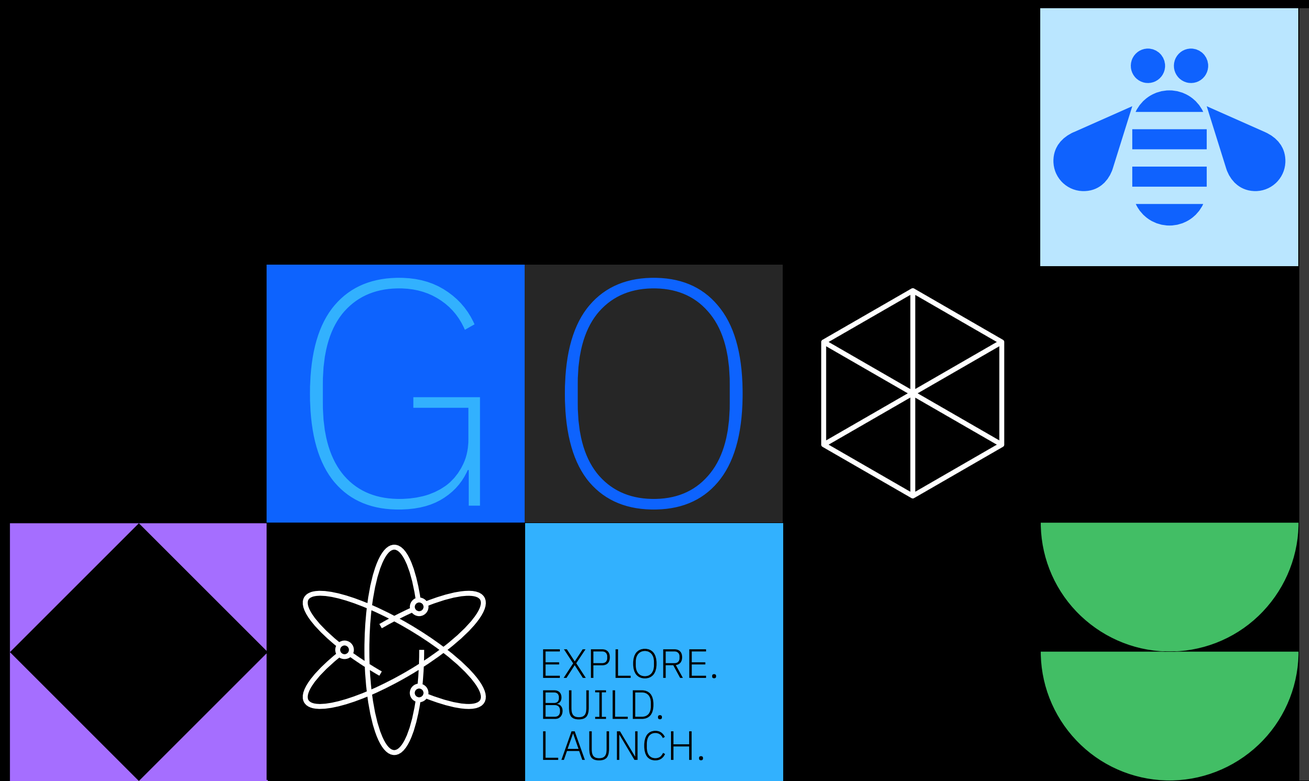
…. in 2026?

- C# client
- Improved Go client
- Data compression
- Delivery as part of IBM i OS?

Takeaways

Config	Suitable performance
	Always encrypted
Flexibility	Any Hardware
	Any Language

Thank you



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