

Unit testing on the frontend

Extract the state, test the state

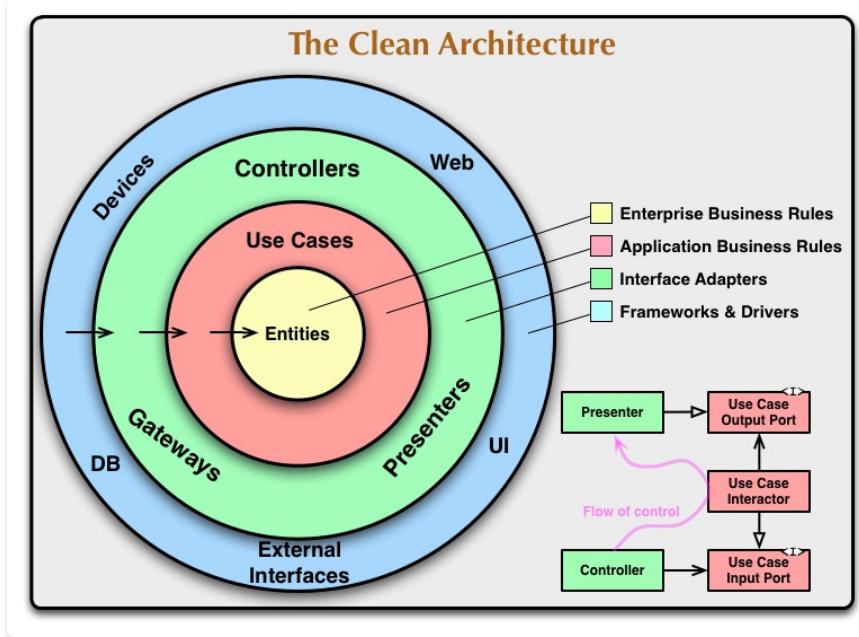
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Hexagonal architecture



- Hexagonal architecture/Clean architecture/onion architecture: same idea under many names
- Domain logic should be in its own dedicated layer
- Domain layer does not depend on any other layer (may demand dependency inversion)
- Ports/adapters pattern that let's change other layer easily (SQL to elasticsearch, REST to graphQL, etc...)

Clean architecture on the backend

```
async function sendFeedbackController(request: Request, response: Response): Promise<void> {
  const feedback = z
    .object({
      payload: z.any(),
      type: feedbackTypeSchema,
    })
    .parse(request.body);
  const user = parseAuthenticatedUser(response);
  await sendFeedback({ feedback, user });
  response.send({});
}
```

- On the backend, we remove request handling and db logic from domain services (handlers and repositories)
- See above the handler above that parse the request, calls a domain service, then send the response

Service can change database with a repository

```
async function getReviewsByRating({ reviewFilters} : { reviewFilters: ReviewFilters }): Promise<Aggs []> {
  if (elasticRepository.hasReviewIndex()) {
    return elasticRepository.aggregateReviewsByRating({ reviewFilters });
  }
  return SQLrepository.aggregateReviews({
    reviewFilters,
    attributes: ['rating', [Sequelize.literal('COUNT(DISTINCT reviews.id)'), 'count']],
    group: ['rating'],
  });
}
```

- Repository pattern: create a dedicated module to handle db logic. Quite heavy, but let's us switch from one database to another easily.
- Remark: this does respect Clean Architecture by the letter. No dependency inversion was done, and SQL syntax leaks out of SQL repository.

Hexagonal on the front-end: the UI as an afterthought

The screenshot shows a tweet from David K. Piano (@DavidKPiano). The tweet contains the following text:

💡 Model and develop your app's logic as if it will be used in many different UIs (e.g., web, CLI, native, etc.), even if it won't be.

This will force you to avoid coupling logic with presentation, which mainstream frameworks (React, Angular, Vue) unintentionally encourage.

3:08 PM · Feb 4, 2019

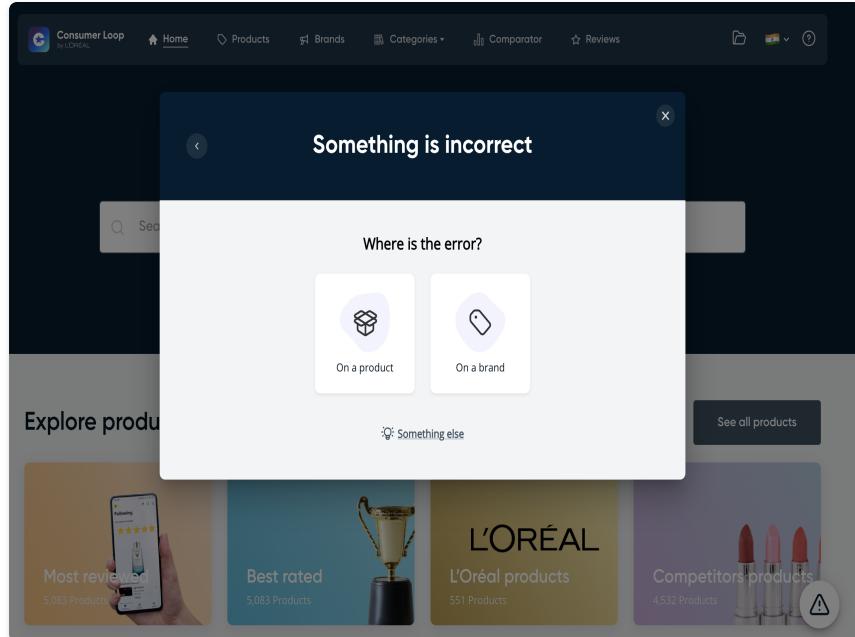
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- The core idea: remove all UI and query from the domain logic. Imagine that there are two way to interact with app, UI or CLI. The core logic should not be duplicated.
- All HTTP calls (Web sockets, ...) should be extracted to dedicated services
- UI interfaces extracted to presentational components
- So in practice the domain logic ends up identified to with the application global state (WARNING: this may an abuse of language)

Hexagonal on the front-end: the feedback module example



Feedback

- > components
- > context
- > icons
- > images
- > services
- > store
- > use-cases
- > views

TS [Feedback.tsx](#)

TS [FeedbackModal.tsx](#)

TS [index.tsx](#)

TS [types.ts](#)

The feedback module example: an HTTP service

```
function useNewFeedback({  
  options = {},  
}: {  
  options?: MutationOptions<Feedback>;  
}): SafeMutation<Feedback> {  
  const mutationFn = usePostMutationFn({ input: `/api/feedback` });  
  return usePostMutation<Feedback>({ options: { mutationFn, ...options } });  
}
```

- Service handling HTTP request to backend

The feedback module example: a view

```
function IncorrectBrandName(): JSX.Element {
  const { brandId, newFeedbackMutation } = useCollaborationContext();
  const [correctName, setCorrectName] = useState<string>('');
  if (brandId === null) return <></>;
  return (
    <>
      <Header title="The name is incorrect" />
      <Body>
        <TextInput
          onChange={(event) => setCorrectName(event.target.value)}
          value={correctName}
        />
        <Actions
          onMainClick={() => sendFeedback({
            type: 'incorrectBrandName',
            payload: { brandId, correctName },
          })}
        />
      </Body>
    </>
  );
}
```

The feedback module example: the store

```
function useFeedbackStore({  
  params = {},  
  useNewFeedback,  
}: FeedbackStoreProps): IFeedbackStore {  
  const [isModalOpen, setIsModalOpen] = useState<boolean>(false);  
  
  const historyStore = useFeedbackHistory({});  
  const { view } = historyStore;  
  
  const { reverse, ...navigationMethods } = useReverse(historyStore);  
  const { clearHistory, goBack, goBackToStart } = navigationMethods;  
  
  const { goTo, productId, setProductId, brandId, setBrandId } = useSelection({  
    ...navigationMethods,  
    params,  
  });  
  
  const newFeedbackMutation = useNewFeedback({ options: { onMutate: () => goTo('success') } });  
  
  return { ... };  
}
```

The feedback module example: a use-case

```
function useFeedbackHistory(): IFeedbackHistory {
  const [viewHistory, setViewHistory] = useState<IView>(['root']);

  const view = viewHistory[viewHistory.length - 1];

  const goTo = useCallback((newView) => setViewHistory((previous) => [...previous, newView]), []);
  const goBack = useMemo(() => {
    if (viewHistory.length <= 1) return null;
    return () => setViewHistory((previous) => previous.slice(0, -1));
  }, [viewHistory.length]);
  const goBackToStart = useMemo(() => {
    if (viewHistory.length <= 1) return null;
    return () => setViewHistory(['root']);
  }, [viewHistory.length]);

  return { view, goTo, goBack, goBackToStart };
}
```

- Navigation use-case: the user may go back to previous view, or back to start
- Use-case is extracted in its dedicated hook

Testing the navigation use-case

```
describe('useFeedbackStore', () => {
  describe('goBack', () => {
    it('should go back to previous view', () => {
      const feedbackStore = setupStore({});
      act(() => feedbackStore.goTo('missingBrand'));
      act(() => feedbackStore.goTo('success'));

      act(() => {
        if (feedbackStore.goBack === null) return;
        feedbackStore.goBack();
      });

      expect(feedbackStore.view).toEqual('missingBrand');
    });
  });
});
```

- We test the use-case on the store of the module global state
- Remark: we did NOT test the use-case hook directly. That would could the test to the implementation, leading use to write more tests covering less code.

Limitations

Replying to @faassen and @mweststrate
Dogmatic adherence to this line of thinking lead people to "HTML/CSS/JS must be separate concerns!" once.

Modeling BL separately has merits. But treating UI as second class citizen ignores that many of our problems *are* in that domain.

overreacted.io
The Elements of UI Engineering

9:38 PM · Feb 5, 2019

7 7 Reply Copy link

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- UI is critical in the value created by our application, there is not a single CLI interface with mass-adoption. And it can be very complicated, much more complex than query handlers for instance. So it's mistake to treat it as an implementation detail.
- State != business logic. For today's professionals, UIs define their domain. Imagine a business analyst working an Excel with a CLI...
- Dogmatic separation of state/presentation can create useless boilerplate. Simple components can (and should) own their own state/presentation.

Why does it work? Human/machine have different strength

case/tester	Human	Machine
State machine	Bad	Very good
UI	Very good	Bad

- Humans visual capabilities are very advanced. So we can detect visual bugs very easily without any automated testing. But we do struggle to check that algorithms correctly implement all business logic
- The reverse is true for machines. So the highest ROI testing strategy is to extract the state/BL logic to test automatically, and check visually that the UI is correct.

Presentational components vs container components



Dan Abramov

Mar 23, 2015 · 5 min read · Listen



Presentational and Container Components

- Famous article distinguishing presentation components (mainly UI) from container components (mainly state)
- Remark: don't be dogmatic, use hooks, etc...