

# Software Supply Chain Management with the Yocto Project

Joshua Watt

Open Source Summit

May 20, 2026



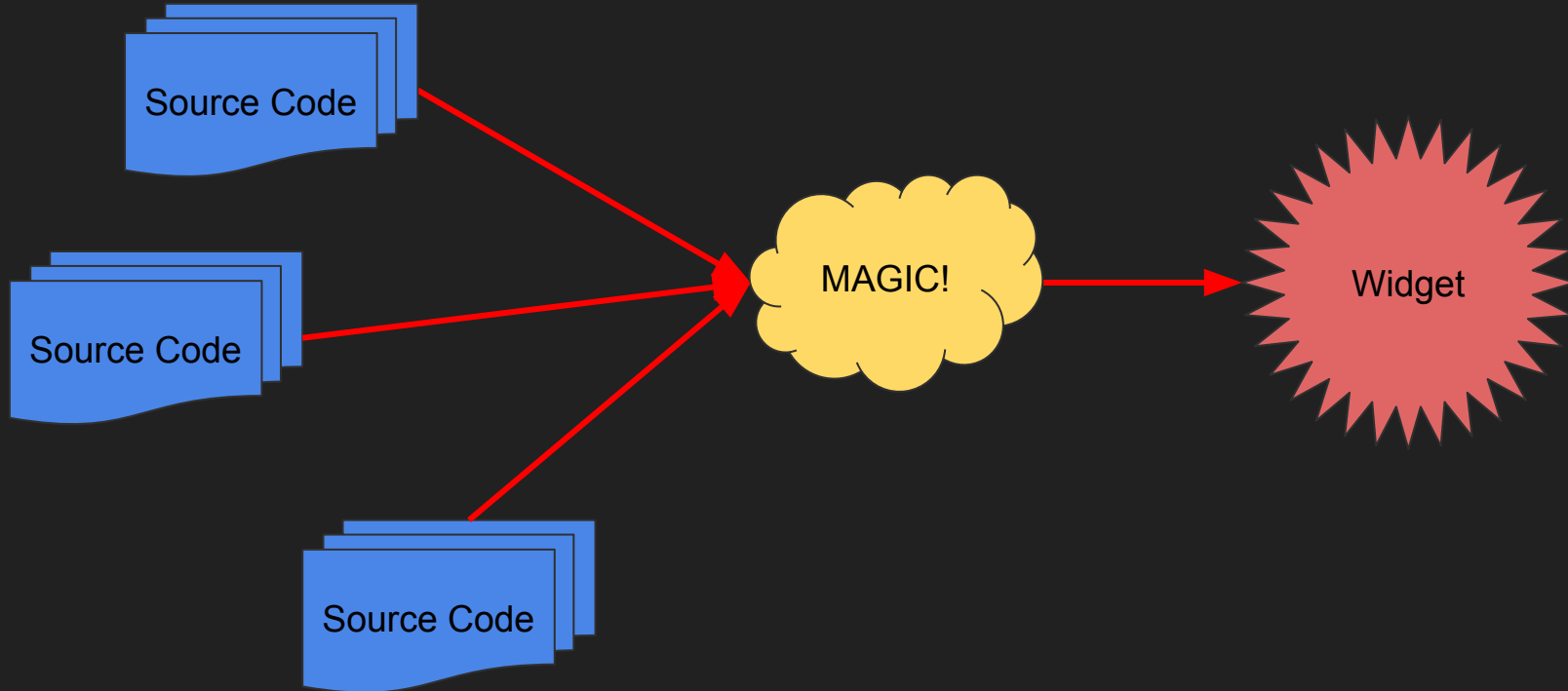
# About Me

- Worked at Garmin since 2009
- Using OpenEmbedded & Yocto Project since 2016
- Member of the OpenEmbedded Technical Steering Committee (TSC)
- Member of Yocto TSC
- Member of the SPDX Technical Team
- [Joshua.Watt@garmin.com](mailto:Joshua.Watt@garmin.com)
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- IRC (OFTC or libera): JPEW
- X/Twitter: [@JPEW\\_dev](https://twitter.com/JPEW_dev)
- LinkedIn: [joshua-watt-dev](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joshua-watt-dev)

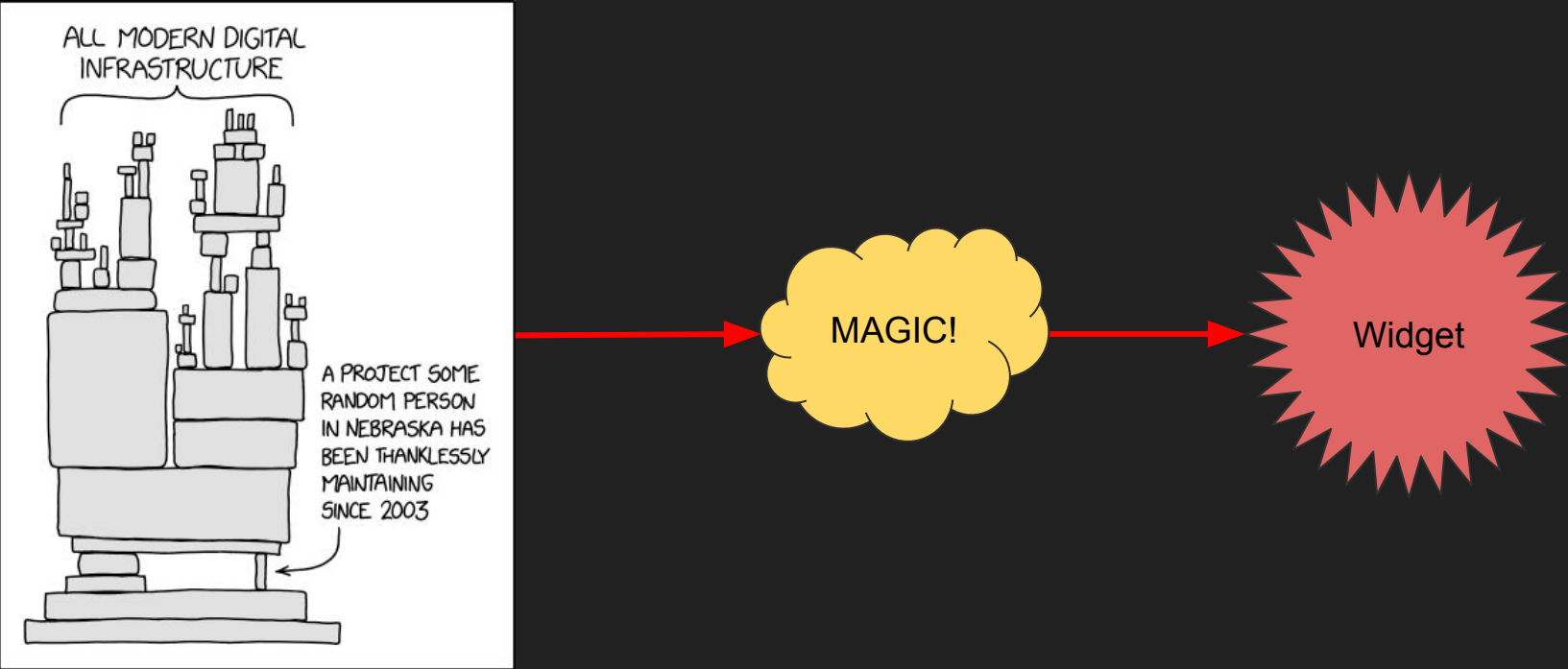


# Software Supply Chain

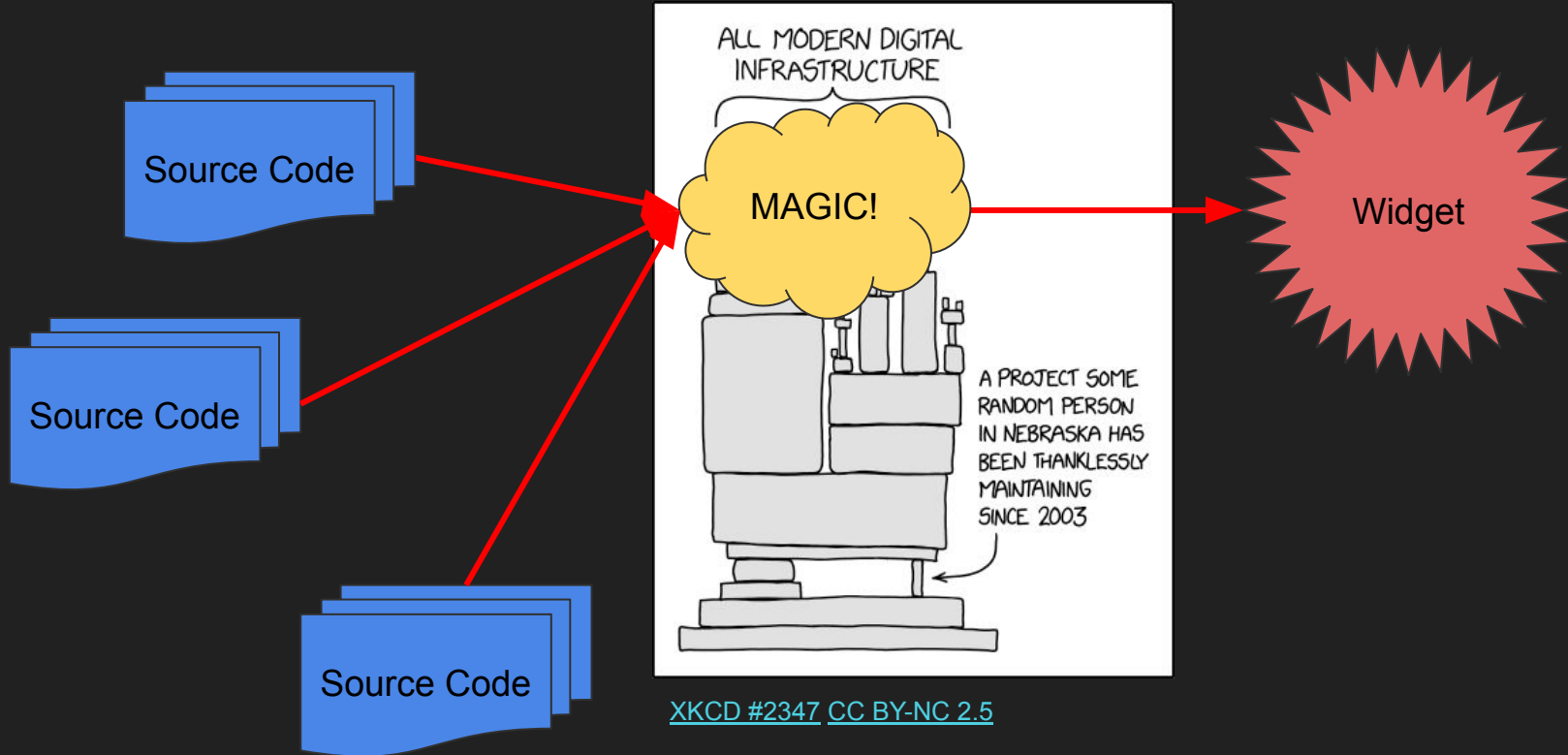
# Modern Software Supply Chains



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# Modern Software Supply Chains



# Regulatory Agencies have taken notice

- United States [Executive Order 14028](#)
- EU [Cyber Resilience Act](#)



# What's in my Software?

- Software is often not easily observable in its final form
- What's in my Software?
  - Where did it come from?
  - What version is it?
- Am I complying with Software Licenses?
- Has it been tampered with?
- Is it vulnerable to exploits?
- **Can deliverables be traced back to their code?**

## What's really in here?



[Sérgio Valle Duarte](#), [CC BY 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

# The relationship of a Software Supply Chain and SBoMs

- Everyone has a Software Supply Chain
  - It might be good, bad, or ugly
- SBoMs are one way of providing visibility into the supply chain and reasoning about it



# Standardized Format for the Exchange of Information



Regulatory  
Agencies

Internal  
Compliance

Downstream  
3rd Parties

# Standardized Format for the Exchange of Information



Do you have any vulnerabilities?

Regulatory

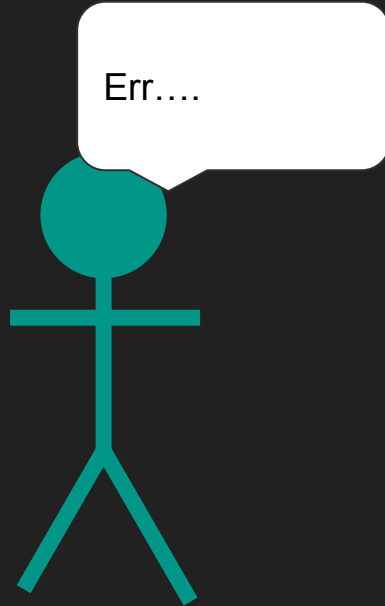
What Licenses are we using?

Internal

What's in the software you gave us?

Downstream 3rd Parties

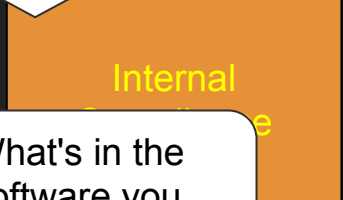
# Standardized Format for the Exchange of Information



Do you have any vulnerabilities?



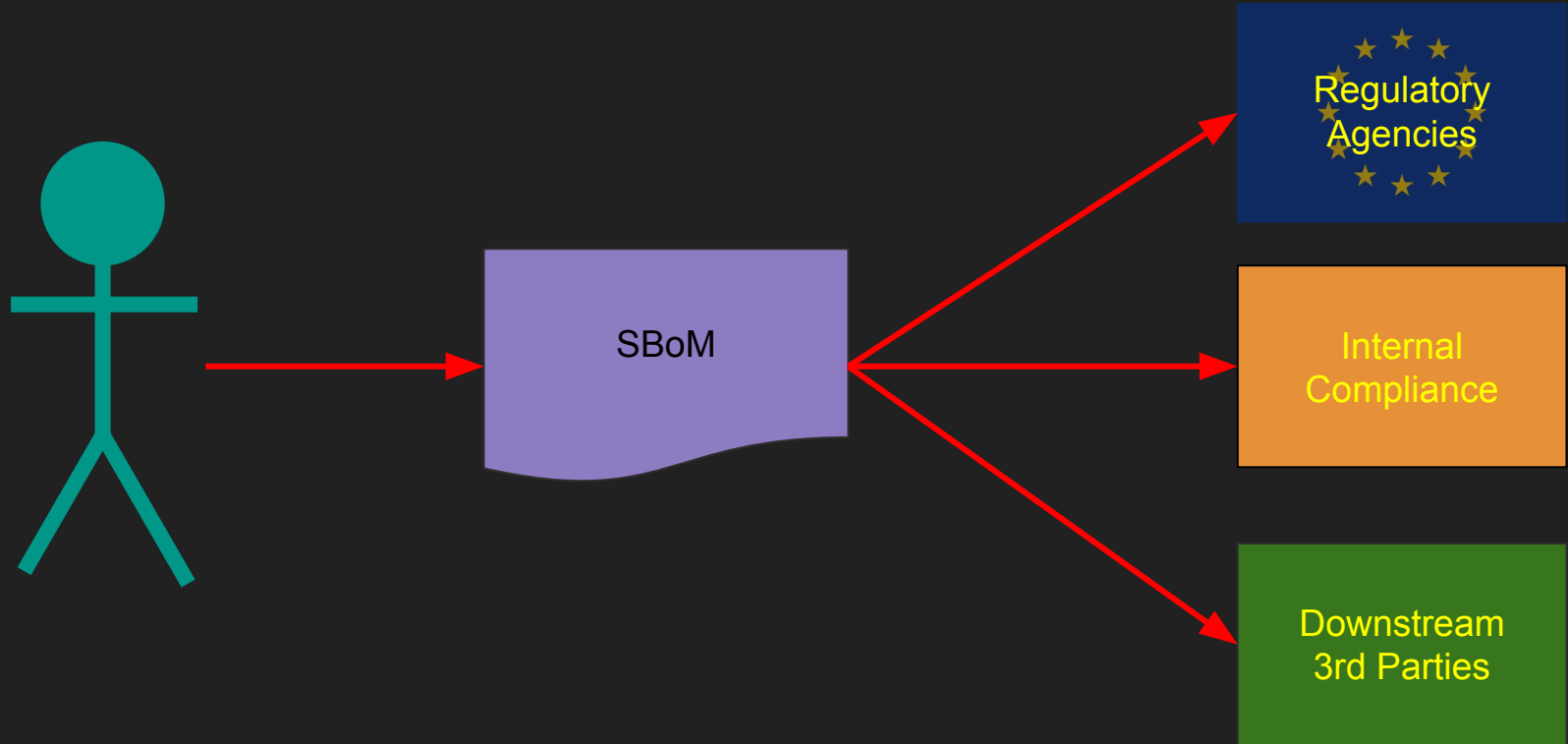
What Licenses are we using?



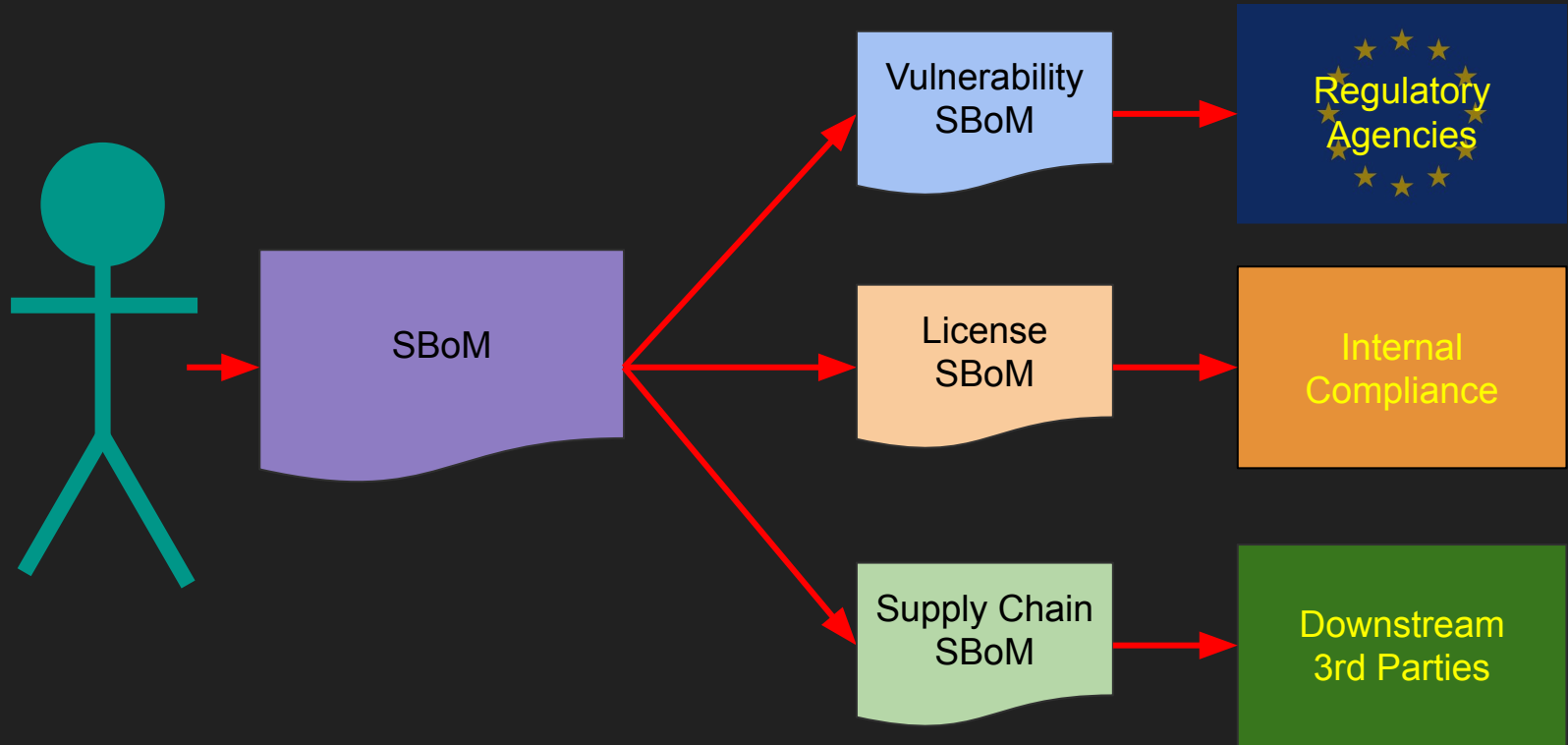
What's in the software you gave us?



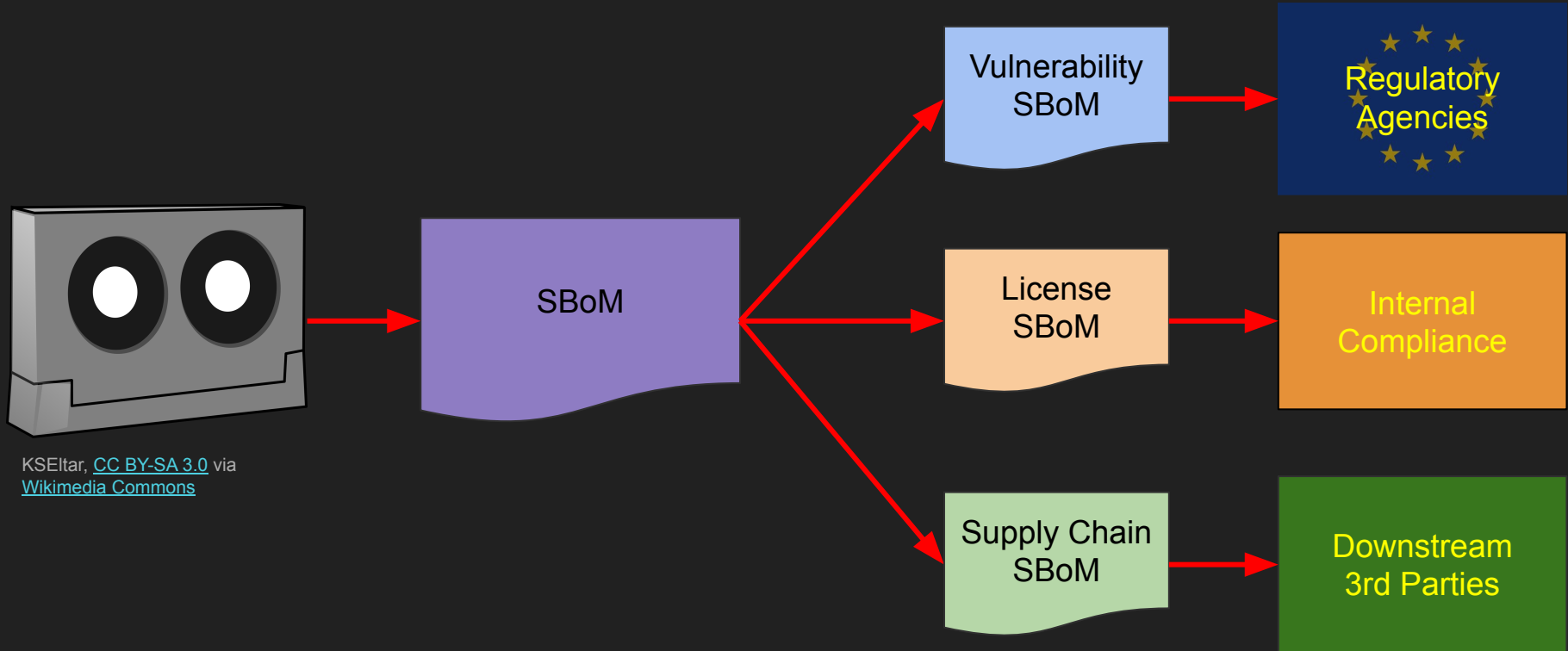
# Standardized Format for the Exchange of Information



# Standardized Format for the Exchange of Information



# Standardized Format for the Exchange of Information



KSEltar, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/) via  
[Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:KSEltar_Cassette_Tape_Icon.png)

# OpenEmbedded Build Flow

# Yocto Project and OpenEmbedded

## OpenEmbedded

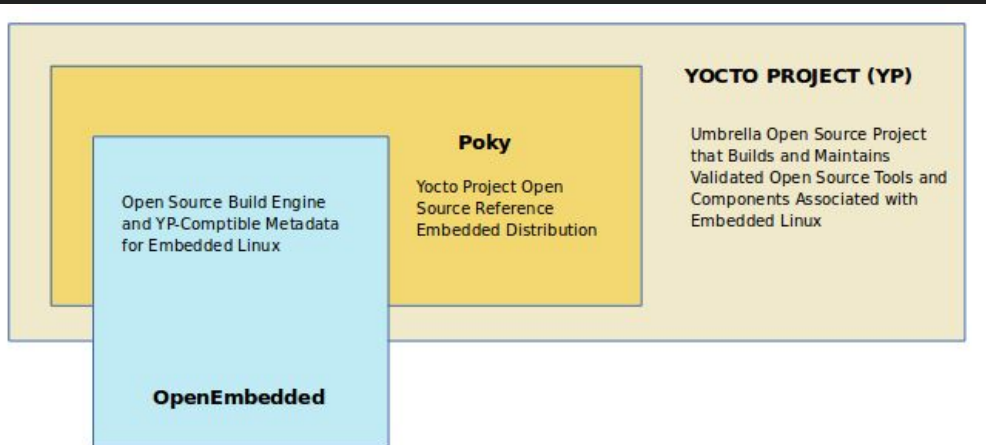


- Community project
- OpenEmbedded core layer
- Build system (bitbake)

## Yocto Project



- Linux Foundation project
- Poky reference distribution
- Runs QA tests
- Manages release schedule
- Provides funding for personnel
- Documentation

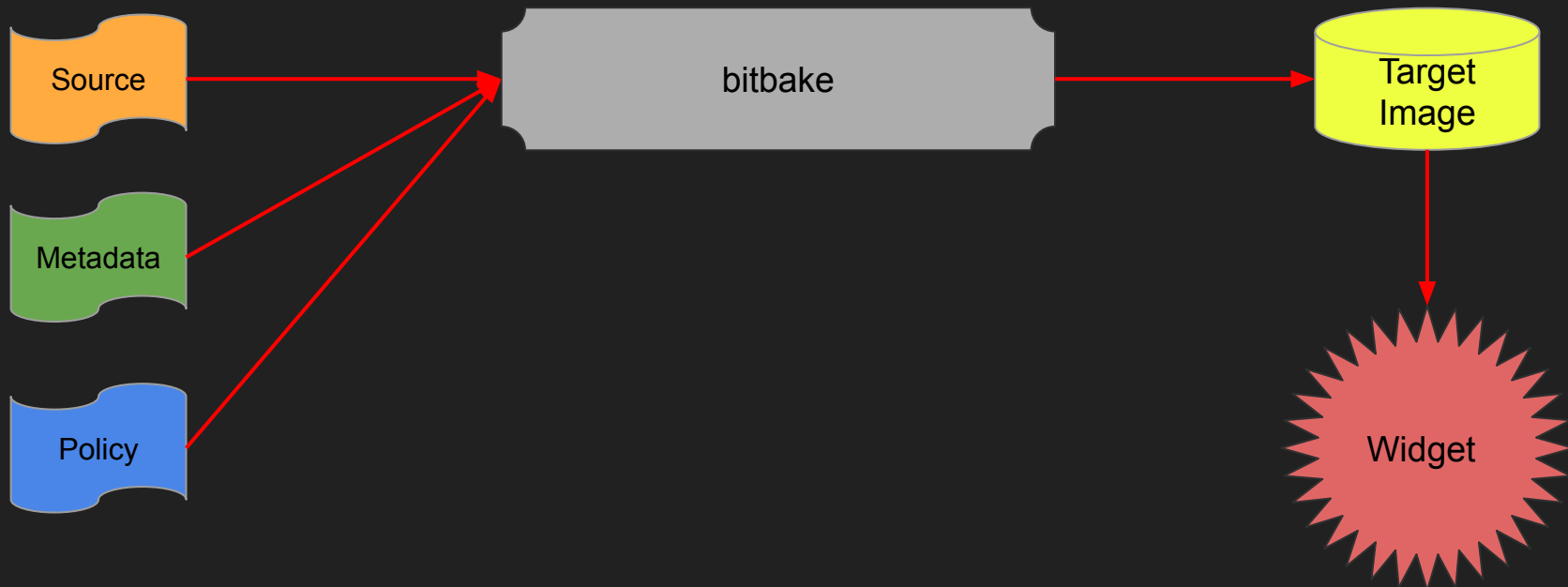


# Relationship with other projects

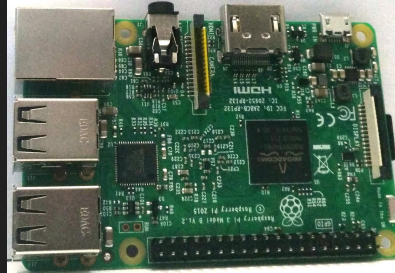
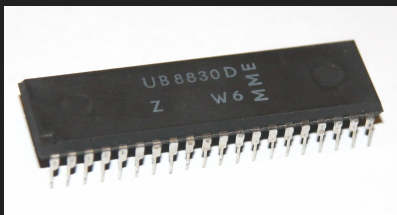


yocto .  
PROJECT

# Build Images from Source Code



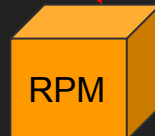
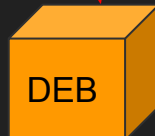
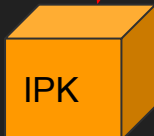
# Images



QEMU



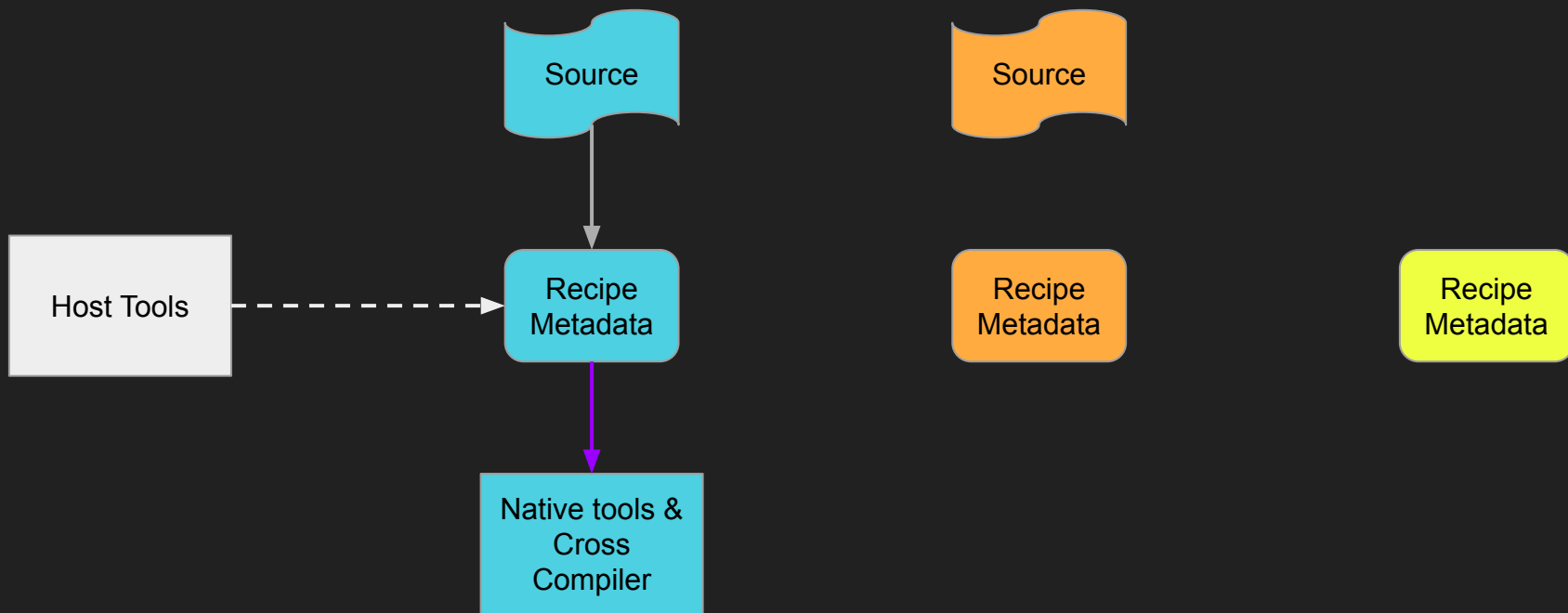
Target Image



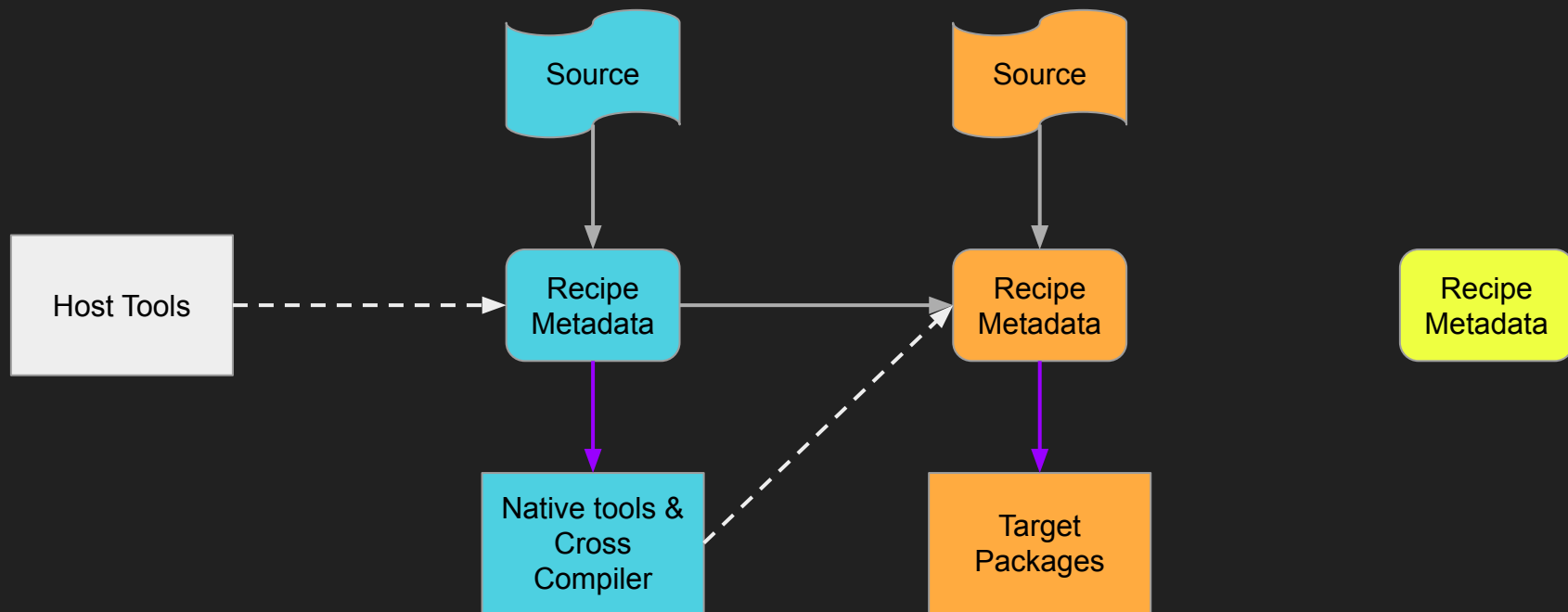
# Simplified Build Flow



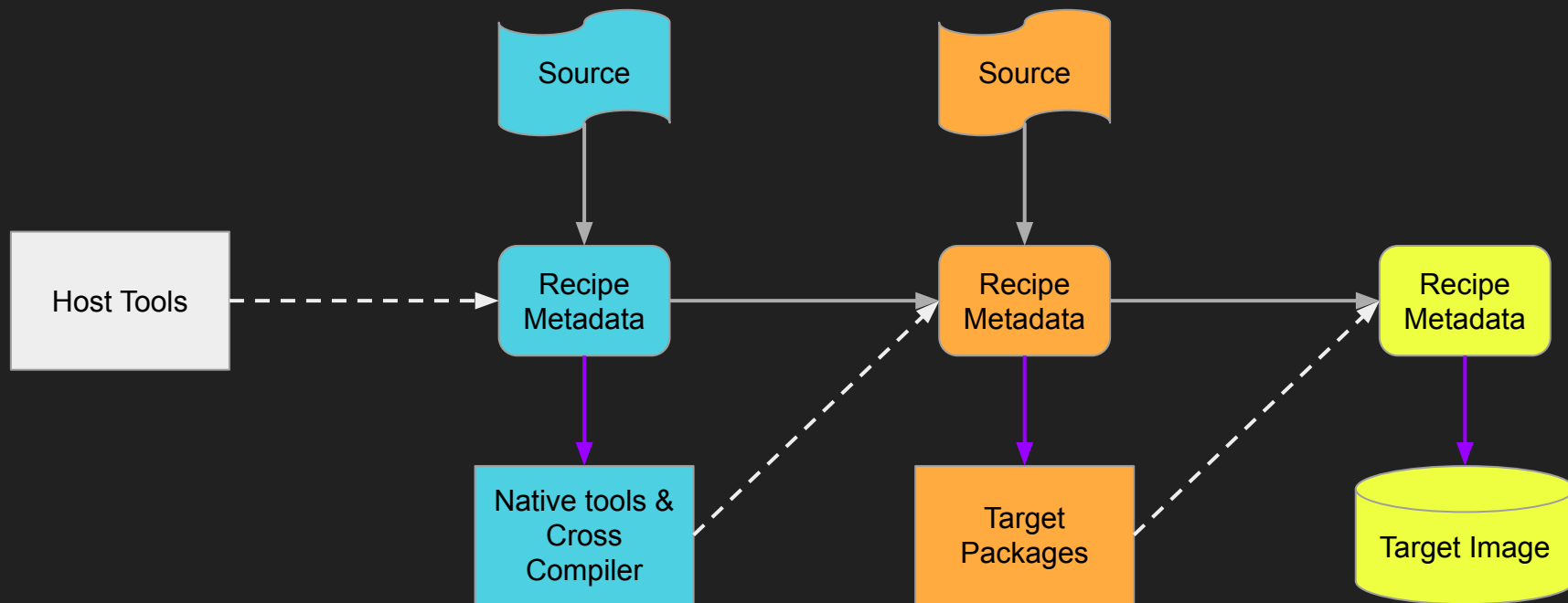
# Simplified Build Flow



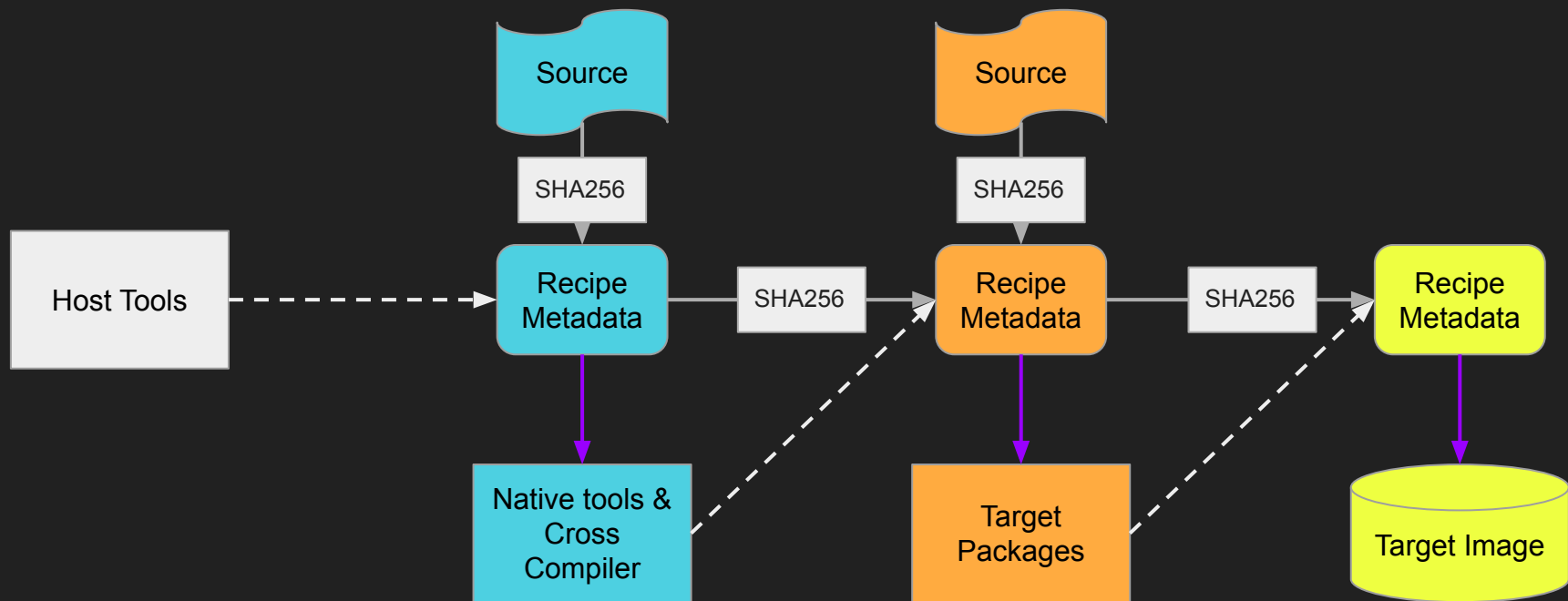
# Simplified Build Flow



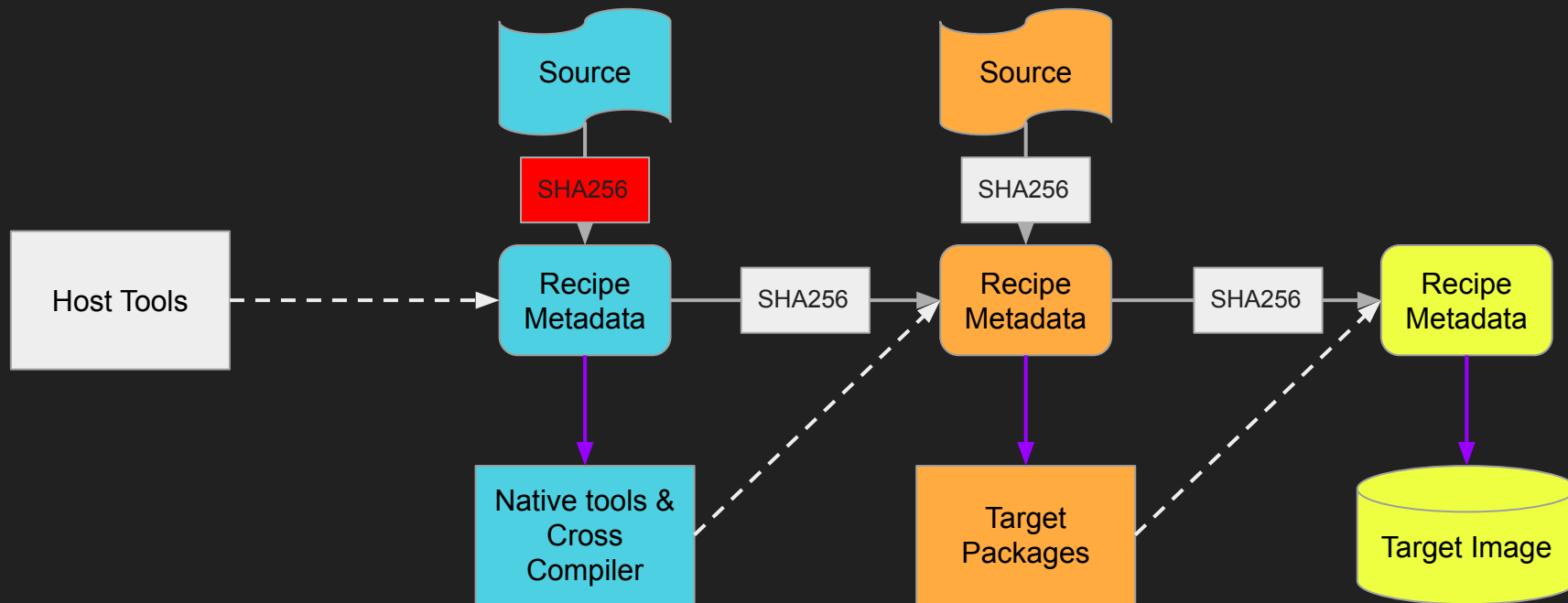
# Simplified Build Flow



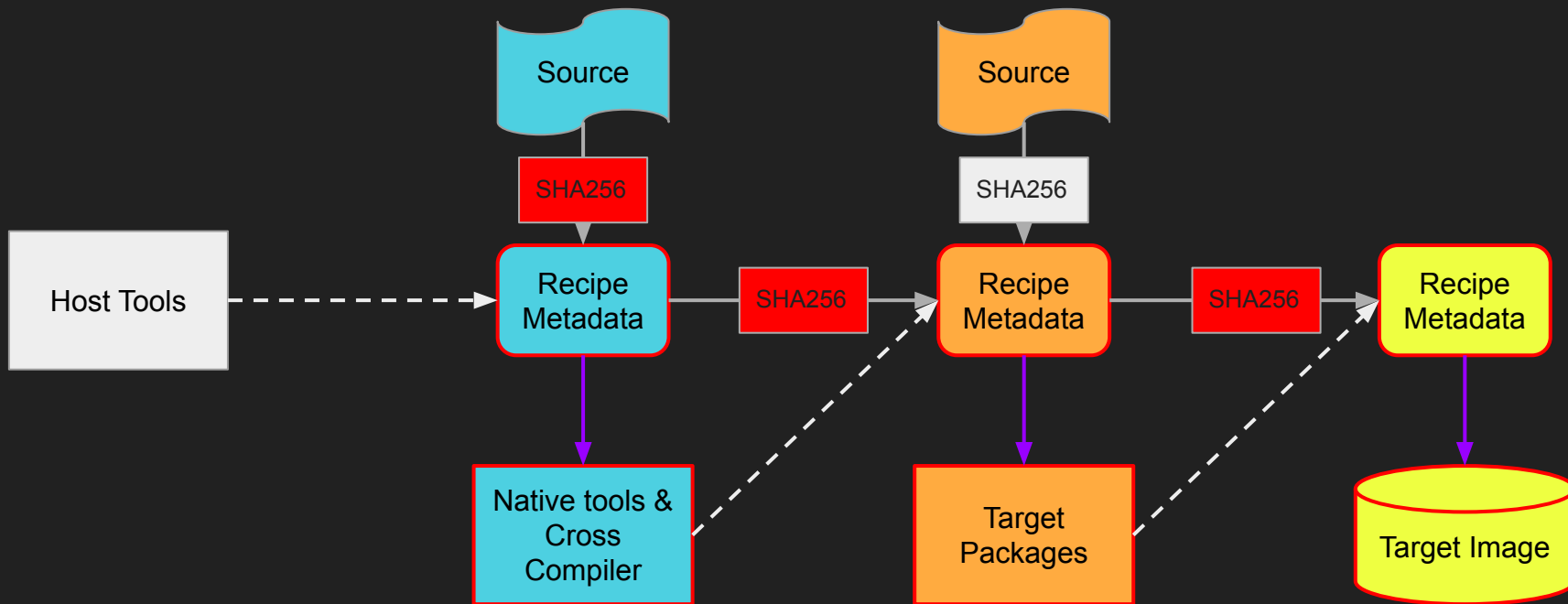
# Simplified Build Flow



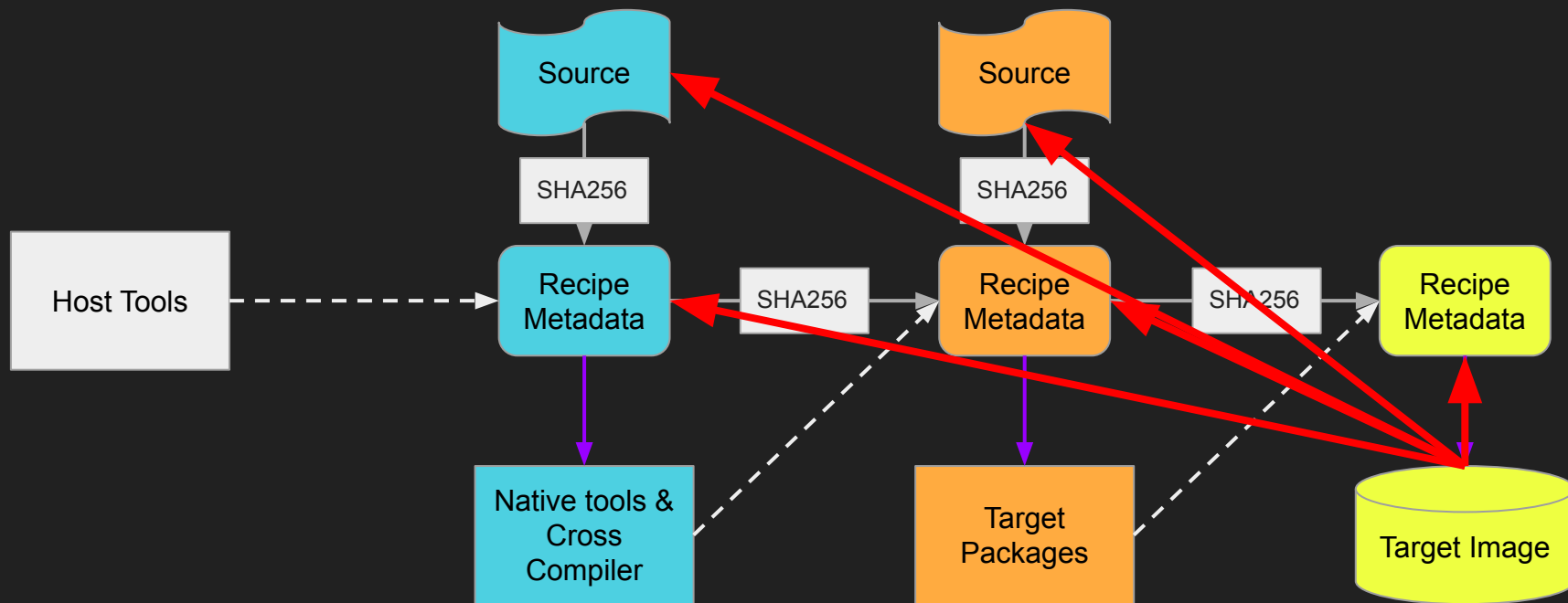
# Simplified Build Flow



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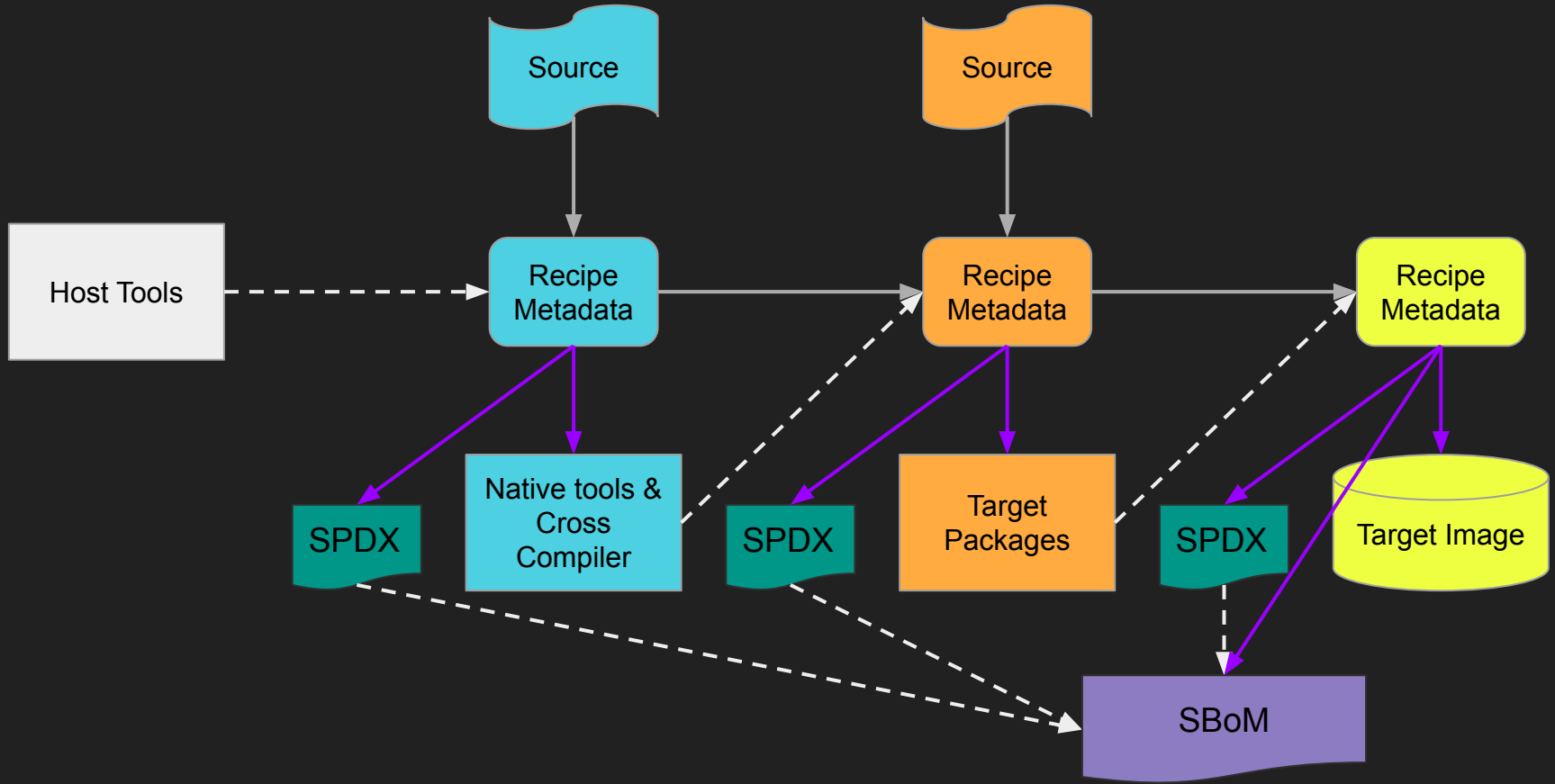


# Simplified Build Flow



Traces the target image back to the code (and metadata)

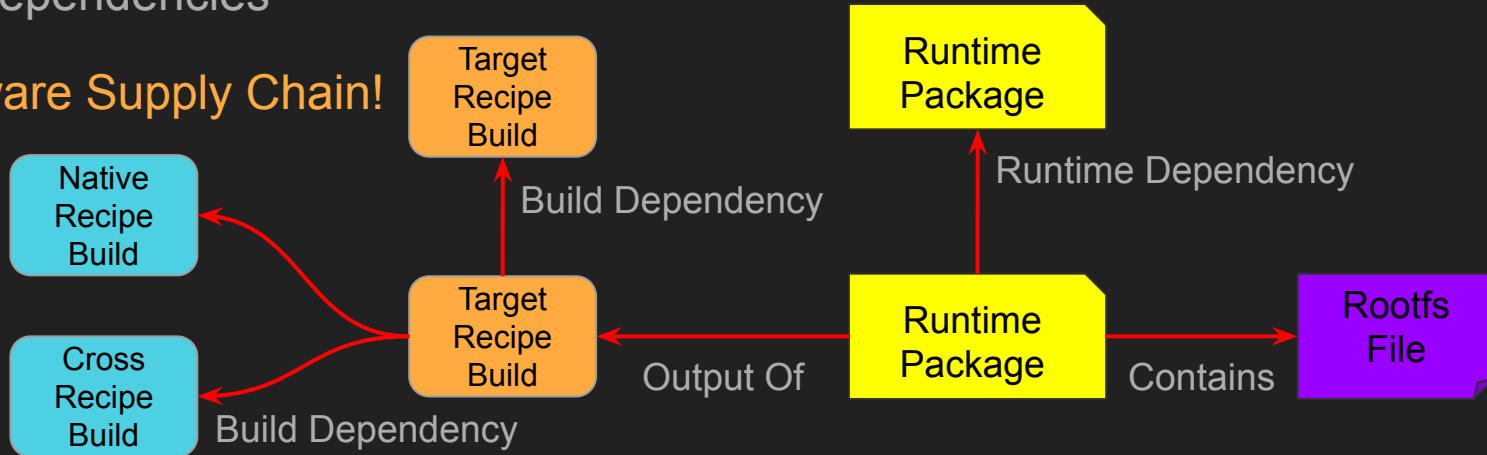
# SPDX Generation



# Extensive Dependency Tracking

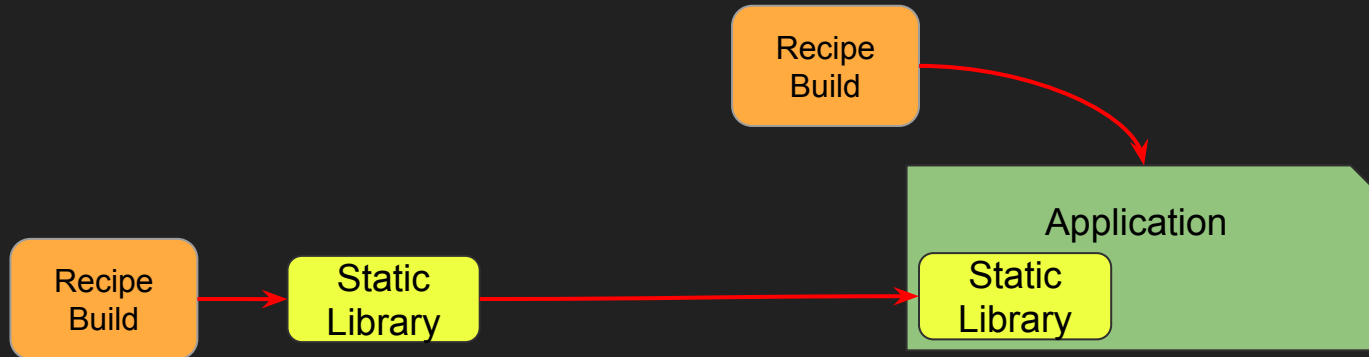
- Build Time Dependencies
  - Regular ("target") build dependencies
  - Cross Compile Tooling (i.e. "cross" recipes)
  - Host Tool Dependencies (i.e "native" recipes")
  - Buildtools tarball can extend this even further!
- Runtime Dependencies

## Excellent Software Supply Chain!



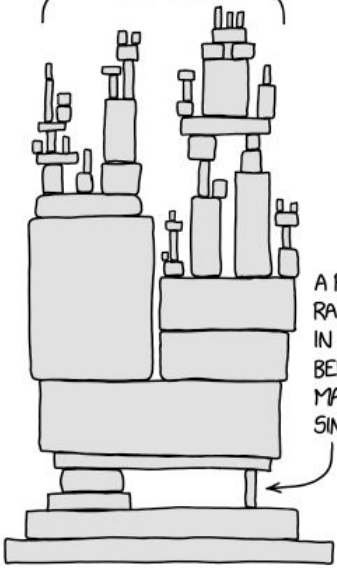
# Tracking of Static Library

- We can (and do) track static library sources embedded in binaries back to the original recipe (and source code) that produced them
- This is possible because we have all the source code *and* the debug data at the time of SPDX generation
- This is fairly unique for build systems



# Modern Software Supply Chains

ALL MODERN DIGITAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE



A PROJECT SOME  
RANDOM PERSON  
IN NEBRASKA HAS  
BEEN THANKLESSLY  
MAINTAINING  
SINCE 2003

MAGIC!

Widget

# About SBoMs...

- Yocto produces SPDX 3.0 SBoMs
- Hours of SBoMs: [My SBoM YouTube playlist](#)

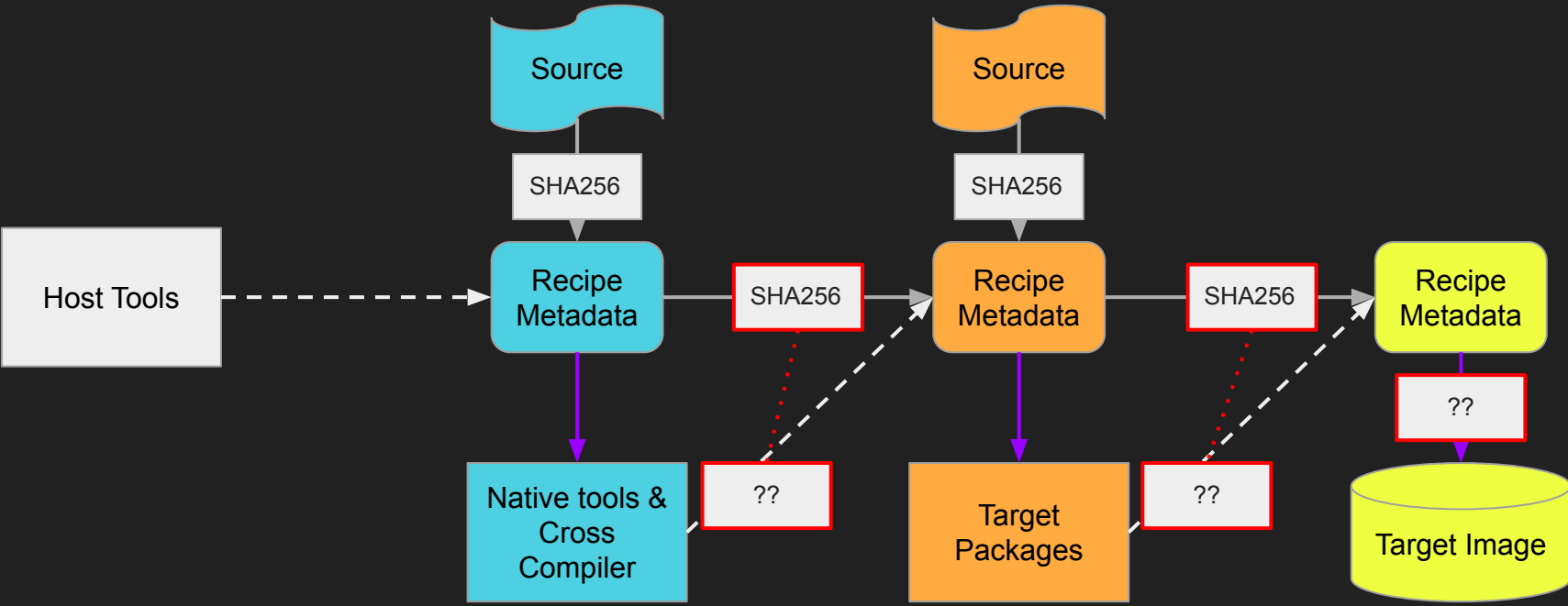


# Reproducible Builds

# Why do we need reproducible builds?

- Resist attack
  - What binaries need more scrutiny?
- Compiler Trust
  - [Diverse Double-Compilation](#) (David A. Wheeler) requires reproducible builds
- Quality Assurance
  - Rare timing bugs, race conditions, locale dependencies
- Smaller Binary Differences
  - Better delta updates
- Increased Development Speed
  - No need to rebuild if nothing has changed

# Binary output should associate with recipe hashes



# Reproducibility Testing

- Yocto Autobuilder tests regularly for regressions
- <https://www.yoctoproject.org/reproducible-build-results/>
- ~12,000 *target* packages
- 3 Package formats (ipk, deb, rpm)
- Multiple build hosts (Fedora, Ubuntu, CentOS, Debian)
  - Ensures cross-host builds are reproducible!
- Automatic [diffoscope](#) HTML output for packages that are not reproducible

# Extending Quality Assurance Test

- The QA test for reproducibility is designed to be easy to extend and run for testing your own images:

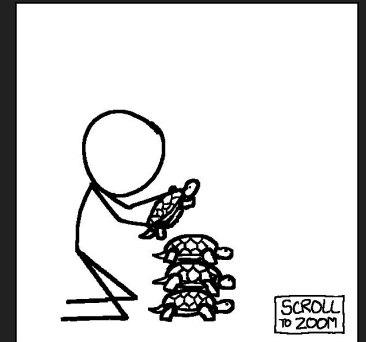
```
$ cat lib/oeqa/selftest/cases/myreproducible.py
from oeqa.selftest.cases.reproducible import ReproducibleTests
```

```
class MyReproTests(ReproducibleTests):
    images = ['my-image']
```

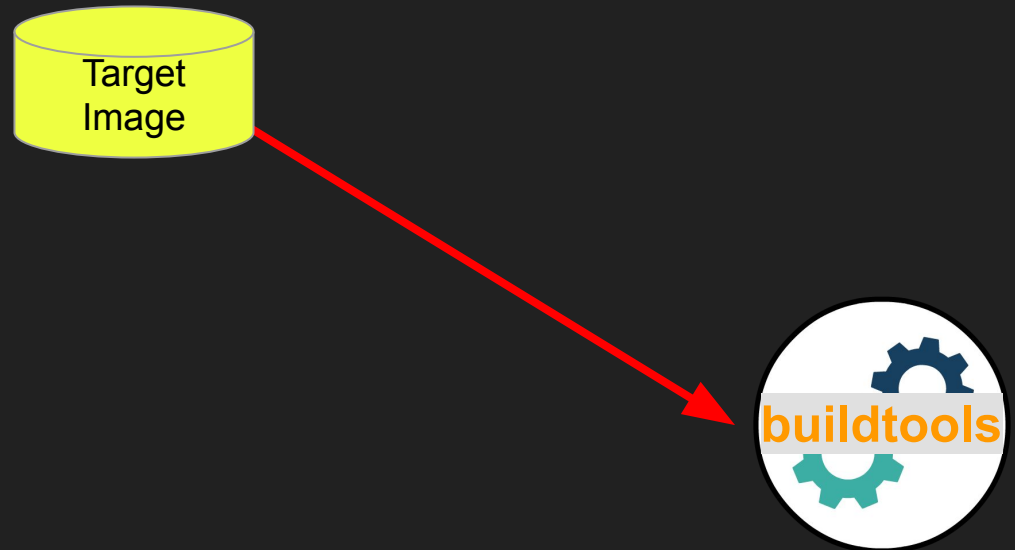
```
$ oe-selftest -r myreproducible
```

# Buildtools Tarball

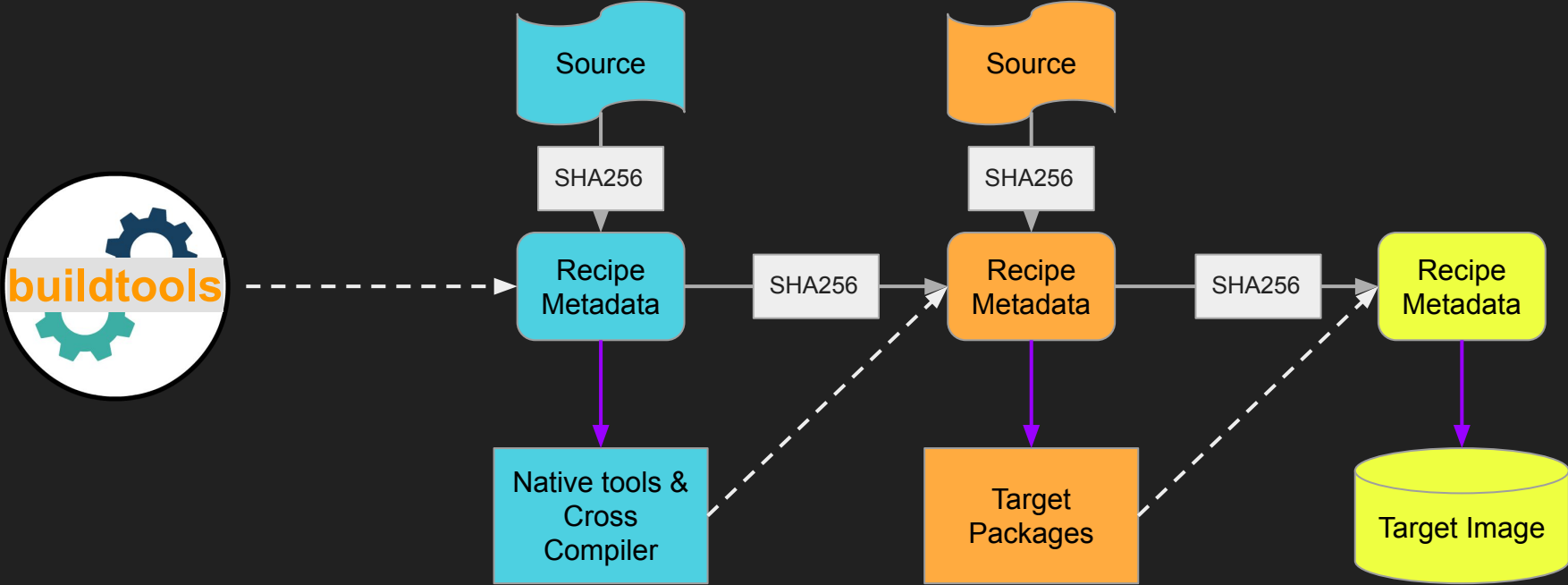
## "It's SBoMs all the way down"



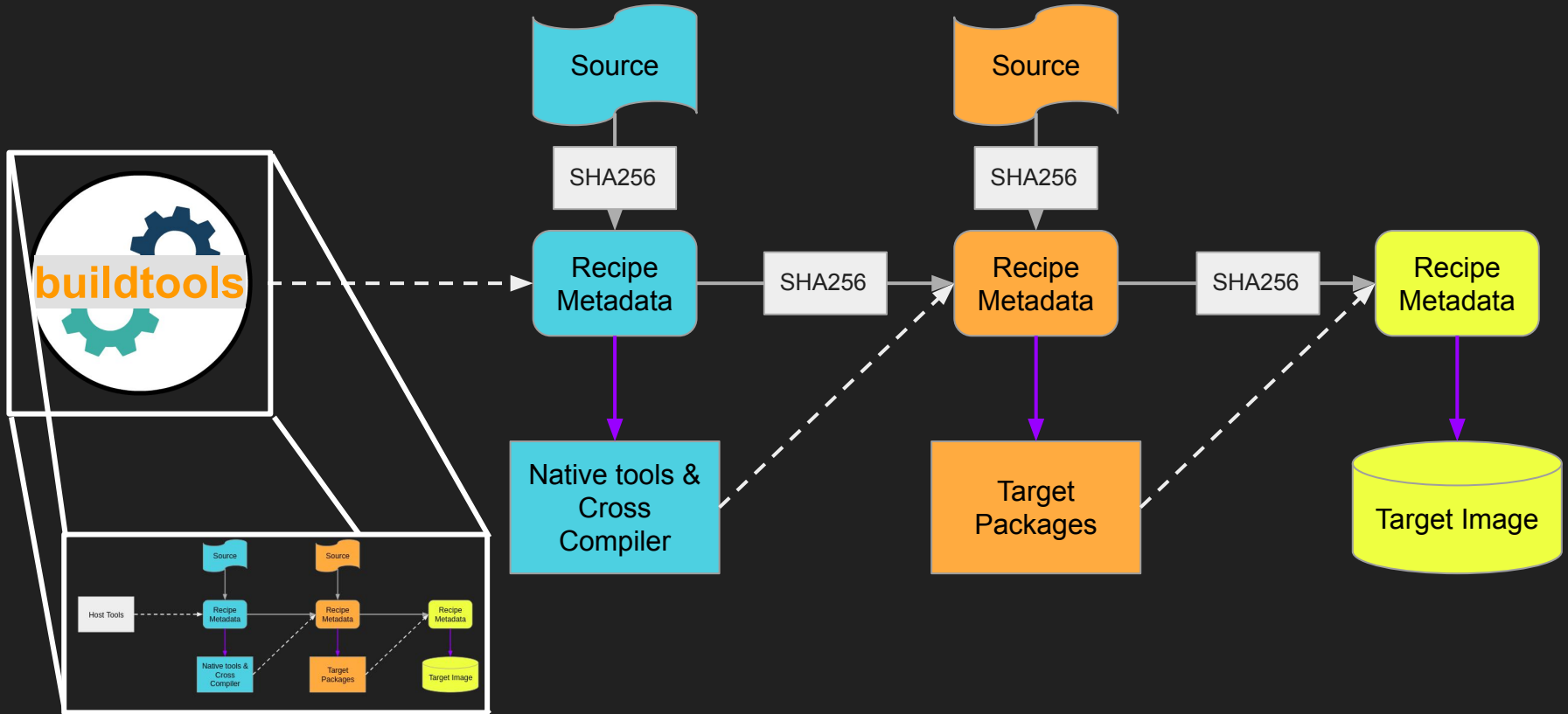
# Images



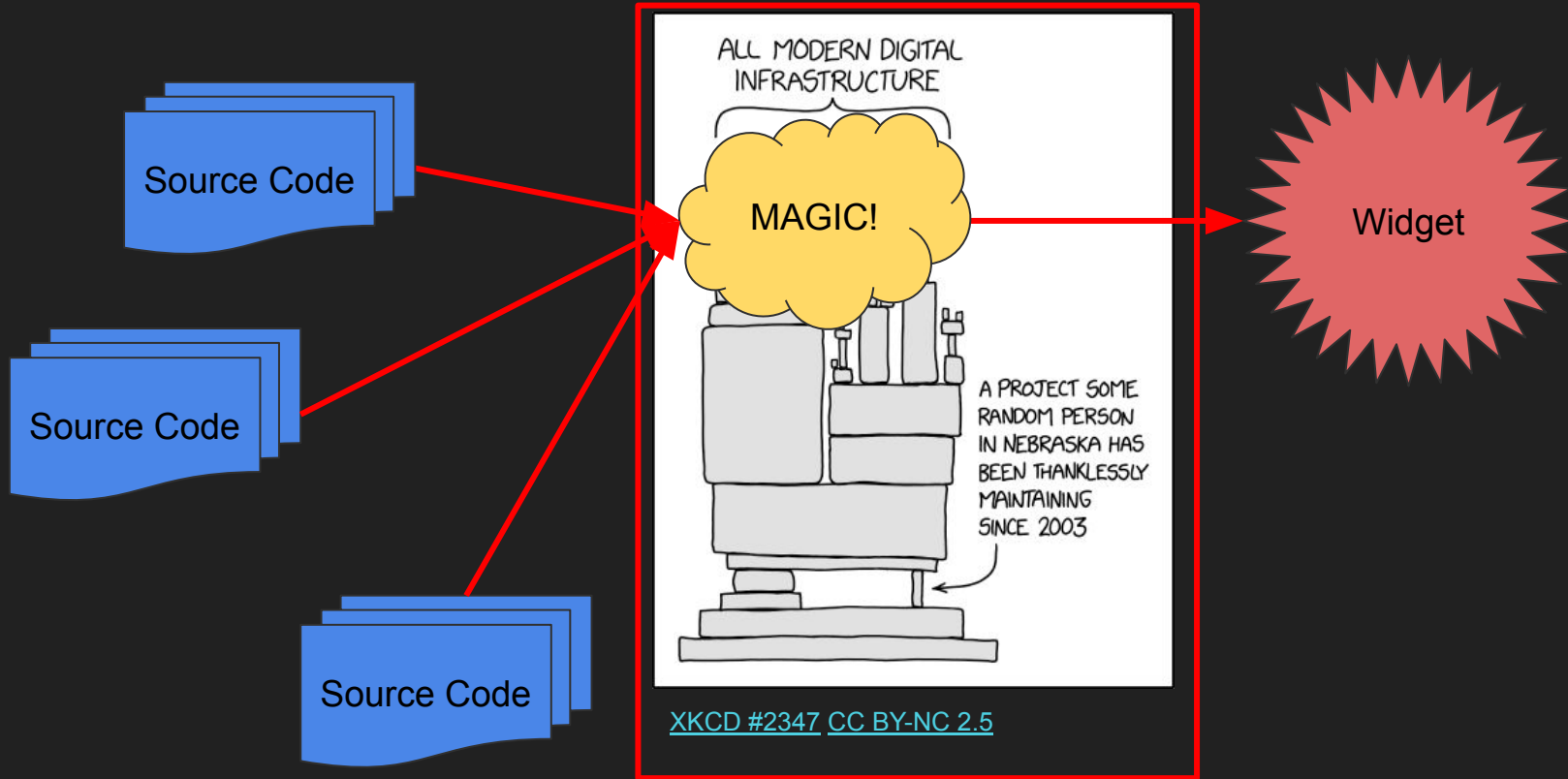
# Buildtools replaces Host tools



# Buildtools replaces Host tools



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# Getting Involved

- Yocto
  - Libera IRC
    - #oe
    - #yocto
  - <https://www.yoctoproject.org/community/get-involved/>
- SPDX
  - <https://spdx.dev/engage/participate/>

Questions?