



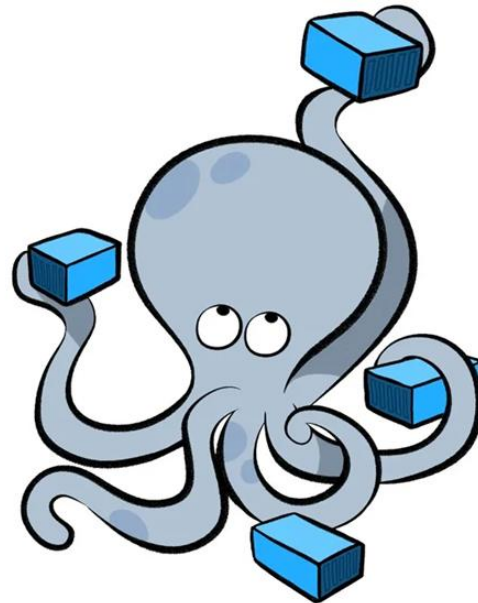
MICROSERVICES AND DOCKER COMPOSE

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Advanced Software Engineering (Lab)
24/10/2025

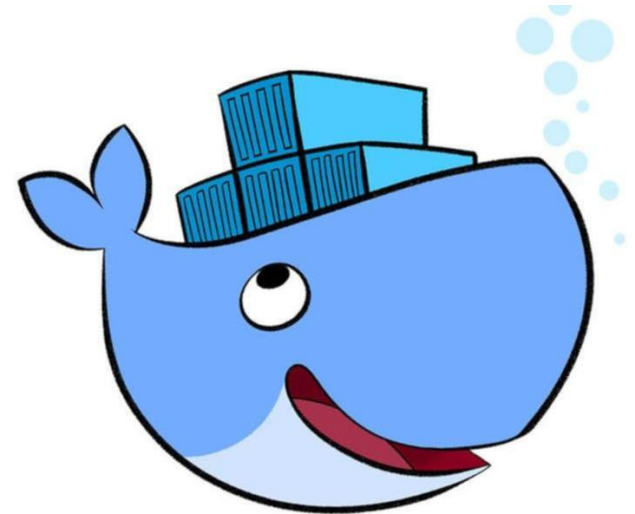
What will you do?

- Split the monolith of previous labs into a microservice architecture.
- Use Docker Compose to run the microservice architecture.



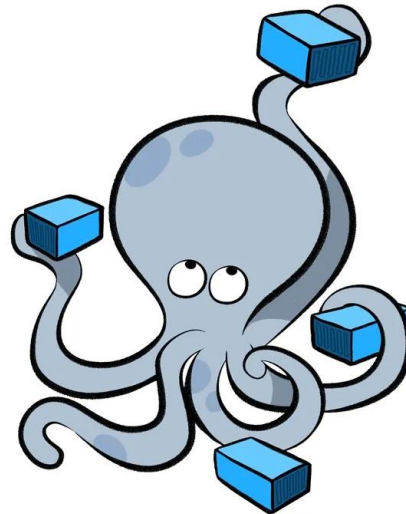
Software Prerequisites

- Docker Engine
- Docker image `python:3.12-slim`
- (Bonus stage) Docker image `redis:7-alpine`



Docker compose

A tool for running multi-container applications on Docker defined using the Compose file format.
Suitable for single host deployment.

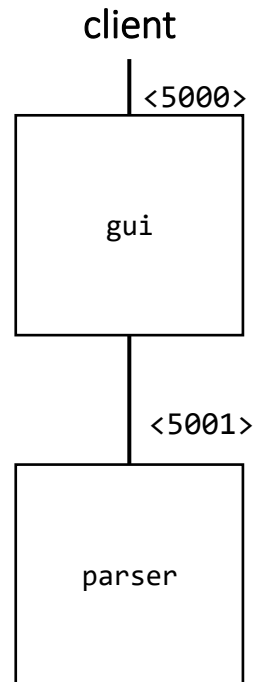


Docker compose

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
volumes:
  myvolume:
```



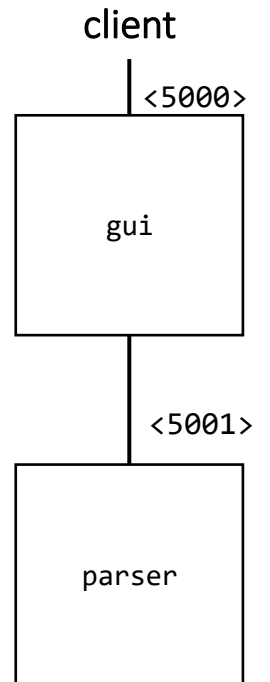
Docker compose

Declaration of services

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



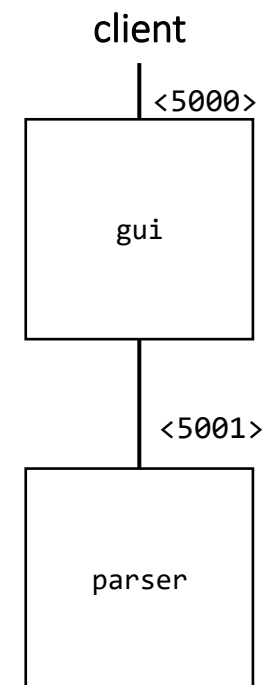
Docker compose

Two services:

- Parser
- Gui

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw
  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



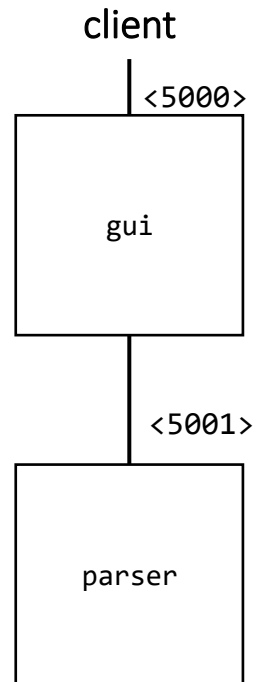
Docker compose

For a service I can declare:

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
volumes:
  myvolume:
```

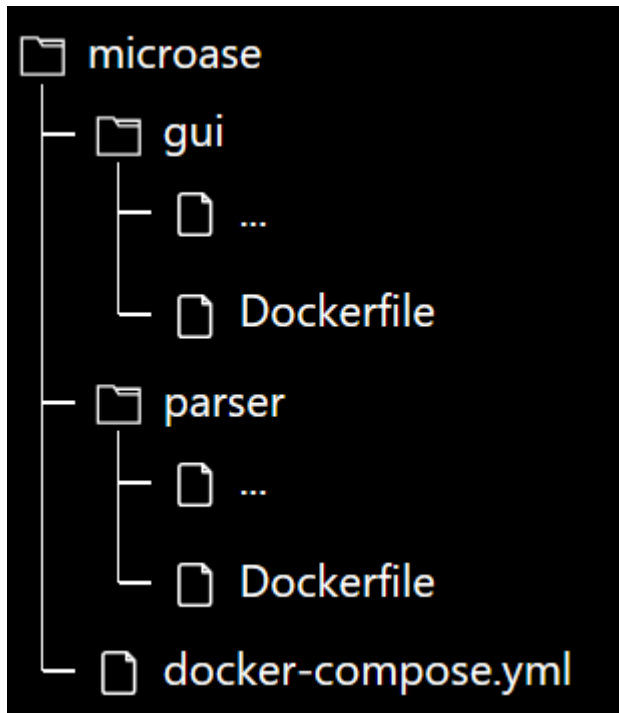


Docker compose

For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile

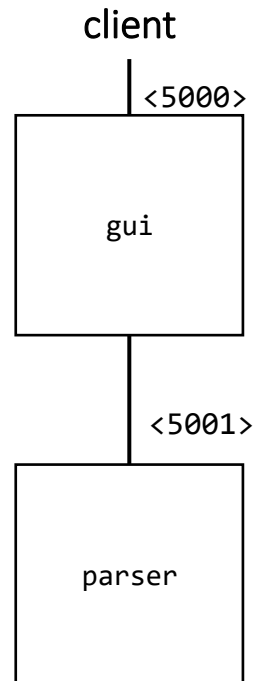
a.k.a. the building context



YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



Docker compose

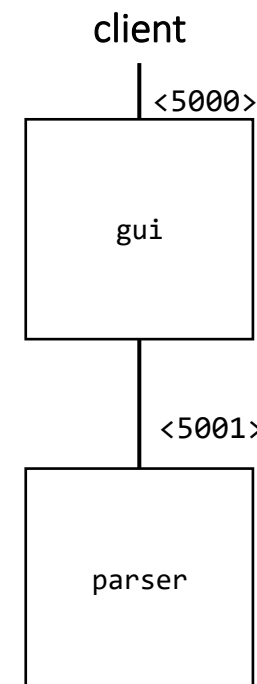
For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile
- Container Name

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
volumes:
  myvolume:
```



Docker compose

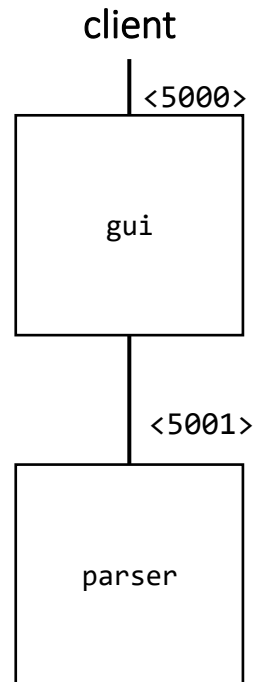
For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile
- Container Name
- Policy on failure

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



Docker compose

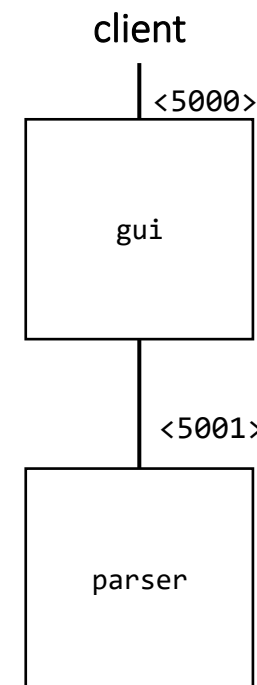
For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile
- Container Name
- Policy on failure
- Volumes mount

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
  volumes:
    myvolume:
```



Docker compose

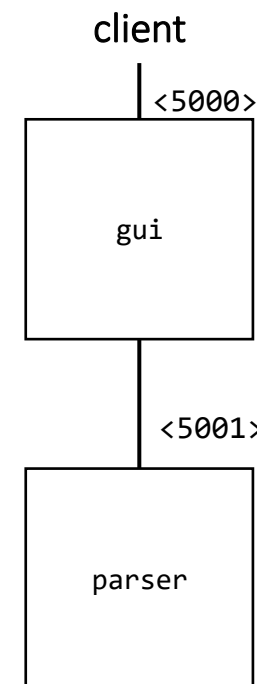
For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile
- Container Name
- Policy on failure
- Volumes mount
- Port bindings

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



Docker compose

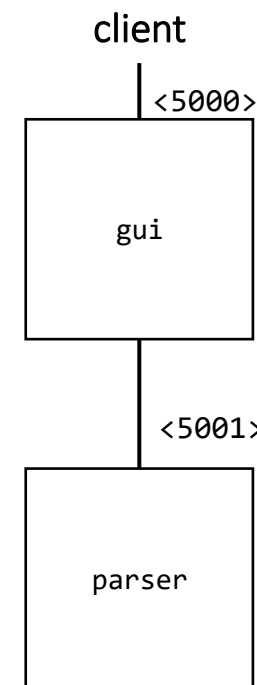
For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile
- Container Name
- Policy on failure
- Volumes mount
- Port bindings
- Service dependencies

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



Docker compose

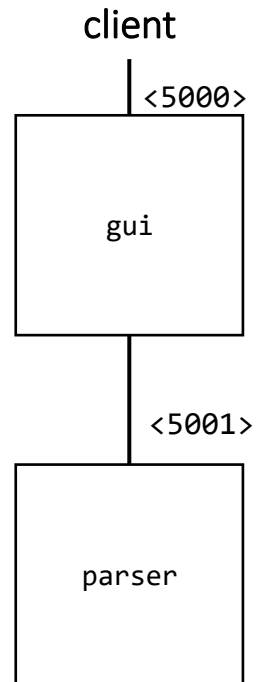
For a service I can declare:

- Folder of the Dockerfile
- Container Name
- Policy on failure
- Volumes mount
- Port bindings
- Service dependencies
- ... and many other things

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



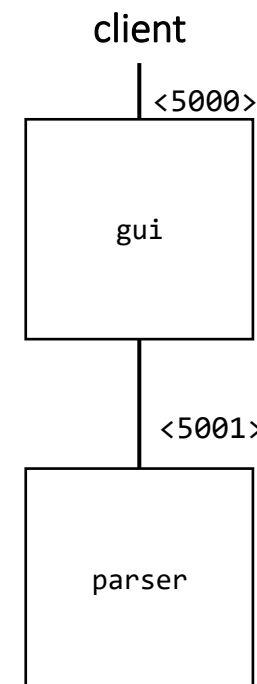
<https://docs.docker.com/compose/>

Docker compose

This is a 'named volume', it is fully managed by compose to persist data

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw
  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



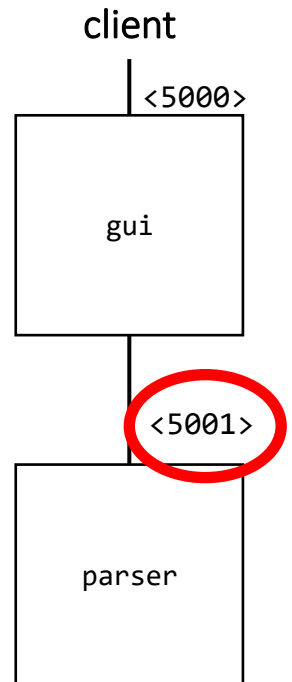
Docker compose

What about the port of the parser service?

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
volumes:
  myvolume:
```



Docker compose

Docker compose creates a default docker network which links all the containers' exposed ports.

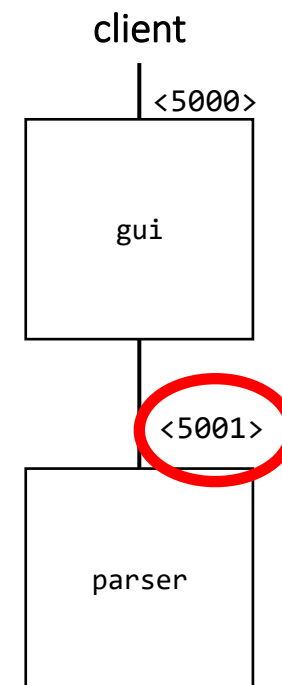
In the file, you can define your networks to group the containers of the application in different networks.

The parser service exposes port 5001 in its Dockerfile.

YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



Docker compose

Moreover, you can reach other services using their name.

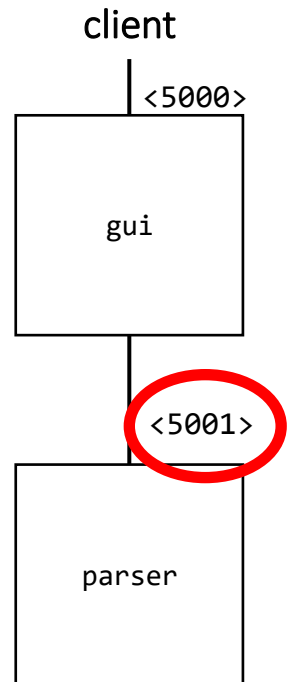
For instance, the `gui` service can send an HTTP request to the `parser` API to `http://parser:5001`



YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
    volumes:
      myvolume:
```



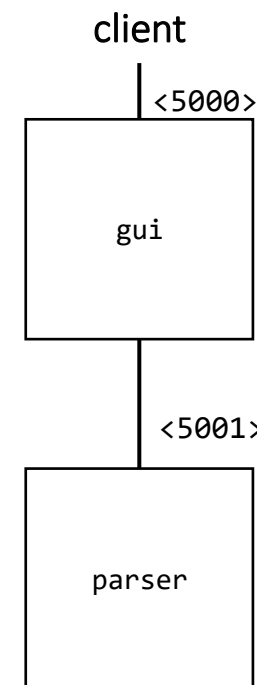
Docker compose

Launching the services is as easy as
`docker compose up`
which will build the images, create
volumes, networks and run the
containers.

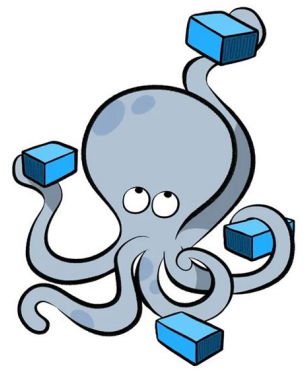
YAML File structure

```
services:
  parser:
    build: ./parser
    container_name: parser
    restart: always
    volumes:
      - myvolume:/app:rw

  gui:
    build: ./gui
    container_name: gui
    ports:
      - 5000:5000
    depends_on:
      - parser
volumes:
  myvolume:
```

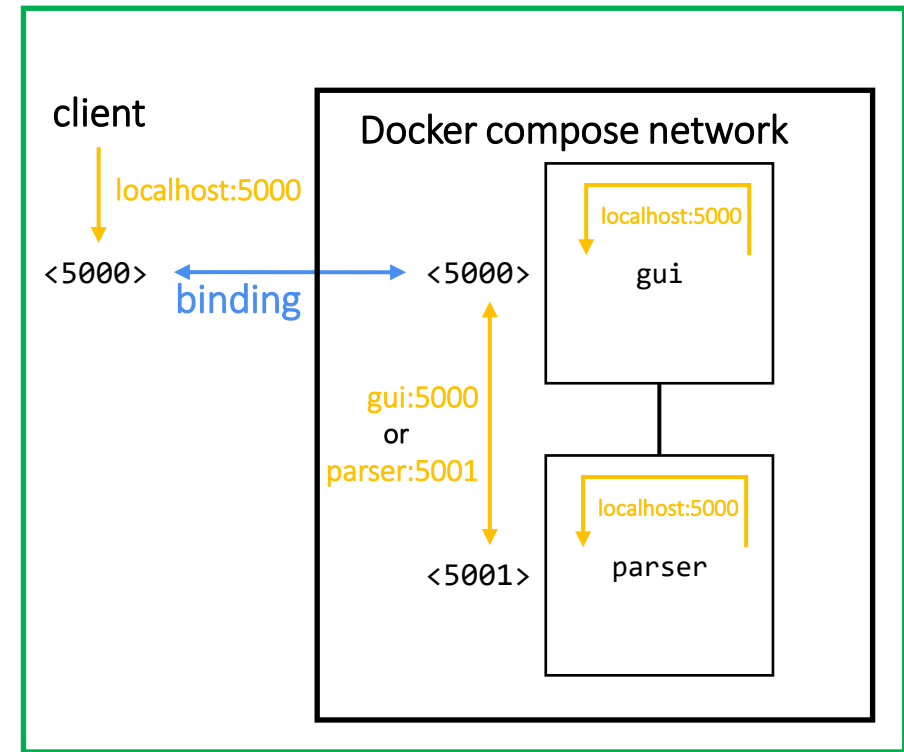


About Docker compose network



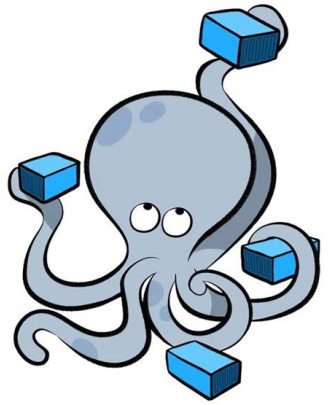
Local machine network

- **parser** and **gui** can communicate using their exposed port (5000 and 5001) and their name, e.g. <http://parser:5001>
- **parser**'s port is bound with the 5000 port of the machine, using ports with **5000:5000**. It is equivalent to running a container with **-p 5000:5000**.
- From outside the docker compose network, ports 5000 and 5001 of the microservices are not reachable directly. A client can send requests only to port 5000 of the machine, and the request will be forwarded to the 5000 of **gui** because the ports are bound.
- From the code of **gui** and **parser**, using **127.0.0.1** (localhost) means the localhost of the container, not the localhost of the local machine.
- Note that the ports are unique per machine or per container. This means that the **parser**'s exposed port can be 5000 without problems, and the machine port can be a different one as well. What you cannot do is bind the same port of your local machine multiple times.



gui Dockerfile exposes 5000
parser Dockerfile exposes 5001

About Docker compose network



In Dockerfiles and docker compose files:

- Expose the ports you want to reach from within the docker compose network.
- Use port bindings for microservices you want to reach from outside the docker compose network.

In the code (inside the docker compose network):

- Make a service listen to an exposed port.
- To make requests toward other services use their name and the exposed ports.
- The use of localhost refers to the container not the hosting machine.
- If you want to reach a service outside the docker compose network, it is possible in different ways. You can check online how to do it (some solutions are platform dependent).

DOCKER COMPOSE CHEAT SHEET

File

structure

```
services:
  container1:
    properties: values

  container2:
    properties: values
```

```
networks:
  network:
```

```
volumes:
  volume:
```

Types value

```
key: value
```

array

```
key:
  - value
  - value
```

dictionary

```
master:
  key: value
  key: value
```

Properties

build

build image from dockerfile in specified directory

```
container:
  build: ./path
  image: image-name
```

image

use specified image

```
image: image-name
```

container_name

define container name to access it later

```
container_name: name
```

volumes

define container volumes to persist data

```
volumes:
  - /path:/path
```

command

override start command for the container

```
command: execute
```

environment

define env variables for the container

```
environment:
  KEY: VALUE
---
environment:
  - KEY=VALUE
```

env_file

define a env file for the container to set and override env variables

```
env_file: .env
---
env_file:
  - .env
```

restart

define restart rule (no, always, on-failure, unless-stopped)

```
expose:
  - "9999"
```

networks

define all networks for the container

```
networks:
  - network-name
```

ports

define ports to expose to other containers and host

```
ports:
  - "9999:9999"
```

expose

define ports to expose only to other containers

```
expose:
  - "9999"
```

network_mode

define network driver (bridge, host, none, etc.)

```
network_mode: host
```

depends_on

define build, start and stop order of container

```
depends_on:
  - container-name
```

Other

idle container

send container to idle state
> container will not stop

```
command: tail -f /dev/null
```

named volumes

create volumes that can be used in the volumes property

```
services:
  container:
    image: image-name
    volumes:
      - data-
volume:/path/to/dir
```

```
volumes:
  data-volume:
```

networks

create networks that can be used in the networks property

```
networks:
  frontend:
    driver: bridge
```

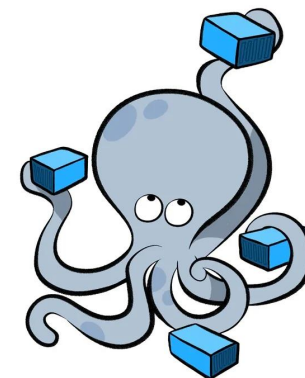


<https://devopscycle.com/blog/the-ultimate-docker-compose-cheat-sheet/>

Docker compose commands

Commands:

build	Build or rebuild services
config	Parse, resolve and render compose file in canonical format
cp	Copy files/folders between a service container and the local filesystem
create	Creates containers for a service.
down	Stop and remove containers, networks
events	Receive real time events from containers.
exec	Execute a command in a running container.
images	List images used by the created containers
kill	Force stop service containers.
logs	View output from containers
ls	List running compose projects
pause	Pause services
port	Print the public port for a port binding.
ps	List containers
pull	Pull service images
push	Push service images
restart	Restart service containers
rm	Removes stopped service containers
run	Run a one-off command on a service.
scale	Scale services
start	Start services
stop	Stop services
top	Display the running processes
unpause	Unpause services
up	Create and start containers
version	Show the Docker Compose version information
wait	Block until the first service container stops
watch	Watch build context for service and rebuild/refresh containers when files are updated



Docker compose commands

Be careful with `docker compose up`!

It builds the images only the first time is used.

If you change the code of a service you have to use

`docker compose build`

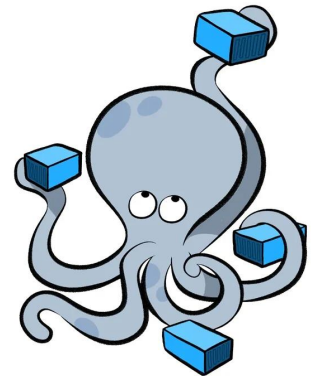
followed by

`docker compose start`

Otherwise:

`docker compose up --build`

to force the build of the images.



Previously...



Previously...

app.py

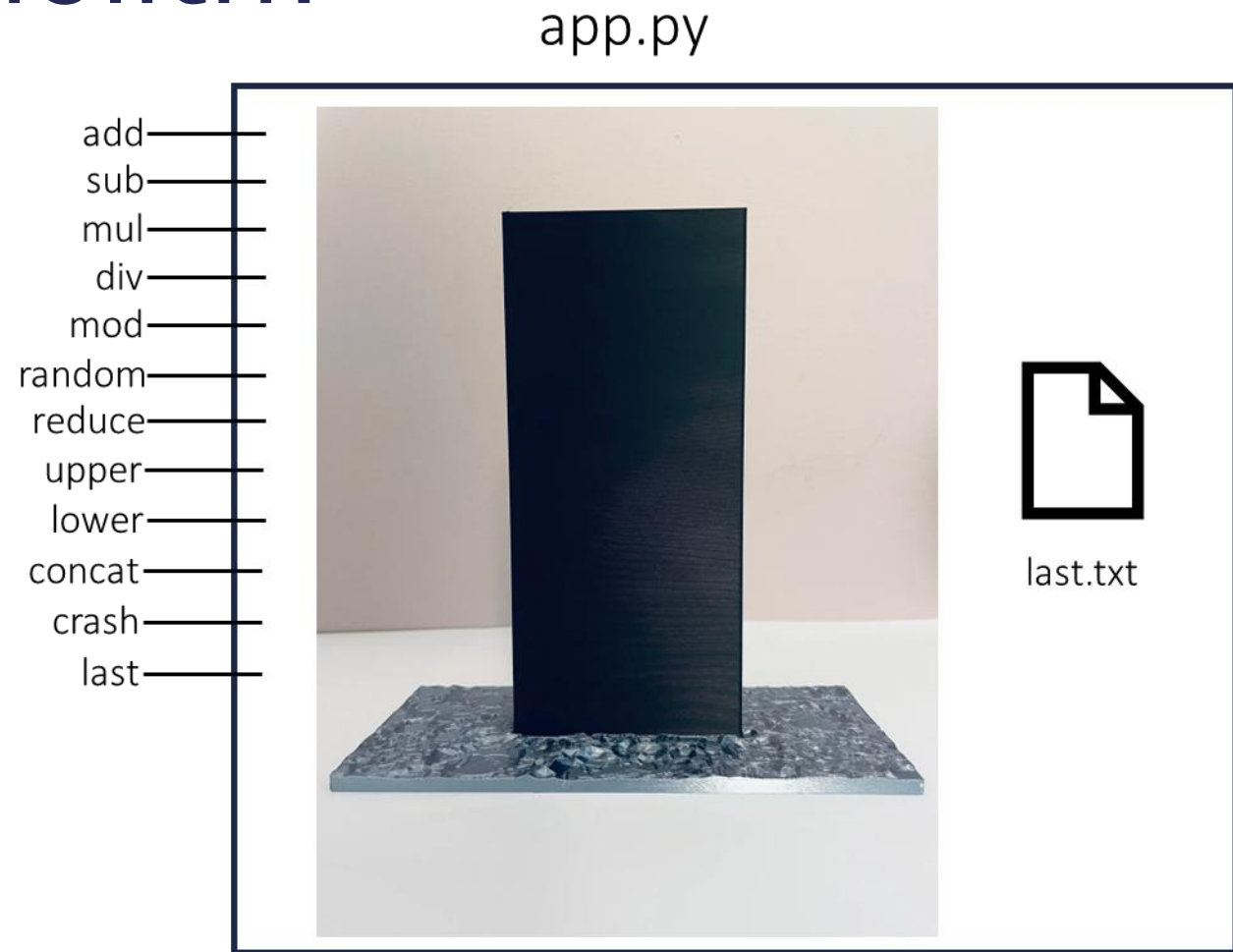
add —
sub —
mul —
div —
mod —
random —
reduce —
upper —
lower —
concat —
crash —
last —



last.txt

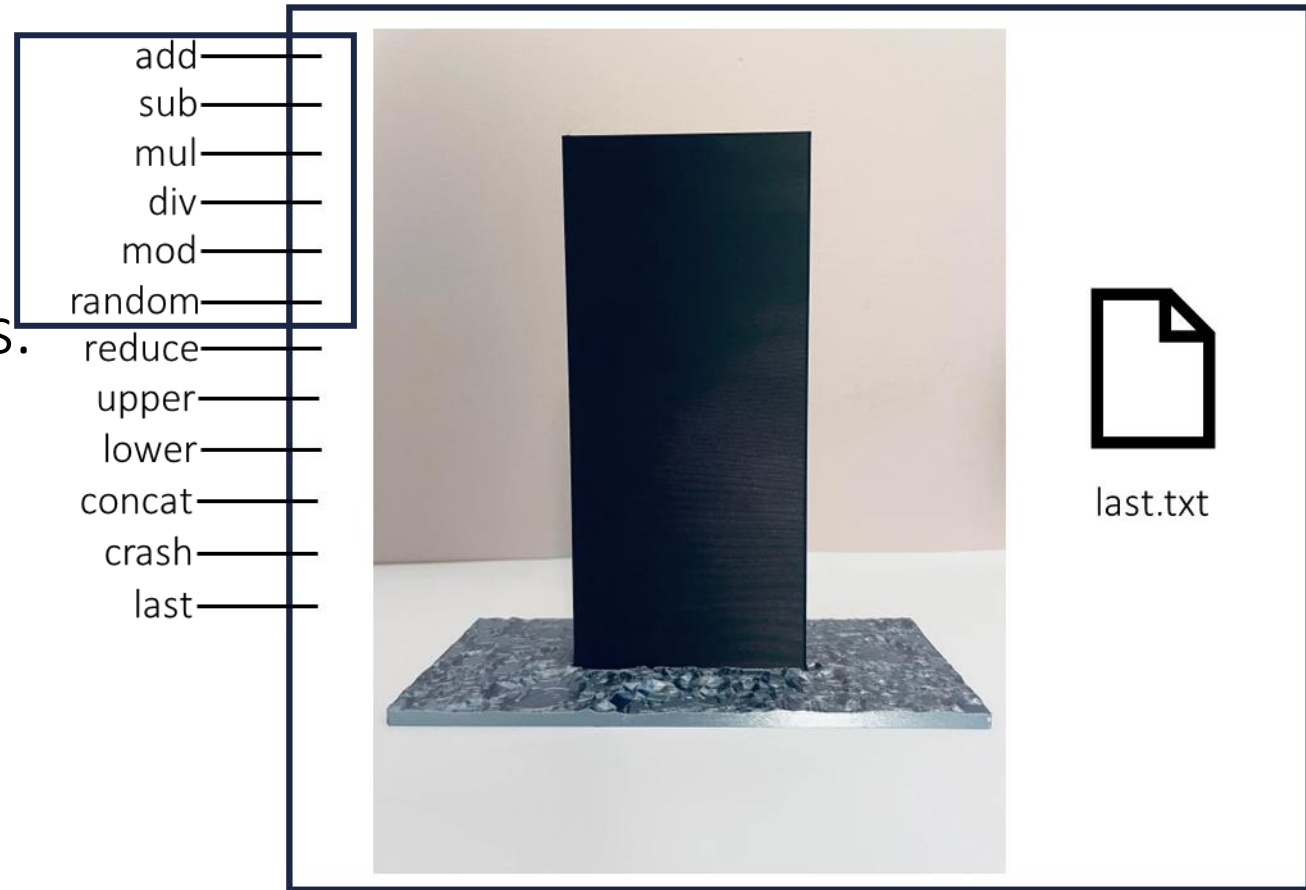
Let's split the monolith!

There is no DB!
Let's find the seams based on
bounded context



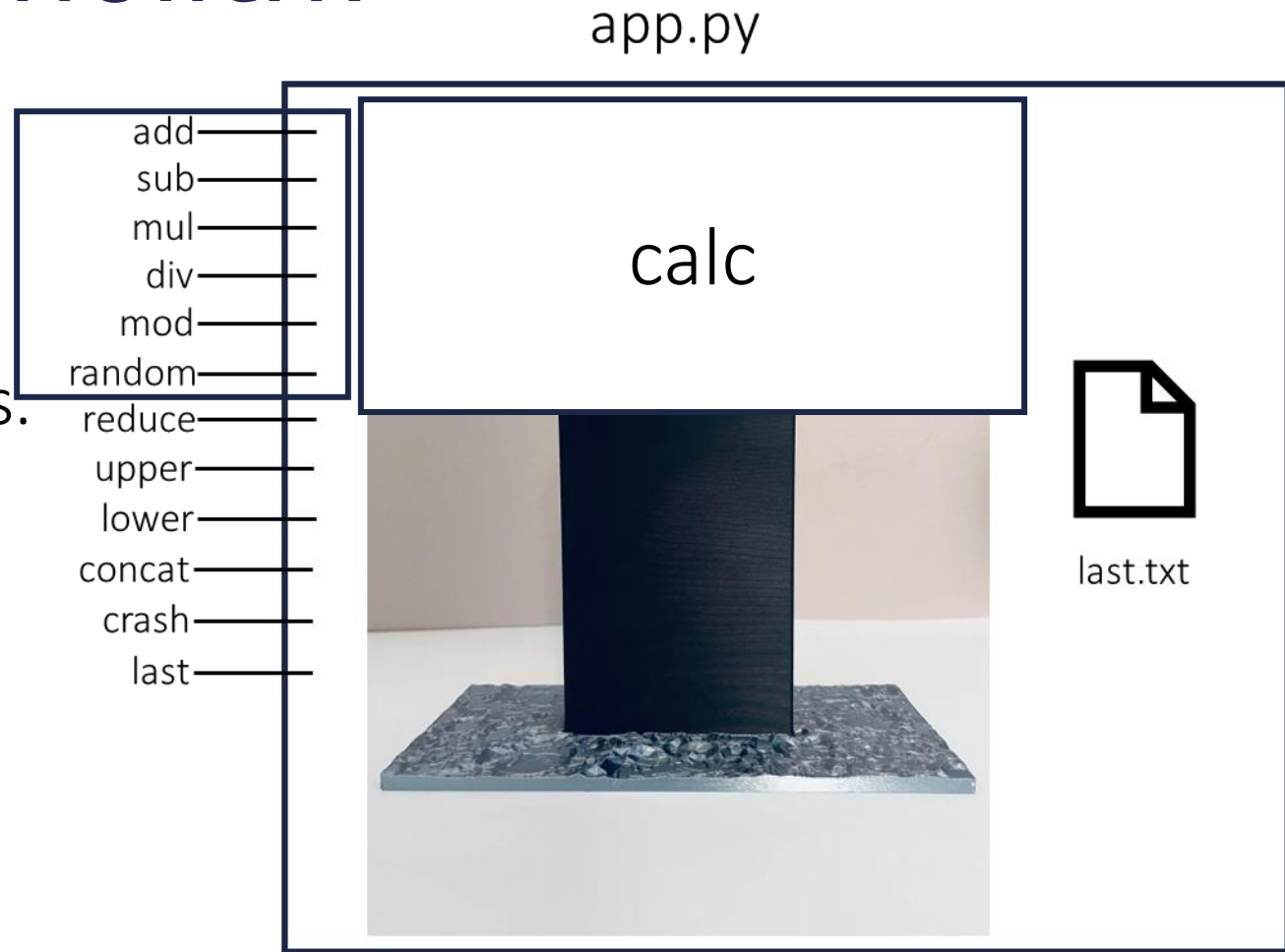
Let's split the monolith!

Calculator bounded context endpoints.
Let's extract them in a microservice.

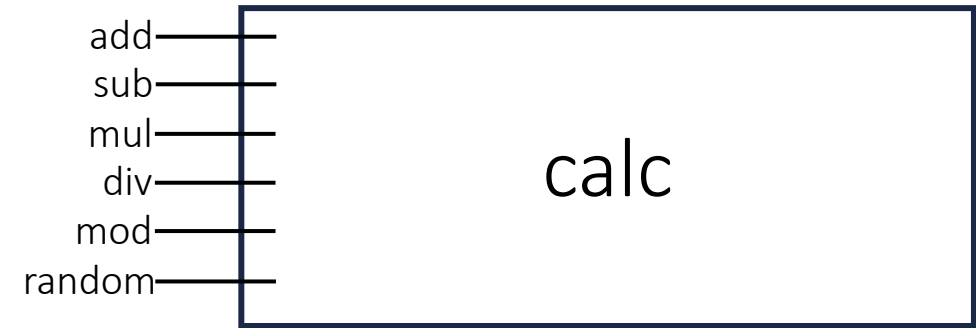


Let's split the monolith!

Calculator bounded context endpoints.
Let's extract them in a microservice.



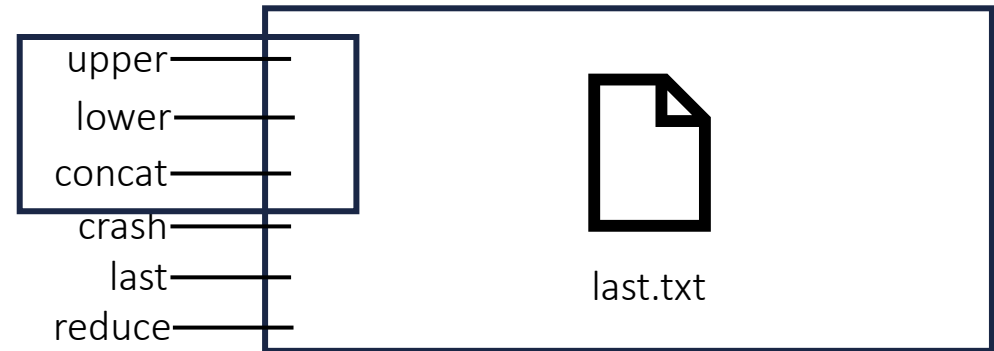
Let's split the monolith!



Let's split the monolith!

String operations bounded context endpoints.

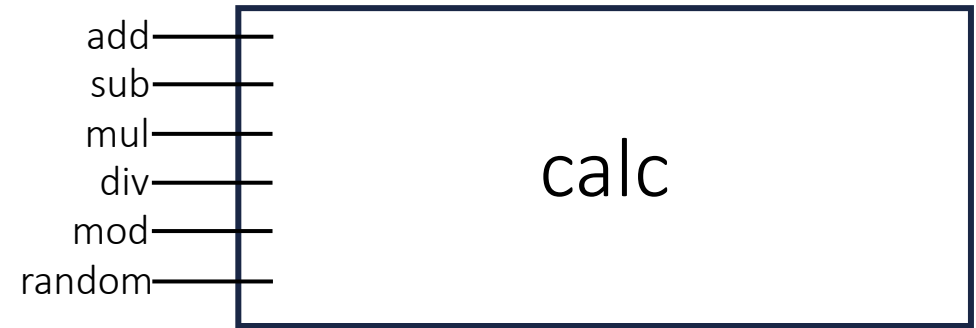
Let's extract them in a microservice.



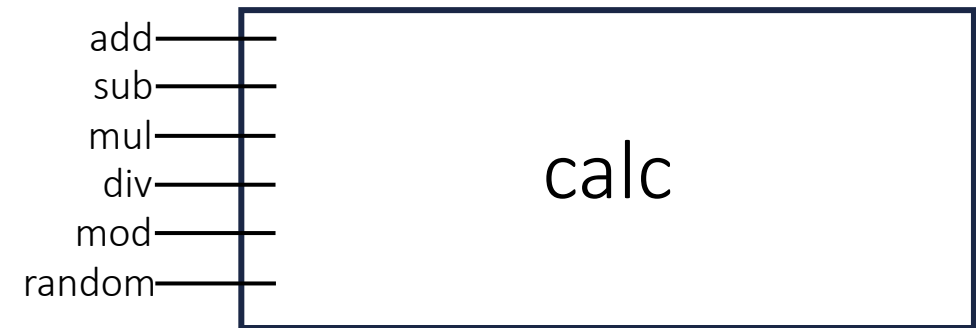
Let's split the monolith!

String operations bounded context endpoints.

Let's extract them in a microservice.



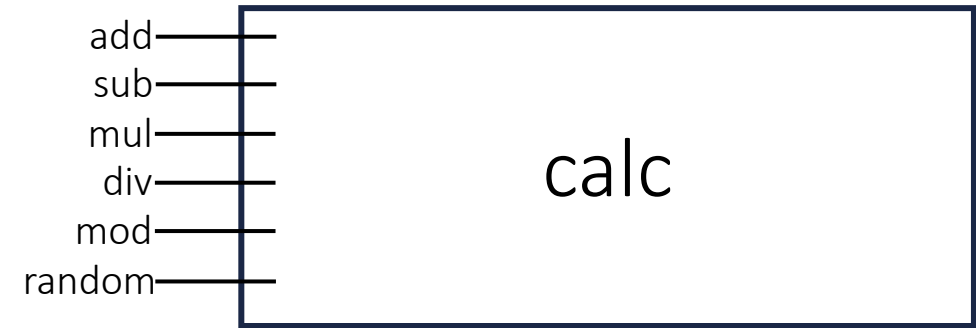
Let's split the monolith!



What about them?



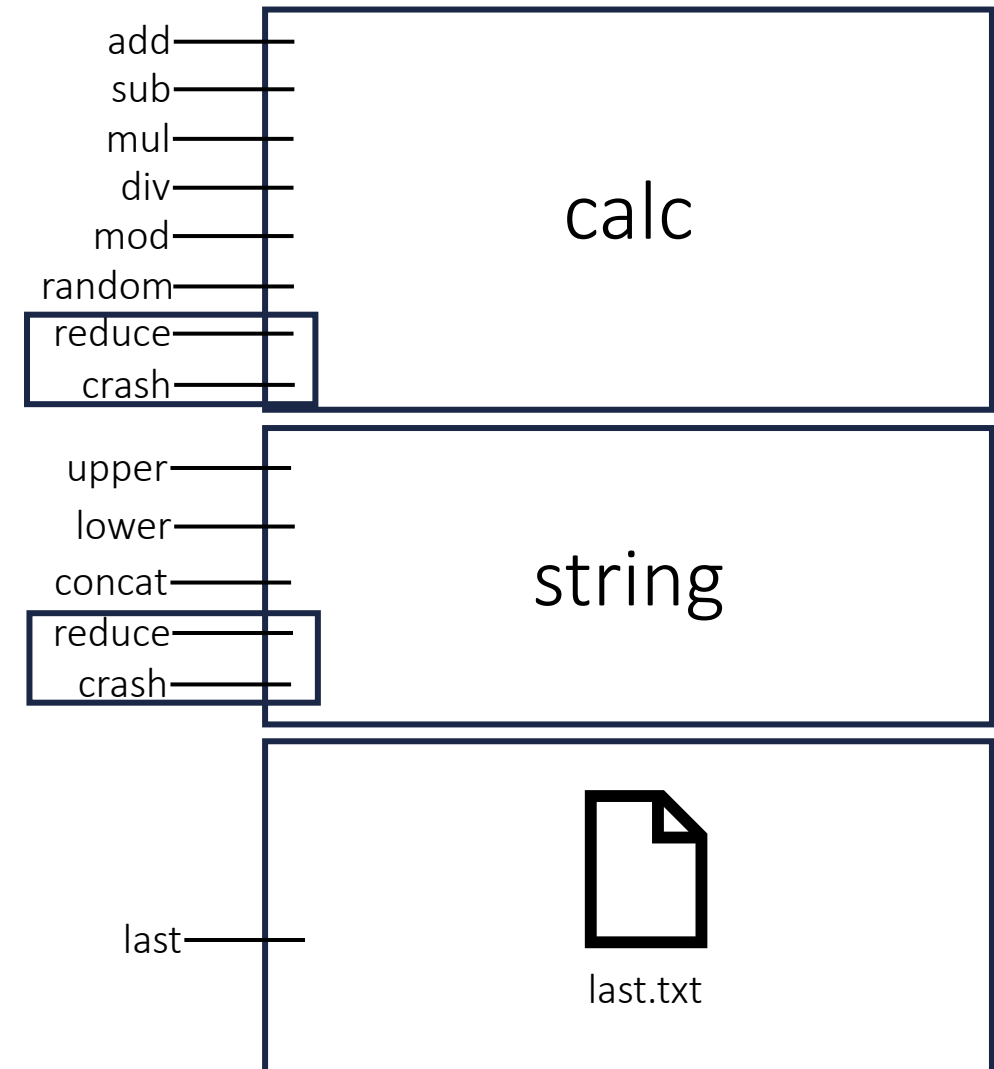
Let's split the monolith!



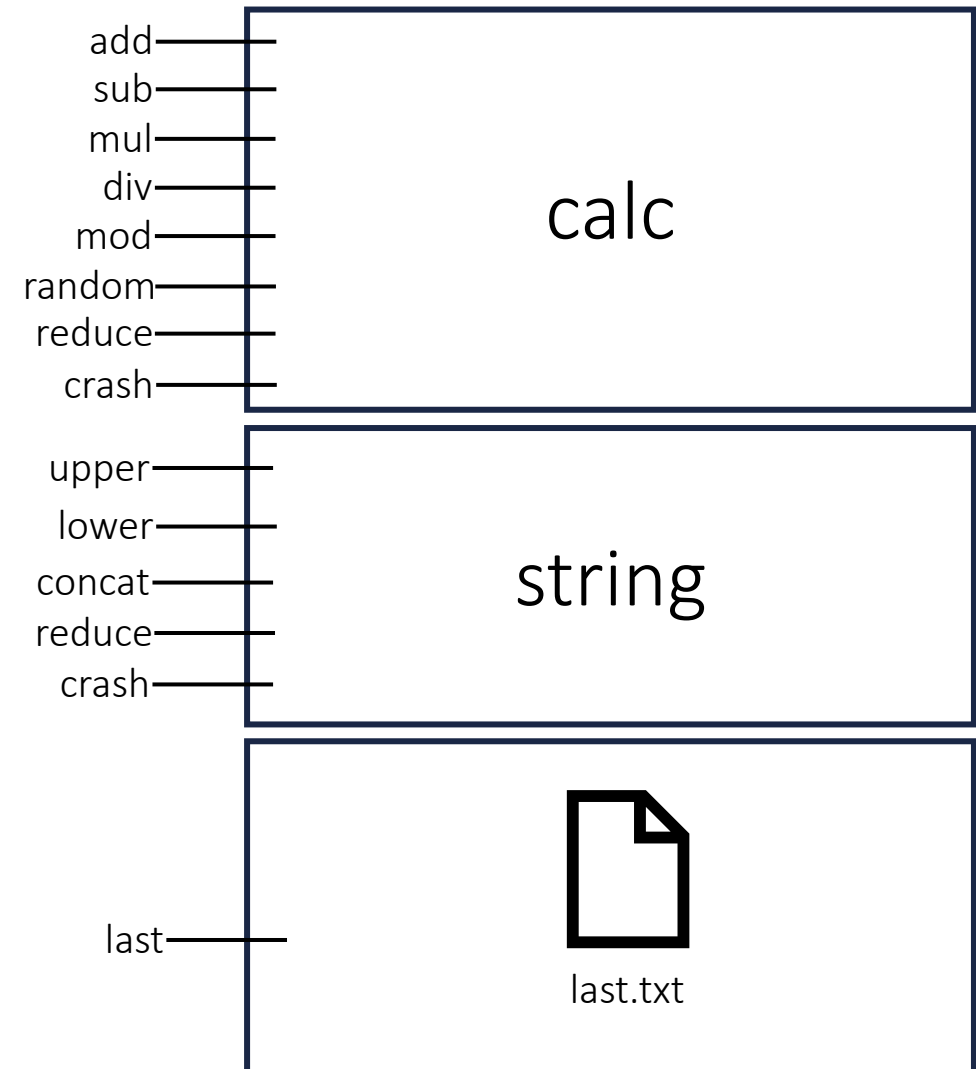
They are common functionalities, let's split them



Let's split the monolith!

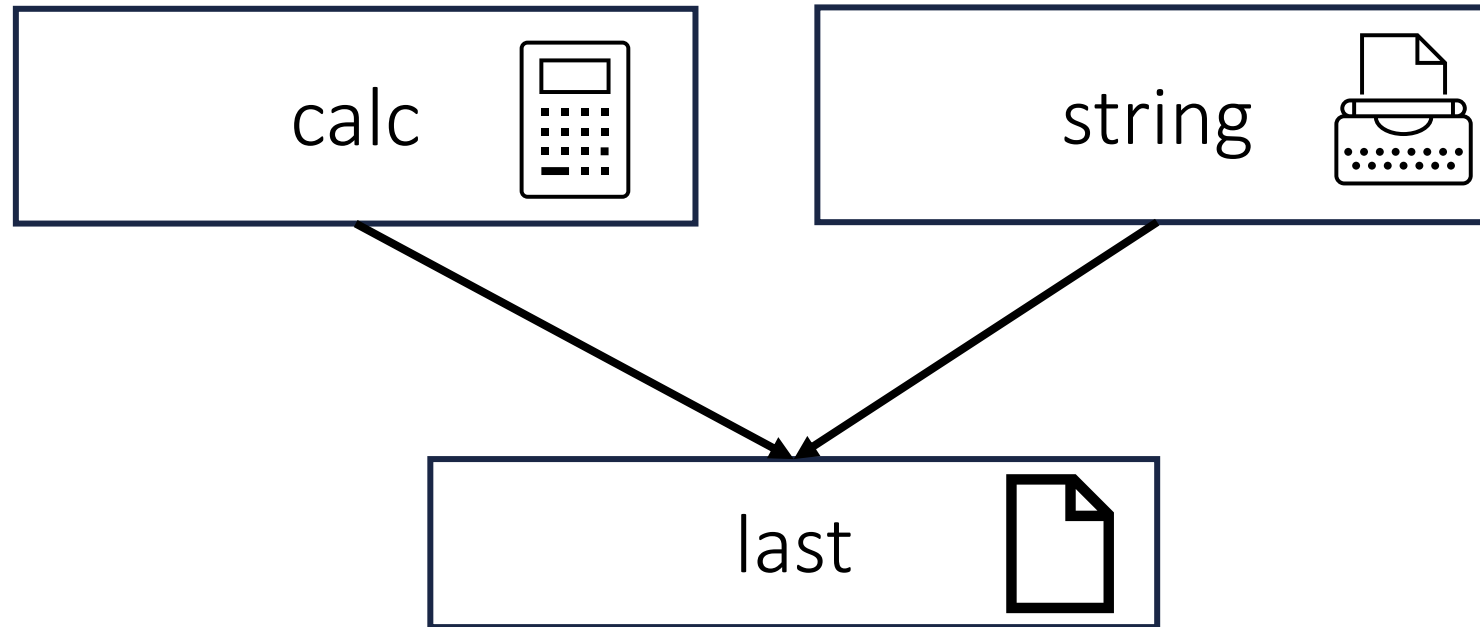


Let's split the monolith!

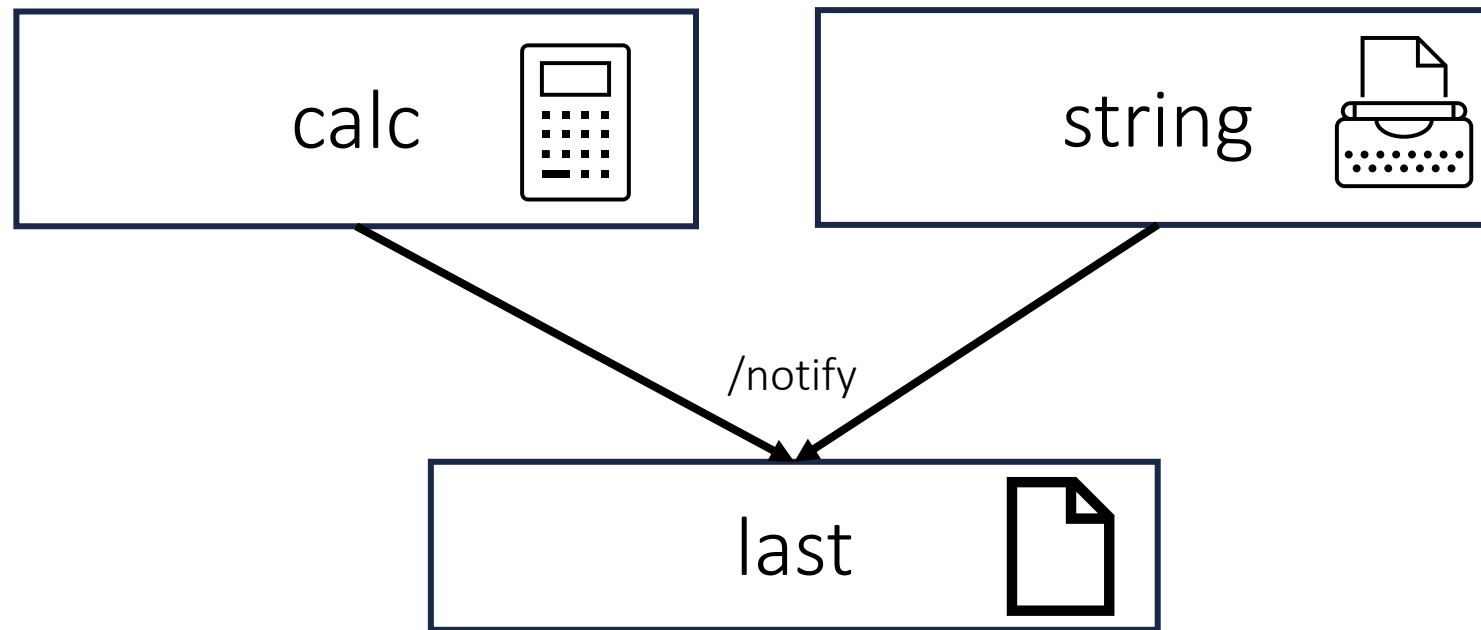


There is no database to split, `last` is to simple as data storage

This is our microservice architecture microase



Remember that each operation should be saved

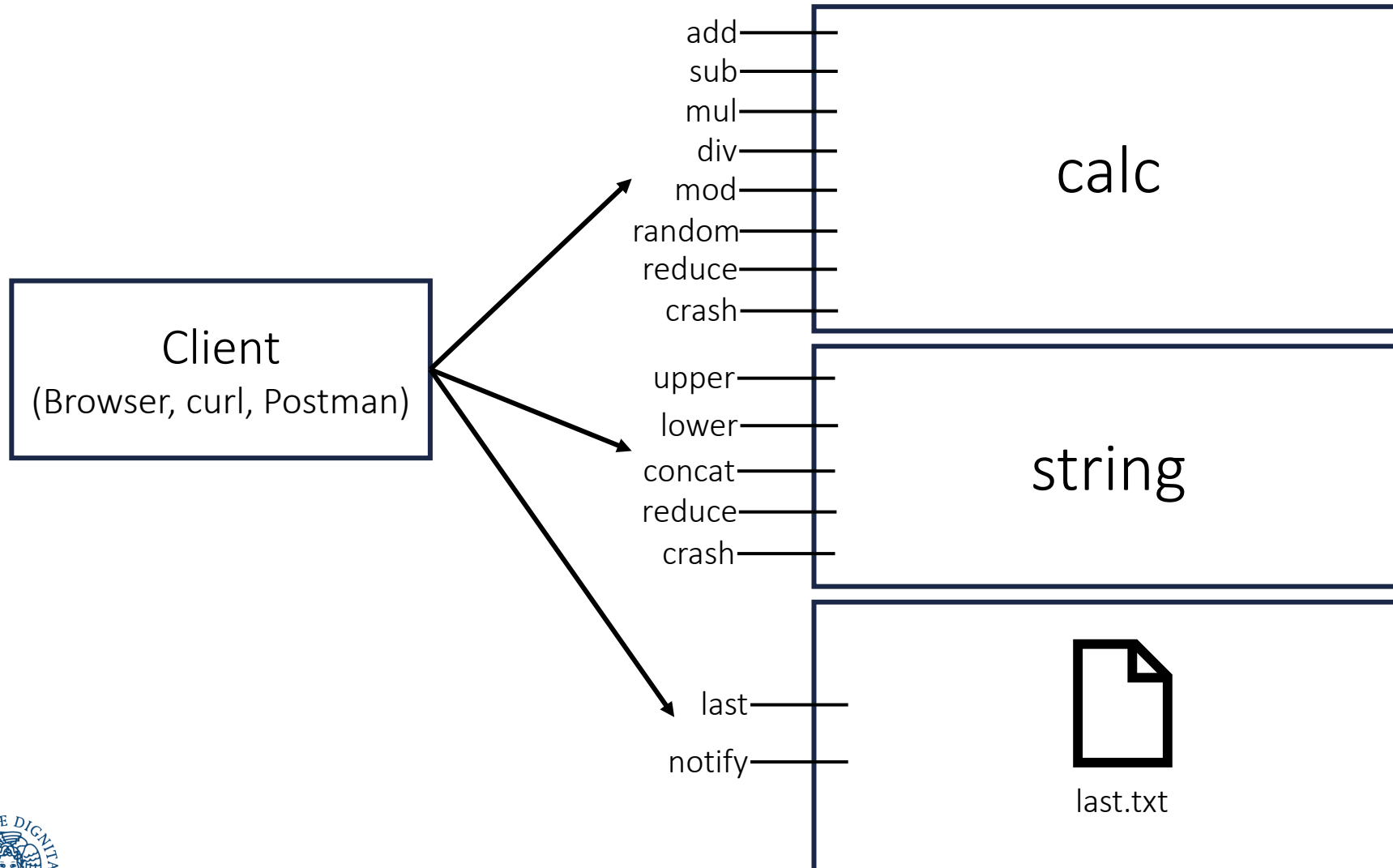


`last` should expose an endpoint to be notified of an operation.

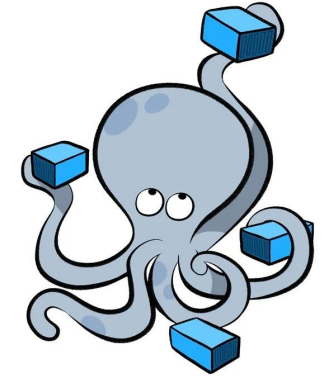
`calc` and `string` should call that endpoint after each operation.

Previously it was a function call inside the monolith, now it is an endpoint invocation.

Final view



It's your turn!

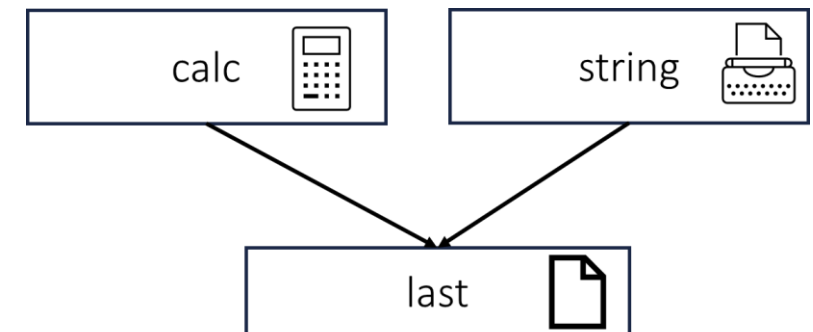


Use the code of Lab 4 (or download it from Moodle).

In three separate folders, create the three Flask microservices: **calc**, **string**, and **last**.

Those microservices should all be reachable from a client (browser, curl, etc.) using localhost and a port you bind.

1. Most of the code of **calc** and **string** should be a refactoring of the old code.
2. The **last** microservice should expose the old **/last** endpoint and a **/notify** endpoint, which from a HTTP POST receives a JSON in the format `{'timestamp': ts, 'op': op_string}` and save it in a file.
3. Change the **save_last** function of **calc** and **string** from a file **write** to an HTTP request (<https://requests.readthedocs.io>) sending to **/notify** the JSON file.
4. Write the Dockerfile of each microservice.
5. In the root folder, write the a **docker-compose.yml** file to run the microservice architecture.
6. Try all the microservices invoking their REST API.



About HTTP Requests

You should add the requests Python module in the requirements files and import it in the code.

- HTTP GET

```
x = requests.get(URL)
x.raise_for_status()
json_res = x.json()
```

- HTTP POST with JSON payload

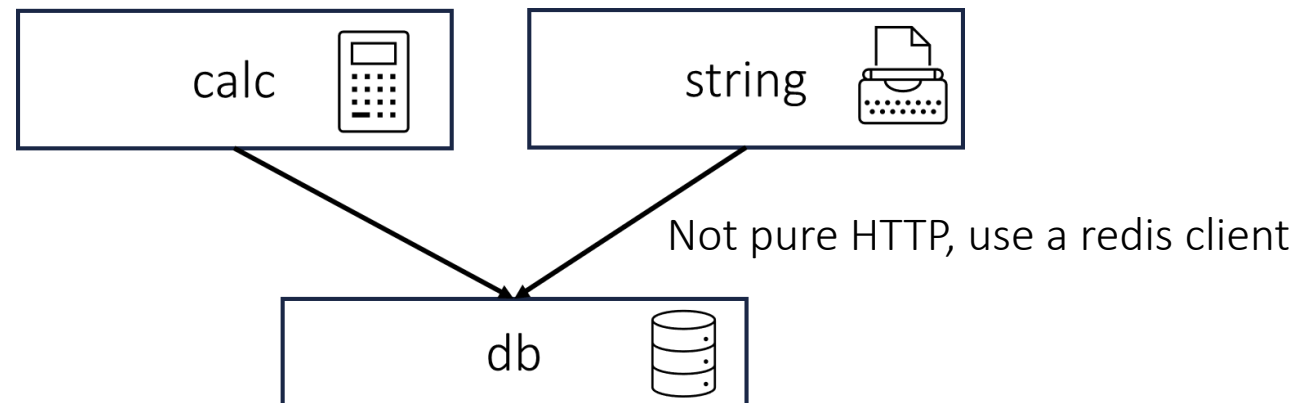
```
x = requests.post(URL, json={'timestamp':str(datetime.now()), 'op':s})
x.raise_for_status()
```

`raise_for_status()` throws an exception if response is not 200 OK

Bonus part!

Change the `last` service to a `db` service using `redis`.

- Substitute the `last` microservice in the docker compose file with `redis`, specifying the `redis:7-alpine` docker image, `db` as host name and `always` as the restart policy.
- Modify the code of the `calc` and `string` microservices from HTTP requests to the key-values pairs (`timestamp`, `op_dict`), where `op_dict` is a string representing the dict `{"op"=op, "args"=list_args, "res"=res}`.
- Use docker compose to run the microservice application.
- Use the browser to test the endpoints and check the database content.





Redis details

Redis is an in-memory, key-value database.

Those are the Python instructions to set it up and store the values (put them in `calc` and `string` services):

```
#Redis client import
import redis

#DB connection setup (decode_response to have str and not bytes)
r = redis.Redis(host='db', port=6379, decode_responses=True)
#To store a (key, value) pair, value must be bytes, string, int or float
r.set(key, value)
```

<https://redis.io/docs/latest/develop/connect/clients/python/redis-py/>

This is a possible command to launch redis with docker compose:

```
command: redis-server --save 20 1 --loglevel warning
```



Redis check db content

To check the content of the database you have to use its client.

Retrieve the name of the db container with `docker ps`.

```
alebocci@LaptopUnipiBoc:~$ docker ps
```

CONTAINER ID	IMAGE	COMMAND	CREATED	STATUS	PORTS	NAMES
5bbd8e2d7a30	bonus-string	"/bin/sh -c 'flask r..."	11 minutes ago	Up 11 minutes	0.0.0.0:5002->5000/tcp	bonus-string-1
58601b7ab119	bonus-calc	"/bin/sh -c 'flask r..."	11 minutes ago	Up 11 minutes	0.0.0.0:5001->5000/tcp	bonus-calc-1
dcca1843c69e	redis:7-alpine	"docker-entrypoint.s..."	11 minutes ago	Up 11 minutes	0.0.0.0:6379->6379/tcp	bonus-db-1

To access the redis client run the command

`docker exec -it bonus-db-1 redis-cli`

with your container name instead of bonus-db-1.

In the client you can type `KEYS *` to obtain all the keys stored and

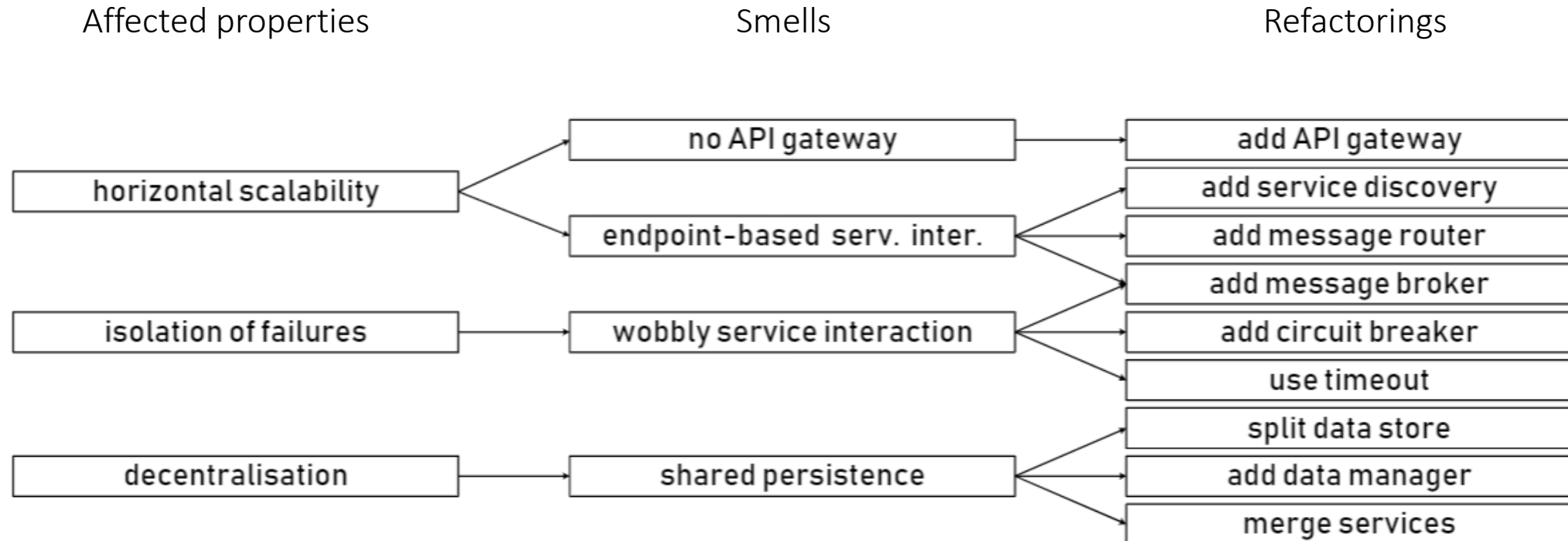
`GET` + a key to obtain a value.



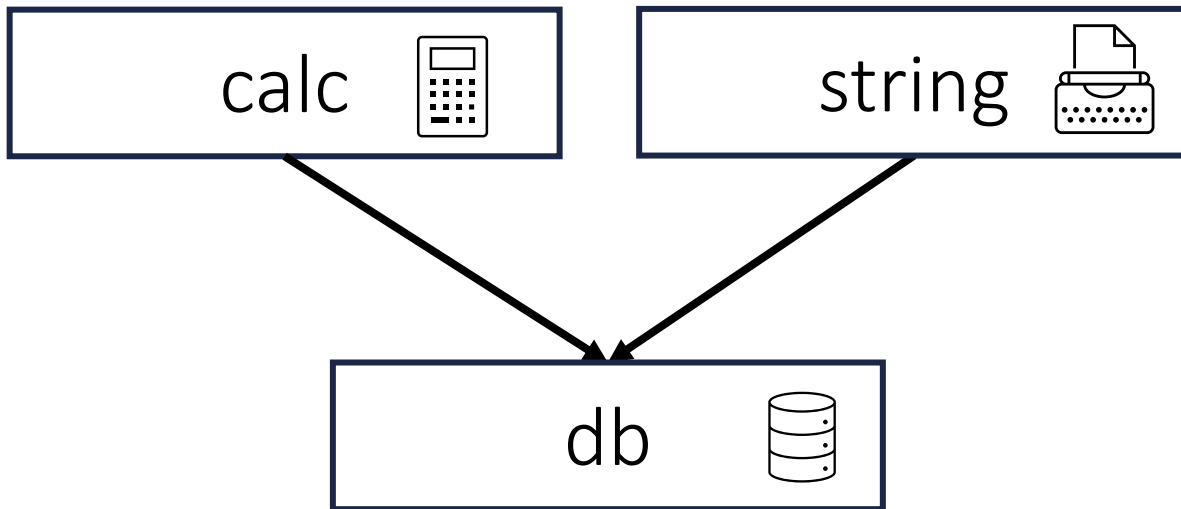
Redis check db content

```
alebocci@LaptopUnipiBoc:~$ docker exec -it bonus-db-1 redis-cli
127.0.0.1:6379> KEYS *
1) "1760970411.3051293"
2) "1760970409.138571"
3) "1760970134.8896759"
127.0.0.1:6379> GET "1760970134.8896759"
"{ 'op': 'add', 'args': (2.0, 9.0), 'res': 11.0 }"
127.0.0.1:6379> quit
```

What about architectural smells?

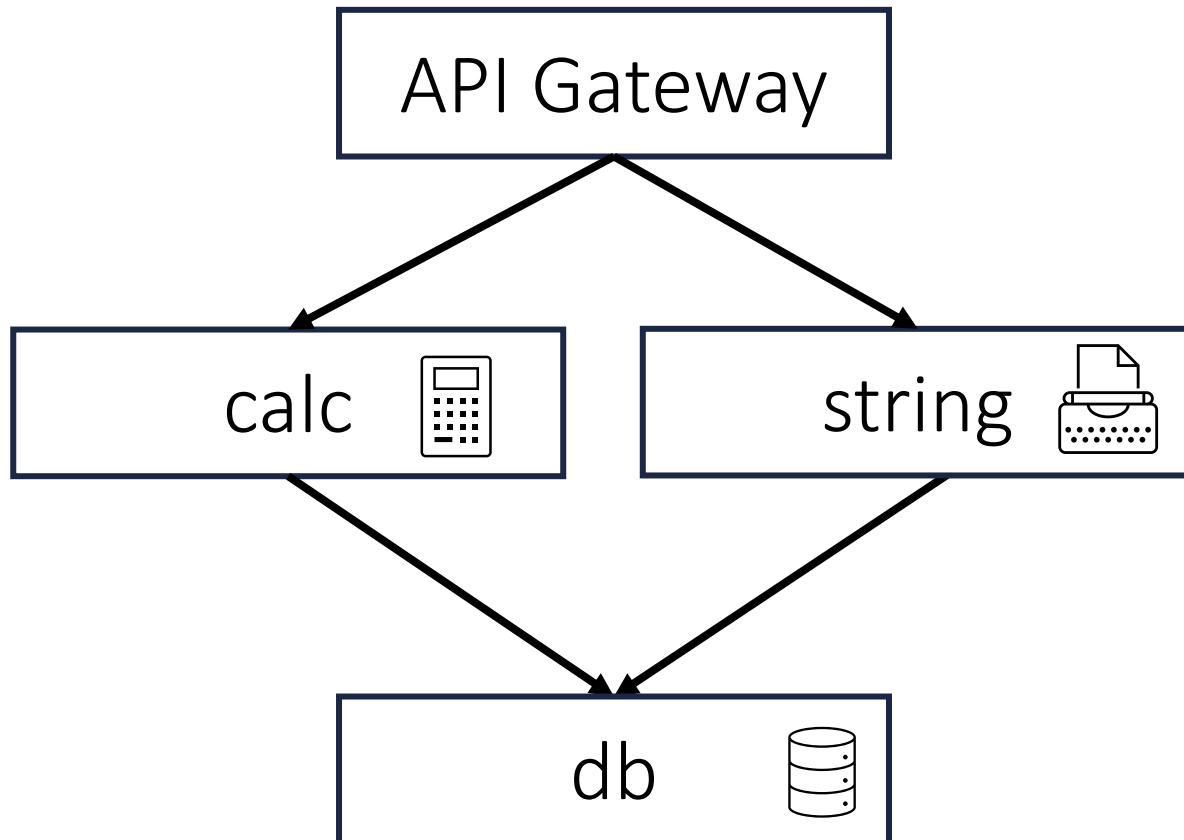


What about architectural smells?



- No API Gateway
- Shared Persistence
- Wobbly Service Interaction
- Endpoint-based Service Interaction

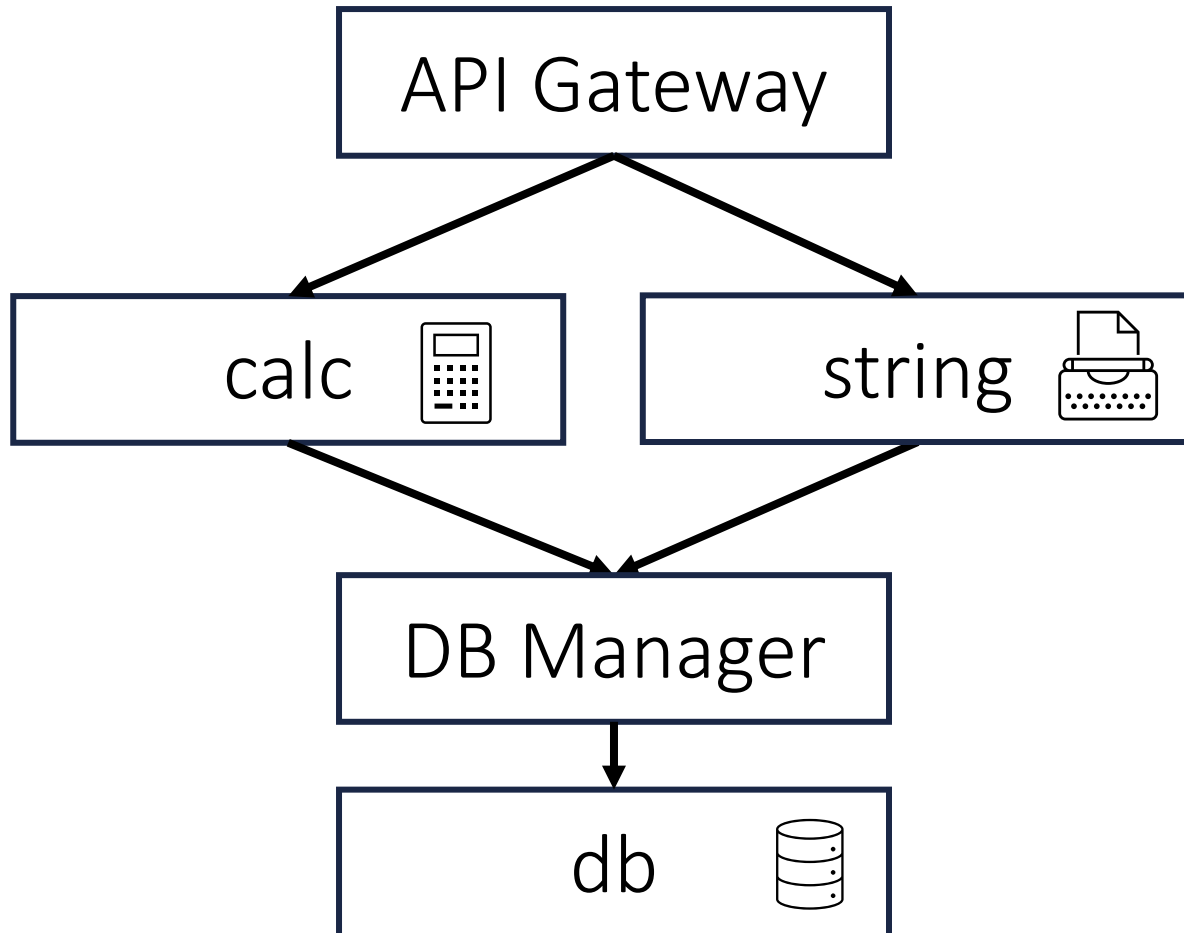
What about architectural smells?



- ~~No API Gateway~~
- Shared Persistence
- Wobbly Service Interaction
- Endpoint-based Service Interaction

Added an API Gateway

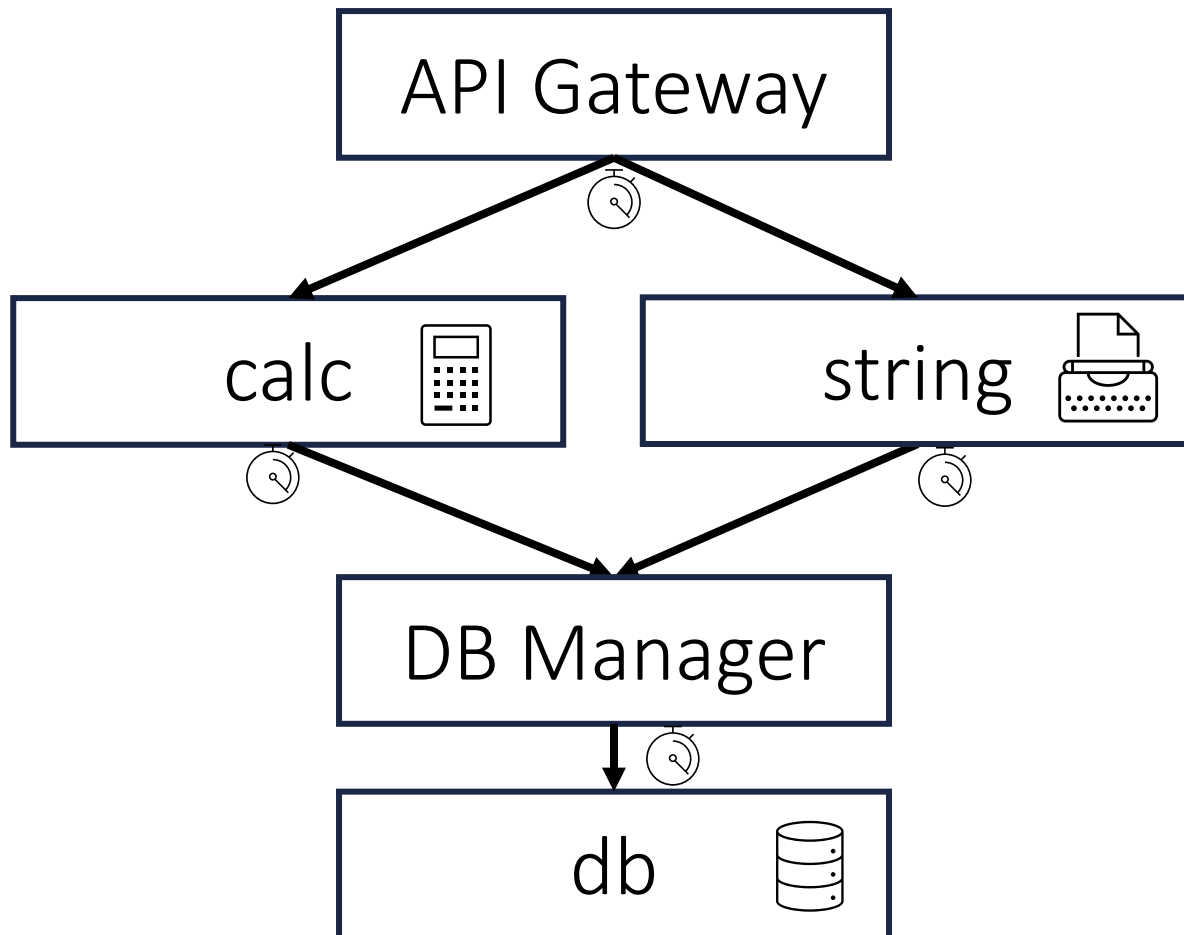
What about architectural smells?



- ~~No API Gateway~~
- ~~Shared Persistence~~
- Wobbly Service Interaction
- Endpoint-based Service Interaction

Added a DB Manager

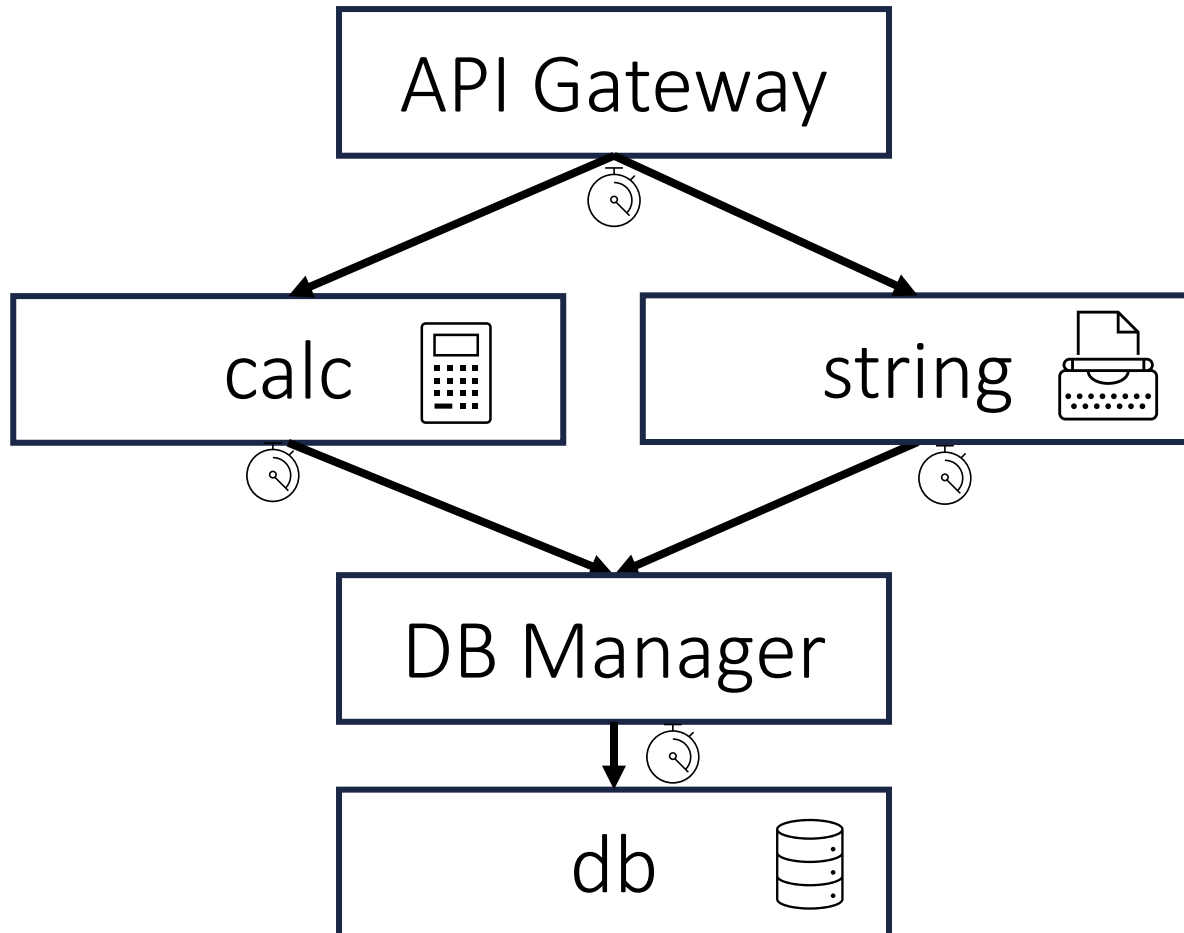
What about architectural smells?



- ~~No API Gateway~~
- ~~Shared Persistence~~
- ~~Wobbly Service Interaction~~
- Endpoint-based Service Interaction

Added timeouts

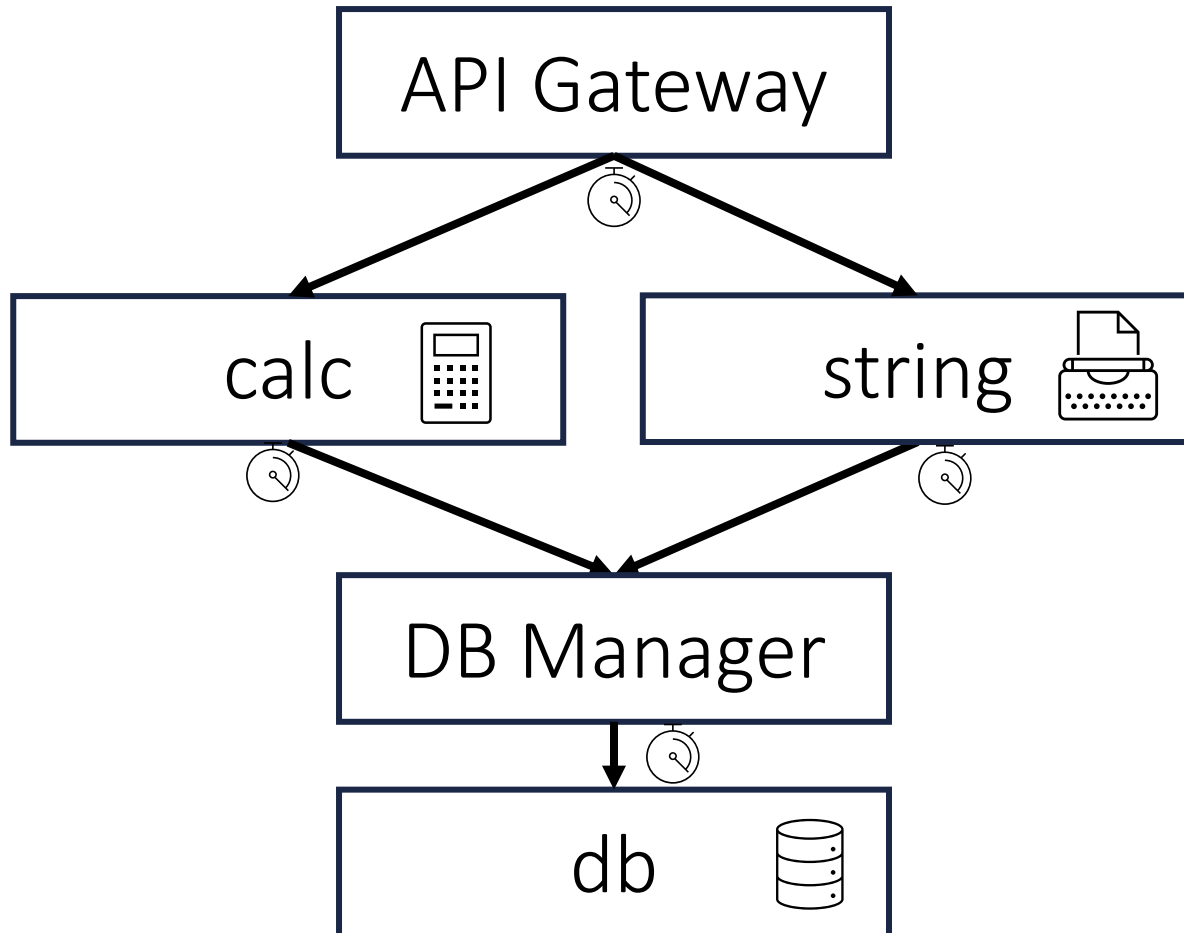
What about architectural smells?



- ~~No API Gateway~~
- ~~Shared Persistence~~
- ~~Wobbly Service Interaction~~
- Endpoint-based Service Interaction

We should add an element to manage messages

What about architectural smells?



- ~~No API Gateway~~
- ~~Shared Persistence~~
- ~~Wobbly Service Interaction~~
- ~~Endpoint-based Service Interaction~~

To simplify things, we ignore this smell in our lab

What about architectural smells?

The refactorings applied to the architecture should be reflected in the software:

- The API Gateway is a microservice which interacts with the clients.
- The DB manager is a microservice which abstracts the DB interface.
- Timeouts and circuit breakers are mechanism to prevent the propagation of failures.
- Message brokers/routers are microservices which manage the architecture communications.

What about architectural smells?

In the project, you have to avoid the architectural smells:

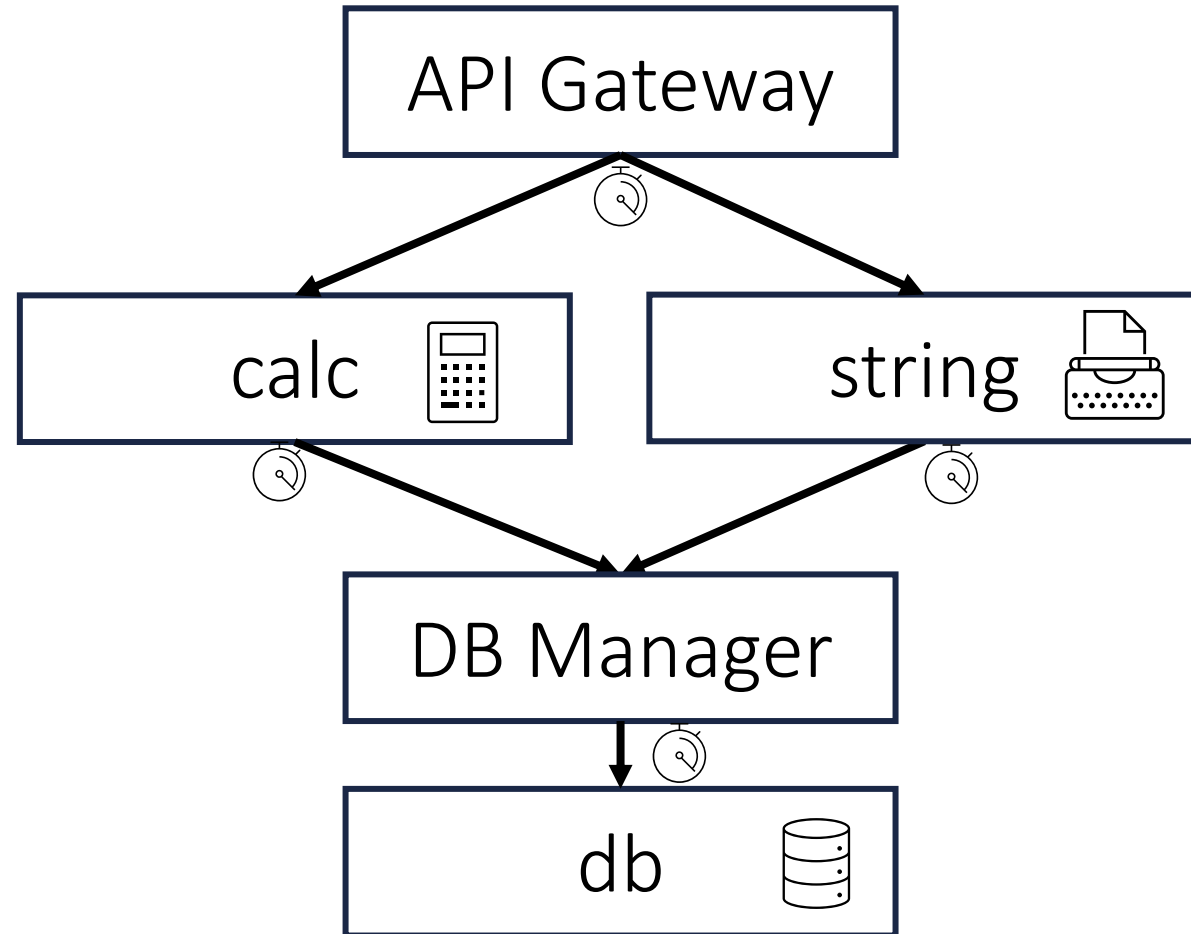
- No API Gateway
- Shared Persistence
- Wobbly Service Interaction

What about architectural smells?

Next week I will give you the full architecture for the testing lab.

The DB will be a MongoDB instance with a volume to give you a different example of DB.

If you want to use your code for the lab, you have to update today's version.



Lab take away

- ☐ Write a docker compose file
- ☐ Break a simple monolithic application
- ☐ Deploy and run a multiservice application with Docker Compose



Project take away

- ☐ The project must be a microservice architecture.
- ☐ The delivered architecture should be split in microservices.
- ☐ You must use docker compose to manage the architecture.
- ☐ You can use whatever database technology you want.
- ☐ Your architecture must not have smells except the Endpoint-based one.

