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Module 6.2

The case study, “Strangler Fig Pattern at Blackboard Learn (2011)”, in the DevOps Handbook shows a good way of how the Strangler Fig pattern can take on the incremental modernization of legacy systems. The chapter highlights that organizations can adopt a gradual approach by deploying new functionalities alongside existing systems. This strategy allows teams to replace legacy components slowly while reducing risk and continuous delivery of value. At Blackboard Learn, this pattern was successfully employed to transition their monolithic legacy platform into a more scalable system over time that leveraged automation, continuous integration, and testing to ensure stability throughout the process.

A key lesson learned is the importance of clear planning and disciplined execution where success relies on clear boundaries, incremental deployment, and constant feedback. The case shows how embracing DevOps principles can effectively manage complex system changes. The case also highlights that adopting the Strangler Fig pattern gives organizational agility by enabling teams to deliver incremental value that adapt to changing requirements quickly while minimizing downtime during transformation.