

Fintech Platform Reference Implementation

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Chapter 1. Introduction

This project implements a hypothetical Fintech Platform. It demonstrates Microservice architecture, design, best practices and production ready features. It was developed as part of a code challenge from [Reloadly](#).



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1.1. Source Code



Head over to the GitHub repository [here](#).

Chapter 2. Code Challenge Summary

The solution developed for the code challenge, embraces modern architectural styles, battle tested architectural principles and robust engineering practices. The following features have been implemented.

<div>Scalable Microservices</div> <div><div>✓</div> Account Microservice</div> <div><div>✓</div> Transaction Microservice</div> <div><div>✓</div> Notification Microservice</div>	<div>Enterprise Security</div> <div><div>✓</div> Authentication Service</div> <div><div>✓</div> Supports JWT</div> <div><div>✓</div> Supports API Keys</div>	<div>Enterprise Grade Transaction Processor</div> <div><div>✓</div> Powered by Kafka</div> <div><div>✓</div> Ultra High Scalability</div> <div><div>✓</div> Inbuilt Resiliency</div>	<div>Robust Integrations</div> <div><div>✓</div> Amazon SES Email</div> <div><div>✓</div> SMS Powered by Twilio</div>
<div>Production Ready</div> <div><div>✓</div> Kubernetes Deployment (EKS)</div> <div><div>✓</div> Monitoring - SBA</div> <div><div>✓</div> Prometheus and Grafana</div> <div><div>✓</div> Loki Log Aggregation</div>	<div>Robust Architecture</div> <div><div>✓</div> Event Driven</div> <div><div>✓</div> RESTful Architecture</div> <div><div>✓</div> Resilient and Scalable By Design</div> <div><div>✓</div> Modern Design Patterns</div>	<div>Modern Tech Stack</div> <div><div>✓</div> Java 11</div> <div><div>✓</div> Spring Boot</div> <div><div>✓</div> Kafka</div> <div><div>✓</div> Cloud Native Architecture</div>	<div>Engineering Best Practices</div> <div><div>✓</div> Extensive Unit & Integration Tests</div> <div><div>✓</div> Fully Documented Code</div> <div><div>✓</div> GitHub VCS</div> <div><div>✓</div> Full CI/CD</div>



Items grayed out, are proposed. Please see open issues in GitHub [here](#).

Chapter 3. Code Challenge Highlights

- ~ **12000 lines of code** covered by JUnit tests.
- Modern tech stack, event driven architecture and solid design principles.
- Fully leverages Spring Boot Technology.
- Advanced Spring Boot features including auto-configuration.
- Ultra scalable and resilient transaction processor built on Kafka technology.
- End to end enterprise security using dedicated Authentication Service designed to be used across the enterprise.
- Production ready features, e.g. Spring Boot Admin.
- Extensive documentation.

Chapter 4. Getting Started

This section provides documentation on setting up a local installation of the Reloadly Microservices. Create an issue on GitHub [here](#) if you have questions or need help.

4.1. Pre-requisites

Following pre-requisites need to be fulfilled before you can run a fully functional instance of the platform on your local development environments. The platform has been tested on macOS Big Sur.

1. **Hardware:** Either physical or virtual machines with minimum 8 GB RAM and 4 CPU Cores (*16 GB RAM, 8 CPU Cores if you want to do performance testing*).
2. **Operating System:** Windows(version 10+), macOS(version 10.15+), Linux (CentOS, RHEL, Ubuntu)
3. **Java** - JDK 8, or JDK 11.
4. **Build Tool** - Maven 3.6 or above
5. **Database** - MySQL, locally running or remotely hosted.
6. **Kafka** - Local instance with the broker server listening on port 9092. A remotely hosted Kafka cluster is acceptable as well.



Installation on macOS

- Install JDK by following the instructions [here](#). Please install JDK 8 or 11 only. Other JDK versions have not been tested.
- Install Apache Maven by following the instructions [here](#).
- Install Apache Kafka by following the instructions [here](#).
- Install MySQL by following the instructions [here](#).

4.2. Build From Source

Clone the git repository from GitHub into a directory of your choice.

```
git clone git@github.com:arunkpatra/reloadly-services.git
```

Build code and run tests. Build should pass, for you to proceed further with the rest of the chapter. From the directory where you cloned the repository, issue the following commands.

```
cd reloadly-services
mvn clean install
```



The above commands will build code and run integration tests. The build artifacts are installed to your local maven repository. For building and running tests, you do NOT need a locally running Kafka and MySQL instance. For running tests, in-memory instances of these resources are run.

4.3. Development Environment Setup

This is useful, when you want to set a development environment and run all the microservices on a single local machine. Kubernetes deployment support is coming up. See [this GitHub issue](#).



These instructions are for macOS. Please tailor them to run in other environments like Windows and Linux.

4.3.1. Starting Local Services

Following the steps below before running your microservices.

MySQL Setup

Issue the following commands. You should have installed MySQL locally and verified it to work correctly as a pre-requisite.

```
mysql.server start
```



You must secure your local MySQL installation and create a user with database wide access. You can use the admin user for now, on your local machine. See MySQL docs for more information. Take a note of the username and password of the admin user; you will need it in a later step.

All database tables used by the microservices need to be created upfront in your local MySQL database instance. As noted earlier, you do NOT need to do this for running integration tests since tests use in-memory Derby database.

Run the following scripts in order.

Authentication Microservice Schema

```
CREATE DATABASE IF NOT EXISTS rauthdb;
USE rauthdb;

DROP TABLE IF EXISTS api_key_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS username_password_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS authority_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS role_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS user_table;
```

--


```

-- User table. Contains unique UIDs.
--
CREATE TABLE user_table
(
    id      BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    uid     VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    active  BOOLEAN DEFAULT true
);

--
-- Valid roles that may be assigned to a user.
--
create table role_table
(
    id      BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    role_name VARCHAR(32) NOT NULL UNIQUE
);

--
-- Authorities assigned to a user. Authorities are equivalent to roles in the current
context.
--
CREATE TABLE authority_table
(
    id      BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    uid     VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL,
    authority VARCHAR(32) NOT NULL,
    CONSTRAINT unique_user_id_authority UNIQUE (uid, authority),
    CONSTRAINT fk_igc_authority_user_name_igc_user_user_name
        FOREIGN KEY (uid)
            REFERENCES user_table (uid),
    CONSTRAINT fk_igc_authority_authority_igc_role_role_name
        FOREIGN KEY (authority)
            REFERENCES role_table (role_name)
);

--
-- Table supporting a username/password based authentication. Passwords are encrypted.
--
CREATE TABLE username_password_table
(
    id      BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    user_name VARCHAR(64) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    password VARCHAR(128) NOT NULL,
    uid     VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL,
    CONSTRAINT fk_username_password_table_user_id_user_table
        FOREIGN KEY (uid)
            REFERENCES user_table (uid)
);

create TABLE api_key_table

```

```
(
    id          BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    uid         VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL,
    api_key     VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    active      BOOLEAN DEFAULT true,
    CONSTRAINT fk_api_key_table_uid_user_table
        FOREIGN KEY (uid)
            REFERENCES user_table (uid)
)
```

Account Microservice Schema

```
CREATE DATABASE IF NOT EXISTS rlaacctdb;
USE rlaacctdb;

DROP TABLE IF EXISTS address_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS account_balance_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS account_table;

--
-- Accounts table.
--
CREATE TABLE account_table
(
    id          BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    uid         VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE, -- Only one account per user ID
    account_id  VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    name        VARCHAR(128) NOT NULL,
    email       VARCHAR(128) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    phone_number VARCHAR(20) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    currency_cd VARCHAR(3) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'USD',
    active      BOOLEAN          DEFAULT TRUE
);

--
-- Account Balance table.
--
CREATE TABLE account_balance_table
(
    id          BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    account_id  VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    account_balance FLOAT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0.0,
    CONSTRAINT fk_acct_balance_table_acct_id_acct_table
        FOREIGN KEY (account_id)
            REFERENCES account_table (account_id)
);

--
-- Address table.
--
```

```
CREATE TABLE address_table
(
  id          BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
  account_id  VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL,
  address_type VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'BILLING',
  address_line_1 VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL,
  address_line_2 VARCHAR(40),
  city        VARCHAR(64) NOT NULL,
  state       VARCHAR(64) NOT NULL,
  postal_code VARCHAR(20) NOT NULL,
  country     VARCHAR(64),
  CONSTRAINT fk_address_table_acct_id_acct_table
    FOREIGN KEY (account_id)
      REFERENCES account_table (account_id)
);
```

Transaction Microservice Schema



The following script, sets up the tables needed for both the **transaction-processor** and the **transaction-service**. See later sections for details.

```

CREATE DATABASE IF NOT EXISTS rltxndb;
USE rltxndb;

DROP TABLE IF EXISTS money_reload_txn_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS airtime_send_txn_table;
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS transaction_table;
--
-- Transaction table.
--
CREATE TABLE transaction_table
(
    id            BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    uid           VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL,
    txn_id        VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    txn_type      VARCHAR(16) NOT NULL,
    txn_status    VARCHAR(16) NOT NULL
);

CREATE TABLE money_reload_txn_table
(
    id            BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    txn_id        VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    amount        FLOAT NOT NULL,
    CONSTRAINT fk_money_reload_txn_table_txn_id
        FOREIGN KEY (txn_id)
            REFERENCES transaction_table (txn_id)
);

CREATE TABLE airtime_send_txn_table
(
    id            BIGINT AUTO_INCREMENT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    txn_id        VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    amount        FLOAT NOT NULL,
    phone_number  VARCHAR(16) NOT NULL,
    CONSTRAINT fk_airtime_send_txn_table_txn_id
        FOREIGN KEY (txn_id)
            REFERENCES transaction_table (txn_id)
);

```

Seed Data

This data must be seeded into the DB for system to work correctly. It does nothing other than adding a service account and API key which is needed for inter-microservice communication.

```

--
-- Data goes into the Auth Database
--
USE rlauthdb;

--
-- These roles must exist in the system, for application to work.
--
INSERT INTO role_table(role_name)
VALUES ('ROLE_USER'),
      ('ROLE_ADMIN');

--
-- This is for a Reloadly Service Account, which the system needs.
--
INSERT INTO user_table(uid, active)
VALUES ('c1fe6f0d-420e-4161-a134-9c2342e36c95', true);

--
-- Service Account authorities.
--
INSERT INTO authority_table(uid, authority)
VALUES ('c1fe6f0d-420e-4161-a134-9c2342e36c95', 'ROLE_USER'),
      ('c1fe6f0d-420e-4161-a134-9c2342e36c95', 'ROLE_ADMIN');

--
-- Service Account credentials.
--
INSERT INTO username_password_table(user_name, password, uid)
VALUES ('reloadly_svc_acct',
      '$2a$10$0wuE74o7m2qCj7yTVgleG0hwuqrvbJZT2qwYCGtyUi6ITSjSqHEZy',
      'c1fe6f0d-420e-4161-a134-9c2342e36c95');

--
-- API Key issued to 'reloadly_svc_acct' service account.
--
INSERT INTO api_key_table(uid, api_key, active)
VALUES ('c1fe6f0d-420e-4161-a134-9c2342e36c95', 'd3fe6f0d-120e-4161-a134-8c2342e36ca6', true);

```

After running these scripts, you must have the schemas correctly created and seed data populated. Please verify.

Kafka Setup

Issue the following commands. You should have installed Kafka locally and verified it to work correctly as a pre-requisite.

```
zookeeper-server-start -daemon /usr/local/etc/kafka/zookeeper.properties & kafka-  
server-start /usr/local/etc/kafka/server.properties
```



A topic named `com.reloadly.inbound.txn.topic` is needed by the `transaction-processor` (Kafka consumer) and `transaction-service` (Kafka producer) components. This topic is created on the fly by the `transaction-service` if it does not exist. While this is acceptable in non-production environments, it is discouraged in higher environments. The `transaction-processor` listens to this topic and won't process messages if this topic does not exist.



In your local environment, Kafka uses PLAINTEXT by default. In other environments, you must use strong encryption. Please refer Kafka documentation for securing a Kafka installation.

4.3.2. Running Microservices

Follow the steps listed below in order to run all components of the platform locally. You should follow these steps sequentially.

Environment Variable Configuration

You would need to set the following Environment variables. Use the method that's appropriate for your operating system. On macOS, you can export environment variables on the command line as follows.

```
export YOUR_ENV_VARIABLE=env_var_value
```

Environment Variable	Value	Notes
DB_USER	The MySQL DB username	Used by all microservices that access the database.
DB_PASSWORD	The MySQL DB password	Used by all microservices that access the database.
AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID	Your AWS account Access key ID	Needed to send email via Amazon SES
AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY	Your AWS account Secret access key.	Needed to send email via Amazon SES.
EMAIL_DRY_RUN	Set to <code>true</code> or <code>false</code>	Setting <code>false</code> suppresses email sending. <code>true</code> will send actual emails. You need to configure SES correctly in your AWS account. See Amazon SES documentation.

Environment Variable	Value	Notes
SENDER_EMAIL_ID	The sender email ID verified by AWS SES to send emails from.	Needed to send email via Amazon SES.
TWILIO_DRY_RUN	Set to true or false	Setting false suppresses SMS sending. true will send actual SMS messages.
TWILIO_ACCOUNT_SID	Your Twilio account SID. Get it from your Twilio account.	Needed to send SMS via Twilio (SMS charges will be applied by Twilio).
TWILIO_AUTH_TOKEN	Your Twilio account auth token. Get it from your Twilio account.	Needed to send SMS via Twilio.
TWILIO_MSG_SVC_ID	Your Twilio account Message Service ID. Get it from your Twilio account.	Needed to send SMS via Twilio.
RELOADLY_SVC_ACCT_API_KEY	The reloadly service account API key. Use the value you inserted in the Seed Data section.	Needed for the platform to work correctly. Use the api-key value from the final INSERT statement in that script.



Consider writing a small shell script, or add these in your `~/.zprofile` or `~/.bashprofile` file or a suitable method of your liking. After adding, you should **source** these files for changes to take effect, e.g. **source ~/.zprofile**.

You may add the following in the script. Supply appropriate values.

```
#
# These properties are used by the platform microservices
#
export DB_USER=
export DB_PASSWORD=
export AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID=
export AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY=

# Change this to false, if you want to send actual emails.
export EMAIL_DRY_RUN=true
export SENDER_EMAIL_ID=

# Change this to false, if you want to send actual SMS. SMS charges may apply.
export TWILIO_DRY_RUN=true
export TWILIO_ACCOUNT_SID=
export TWILIO_AUTH_TOKEN=
export TWILIO_MSG_SVC_ID=

export RELOADLY_SVC_ACCT_API_KEY=
```

Running Microservices

Run these services in sequence (recommended). You must have done a `mvn clean install` from the root of your cloned repository. That builds all microservices.



Ensure that, your MySQL server and Kafka instances are up and running before you proceed with the following steps.

Authentication Microservice

Issue these commands from the root of your cloned repository.

```
cd authentication-service
mvn spring-boot:run
```

Access Swagger UI of Authentication Microservice at localhost:9090/swagger-ui/

Account Microservice

Issue these commands from the root of your cloned repository.

```
cd account-service
mvn spring-boot:run
```

Access Swagger UI of Authentication Microservice at localhost:8080/swagger-ui/

Transaction Microservice

Issue these commands from the root of your cloned repository.

```
cd transaction-service
mvn spring-boot:run
```

Access Swagger UI of Authentication Microservice at localhost:8081/swagger-ui/

Notification Microservice

Issue these commands from the root of your cloned repository.

```
cd notification-service
mvn spring-boot:run
```

Access Swagger UI of Authentication Microservice at localhost:8082/swagger-ui/

Transaction Processor

Issue these commands from the root of your cloned repository.

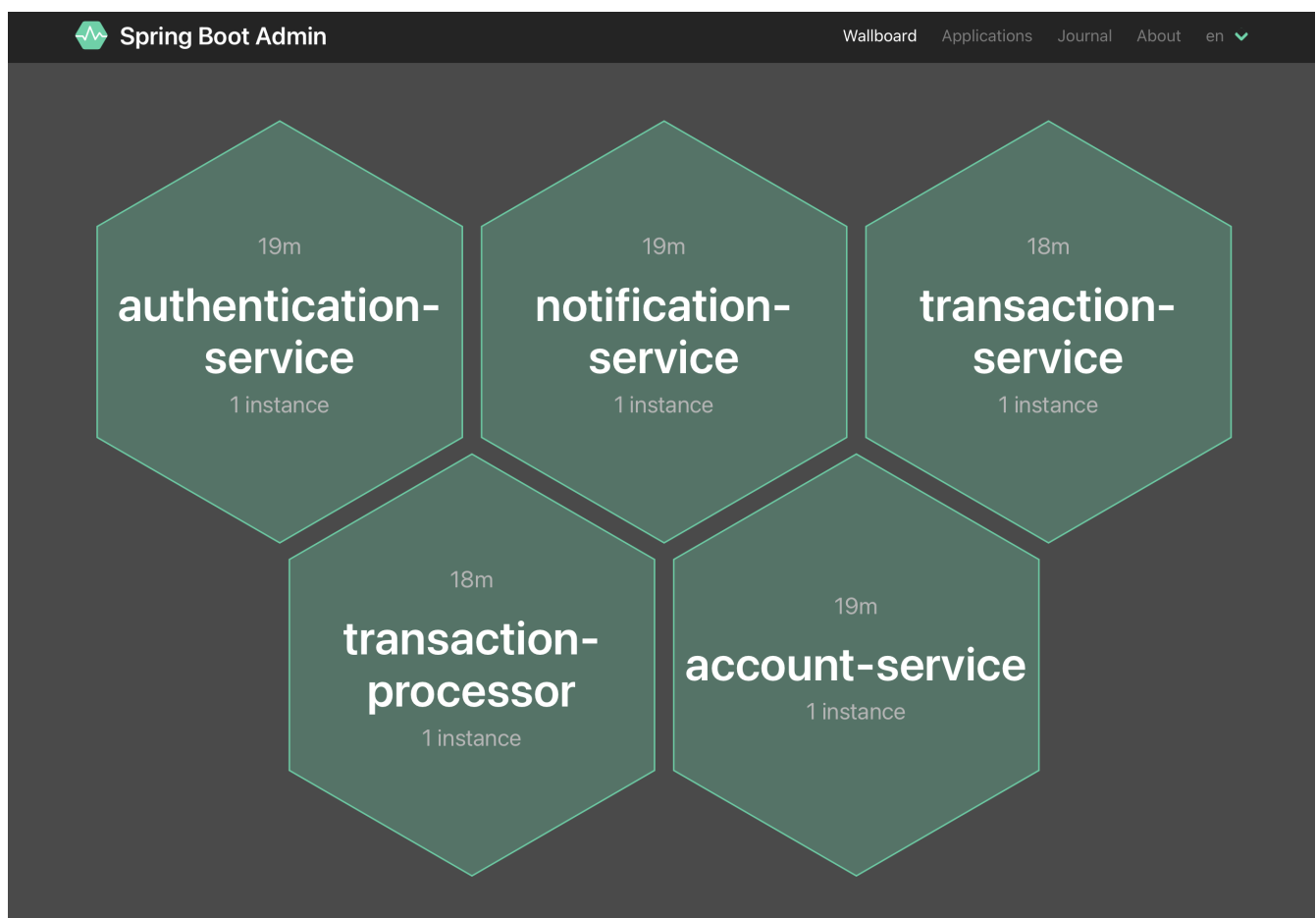

```
cd transaction-processor
mvn spring-boot:run
```

Spring Boot Admin App

Issue these commands from the root of your cloned repository.

```
cd admin-service
mvn spring-boot:run
```

Access the Admin Service Dashboard at localhost:9595/. You should see the following dashboard once all your services register with the Spring Boot Admin app. You should navigate to the **Wallboard** tab of the Spring Boot Admin UI.



Congratulations! Your services are running.

Now head over to the documentation of individual microservices for more details.

4.3.3. Cleanup

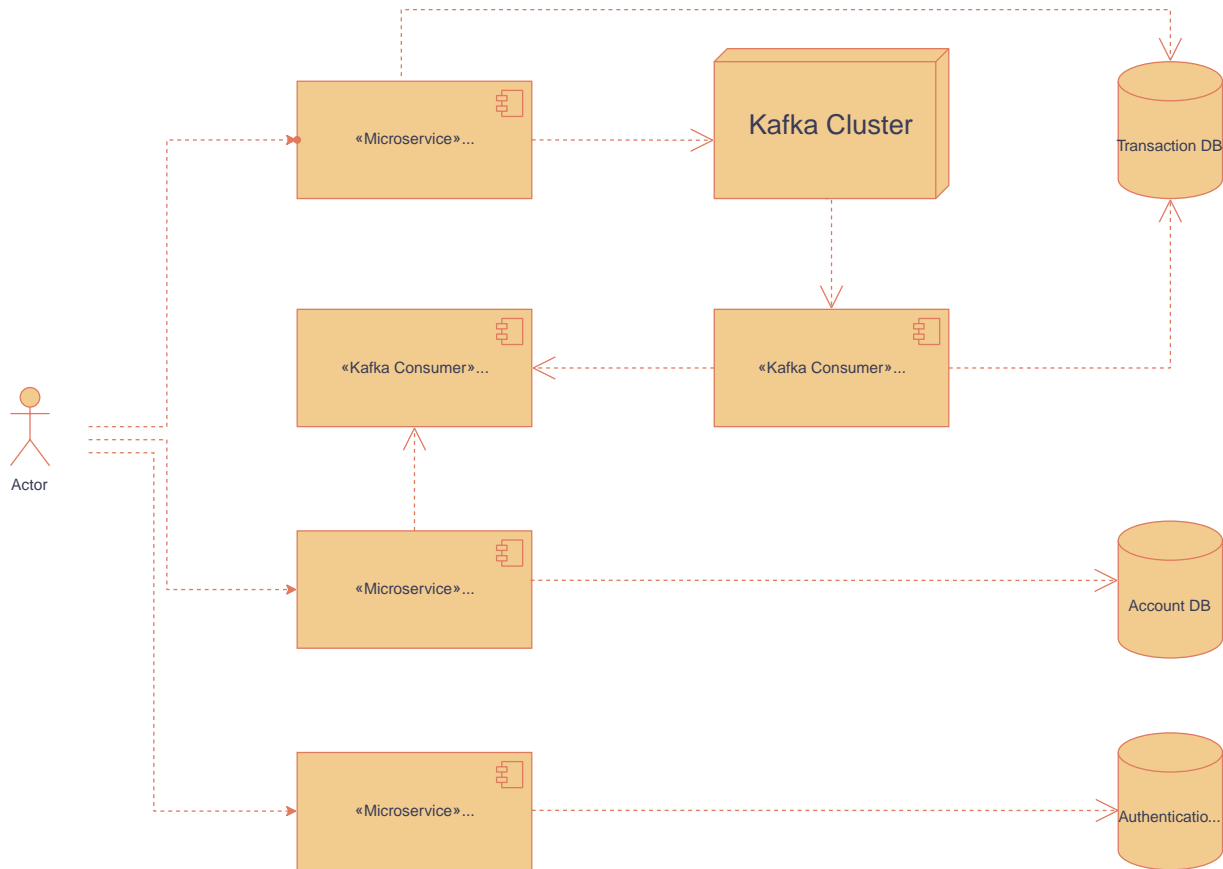
1. Shutdown your locally running MySQL instance.

```
mysql.server stop
```

2. Now kill the Kafka process that you had started earlier by hitting **CTRL + C** in the terminal window where Kafka is running.

Chapter 5. Architecture

The Architecture envisioned has been depicted in the illustration below.



Viewer does not support full SVG 1.1

5.1. Salient Points

- The client facing microservices are Authentication, Account and Transaction.
- The Transaction microservice, posts inbound transactions to Kafka and also maintains transaction status in its DB. Transaction microservice is this a Kafka Producer.
- The Transaction Processor is a Kafka Consumer and potentially runs a number of instances. All instances are part of a Kafka consumer group.
- Transaction processor updates transaction status once processed. Transactions can be retried.
- Notification microservice is called internally by other microservices and transaction processor.
- Authentication microservice is used to issue JWT tokens, User signup, token verification, API key verification etc.
- All microservices are secured using Spring Security. Inbound HTTP requests into any microservice are expected to carry either an Auth service issued JWT token, or a valid API key. Security infrastructure will validate tokens with Auth service.

5.2. Design

The Authentication, Account, Transaction and Notification microservices are Spring Boot applications. Each microservice embraces Domain Driven Design (DDD). Each microservice is responsible for managing data for the domain model it manages.

Additionally, for monitoring, A Spring Boot Admin app is utilized (not shown in illustration above); its optional.

Chapter 6. Reloadly Services

6.1. Authentication Microservice

The Authentication service allows multiple enterprise facilities like:

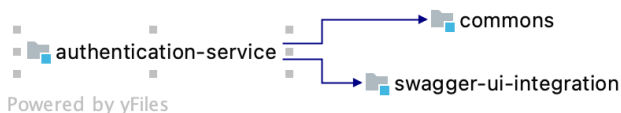
- User signup - Currently username and password based login is supported. Can be extended to other auth channels. Users are issued JWT tokens.
- Signup - Users can signup by choosing a username and password.
- Token Verification - Verify JWT tokens.
- API Key verification and issue functions. API keys are issued to users and service accounts.
- All other microservices call into the Auth Service to validate tokens and API keys. It is a foundational service.

See Swagger UI for API documentation. It's available at localhost:9090/swagger-ui/ when you run your services locally.

6.1.1. API

Authentication Authentication Controller		▼
POST	/login Login using username and password	
POST	/verify/apikey Verify an API Key	
POST	/verify/token Verify a reloadly issued JWT token	
Users User Controller		▼
POST	/signup/username Signup using username and password	

6.1.2. Module Dependencies



6.2. Account Microservice

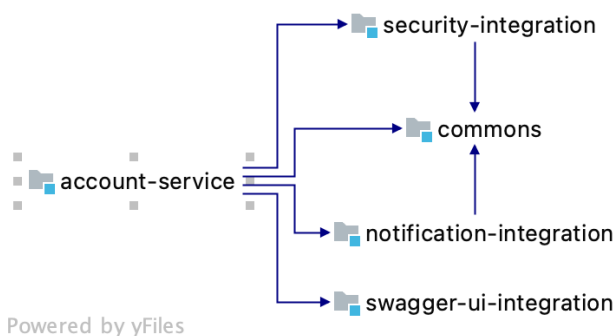
The Account microservice, allows interacting with Account domain model. Various update and query operations can be performed.

See Swagger UI for API documentation. It's available at localhost:8080/swagger-ui/ when you run your services locally.

6.2.1. API

Account Account Controller			✓
GET	/account/{uid}	Get Account details	🔒
POST	/account/{uid}	Create a new account	🔒
PUT	/account/{uid}	Update Account	🔒
GET	/account/balance/{uid}	Get Account Balance	🔒
POST	/account/credit/{uid}	Credit Account	🔒
POST	/account/debit/{uid}	Debit Account	🔒
GET	/account/info/{uid}	Get Account Info	🔒

6.2.2. Module Dependencies



6.3. Transaction Microservice

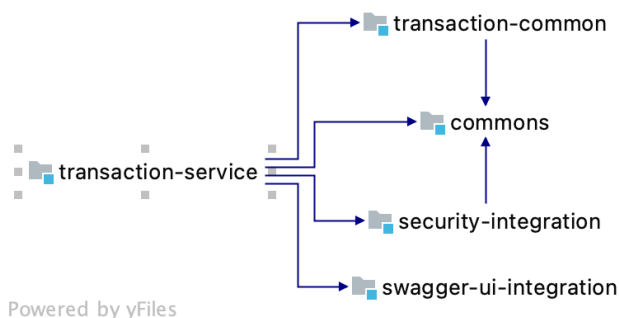
The Transaction service allows users to initiate user transactions, like money reload and airtime send operations. Note that, the transaction service, accepts user requests and posts to a reliable and resilient Kafka cluster. It also persists the user request in persistent storage so that that its status can be queries. User requests return immediately. The transactions posted to Kafka are picked up later asynchronously by the **Transaction Processor** component.

See Swagger UI for API documentation. It's available at localhost:8081/swagger-ui/ when you run your services locally.

6.3.1. API

Transaction Transaction Controller		⌵
POST	/transaction Post a new transaction	🔒
GET	/transaction/{txnId} Get Transaction Status	🔒
PUT	/transaction/{txnId} Update transaction status	🔒

6.3.2. Module Dependencies



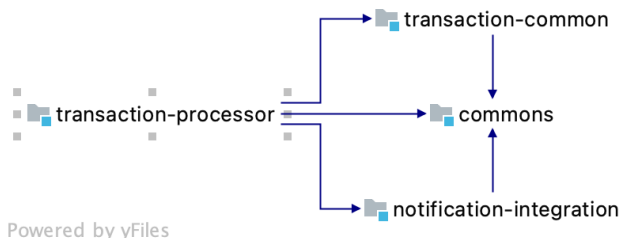
6.4. Transaction Processor

The Transaction Processor is at the heart of the platform and has the responsibility of processing inbound user transactions. The transactions could be related to any business functionality, like sending airtime or reloading money into your own account. Business operations that are ideally suited to be routed to the transaction processor are those that are potentially expensive and have strict guarantees to fulfill. Also, such operations may be retried e.g. a airtime send operation may be retried.

The transaction processor listens to transaction requests that are processed to Kafka. Part of the objective here is to scale the transaction processing horizontally. Kafka listeners(and the transaction processing is one) can for consumer groups. Essentially, when the transaction processor is deployed for example to a Kubernetes cluster, one could scale very easily by increasing/decreasing the number of replicas. All the other production grade features of Kafka are available by default to the transaction processor.

Once the Transaction Processor processes a transaction, it ensures that notifications are sent out to the user so that they know the status of the transaction.

6.4.1. Module Dependencies



6.5. Notification Microservice

The Notification microservice allows sending emails and SMS messages. Endpoints are provided for callers to invoke these facilities as REST API calls.

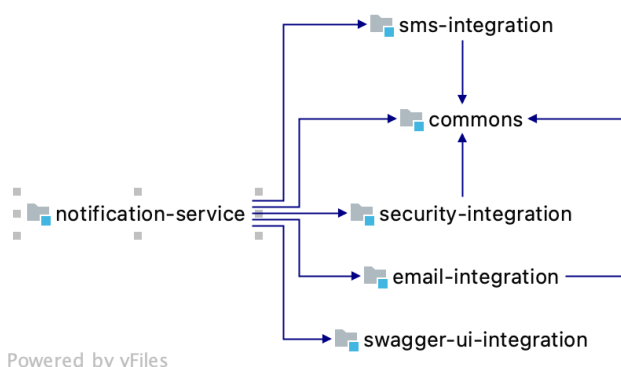
For Email, Amazon SES is used. For SMS, Twilio is used. Other email or SMS providers could be plugged in transparently since the required abstractions exist to easily swap out implementations.

See Swagger UI for API documentation. It's available at localhost:8082/swagger-ui/ when you run your services locally.

6.5.1. API

Notification Notification Controller			⌵
POST	/notification/email	Send an email	🔒
POST	/notification/sms	Send a SMS	🔒

6.5.2. Module Dependencies



Chapter 7. Reloadly Modules

Foundational modules are reusable pieces of software that can be easily integrated in other modules. The following modules are used in the rest of the platform. Note that, in a Microservices architecture, individual microservices should share reusable code only if makes sense and if sharable code is well managed by a team which keeps pace with others.

7.1. Email

This module supports email sending facilities. This is a drop-in solution. Add the following dependency in any Spring Boot application and Spring Boot Autoconfiguration would wire the necessary beans.

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>com.reloadly</groupId>
  <artifactId>email-integration</artifactId>
  <version>1.0.0</version>
</dependency>
```

This component is configurable. See the configuration properties of this module.

7.2. SMS

This module supports SMS sending facilities. This is a drop-in solution. Add the following dependency in any Spring Boot application and Spring Boot Autoconfiguration would wire the necessary beans.

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>com.reloadly</groupId>
  <artifactId>sms-integration</artifactId>
  <version>1.0.0</version>
</dependency>
```

This component is configurable. See the configuration properties of this module.

7.3. Security Integration

This module automatically secures all Web API endpoints with Auth Service security via Spring Security. This is a drop-in solution. Add the following dependency in any Spring Boot application and Spring Boot Autoconfiguration would wire the necessary beans.

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>com.reloadly</groupId>
  <artifactId>security-integration</artifactId>
  <version>1.0.0</version>
</dependency>
```

This component is configurable. See the configuration properties of this module.

7.4. Notification Integration

This module integrates Notification Service via an SDK. You would not need to make REST API calls to send out notifications, and use a Java API instead. The Java API wraps the REST AP calls into the Notification microservice. This is a drop-in solution. Add the following dependency in any Spring Boot application and Spring Boot Autoconfiguration would wire the necessary beans.

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>com.reloadly</groupId>
  <artifactId>notification-integration</artifactId>
  <version>1.0.0</version>
</dependency>
```

This component is configurable. See the configuration properties of this module.

7.5. Swagger UI Integration

This module adds Swagger UI integration to any Spring Boot app. This is a drop-in solution. Add the following dependency in any Spring Boot application and Spring Boot Autoconfiguration would wire the necessary beans.

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>com.reloadly</groupId>
  <artifactId>swagger-ui-integration</artifactId>
  <version>1.0.0</version>
</dependency>
```

This component is configurable. See the configuration properties of this module.

Chapter 8. Production Deployment

The individual microservices may be run as standalone spring boot applications in lower environments. However, for production like environments, where HA, failover and scalability needs exist, a suitable approach may be taken. We discuss some aspects and approaches below.

8.1. Kubernetes Deployment (EKS)

See this [GitHub issue](#).

Kubernetes would be the ideal way to run and scale the microservices of this platform. Of special interest is the transaction processor which necessarily needs to scale based on transaction volumes. Some aspects to note are:

- It's best to keep databases out of Kubernetes. Consider having a managed database service from a cloud provider like AWS or GCP.
- Microservices including the transaction processor should be Dockerized and docker images should be created in the build pipeline. Store images in an organizational Docker Registry or a hosted one.
- Consider a managed Kubernetes Service like Amazon EKS or Google GKE.

8.1.1. Docker Images

- Docker images can be easily created by the Spring Boot maven plugin which currently support creation of Docker images natively.

8.1.2. Helm Charts

As a best practice, consider using Helm Charts to easily manage deployments and deployment environments. It's beneficial to use Helm Charts since it allows for easy rollback.

8.2. AWS Beanstalk or EC2 Containers

While deployment to AWS Beanstalk or EC2 containers is possible, it should probably make sense only for small deployments. Managing these environments is fraught with errors and do not support automation very well. For modern microservice deployment strategies consider using Helm Charts and Kubernetes.

Chapter 9. Production Monitoring

Production monitoring is a necessary part of operations, and the right tools need to be utilized to get the job done.

9.1. Spring Boot Admin

This is a great tool to have full visibility into the runtime of Spring Boot Apps over HTTP(S). This is currently supported. One can easily integrate logfile viewers. SBA supports discovery in Kubernetes environments as well.

9.2. Grafana

See this GitHub [issue](#).

Grafana provides powerful dashboards that can display any application metrics and other performance parameters sent to it. It has excellent integration with Spring and plays well in Kubernetes deployments. See grafana.com/ for more details.

9.3. Prometheus

Prometheus is a leading tool to gather metrics from applications and route to Grafana for powerful visualizations. Excellent support exists in the Spring ecosystem and it plays well in Kubernetes deployments. See prometheus.io/ for more details.

9.4. Loki

Loki is a popular choice for log aggregation and integrates well with Grafana. For more details see grafana.com/oss/loki/.

Chapter 10. Product Development Approach

Product development in the Microservices world has its benefits, but it needs a certain approach, culture and the appropriate tools.

The Microservices paradigm, is part technology and part organizational culture. It closely ties with the Agile manifesto. Microservices architecture make adequate sense when the size of the business, the organization and the domain justifies it. Eventually Microservice boundaries would align with team boundaries. That reflects in code organization as well. If these nuances are overlooked, it's very easy to get the entire Microservices approach wrong and rack up huge technical debts in the mid to long term. Microservices done the right way, with the right team organization and tools will go a long way towards increasing developer productivity and keep operational costs low.

10.1. Processes and Methodology

Some salient points:

- Consider adopting Agile methodology for software development and delivery.
- Consider aligning team boundaries with Microservice domain boundaries. As an example, a dedicated team to work on Account Microservices may be formed. This team should own the software development, release planning and deployment for this microservice. As a best practice, deployment of this microservice should not have software "build time" dependencies with any other microservice. Additionally, the database should be exclusively used by this microservice.
- Team size should not exceed 5-7 team members with members being full stack engineers.
- Consider Scrum of Scrums to align all teams well in advance.
- Scrum meetings (daily standup meetings) may be used. However, this is falling out of fashion and may not work very well in distributed agile. Also consider effective usage of tools like GitHub issues, Gitter, Discord Server, GitHub Discussions etc. These tools go a long way towards increasing productivity.
- Consider fortnightly software release cycles.
- Agile Scrum teams are best led by a Project Lead. The project lead has the responsibility and authority to manage software, reviews, merging and releasing. Each microservice should have a project lead, and a team attached to it.
- A Product Owner or Product Manager is responsible for managing business requirements and planning. A PO can be assigned to multiple logically grouped teams. A PO has no authority over engineering teams but fully owns requirements and what should be delivered in a particular release.
- Consider a culture of merging often and releasing often.
- Consider automating every single manual process that you can afford to.

10.2. Tools

Following tools are recommended for their wide adoption, excellent usability and reliability. ===
Team Communication

Consider Slack. Consider creating multiple channels as needed and add the right apps, e.g. GitHub, Confluence, Miro etc to Slack.

10.2.1. Defect Management

Consider using Jira for defect management, Integrate with Slack.

10.2.2. Release Management

Consider release planning and management in GitHub.

10.2.3. Source Code Management

GitHub is the leading platform for DVCS and is recommended. It provides a full set of umbrella services suited for moder teams following industry best practices.

10.2.4. CI/CD and Automation

Consider GitHub Actions and/or other suitable tools to facilitate deployment to Kubernetes.