Book Search and Purchasing Subsystem - Amazon.com

Fundamentals of Software Design: CS374

Antoine Gaton

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# Introduction

This document presents a detailed analysis of Amazon.com's book search and purchasing subsystem architecture and component design. The analysis focuses on the architectural principles, patterns, and implementation details that make Amazon's book platform highly scalable and user-friendly. Through reverse engineering and observation of the system's behavior, we identify key architectural decisions and their implications.

# Design Principles

## Design Principle

* **Separation of Concerns (SoC)**
  + **Design Principle**: The system implements clear Separation of Concerns, a fundamental principle where different aspects of the software are separated into distinct sections.
  + **Reason and Justification**:
    - Reduces coupling between different parts of the system
    - Improves maintainability and scalability
    - Allows different teams to work independently
    - Make testing and debugging easier
  + **Example**: Amazon's book subsystem demonstrates SoC through:
    - Independent search functionality that works without user authentication
    - Separate handling of product catalogs and inventory management
    - Distinct separation between shopping cart functionality and payment processing
    - Clear division between user reviews and book metadata

# Architectural Styles

## Architectural Style

* **Microservices Architecture**
  + *Style*: The system employs a microservices architectural pattern.
  + *Reason and Justification*:
    - Enables independent deployment and scaling of services
    - Provides better fault isolation
    - Allow different services to use different technologies
    - Supports high availability through service redundancy
  + *Example*: The book subsystem demonstrates microservices through:
    - Independent book search service
    - Separate shopping cart service
    - Standalone review service
    - Independent recommendation engine
    - Distinct payment processing service

# Key Scenarios

## Key Scenario 1

* **Book Search and Details**
  + *Reason*: Essential entry point for users to discover and evaluate books.
  + *Justification*:
    - Critical for user engagement
    - Drives conversion rates
    - Enables informed purchase decisions
    - Supports multiple search patterns
  + *Use-Case Diagram*

A diagram of a book search system

Description automatically generated

## Key Scenario 2

* **Book Purchase Process**
  + *Reason*: Essential entry point for users to discover and evaluate books.
  + *Justification*:
    - Critical for user engagement
    - Drives conversion rates
    - Enables informed purchase decisions
    - Supports multiple search patterns
  + *Use-Case Diagram*

A diagram of a purchase system

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# Logical View of Architecture

## List of Packages (and Components)

1. BookCatalog
   * Manages book metadata and inventory
   * Handles book information updates
2. UserManagement
   * Handles authentication and authorization
   * Manages user profiles and preferences
3. SearchService
   * Processes search queries
   * Manages search indexing
   * Handles result filtering
4. ShoppingCart
   * Manages cart operations
   * Handles session management
   * Processes cart updates
5. OrderProcessing
   * Manages order workflow
   * Handles order status updates
   * Processes fulfillment requests
6. PaymentService
   * Processes payments
   * Handles payment security
   * Manage payment methods

## The UML Package Diagram

A diagram of a diagram

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## Brief Discussion

The package diagram illustrates the high-level organization of the system, showing clear dependencies between major components. The SearchService package acts as a central component for book discovery, while OrderProcessing coordinates the purchase workflow. The diagram demonstrates loose coupling between packages, allowing for independent scaling and maintenance.

# Component-Level Design for the Chosen Package

## List of Components

1. SearchEngine
   * Core search functionality
   * Query processing
   * Result ranking
2. BookIndexer
   * Index management
   * Content indexing
   * Index updates
3. FilterManager
   * Search filter handling
   * Category management
   * Price range filtering
4. ResultsCache
   * Cache management
   * Performance optimization
   * Cache invalidation
5. SearchAPI
   * External interface
   * Request for handling
   * Response formatting

## The UML Component Diagram

A screenshot of a computer

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# References

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