

Technical System Structure: Technology or Enterprise?

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What We Do, Why We Care

- Going to build a system
 - or extend
- All requirements mined
 - Functional requirements
 - Non-Functional Requirements (NFR)





Inventory of Functionality

- Presentation
- Business
- Integration





Deploy-Points

- Backend
- Central
- Peripheral





Structure

- What functionality in which deploy point?
- Presentation, Business, Integration
- Peripheral, Central, Backend





Capabilities

- Makes the difference
- Depend on system as whole
- Performance
- Capacity
- Reliability
- Security
- Extensibility





Capability Trade-off

- Cannot have all
- Architectural transformation
 - give up some of one
 - gain some of other
- Examples
 - Encryption (performance → security)
 - Optimistic locking (reliability → capacity)





Good or Bad?

- Good if fulfils NFRs
- Else: apply transformations



Origin of NFRs

- NFRs defined by business
- Eval driven by business risks
- Ebay *vs* Bank

- Architecture is Good if eliminates business risks





Anything Interesting Yet?





Architecture

- Technical structure of system
- *Structure functionality into components in such a way that all NFRs are fulfilled*
- Requires deep technical knowledge of component technologies



Two Models

- Architecture too big subject
- Restricted discussion
- Technology-based data-flow-architecture
- Enterprise-based abstraction-architectures





Dataflow Architectures



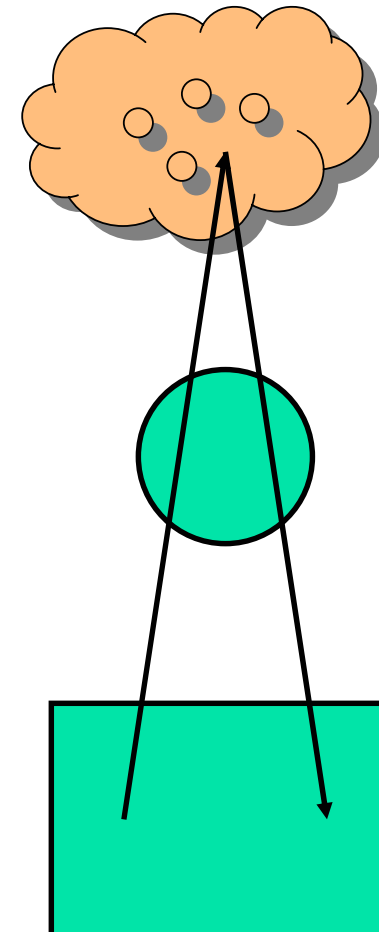


Based on Technology

- We build what we know
- Can be a good choice
 - Fast initial development
- Should be conscious
- Can be result of “design by coincidence”

Typical Realisation

- Data pump in centre
 - *e.g.* Session EJB
 - designed \emptyset -state
- Architectural methods
 - few, load/store-style
- Argument data classes/structs
 - Fat in data
 - Poor in behaviour
- Logic in peripheral deploypoints





Example (Bank)

- Errand system
- Tuxedo backend
- EJB
 - fetchCustomer()
 - updateCustomer()
- Arguments: data graphs
 - CustomerVO, ContactVO, AccountVO
 - Getters/setters
 - Primitives
 - Relations
- GUI
 - Just one account of each type (saving, checking, *etc.*)





Evaluation

- Some scenarios
- Study impact





Scale Capacity

- Buy bigger server
- Cannot scale *one* aspect
 - *e.g.* increase in direct stock buy/sell
- Must scale up “everything”





Business Transaction

- Multi step update
 - Incremental
 - Fast fail (*vs* system state “= reality”)
- System has no concept of constraints
- No protection against inconsistent updates
- Have to pass all data in one call





Non-Trivial Access Control

- Non-trivial
 - not just binary
 - *e.g.* role-based
- Example permissions
 - Cashier: change balance, not create account
 - On-line customer: move money
 - Telephone bank: create account
- System cannot tell them apart





System Integration

- Business constraints enforced in client
- Business constraints enforced in client systems
- Mess





Summary of Capabilities

- Short-term extensibility +
- Scaling -
- Reliability -
- Security -
- Long-term extensibility -





Abstraction Architectures

- All Computer Programmes are Simulations





Abstraction

- Abstract = part of organ
- Abstraction = simplification
- Hides technical realisation
- Model of conceptual understanding





Based on Enterprise

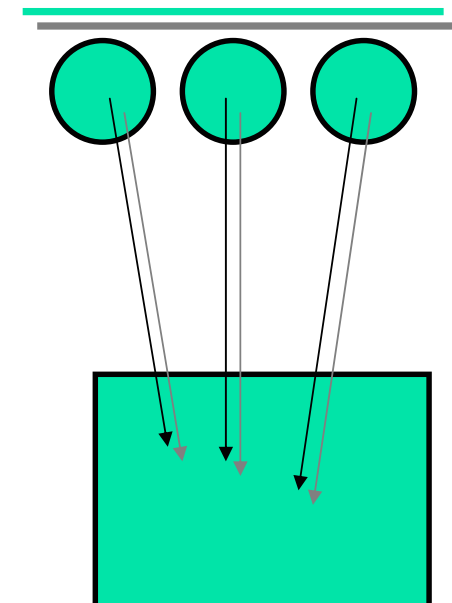
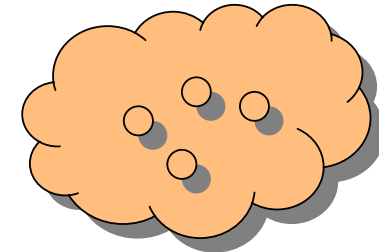
- Models understanding of enterprise
- Hard
 - Very hard
 - Budget for analysis & design

- Tips: Do not spend entire budget at once
 - Save some for later insights



Typical Realisation

- Service components in centre
 - Session EJB
 - State if appropriate
- Argument data object
 - Slim in data
 - Rich in behaviour
- Clear “system border”
- Logic in central deploy-points





Example (Bank)

- Counter Bazaar
- Tuxedo backend
- Session EJBs:
 - AccountManagement
 - MoneyMoving
 - StockDepau
- Arguments: objects
 - Amount, ContactInfo





Evaluation

- Some scenarios
- Study impact





Scale Capacity

- Redeploy popular service
- Separate deploy / clustering
- Can scale up part





Business Transaction

- Constraints inside system
- EJB enforces consistent update
 - Can check *vs* backend
 - Fast fail
- Can span several calls
 - later “finalization”





Non-Trivial Access Control

- Session methods match enterprise events
- Natural place to plug in access control
- Cashier: change balance, not create account
- On-line customer: move money
- Telephone bank: create account



System Integration

- Business constraints enforced in system
- Client systems must build calls
- Easy to publish for integration
- (Web Services hype is about integration)





Summary of Capabilities

- Short-term extensibility -
- Scaling +
- Reliability +
- Security +
- Long-term extensibility +





Getting It Done





Myth of Doing It Right

- “Can’t afford to re-implement”
 - Can afford to keep it?
- “We’ll schedule a redesign later”
 - Not a show-stopper
- “Next system”
 - Trade-offs will be same
- “If it works, don’t touch it”
 - “works”?





Migrating the Structure

- New Session EJBs publish business method
- Uses tech-oriented function
- Change client code one-by-one
- (Some time might pass)
- Hide tech-oriented function





Problem En Route

- Long parameter lists
 - Lift business tier functionality
- Bloated Session EJBs
 - Splitting sessions





Lifting the Business Tier

- Get validation out of there
- Rich data objects
 - "business logic value object"
 - Date, CurrencyCode
 - SupplierCode, PhoneNumber
- Struts/JSF
 - actions create objects
 - Validation (form/validator)
 - Static Amount.wellformed(String)





Splitting Sessions

- Doing-it-all-session
- Draw state diagram
- If state have several “aspects” – split
- Split
 - externally – two Session EJBs
 - internally – two internal states: same EJB



Trade-offs

- Early in system
 - Speed-of-development important
- Late in system
 - Other capabilities important
- Maturing systems/components
 - Trend
 - More enterprise based
 - Less tech based





Conclusions

- Architecture is technology
- Tech architectures often fast
- Business architectures often better
- Can go from one to the other





Anything Interesting at All?





Stonecutters' Guild

- We, who cut mere stone, must always envision cathedrals

