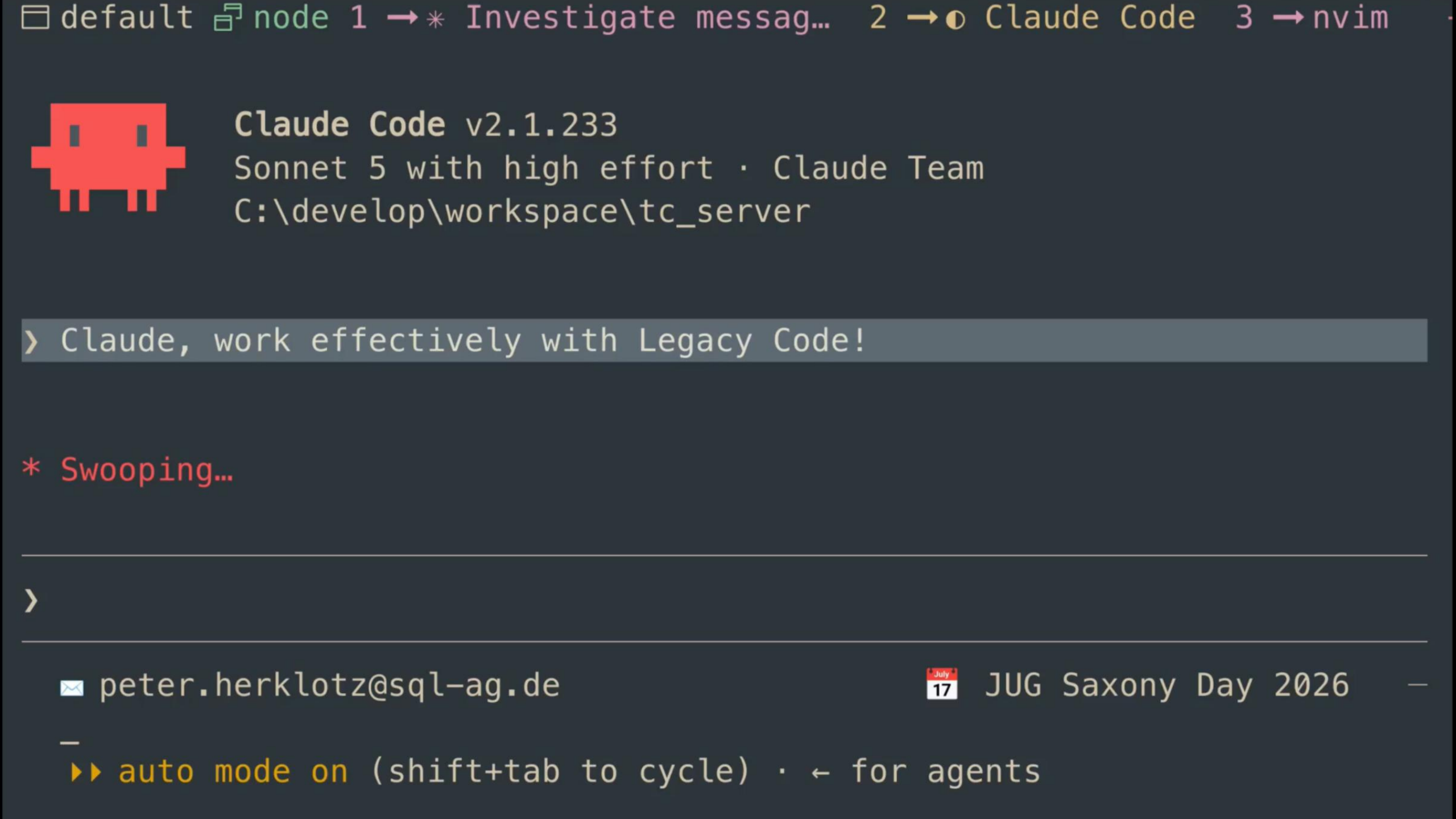
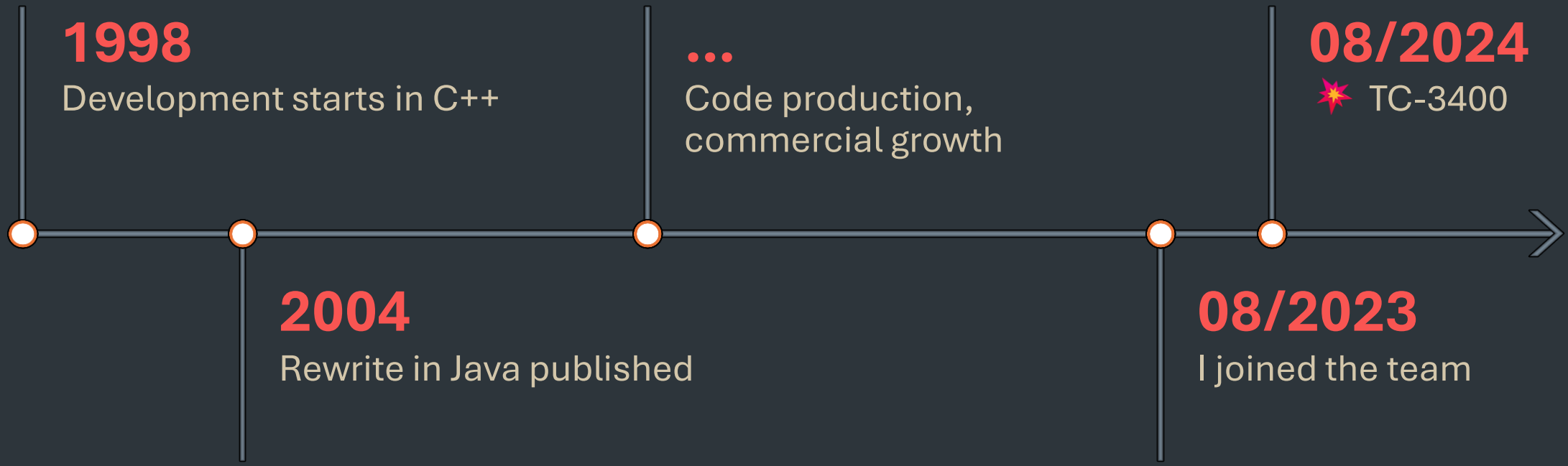
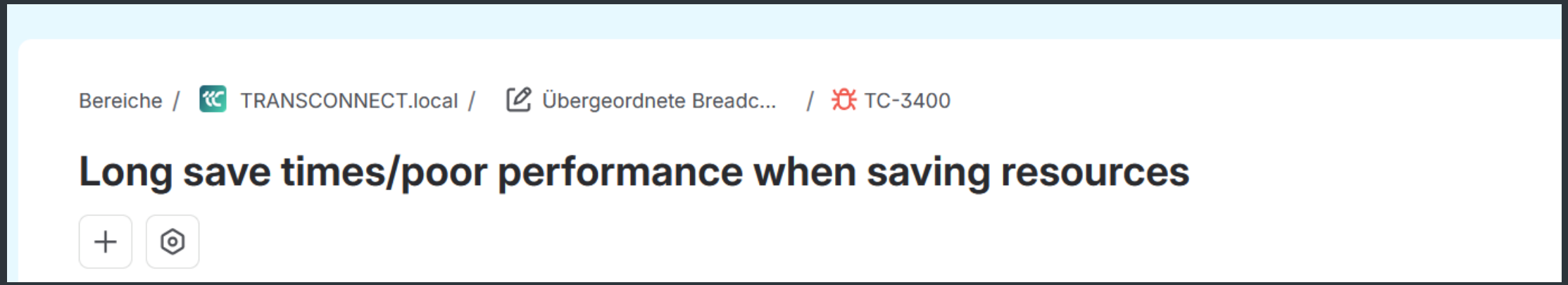

default node 1 → ✳ Investigate messag… 2 → ◐ Claude Code 3 → nvim
Claude Code v2.1.233
Sonnet 5 with high effort · Claude Team
C:\develop\workspace\tc_server
❯ Claude, work effectively with Legacy Code!
* Swooping…
❯
peter.herklotz@sql-ag.de
JUG Saxony Day 2026
⏵⏵ auto mode on (shift+tab to cycle) · ← for agents

History


1998
Development starts in C++
2004
Rewrite in Java published
...
Code production,
commercial growth
08/2023
I joined the team
08/2024
TC-3400

TC-3400: Performance Issue



- Problem identified in one class
  - LOC: ~1,600
  - Created: 14th December 2004
  - Unit Tests: 0

“To me, *legacy code* is simply code without tests.”

Michael C. Feathers
– Working Effectively with Legacy Code


25.03.2025 13:02
TC-3715
14.11.2024 14:15
TC-3553
11.11.2024 11:44
TC-3556
19.09.2024 14:16
TC-3497
19.08.2024 13:29
HERE IT COMES
imgflip.com

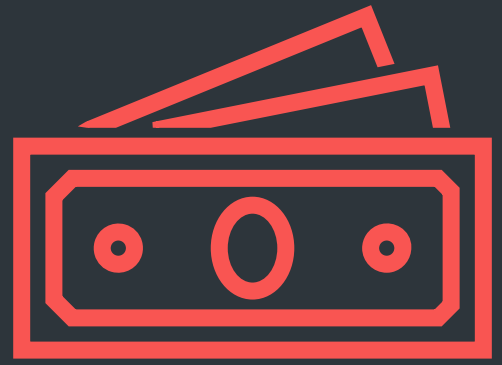
Why not simply write tests?



Complex



Time consuming



Budget

Seam

"A seam is a place where you can alter behavior in your program without editing in that place."

Michael C. Feathers
– Working Effectively with Legacy Code

Thesis: AI can increase code coverage



Prepare Codebase

- Unit Test Framework
- Mocking Framework
- Coverage Tooling



Create a Skill

- Refer to the Book
- “Do not change production code without approval”
- Review skill



Verify

- Review skill results
- Improve with verification tooling

Approach



Increase testability

- Did not use seams
  - Preprocessor seam
  - Link seam
  - Object seam

- Did use
  - Mock objects
  - Changed visibility of methods and inner classes
  - Added setter to inject mock objects
  - Extracted code into separate methods

Empirical Results



1

bug found



0

behavioral changes



+60.8%

coverage



> 2 hours

working time



~$18

token cost

Thank you

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Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes.