Jordany Gonzalez

Mrs. Sampson

CSD 380

Module Assignment 6.2 Strangler Pattern at Blackboard Learn (2011)

The Strangler Fig Pattern was used by Blackboard Learn in 2011 to help update their old Learning Management System (LMS) without shutting everything down at once. At the time, Blackboard Learn had a huge, monolithic system that was difficult to manage, update, and scale. Instead of completely replacing the system in one go, which would have been risky and time-consuming, the developers decided to slowly add new features and services as separate modules. Over time, these new pieces took over the functions of the old system, “strangling” it like a fig tree wraps around another tree until it took its place. This method allowed Blackboard to keep running smoothly while transitioning to a more modern and efficient system.

One of the biggest lessons from this case study is that replacing a legacy system all at once can be dangerous and disruptive. By using the Strangler Fig Pattern, Blackboard was able to avoid downtime, reduce risk, and make improvements step by step. This also made it easier to test and refine new features before fully relying on them. Another key takeaway is that breaking a large system into smaller, manageable parts makes future maintenance and updates much simpler. Overall, this case study shows how companies can modernize outdated software without causing major problems for users.

Work Cited:

Kim, G., Debois, P., Willis, J., & Humble, J. (2016). *The DevOps Handbook: How to Create World-Class Agility, Reliability, and Security in Technology Organizations*. https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3044729