

Journey to DDD:

through the land of Dungeons, Dragons and Daemons

Piotr Brych @





"Campfire" by anndr on deviantart

Let's get to know
each other

How many of you know
what DDD means?

How many of you know
what DDD means?

How many of you used
DDD in a production app?

How many of you know
what DDD means?

How many of you used
DDD in a production app?

How many of you is
constantly using it?

How I see myself



How DDD masters would see me





There!





"Magic: the Gathering - Arcane Endeavor" By [JustynaGil](#) on deviantart





DDD

DDD

what does it stand for?

DDD

what does it stand for?

Dungeons & Dragons

fantasy tabletop role-playing game (RPG) first published in 1974

Daemon

a computer program that runs as a background process

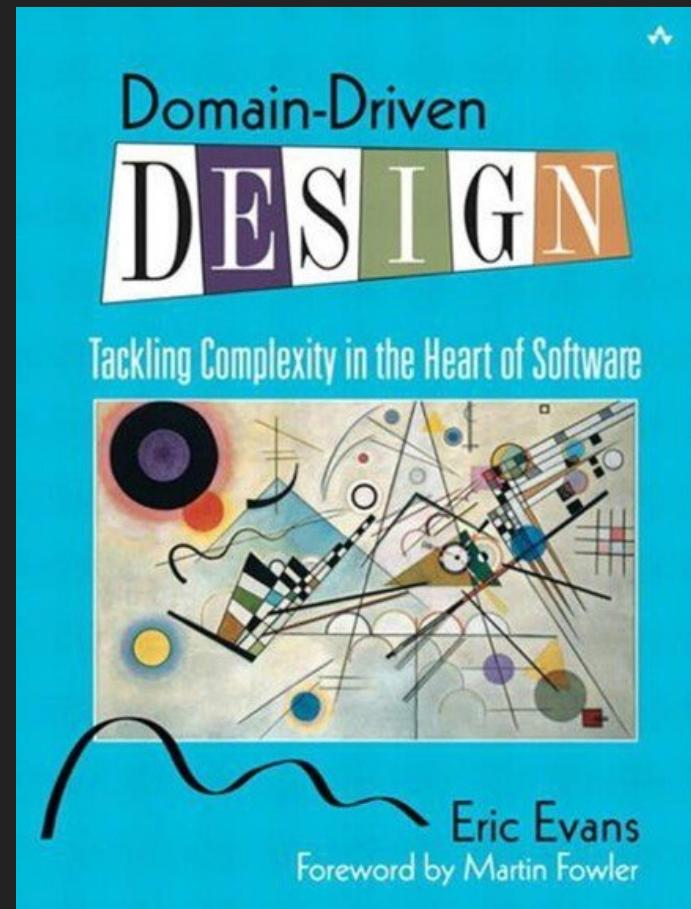


GOT YA!

Although technically
it could be true...

Domain-Driven Design

term coined by Eric Evans, and used as a title of his book from 2003



Domain-Driven Design

way of designing software
systems with a special focus
on the **domain knowledge**
instead of technical aspects

exact implementation

~~exact implementation~~

~~exact implementation~~

building blocks

~~-exact implementation~~

building blocks

patterns to reuse

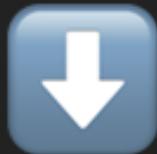
The Holy Grail



Source: https://onceuponatime.fandom.com/wiki/Holy_Grail

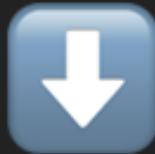
Domain Model

Domain Model



extra concepts

Domain Model



extra concepts



business
breakthroughs

How to get to the
Grail, you ask?



"Campfire" by anndr on deviantart

Wisdom





Global App Testing

domain

functional testing by using crowd of
testers

We're going to build
a new castle



Photo by [Felix](#) on Unsplash

Wait, but what's
wrong with the old
one?

Not scalable enough

New campaign:
flexible testing

Act 1

Into the Darkness



"You must gather your party before venturing forth."





LET'S GET THIS
PARTY
ROLLING.

Foundations

Foundations

- common understanding

Foundations

- common understanding
- divide the project into subparts

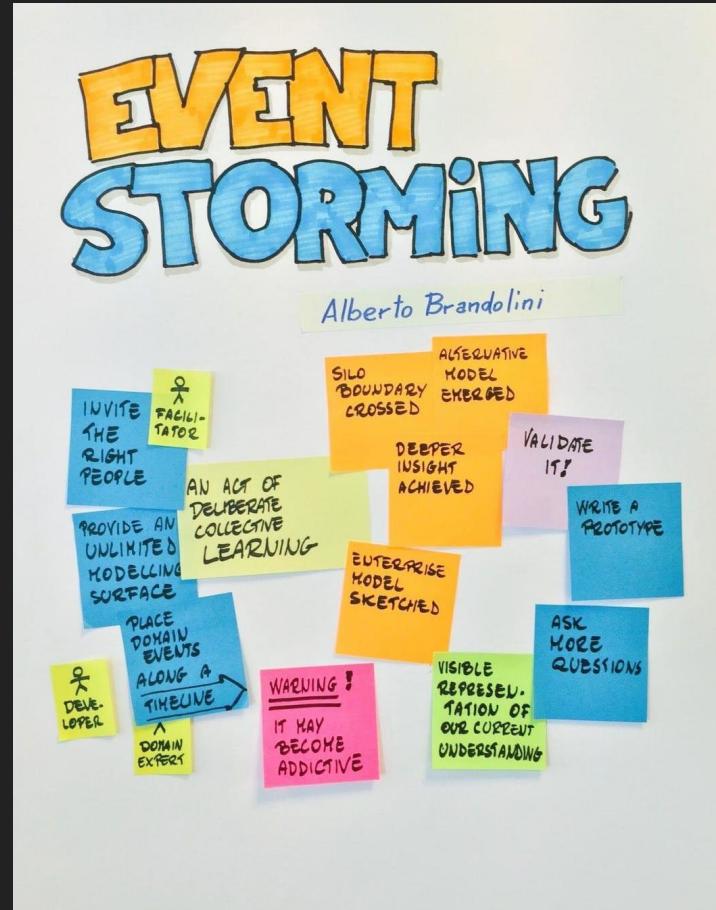
Foundations

- common understanding
- divide the project into subparts
 - boundaries of MVP

First quest:
Big Picture Event
Storming

Event Storming

- emerged around 2015, created by Alberto Brandolini
- workshop format for collaborative exploration of complex business domains
- book is not finished :)





"mines of Moria" by Gellihana-art on deviantart

Our weapons

Business
event

Hot
spot

The darkness of
unknowns



Domain experts
might also not know



Domain experts
might also not know

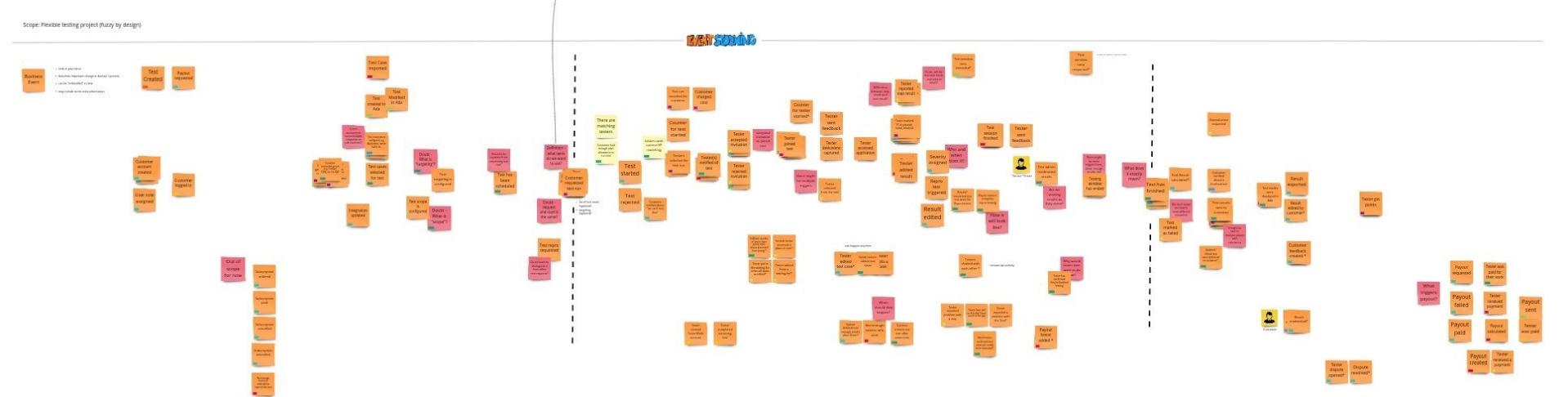
and that's ok

Be explicit about the
unknowns - mark it
with a **hot spot note**

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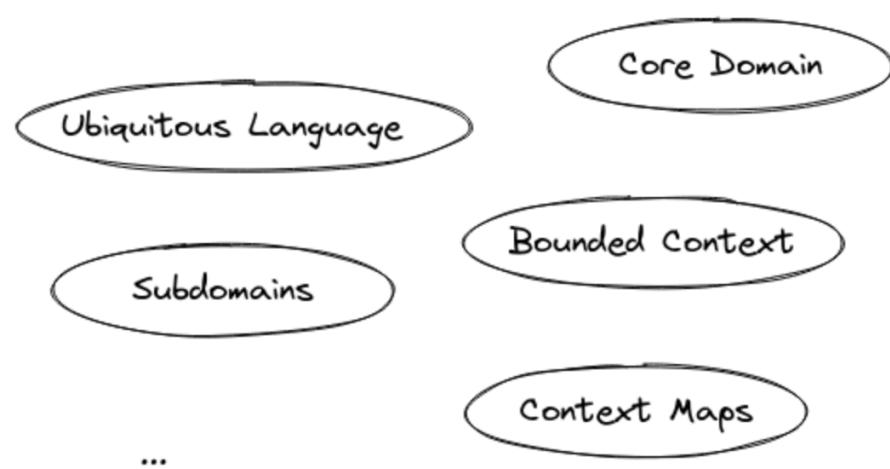
and address it later, don't fall into the
rabbit hole

First exploration

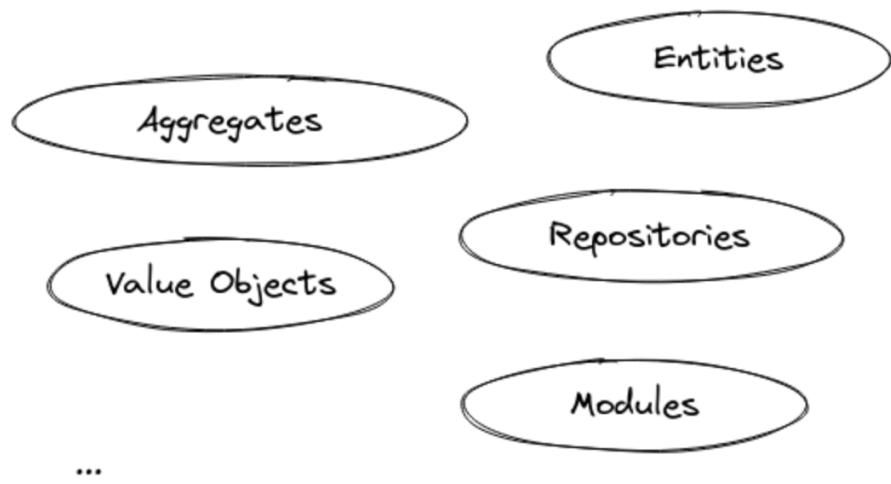


Strategic vs Tactical DDD

Strategic DDD

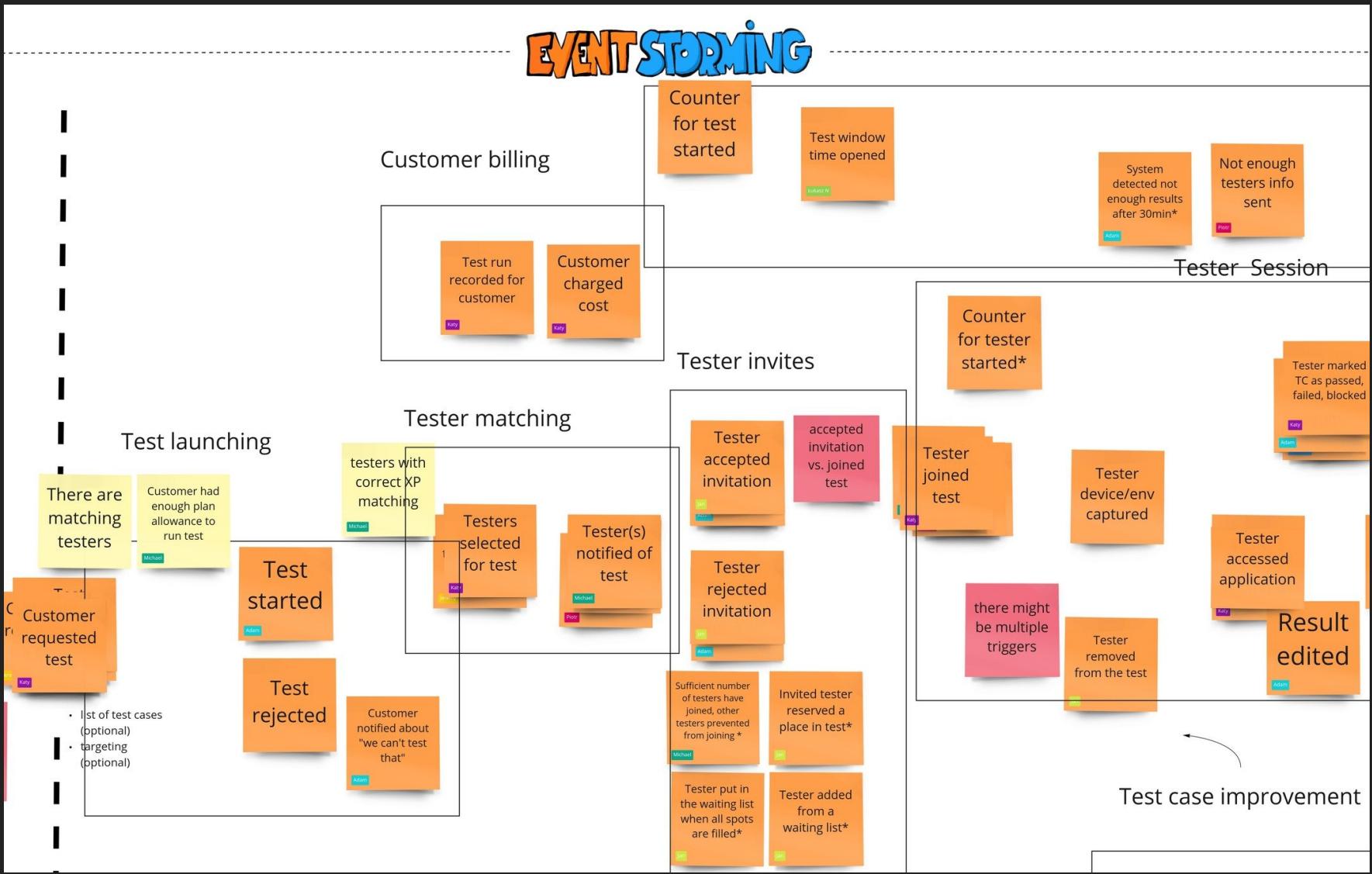


Tactical DDD

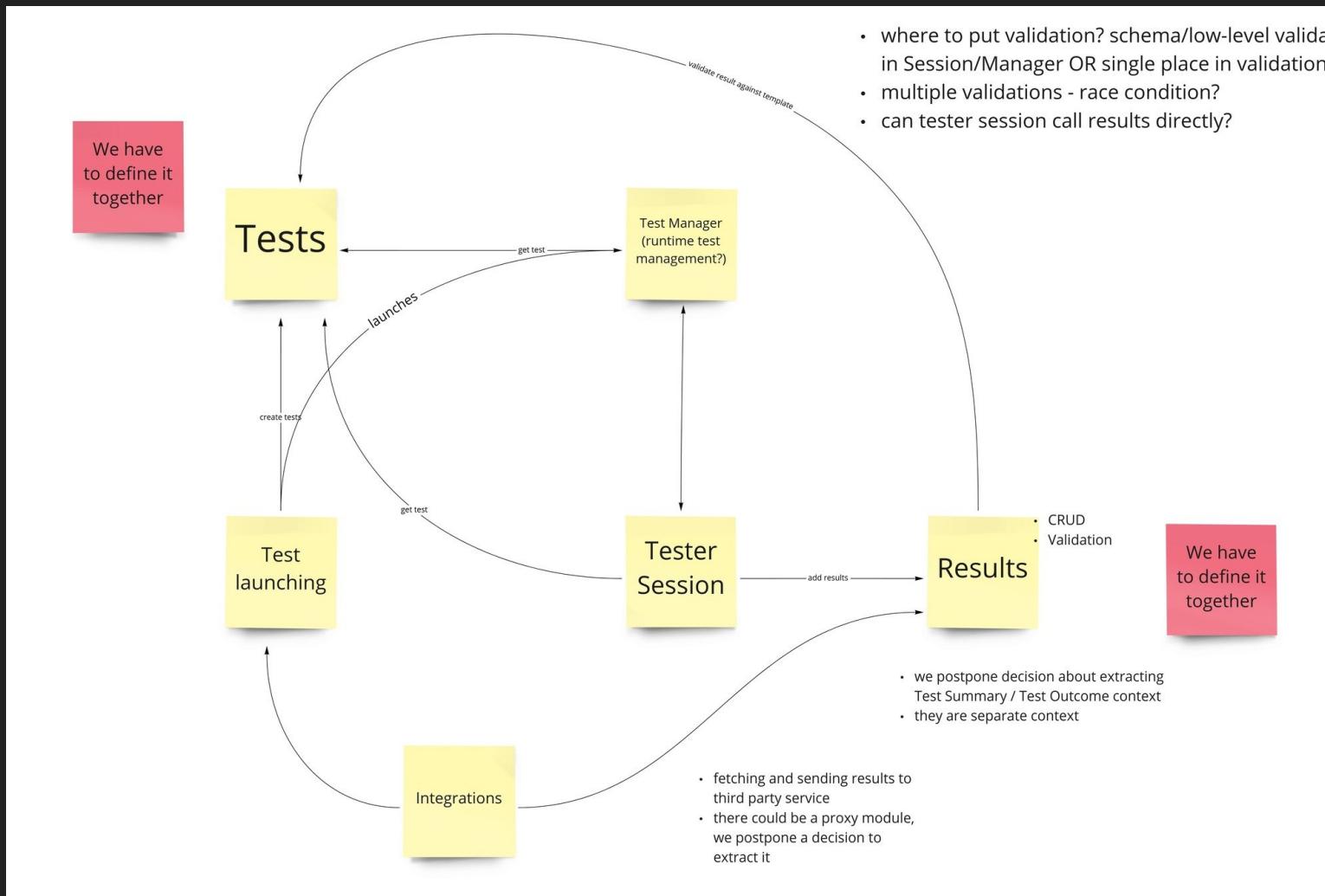


Next step - module
discovery

Going deeper



Treasure

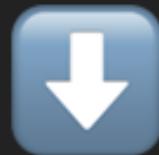




"The Blacksmith" by

Michele Frigo on CGsociety

conceptual clarity



technical choices

Some of choices

1. Using Rails engine for separation
2. Contexts organized into isolated modules
3. Modules communicating via classes under **Api** namespace, eg.
tests/api/test.rb,
integrations/api/request.rb

More about choices



GAT Engineering Blog

<https://gat.engineering>

Document your
choices

Document your choices

You will be coming back to it in the times
of doubt



Great tool for storing such decisions - Architecture Decision Record (ADR)



Great tool for storing such decisions - Architecture Decision Record (ADR)

Good source to start -
<https://adr.github.io/>

Act 2

Ride the Lightening



Source: <https://www.wargamer.com/dnd/lost-mine-of-phandelver>

+ Implementation
+ Insight
+ Requirements

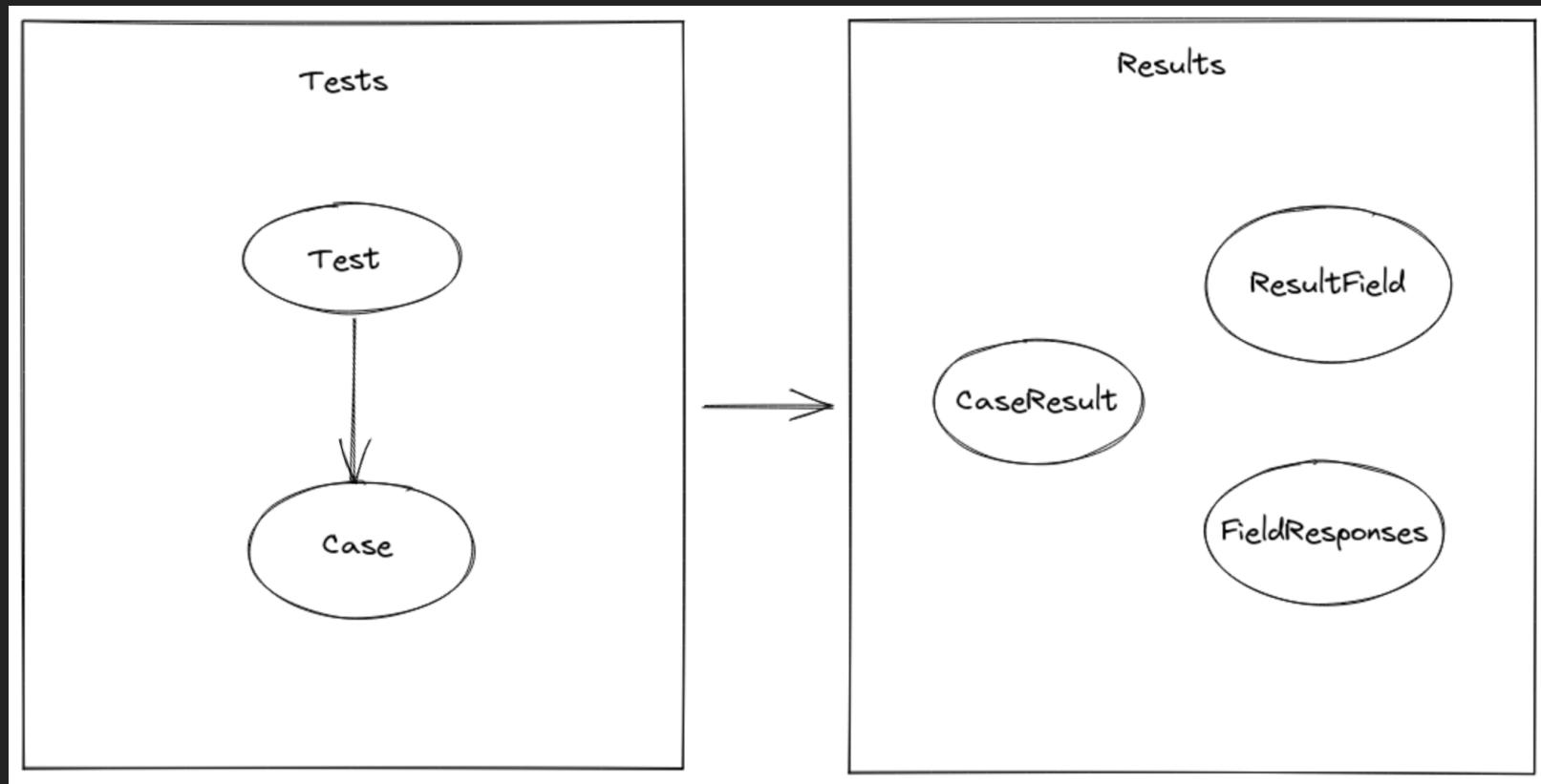
= Monsters

Evil Twins



"The Matrix Reloaded" (2003)

Tests & Results



Data used together

1. Testers - results + test and case
2. Customers - results + test and case
3. Results exported - some test and case
data needed

Pain

- overhead of fetching data from two places
- a need to provide for batch fetching to prevent n+1

High coupling of the modules

Solution

Fusion





Succubus



"Succubus" by Tira-Owl on deviantart



Succubus

(a.k.a. ActiveRecord)

"Succubus" by [Tira-Owl](#) on deviantart

Isn't ActiveRecord just
amazing?

- Keep all your models in one place -
`/app/models` is cozy place for everything

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- Access any model you want from any place in your app, why wouldn't you?

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`/app/models` is cozy place for everything
- Access any model you want from any place in your app, why wouldn't you?
- Traverse your models as you see fit, and then just update what you need

It's beautiful

It's evil

What DDD tells us to
do?

- Divide application into independent modules that own their data

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- Access your data through specified classes which keep state rules for trees of objects

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- Access your data through specified classes which keep state rules for trees of objects
- Separate interfaces for command and query, to limit side-effects of the code

Solution



Keep AR models in the
corresponding modules

```
gat-app
└── app
    └── models
        └── ...
└── packages
    └── flexible_testing
        └── lib
            └── flexible_testing
                ├── attachments
                └── models
                    └── attachment.rb
                └── issues
                    └── models
                        ├── issue.rb
                        └── issue_tag.rb
```



Separate read and write models

```
module FlexibleTesting
  class ActiveRecord < ActiveRecord::Base
    self.abstract_class = true
  end
end

module FlexibleTesting
  class ReadOnlyRecord < FlexibleTesting::ApplicationRecord
    self.abstract_class = true

    def readonly?
      true
    end
  end
end
```

```
# Used for queries
module FlexibleTesting
  module TestManager
    module Api
      module Models
        class TestWindow < ReadOnlyRecord
          ...
        end
      end
    end
  end
end
```

```
# Used for commands
module FlexibleTesting
  module TestManager
    module Models
      class TestWindow < ApplicationRecord
        ...
      end
    end
  end
end
```



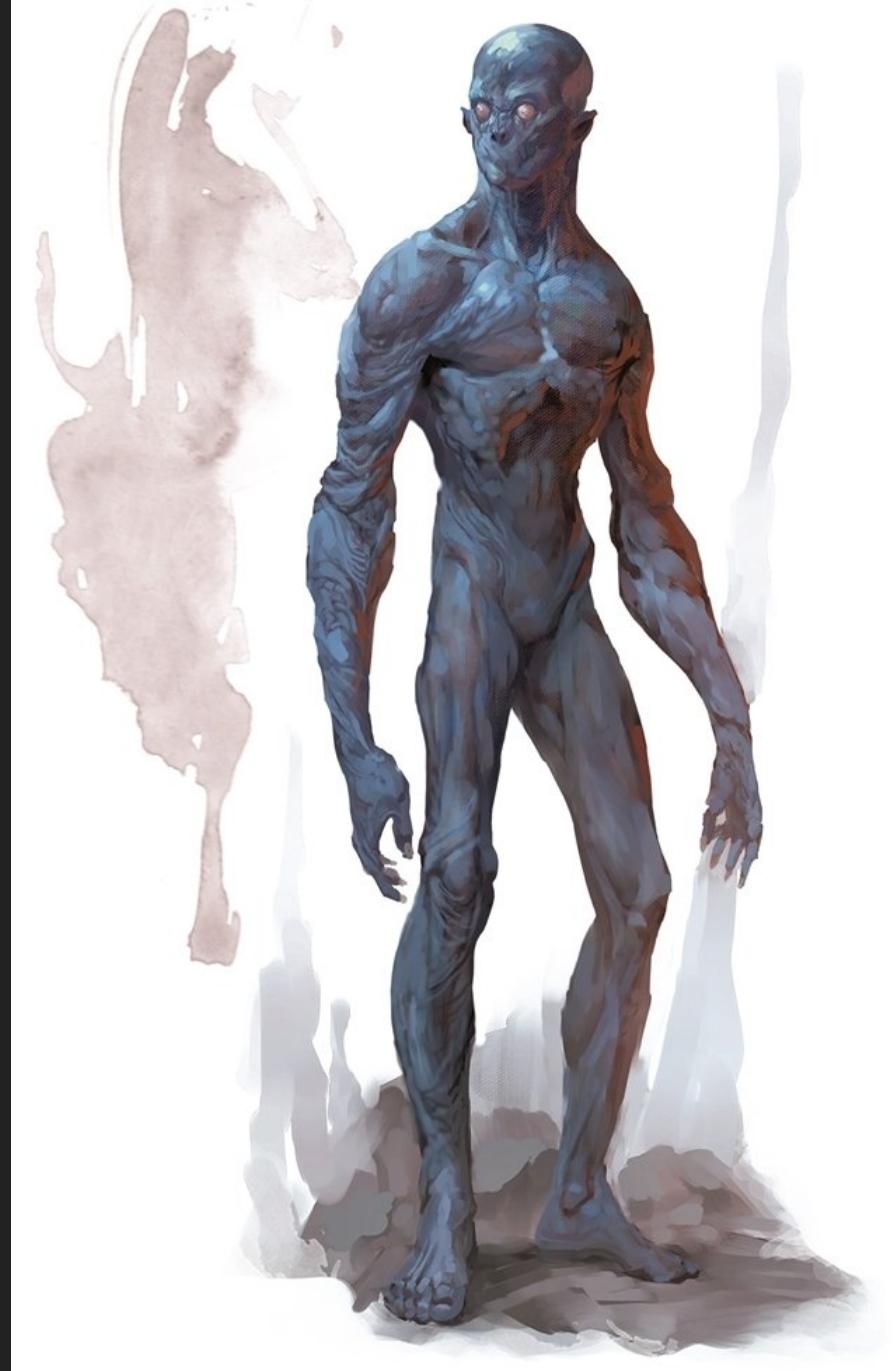
Pass ids or Data Transfer
Objects instead of AR
models

```
module FlexibleTesting
  module Tests
    module Api
      class Test
        class << self
          # ...
          # @return [Dry::Monads::Result<FlexibleTesting::Tests::Api::DTO::Test, ...] 
          #       Test as DTO in case of success, or Failure object
          def create(params)
            FlexibleTesting::Tests::Tests::Actions::Create.call(params: params)
          end
        end
      end
    end
  end
end

module FlexibleTesting
  module Tests
    module Api
      module DTO
        class Test < TestParams
          attribute :id, Types::UUID
          attribute :spec, TestSpec
          attribute :cases, Types::Array.of(Case)
        end
      end
    end
  end
end
```



Doppelganger



Source: <https://www.dndbeyond.com/monsters/doppelganger>

Ubiquitous Languague

Ubiquitous Language

One of key concepts of DDD

Ubiquitous Language

One of key concepts of DDD

Communication is the key

Ubiquitous Language

One of key concepts of DDD

Communication is the key

Shared language for
people and code

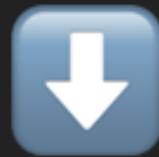
Some terms change
their meaning

Some terms change
their meaning

without warning

flexible testing

flexible testing



SaaS platform

flexible testing



SaaS platform



On-Demand platform

Test

Test

Test Run

Test

Test Run

= the same?

Ubiquitous Language?

Solution

Solution

(in progress)



Keep discipline in the
vocabulary



Keep discipline in the
vocabulary

Discussions - language
needs adjustments?



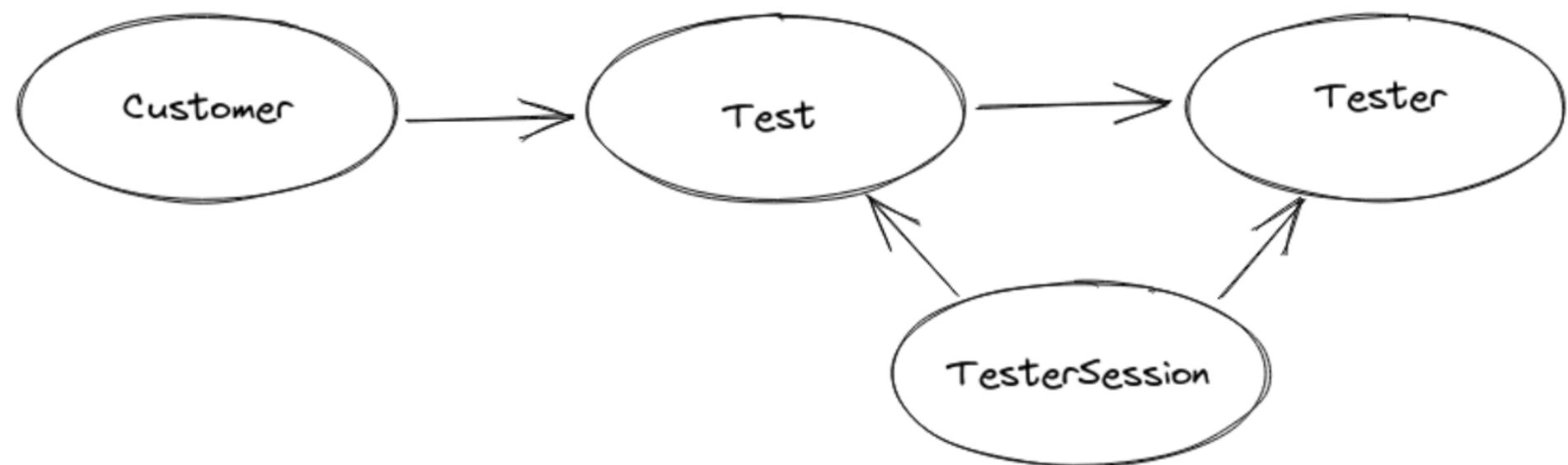
Dragon



"The red dragon" by Agnieszka Kwiecińska on artstation

New requirement
revealing a concept
that does not fit our
current design

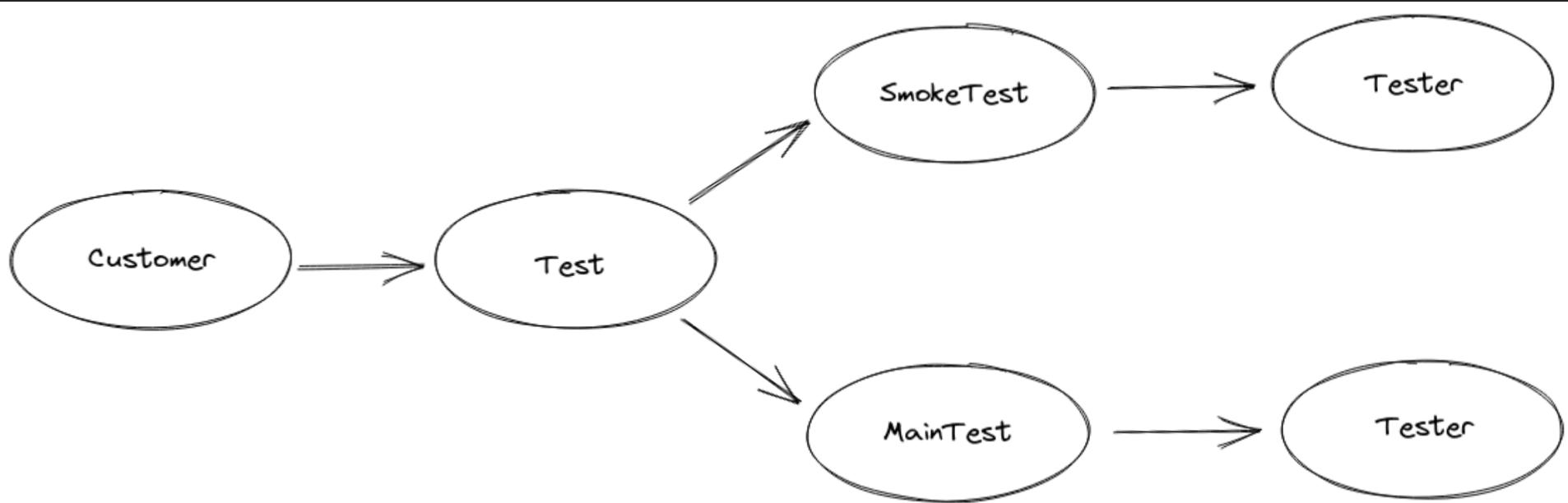
Current flow



New requirements

1. Before the actual test there will be a "smoke test"
2. "Smoke test" will consist of fixed, simple instructions (check entrypoint, log in)
3. If "smoke test" fails, the actual test will not be executed

Option 1

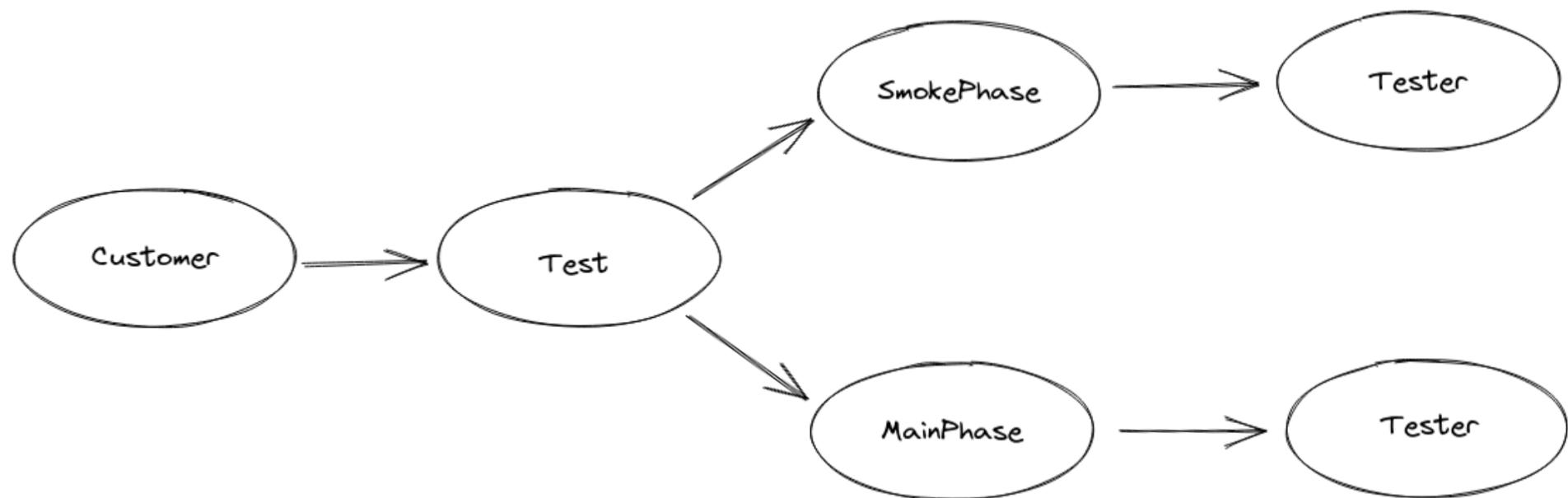


Problems

Test != Test

Test has many Tests

Option 2



Problems

Tester solves "Phases", not
"Tests"

TesterSession relies on
test_id + tester_id

Cracks in the model

- model needs
adjustments

At the same time...

Possible reward -
Deeper Model

Solution

Solution

(in progress)



Be brave - adjust your
domain model



Be brave - adjust your
domain model

Look for a deeper model

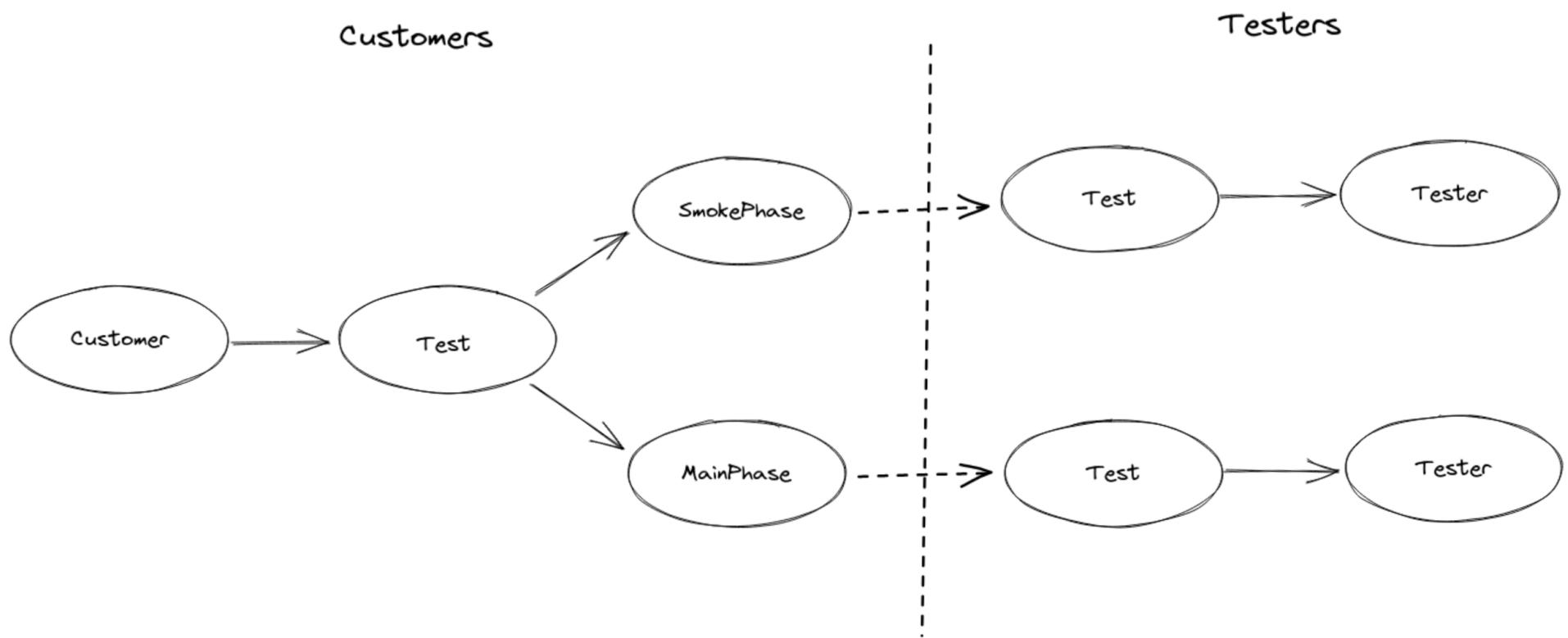
Bounded Context

Ubiquitous Language is
limited to a Bounded Context

In two Bounded Contexts
terms can have different
meaning

Deeper Model

possibly





<http://lanaluu.deviantart.com/>
<http://alanaluu.tumblr.com/>

"The Kill" by Lanaluu on deviantart

Act 3

Act 3

What's next

Winter is coming

Winter is coming
and we are preparing

Retrospect

Retrospect

yearly revisions, to learn
from mistakes

Spread knowledge

Spread knowledge

bookclub for ancient
manuscript of Eric Evans

Iiterate

I^{terate}

yet another Event Storming,
after all the gathered insight

Is it worth it?

Yes!

clarity

encapsulated
responsibilities

visible dependencies

clear extension points

Next adventure awaits



Source: <https://www.dndbeyond.com/sources/lmop>

wanna join?



Global App Testing

We're hiring!



Global App Testing

<https://gat.engineering>

for the blog and open positions

Thank you!

-  <https://twitter.com/PedroTheCurious>
-  <https://github.com/bryszard>

Piotr Brych @



Q&A