The article provides an in-depth look at the challenges faced by Blackboard Inc.'s development team and the innovative solutions implemented to address these challenges. The chief architect, David Ashman, noticed the increasing complexity and growing lead times associated with the old system, which was leading to worse outcomes for their customers. This was evident from the decreasing number of codes commits and the increasing lines of code in their repository. To tackle this issue, Ashman initiated a code re-architecting project that utilized the strangler fig pattern. This involved creating Building Blocks, enabling developers to work in separate modules that were decoupled from the monolithic codebase, allowing for increased autonomy, freedom, and safety. One of the key observations made by Ashman was the need for developers to have more independence and freedom to work effectively. The implementation of Building Blocks resulted in an impressive improvement in code modularity, enabling developers to work with more autonomy. This, in combination with updates to their build process, provided developers with faster and better feedback on their work, leading to better quality. The article also highlights the impact of the Building Blocks code repositories on developer productivity. The exponential growth in the number of lines of code and code commits for the Building Blocks code repositories made the work safer because mistakes resulted in small, local failures instead of major catastrophes that impacted the global system. This emphasized the importance of modular architectures in improving productivity and code quality. From this experience, there are several valuable lessons that can be learned. Firstly, it is crucial to address legacy code complexity and recognize the impact it can have on lead times and outcomes. By implementing modular architectures like the Building Blocks, organizations can empower developers to work with more independence and freedom, leading to improved productivity and code quality. Additionally, providing developers with faster and better feedback on their work can significantly enhance the overall quality of the product. In conclusion, the article shed light on the challenges faced by Blackboard Inc.'s development team, particularly related to the complexity of the legacy codebase. Through the implementation of the strangler fig pattern and Building Blocks, the team was able to overcome these challenges and achieve impressive improvements in code modularity, productivity, and code quality. The lessons learned from this experience are valuable for organizations dealing with similar challenges, emphasizing the importance of addressing legacy code complexity and empowering developers with modular architectures and faster feedback loops to enhance productivity and code quality.