

Identification of Module Boundaries in a Modular Monolith Architecture using Automated technologies

University of Turku
Department of Computing
Master of Science (Tech) Thesis
February 2024
Florian Dejonckheere

UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

Department of Computing

FLORIAN DEJONCKHEERE: Identification of Module Boundaries in a Modular Monolith Architecture

using Automated technologies

Master of Science (Tech) Thesis, 4 p., 4 app. p.

Department of Computing

February 2024

The modular monolith architecture emerged in recent years as the harmonization of the monolithic

and microservices architectures. The paradigm offers a compromise between modularity, flexibil-

ity, and scalability. Many monolithic applications are being migrated to modular monoliths or mi-

croservices entirely, to satisfy increasingly complex and volatile business requirements. This process

is labour-intensive, slow, and may take months to years for larger codebases. Modularization of a

codebase typically requires the developer to have an intimate knowledge of both the application

code and domain.

In this thesis, we investigate the modular monolith software architecture, and how modules are typ-

ically determined as part of the modularization efforts. We propose an automated solution based on

dependency analysis and machine learning algorithms to aid in the identification of module bound-

aries, and evaluate its effectiveness using a case study. We discuss the results and draw conclusions

about the propsed solution.

Keywords: software architecture, monolith, microservices, modular monolith

Contents

1. Introduction	
2. Background	
3. Related work	3
3.1. Monolith architecture	
3.2. Microservice architecture	
4. Methodology	4
5. Modular monolith architecture	5
5.1. Background	5
5.2. Challenges and opportunities	5
5.3. Modularization	5
6. Proposed solution	6
7. Case study	7
7.1. Background	7
7.2. Analysis	7
7.3. Evaluation	7
7.4. Results	7
7.5. Discussion	
8. Conclusion	8
8.1. Future work	8
References	10

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Acronyms

API Application Programming Interface

UI User Interface

1. Introduction

2. Background

- 3. Related work
- 3.1. Monolith architecture
- 3.2. Microservice architecture

4. Methodology

5. Modular monolith architecture

- 5.1. Background
- 5.2. Challenges and opportunities
- 5.3. Modularization

6. Proposed solution

- 7. Case study
- 7.1. Background
- 7.2. Analysis
- 7.3. Evaluation
- 7.4. Results
- 7.5. Discussion

- 8. Conclusion
- 8.1. Future work

References