The pros and cons of the Strangler architecture pattern

https://www.redhat.com/en/blog/pros-and-cons-strangler-architecture-pattern

As you browse redhat.com, we'll recommend resources you may like. For now, try these.

Share

Having a grasp of common architectural patterns is essential to designing software architecture at scale. Using them saves not only time but also ensures a reliable implementation of your design. There?s no need to reinvent the wheel when there?s an architectural pattern available that applies to an architecture you?re developing.

[Download An architect's guide to multicloud infrastructure to explore important considerations for a variety of modern cloud architectures.]

The following is a brief overview of the Strangler architectural pattern.

The Strangler pattern is one in which an ?old? system is put behind an intermediary facade. Then, over time external replacement services for the old system are added behind the facade.

The facade represents the functional entry points to the existing system. Calls to the old system pass through the facade. Behind the scenes, services within the old system are refactored into a new set of services. Once a new service is operational, the intermediary facade is modified to route calls that used to go to the service on the old system to the new service. Eventually, the services in the old system get "strangled" in favor of the new services.

Pros

Cons

[Read more: How to architect intelligent automation using the Strangler pattern: A real-world example.]

One of the ongoing challenges in architecture design and implementation is transformation risk. Any change to an existing system can result in unanticipated hazards. The Strangler pattern provides increment transformation to a system and reduces larger systemic risk to smaller, discrete episodes

of change. Taking small risks to achieve a goal is always better than taking a large one. Small failures are easier to remedy than large ones, hence the essential benefit of the Strangler pattern.

Bob Reselman is a nationally known software developer, system architect, industry analyst, and technical writer/journalist. Over a career that spans 30 years, Bob has worked for companies such as Gateway, Cap Gemini, The Los Angeles Weekly, Edmunds.com and the Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, to name a few. He has held roles with significant responsibility, including but not limited to, Platform Architect (Consumer) at Gateway, Principal Consultant with Cap Gemini and CTO at the international trade finance company, ItFex.

The latest on IT automation for tech, teams, and environments

Updates on the platforms that free customers to run AI workloads anywhere

Explore how we build a more flexible future with hybrid cloud

The latest on how we reduce risks across environments and technologies

Updates on the platforms that simplify operations at the edge

The latest on the world?s leading enterprise Linux platform

Inside our solutions to the toughest application challenges

Entertaining stories from the makers and leaders in enterprise tech

We?re the world?s leading provider of enterprise open source solutions?including Linux, cloud, container, and Kubernetes. We deliver hardened solutions that make it easier for enterprises to work across platforms and environments, from the core datacenter to the network edge.