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**Case Study: Strangler Pattern at BlackBoard Learn (2011) Summary**

The case study in our reading, Strangler Pattern at Blackboard Learn (2011), covered Blackboard’s adoption of a microservice-based culture to replace their existing monolithic system. The chief architect at the time, David Ashman, gave his insight on the transition and how they benefited from it. After seeing a visualization of the impact that tightly coupled architecture was having on their productivity, Ashman put his focus toward rebuilding. The team accomplished a “strangler fig” style reconstruction by creating Building Blocks. These building blocks were modules separated from the main codebase and accessed via API calls. This allowed developers to work in isolation without interfering with the global system and without constant required communication. The team vastly preferred working in these modules because they weren’t bogged down by the fear of damaging anything. Eventually, the Building Blocks repository outgrew the main codebase. In a revisit to the team’s productivity, the new system showed a large growth in both number of lines of code and number of code commits. Ultimately, the team became more productive by working with more independence and safety.

Works Cited

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