

Ansible Montréal/Québec - Juin 2023

Le réseau comme du code (Network as code)

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Automobiles - the most complex consumer product Manufactured and delivered in the 20th Century



Software - the most complex consumer product delivered today

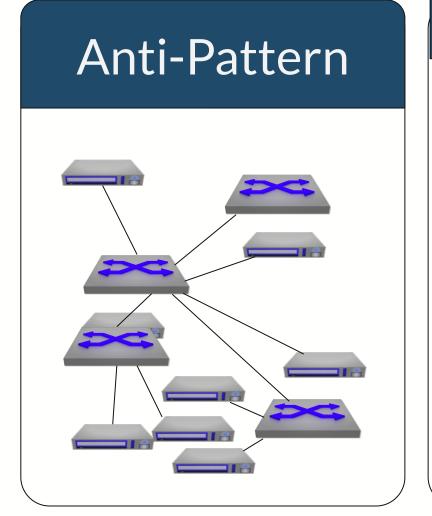
How can we apply lessons from modern software development models to network engineering and operations?

Network Operations Maturity Model

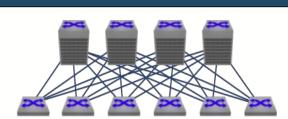
Cloud-Scale Operations

Modern Production Operations

Legacy Enterprise Operations



Patterns



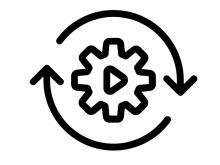
Repeatable design patterns Runbooks/ITSM Multi-Vendor/ Open Protocols

ITSM-Led



Monitoring /
Telemetry /
Observability
Read-Only
Automation

Automated



Deployment and Workflow Automation
Testing environments
IaC

SW Defined



Database driven
Source of Truth
Network Cl

Pipeline w/ pre-deployment testing

Proactive



Al-driven Ops
Predictive and
Proactive Fault
detection and
correction

Network Simulation Environments

Years

Quarters

CLI-Led Operations

Weeks

Days

'S

Hours

Real-Time

CLI Enhanced with CV

Infrastructure-as-Code / Network CI



Benefits of a Modern Operating Model

Legacy Network Operations	Modern Network Operations
Manual human-driven, CLI-led changes	Configurations are procedurally rendered by software
Configuration Rollback - but the error already impacted production	Testing before, during, and after a change - automate fault discovery
Device-by-Device Changes	Network-wide changes: across all network domains
Weeks to Months to make Changes	Rapid changes, networking at the speed of the cloud
Little to no, and manually maintained, documentation	Self-generating, version controlled documentation
Limited root cause analysis on reported errors	Time-series telemetry with full lookback, predict forward, proactive notification on automatically detected errors



Arista CI Pipeline

Continuous Design



Arista Validated Designs

Continuously evolving best practice network designs delivered as software - Infrastructure-as-Code - enabling consistent design patterns

Continuous Testing



Cloud Test

Test networks without physical hardware using Cloud Test

Continuous Integration & Deployment





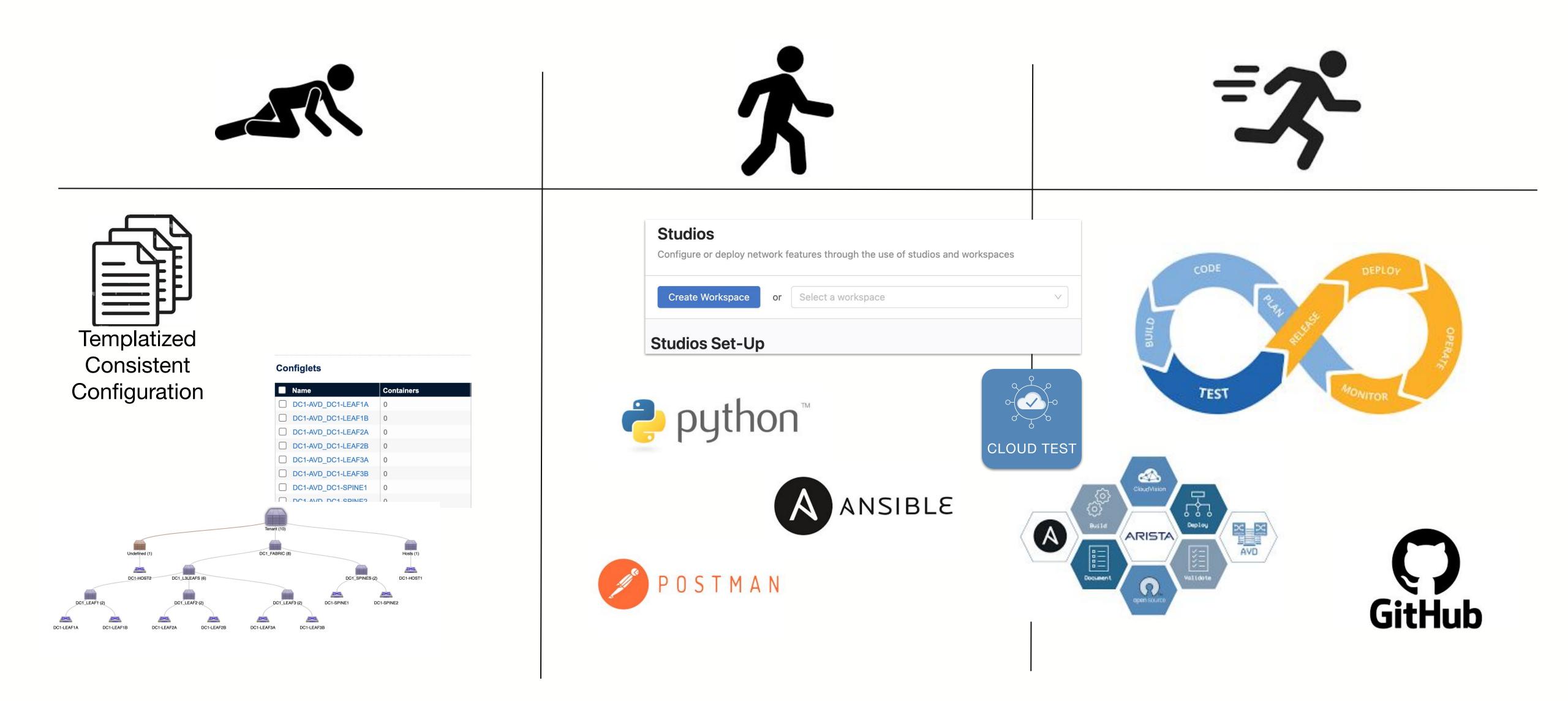
CI Pipeline

Use CloudVision CI or Open CI to automate the workflow from build to test to deployment and documentation

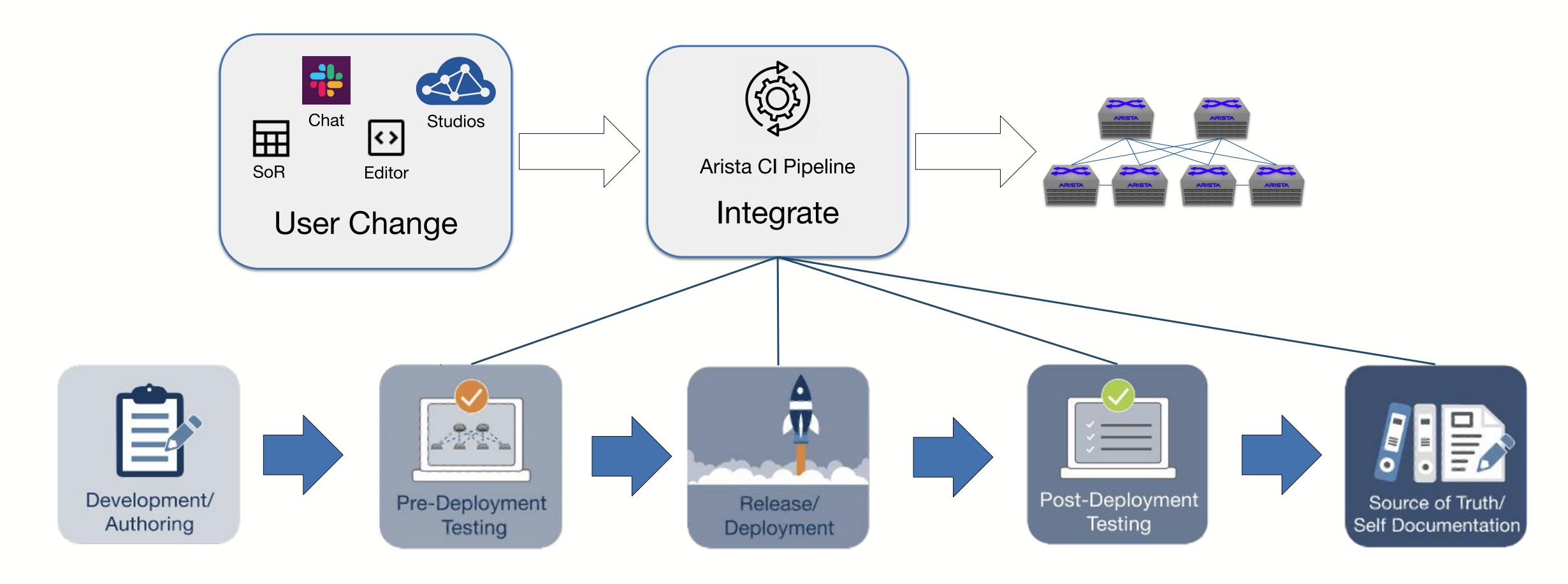
Bringing Modern Software Development and DevOps Operating Models to Network Infrastructure



Arista's Modern Operate Model Journey



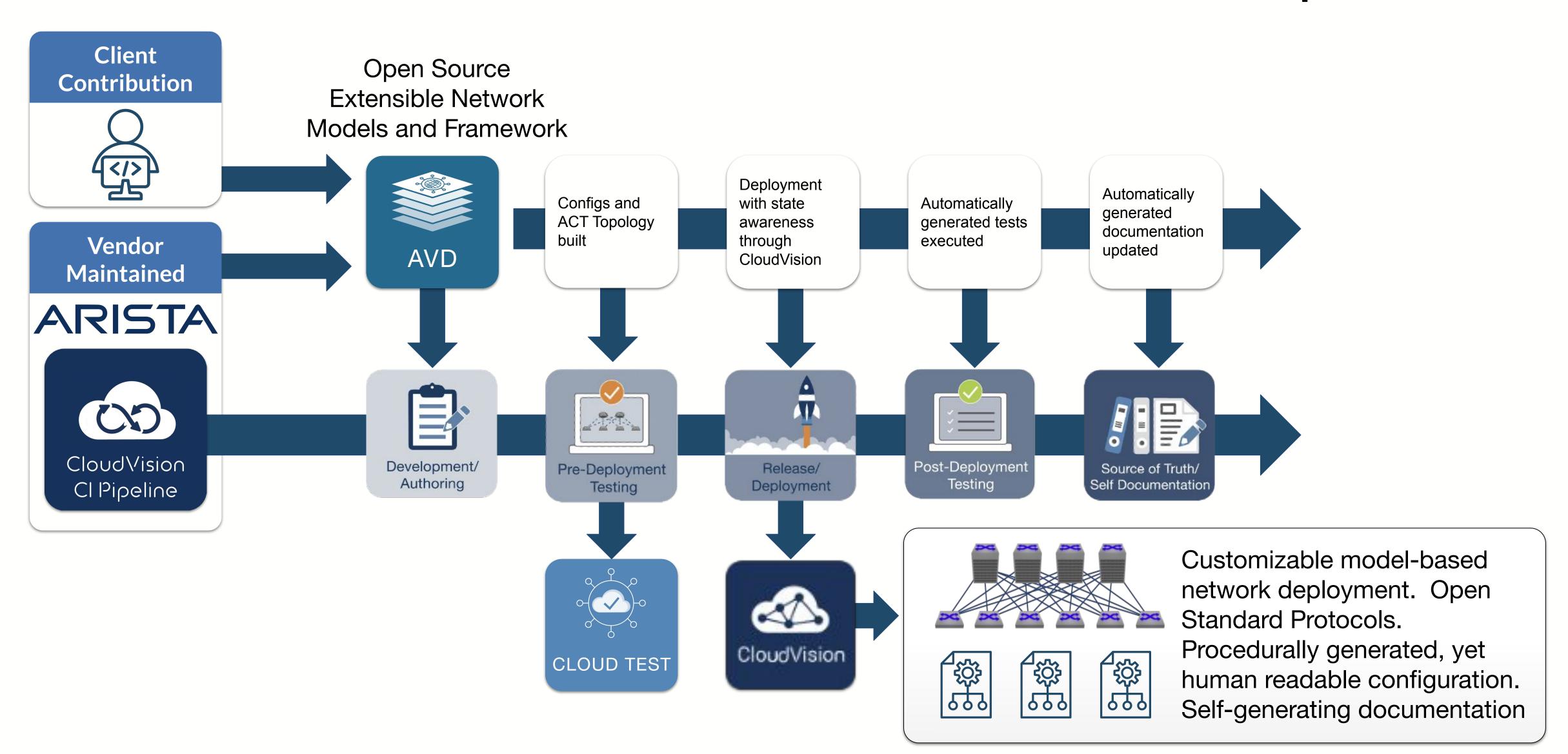
Continuous Integration Pipeline Workflow



All changes are managed through a CI workflow



AVD Network-as-Code Model and Arista CI Pipeline



How we got here

Arista Continuous Integration Pipeline - DevOps tooling for Network Automation and IaC



Arista Validated Designs - UCN defined as code, developed in the open



UCN Design Guides - Published network design best practices



Universal Cloud Networks (UCN) - networks built on cloud principles (Data Center, Campus, WAN)

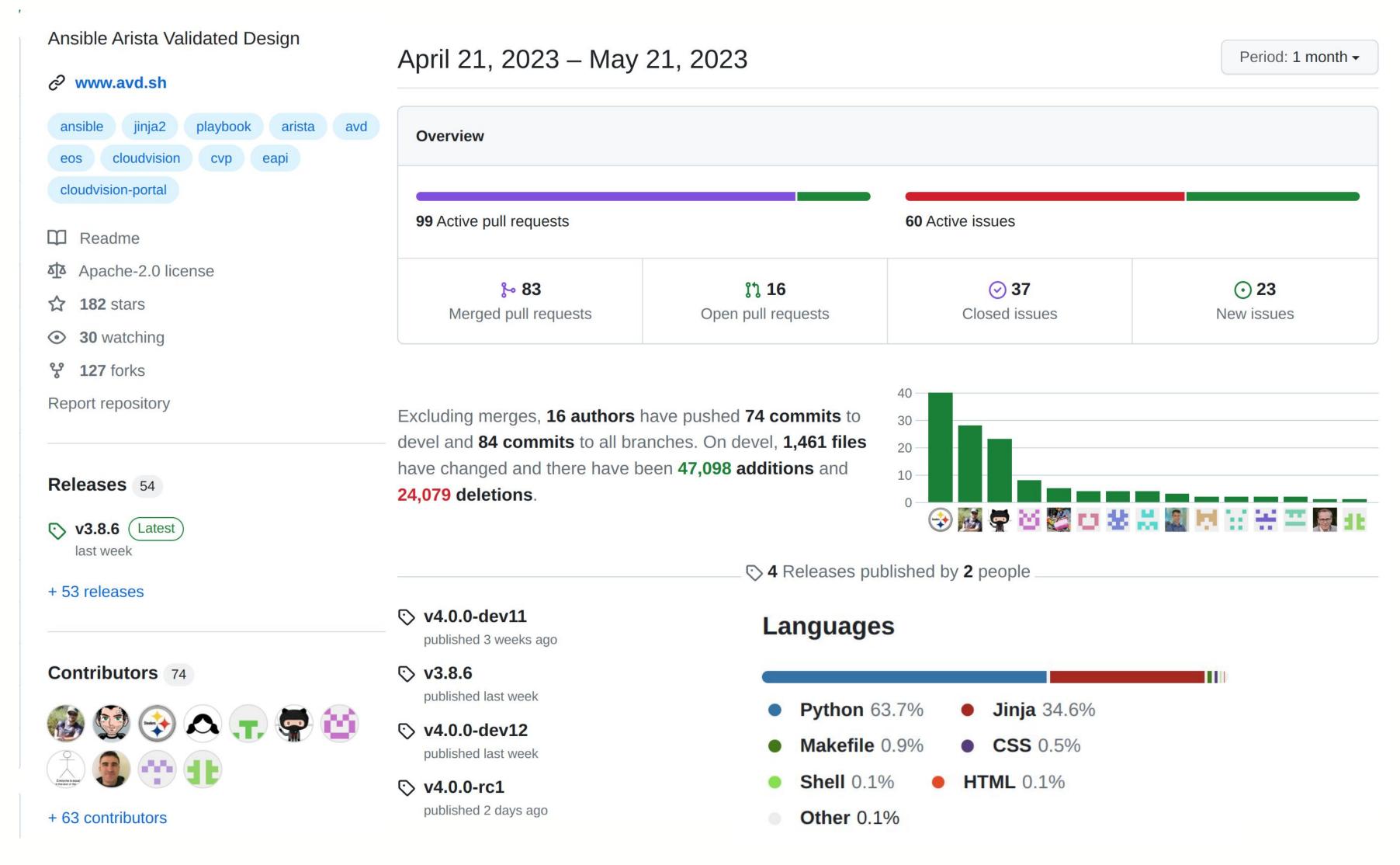




Arista Validated Designs (AVD)

A model based approach to network infrastructure as code

Community Driven



54 Releases

74 Contributors

How does AVD work?

Step 1: User provides network model information

AVD Model

underlay_routing_protocol: EBGP

bgp_as: 65001

Model -> Structured device models

Step 2: Structured device configuration generated

router_bgp:
 as: 65001
 address_family_ipv4:
 peer_groups:
 UNDERLAY-PEERS:
 activate: true

CLI

Structured device models -> CLI, Doc, Tests

Step 3: Device CLI configs, documentation and molecule tests generated. Ready to deploy via CV and/or Ansible

router bgp 65001

address-family ipv4

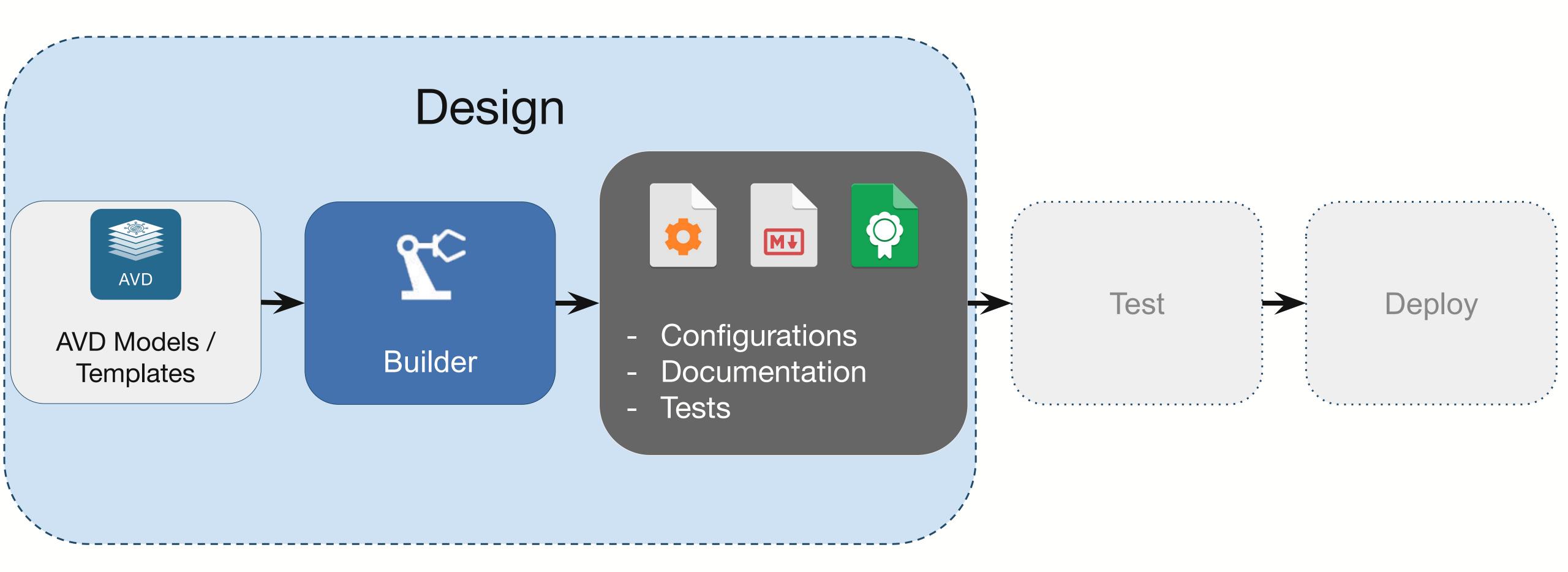
neighbor UNDERLAY-PEERS
activate



Tests



AVD Role



Network Automation by Arista

2020: Ansible-AVD

Ansible collections that build / deploy network designs



AVD Models / Templates

2022: Open CI

Combining Ansible-AVD, Ansible-CloudVision, Git, and a CI tool to deliver a CI Pipeline

2024: CloudVision Cl

Delivering a packaged CI pipeline with CloudVision and Studios

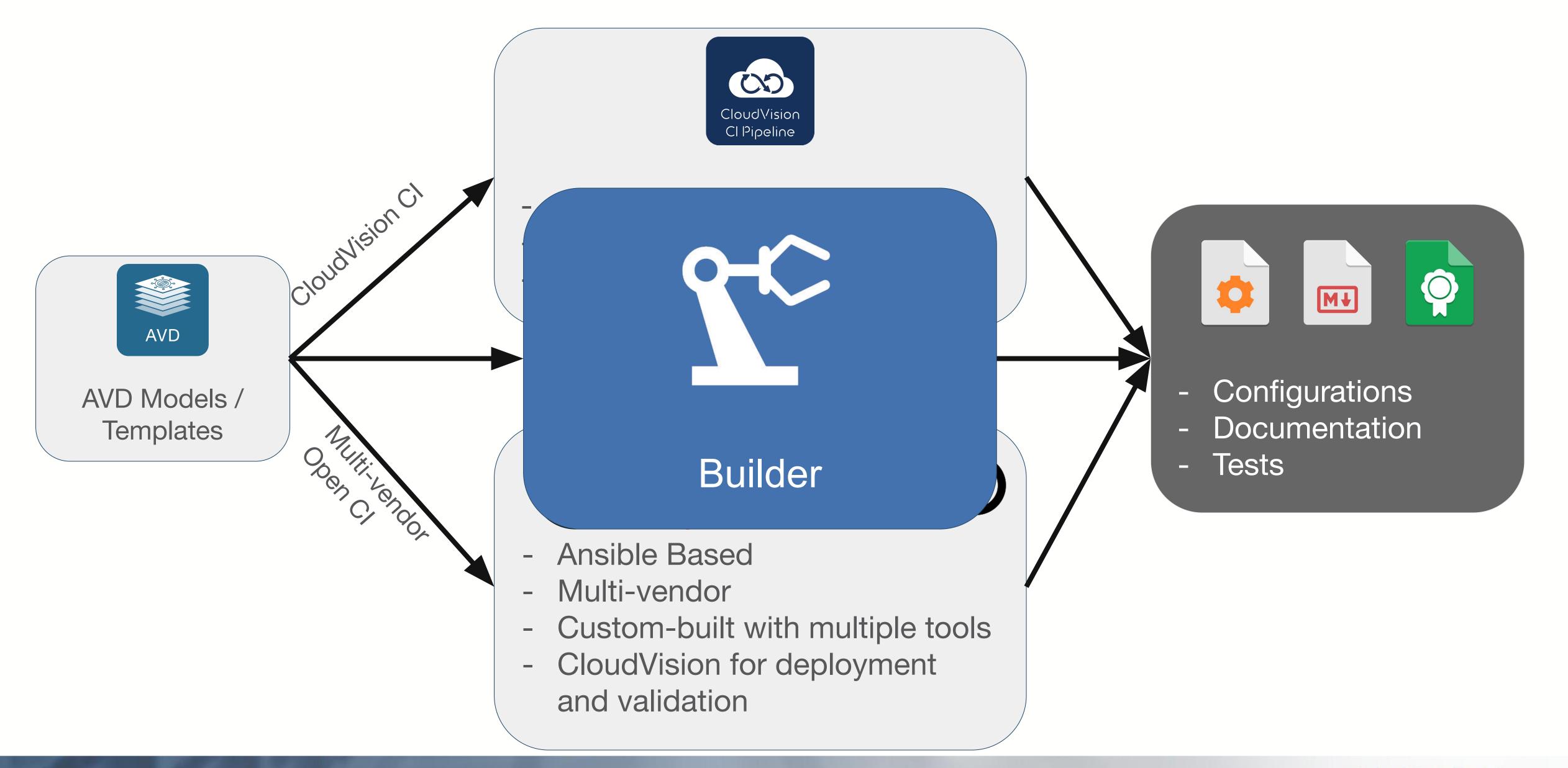
Arista CI



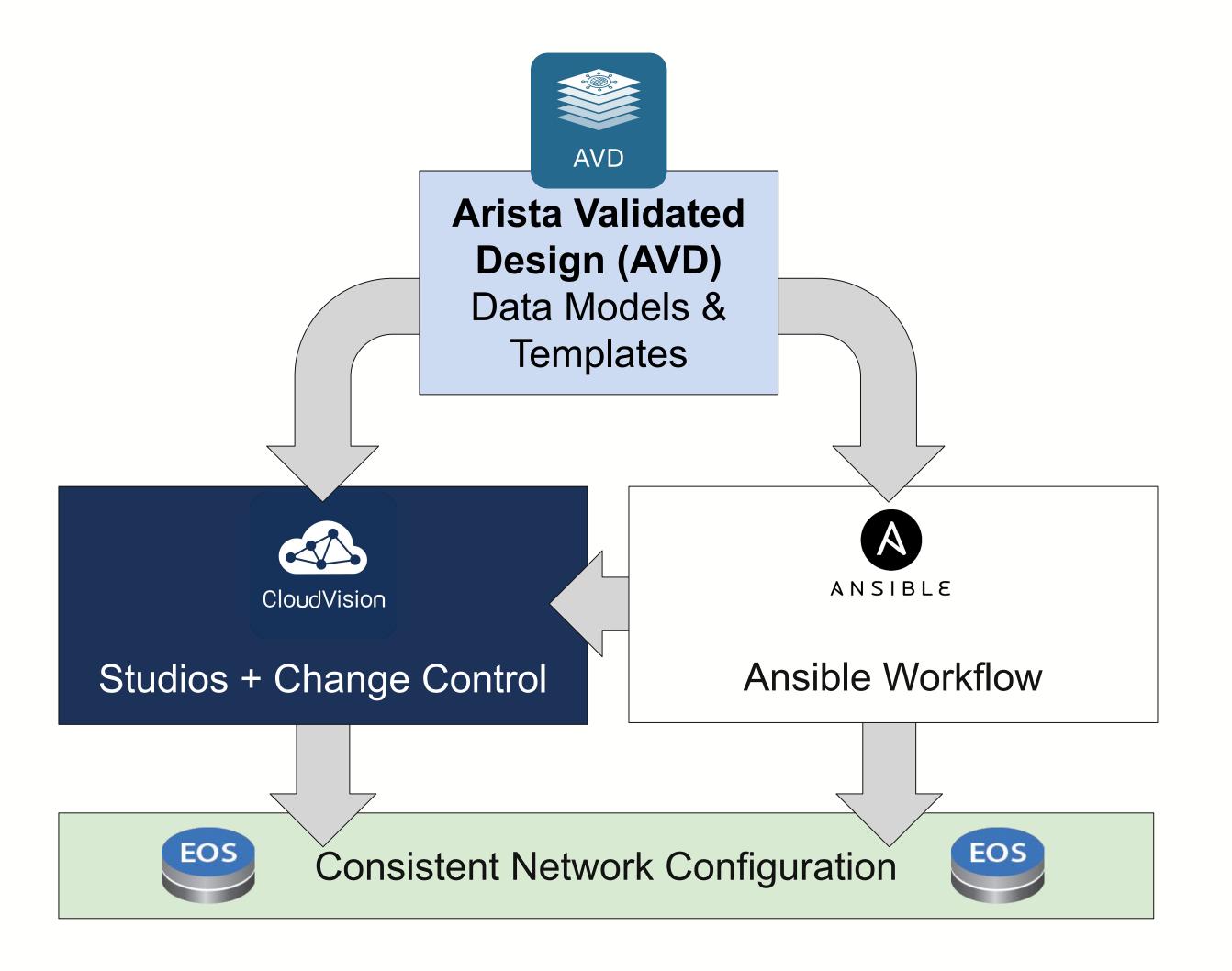
- Configurations
- Documentation
- Tests



Two Paths - Consistent Models and Artifacts



AVD and CloudVision



CloudVision Benefits

AVD is natively integrated with CloudVision Studios

Single Set of Design Templates across open-source or CloudVision

AVD's leverage CloudVision Change Control Strengths

Modern Telemetry and Analytics for real-time visibility

TAC support

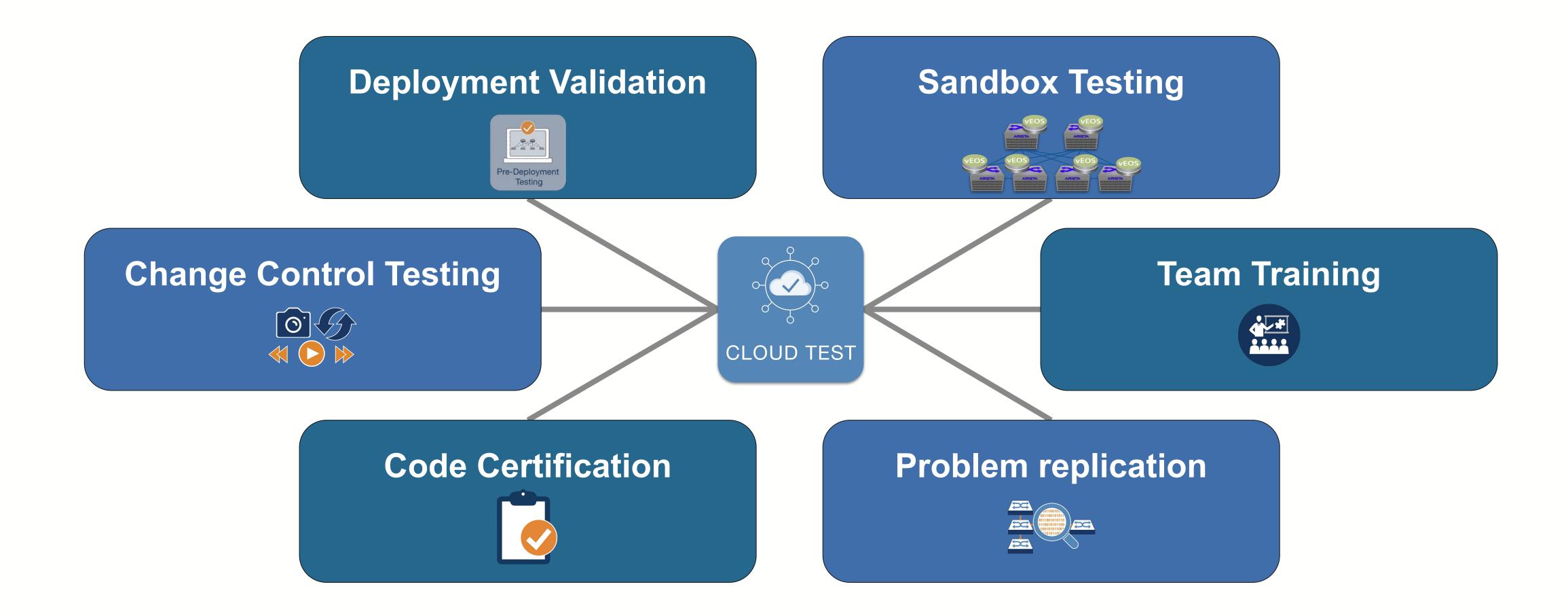




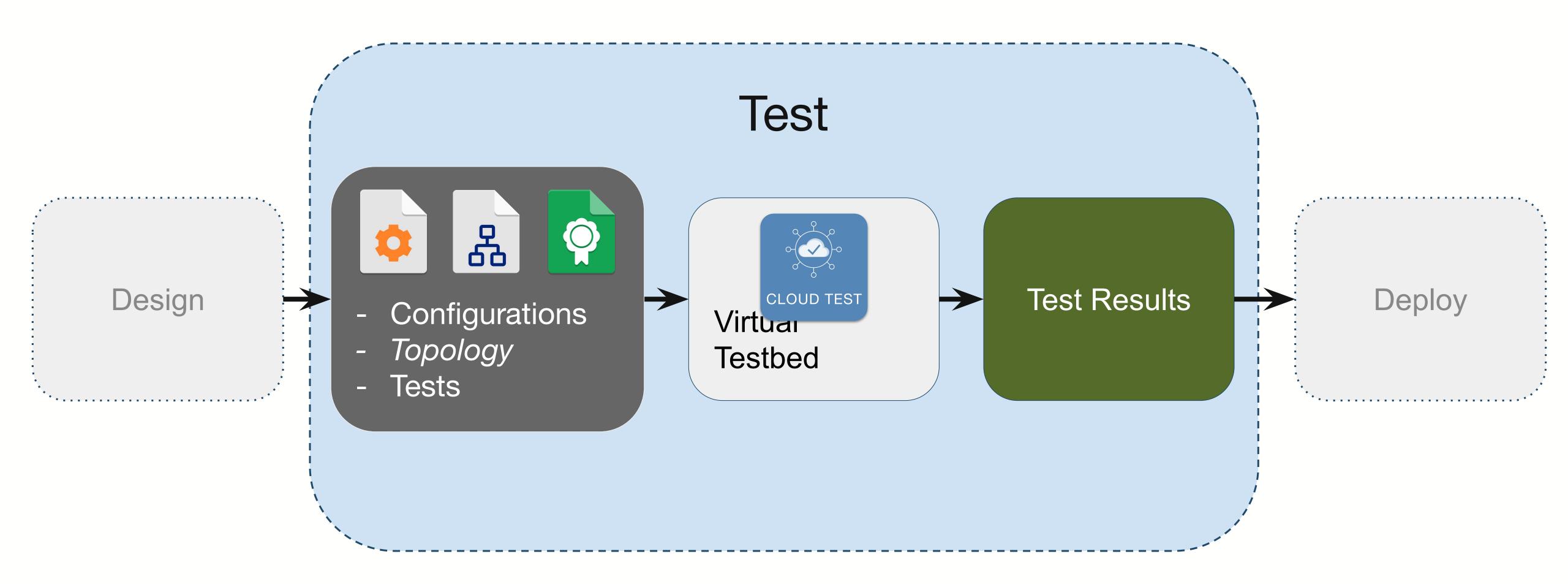
Cloud Test

A virtual network sandbox

Cloud Test



Test Stage





CloudVision Cl Pipeline

Evolution of CloudVision for Advanced Automation







Base

Intermediate

Advanced

CloudVision Cl

Integration





Design

- Studios based on AVD to build configurations, tests, and docs
- Integration with IPAM and external SoTs





Test

- Config validation
- Test changes in virtual sandbox
- Future integration with 3rd party testing tools such as Forward / Batfish / IP Fabric



Deliver/Deploy

- State aware deployment
- Managed change control process
- Approval workflows
- Future integration with ITSM systems

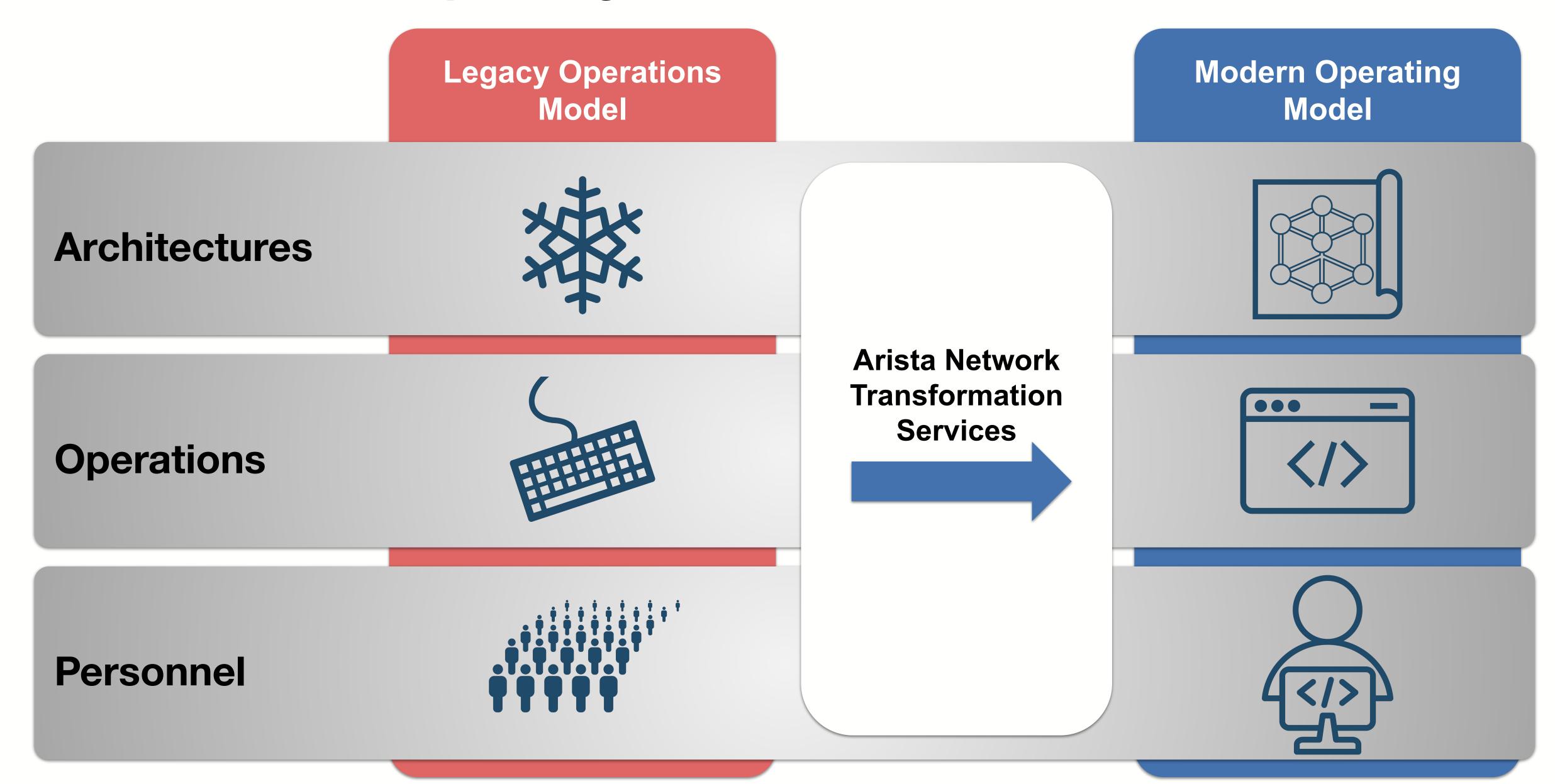


Verify/Validate

- Post-deployment execution of AVD generated tests in CloudVision
- Test reporting in CloudVision dashboards
- Future integration to sync with SoT and 3rd party testing tools



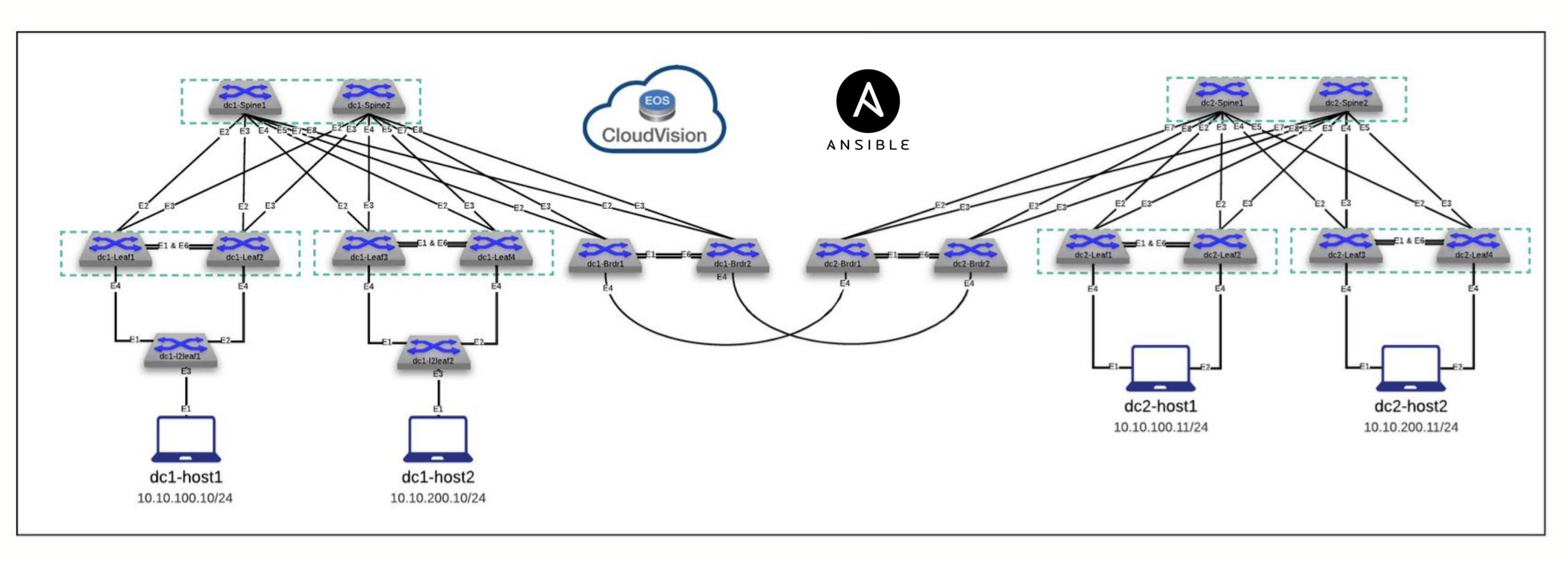
Arista's Modern Operating Transformational Model



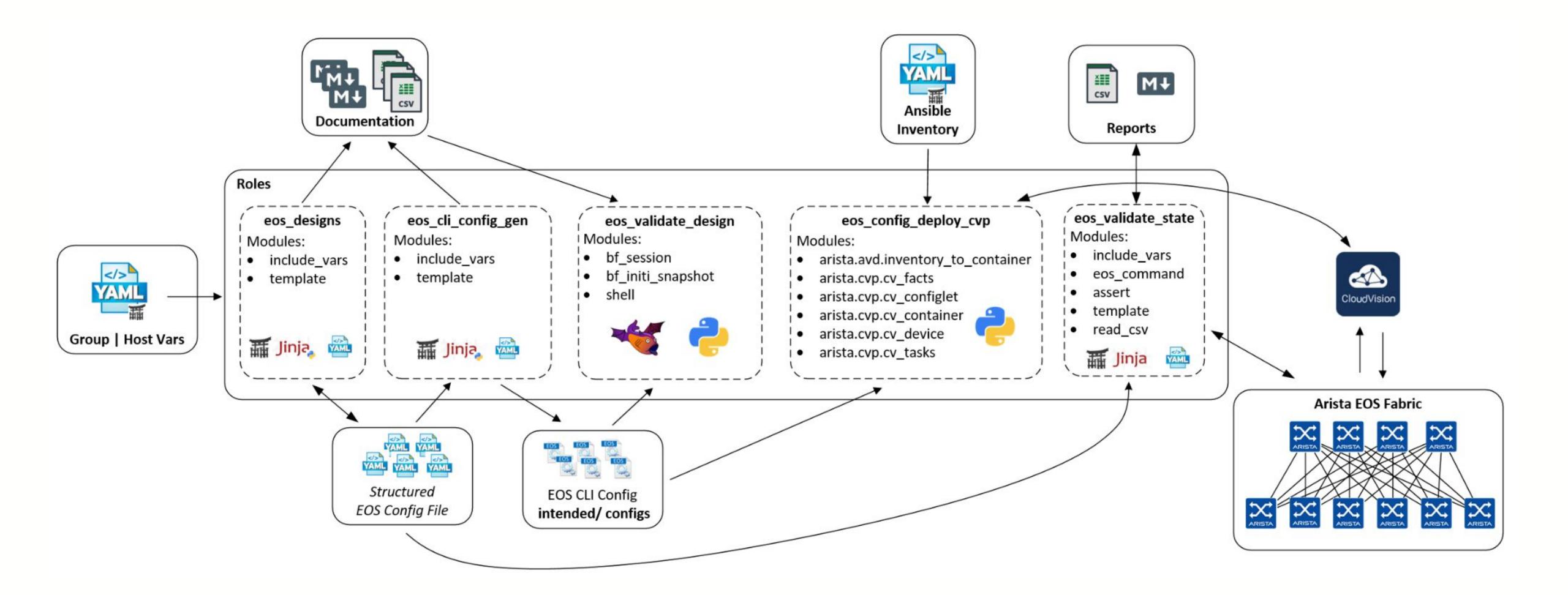
ARISTA

AVD Open-Cl demo

Demo topology in ACT



Arista.avd Configuration - Workflow



Key Links

- Ansible AVD project:
 - Documentation: https://avd.sh/en/latest/
 - GitHub: https://github.com/aristanetworks/ansible-avd
 - Ansible galaxy: https://galaxy.ansible.com/arista/avd
- Ansible CVP project:
 - Documentation: https://cvp.avd.sh/en/latest/
 - GitHub: https://github.com/aristanetworks/ansible-cvp
 - Ansible galaxy: https://galaxy.ansible.com/arista/cvp
- NetDevOps Community:
 - https://github.com/arista-netdevops-community



Thank You