

Pets or Cattle aka Monoliths or Microservices?



Monoliths are Pets

- **Single Codebase** All the application components are part of one large codebase.
- **Tightly Coupled** Different parts of the application (e.g., frontend, backend, database) are interdependent.
- **Single Deployment** The entire application is packaged and deployed together as one unit.
- **Easier to Develop Initially** For small teams and applications, monolithic architecture can be quicker to build and deploy.

Signs that we have pets

- Named and treated as unique, indispensable instances (like "my-pet-application-web-server")
- Manually configured and maintained
- When sick, they're nursed back to health
- Irreplaceable and require significant effort to recreate
- Example: A traditional monolithic application server that requires careful updates and maintenance

Challenges with pets

- **Scalability** Difficult to scale individual components independently.
- **Maintainability** As the codebase grows, it becomes harder to manage and make changes.
- **Slow Development** Small changes require redeploying the entire application.
- **Single Point of Failure** If one part of the application fails, the entire system may be affected.

Microservices are cattle

- **Independent Services** Each service is self-contained and focuses on a single business capability (e.g., user authentication, tweet processing).
- **Loose Coupling** Services communicate via APIs, making them loosely coupled and independent.
- **Independent Deployment** Each service can be deployed and updated independently of others.
- **Scalability** Each service can be scaled individually based on its own demand.

Signs that we have cattle

- Numbered, not named (like "web-server-042")
- Automatically provisioned and configured
- When sick, they're terminated and replaced
- Easily replaceable through automation
- Low maintenance cost per instance
- Example: Auto-scaled microservices in Kubernetes pods / AWS

Benefits

- **Flexibility** Enables the use of different technologies for different services.
- **Scalability** Services can be scaled independently to handle varying loads.
- **Faster Development** Teams can work on separate services, speeding up the development process.
- **Fault Isolation** A failure in one service doesn't necessarily affect others.

Challenges of Microservices

- **Complexity** More services mean more moving parts to manage.
- **Communication Overhead** Managing interactions between services can be challenging,

especially with network latency.

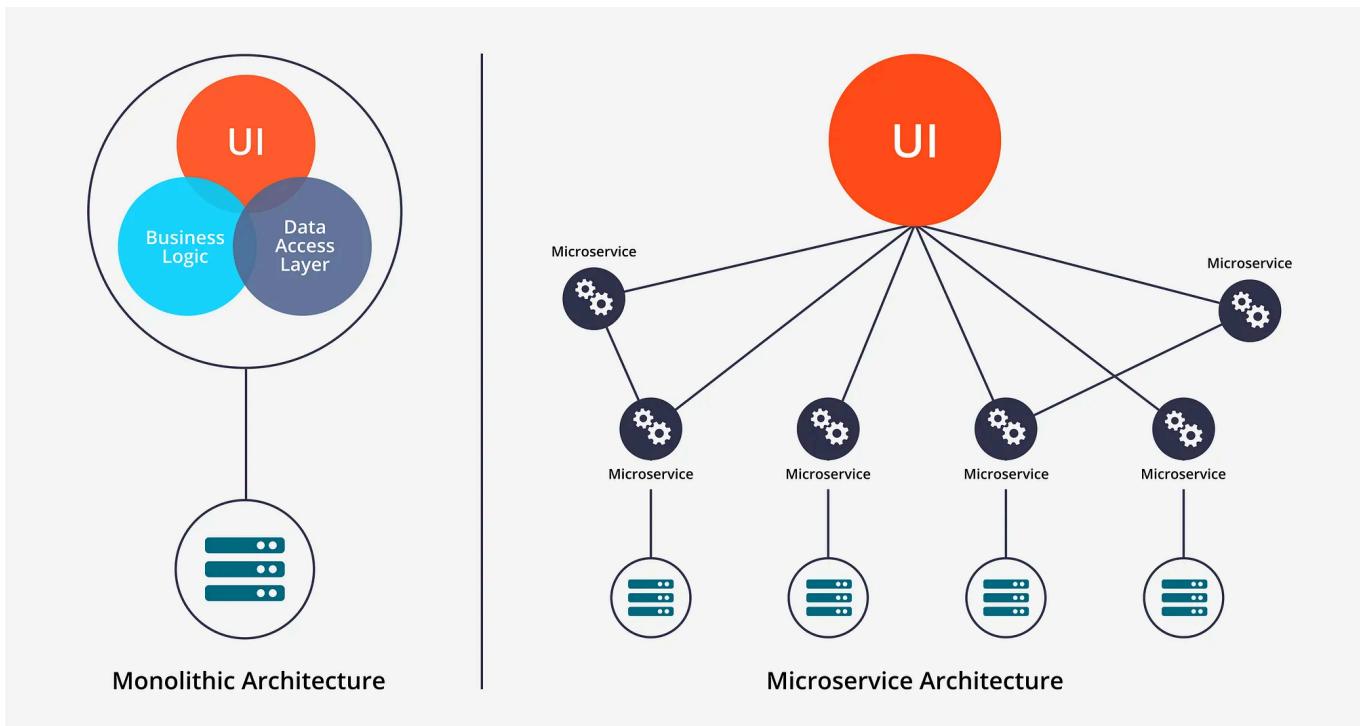
- **Data Consistency** Ensuring data consistency across services requires careful planning.

From pet owners to ranchers

What questions do we need to ask and answer on our journey from pet owners to ranchers?

- Service Boundaries
- Data Management and Consistency
- Inter-Service Communication
- Deployment Strategy
- Monitoring and Observability
- Service Discovery
- Security
- Error Handling and Resilience
- Versioning and Backward Compatibility
- Cost and Infrastructure Complexity

Monoliths & Microservices

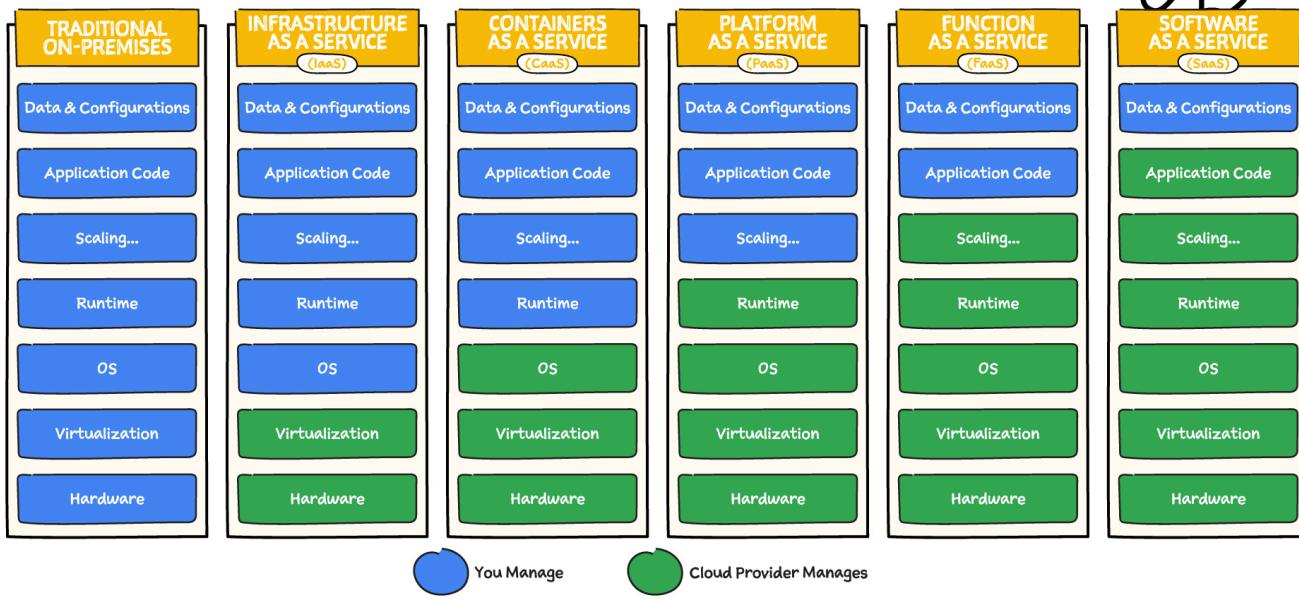


Moving towards the right

@pvergadia



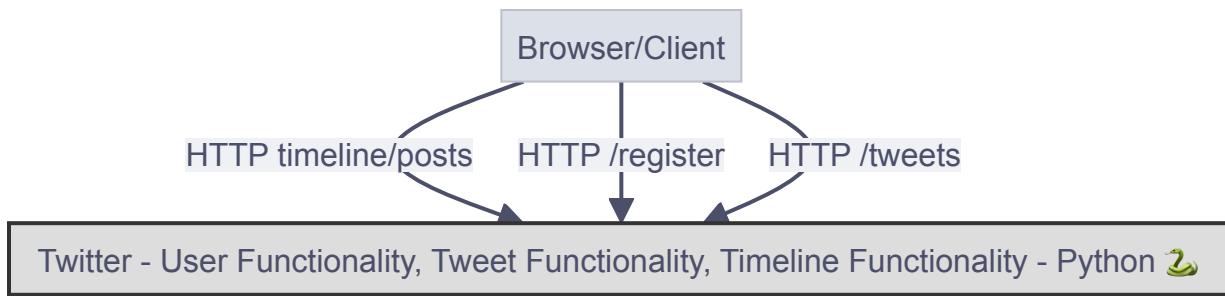
Wait... what is Cloud again?



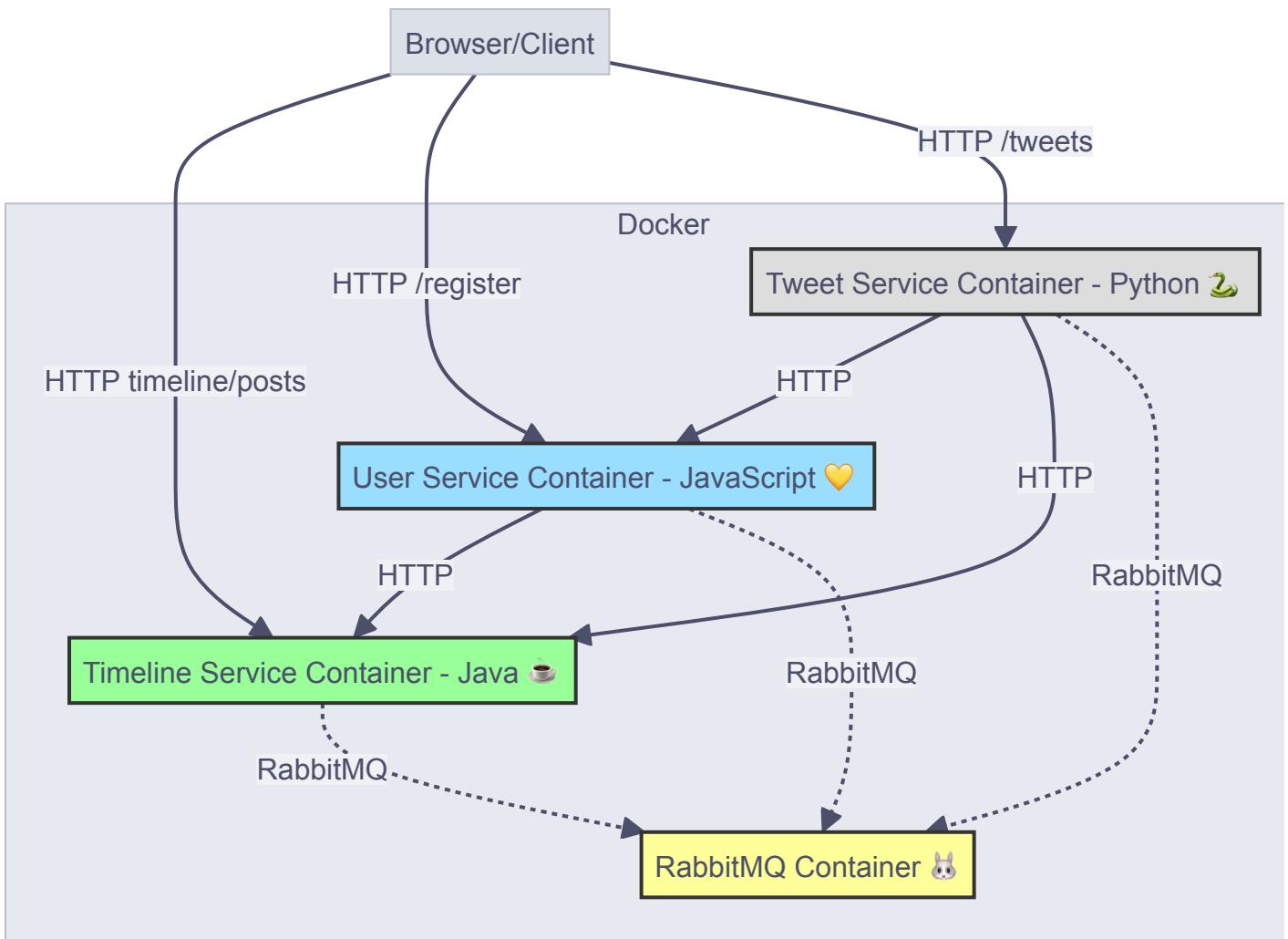
DEMO TWITTER APP

<https://github.com/gcziprusz/twitter-microservice-demo>

Demo Twitter Monolith



Demo Twitter Microservices



REFERENCES

<https://medium.com/startlovingyourself/microservices-vs-monolithic-architecture-c8df91f16bb4>

<https://x.com/pvergadia/status/1613591733606174721>

Latency

[latency source](#)