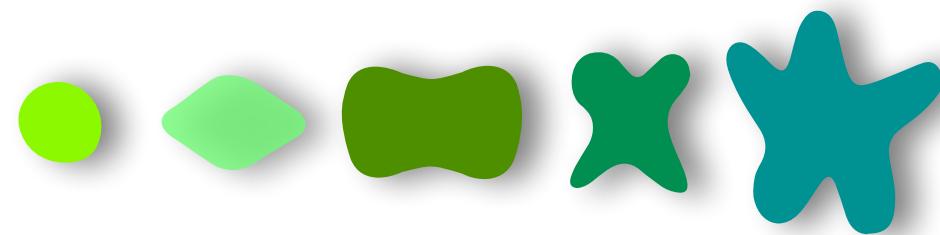
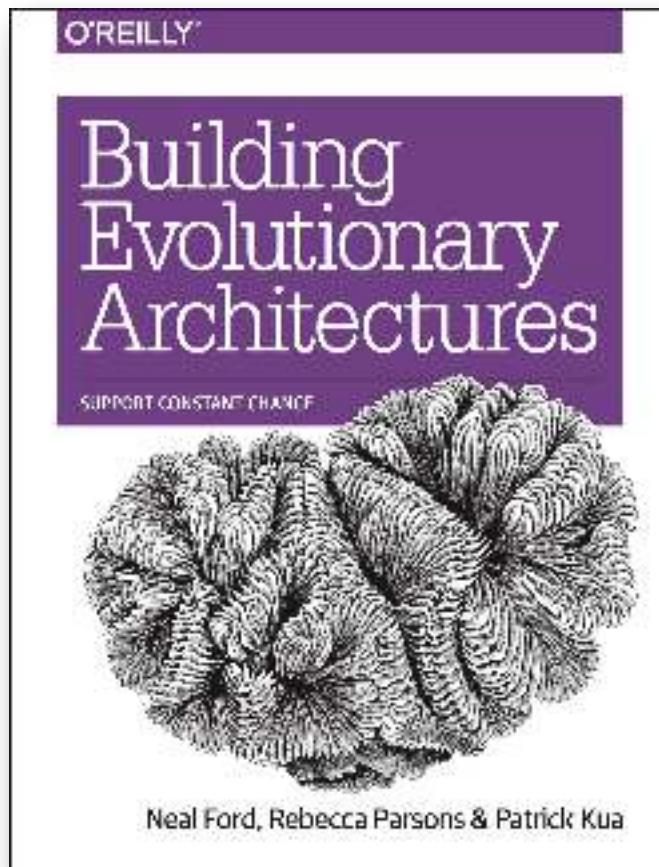


Building Evolutionary Architectures



ThoughtWorks

NEAL FORD

Director / Software Architect / [Home](#) [Wrangler](#)

with Rebecca Parsons & Pat Kua

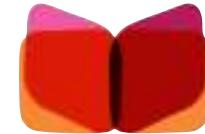
 [@neal4d](#)
 [nealford.com](#)



Rebecca Parsons



Pat Kua

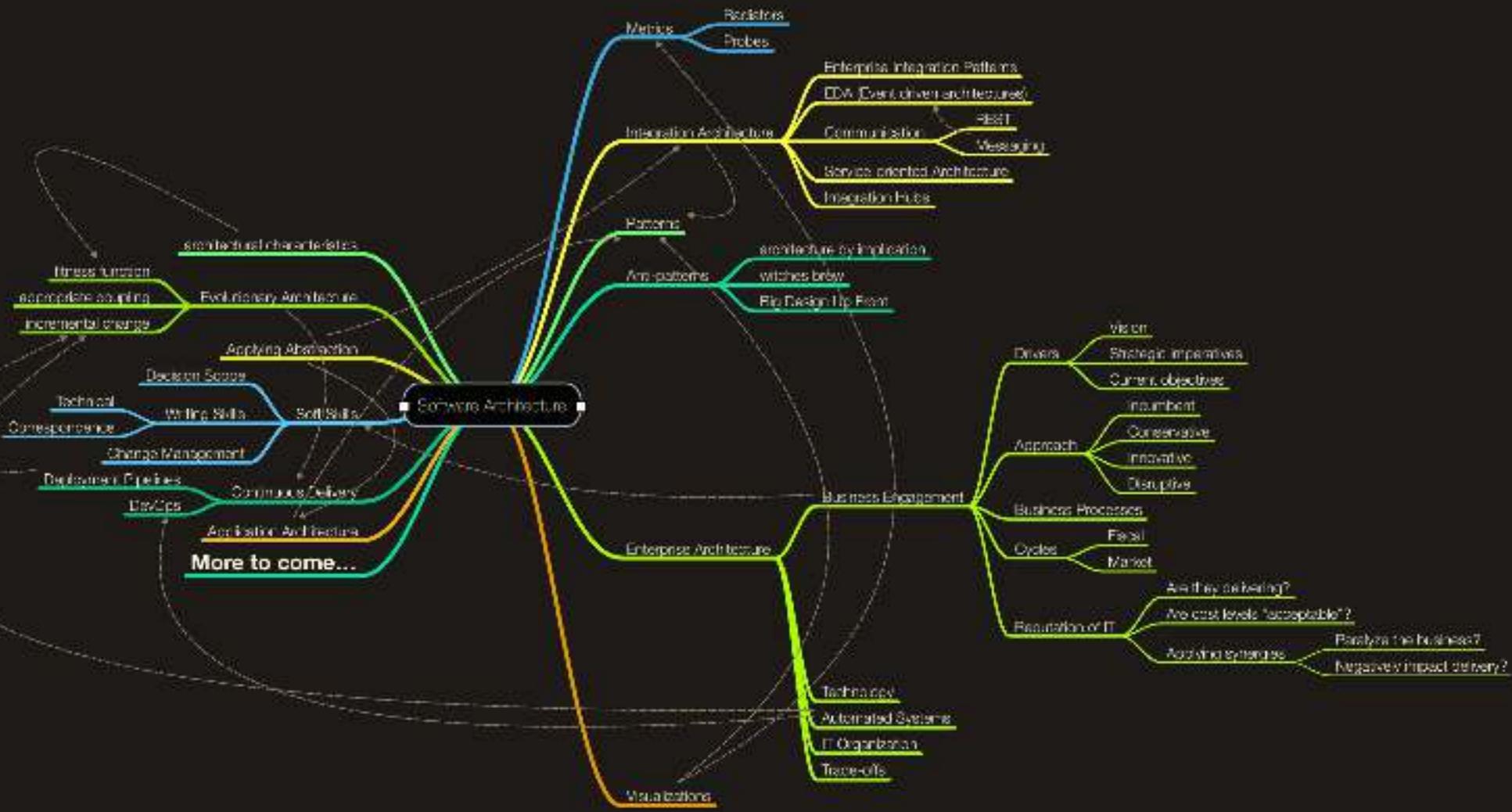


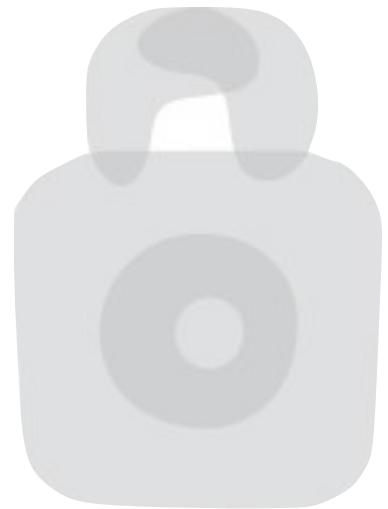
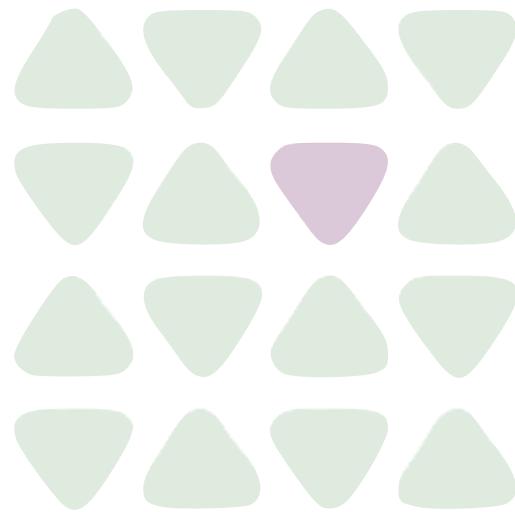
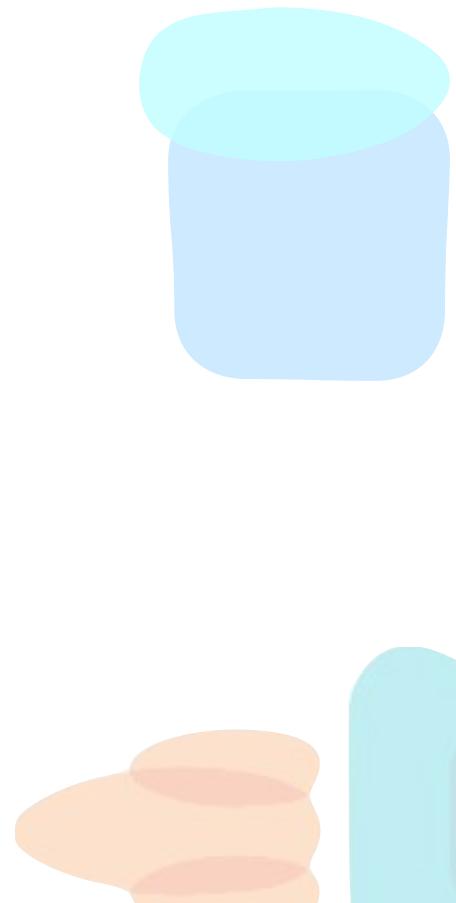
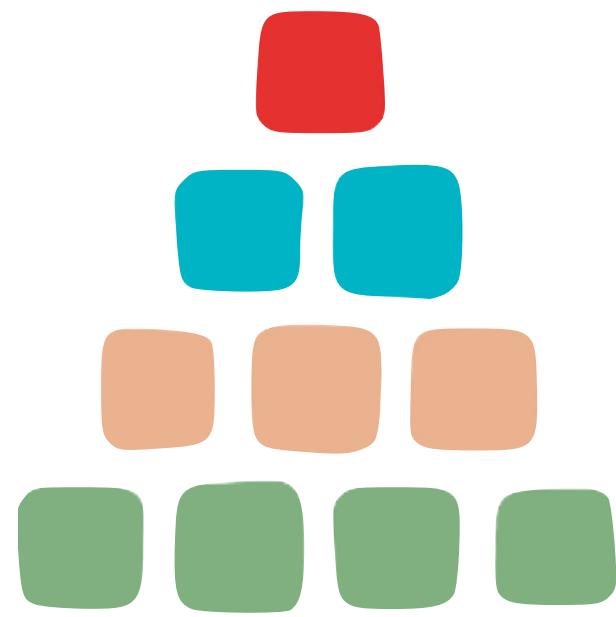
Neal Ford

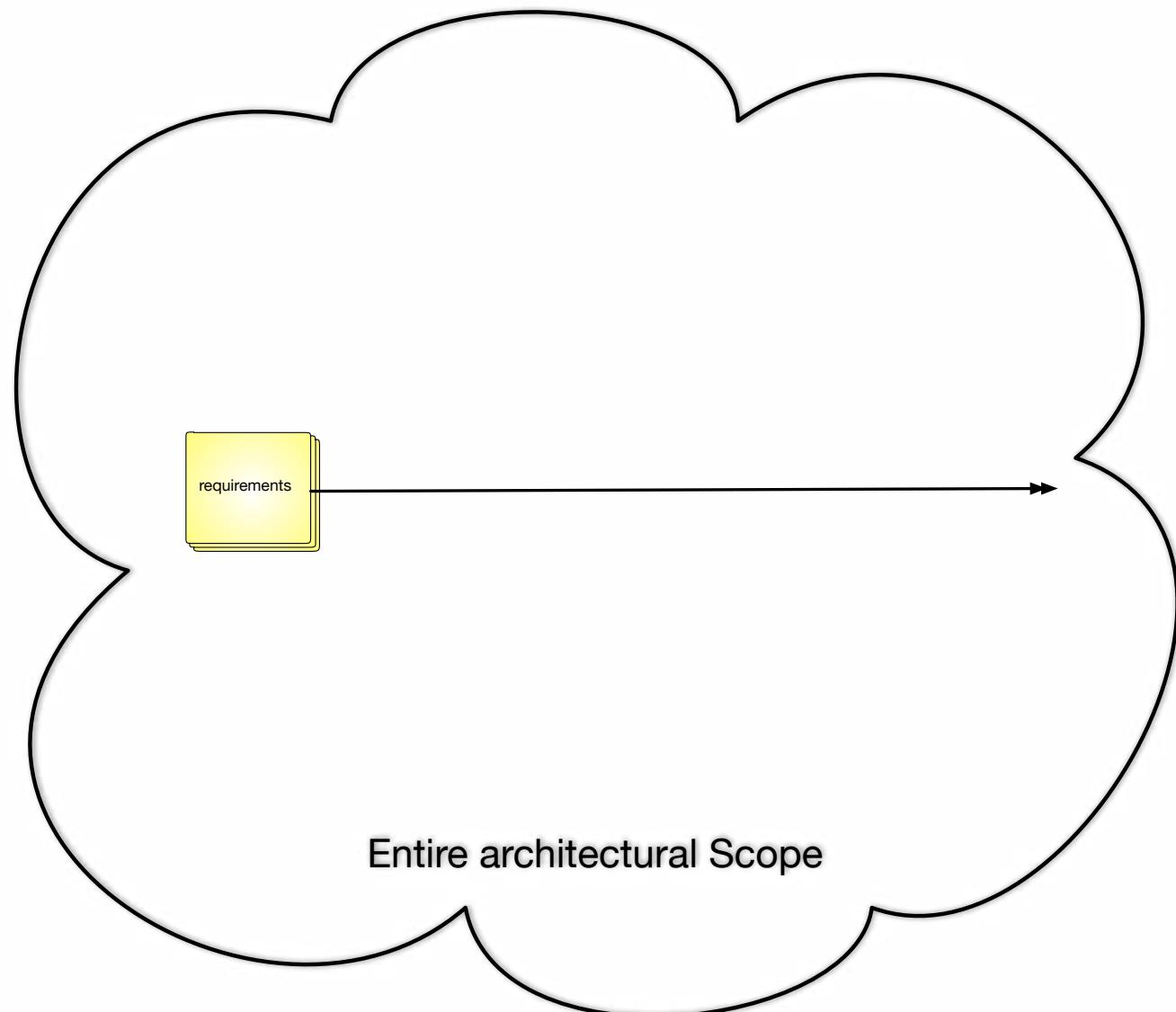


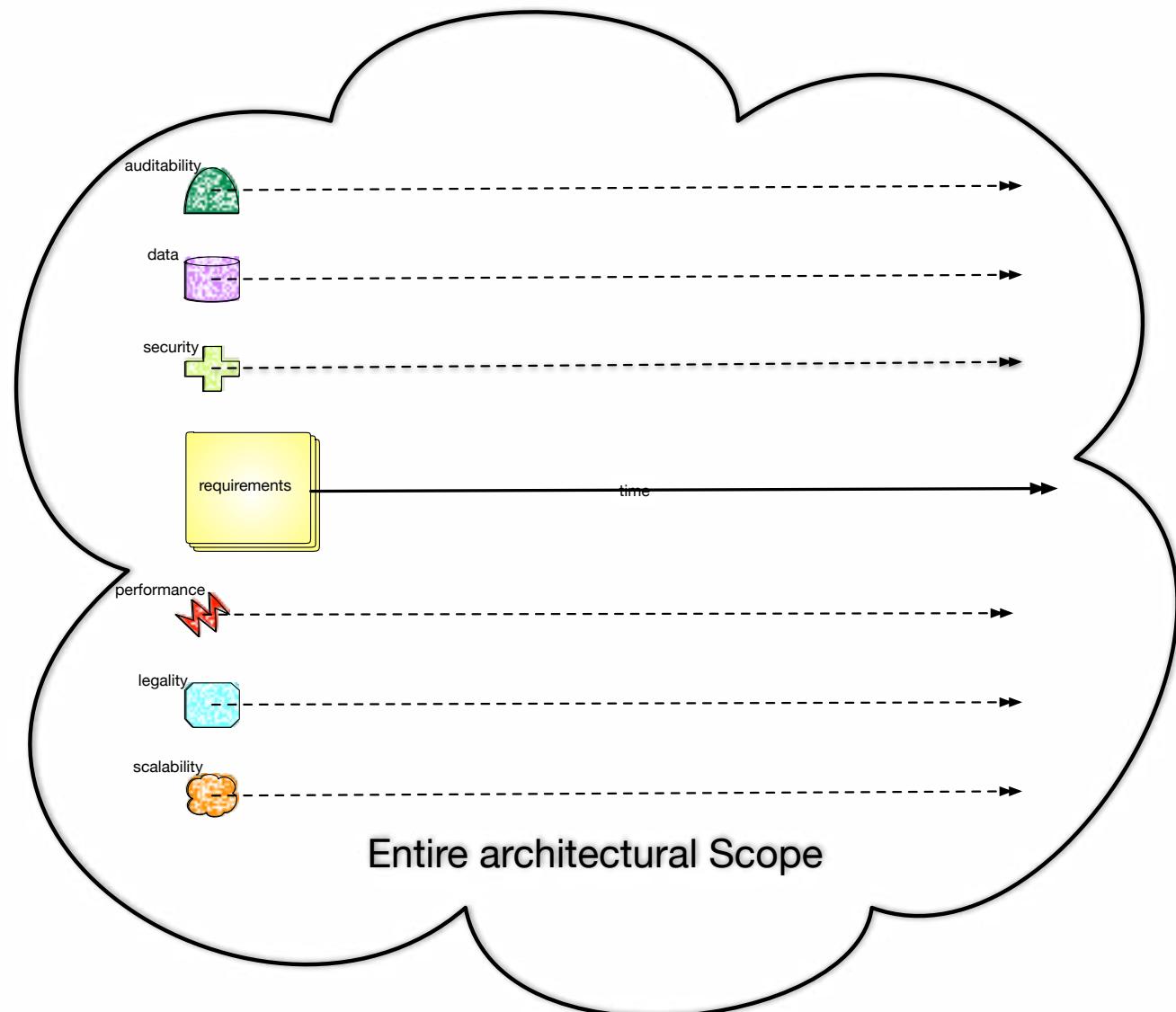
Photos by Martin Fowler:
<http://martinfowler.com/albums/ThoughtWorkers/>

What is Software Architecture?











accessibility
accountability
accuracy
adaptability
administrability
affordability
agility
auditability
autonomy
availability
compatibility
composability
configurability
correctness
credibility
customizability
debugability
degradability
determinability
demonstrability
dependability
deployability
discoverability
distributability
durability
effectiveness
efficiency
reliability
extensibility
failure transparency
fault-tolerance
fidelity
flexibility
inspectability
installability
integrity
interchangeability
interoperability
learnability
maintainability
manageability
mobility
modifiability
modularity
operability
orthogonality
portability
precision
predictability
process capabilities
productivity
provability
recoverability
relevance
repeatability
reproducibility
resilience
responsiveness
reusability
robustness
safety
scalability
seamlessness
self-sustainability
serviceability
supportability
securability
simplicity
stability
standards compliance
survivability
sustainability
tailorability
testability
timeliness
traceability
transparency
ubiquity
understandability
upgradability
usability

evolvability

Once I've built an architecture, how can I prevent it from gradually degrading over time?

How is Long term planning
possible when things
change unexpectedly?

Dynamic Equilibrium



“Architecture is the decisions
that you wish you could get right early
in a project.”

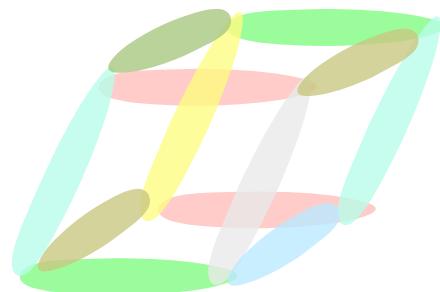
— Ralph Johnson

things that people perceive
as hard to change.

What if we build
architectures that expect
change?

Definition:

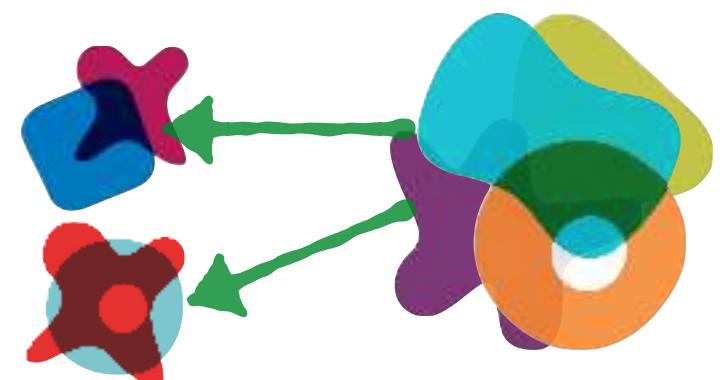
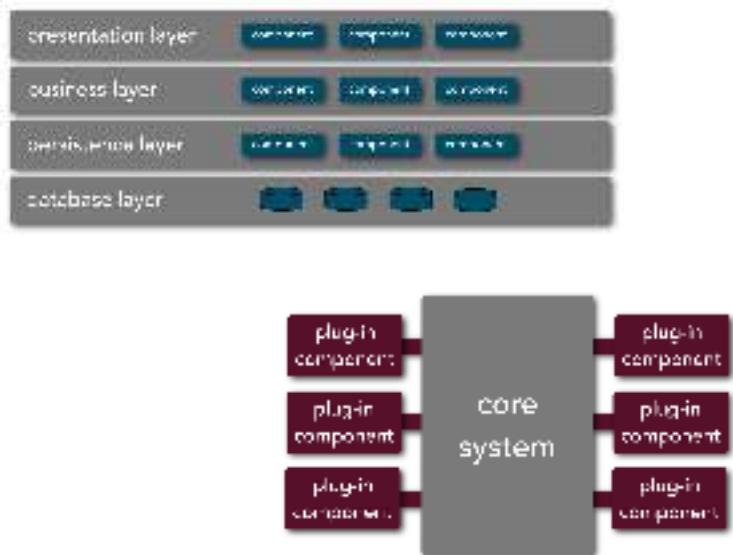
An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



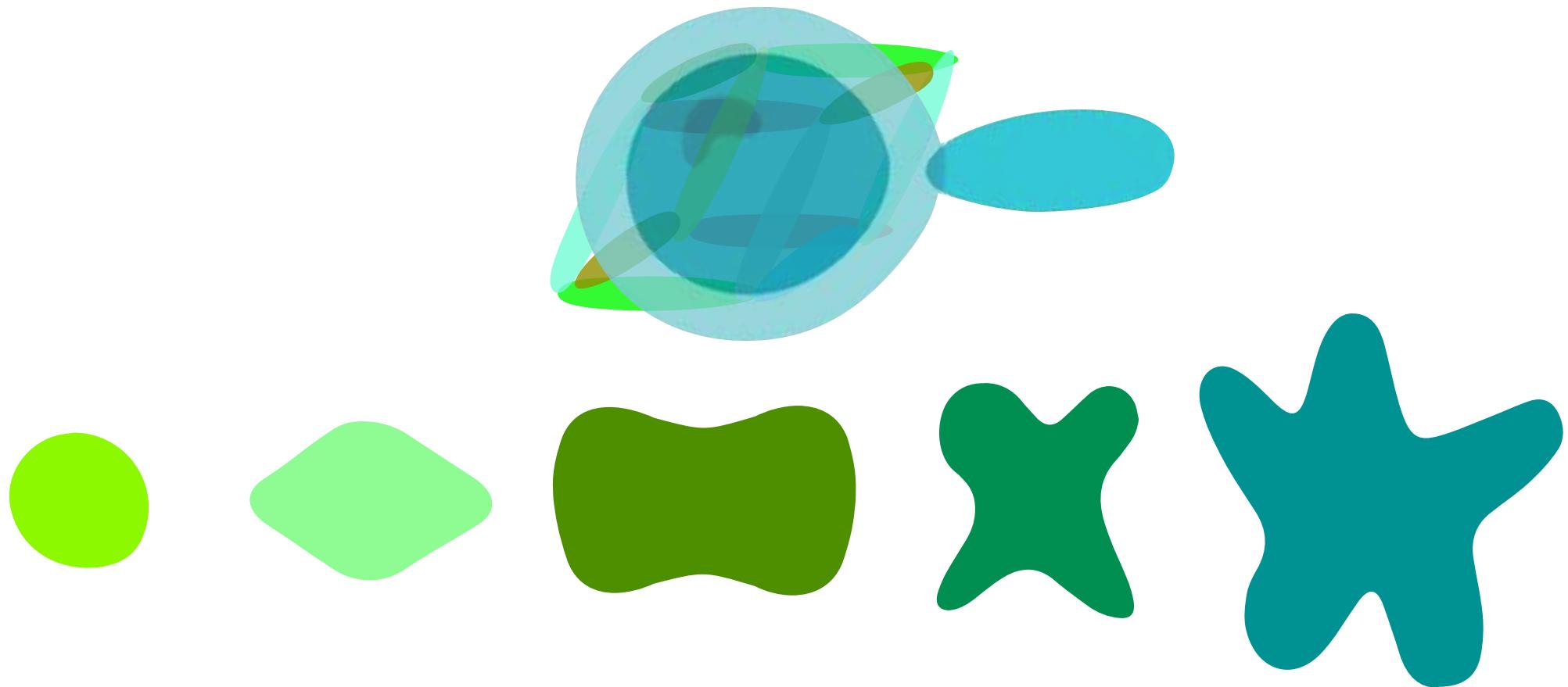


Perspectives on Architecture

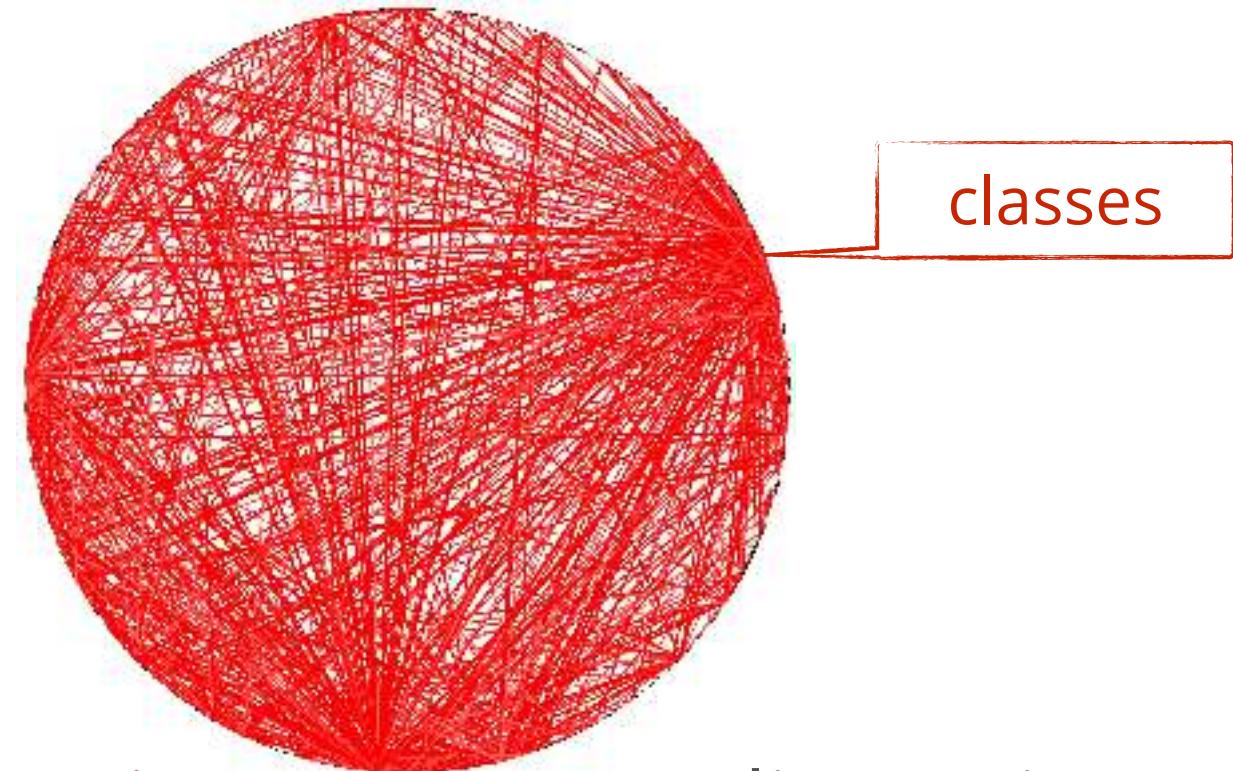
Technical Architecture



Evolvability of Architectures



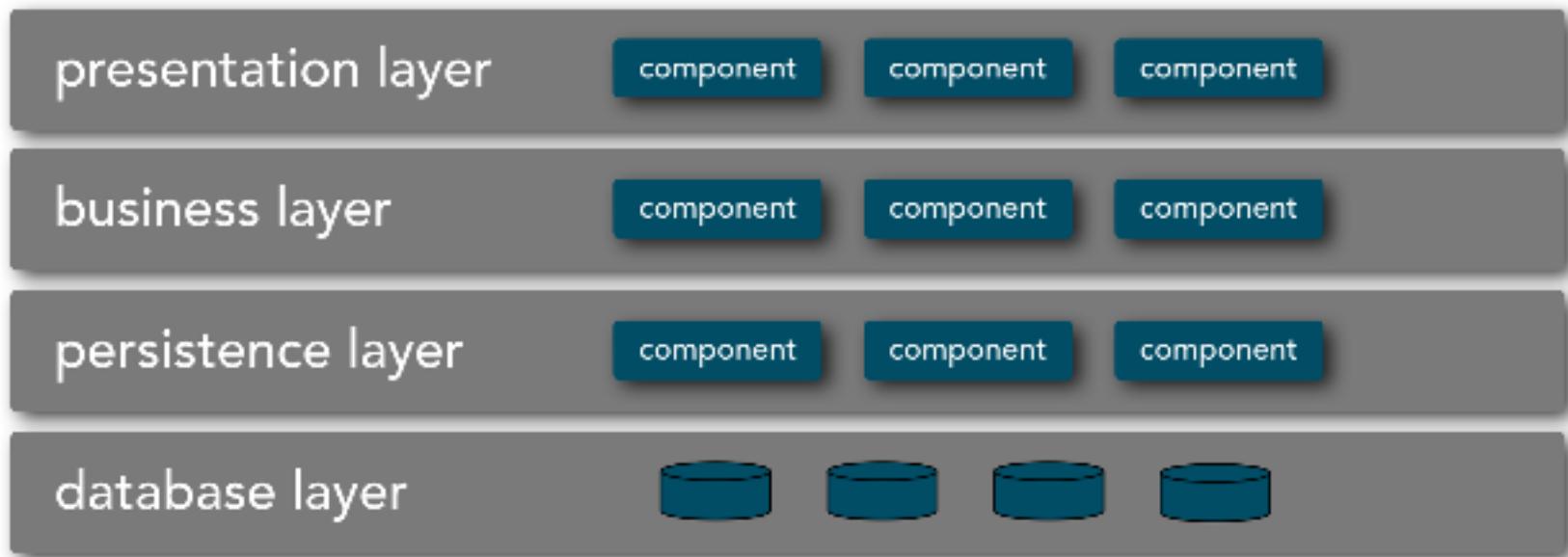
Big Ball of Mud



coupling connections

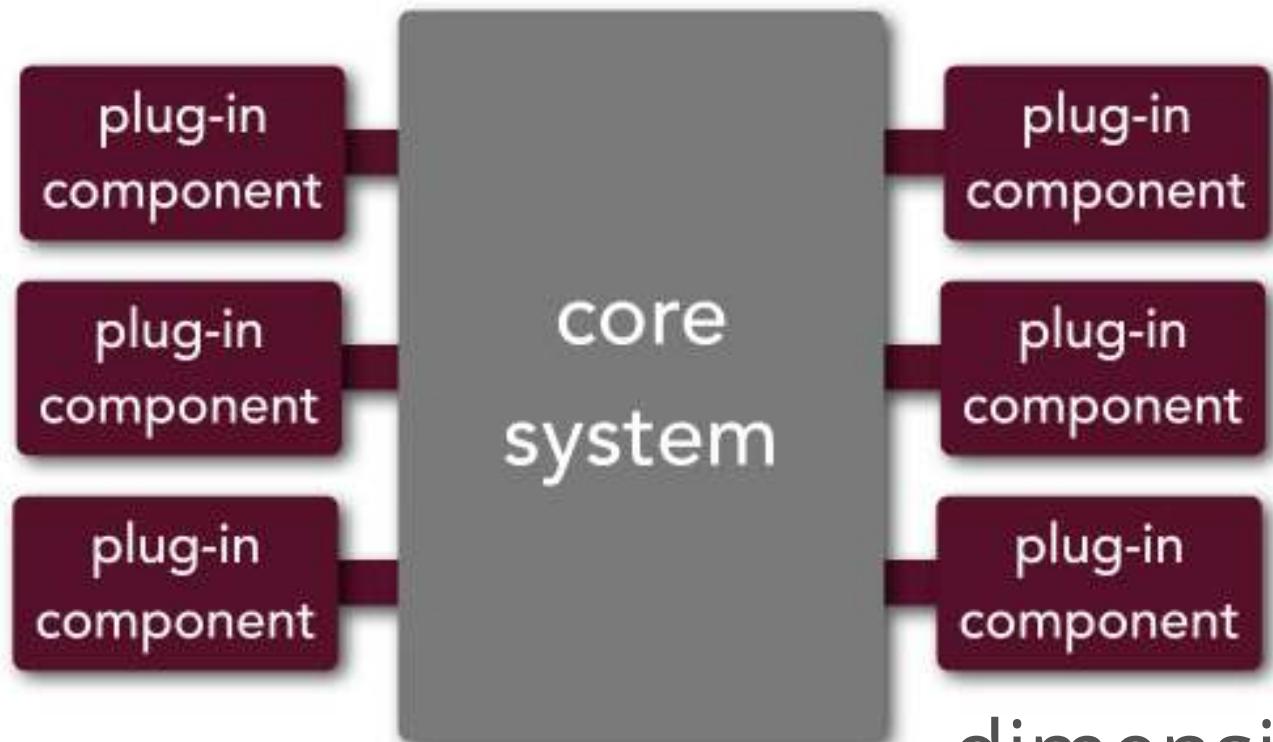
dimensions : 

Layered Architecture



opportunities: 4
dimensions : 1

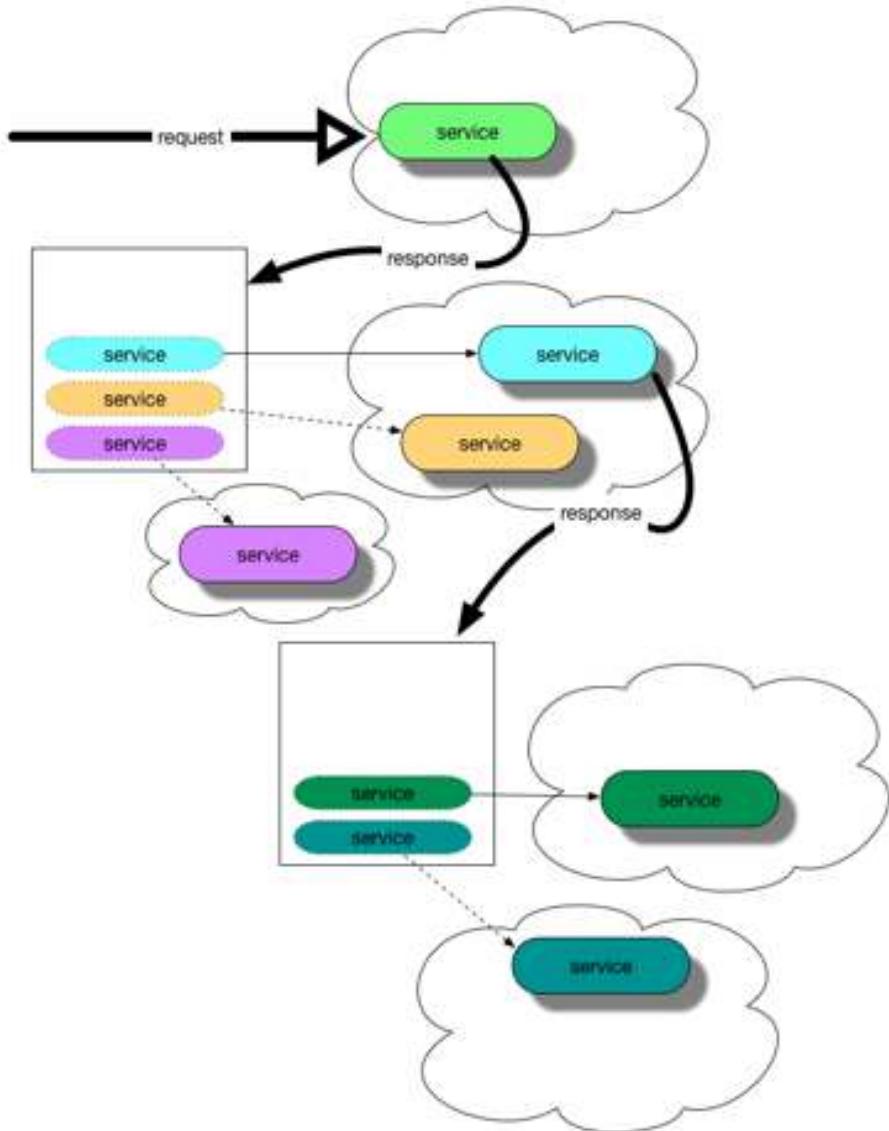
Microkernel



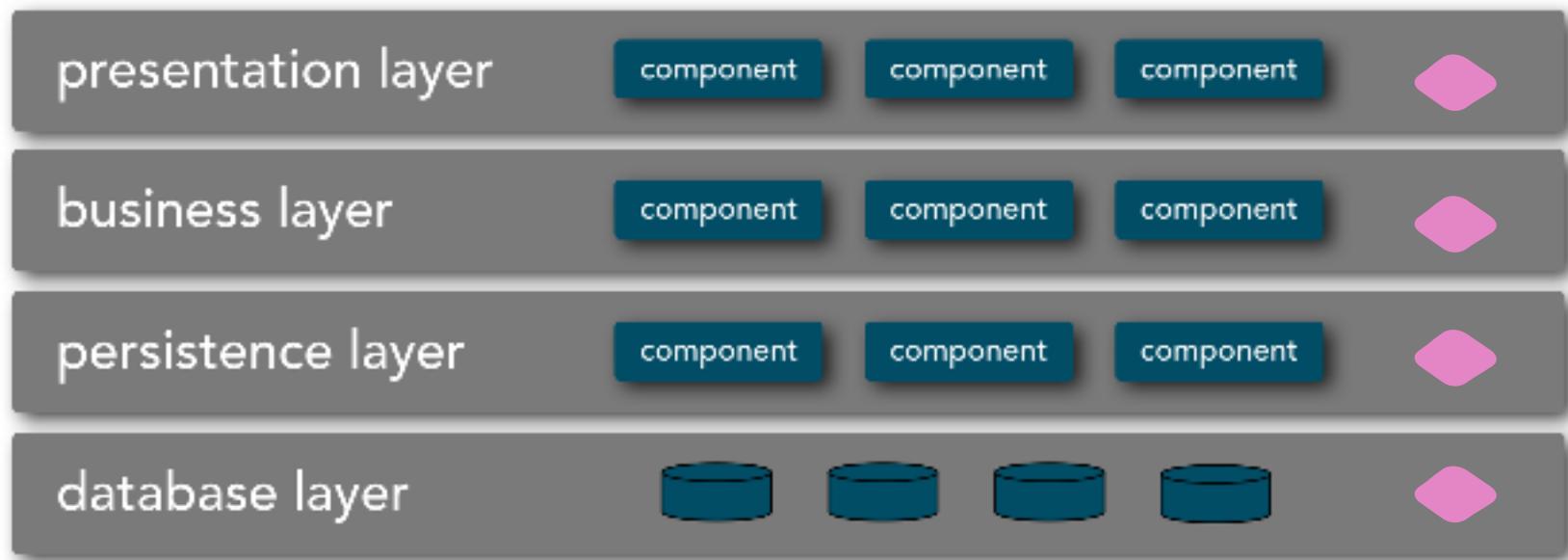
dimensions : 1

REST

dimensions : 1

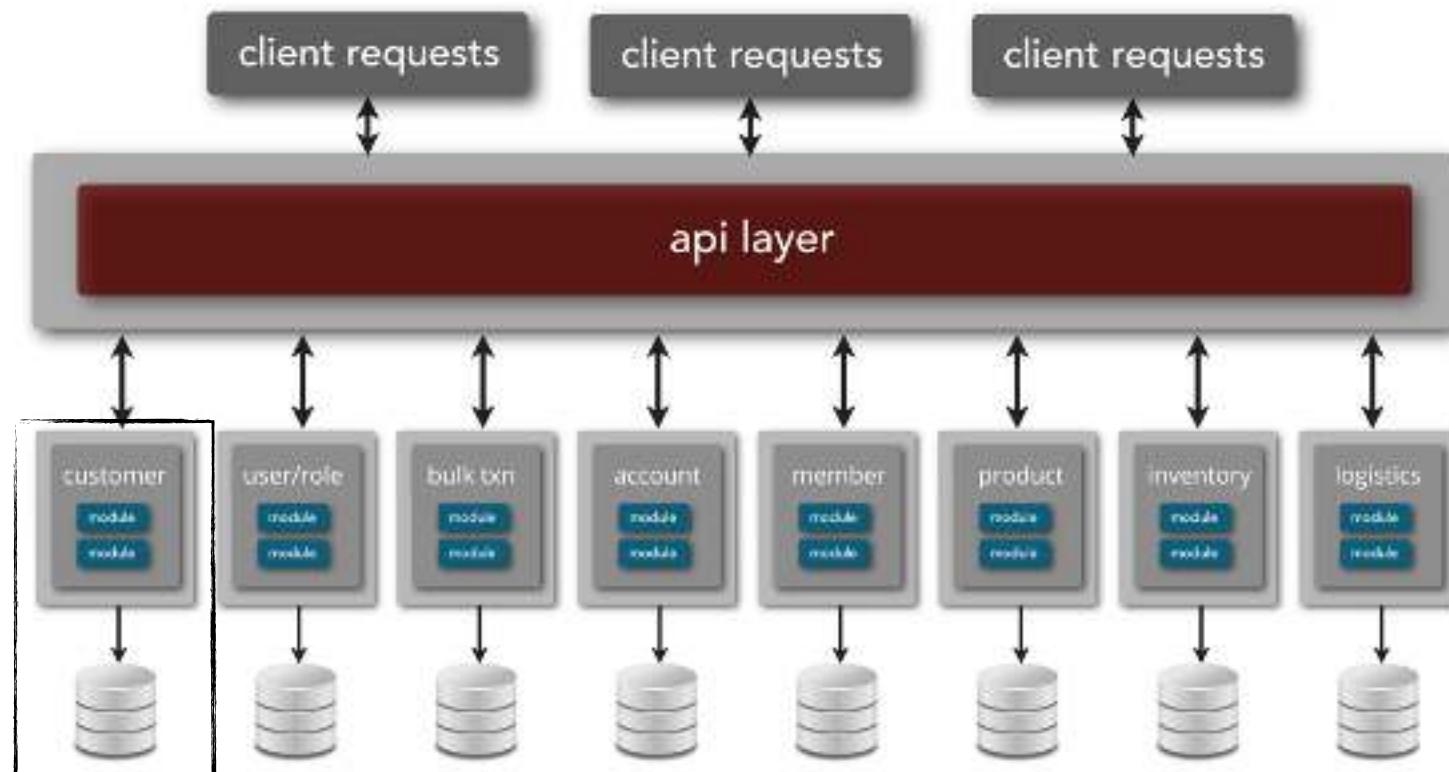


Domain Perspective



dimensions :

Microservices

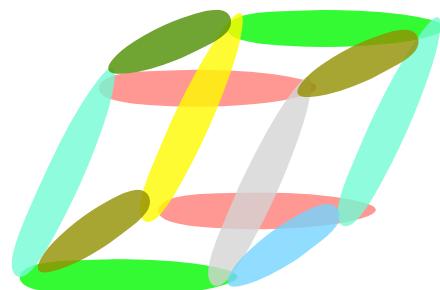


evolutionary architecture dimensions : ↗

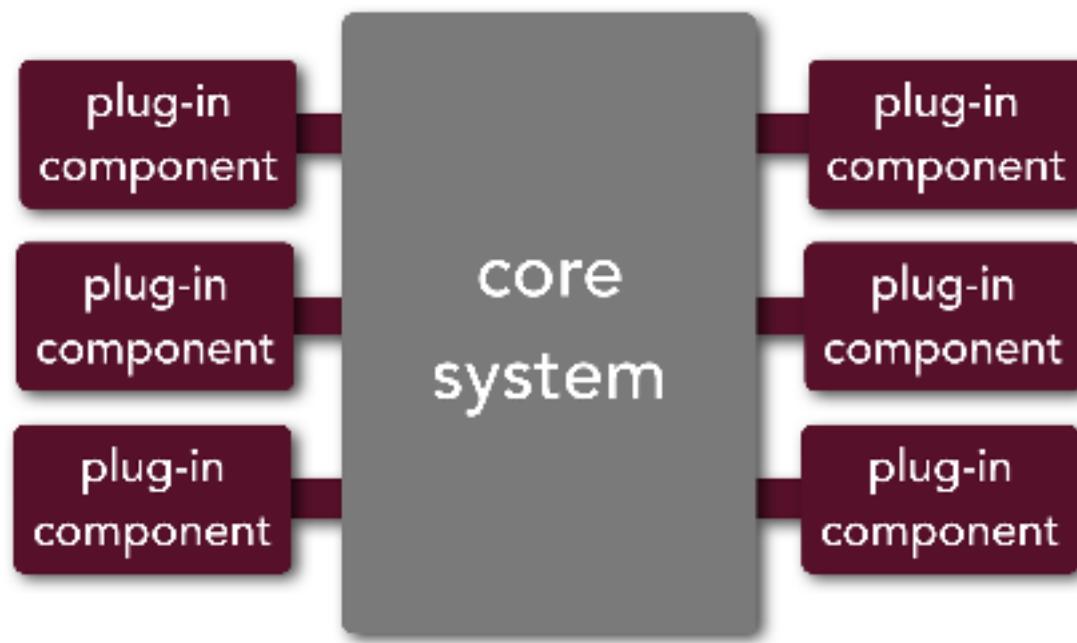
Definition:

evolutionary architecture

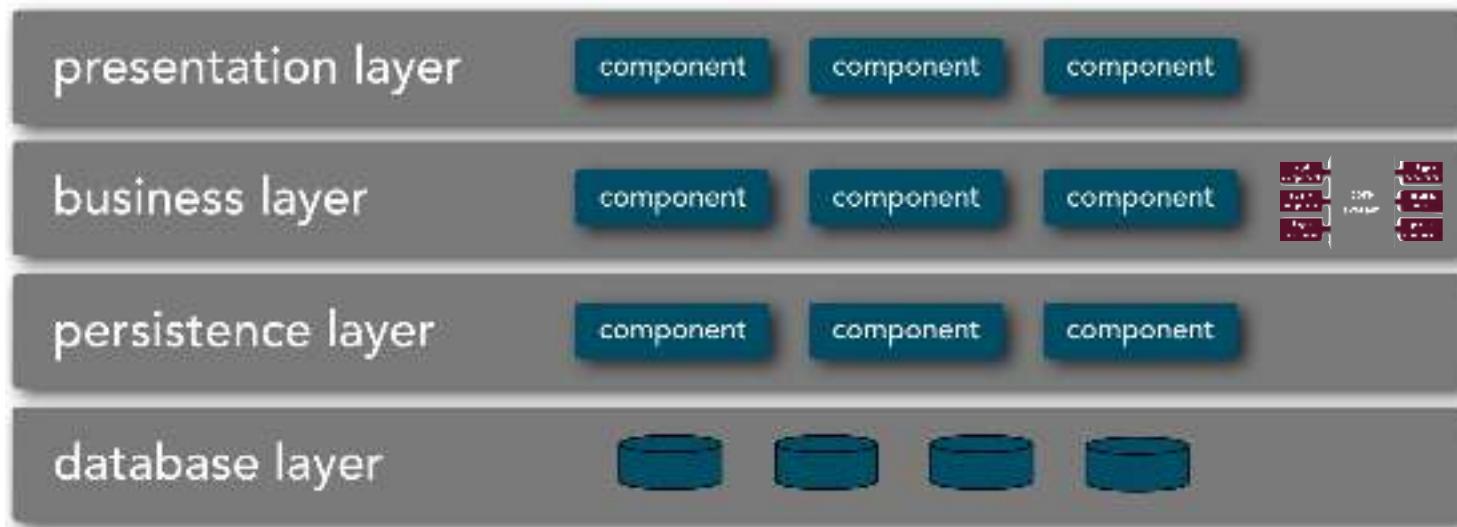
An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



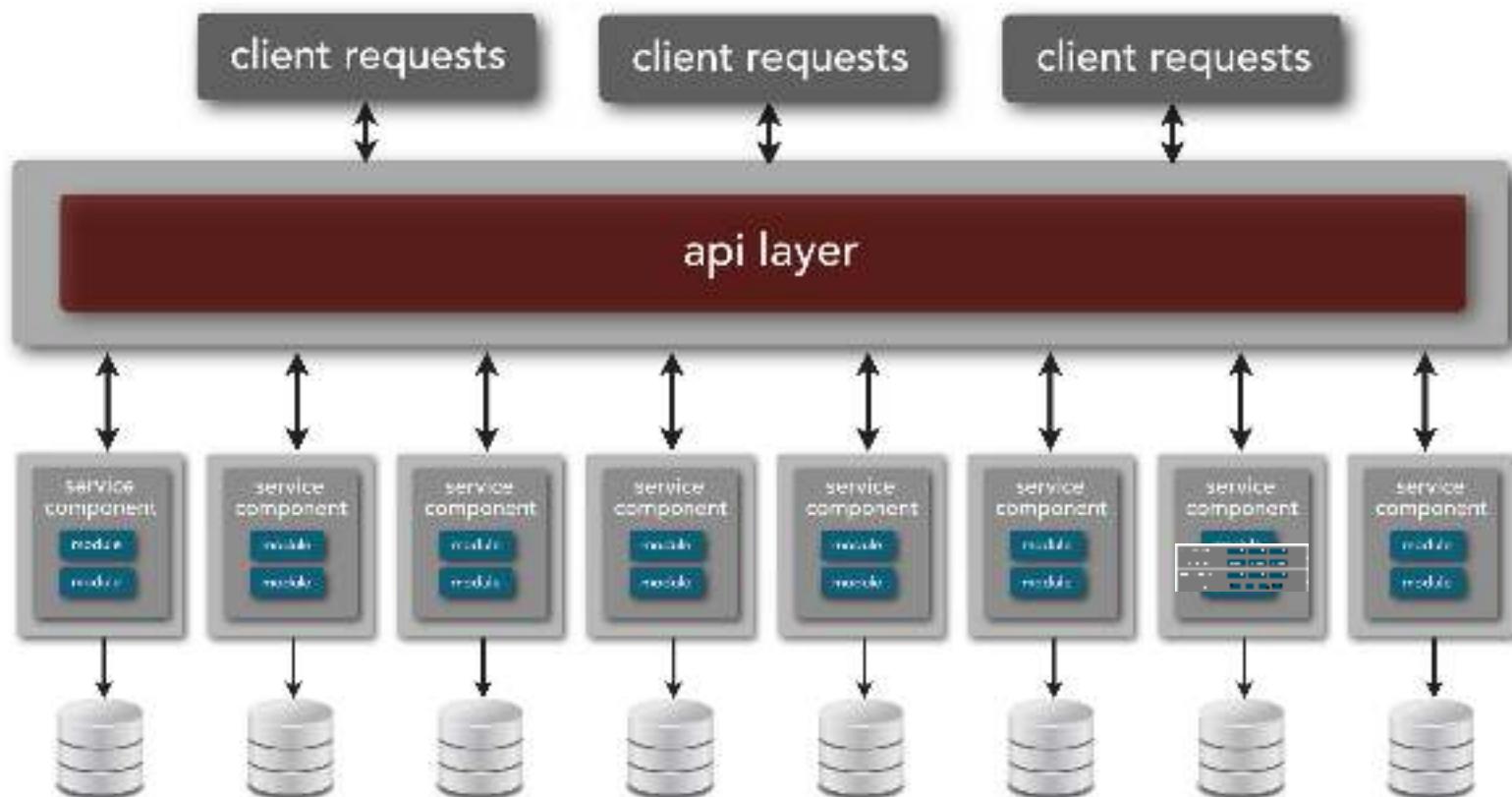
Composability



Composability



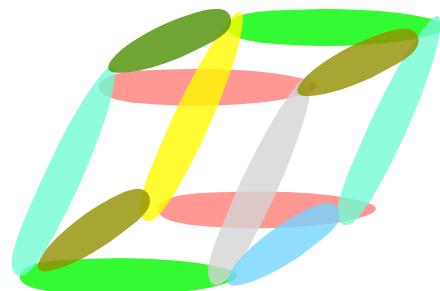
Composability



Definition:

evolutionary architecture

An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



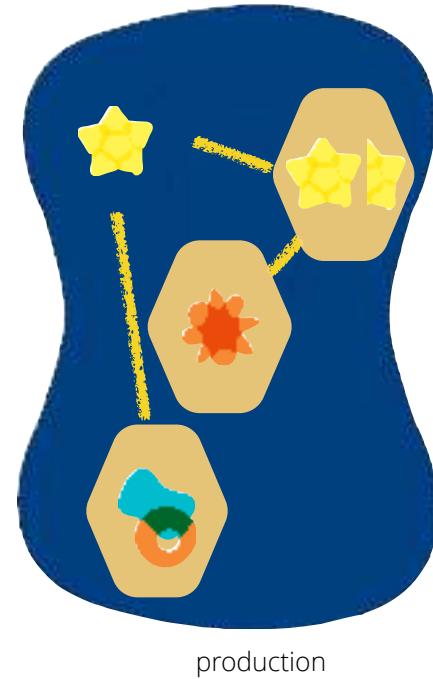


Incremental Change

Components are *deployed*.



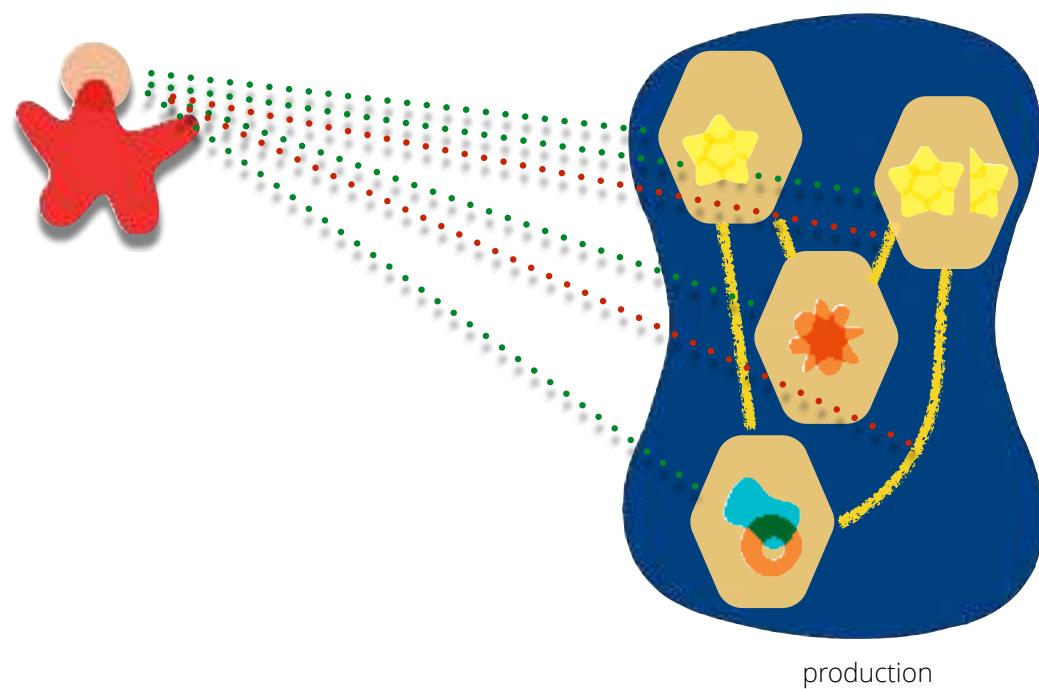
Features are *released*.



Applications consist of *routing*.



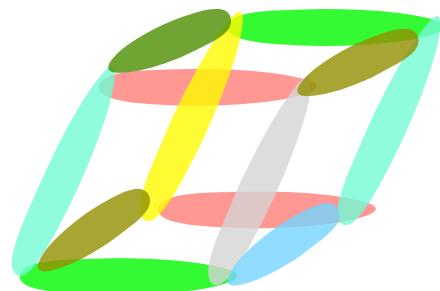
Incremental Change

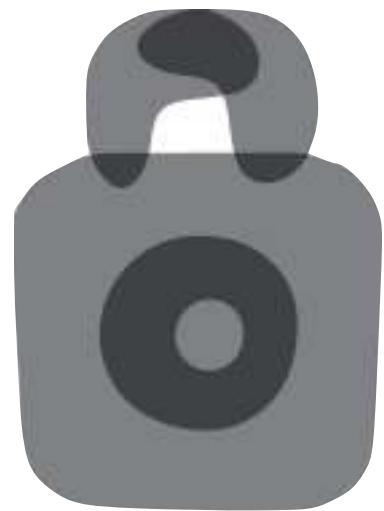
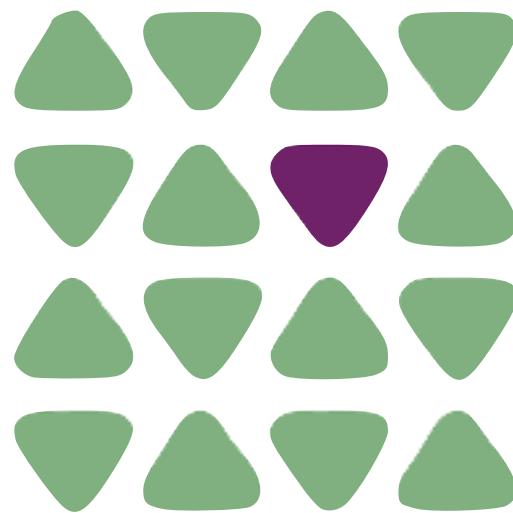
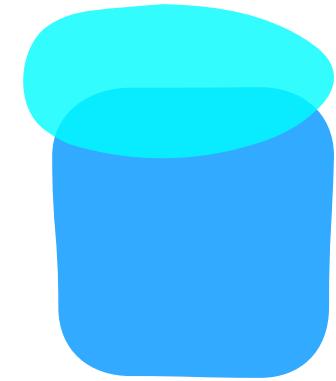
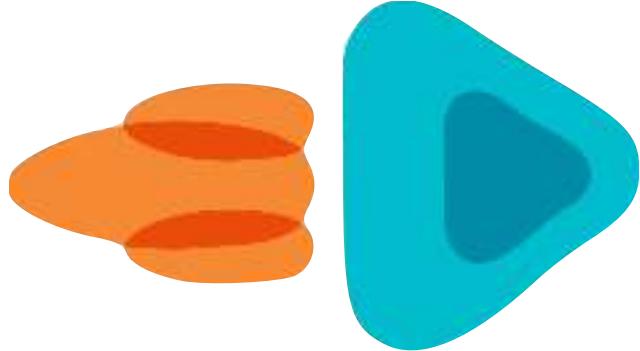
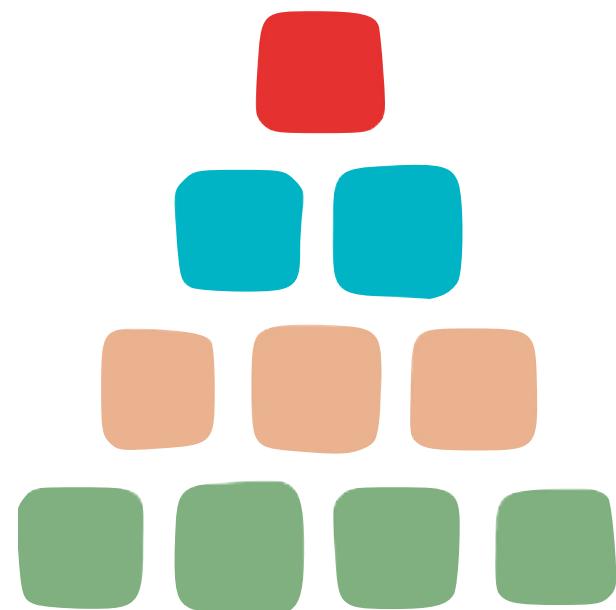


Definition:

evolutionary architecture

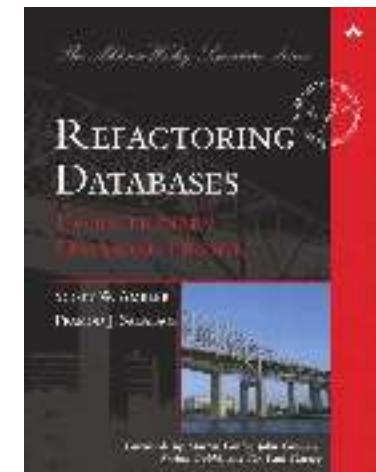
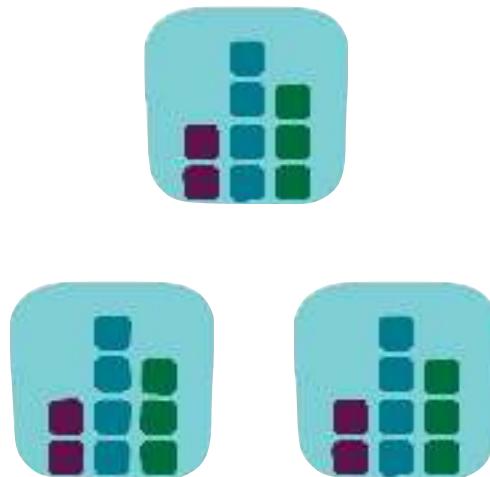
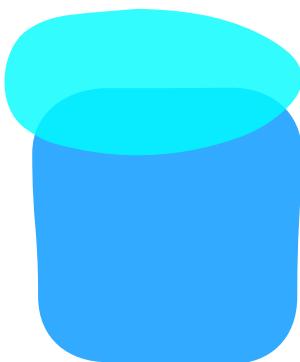
An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.





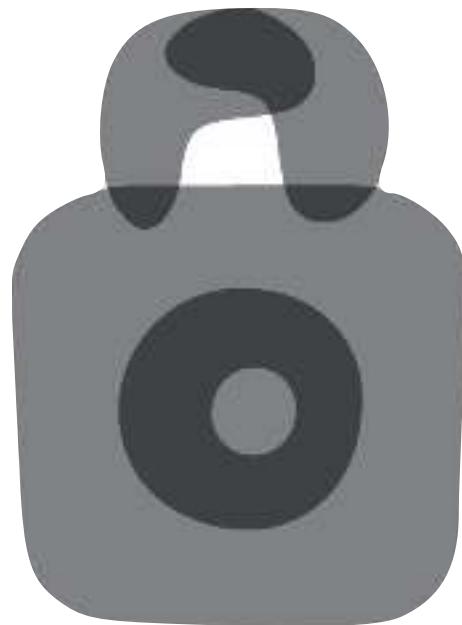
Perspectives on Architecture

Data Architecture



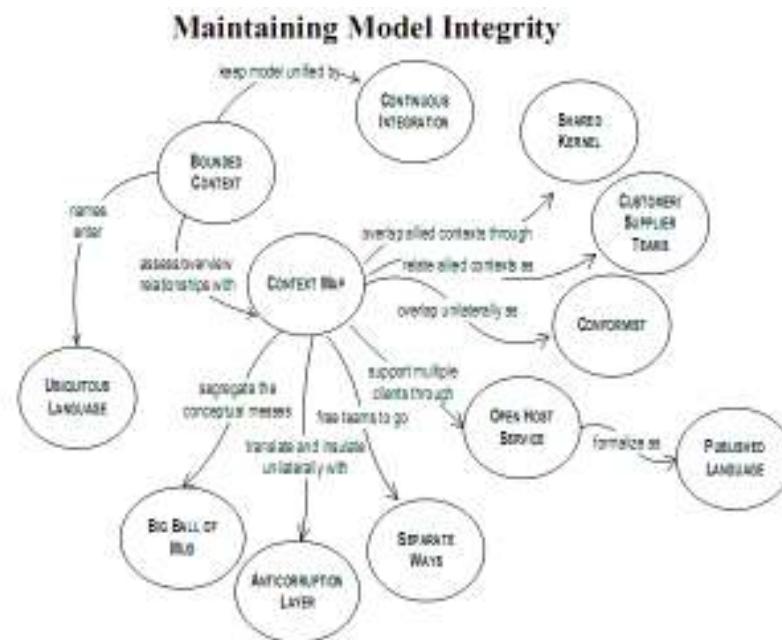
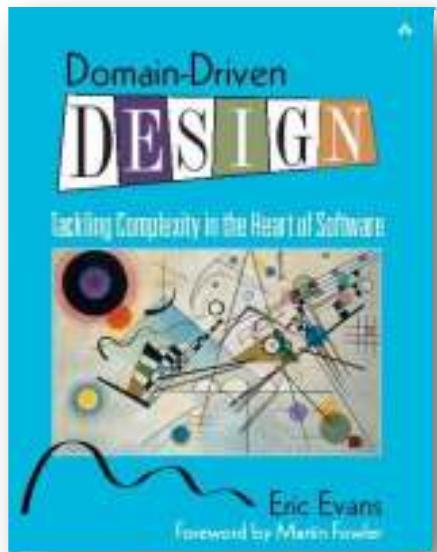
Perspectives on Architecture

Security Architecture



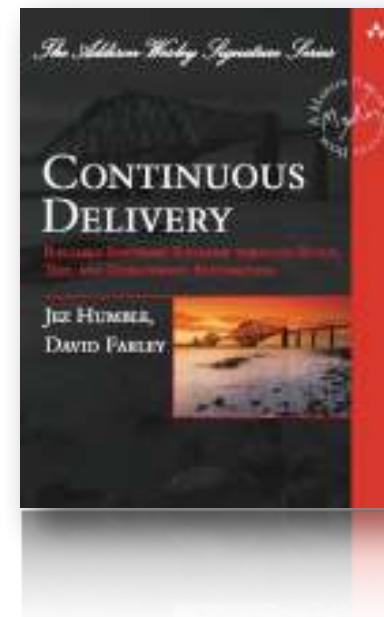
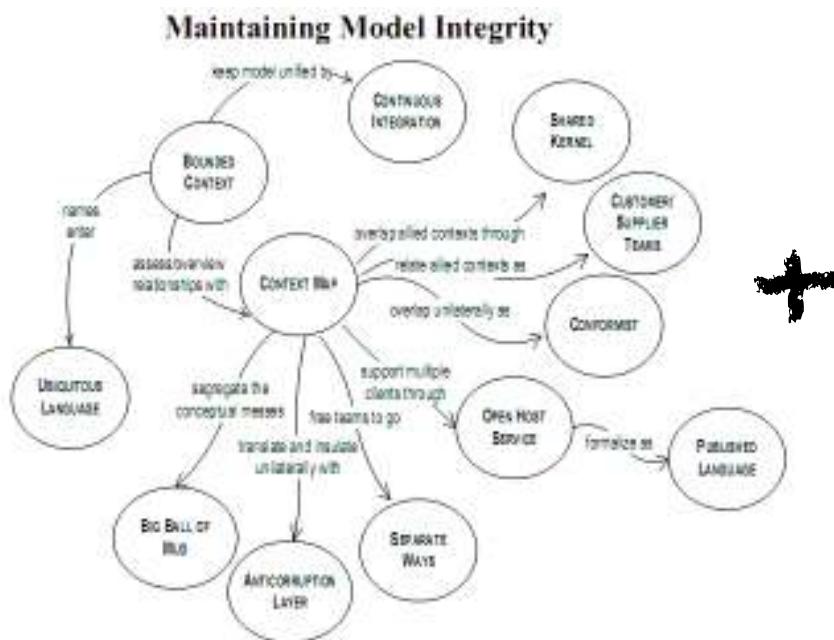
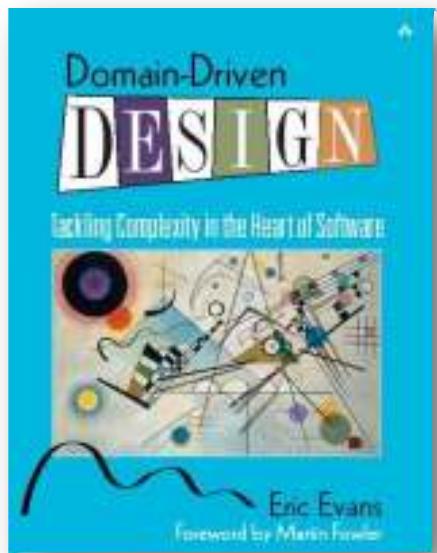
Perspectives on Architecture

Domain Architecture



Microservices

Domain Architecture



Fitness Functions



ω

a particular type of objective function that is used to summarize...how close a given design solution is to achieving the set aims.

Architecture Fitness Functions

ω



metrics



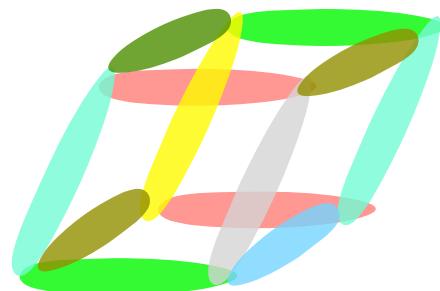
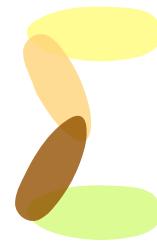
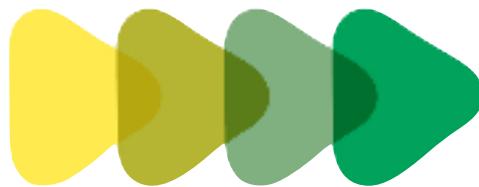
tests



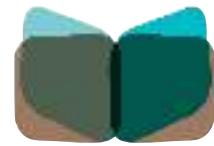
Definition:

evolutionary architecture

An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



Agenda



definition



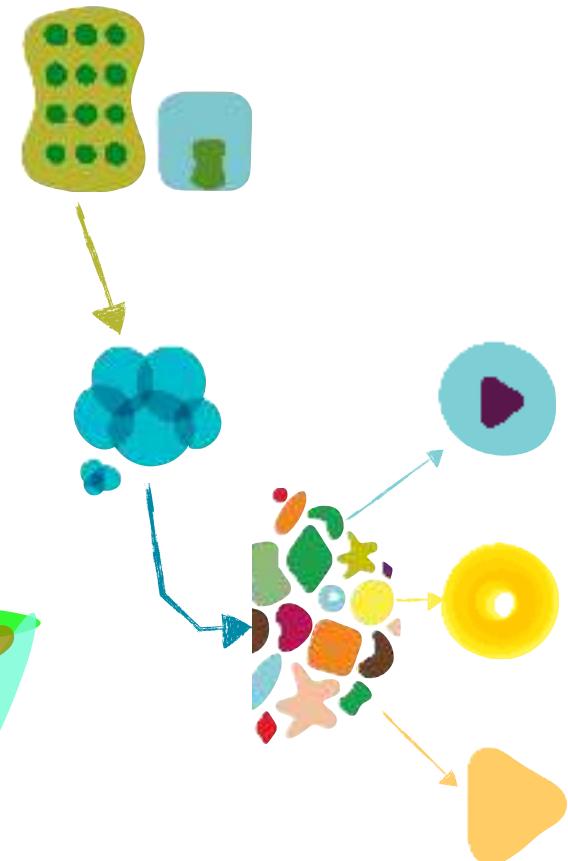
incremental change



fitness functions



appropriate coupling



Fitness Function

a particular type of objective function that is used to summarize...how close a given design solution is to achieving the set aims.



Architecture Fitness Functions



metrics

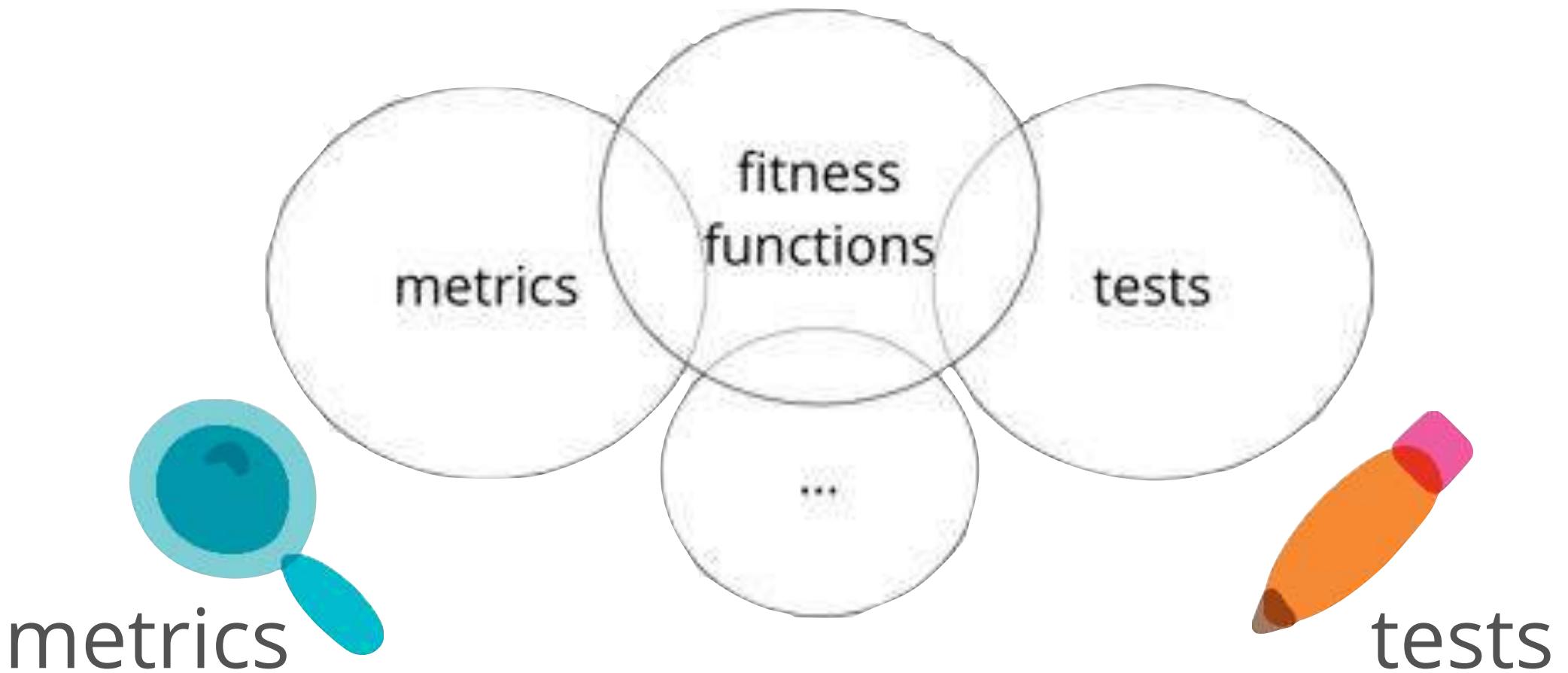


tests



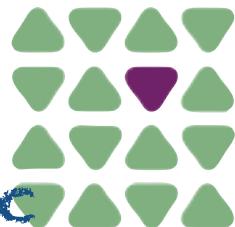


Architecture Fitness Functions



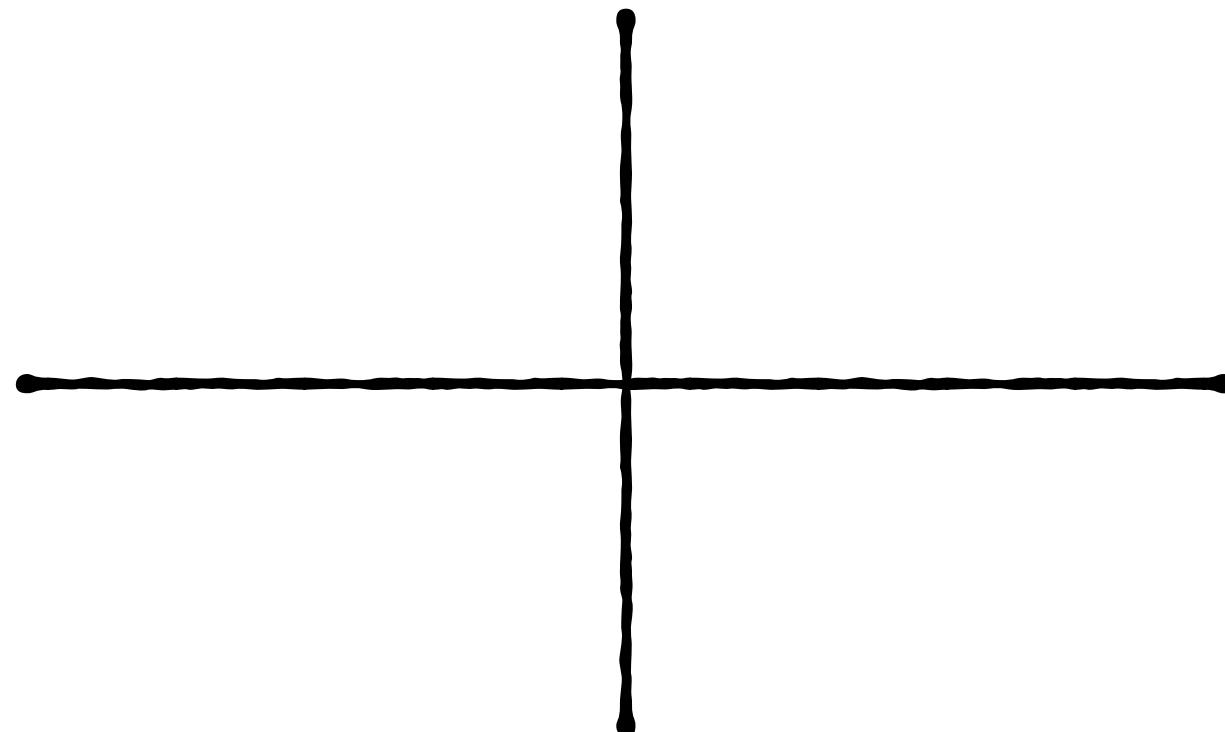


atomic



holistic

Fitness Function

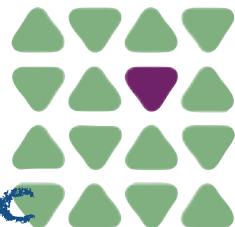


batch

continuous

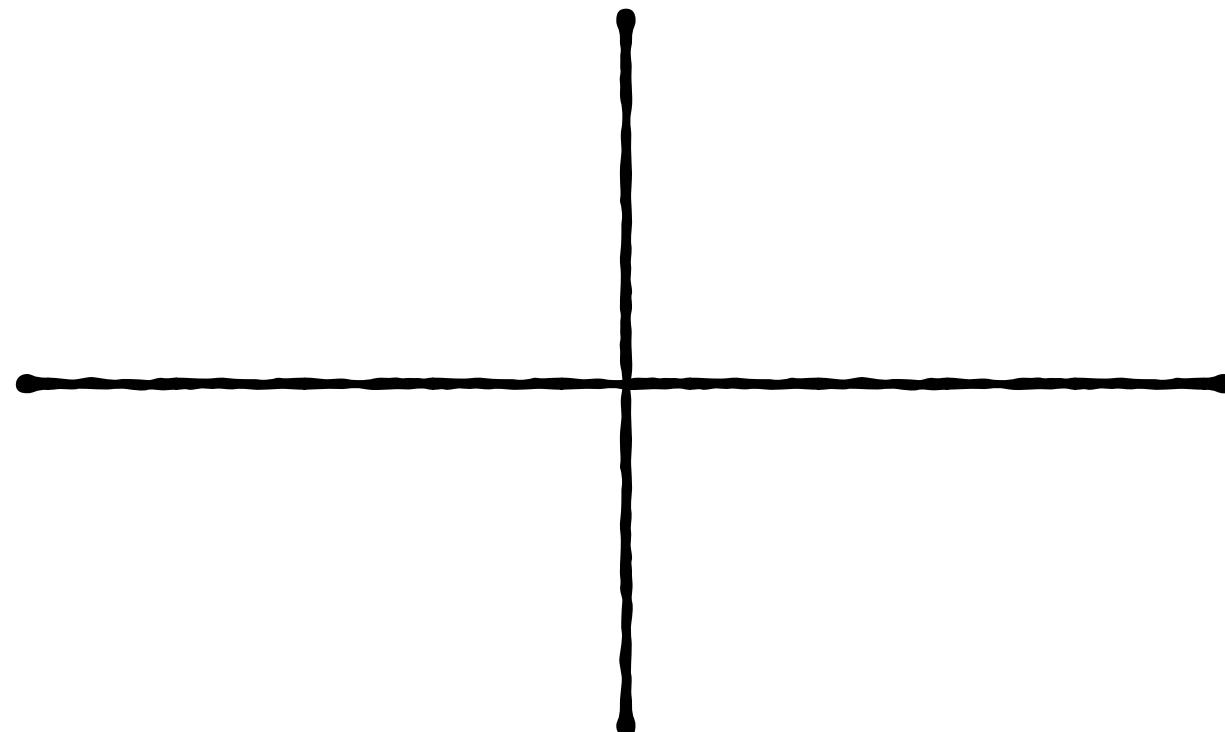


atomic



holistic

Fitness Function

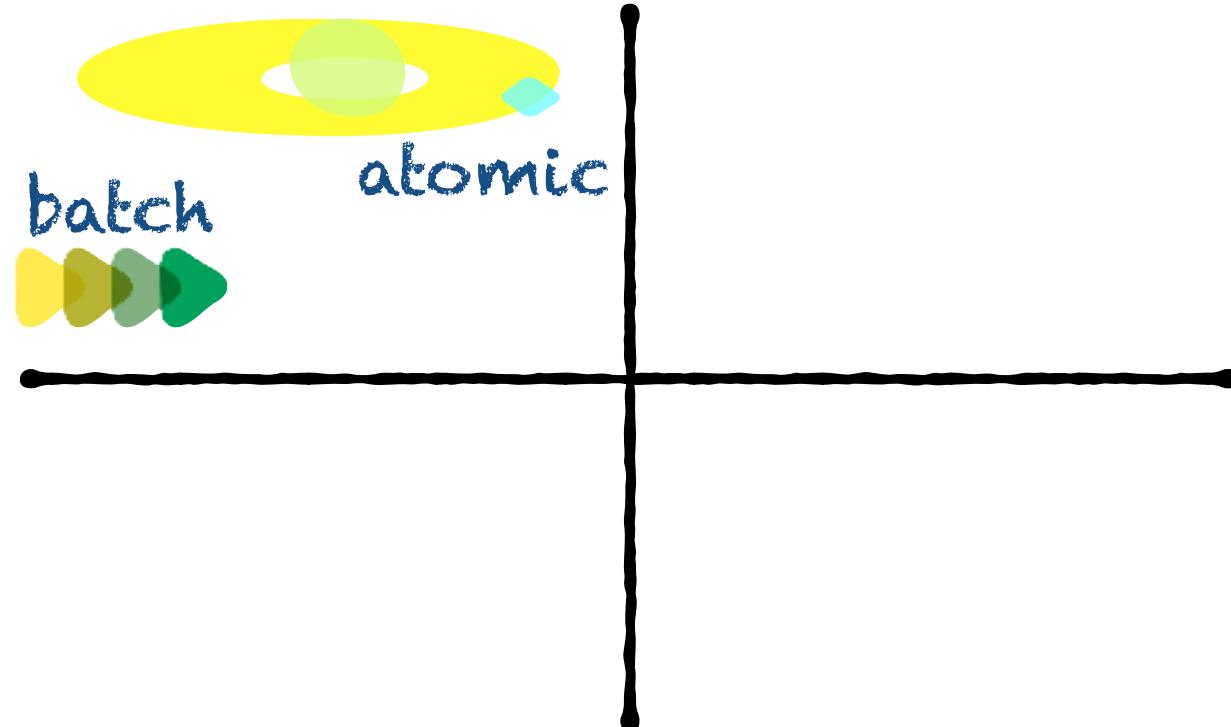


batch

continuous



Fitness Function

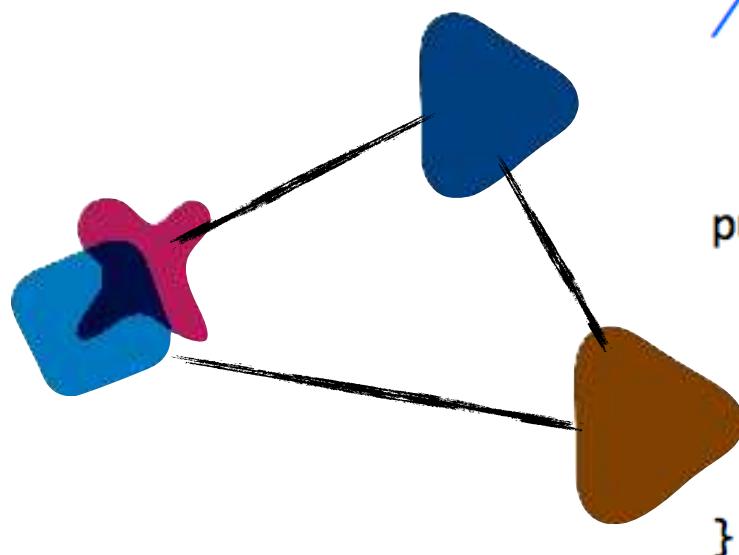


holistic

continuous



Cyclic Dependency Function



```
/**  
 * Tests that a package dependency cycle does not  
 * exist for any of the analyzed packages.  
 */  
public void testAllPackages() {  
  
    Collection packages = jdepend.analyze();  
  
    assertEquals("Cycles exist",  
                false, jdepend.containsCycles());  
}
```

clarkware.com/software/JDepend.html



application



Coupling Fitness Function

```
protected void setUp() throws IOException {
    jdepend = new JDepend();
    jdepend.addDirectory("/path/to/project/util/classes");
    jdepend.addDirectory("/path/to/project/ejb/classes");
    jdepend.addDirectory("/path/to/project/web/classes");
}

public void testMatch() {
    DependencyConstraint constraint = new DependencyConstraint();
    JavaPackage ejb = constraint.addPackage("com.xyz.ejb");
    JavaPackage web = constraint.addPackage("com.xyz.web");
    JavaPackage util = constraint.addPackage("com.xyz.util");

    ejb.dependsUpon(util);
    web.dependsUpon(util);

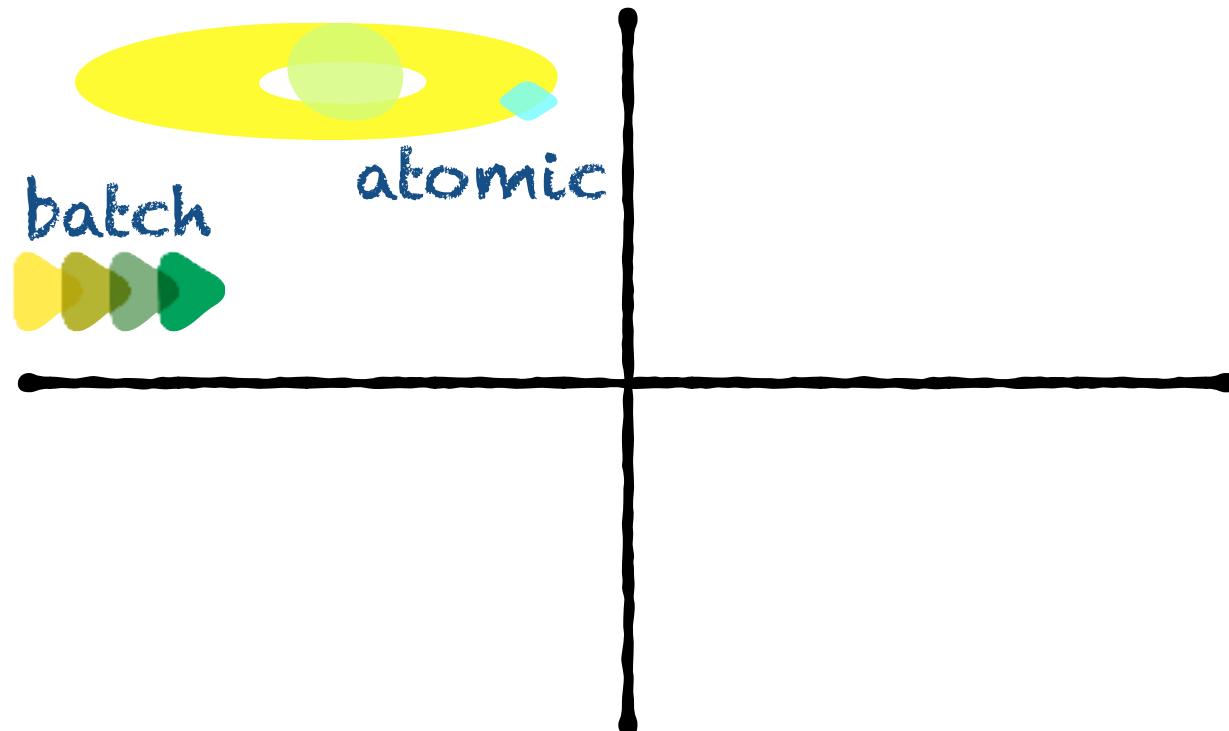
    jdepend.analyze();

    assertEquals("Dependency mismatch",
                true, jdepend.dependencyMatch(constraint));
}
```





Fitness Function

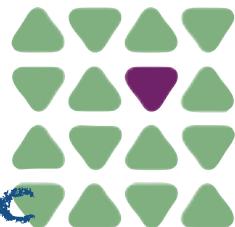


holistic

continuous

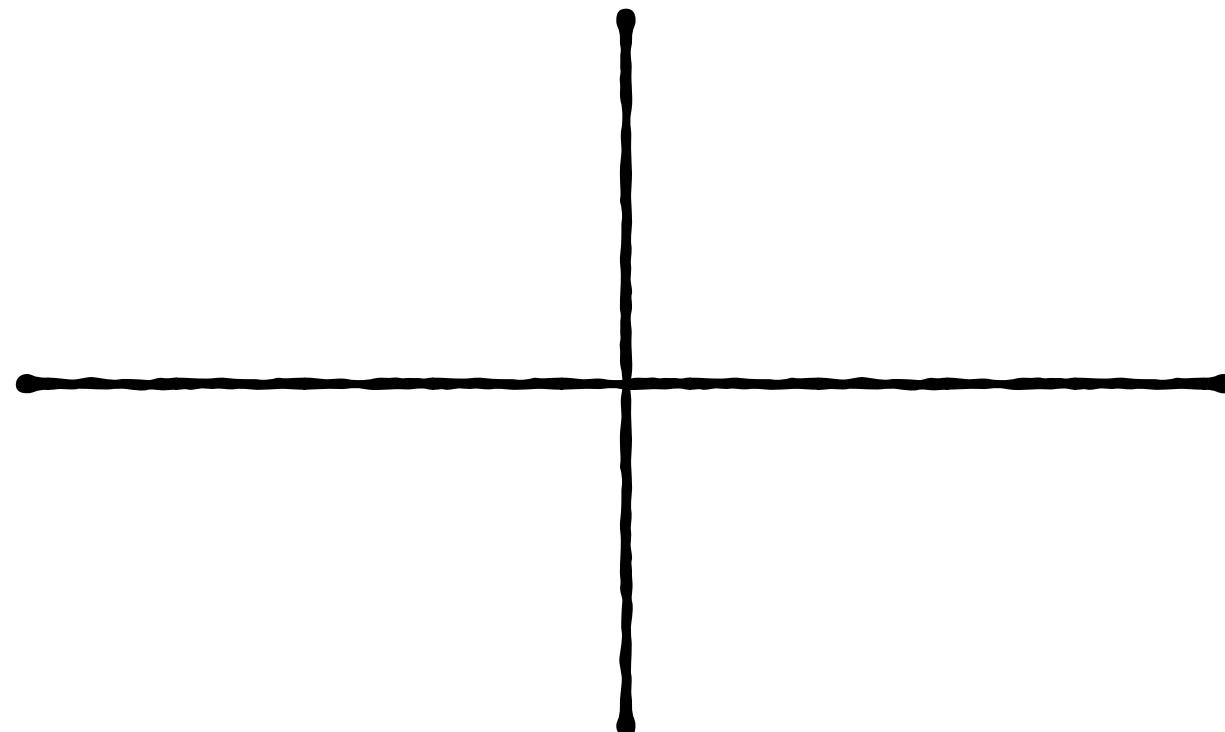


atomic



holistic

Fitness Function



batch

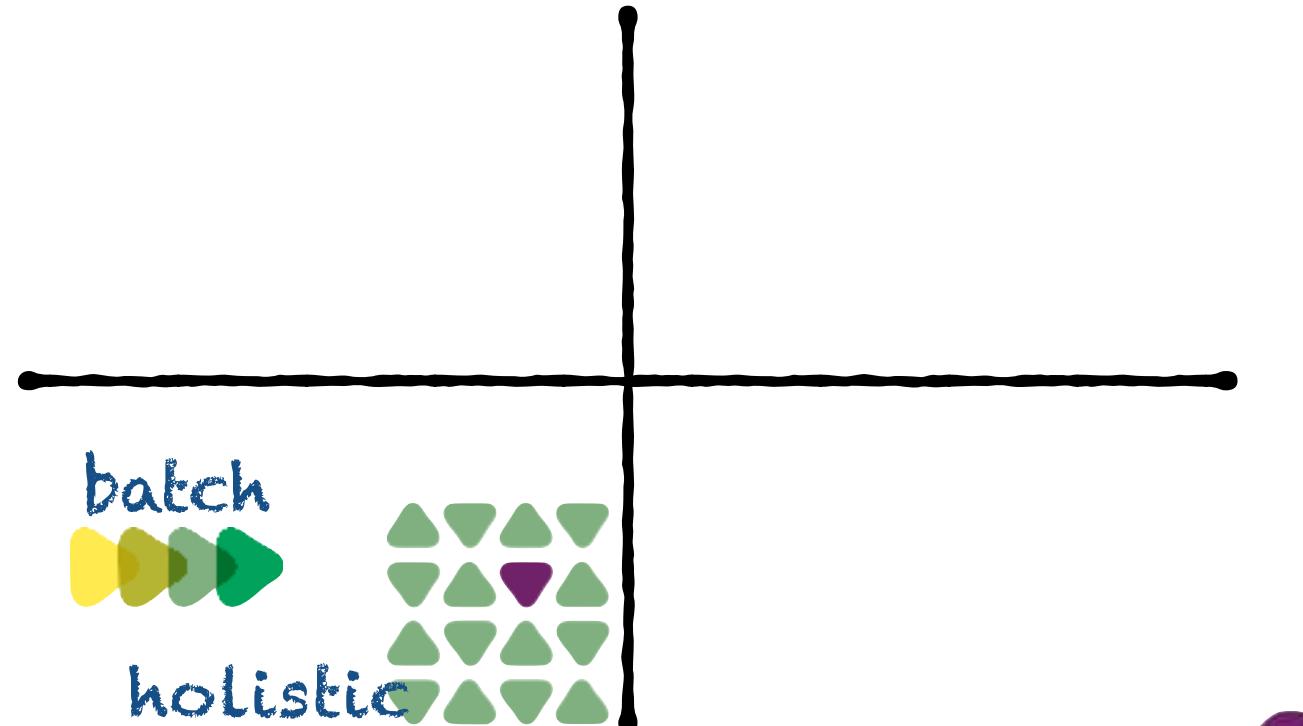
continuous



Fitness Function

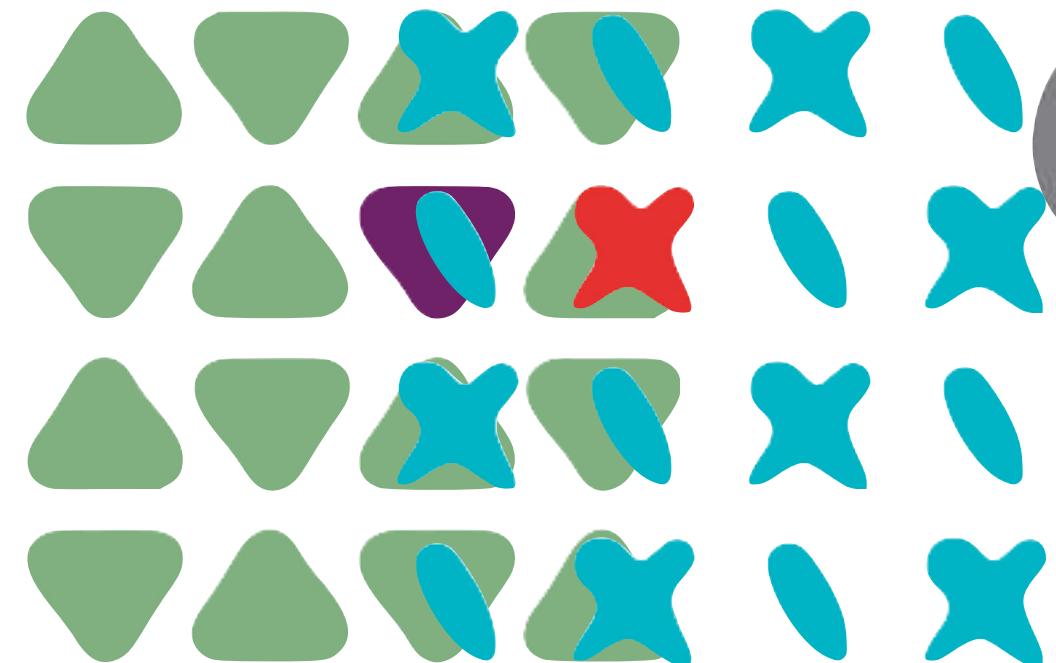


atomic

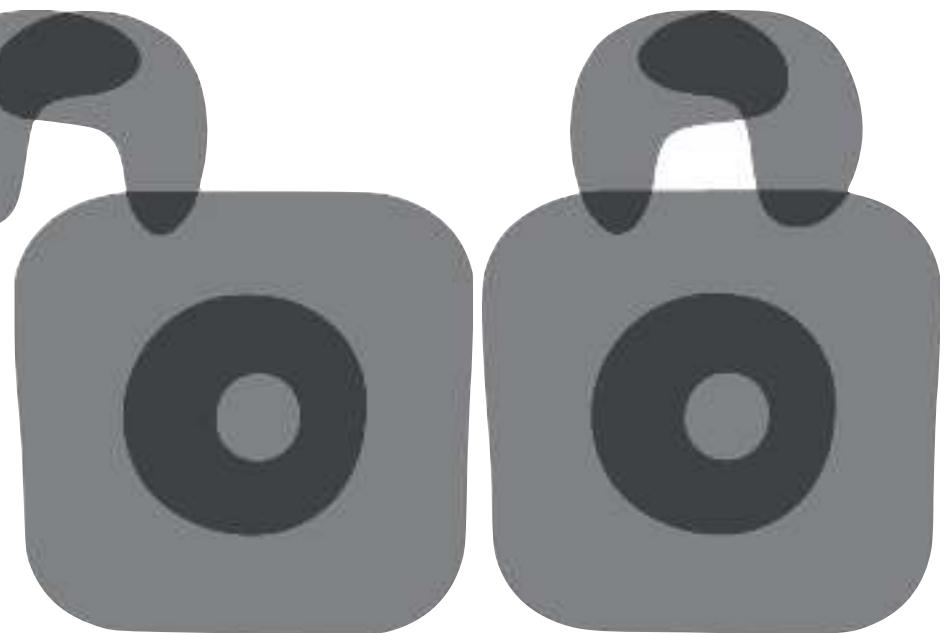
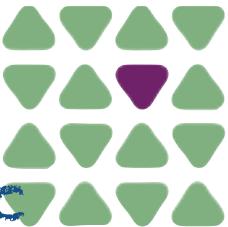


continuous

batch



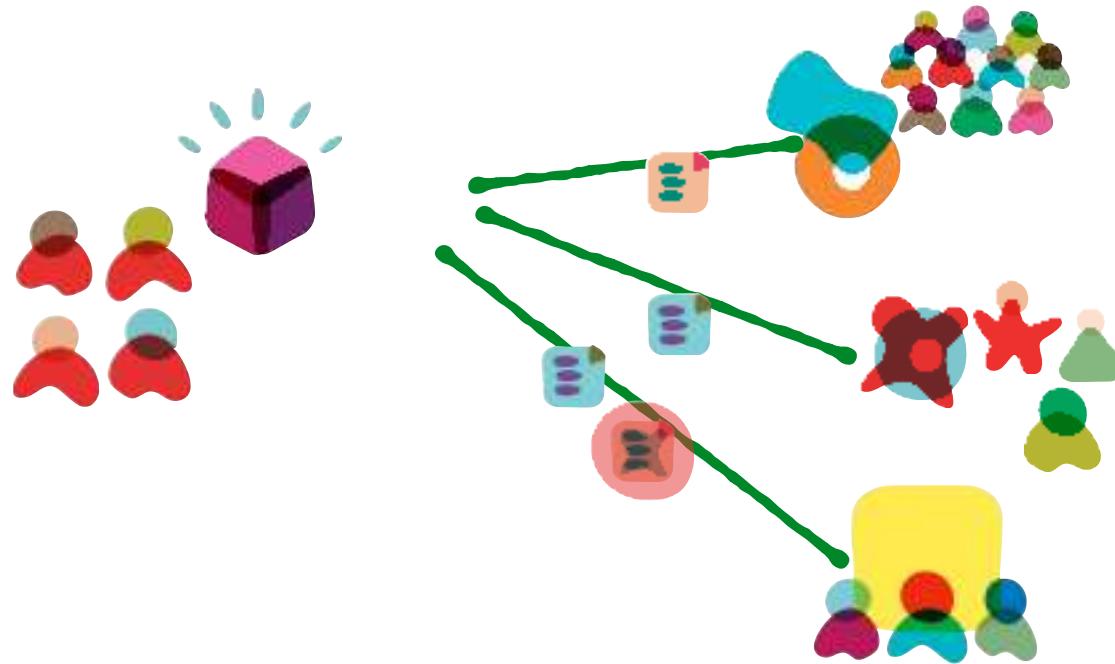
holistic



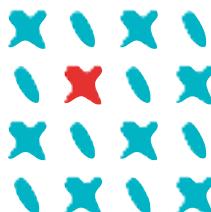
Holistic fitness functions must run in a specific (shared) context.



Consumer Driven Contracts



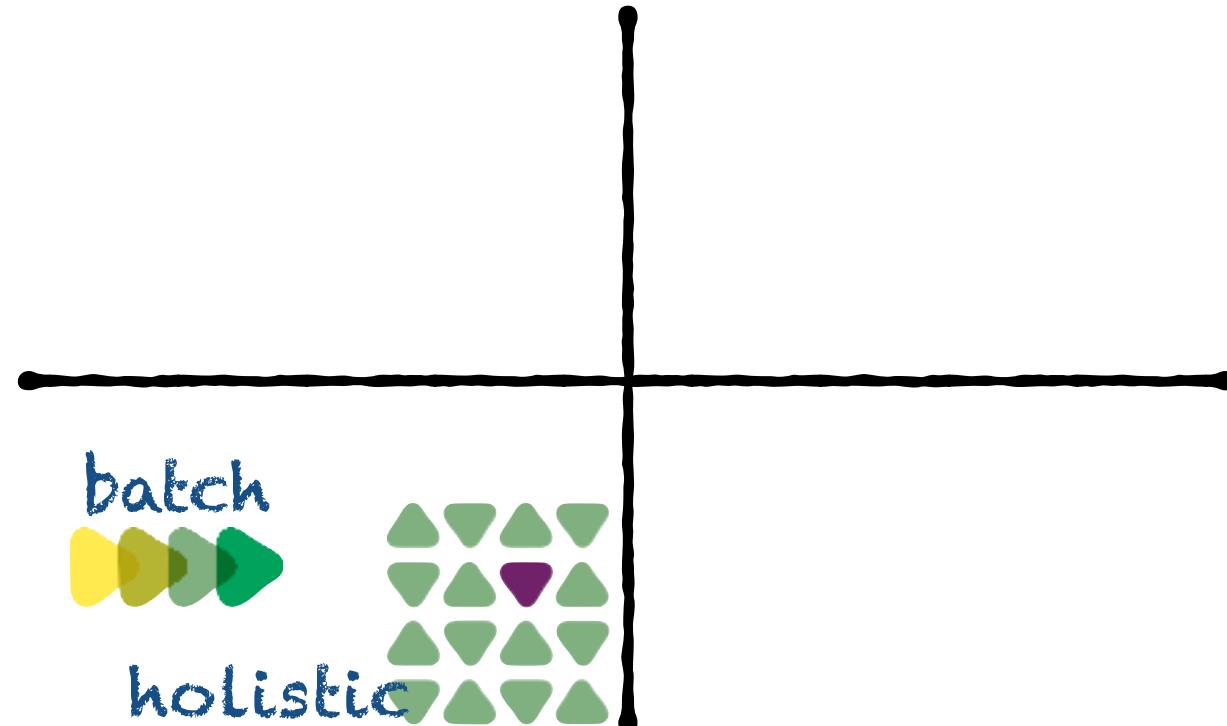
martinfowler.com/articles/consumerDrivenContracts.html





Fitness Function

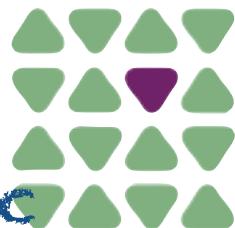
atomic



continuous

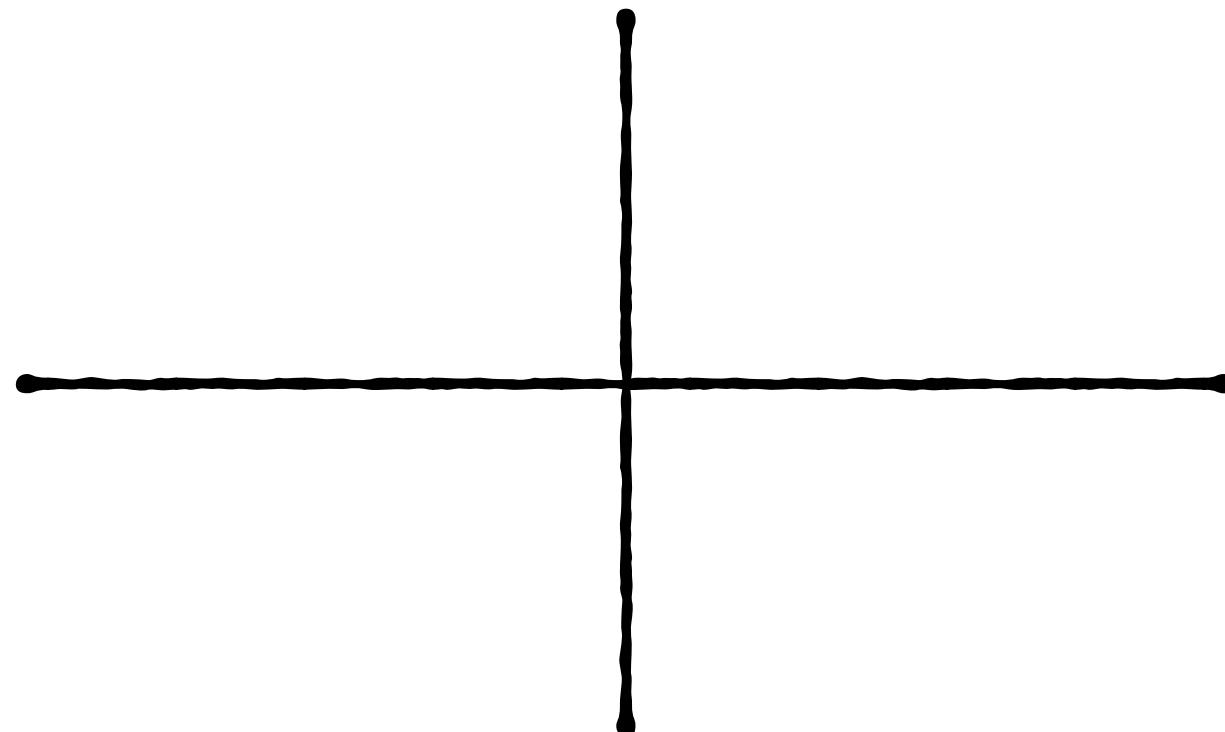


atomic



holistic

Fitness Function

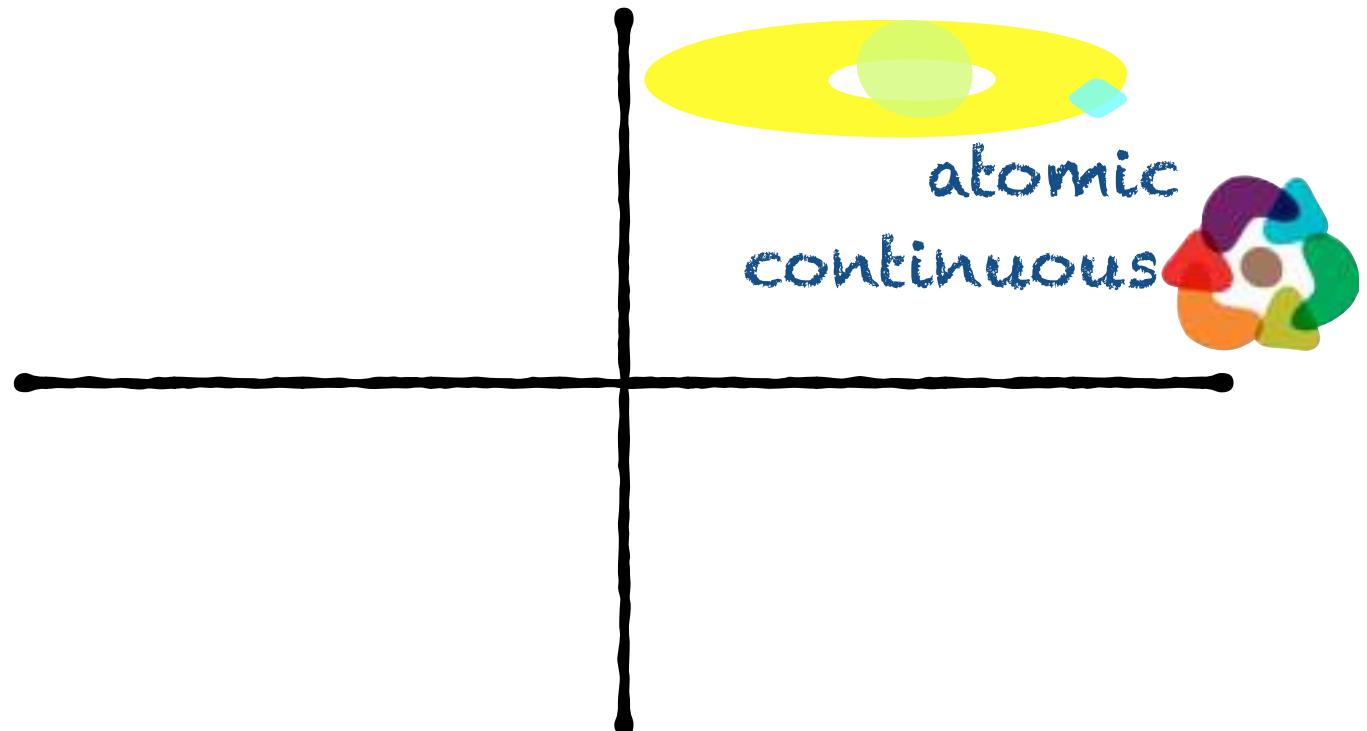


batch

continuous



Fitness Function



holistic

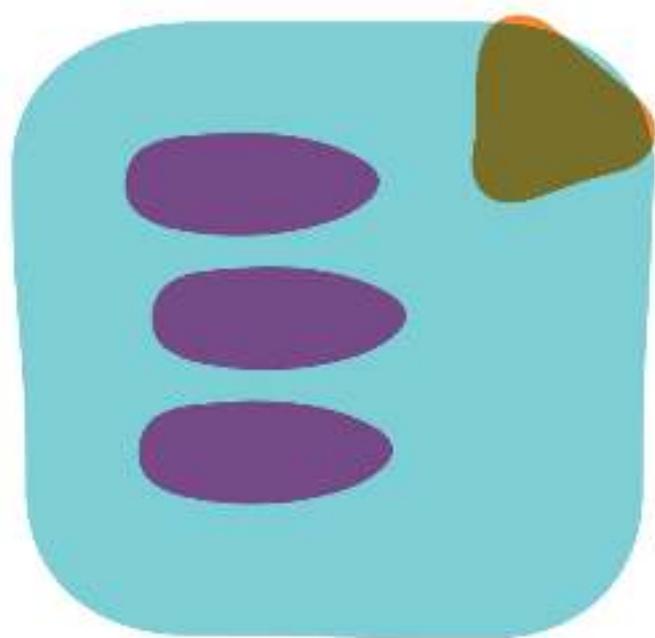




atomic



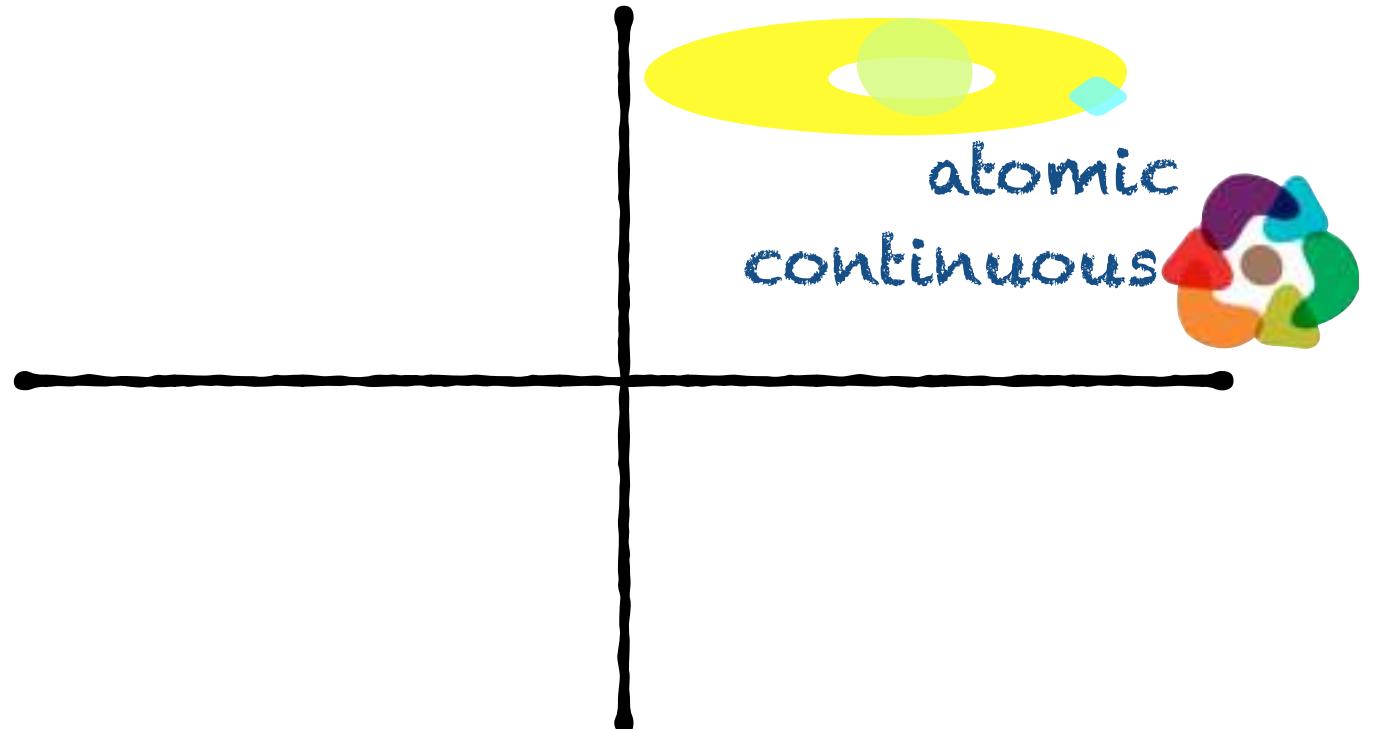
monitoring



logging



Fitness Function



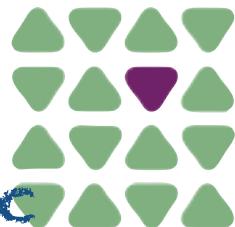
holistic



batch

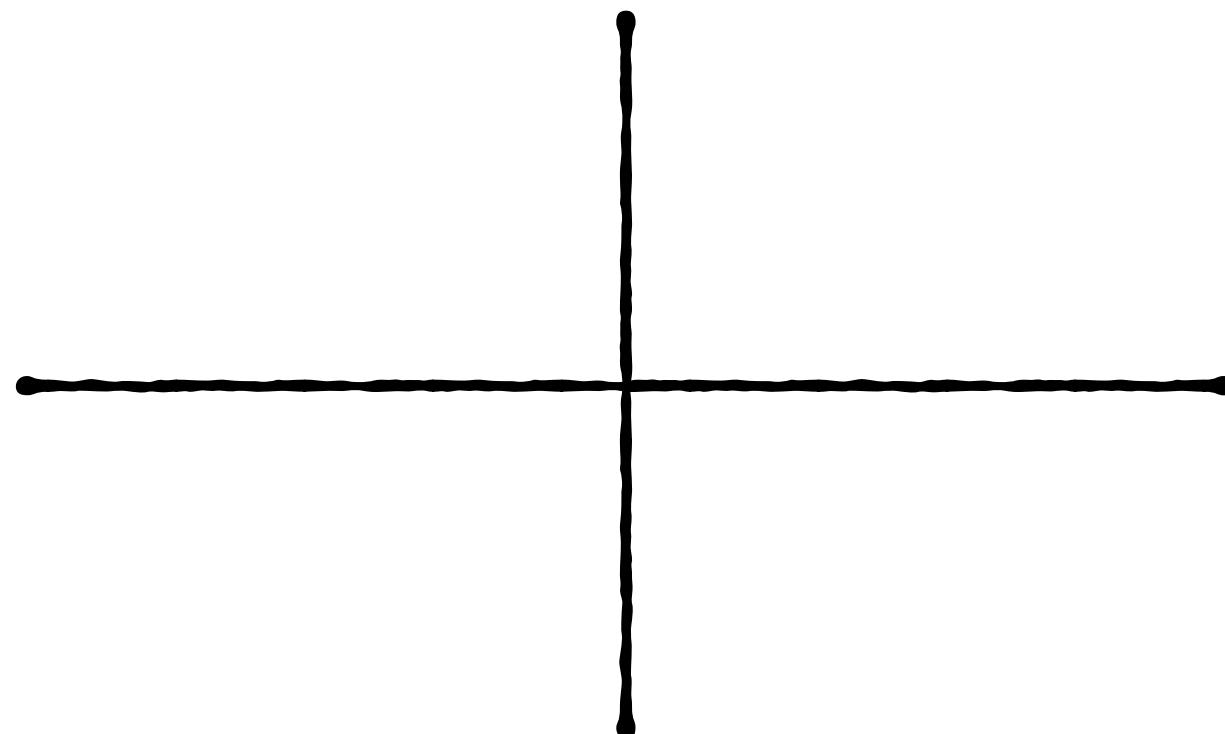


atomic



holistic

Fitness Function



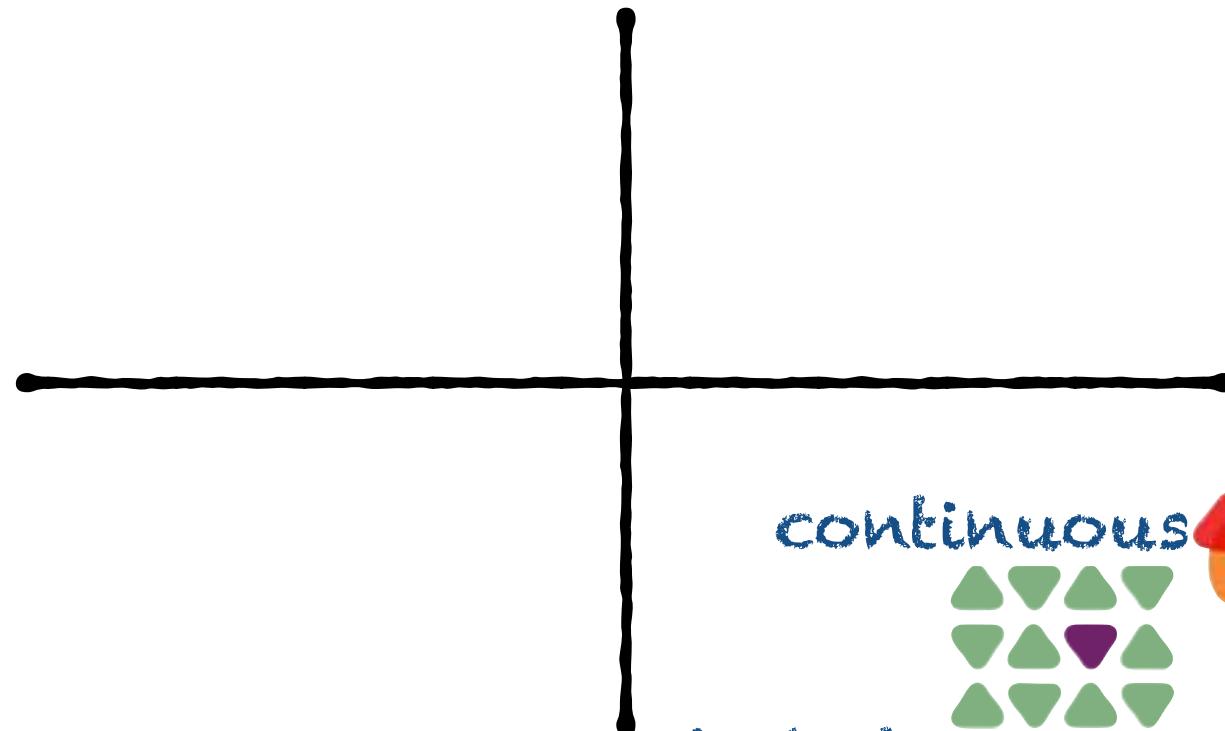
batch

continuous



Fitness Function

atomic



batch

continuous
holistic

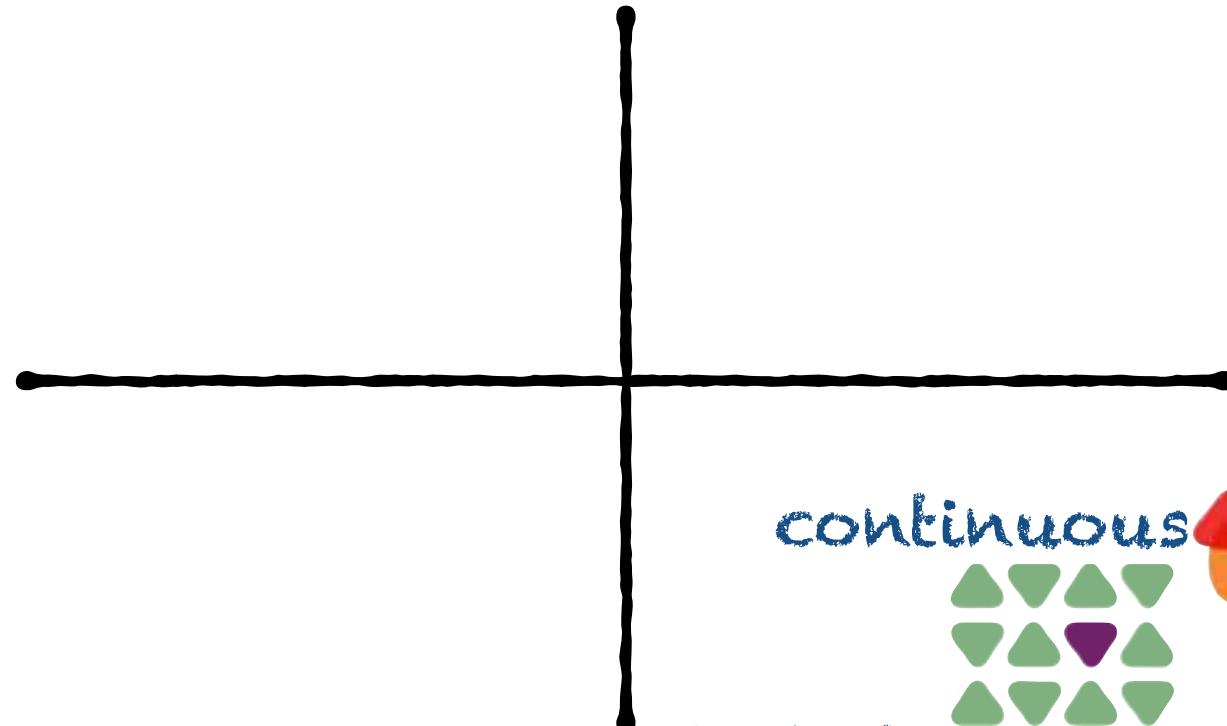


holistic
resilience-ility?



Fitness Function

atomic

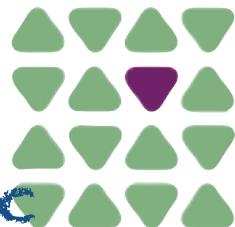


batch

continuous
holistic

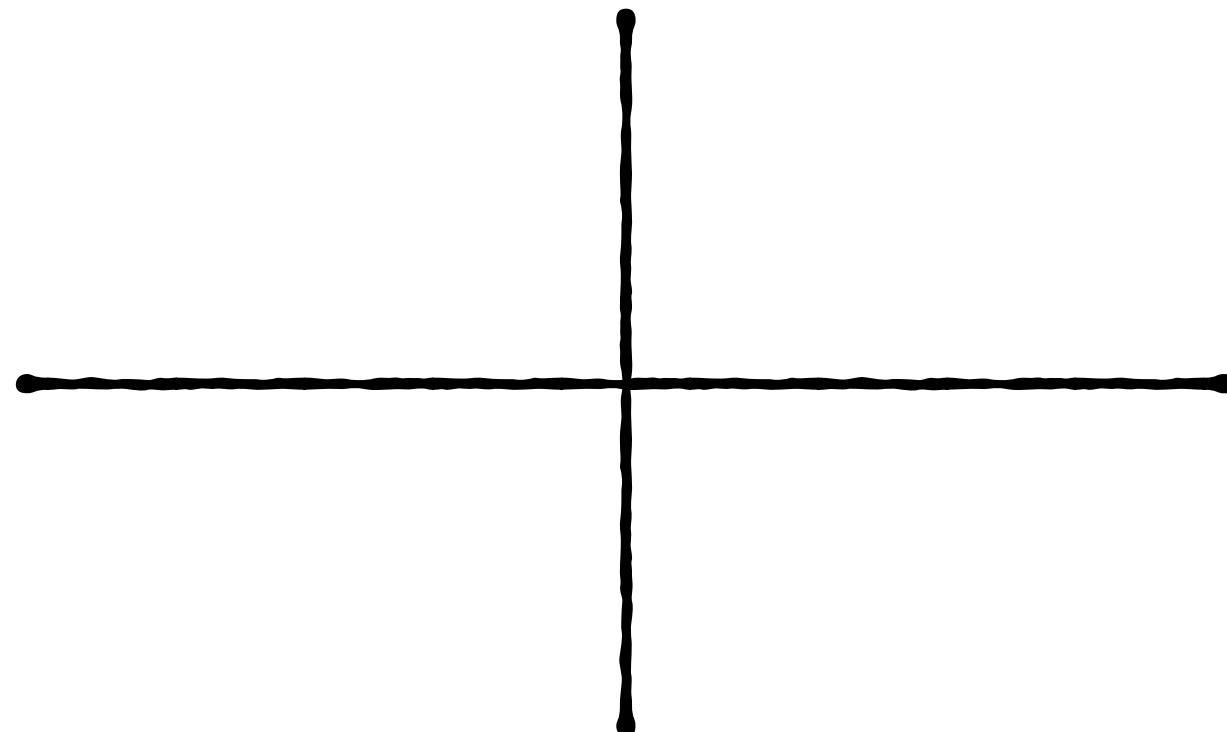


atomic



holistic

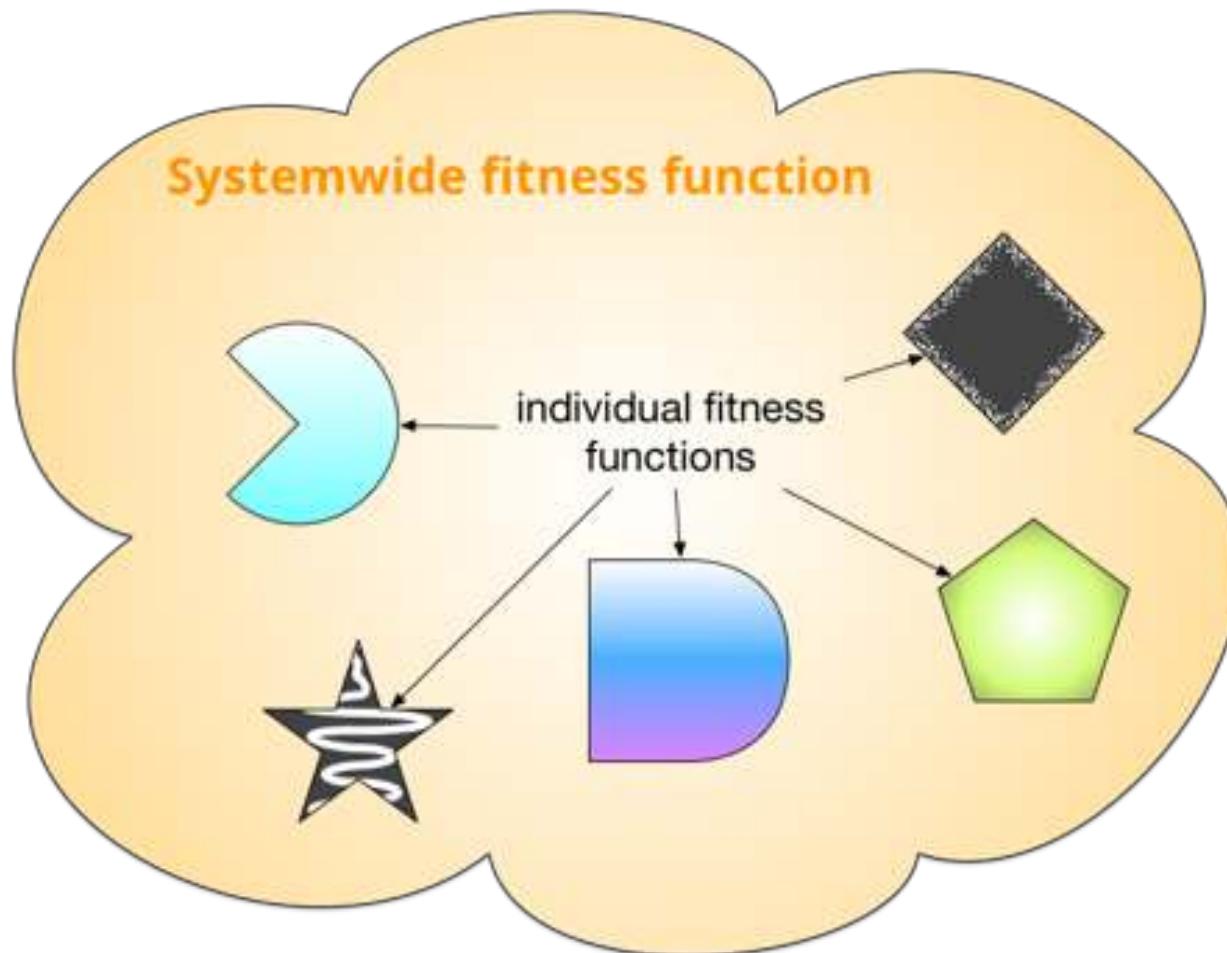
Fitness Function



batch

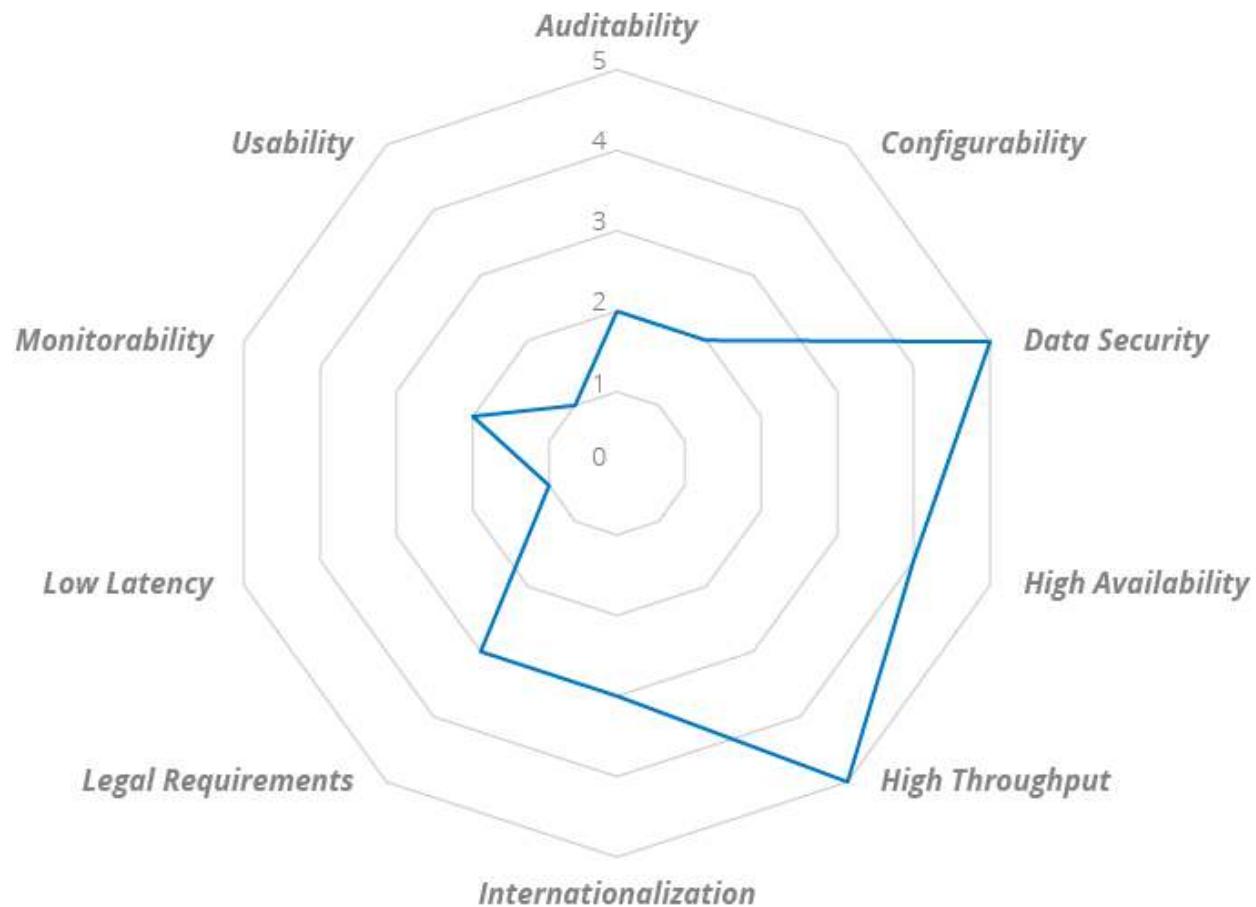
continuous

System-wide Fitness Function





Fitness Function Fit

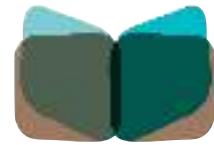




Guided Evolution



Agenda



definition



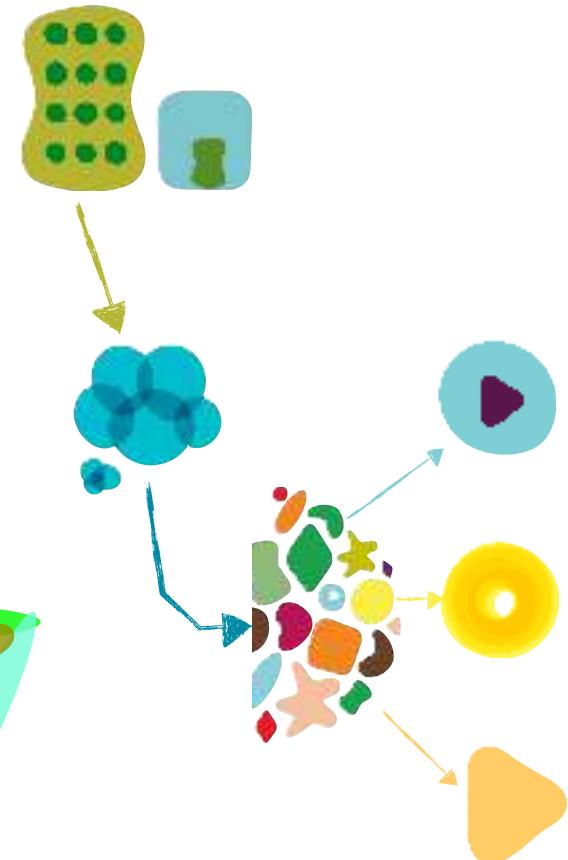
incremental change



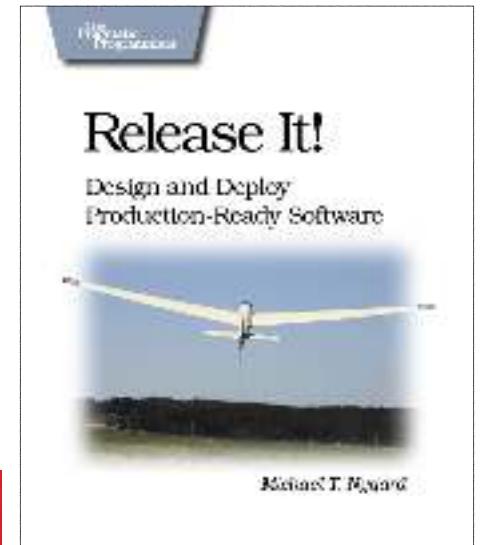
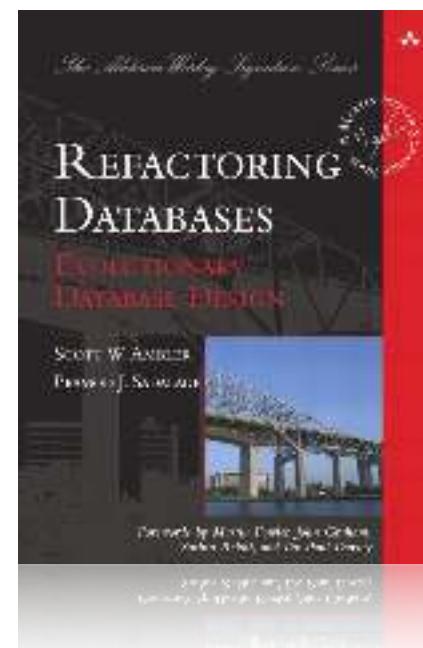
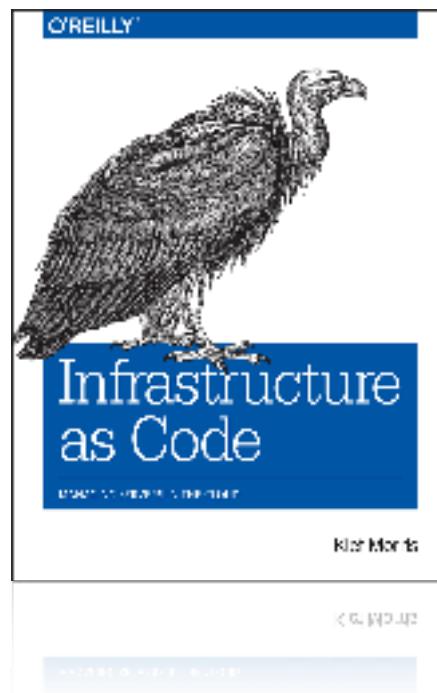
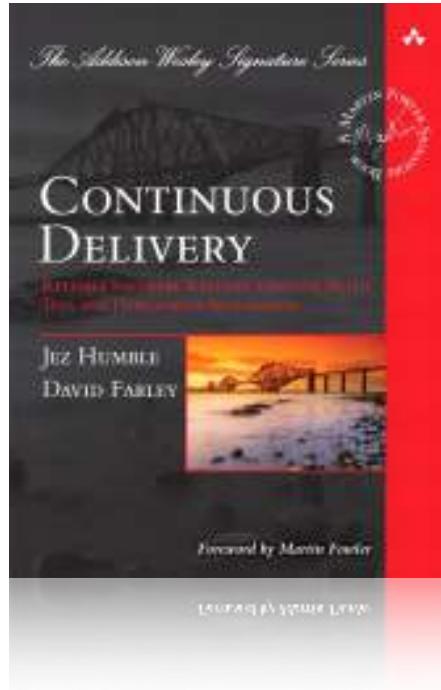
fitness functions



appropriate coupling

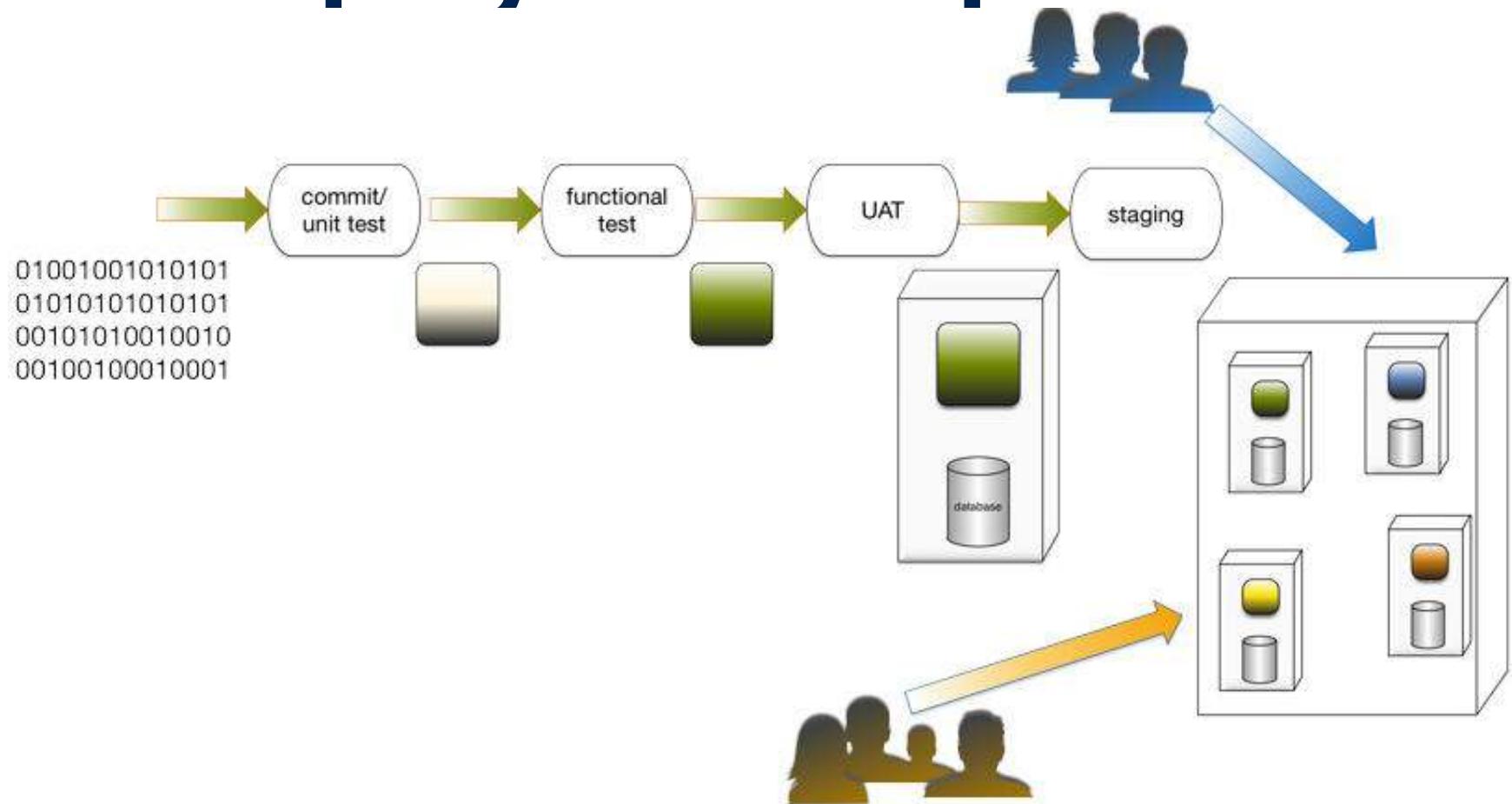


Prerequisites



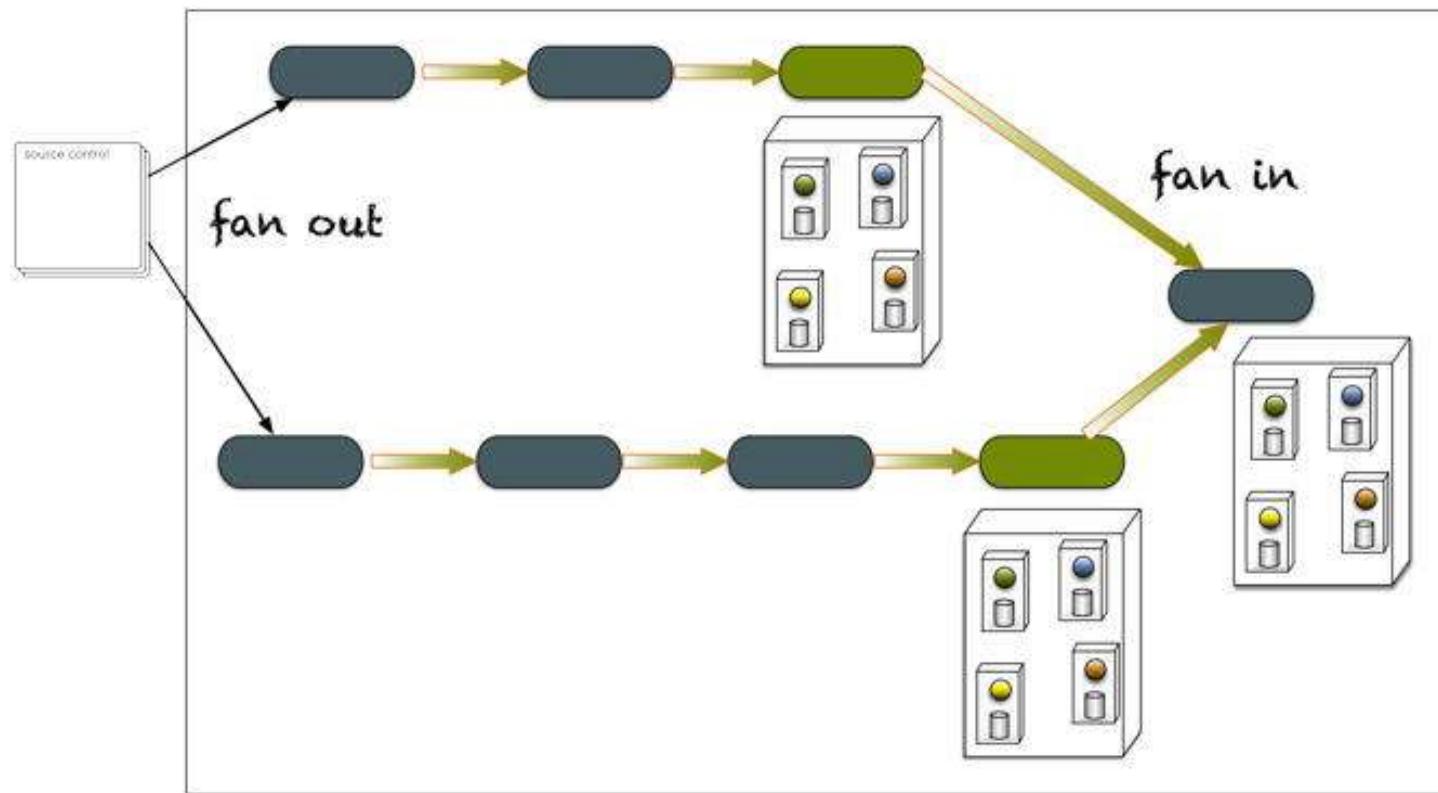


Deployment Pipeline



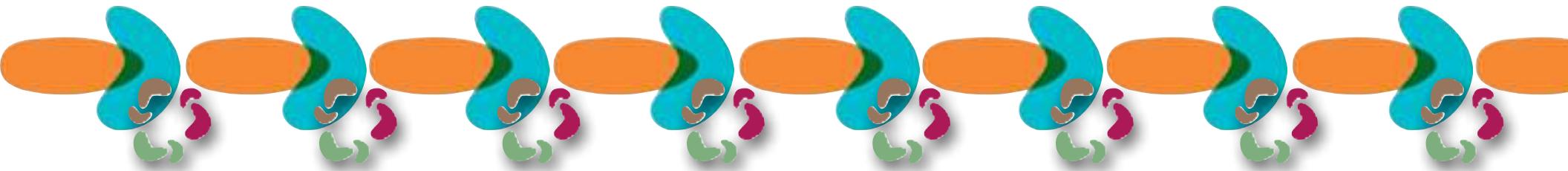


Deployment Pipeline





Incremental Change

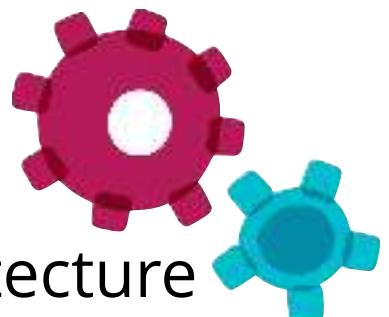


$$V \propto C$$

where

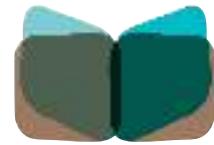
c = cycle time

v = maximum speed of new generations

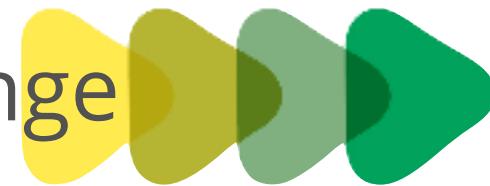


Engine of evolutionary architecture

Agenda



definition



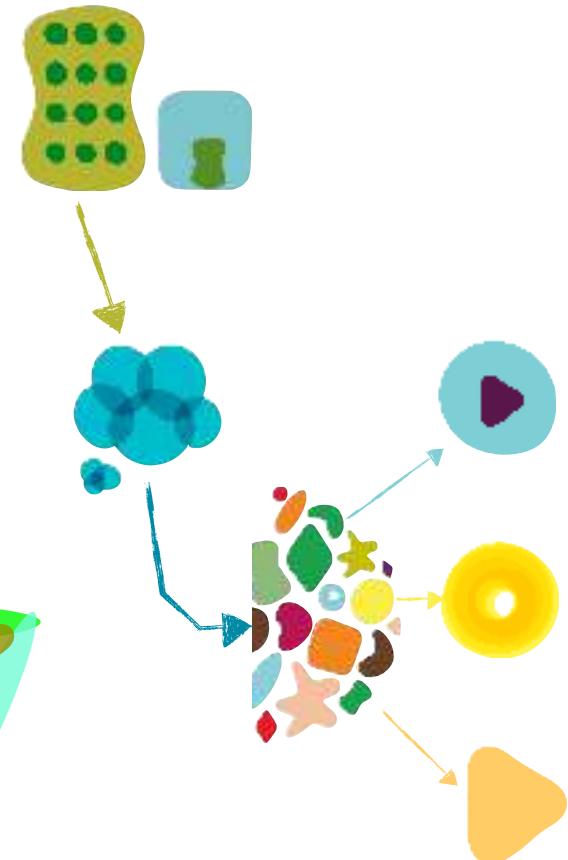
incremental change



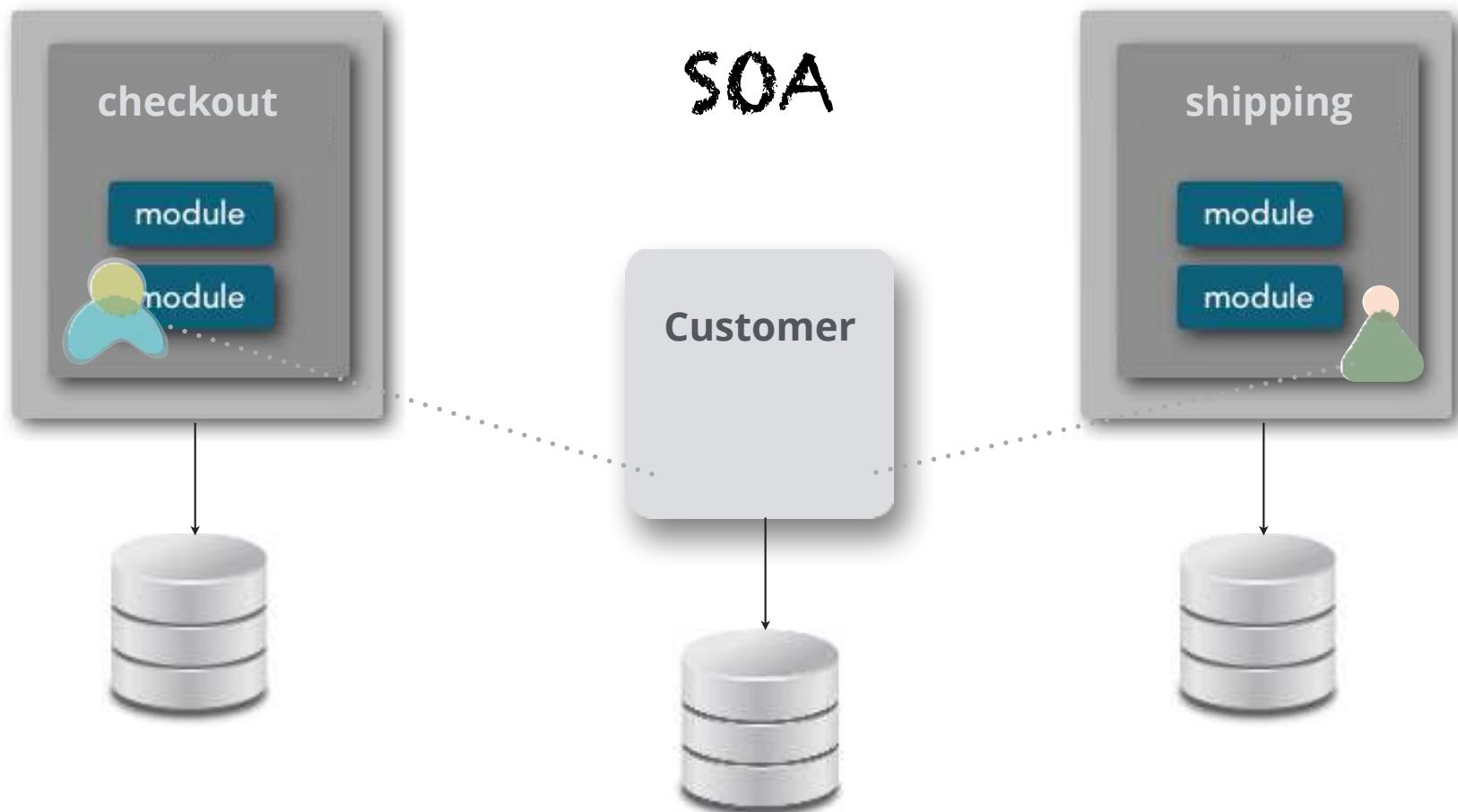
fitness functions



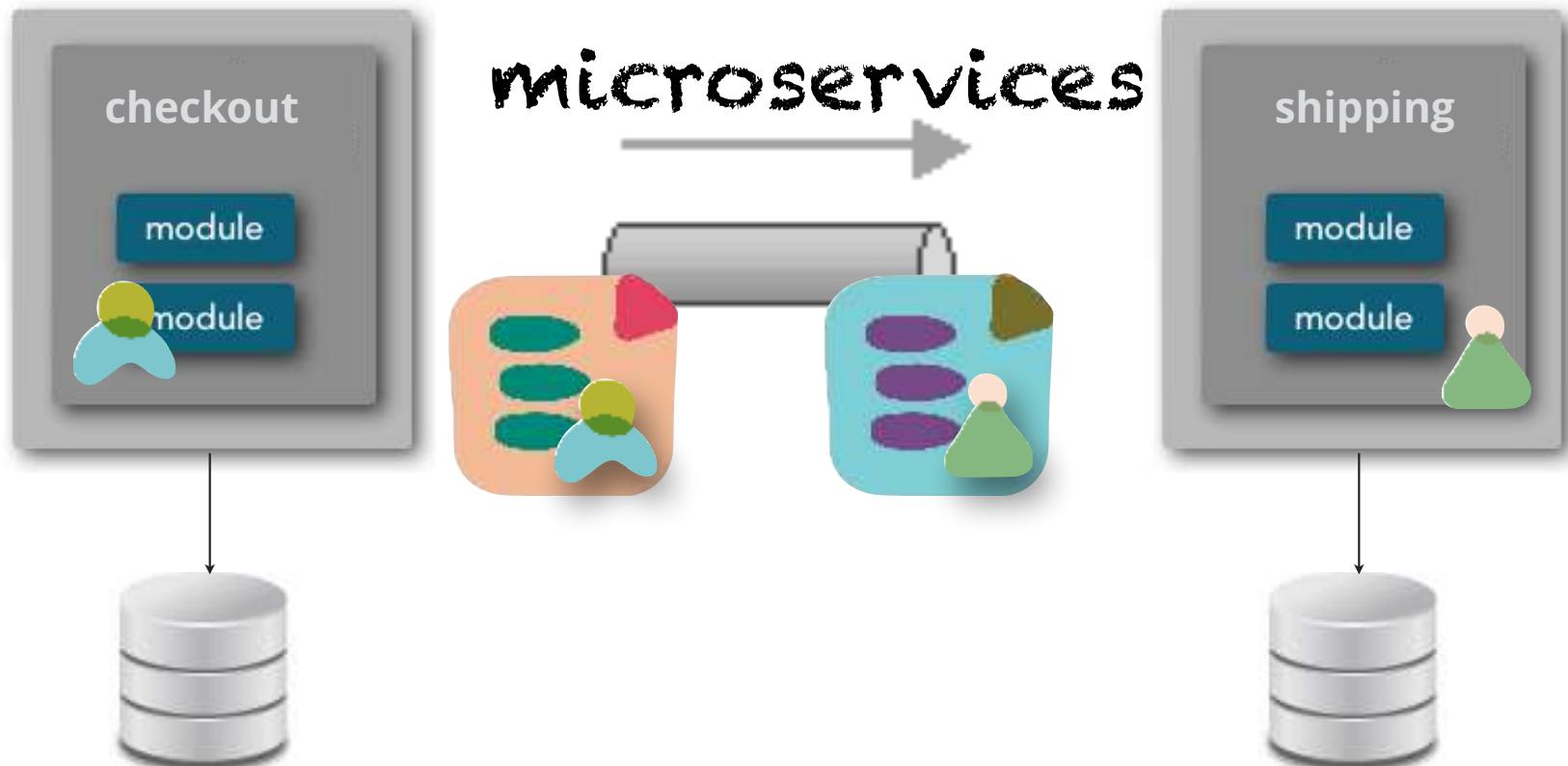
appropriate coupling



Code Reuse (Over Time)



Code Reuse (Over Time)

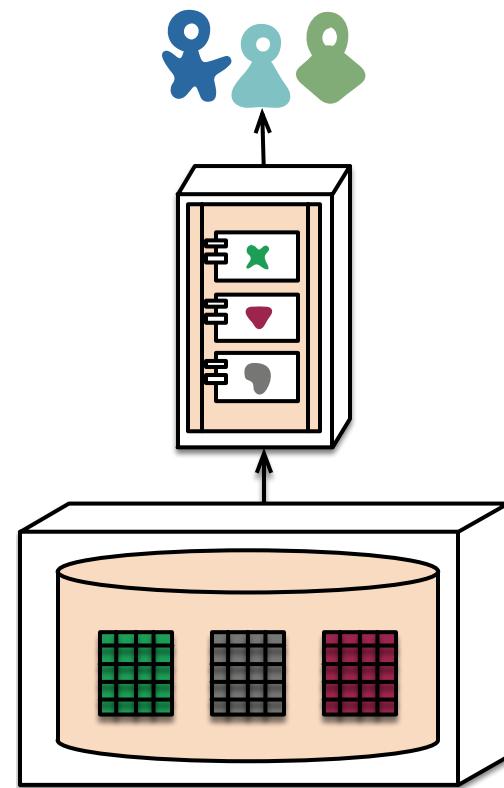




The more *reusable* code is,
the less *usable* it is.

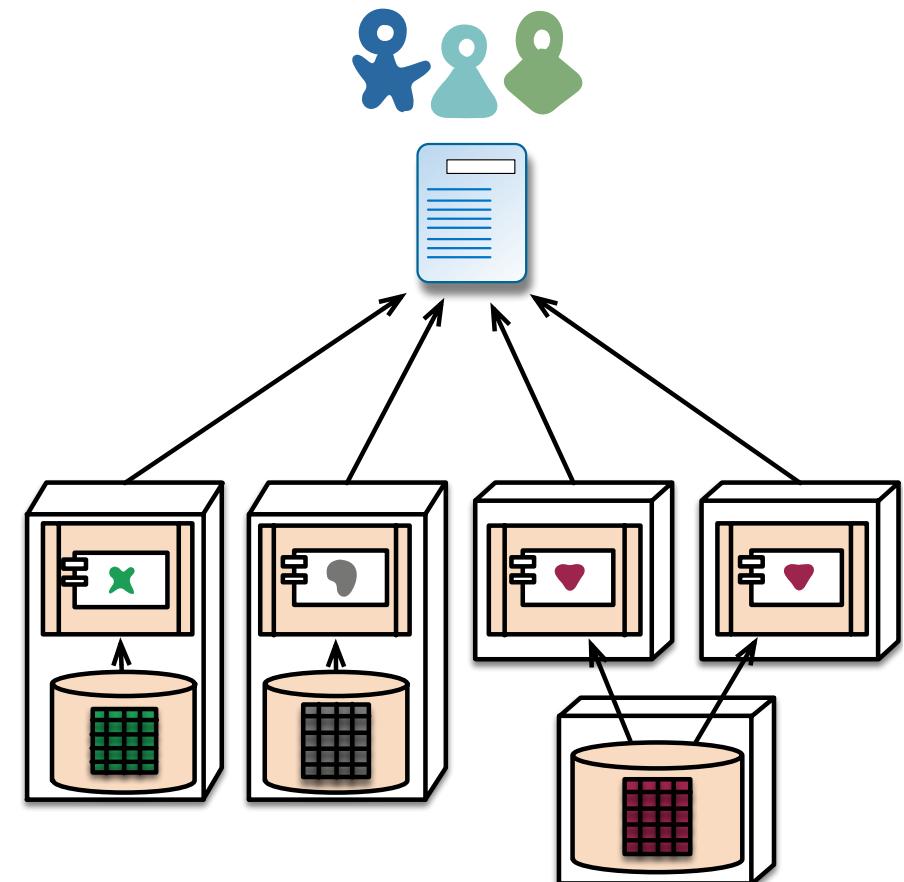
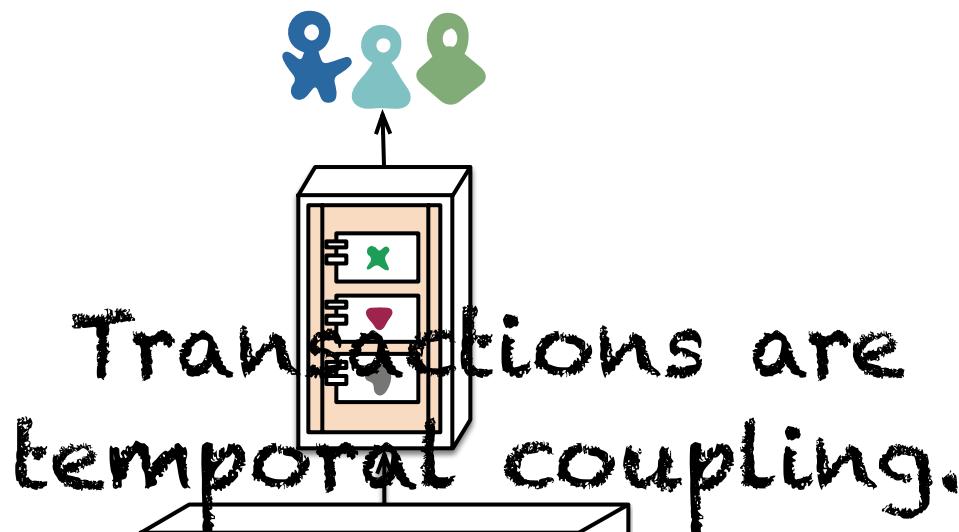


Decentralized Data Management





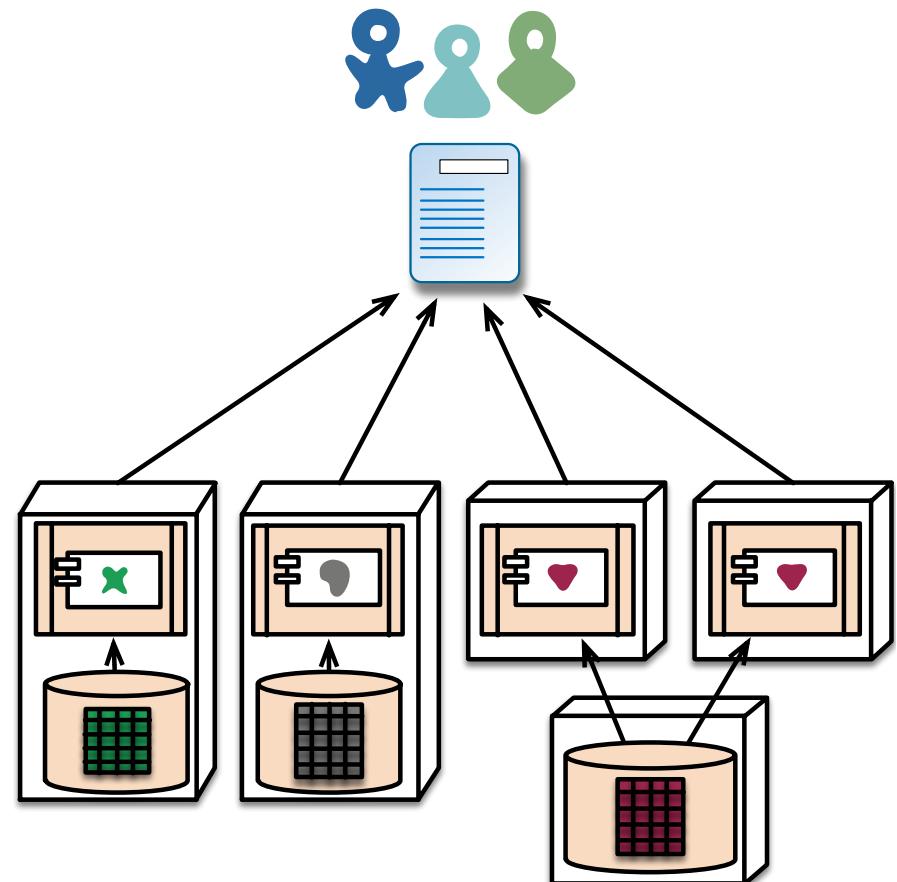
Decentralized Data Management





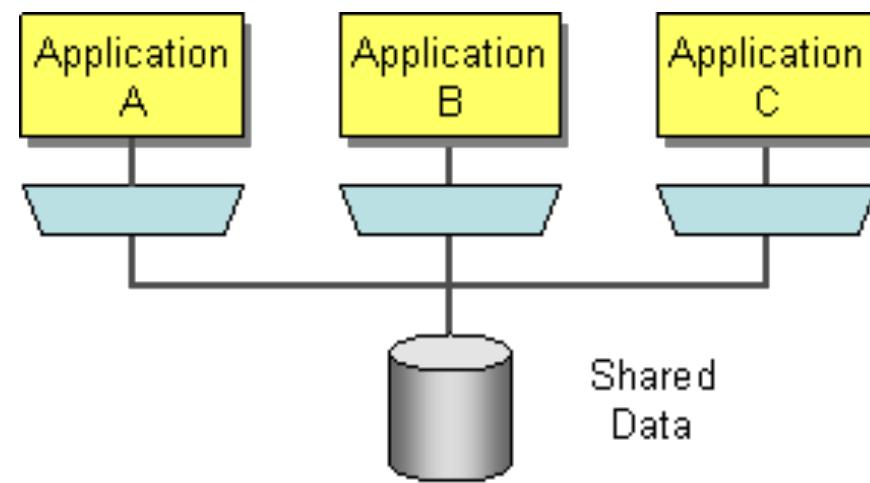
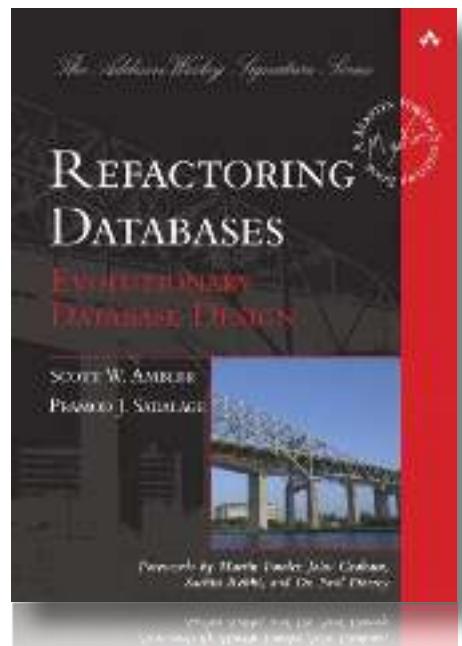
Decentralized Data Management

Limit
transactional
contexts.





Evolutionary Database Design



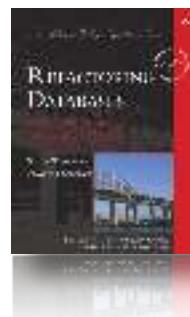
<http://databaserefactoring.com/>



Evolving Columns

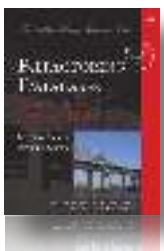


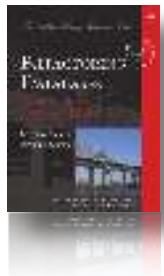
Original Schema



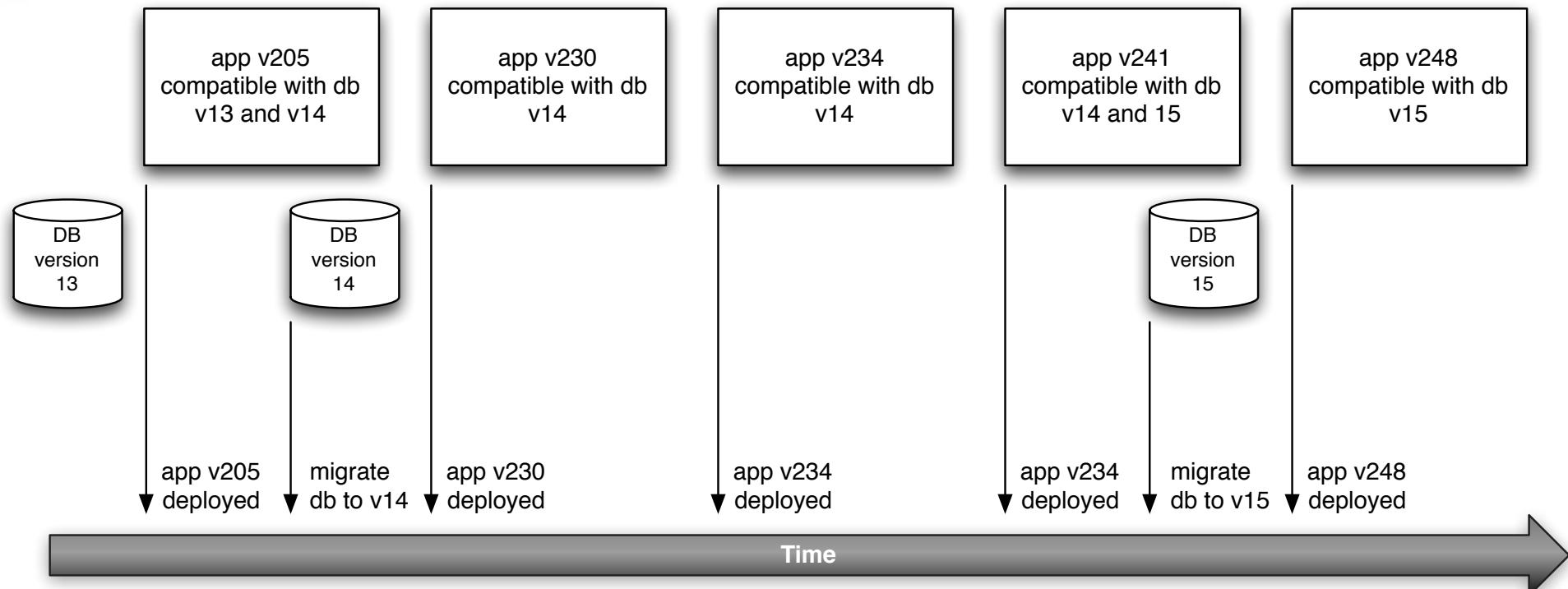


Transition



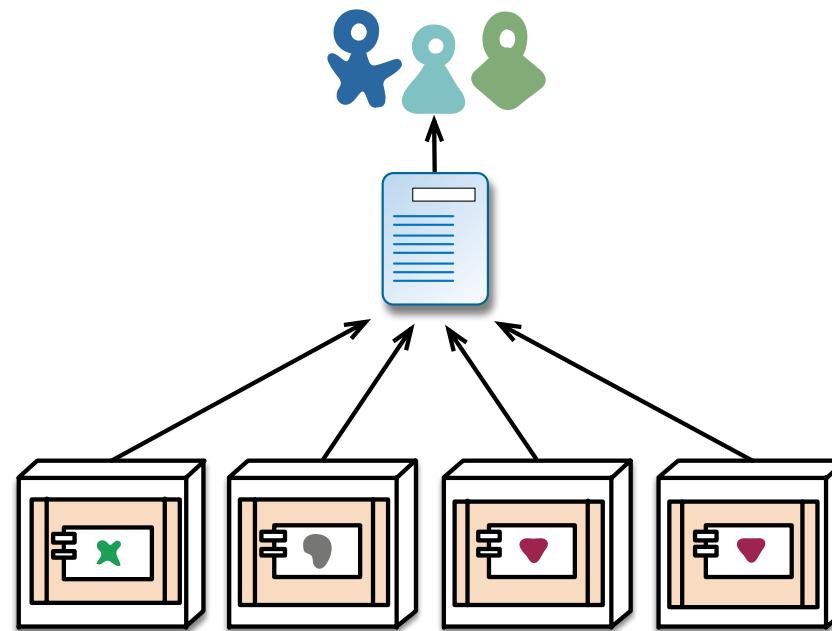


Expand/Contract Pattern



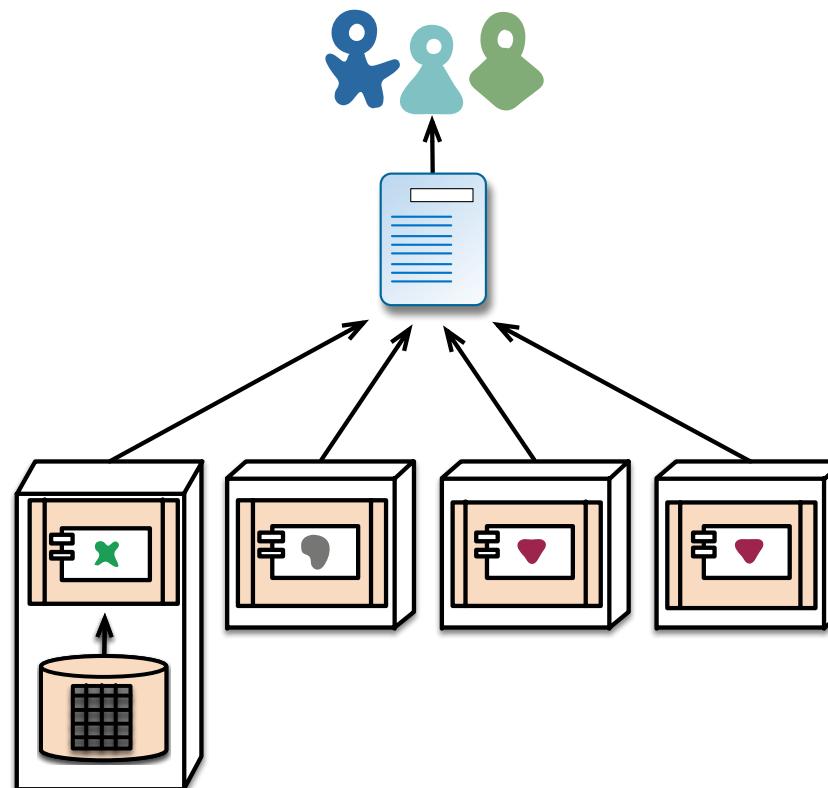


Decentralized Governance



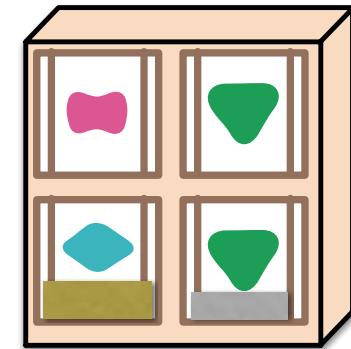
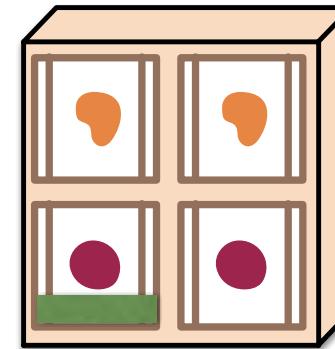
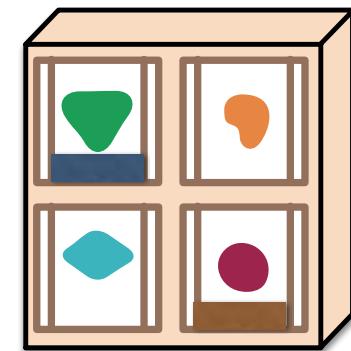
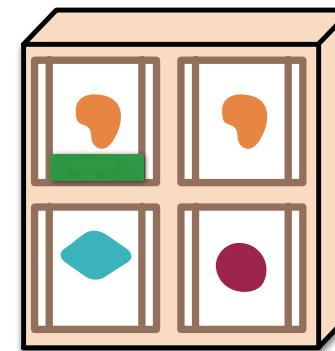
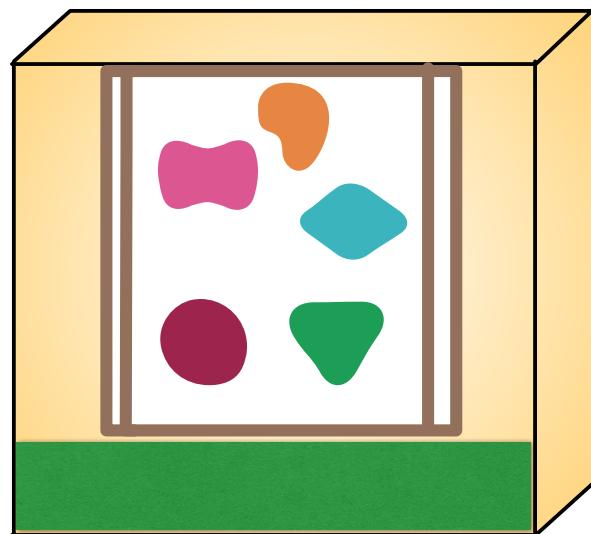


Decentralized Governance





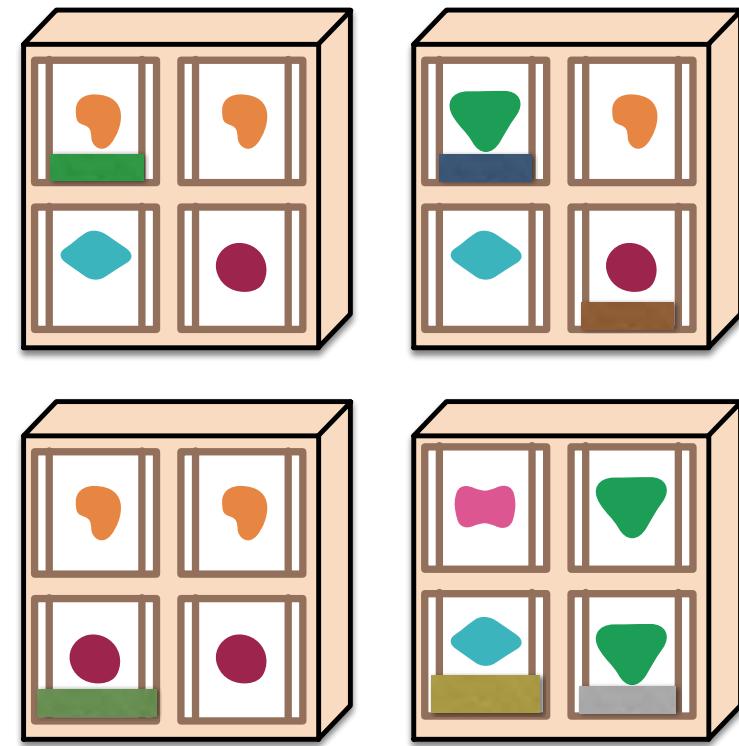
Decentralized Governance





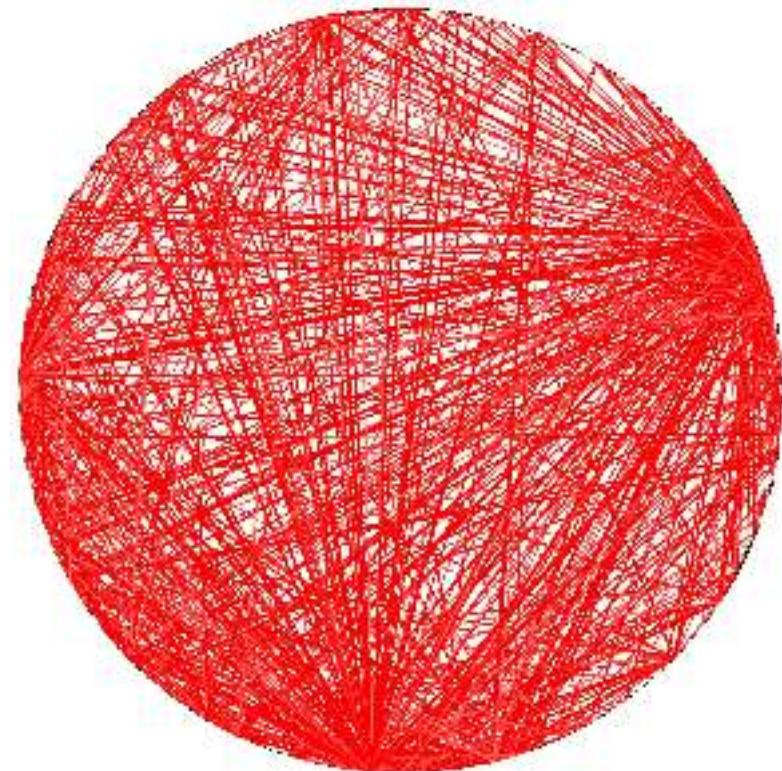
“Goldilocks” Governance

Choose technology stacks appropriate to problem scale.



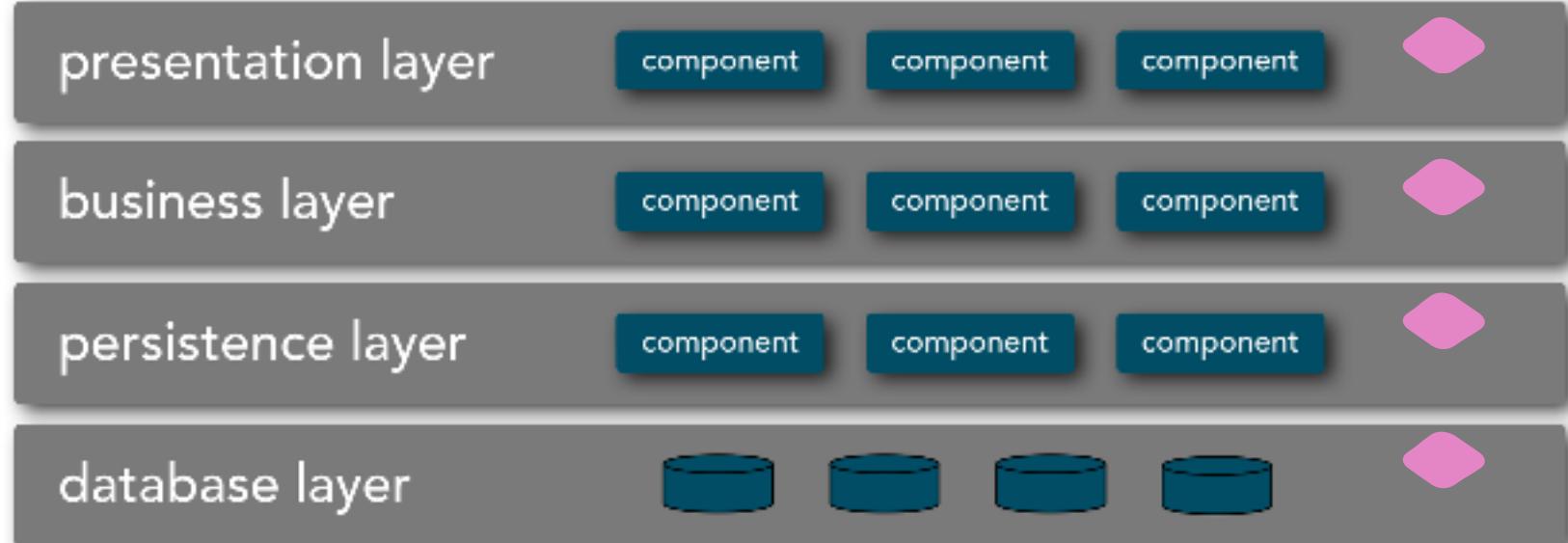


Shift to Domain-centric Architectures



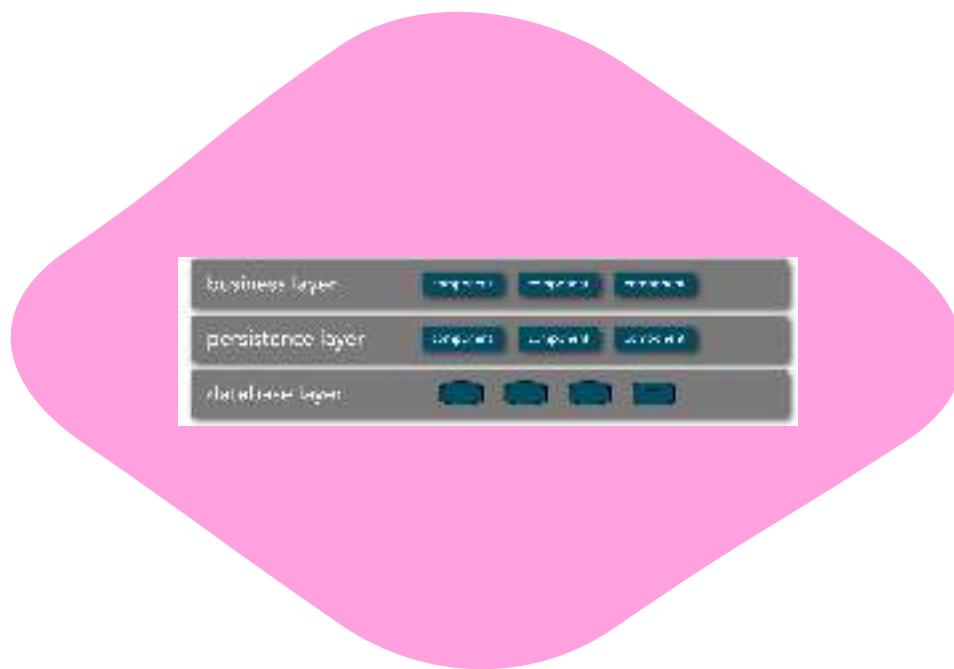


Shift to Domain-centric Architectures

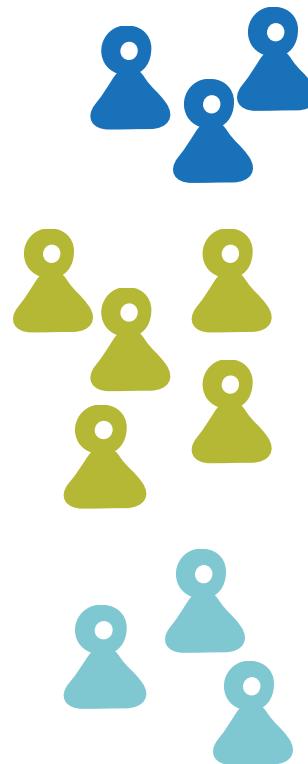




Shift to Domain-centric Architectures



Incidentally Coupled Teams



user interface

server-side

DBA



Conway's Law

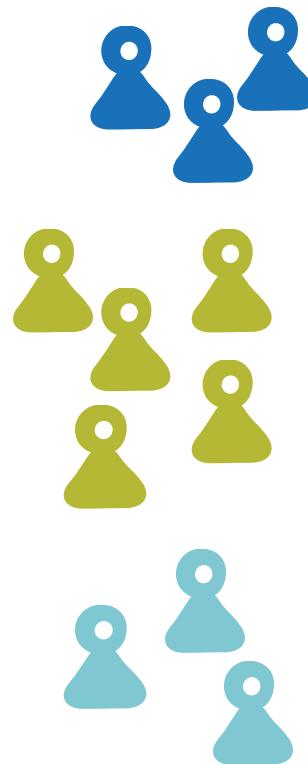
“organizations which design systems ... are constrained to produce designs which are copies of the communication structures of these organizations”

Melvin Conway, 1968

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s_law



Incidentally Coupled Teams



user interface

server-side

DBA



Autonomous Teams



Orders



Shipping

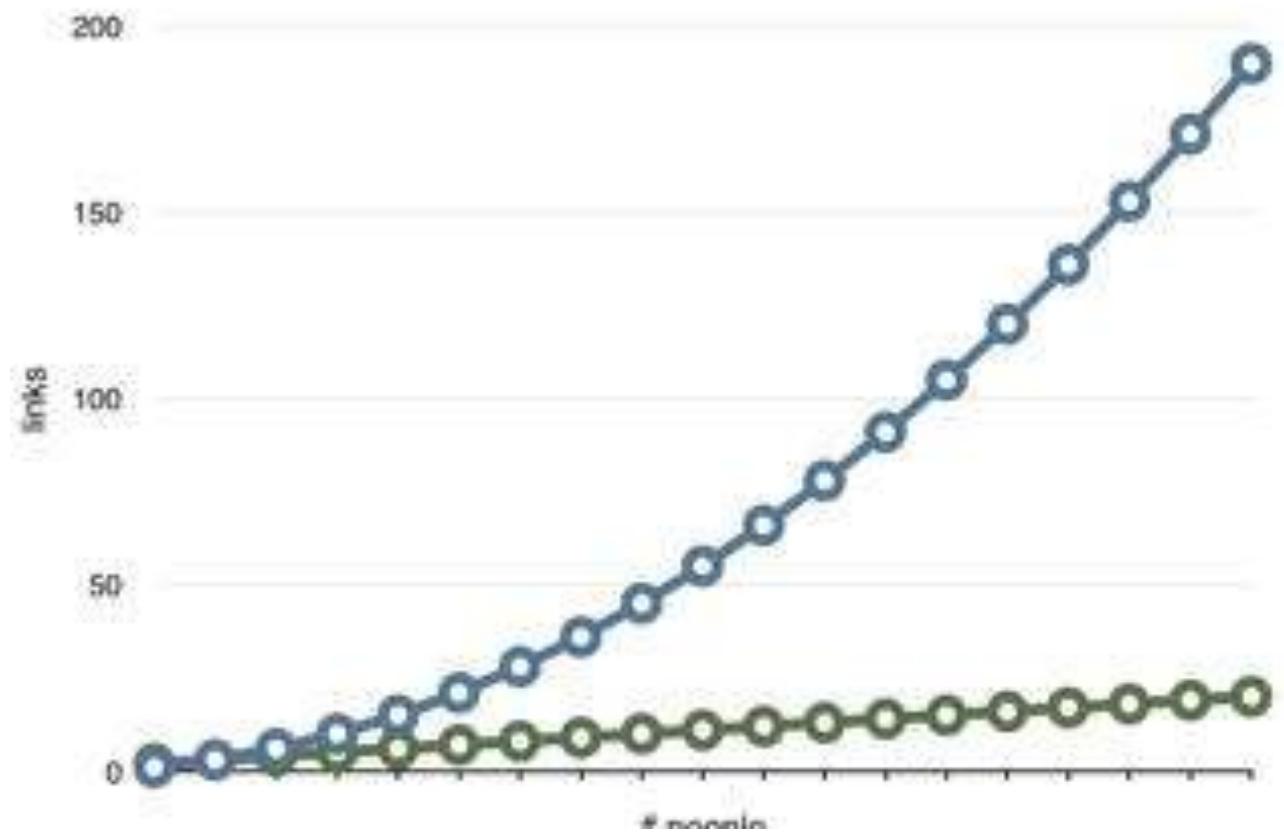
Inverse Conway Maneuver

Catalog

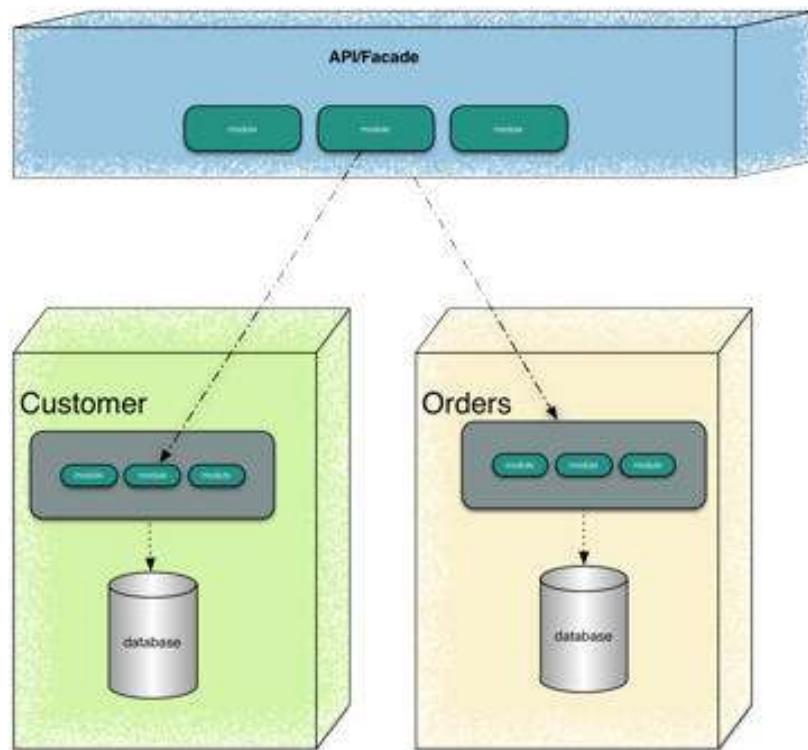


Low Efferent Coupling between Teams

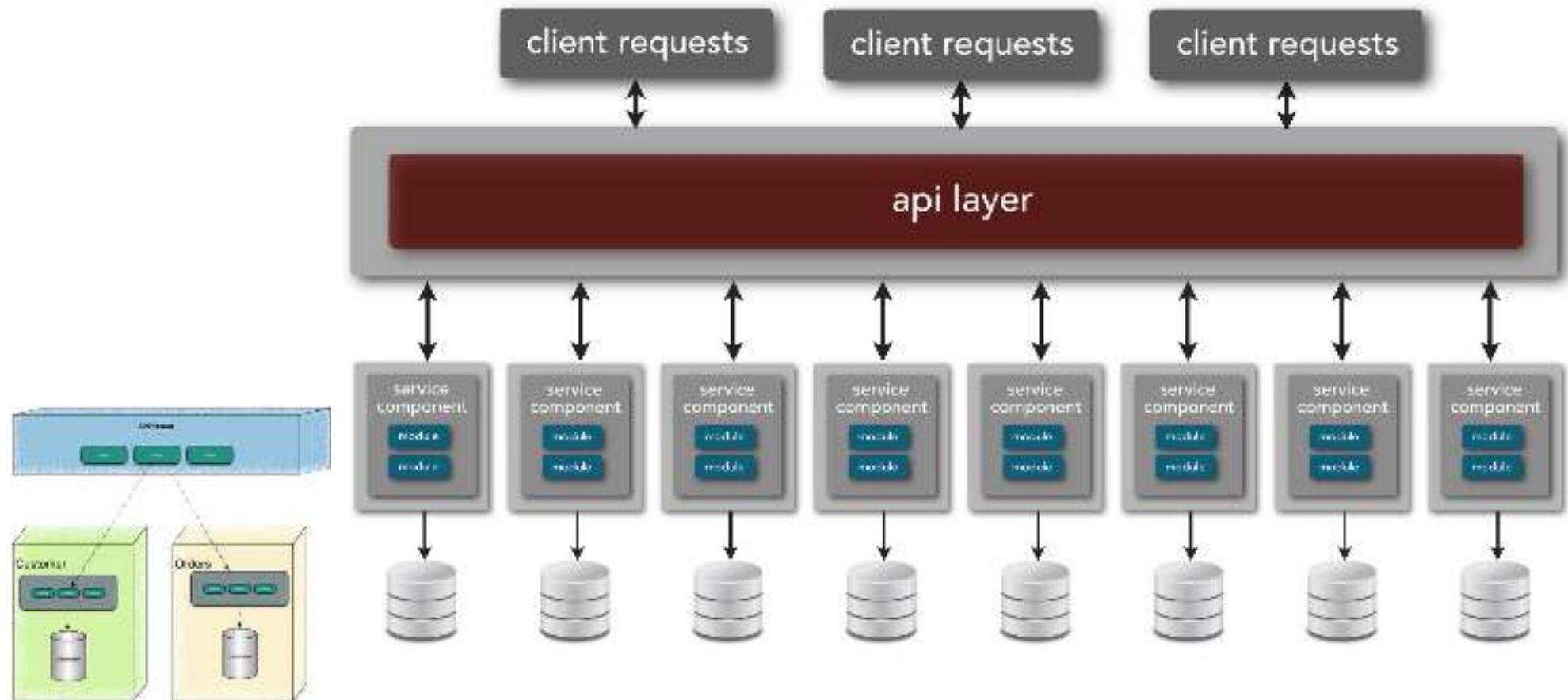
$$\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$



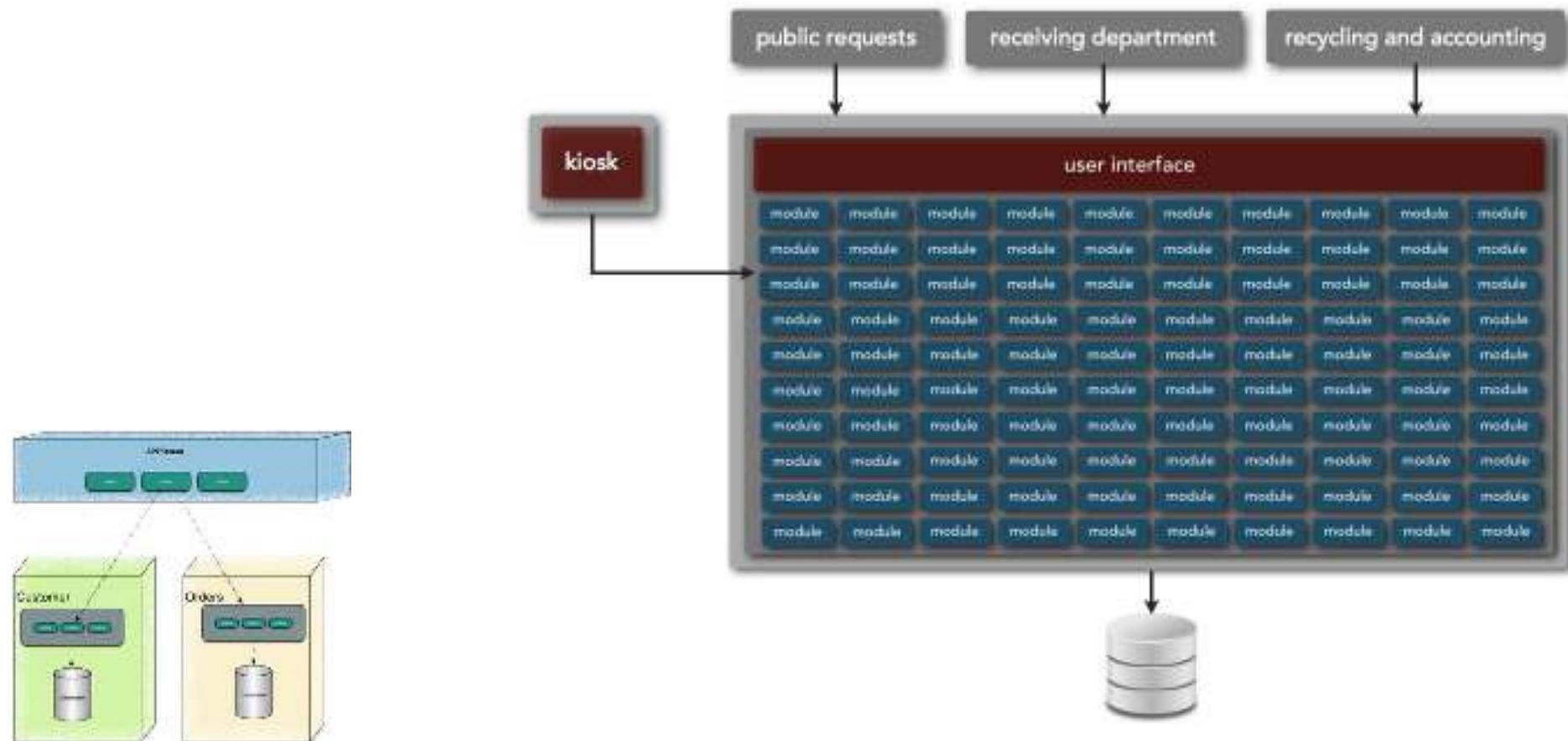
Architectural Quantum



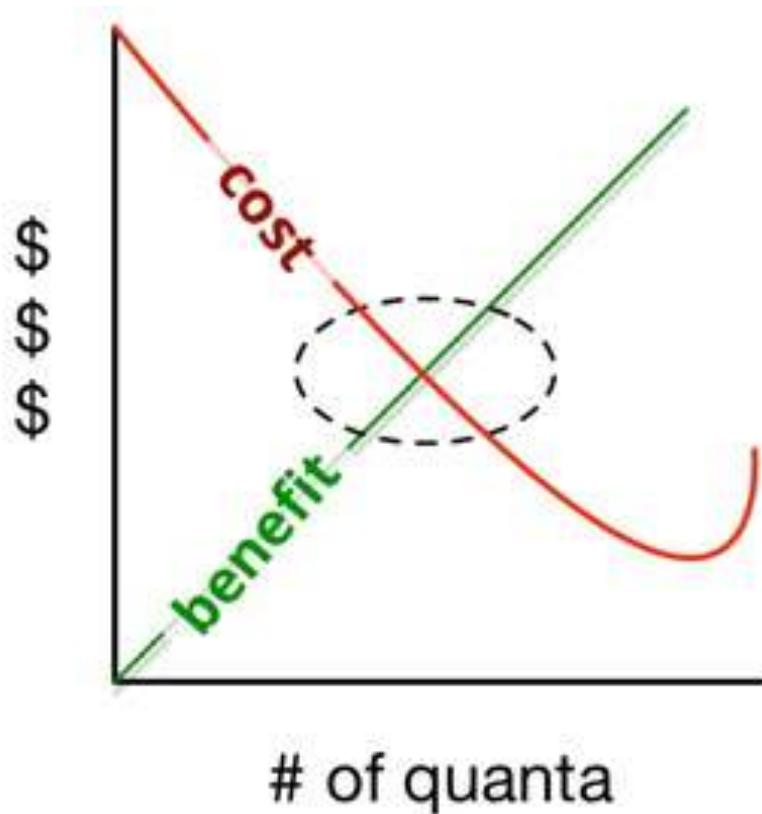
Architectural Quantum



Architectural Quantum



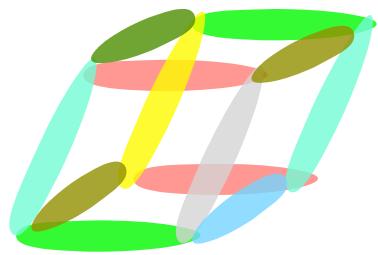
Architectural Quantum



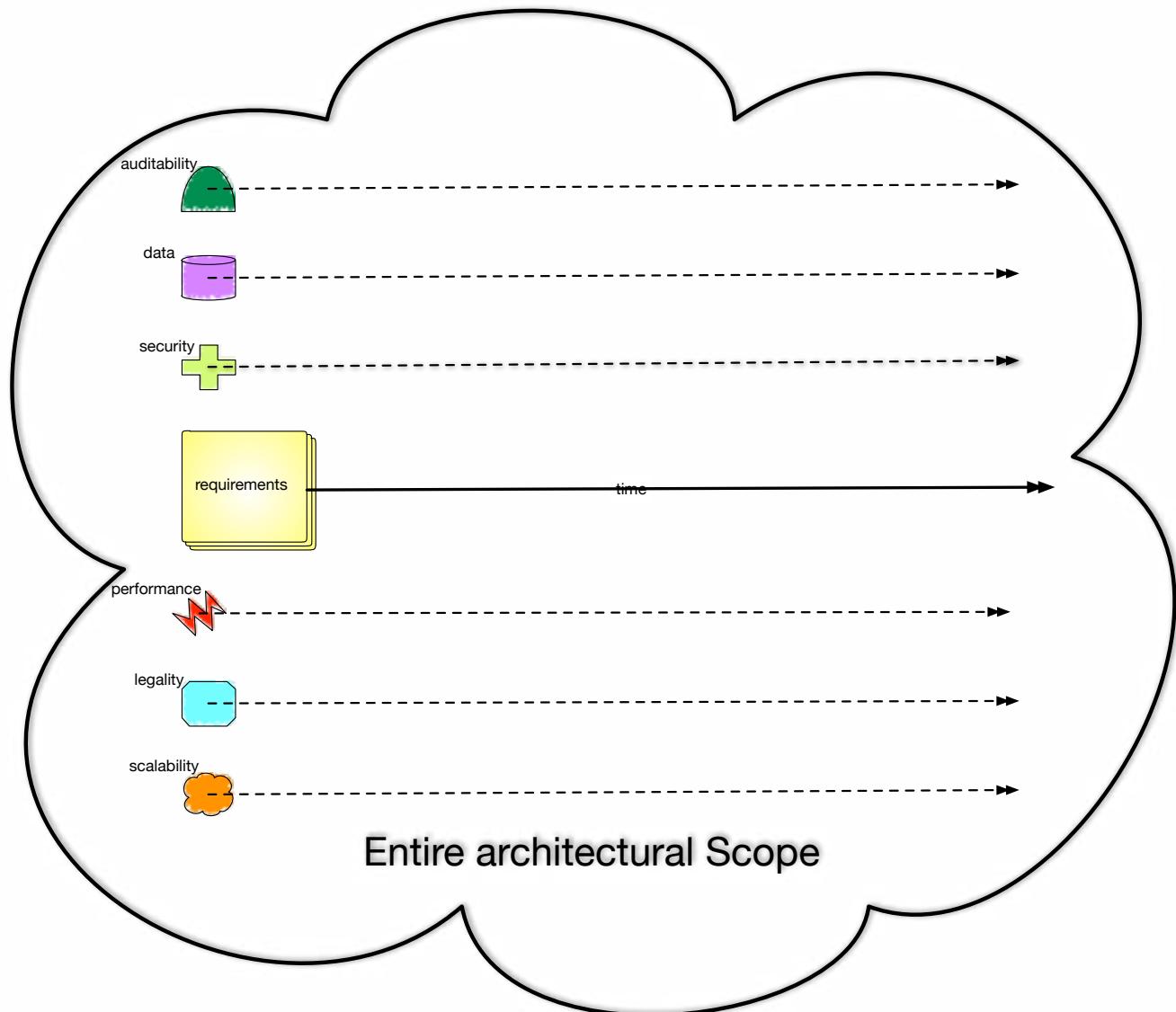


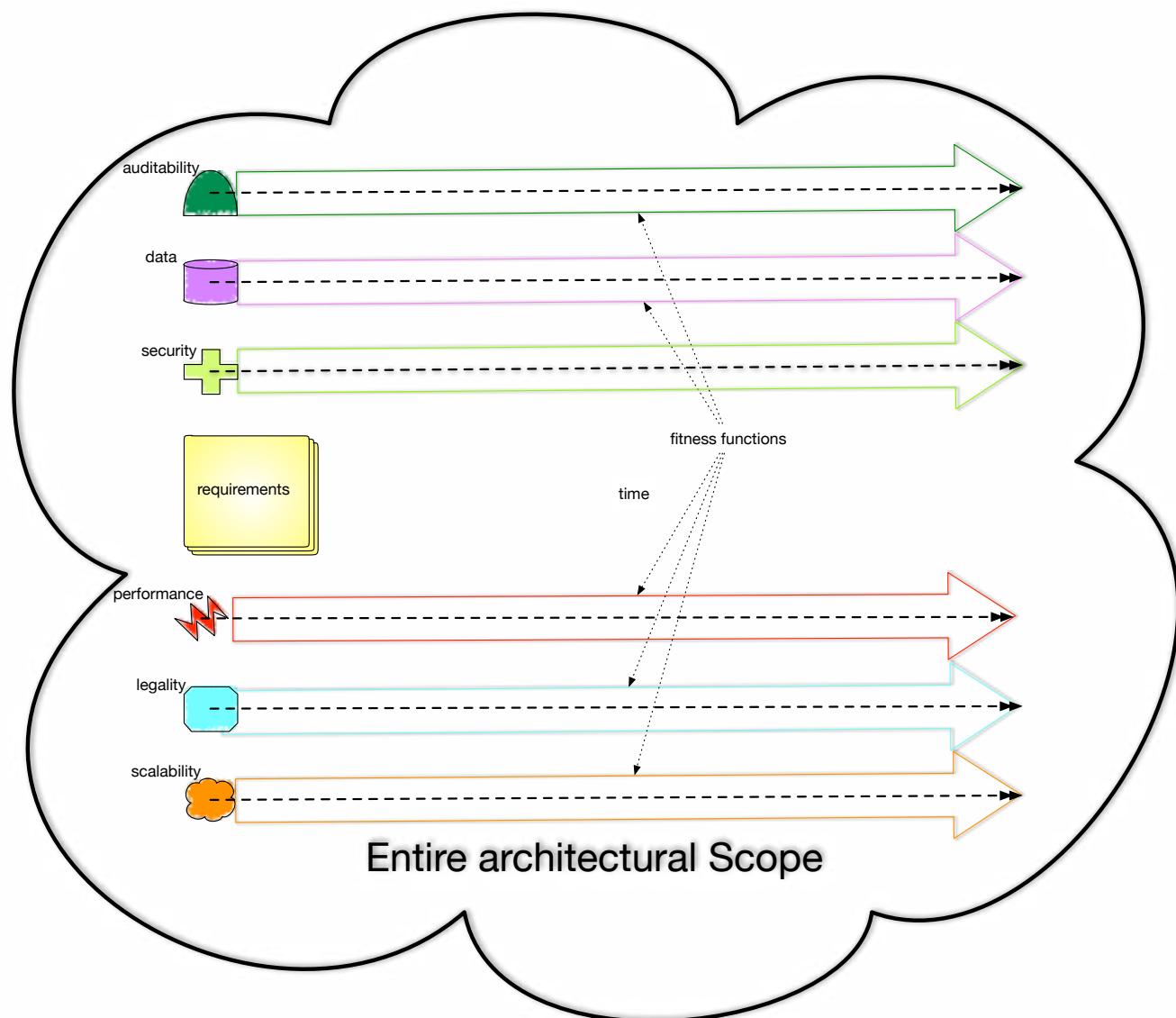
Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture

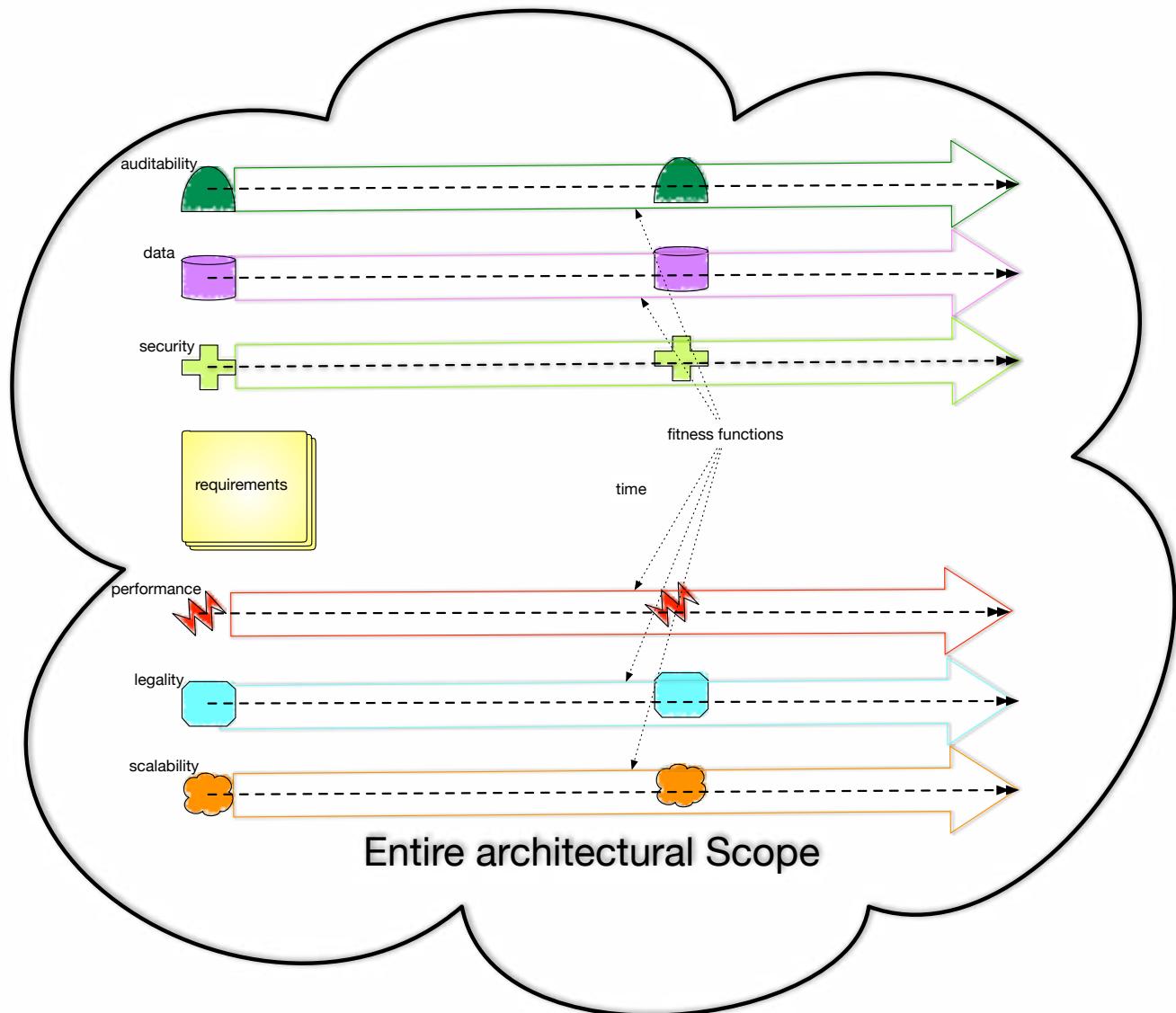




1. Choose Dimensions

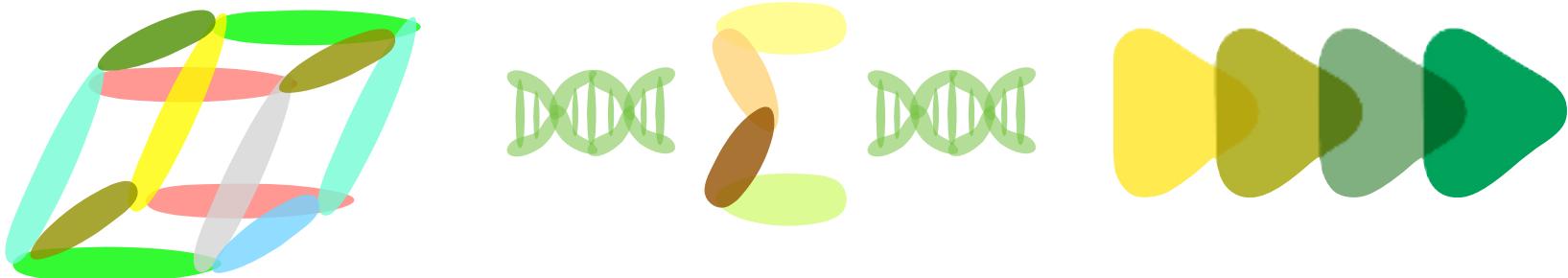








Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture

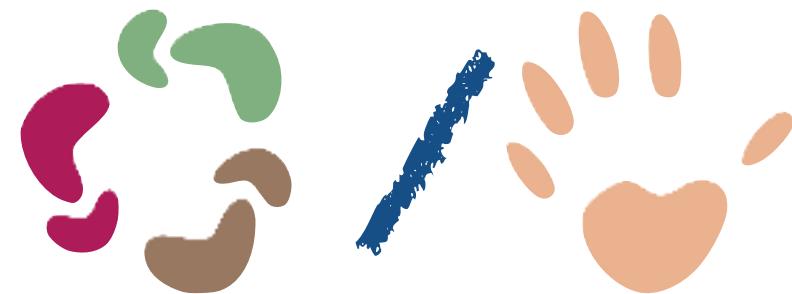




2. Identify Fitness Functions



atomic

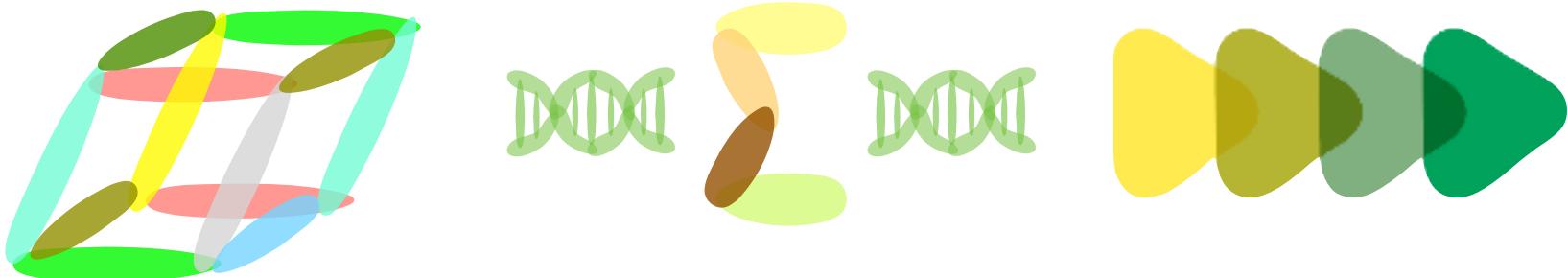


automated / manual



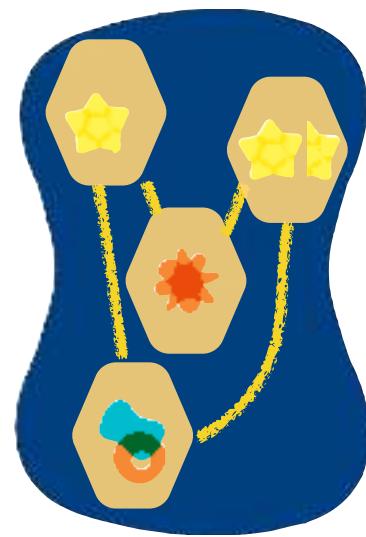
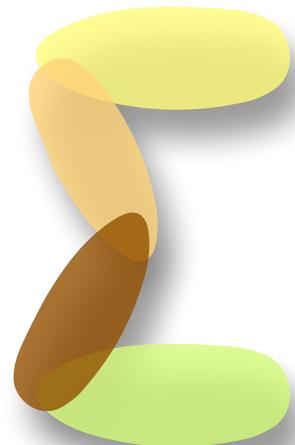
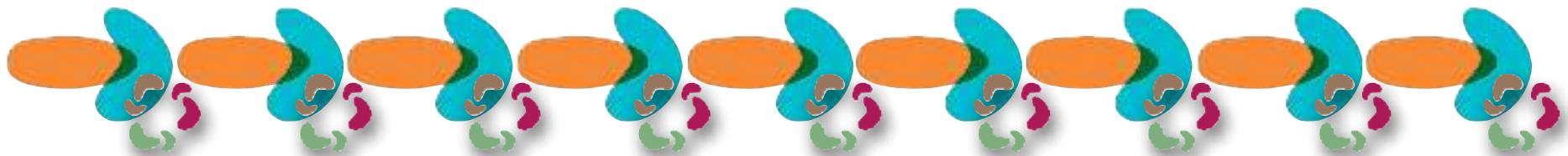


Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture



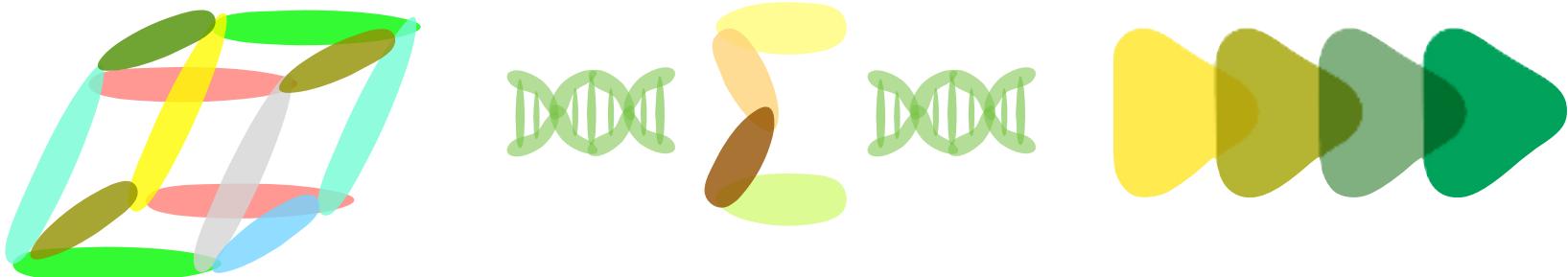


3. Apply Incremental Change





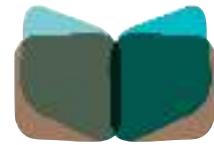
Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture





Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture

Agenda



definition



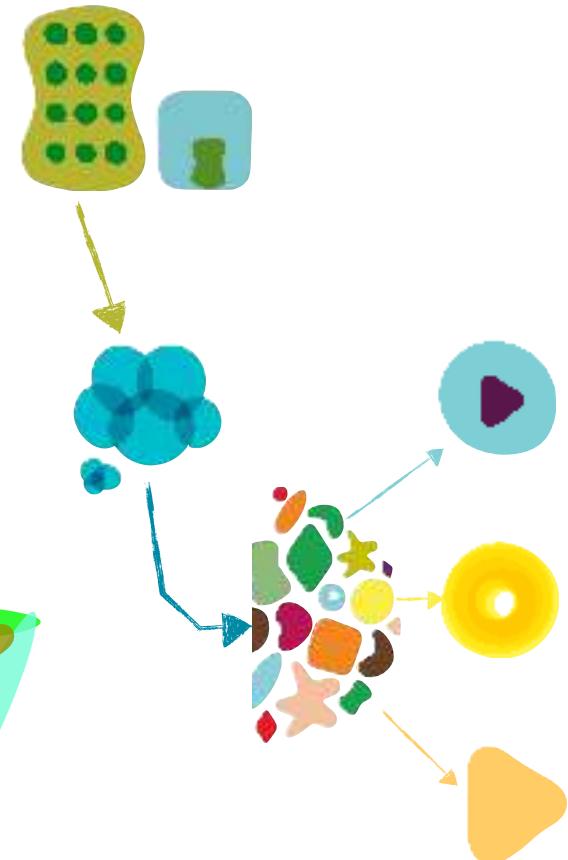
incremental change



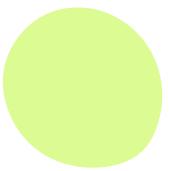
fitness functions



appropriate coupling



*Why should a company
decide to build an
evolutionary architecture?*

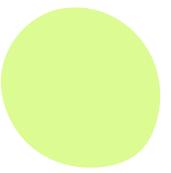


Predictable versus Evolvable Scale

*Why should a company
decide to build an
Isolating “ilities” at the Quantum Level
evolutionary architecture?*

Longer Lasting Useful Systems
Advanced Business Capabilities

*Why should a company
decide to build an
evolutionary architecture?*



Why would a company choose *not* to build an evolutionary architecture?



Can't Evolve a Ball of Mud

Why would a company choose not
Other Architectural Characteristics
to build an evolutionary
Dominant
architecture?

Sacrificial Architecture

Planning on Closing the Business Soon

Predictable versus Evolvable Scale

*Why should a company
decide to build an
Isolating “ilities” at the Quantum Level
evolutionary architecture?*

Longer Lasting Useful Systems
Advanced Business Capabilities



Hypothesis and Data
Driven Development



Move Fast & Fix Things

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL engineering.github.com/2015/12/15/move-fast-and-fix-things.html. The page title is "Move Fast and Fix Things" by "GitHub" on December 15, 2015. The main content discusses technical debt and the importance of merge code in Git.

Move Fast and Fix Things

By GitHub | December 15, 2015

Anyone who has worked on a large enough codebase knows that technical debt is inevitable. As an application grows in size and complexity, the more technical debt it accrues. With GitHub's growth over the last 7 years, we have found plenty of hidden cruft in our codebase that are inevitably below our very best engineering standards. But we also have effective and efficient ways of paying down that technical debt, even in the most active parts of our systems.

At GitHub we're not big about the "feature" we've taken over the years to see in our web application more than 10 million users. In fact, we do quite the opposite: we make sure to constantly study our codebase looking for systems that can be rewritten to be cleaner, simpler and more efficient, and we develop tools and workflows that allow us to perform those rewrite efficiently and safely.

As an example, two weeks ago we replaced one of the most critical code paths in our Infrastructure code that performs merges when you push the `Merge Pull Request`. Although we couldn't prevent these kinds of relocations through our web app, the importance of the merge code makes it an interesting story to demonstrate our workflow.

Merges in Git

We've [talked at length](#) in the past about the merge model that GitHub uses for repositories in our platform and our PostgreSQL offerings. There are many implementation details that may be less well-known in both performance and coverage, but the most relevant one here is the fact that repositories are always *cloneable*.

This means that the actual file in the repository (the one that you would see in your working directory when you clone the repository) is not actually available on disk in our Infrastructure; they are compressed and stored in our [object store](#).

Because of this, performing a merge in a production environment is somewhat unusual. GitHub never [uses rebasing](#), nor the usual merge strategy that you might be used to when using `git merge` to merge two branches in a local repository because the existence of a working tree for the repository, what that file checked out is.

The command we developed in the early days of GitHub for this function is `git merge`, but not particularly elegant. Instead of using the default `git merge--recursive` strategy, we wrote our own merge strategy based on the original one that Git used back in the day (`git merge recursive`). With some tweaking, this strategy can be adapted to not require an explicit checkout of the repository.

To accomplish this, we wrote a shell script to run up a temporary working directory, in

```

def create_merge_commit(base, head, author, commit_message)
  base = resolve_commit(base)
  head = resolve_commit(head)
  commit_message = Rugged::Prettify.message(commit_message)

  merge_base = rugged.merge_base(base, head)
  return nil, "already_merged" if merge_base == head.id

  ancestor_tree = merge_base && Rugged::Commit.tee(rugged, merge_base).tree
  merge_options = {
    :full_indexing => true,
    :index_trees => true,
    :index_renames => true,
  }

  index = base.tree.merge(head.tree, ancestor_tree, merge_options)
  return nil, "merge_conflict" if index.conflicts?

  options = {
    :message => commit_message,
    :committer => author,
    :author => author,
    :parents => [base, head],
    :tree => index.write_tree(rugged),
  }

  rugged.commit.create(options), nil
end

```

```

def create_merge_commit(author, base, head, options = {})
  commit_message = options[:message] || "Merge #{{head}} into #{{base}}"
  now = Time.current

  science "create_merge_commit" do |e|
    e.context[:base] = base.to_s, :head => head.to_s, :repo => repository.repo
    e.use & create_merge_commit_gitiauthor, now, base, head, commit_message
  end
  e.try & create_merge_commit_ruggedauthor, now, base, head, commit_message
end

```



<https://github.com/github/scientist>



```
require "scientist"

class MyWidget
  def allows?(user)
    experiment = Scientist::Default.new "widget-permissions"
    experiment.use { model.check_user?(user).valid? } # old way
    experiment.try { user.can?(:read, model) } # new way

    experiment.run
  end
end
```

- It decides whether or not to run the try block,
- Randomizes the order in which use and try blocks are run,
- Measures the durations of all behaviors,
- Compares the result of try to the result of use,
- Swallows (but records) any exceptions raised in the try block
- Publishes all this information.



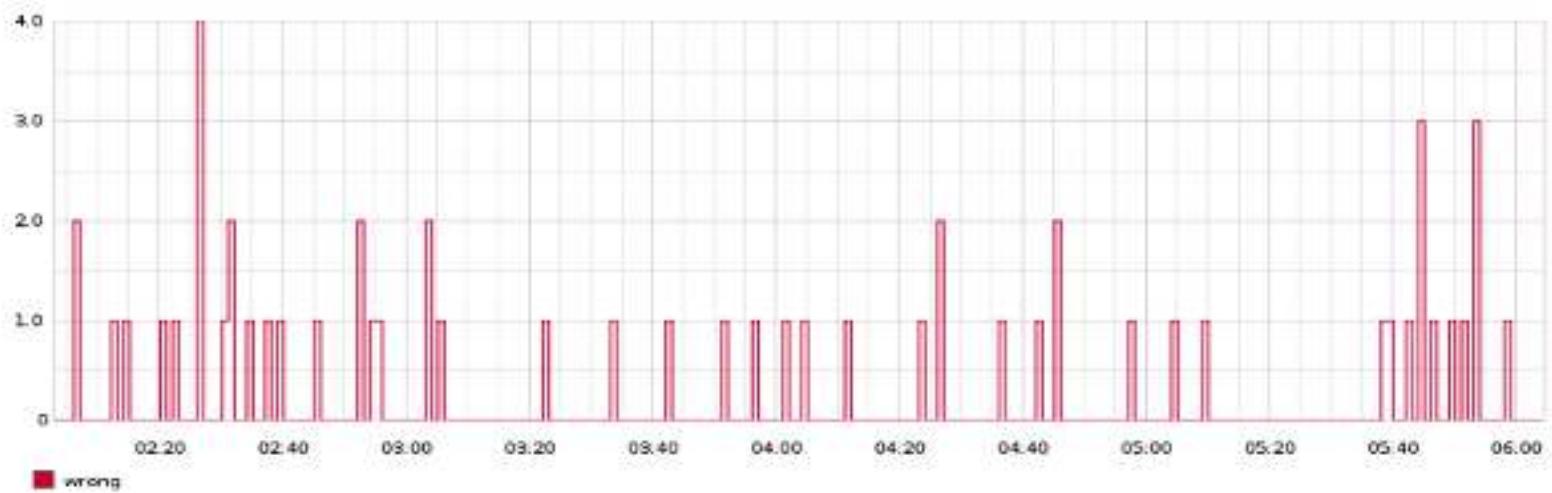
Accuracy

The number of times that the candidate and the control agree or disagree. [View mismatches](#)



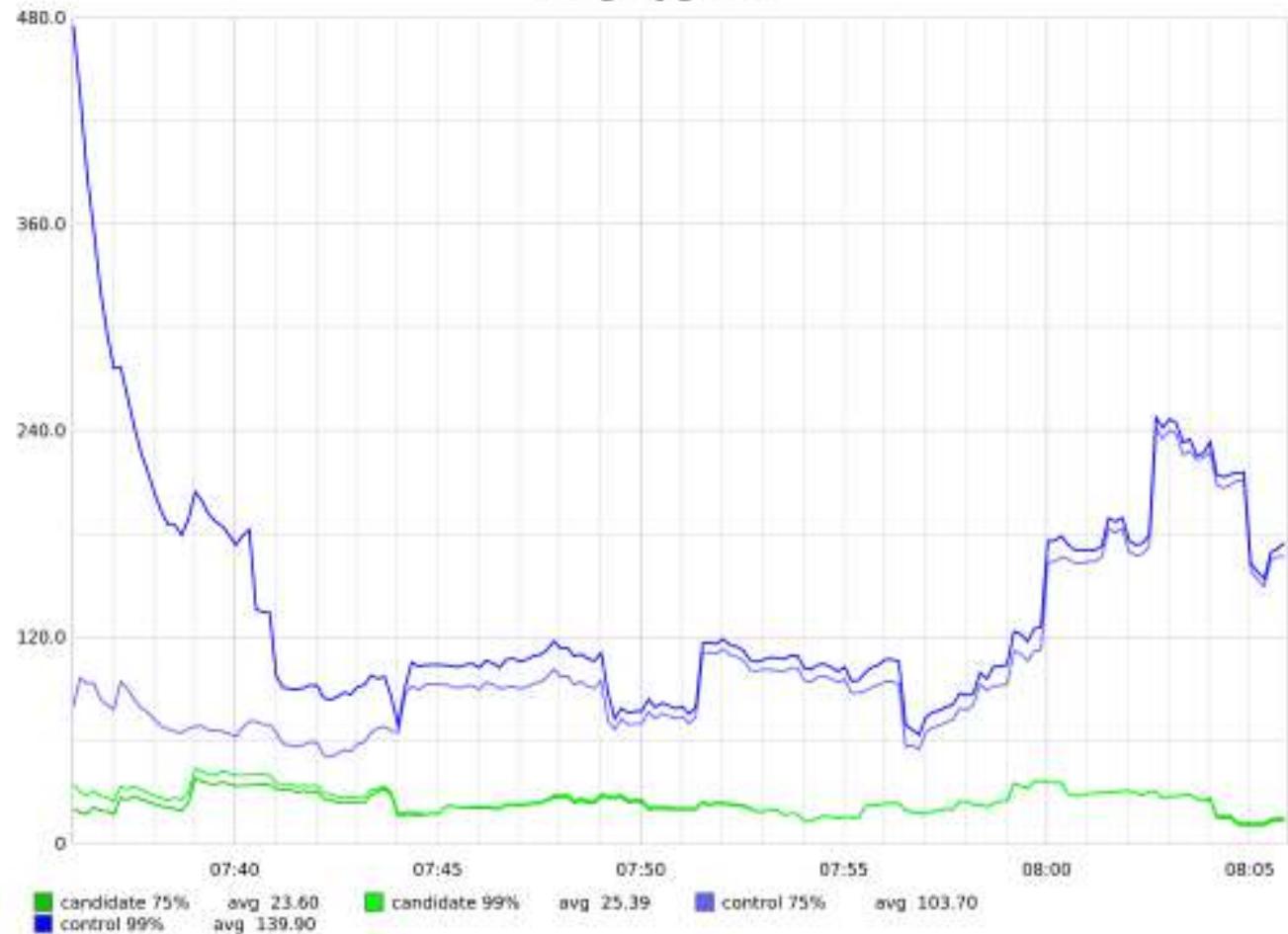


The number of incorrect/ignored city.





create_merge_commit



Bugs Found; Resolution

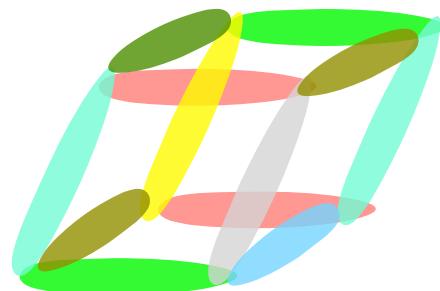
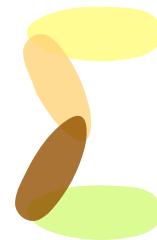
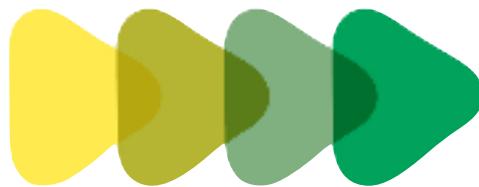
- ❑ faster conflict return because shell script exited immediately; replicated in library
- ❑ index write was causing O(n) problem; inlined into memory
- ❑ the ancestor had a file with a given filemode, whilst one side of the merge had removed the file and the other side had changed the filemode; bug in git!
- ❑ Git incorrectly successfully merged files w/ 768 conflicts; fixed git shell script
- ❑ new library was skipping an entire step; bug found & fixed

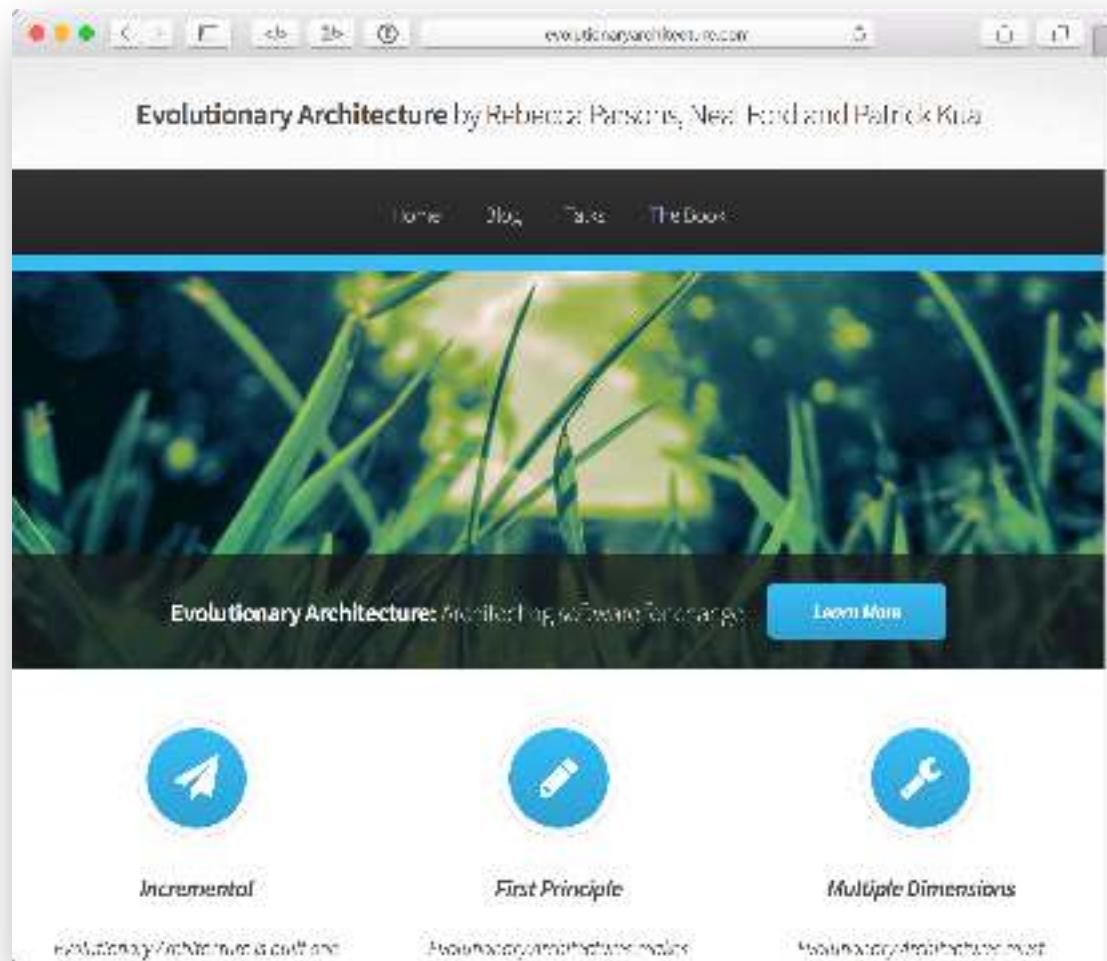


Definition:

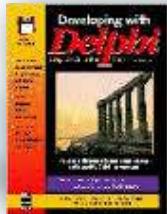
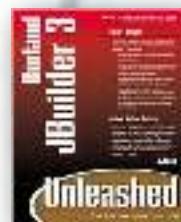
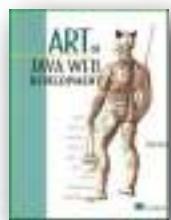
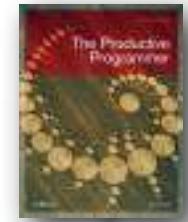
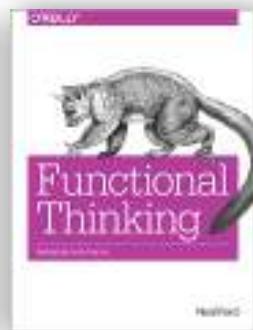
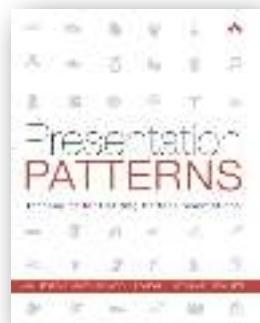
evolutionary architecture

An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.





<http://evolutionaryarchitecture.com>



nealford.com/books

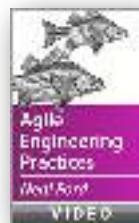


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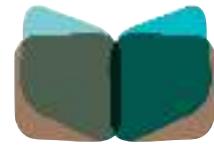
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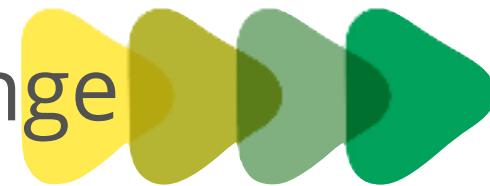
www.oreilly.com/software-architecture-video-training-series.html



Agenda



definition



incremental change



fitness functions



appropriate coupling

