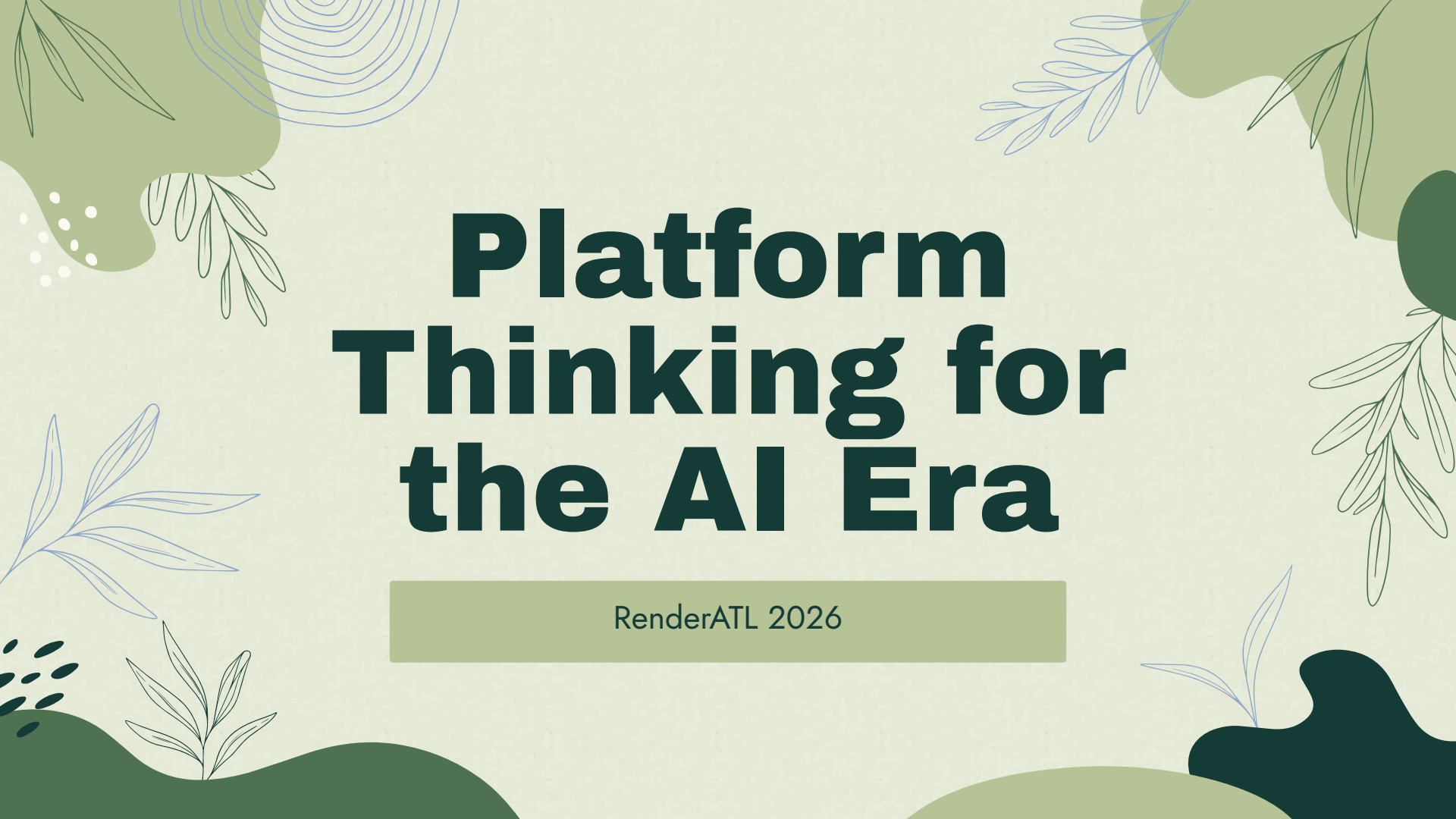




# **Platform Thinking for the AI Era**

RenderATL 2026

**Hi! 🖐️ I'm Bekah**

**Staff Software Engineer**

[bekah.io](https://bekah.io)





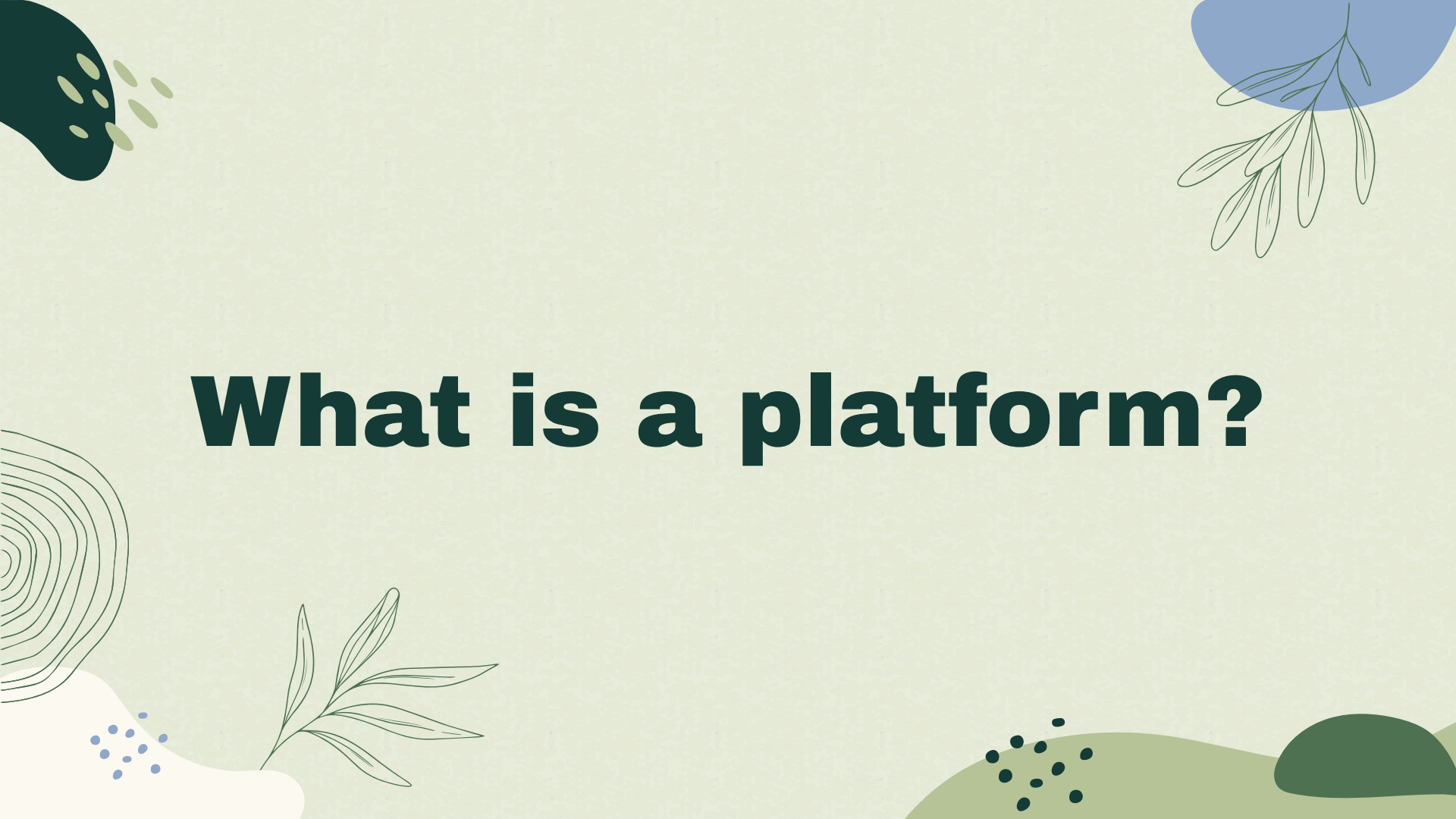


# **What is platform thinking?**



A strategy for identifying and contributing to high leverage work that enhances your organization's platform.





# **What is a platform?**

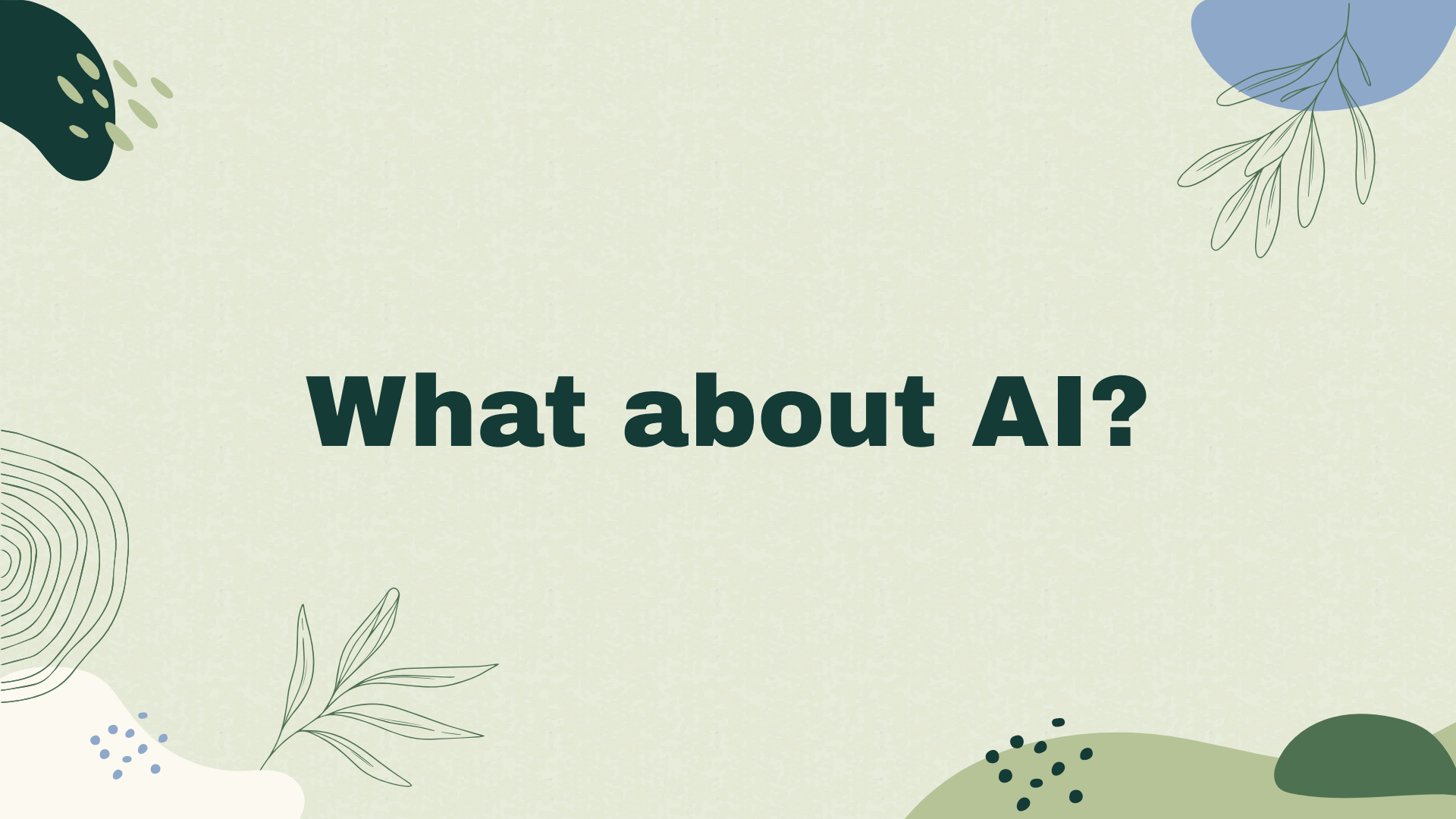


A platform is a foundation of  
self-service APIs, tools, services,  
knowledge, and support that are  
arranged as a **compelling  
internal product.**

**—Platform Engineering**

**Camille Fournier and Ian Nowland,  
original definition by Evan Bottcher**

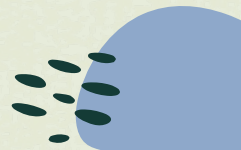
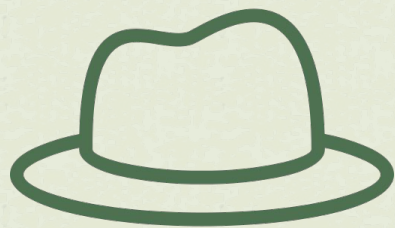
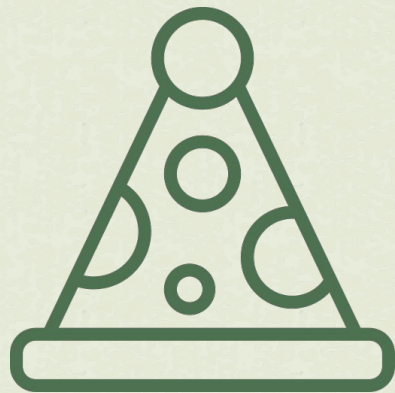




# What about AI?







# 2024 → 2025 YoY Statistics



**+20.4%**

**Pull requests  
created**

**+0.35%**

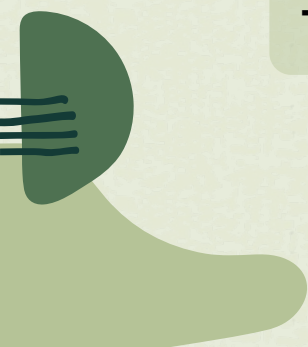
**Comments on  
PRs/Issues**

**+11.3%**

**Issues  
created**

**-27%**

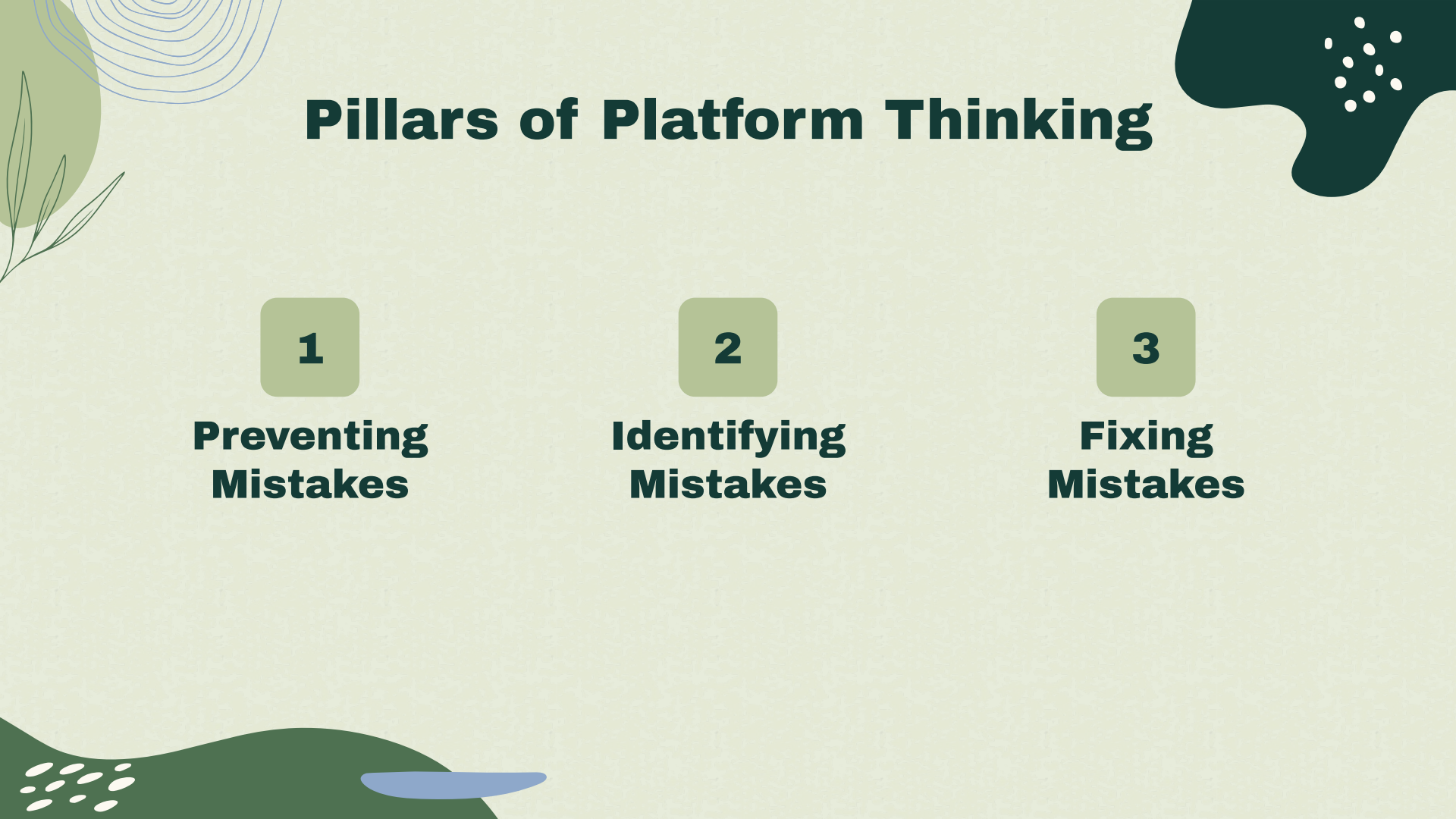
**Comments on  
commits**







**Platforms = Guardrails**



# Pillars of Platform Thinking

**1**

**Preventing  
Mistakes**

**2**

**Identifying  
Mistakes**

**3**

**Fixing  
Mistakes**





**1**

# **Preventing Mistakes**

## 1 Preventing Mistakes

# Platform Mindset

1. Automate, automate, automate
2. Provide simple abstractions
3. Make the right choice the easy choice
4. Address tooling gaps
5. Pay attention to near misses





## 1 Preventing Mistakes

# Platform in Practice

1. Automated deployment workflows
2. Repository tooling
3. Testing infrastructure
4. UI  $\Leftrightarrow$  API specs



**2**

# **Identifying Mistakes**



## 2 Identifying Mistakes

# Platform Mindset

1. Understand the context
2. Document thoroughly
3. Prioritize simplicity



## 2 Identifying Mistakes

# Platform in Practice

1. Observability
2. Dashboards
3. Automated production tests
4. Release manifest
5. Internal developer portal





# **Why platform thinking matters**



**Why platform thinking matters**

# **System Problems**

1. Tests were difficult to write
2. Complexity obfuscated performance problems
3. Accumulated one-off fixes didn't address core issues





**Why platform thinking matters**

# Platform Solutions

1. Tests were difficult to write

**Platform Thinking:** Address tooling gaps

**Outcome:** Increased stability, fewer regressions



**Why platform thinking matters**

# Platform Solutions

2. Complexity obfuscated performance problems

**Platform Thinking:** Prioritize simplicity

**Outcome:** 50 minute DB query cut to 25 minutes





**Why platform thinking matters**

# Platform Solutions

3. Accumulated one-off fixes didn't address core issues

**Platform Thinking:** Build the long-term fix

**Outcome:** Fewer pages during on-call weeks



## Why platform thinking matters

# The Final Result

- Report running: manual → automated
- Cadence: weekly → daily
- SLA: 12 days → 2 days
- Support: 3 days per week → 3 hours per week





**3**

# **Fixing Mistakes**

# Platform Mindset

1. Build the long-term fix
2. Prepare for incidents
3. Communicate clearly





## 3 Fixing Mistakes

# Platform in Practice

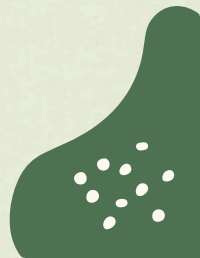
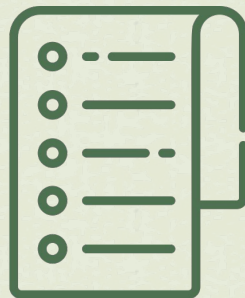
1. Feature flags
2. Rollbacks
3. Retros

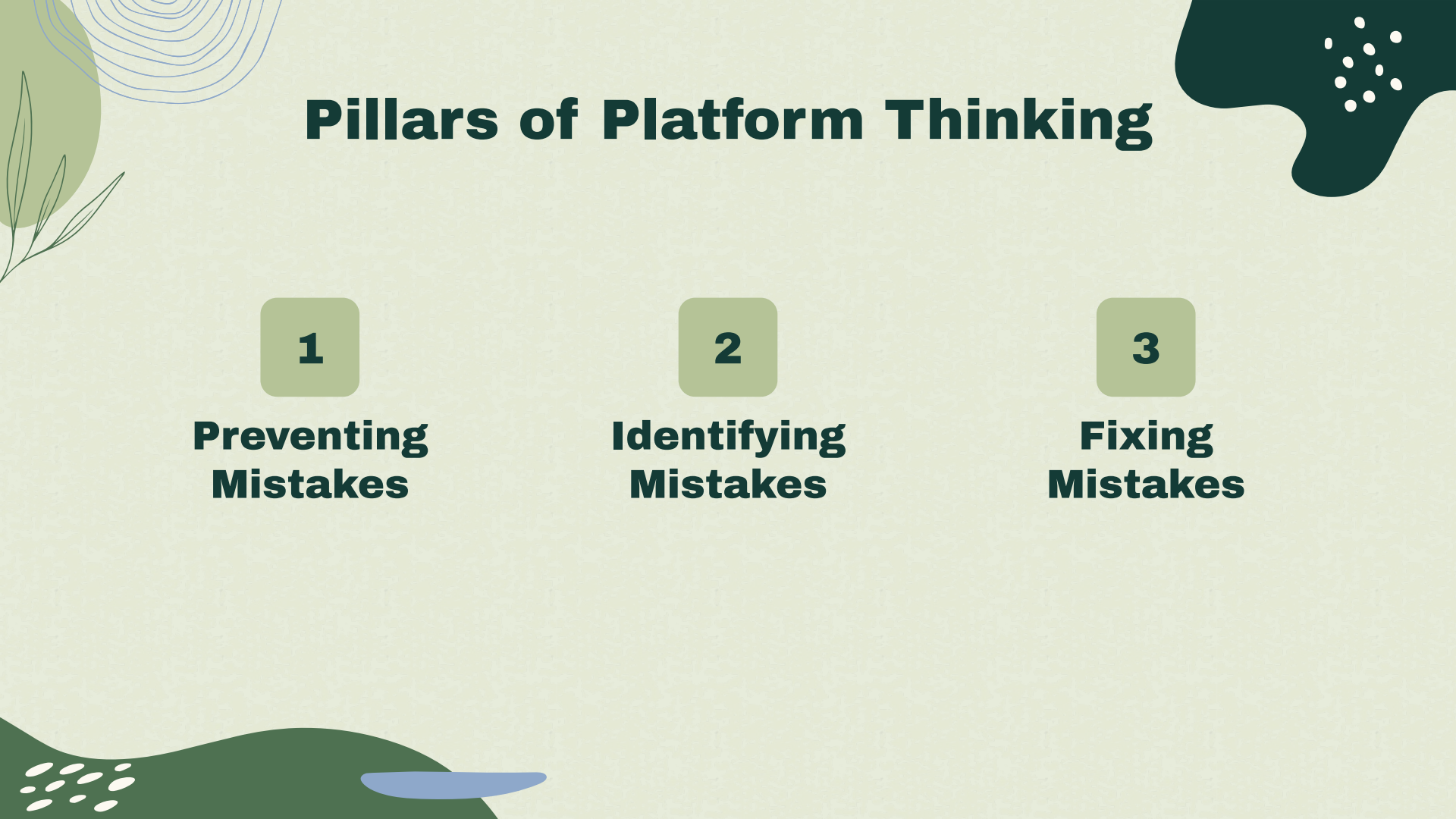




# **A pep talk**







# Pillars of Platform Thinking

**1**

**Preventing  
Mistakes**

**2**

**Identifying  
Mistakes**

**3**

**Fixing  
Mistakes**





# Thank you!

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