C1 - Context

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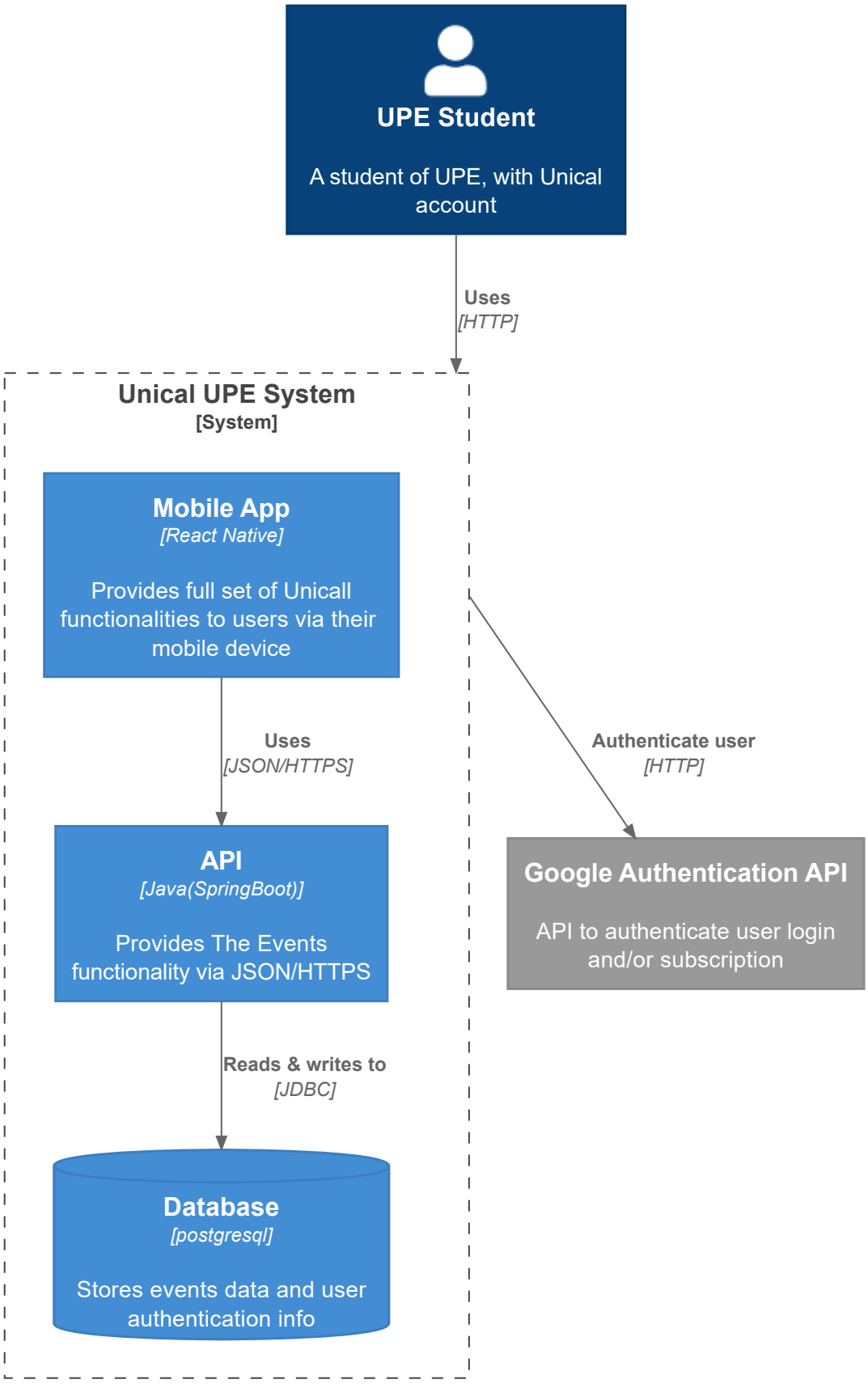

Legend

- person
- system
- container
- external person
- external system
- external container

Level 2: Container diagram

Once you understand how your system fits in to the overall IT environment, a really useful next step is to zoom-in to the system boundary with a Container diagram. A "container" is something like a server-side web application, single-page application, desktop application, mobile app, database schema, file system, etc. Essentially, a container is a separately runnable/deployable unit (e.g. a separate process space) that executes code or stores data.

The Container diagram shows the high-level shape of the software architecture and how responsibilities are distributed across it. It also shows the major technology choices and how the containers communicate with one another. It's a simple, high-level technology focussed diagram that is useful for software developers and support/operations staff alike.

Scope: A single software system.

Primary elements: Containers within the software system in scope. Supporting elements: People and software systems directly connected to the containers.

Intended audience: Technical people inside and outside of the software development team; including software architects, developers and operations/support staff.

Notes: This diagram says nothing about deployment scenarios, clustering, replication, failover, etc.