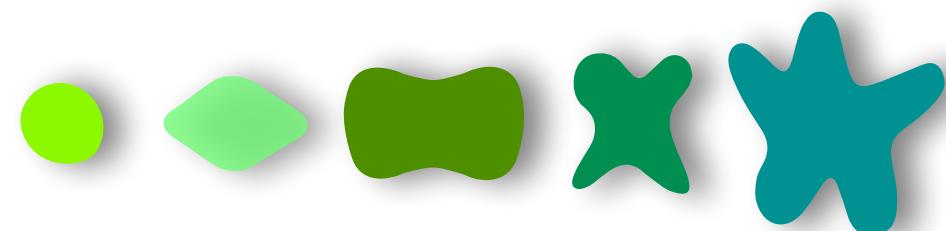
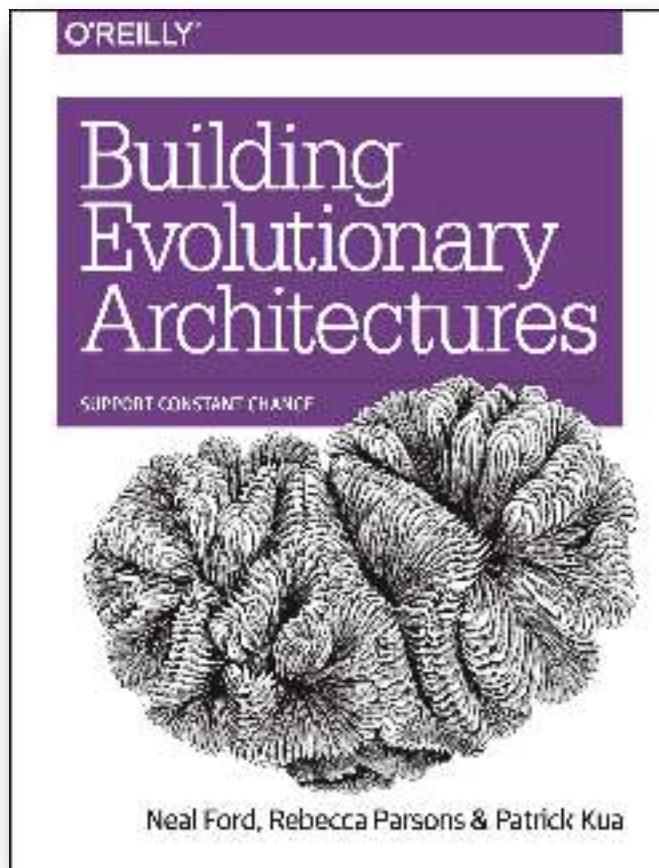


# Building Evolutionary Architectures



ThoughtWorks

**NEAL FORD**

Director / Software Architect / [Home](#) [Wrangler](#)

with Rebecca Parsons & Pat Kua

 @neal4d  
 [nealford.com](http://nealford.com)



Rebecca Parsons



Pat Kua

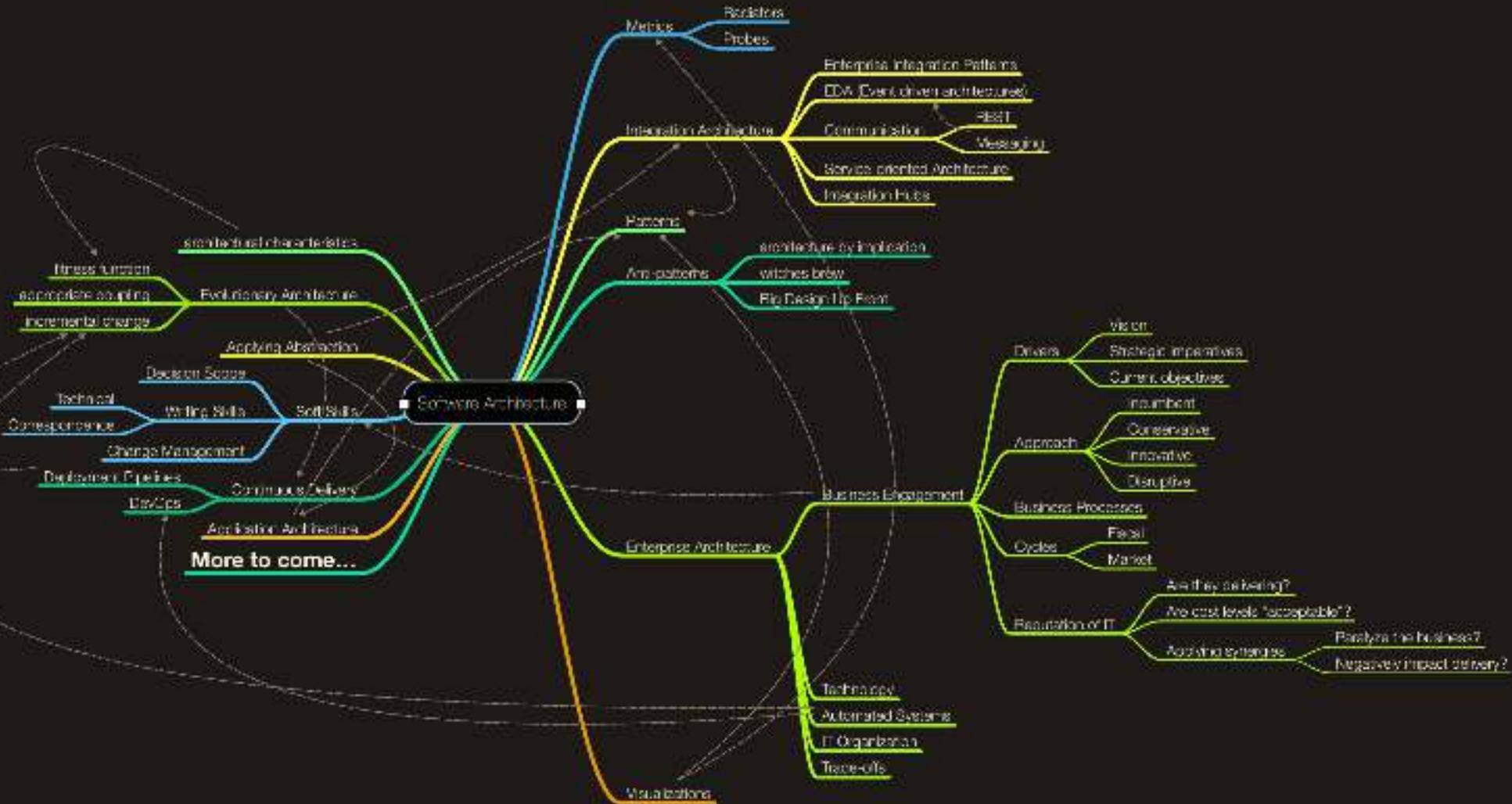


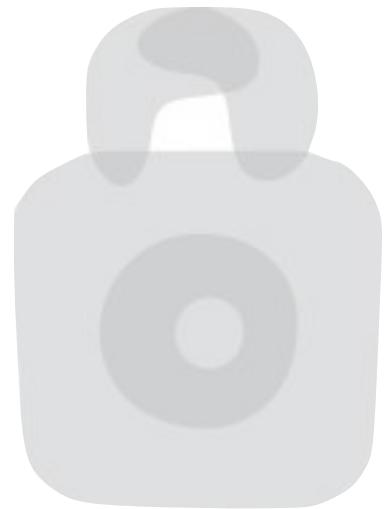
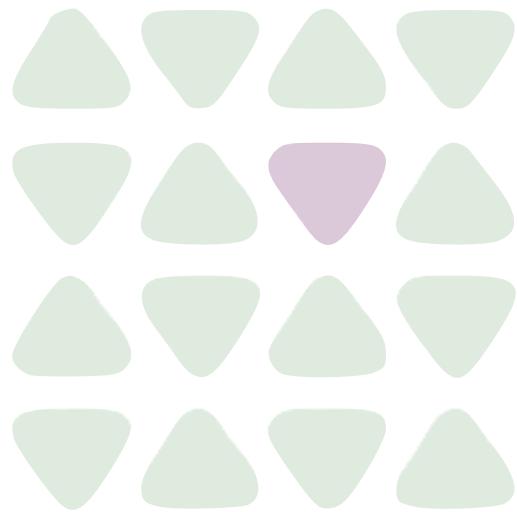
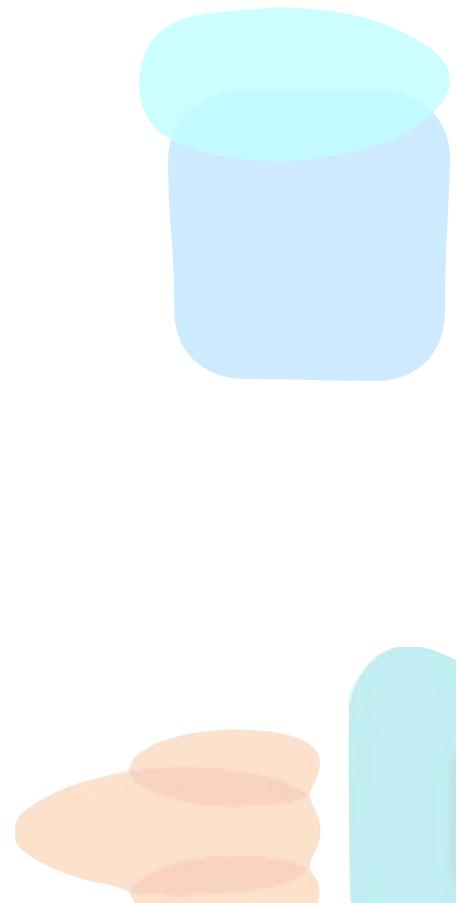
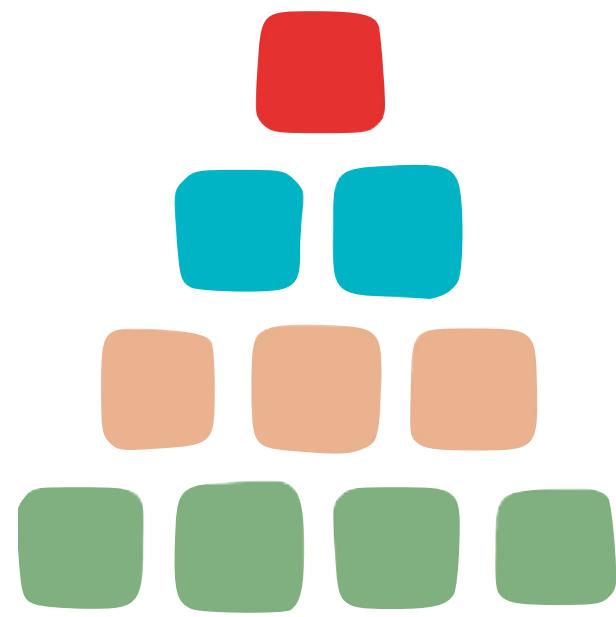
Neal Ford

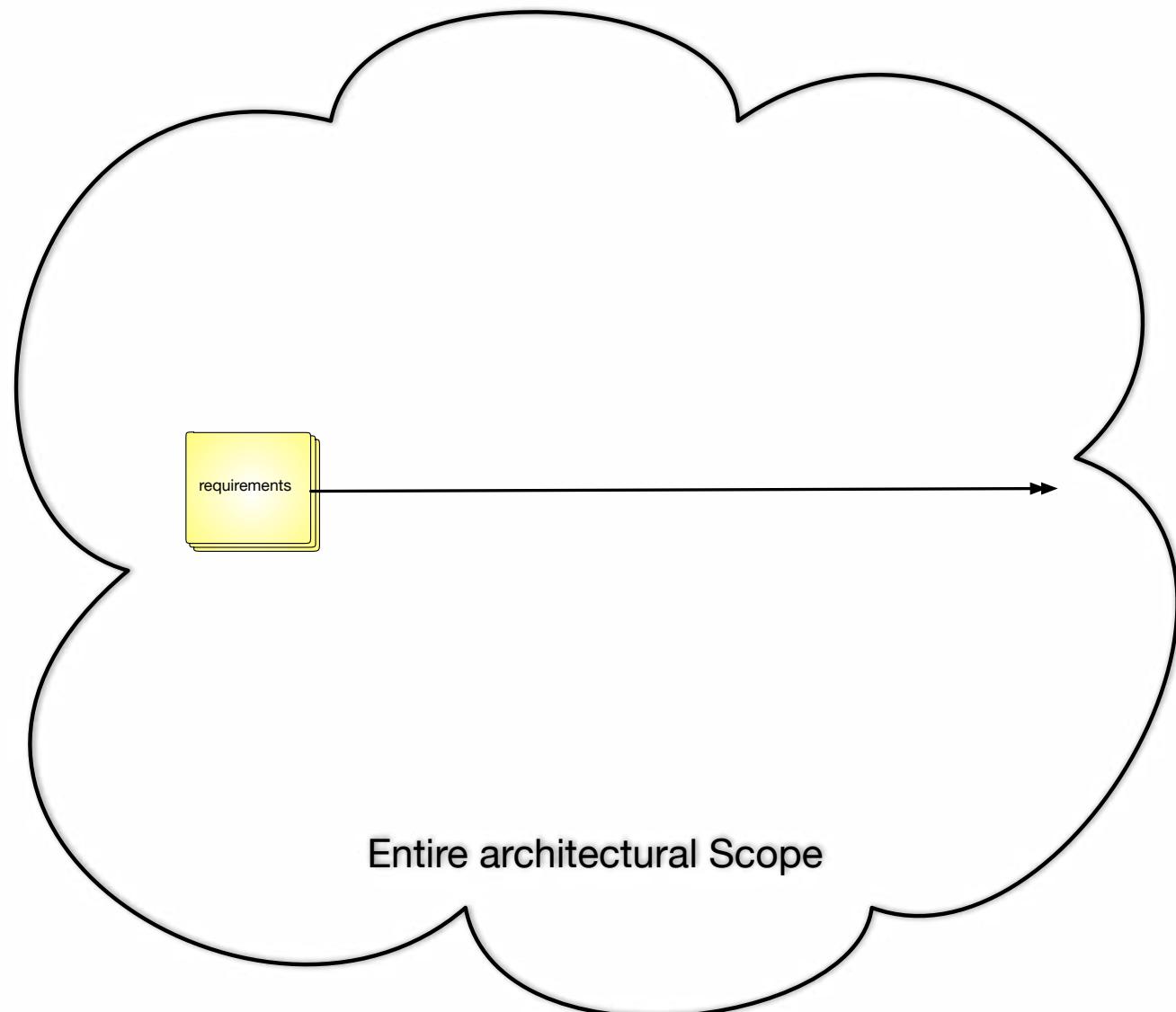


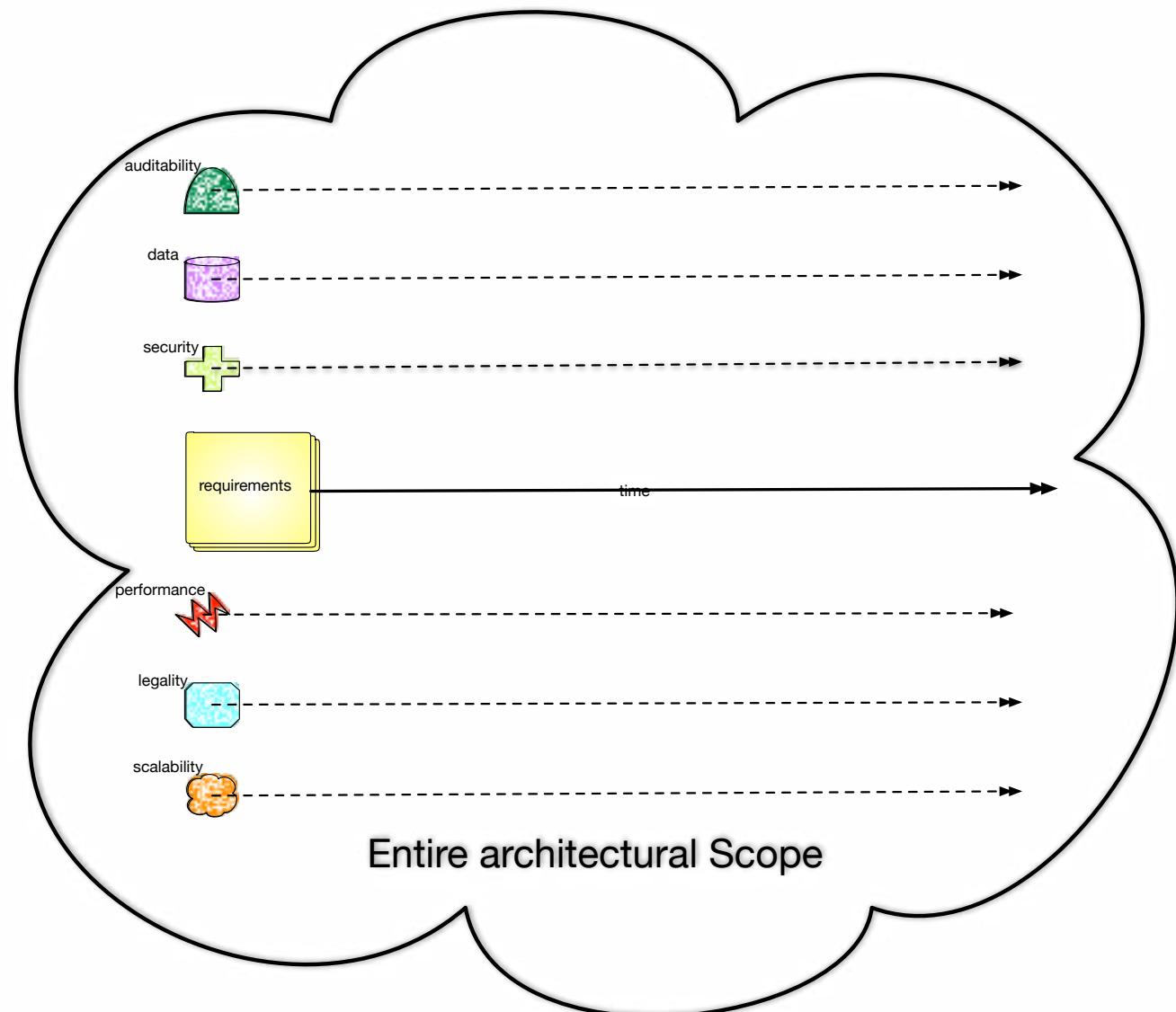
Photos by Martin Fowler:  
<http://martinfowler.com/albums/ThoughtWorkers/>

# **What is Software Architecture?**











accessibility  
accountability  
accuracy  
adaptability  
administrability  
affordability  
agility  
auditability  
autonomy  
availability  
compatibility  
composability  
configurability  
correctness  
credibility  
customizability  
debugability  
degradability  
determinability  
demonstrability  
dependability  
deployability  
discoverability  
distributability  
durability  
effectiveness  
efficiency  
reliability  
extensibility  
failure transparency  
fault-tolerance  
fidelity  
flexibility  
inspectability  
installability  
integrity  
interchangeability  
interoperability  
learnability  
maintainability  
manageability  
mobility  
modifiability  
modularity  
operability  
orthogonality  
portability  
precision  
predictability  
process capabilities  
productivity  
provability  
recoverability  
relevance  
repeatability  
reproducibility  
resilience  
responsiveness  
reusability  
robustness  
safety  
scalability  
seamlessness  
self-sustainability  
serviceability  
supportability  
securability  
simplicity  
stability  
standards compliance  
survivability  
sustainability  
tailorability  
testability  
timeliness  
traceability  
transparency  
ubiquity  
understandability  
upgradability  
usability

*evolvability*

Once I've built an architecture, how can I prevent it from gradually degrading over time?

How is Long term planning  
possible when things  
change unexpectedly?

# Dynamic Equilibrium



“Architecture is the decisions  
that you wish you could get right early  
in a project.”

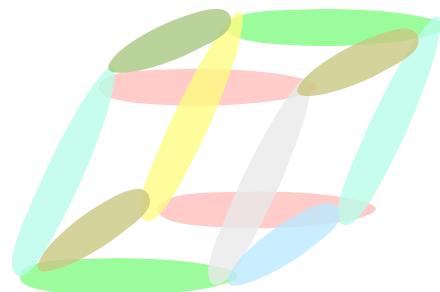
— Ralph Johnson

things that people perceive  
as hard to change.

What if we build  
architectures that expect  
change?

# Definition:

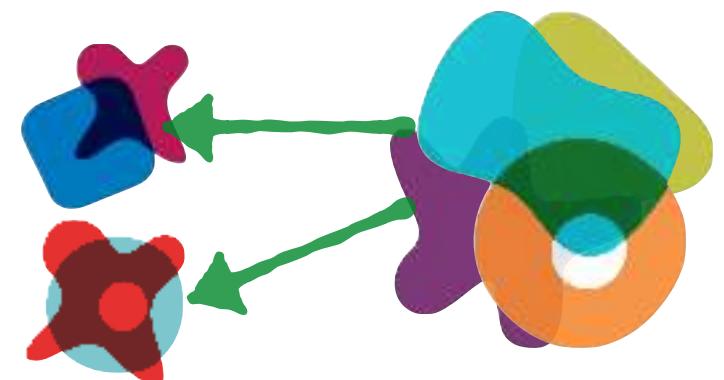
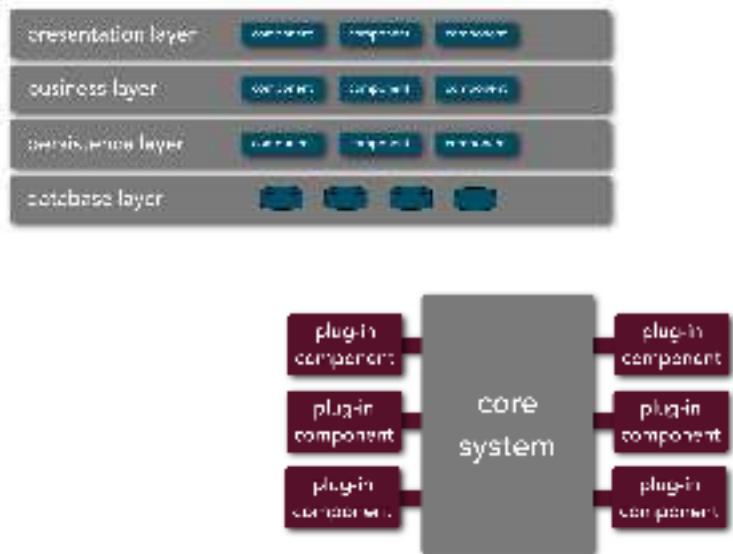
An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



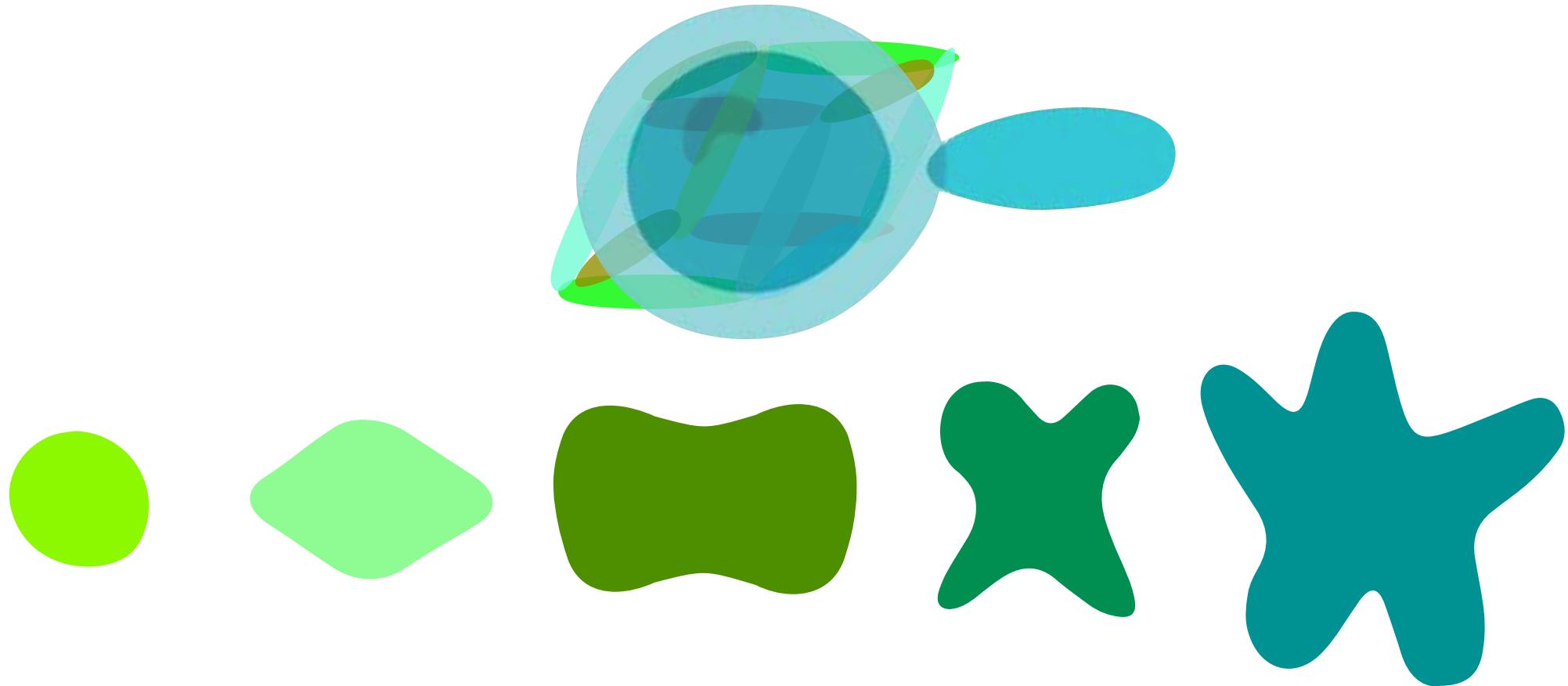


# Perspectives on Architecture

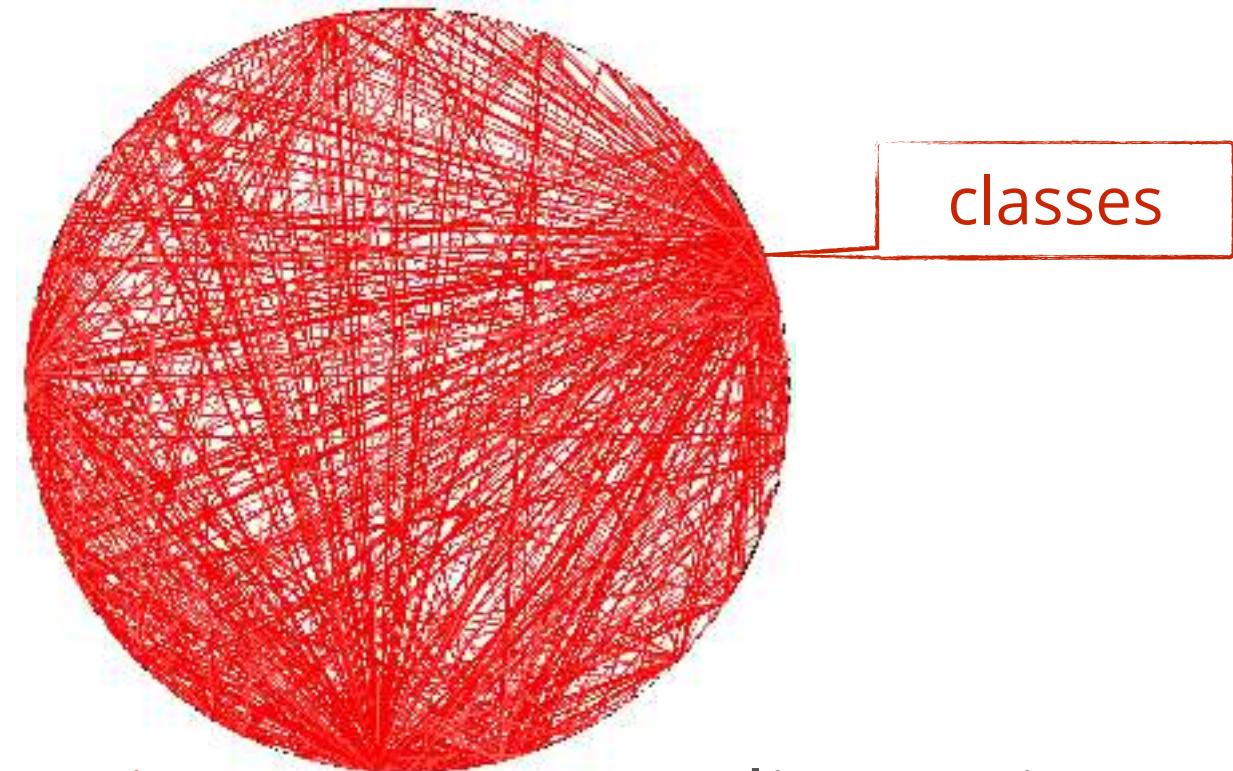
## Technical Architecture



# Evolvability of Architectures



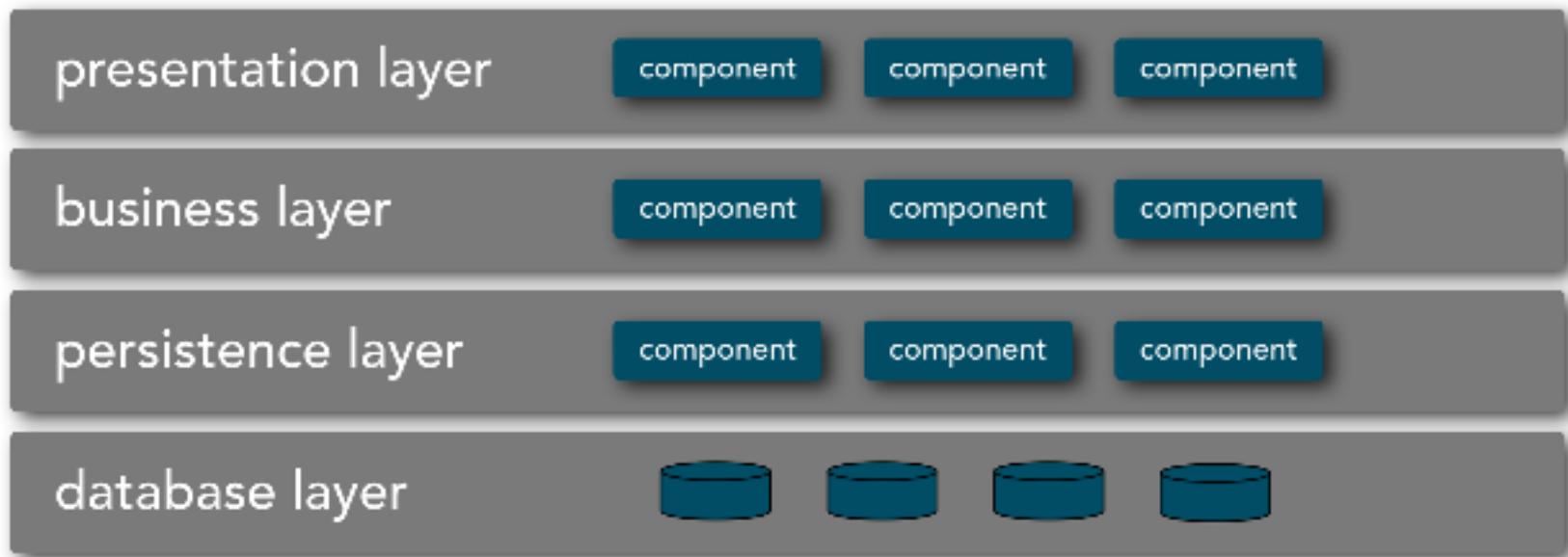
# Big Ball of Mud



coupling connections

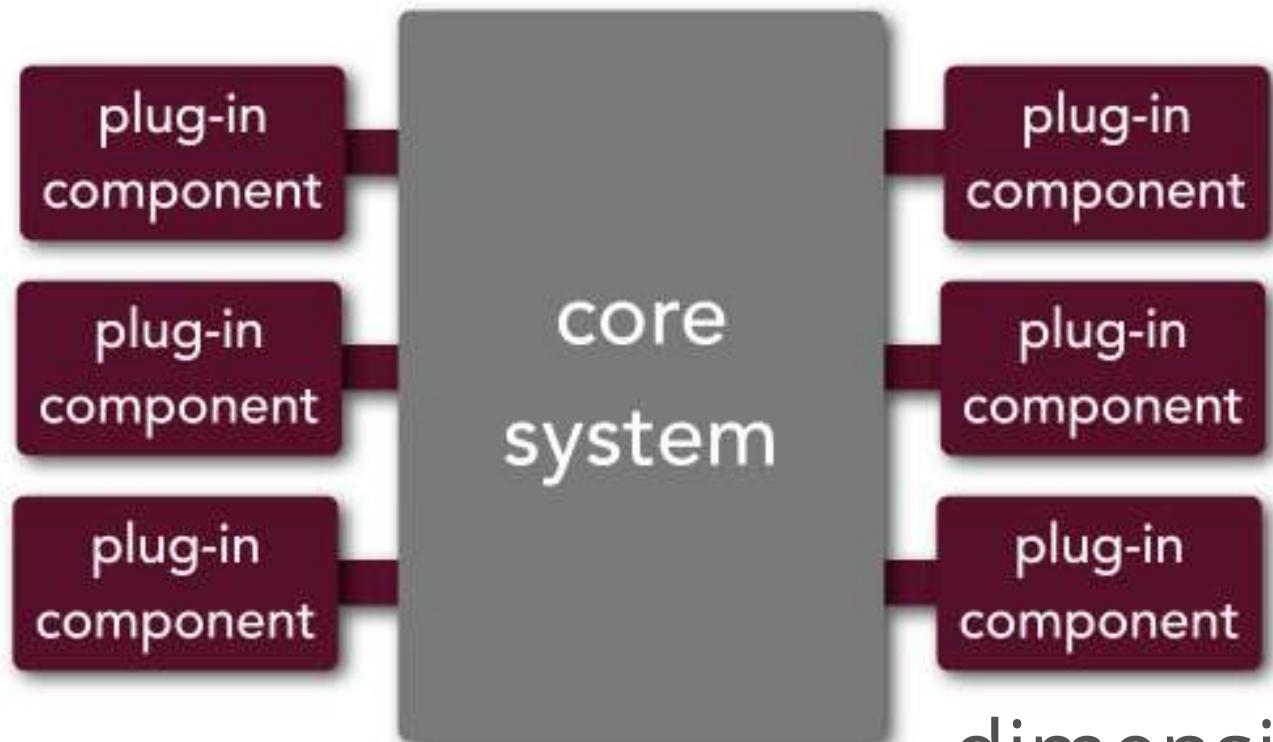
dimensions :

# Layered Architecture



opportunities: 4  
dimensions : 1

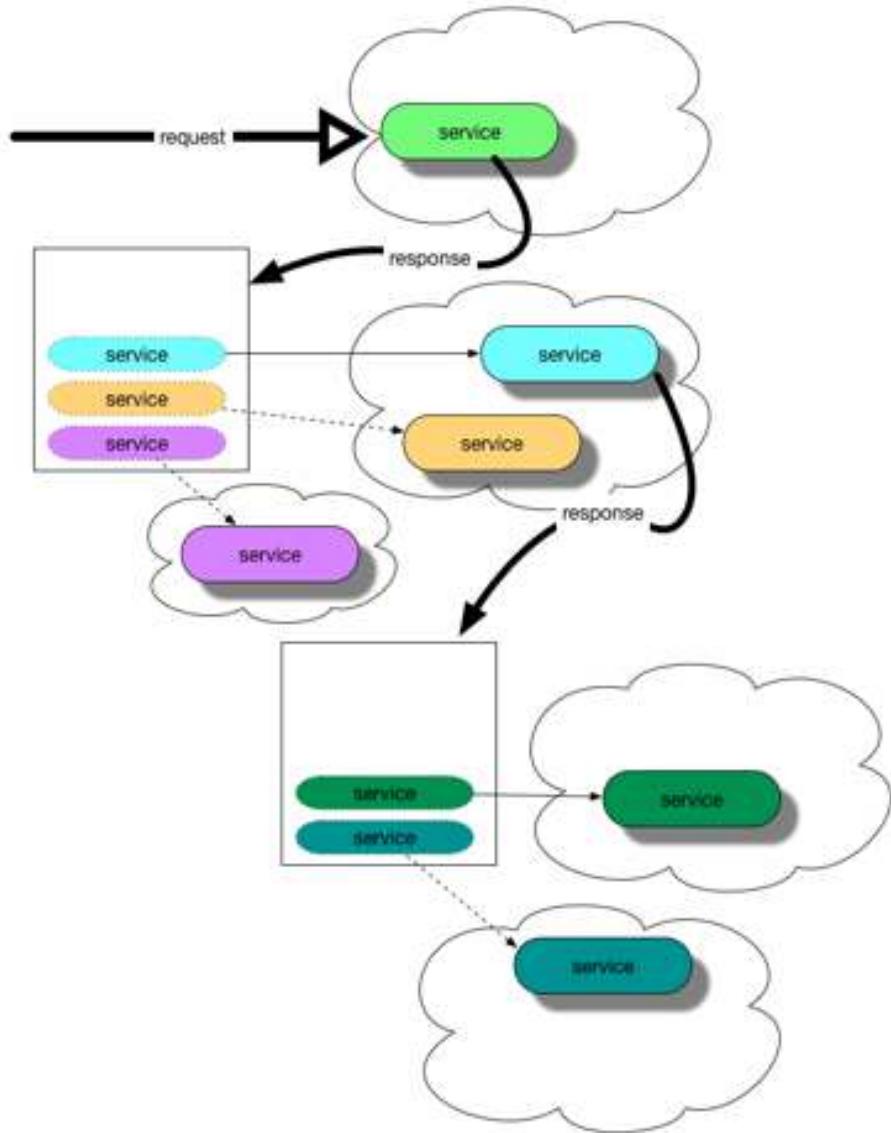
# Microkernel



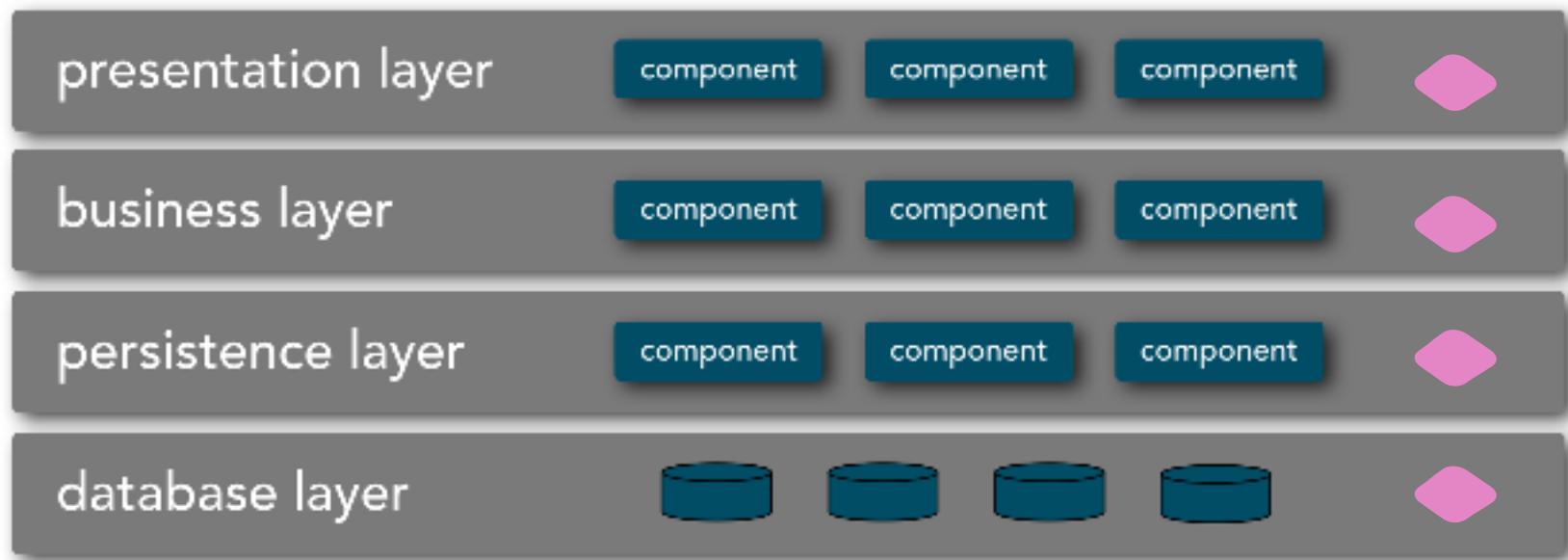
dimensions : 1

# REST

dimensions : 1

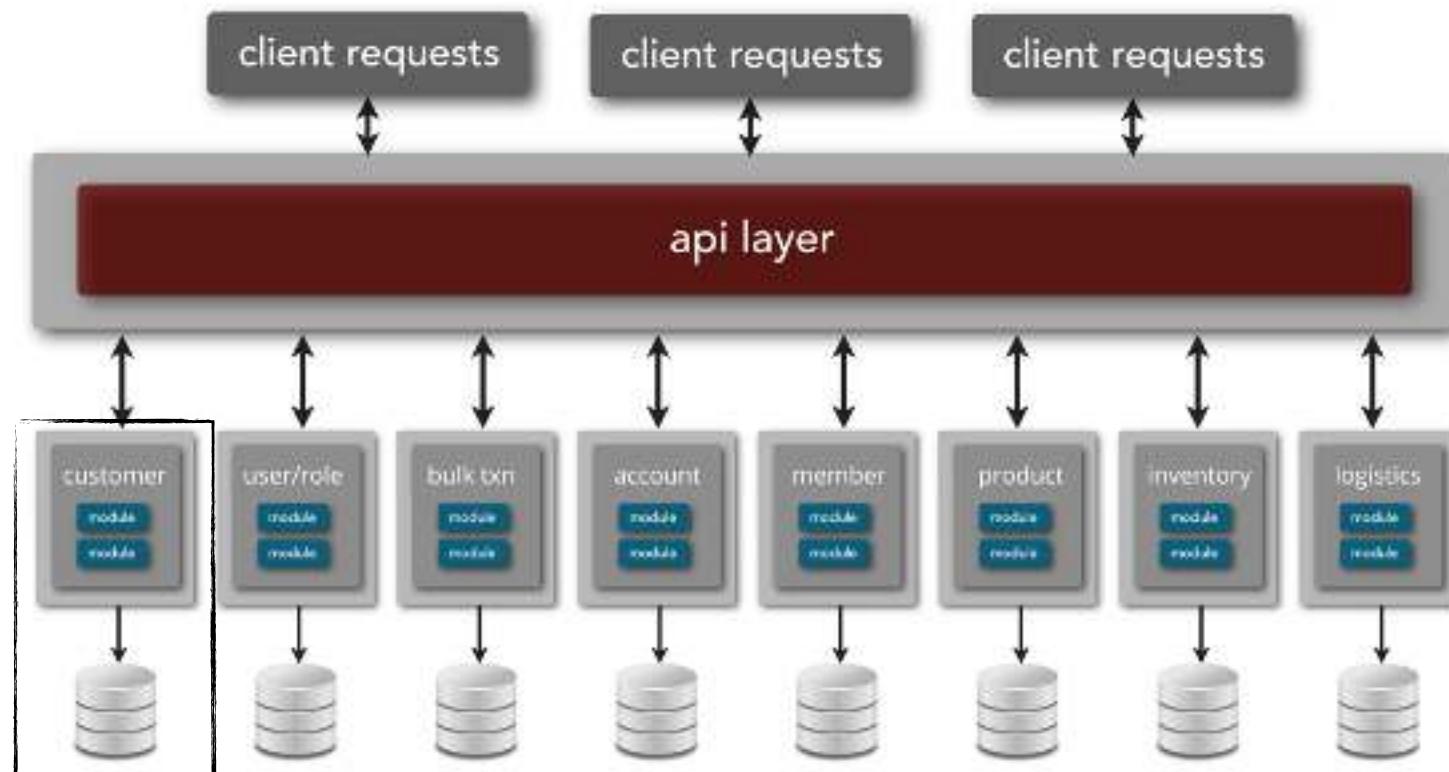


# Domain Perspective



dimensions :

# Microservices

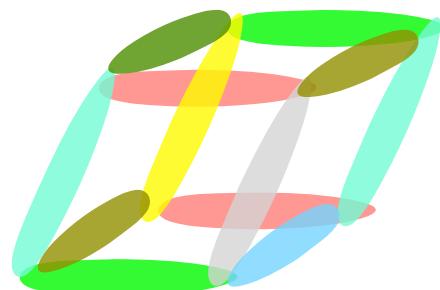


evolutionary architecture dimensions : ↗

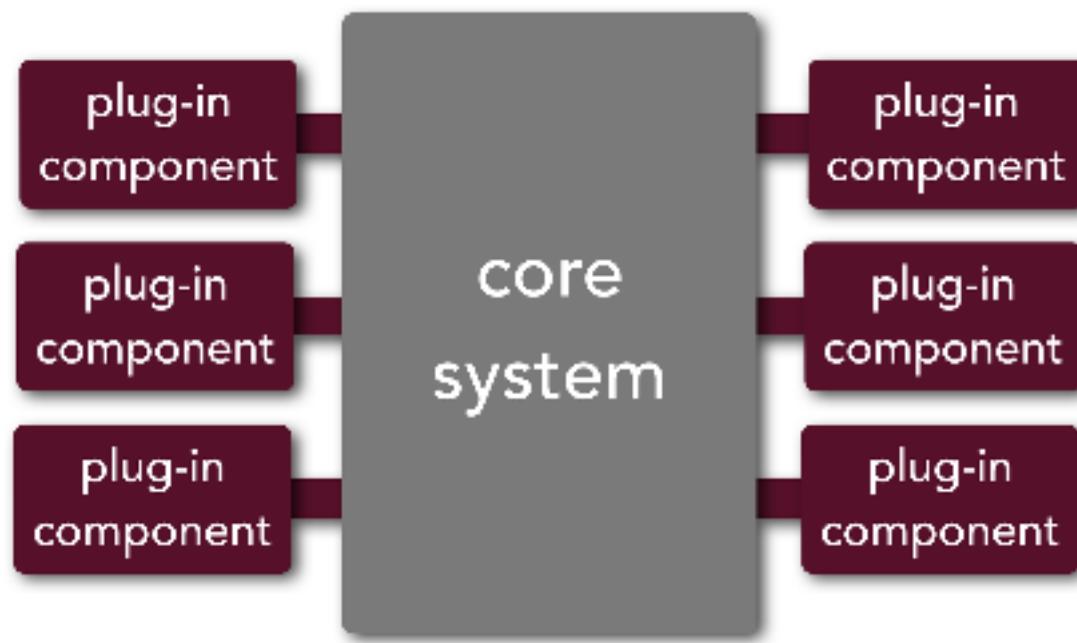
# **Definition:**

## *evolutionary architecture*

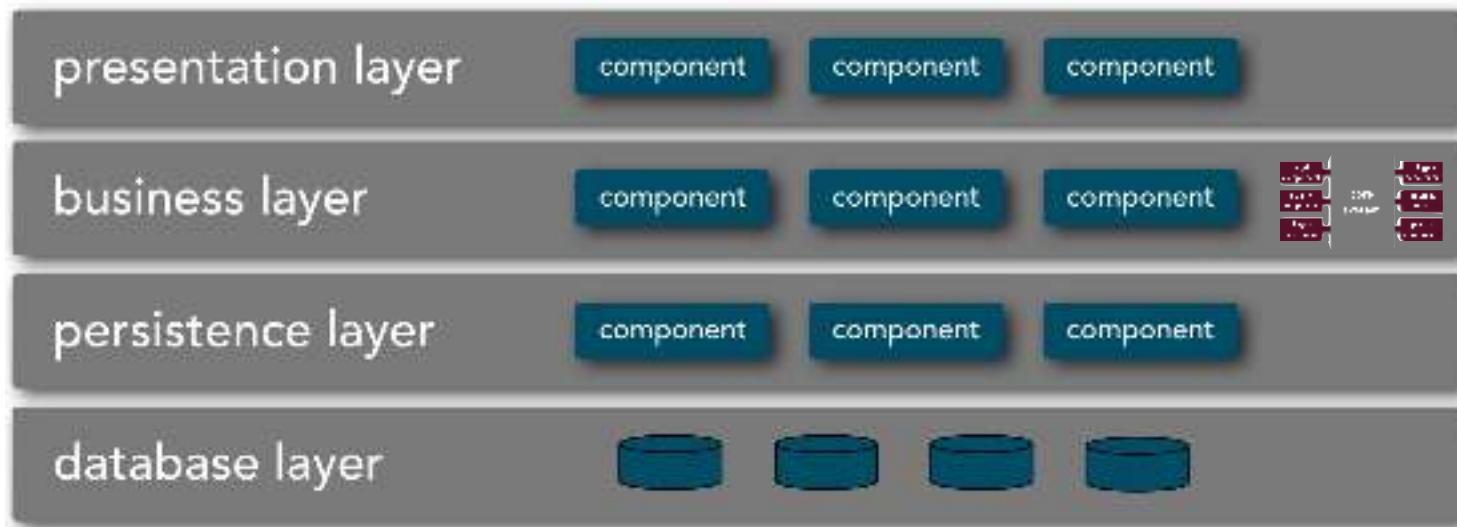
An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



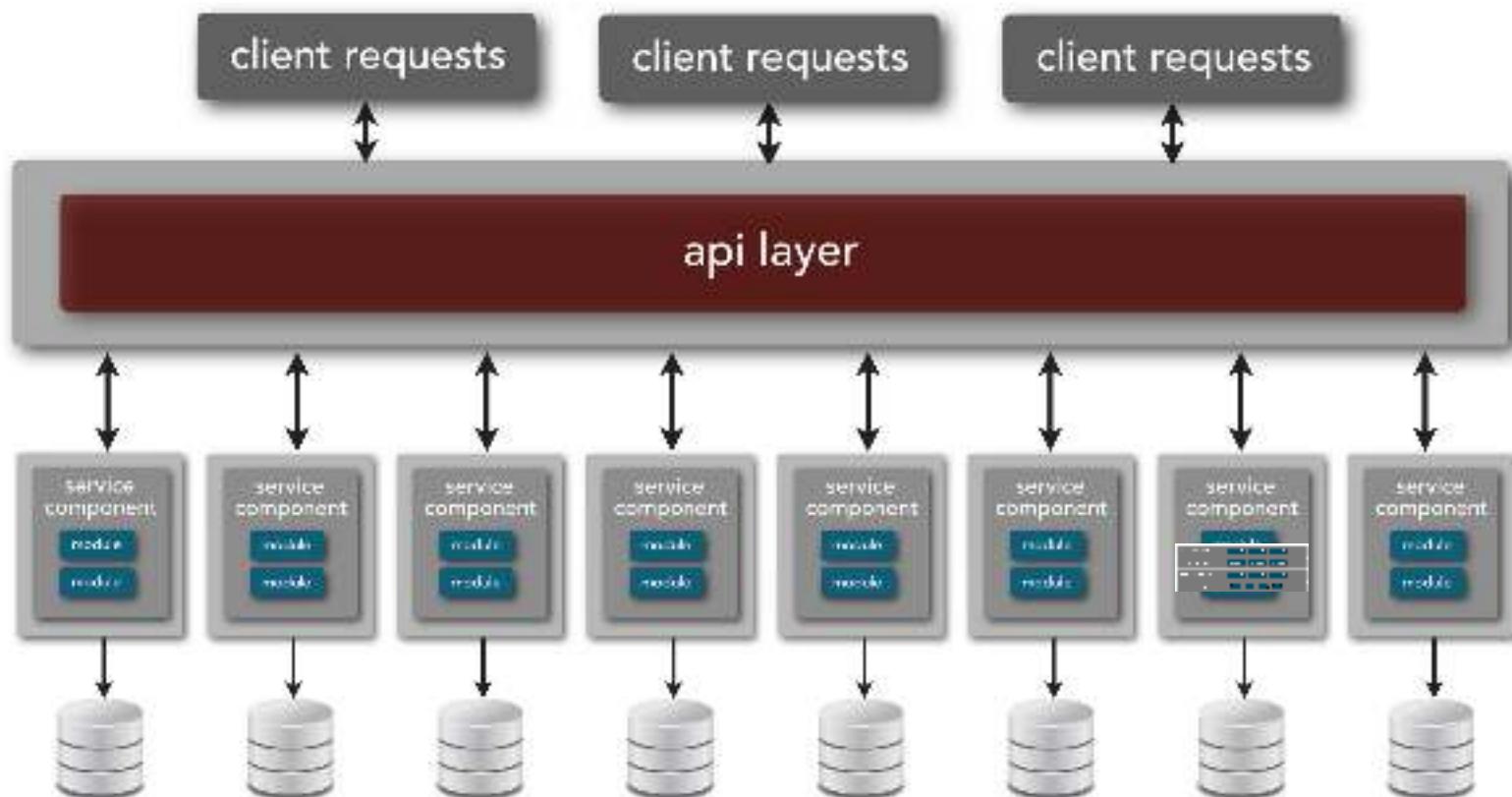
# Composability



# Composability



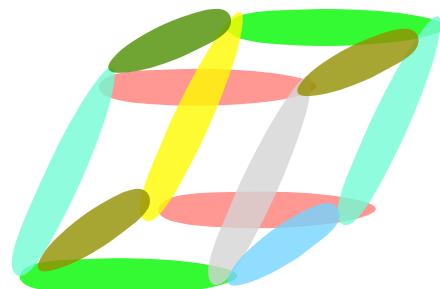
# Composability



# **Definition:**

## *evolutionary architecture*

An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



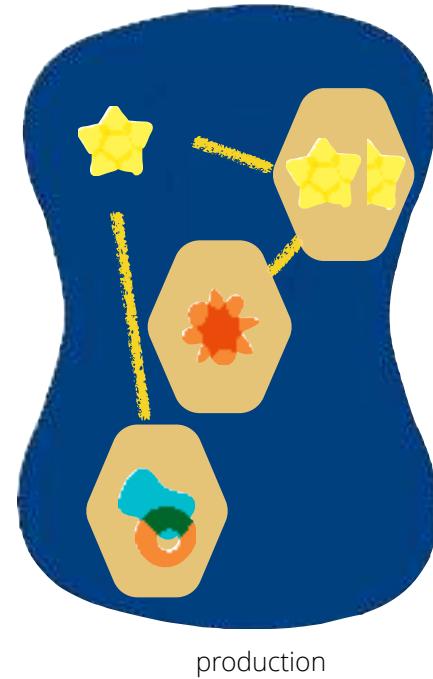


# Incremental Change

Components are *deployed*.



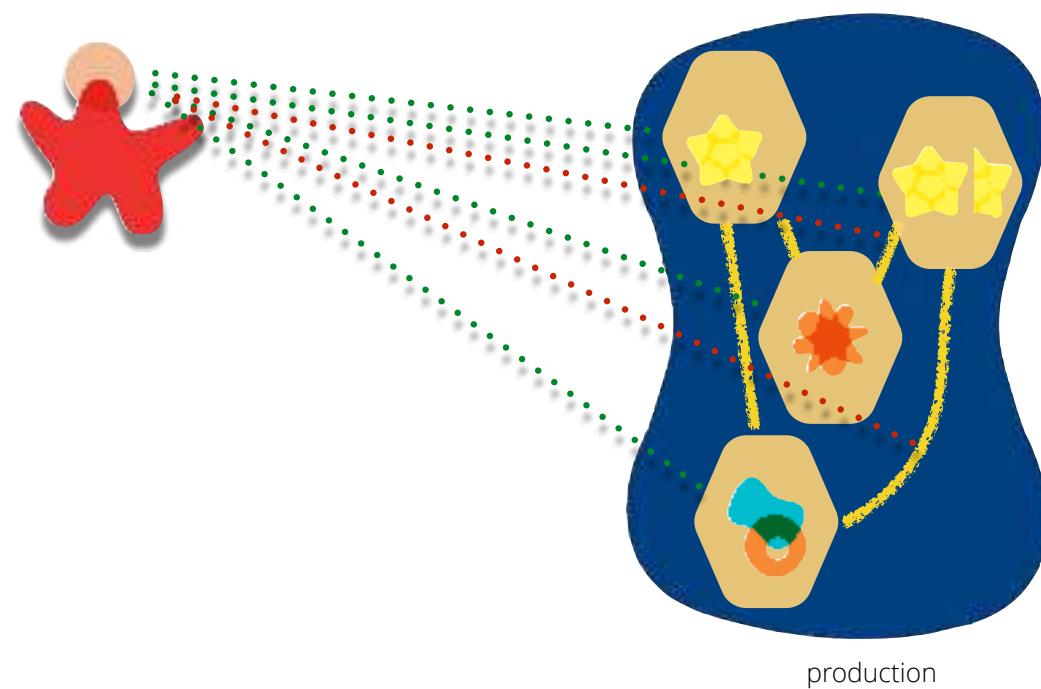
Features are *released*.



Applications consist of *routing*.



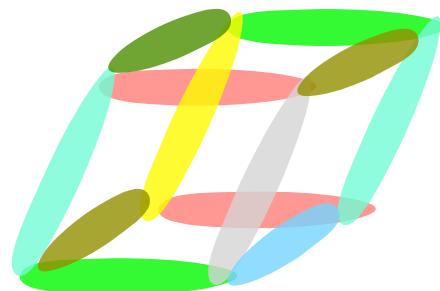
# Incremental Change

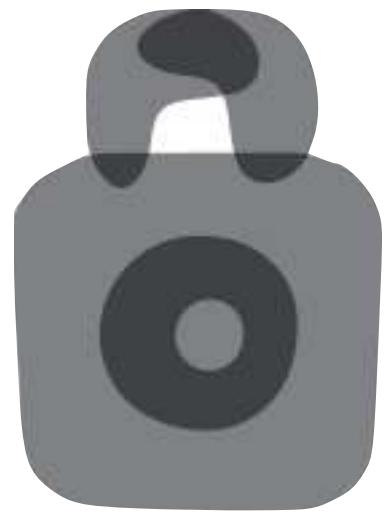
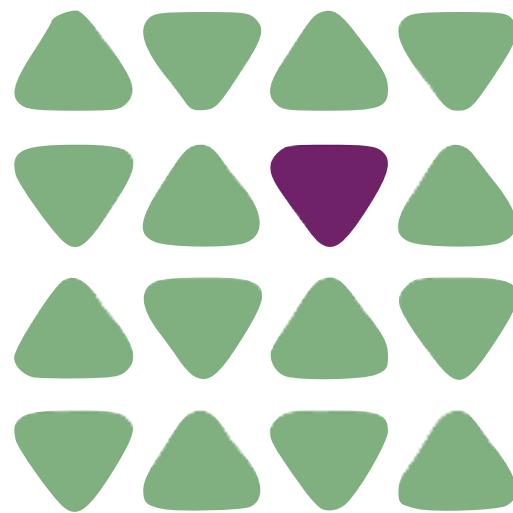
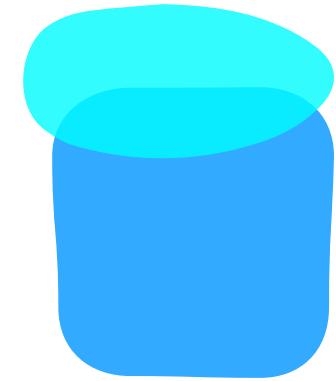
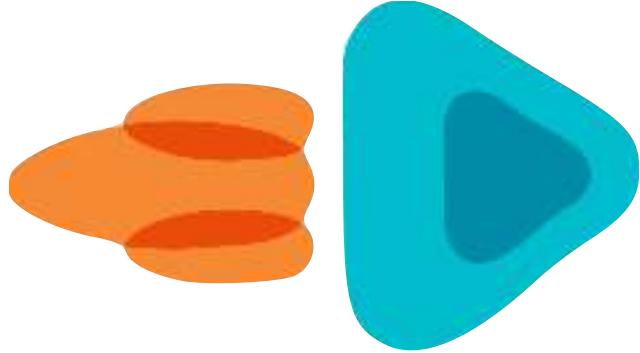
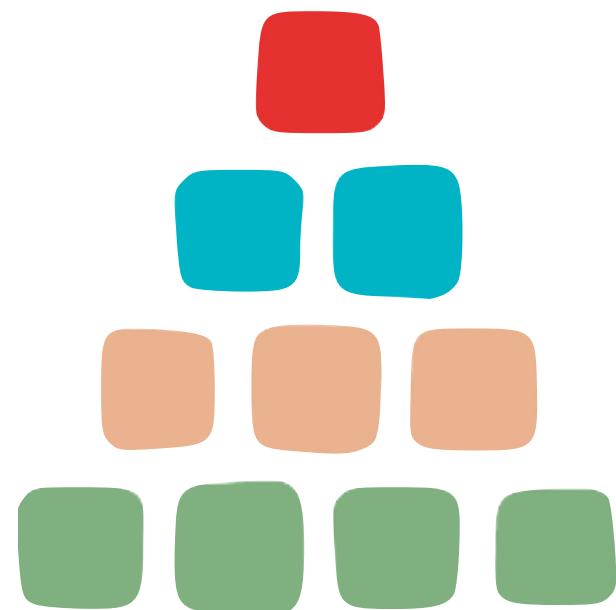


# **Definition:**

## *evolutionary architecture*

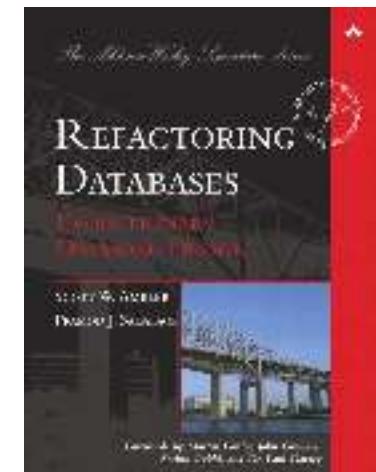
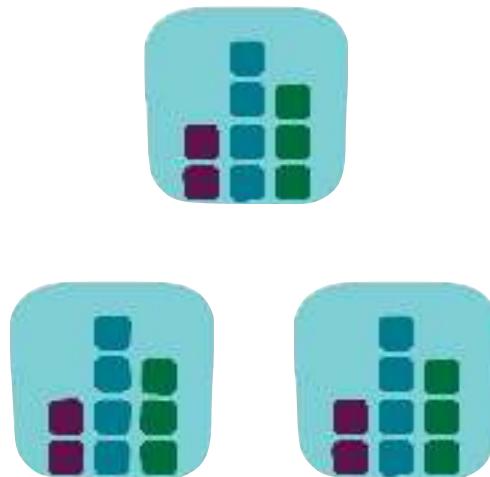
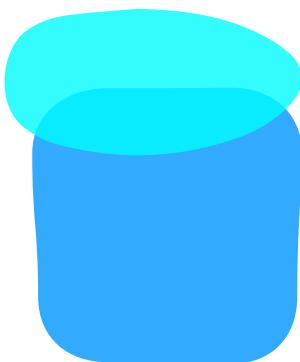
An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.





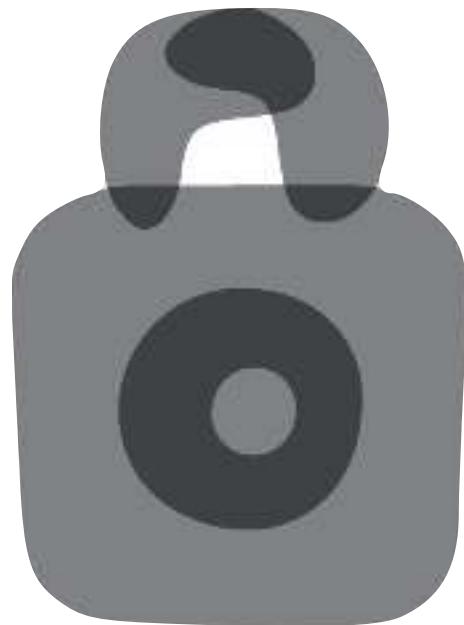
# Perspectives on Architecture

## Data Architecture



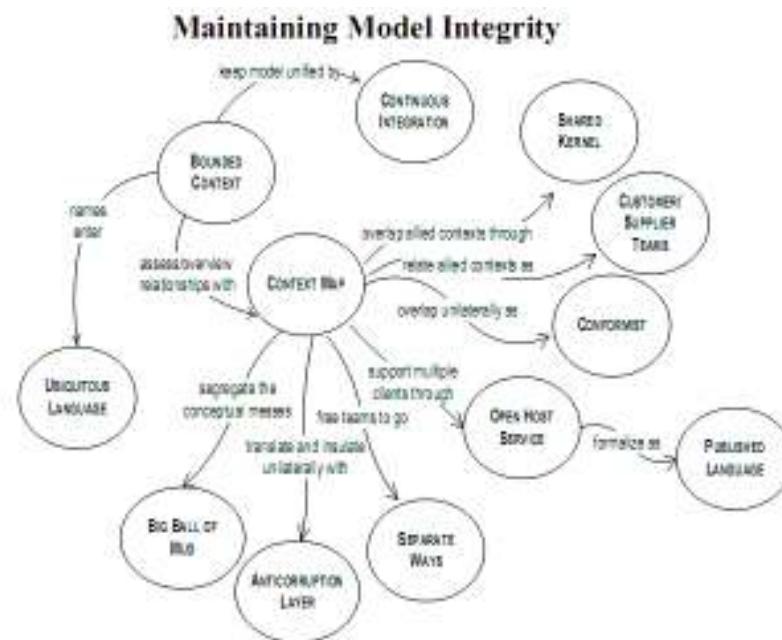
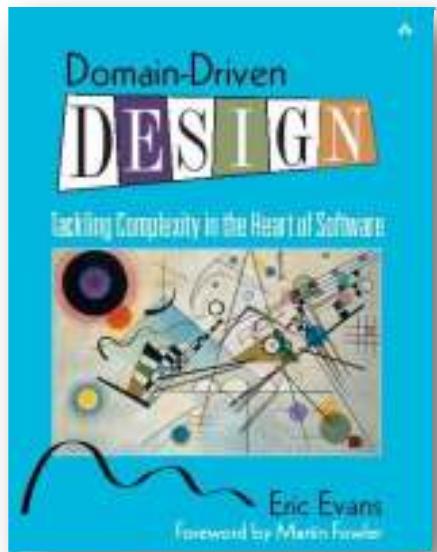
# Perspectives on Architecture

## Security Architecture



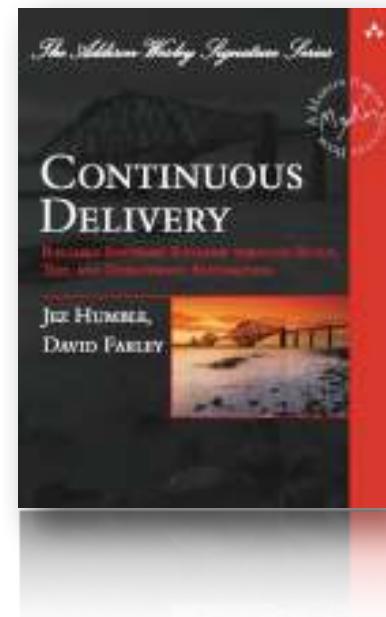
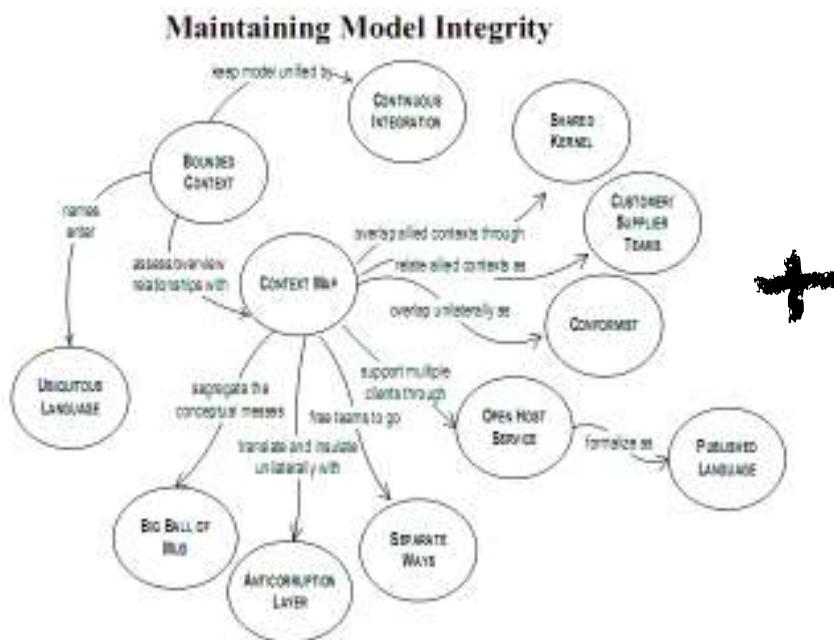
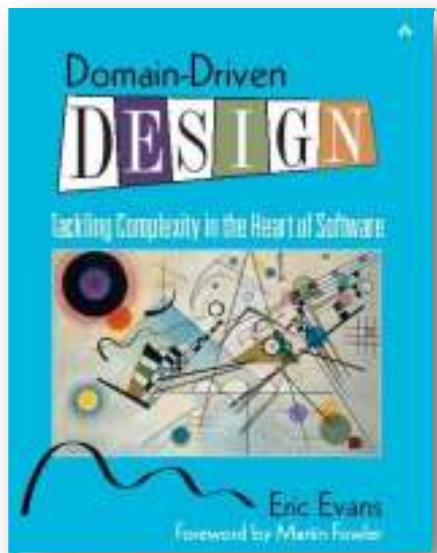
# Perspectives on Architecture

## Domain Architecture



# Microservices

## Domain Architecture



# Fitness Functions



$\omega$

a particular type of objective function that is used to summarize...how close a given design solution is to achieving the set aims.

# Architecture Fitness Functions

$\omega$



metrics



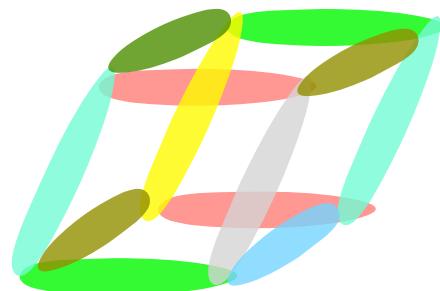
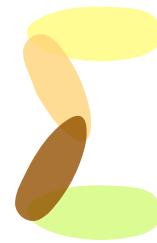
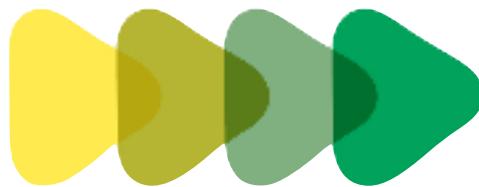
tests



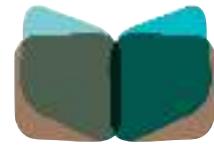
# Definition:

## *evolutionary architecture*

An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.



# Agenda



definition



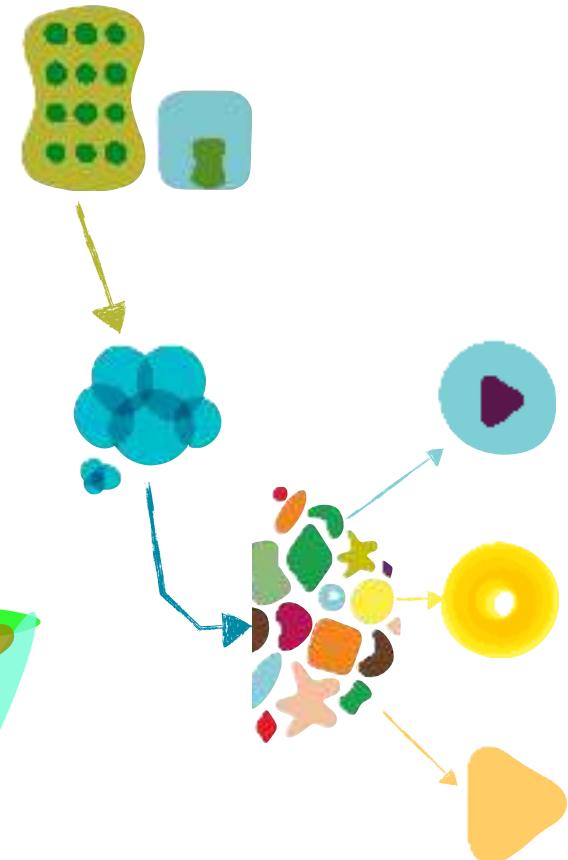
incremental change



fitness functions



appropriate coupling



# **Fitness Function**

a particular type of objective function that is used to summarize...how close a given design solution is to achieving the set aims.



# Architecture Fitness Functions



metrics

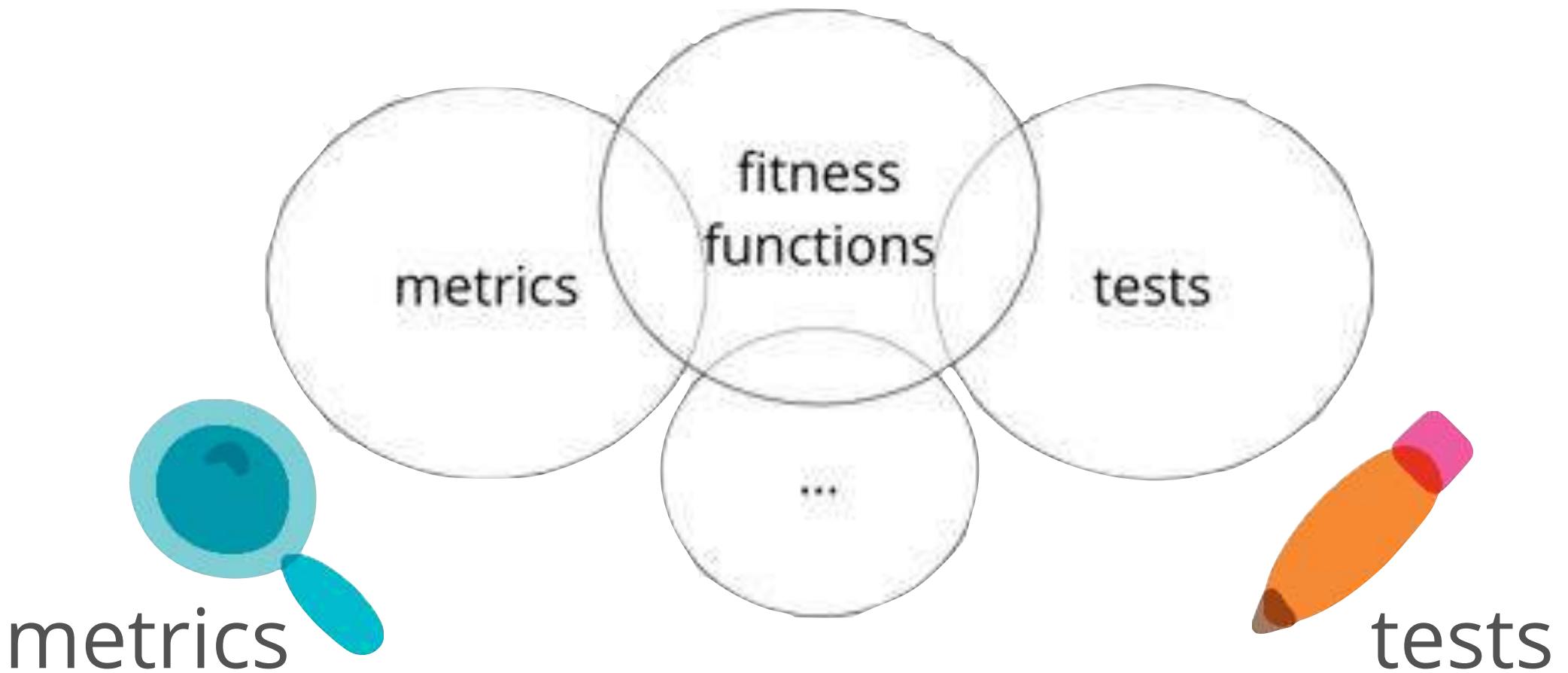


tests



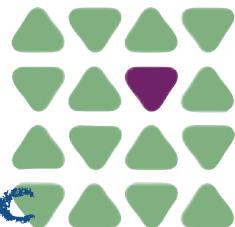


# Architecture Fitness Functions



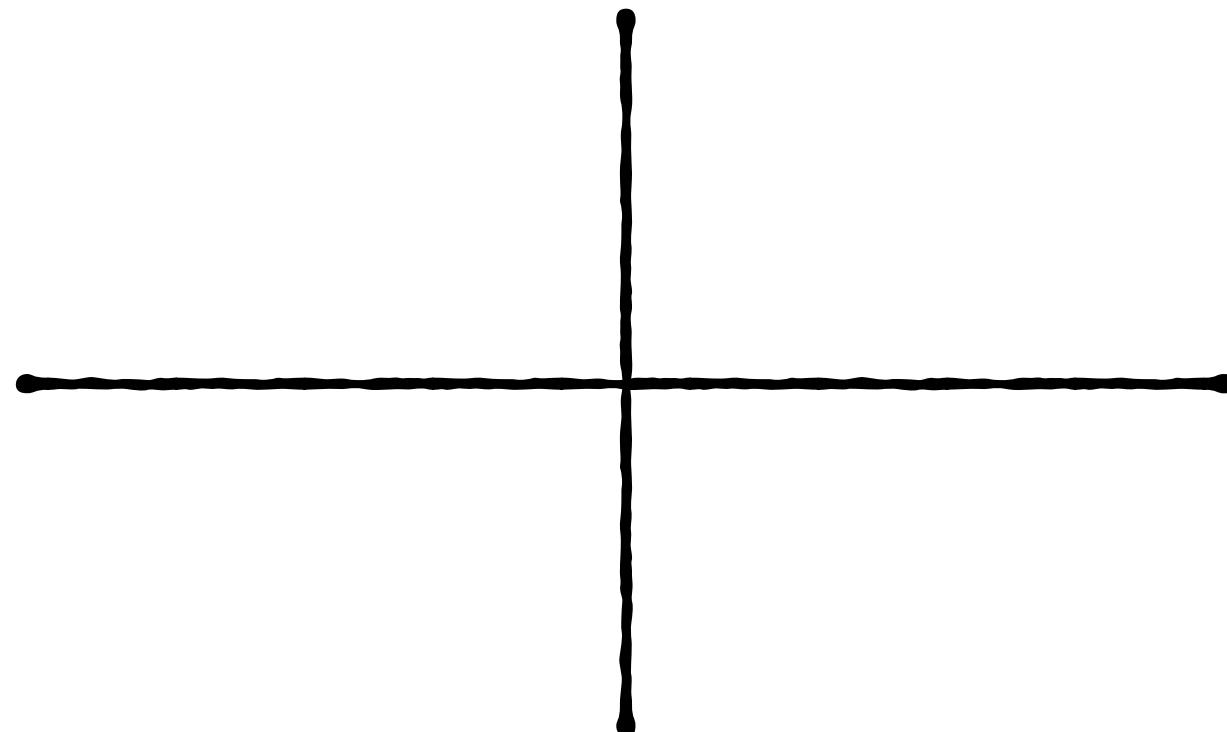


atomic



holistic

# Fitness Function

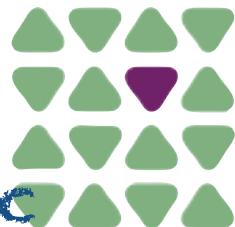


batch

continuous

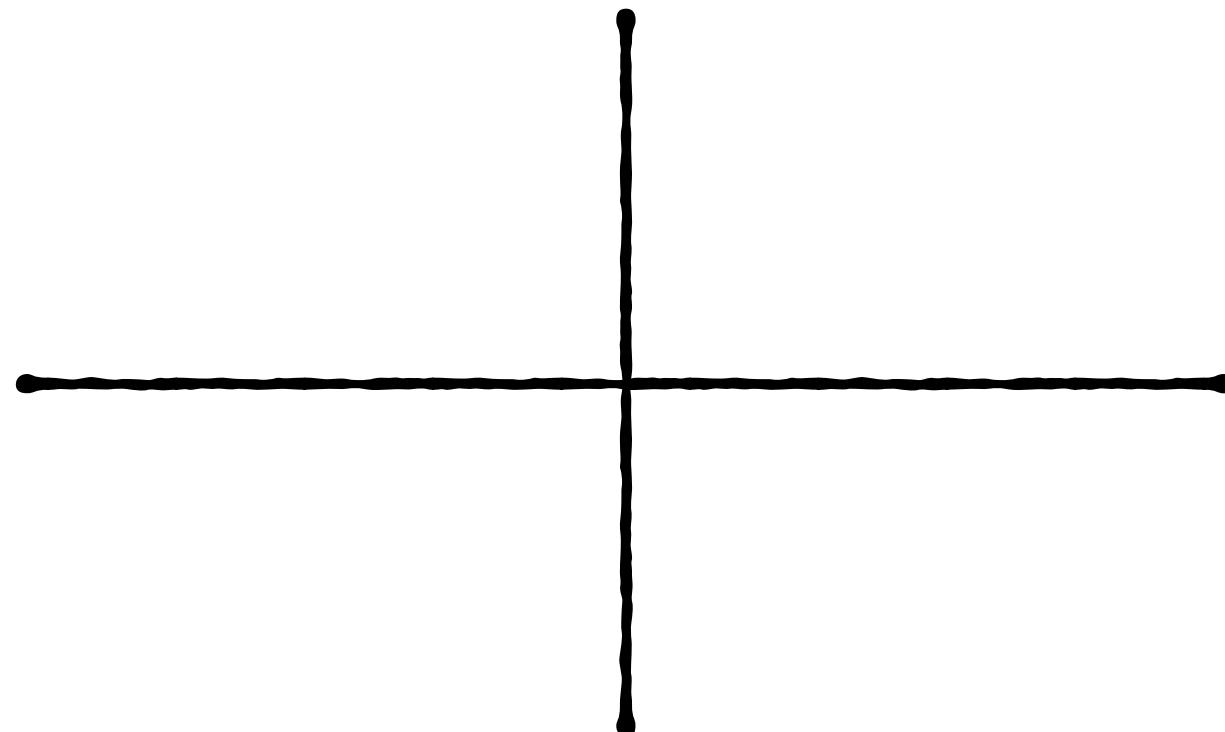


atomic



holistic

# Fitness Function

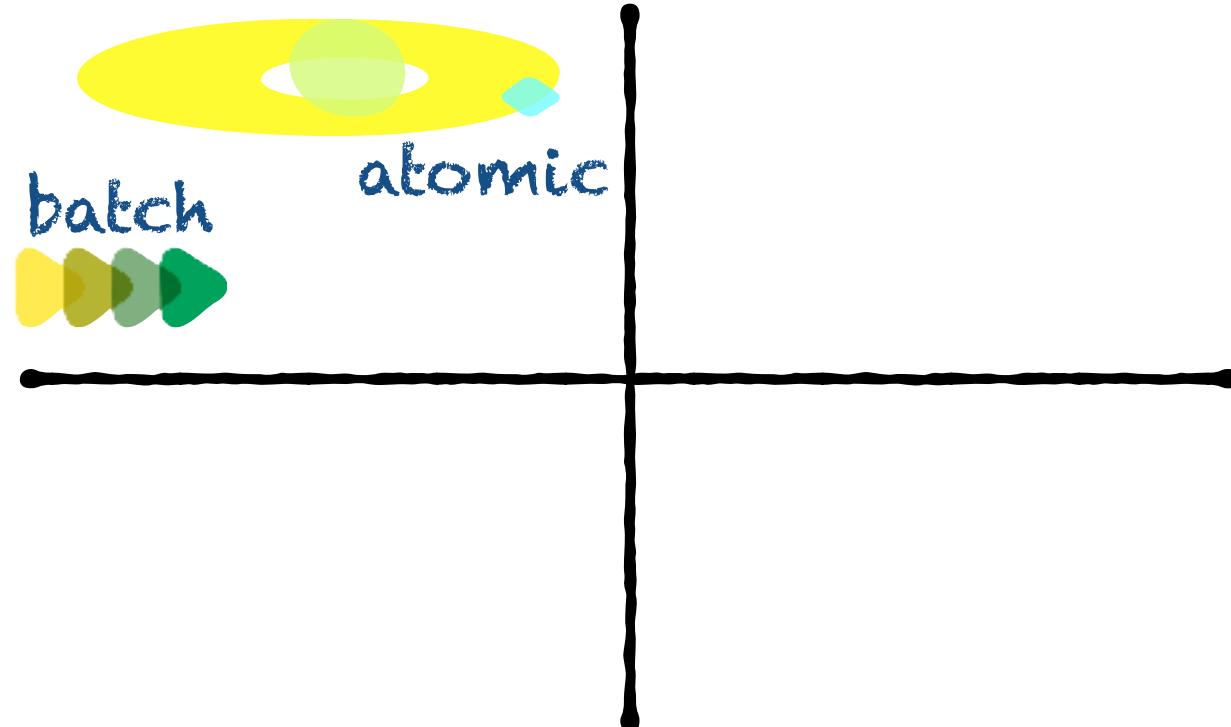


batch

continuous



# Fitness Function

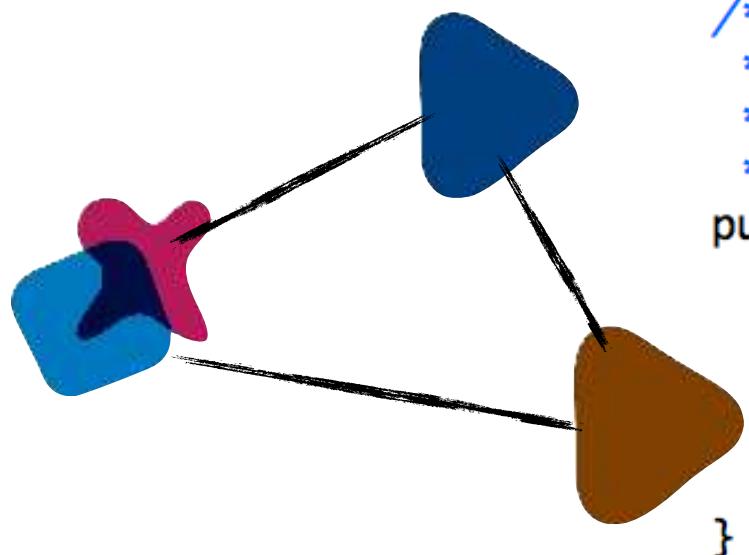


holistic

continuous



# Cyclic Dependency Function



```
/**  
 * Tests that a package dependency cycle does not  
 * exist for any of the analyzed packages.  
 */  
public void testAllPackages() {  
  
    Collection packages = jdepend.analyze();  
  
    assertEquals("Cycles exist",  
                false, jdepend.containsCycles());  
}
```

[clarkware.com/software/JDepend.html](http://clarkware.com/software/JDepend.html)



application



# Coupling Fitness Function

```
protected void setUp() throws IOException {
    jdepend = new JDepend();
    jdepend.addDirectory("/path/to/project/util/classes");
    jdepend.addDirectory("/path/to/project/ejb/classes");
    jdepend.addDirectory("/path/to/project/web/classes");
}

public void testMatch() {
    DependencyConstraint constraint = new DependencyConstraint();
    JavaPackage ejb = constraint.addPackage("com.xyz.ejb");
    JavaPackage web = constraint.addPackage("com.xyz.web");
    JavaPackage util = constraint.addPackage("com.xyz.util");

    ejb.dependsUpon(util);
    web.dependsUpon(util);

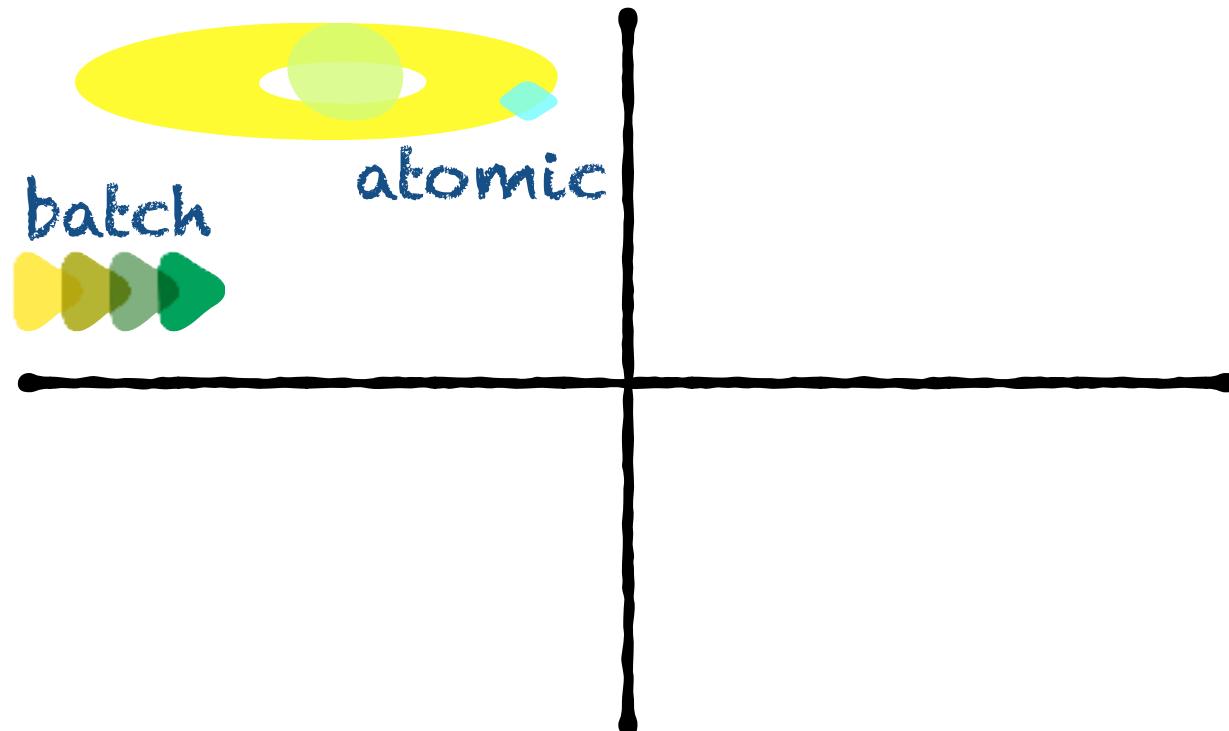
    jdepend.analyze();

    assertEquals("Dependency mismatch",
                true, jdepend.dependencyMatch(constraint));
}
```





# Fitness Function

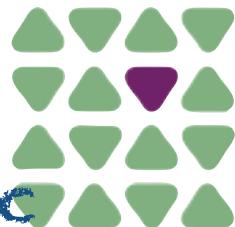


holistic

continuous

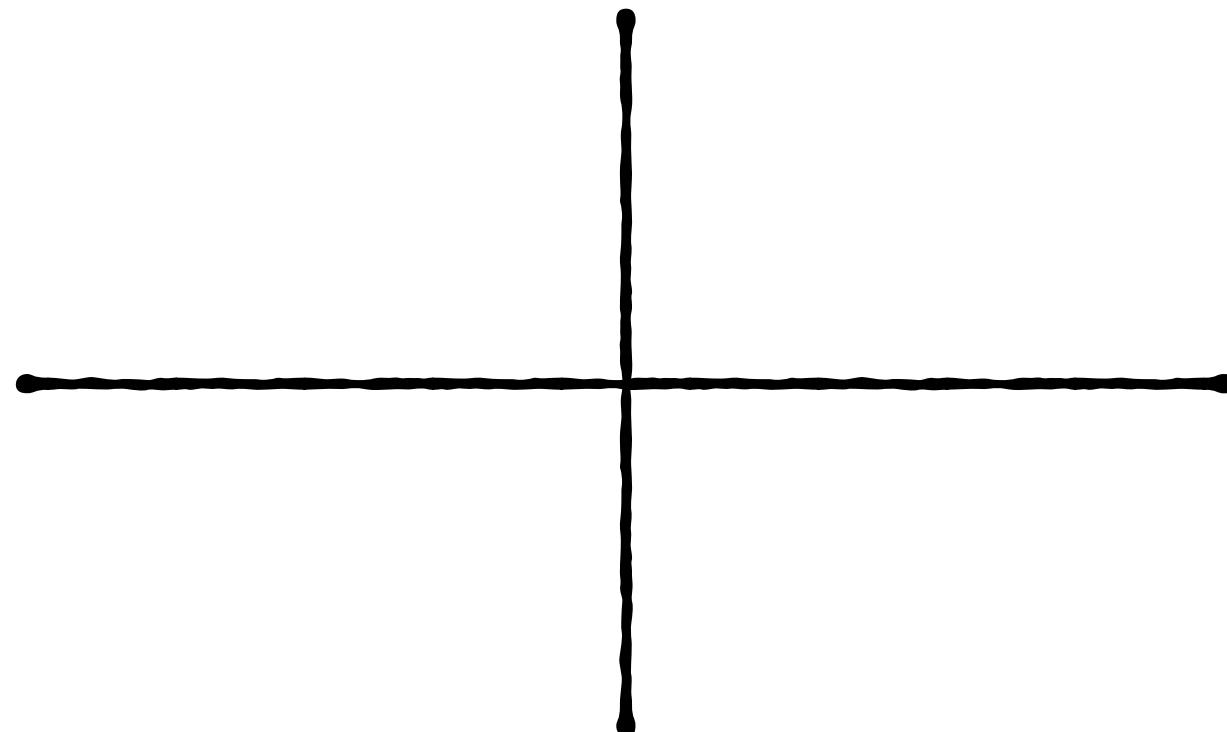


atomic



holistic

# Fitness Function



batch

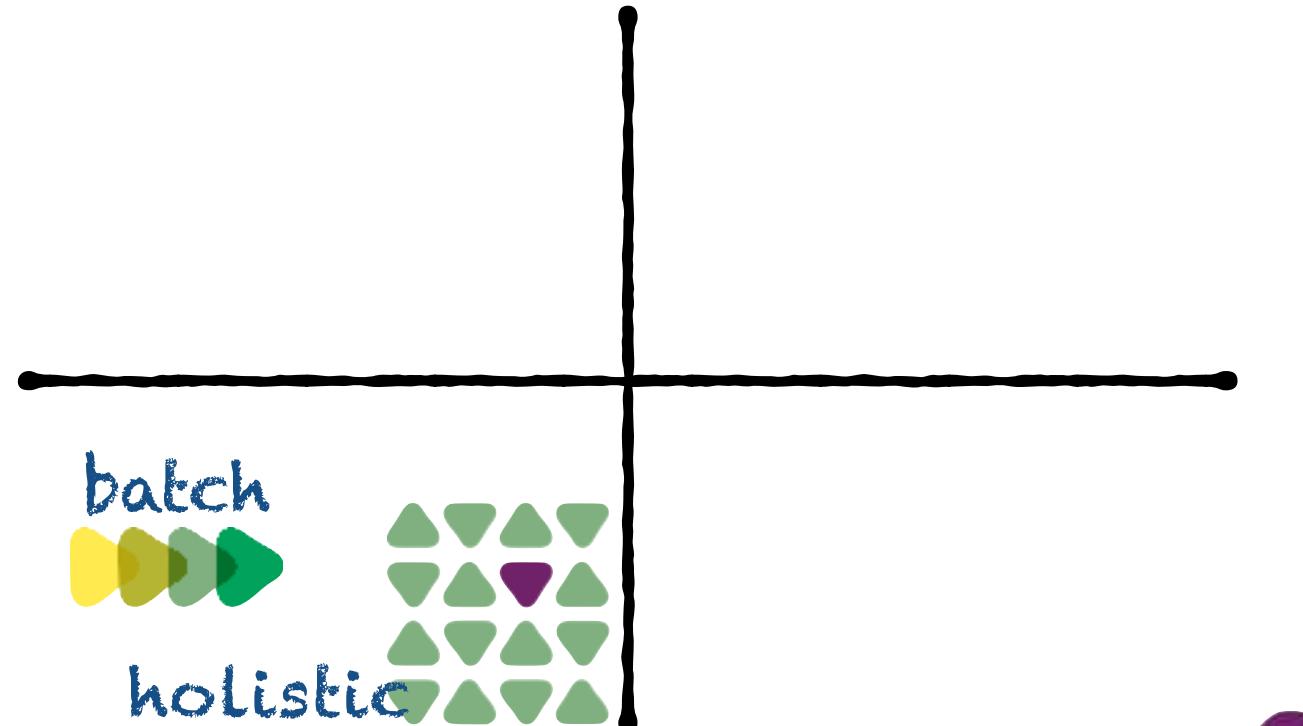
continuous



# Fitness Function

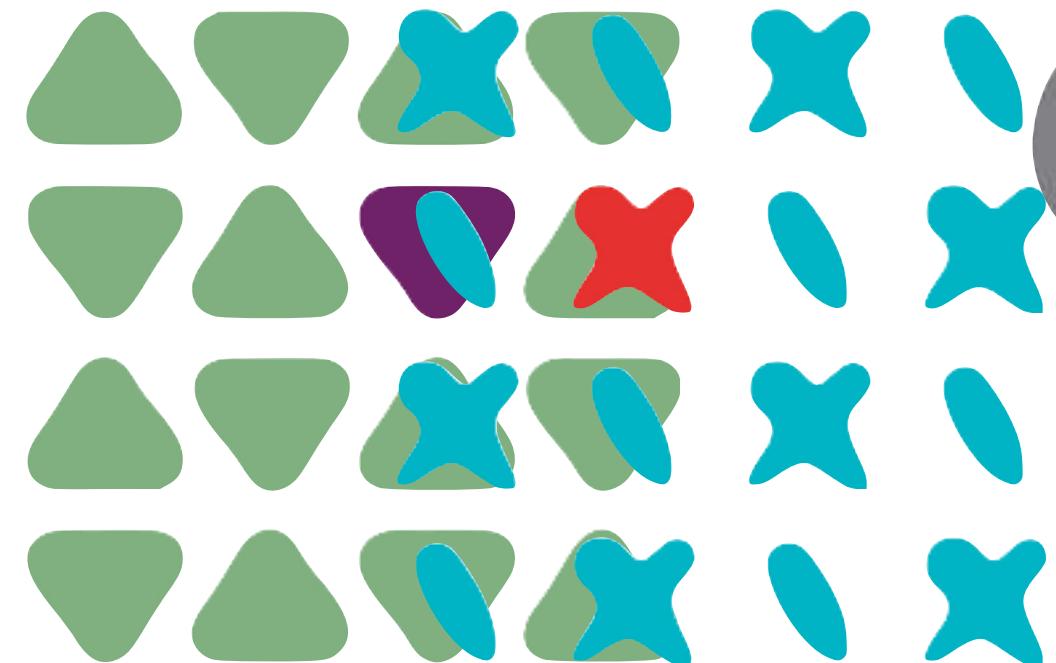


atomic

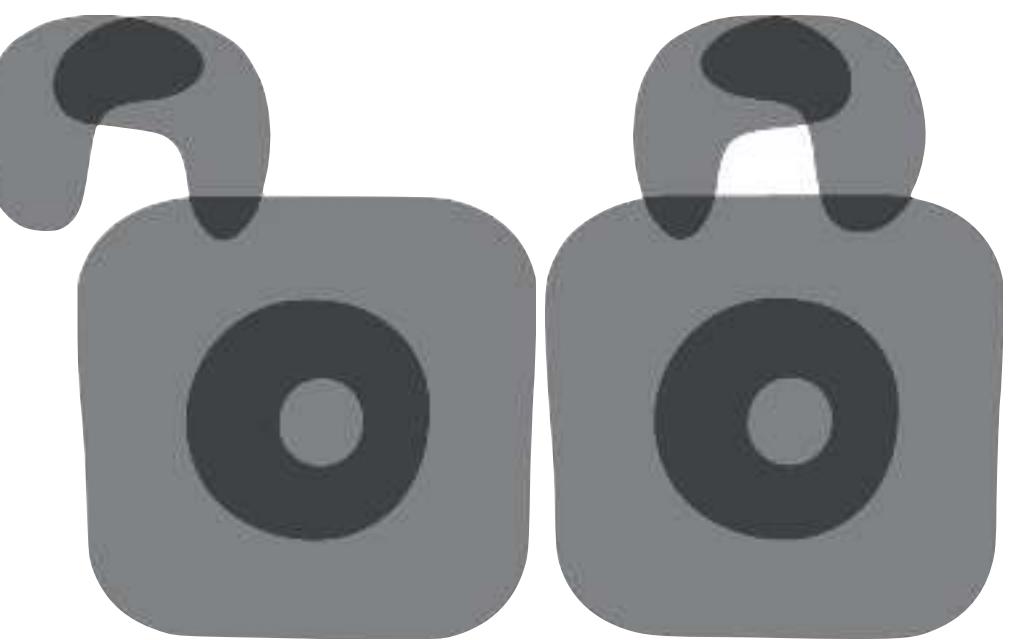
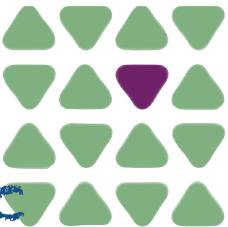


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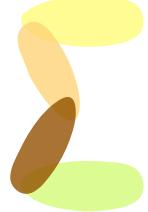
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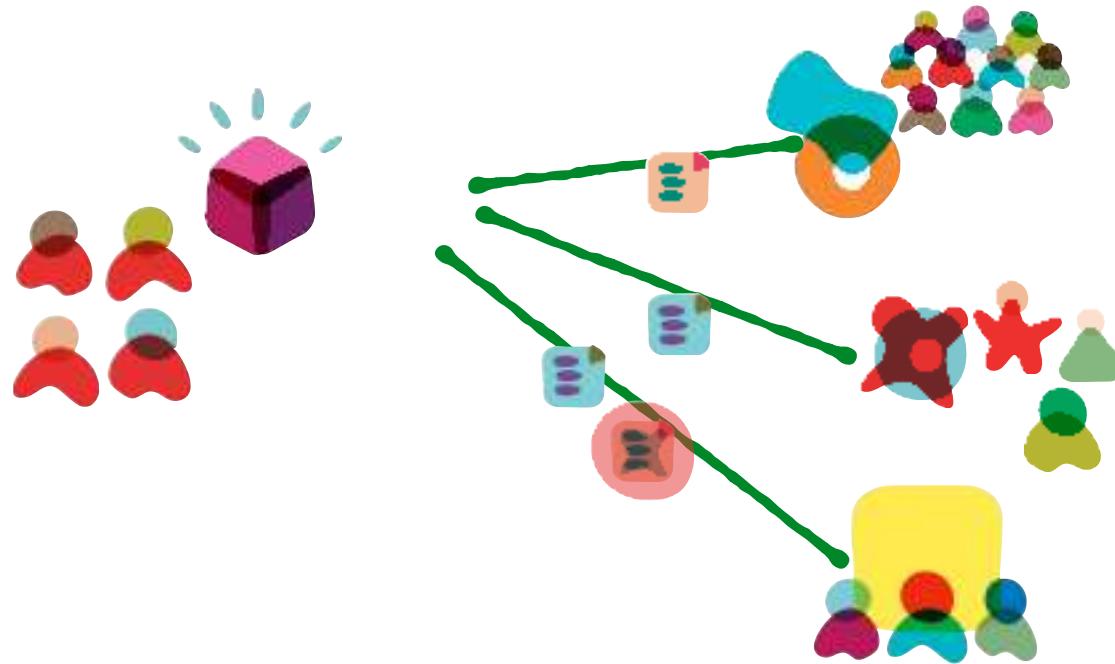
holistic



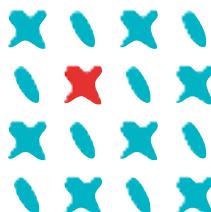
Holistic fitness functions must run in a specific (shared) context.



# Consumer Driven Contracts



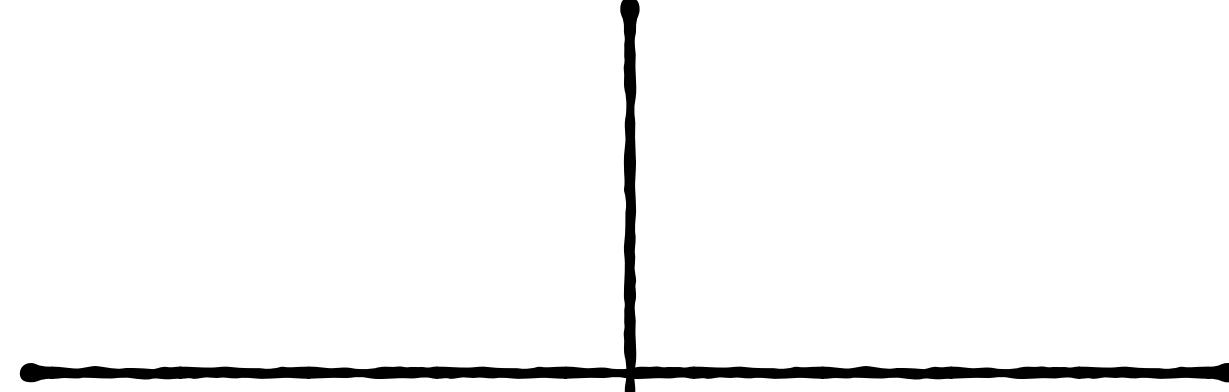
[martinfowler.com/articles/consumerDrivenContracts.html](http://martinfowler.com/articles/consumerDrivenContracts.html)



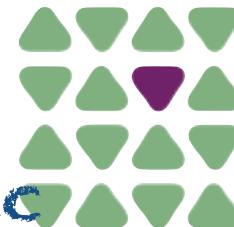


# Fitness Function

atomic



batch



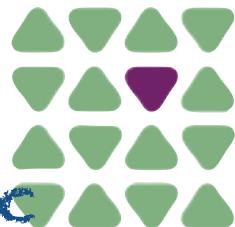
holistic

continuous



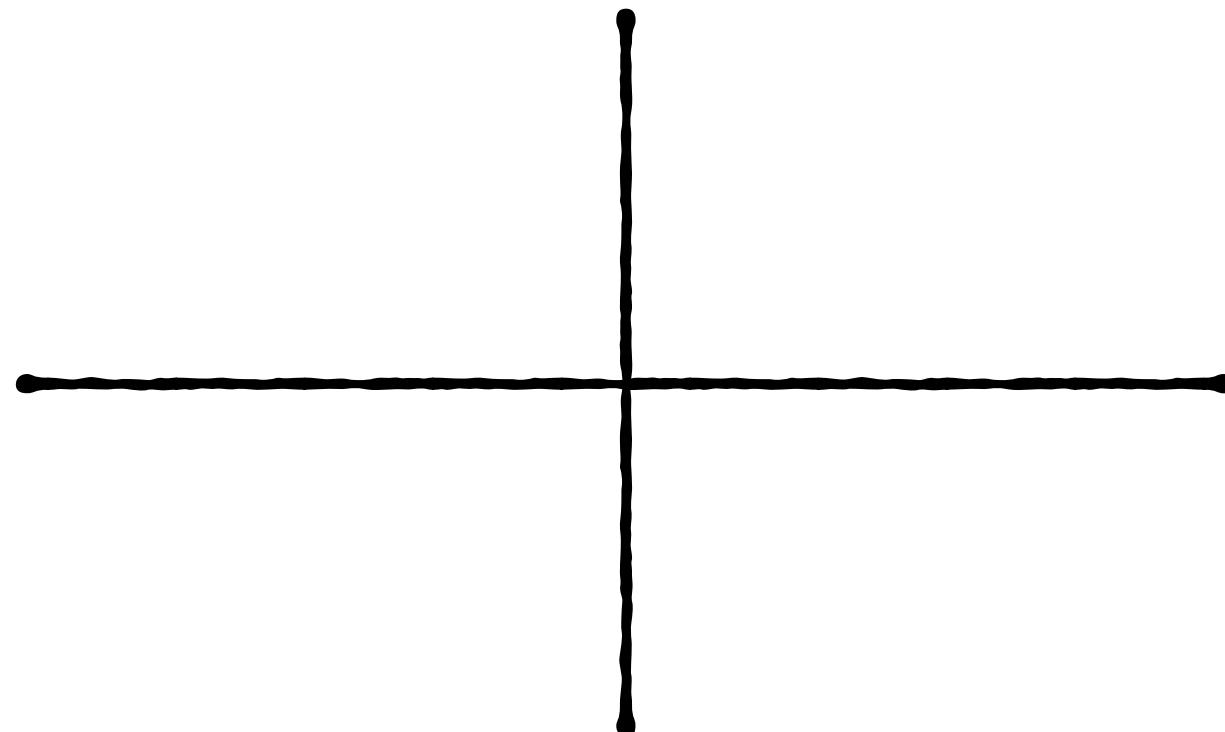


atomic



holistic

# Fitness Function

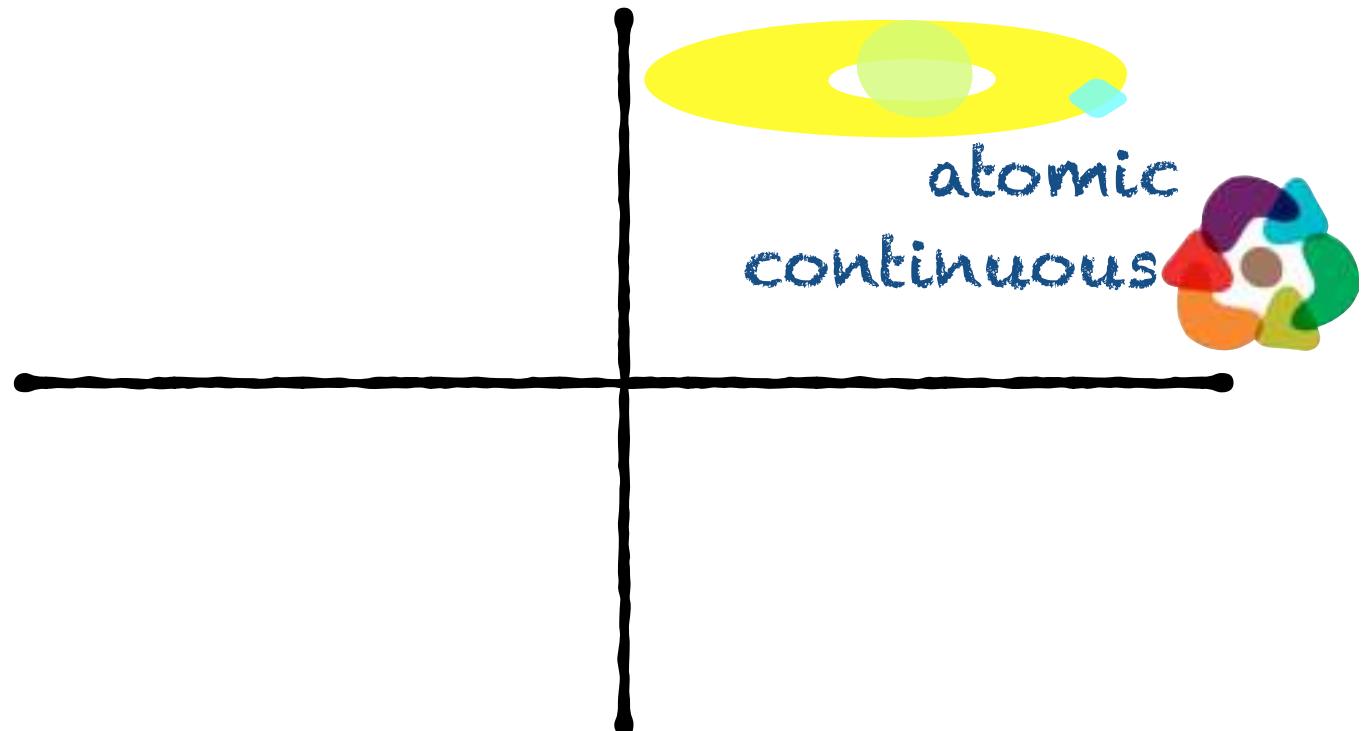


batch

continuous



# Fitness Function



holistic



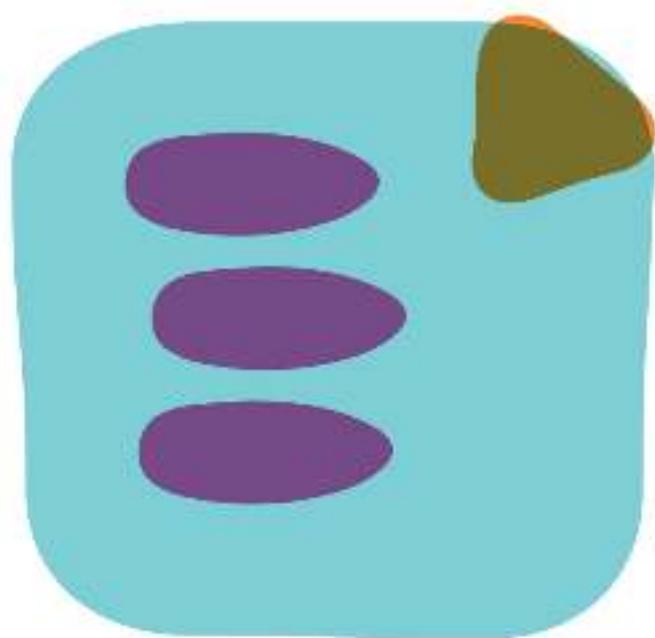
batch



atomic



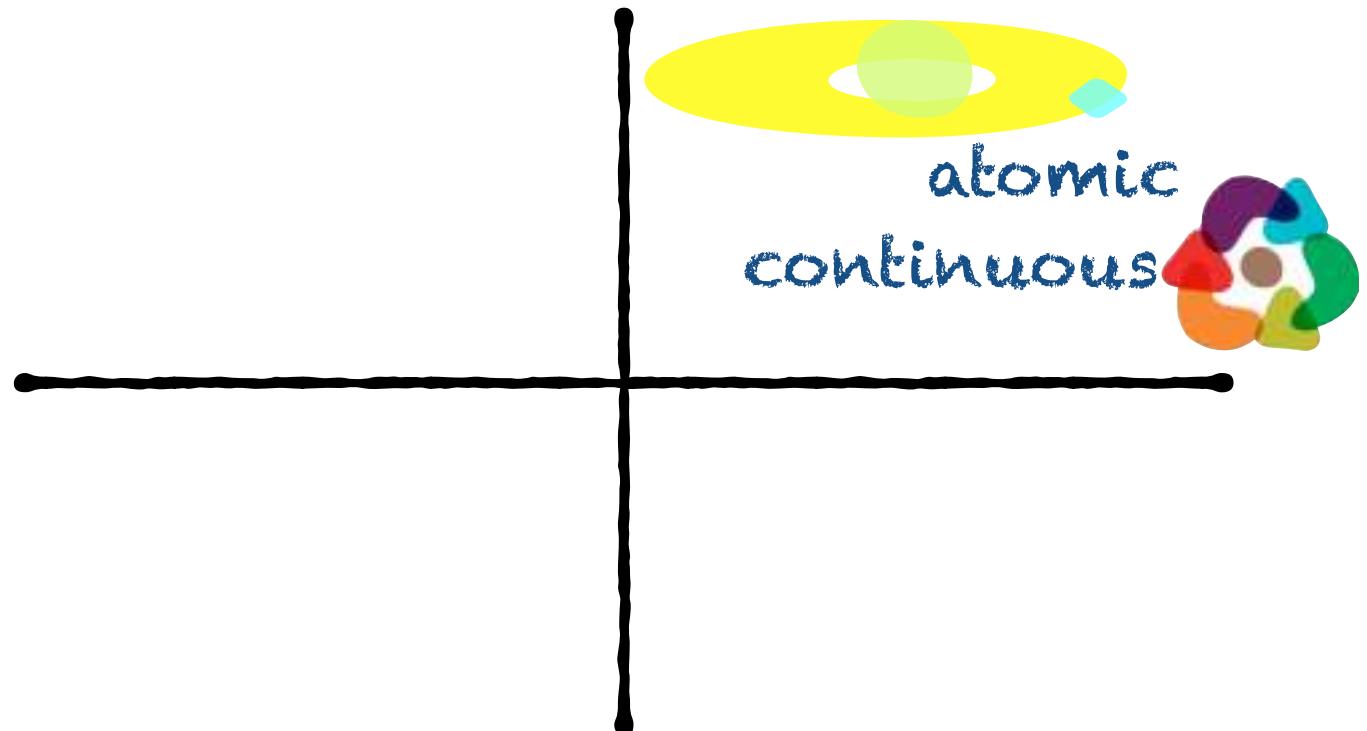
monitoring



logging



# Fitness Function

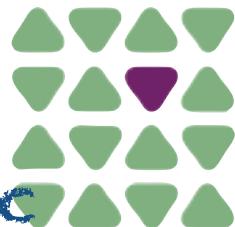


holistic



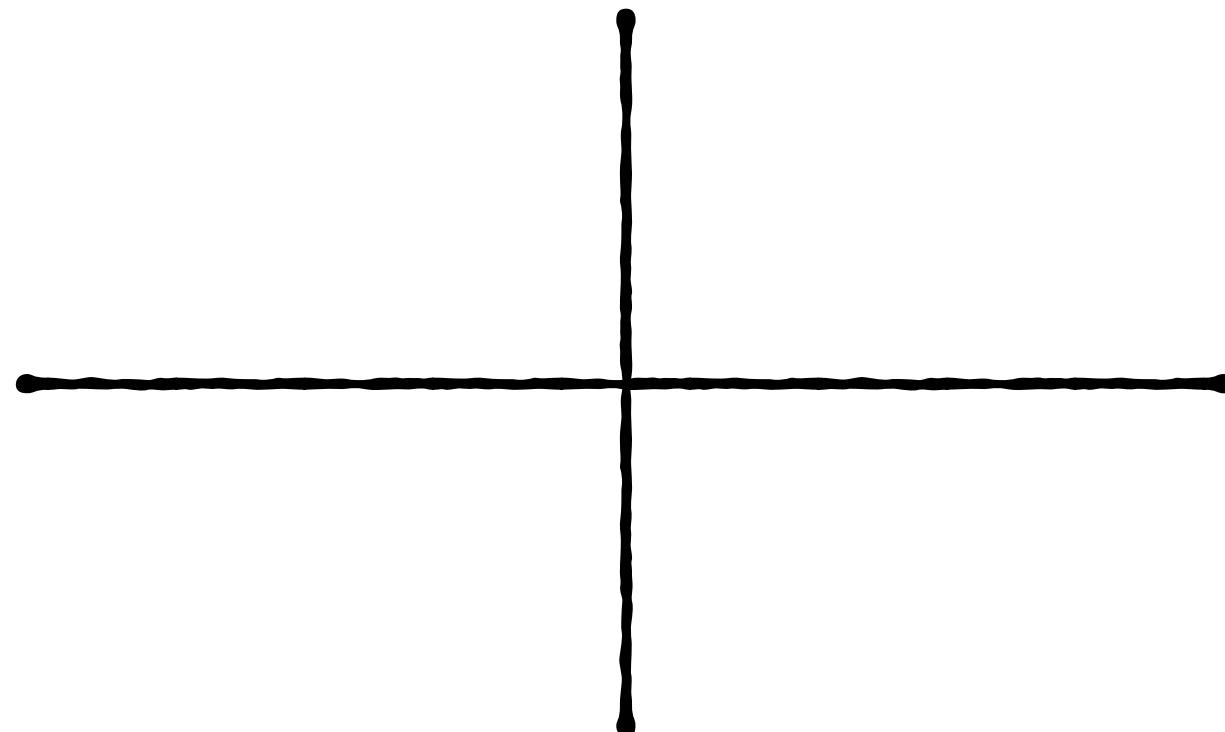


atomic



holistic

# Fitness Function



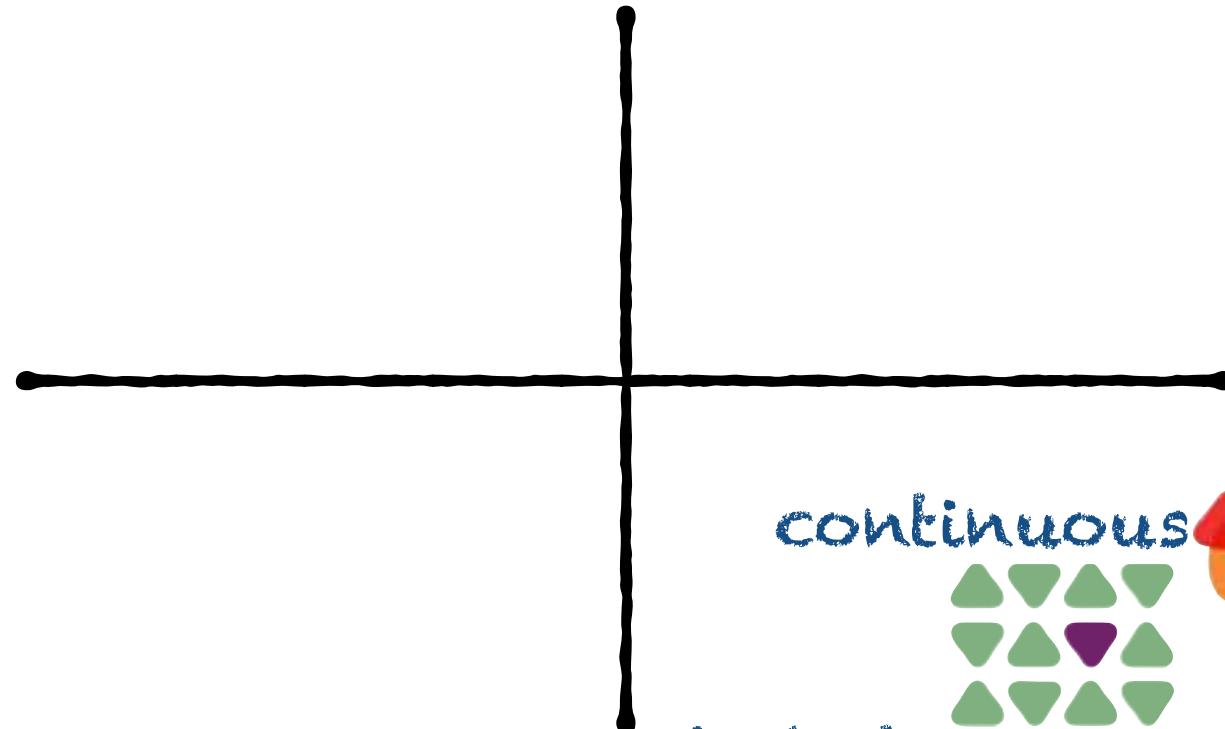
batch

continuous



# Fitness Function

atomic



batch

continuous  
holistic

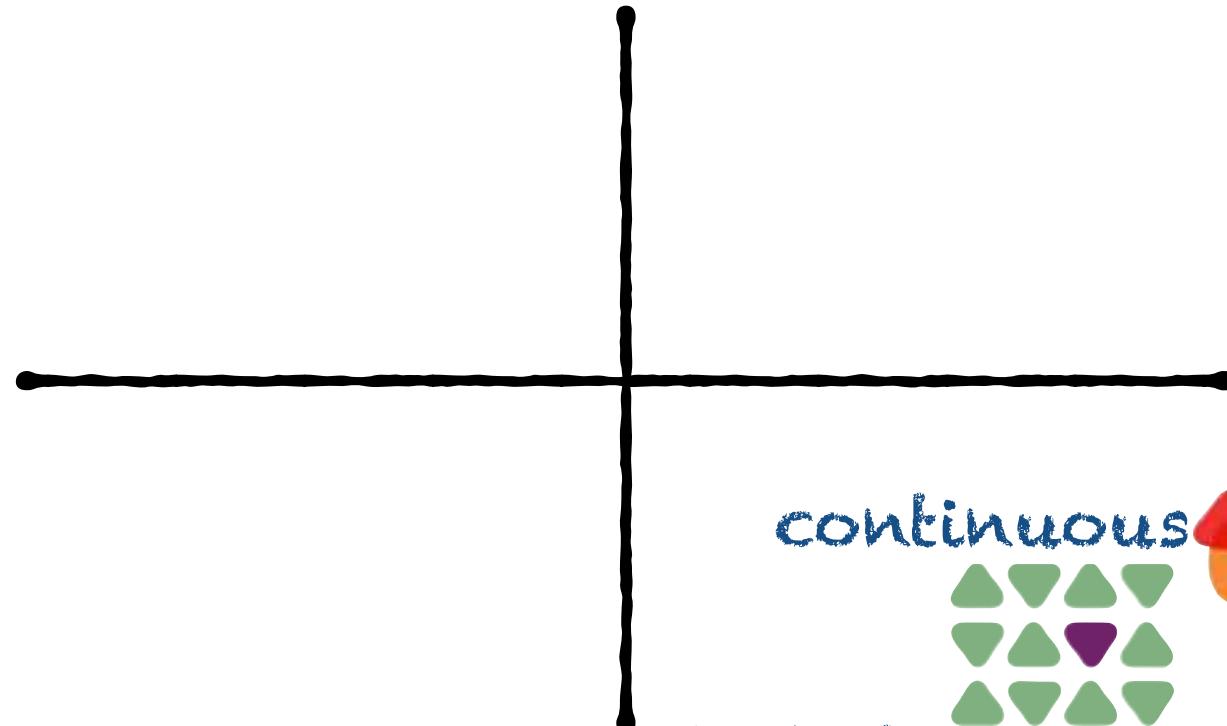


holistic  
resilience-ility?



# Fitness Function

atomic

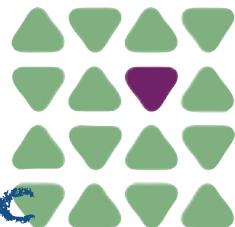


batch

continuous  
holistic

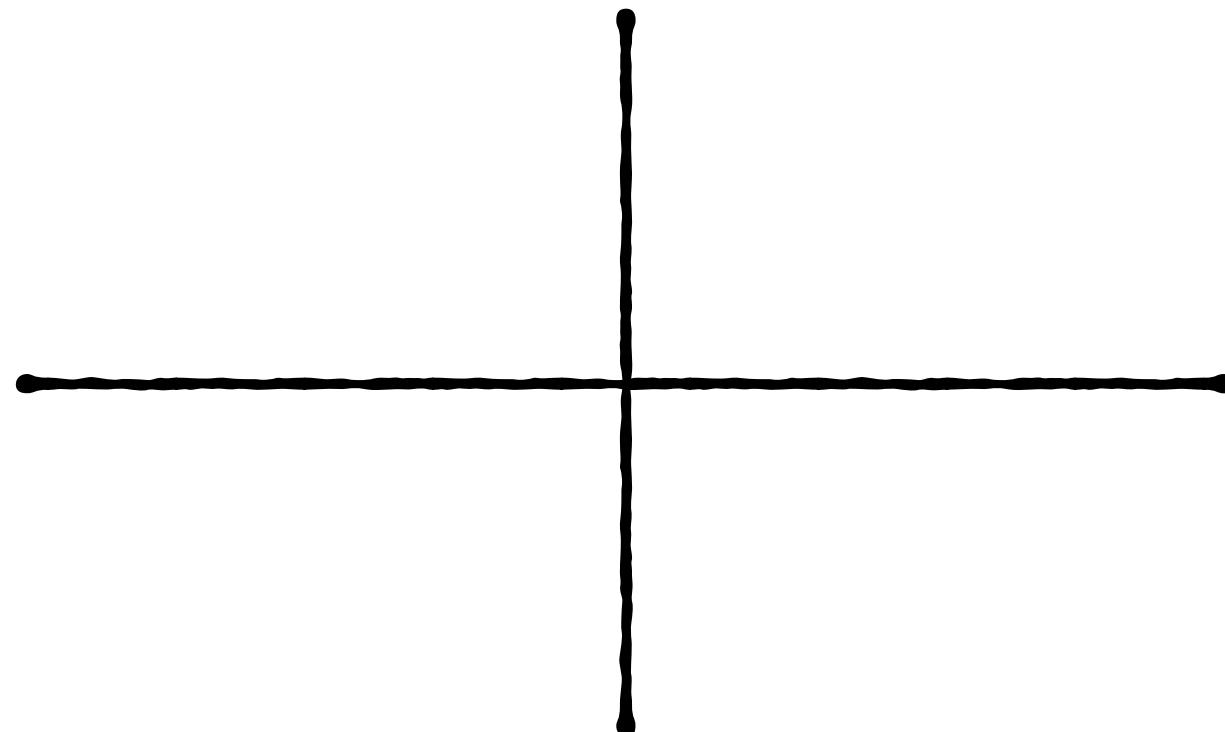


atomic



holistic

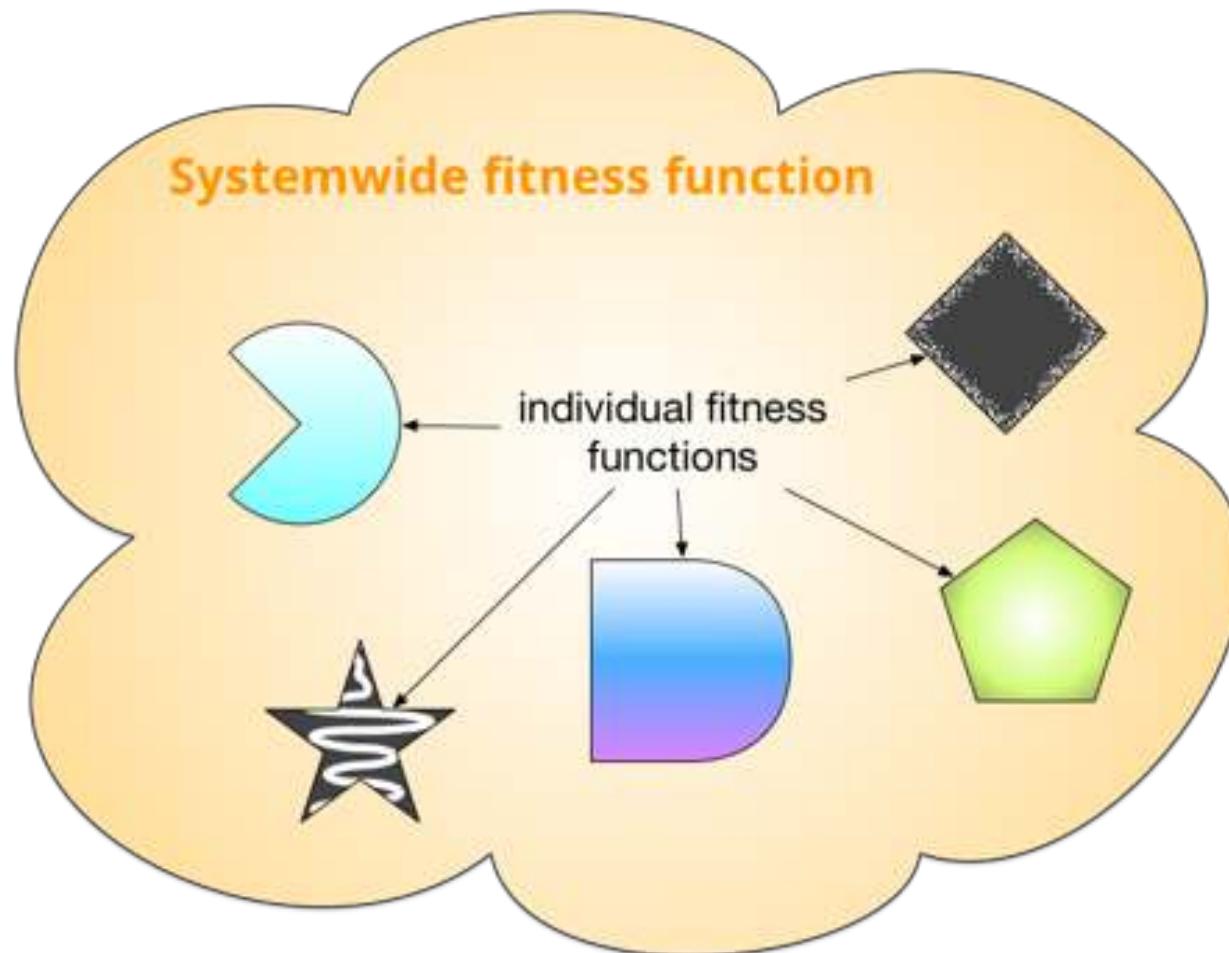
# Fitness Function



batch

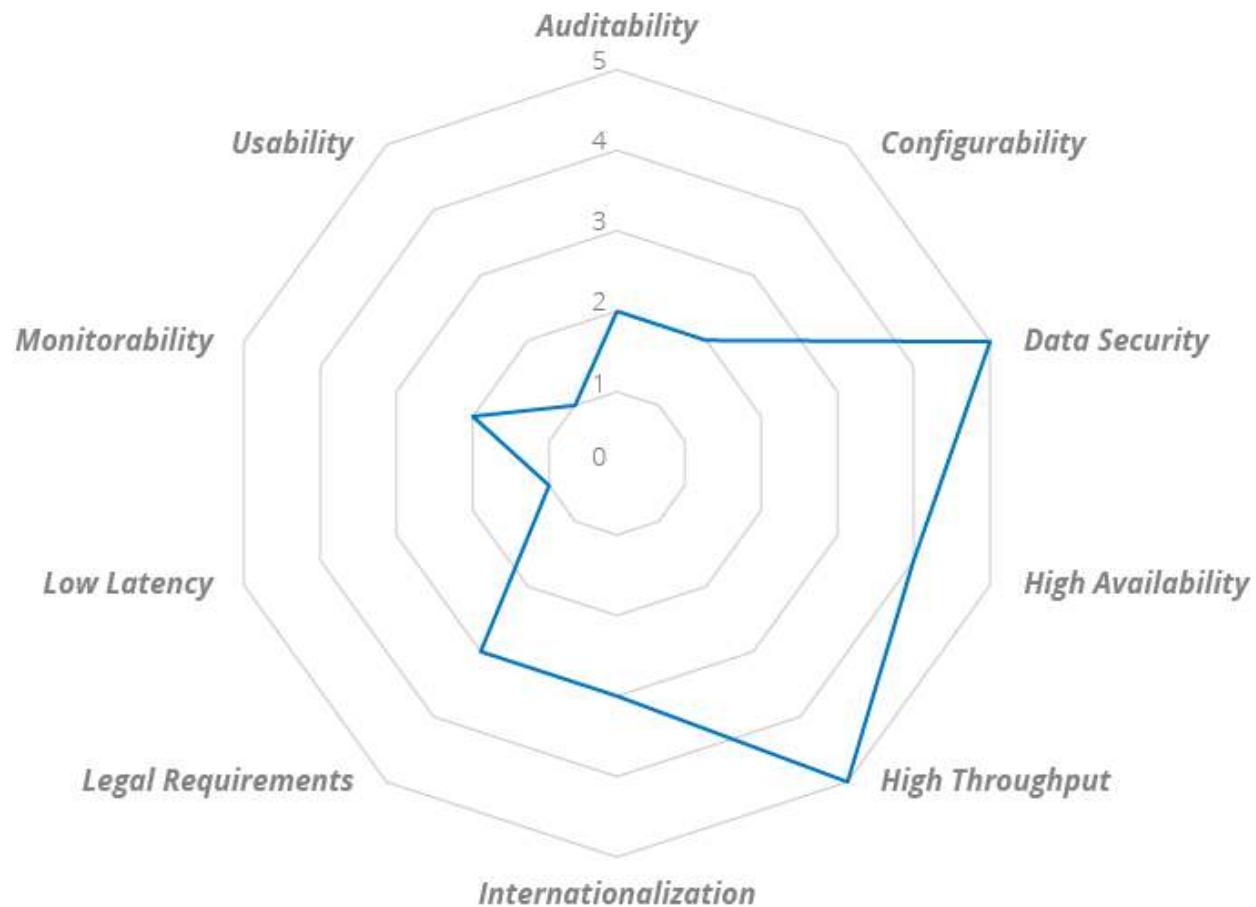
continuous

# System-wide Fitness Function





# Fitness Function Fit

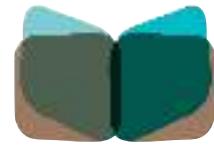




# Guided Evolution



# Agenda



definition



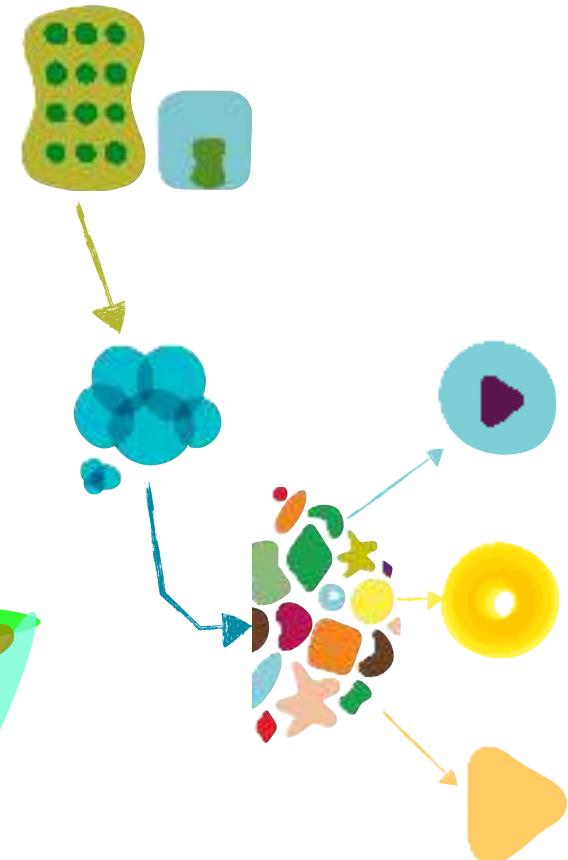
incremental change



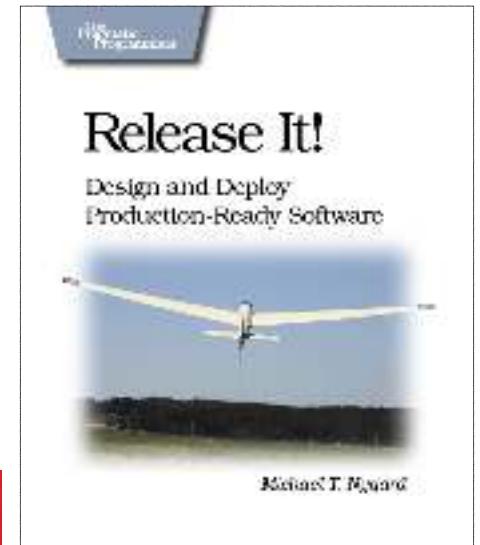
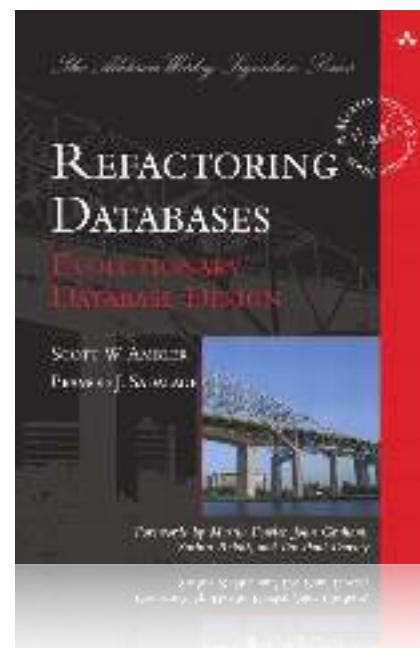
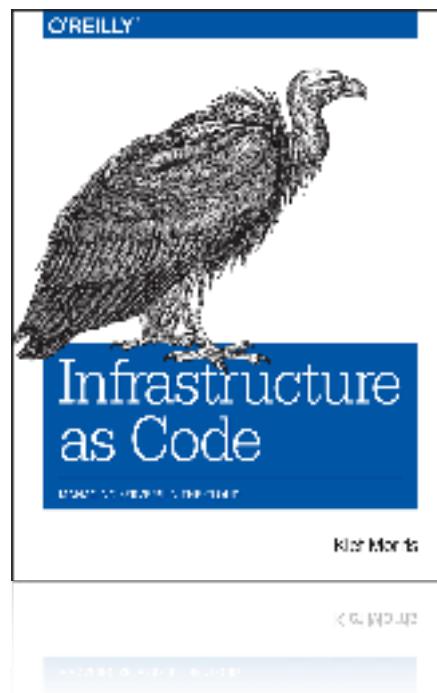
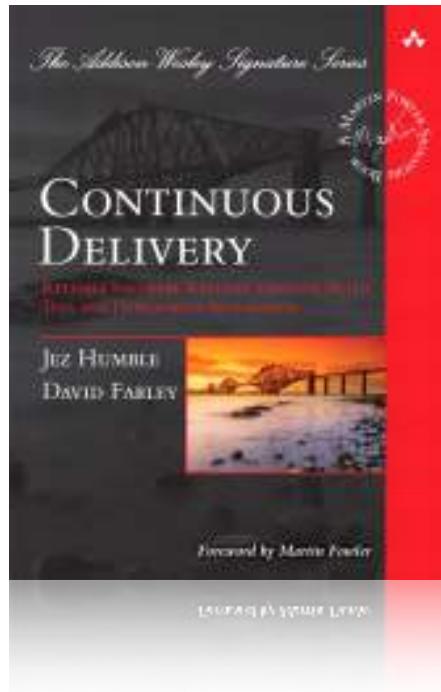
fitness functions



appropriate coupling

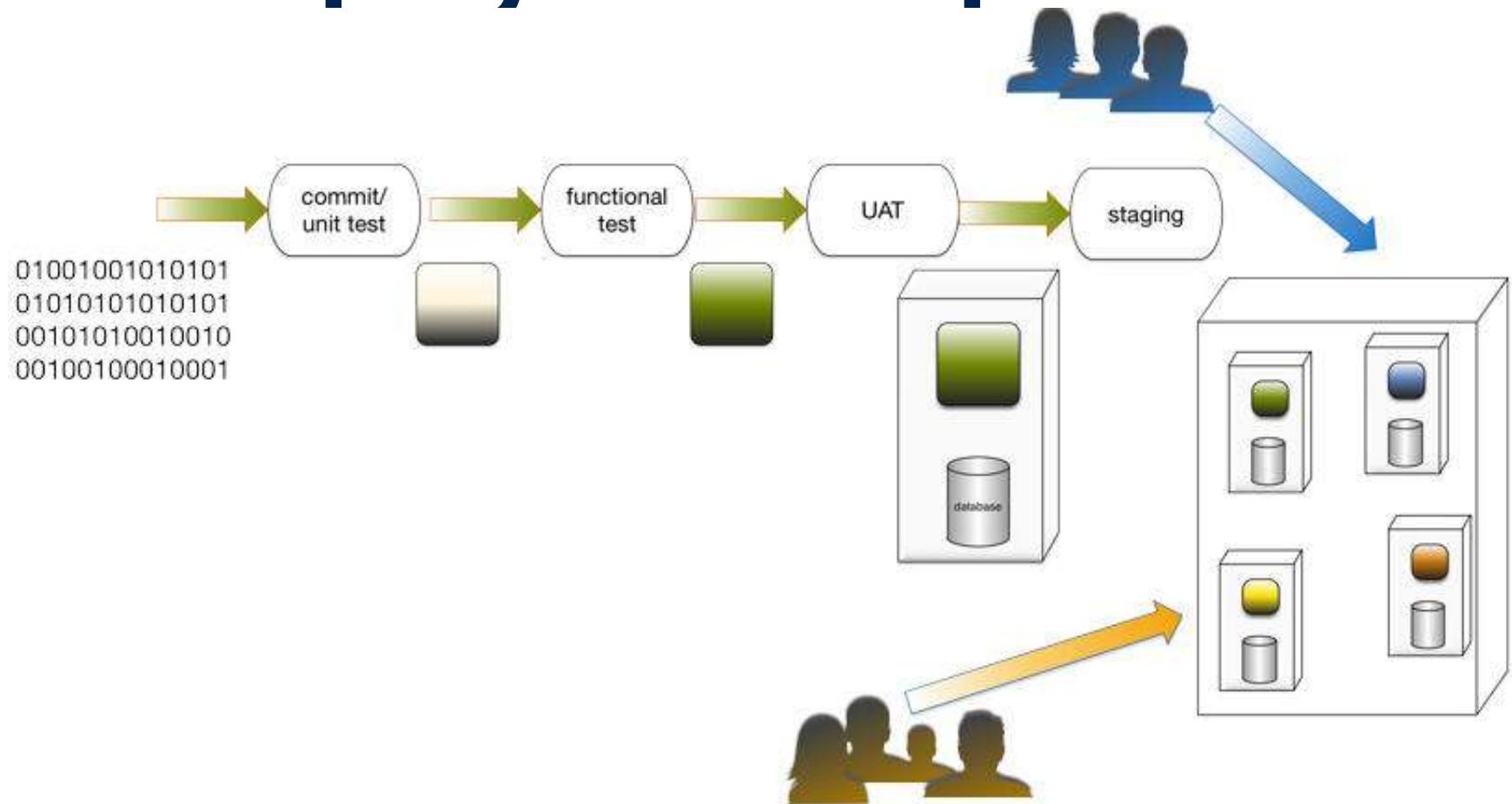


# Prerequisites



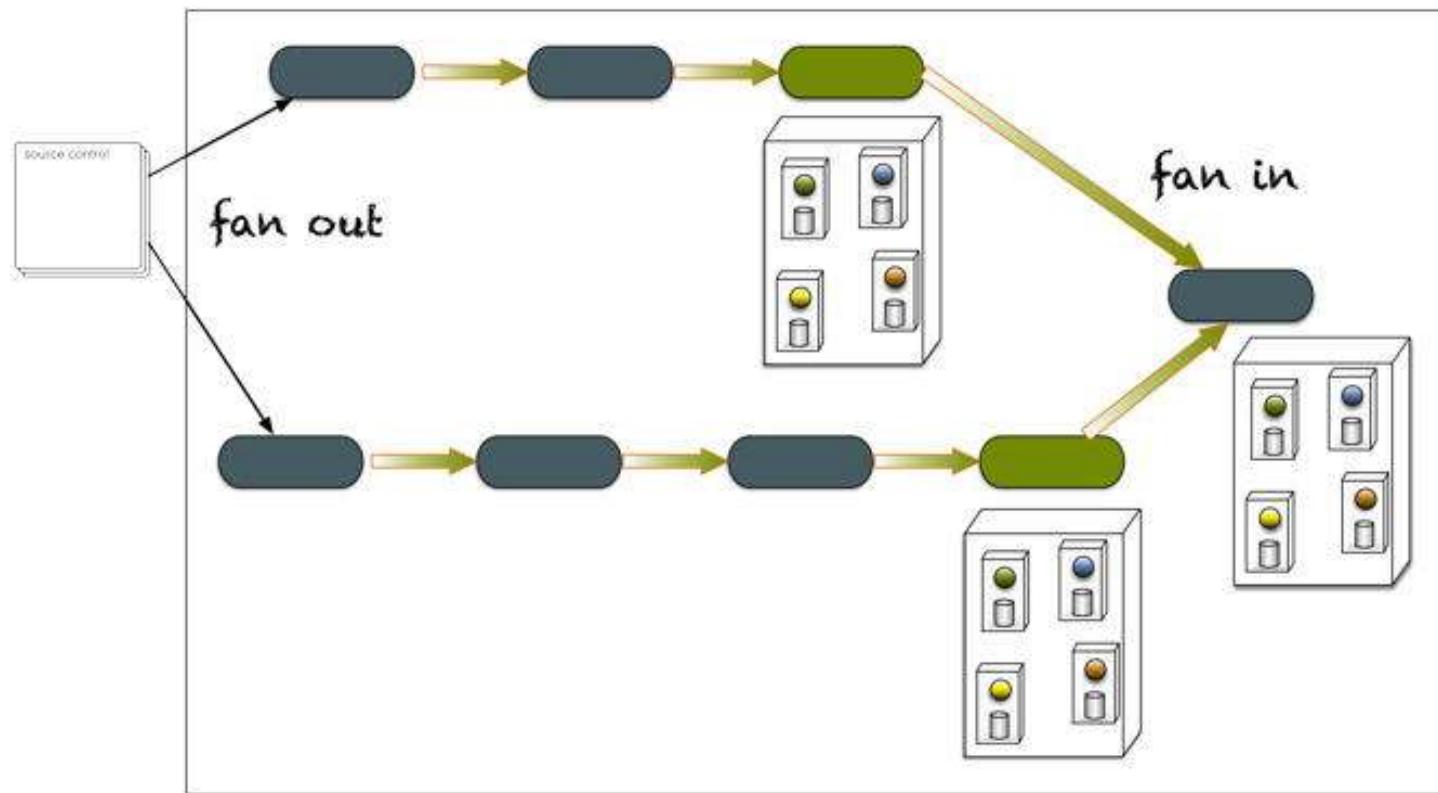


# Deployment Pipeline



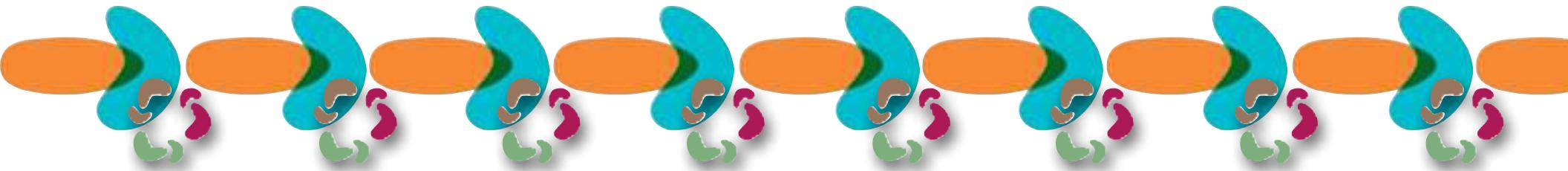


# Deployment Pipeline





# Incremental Change

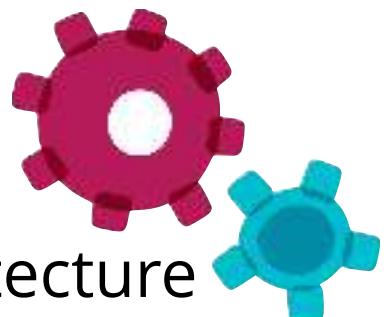


$$V \propto C$$

where

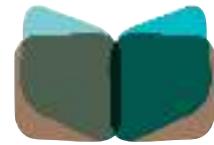
c = cycle time

v = maximum speed of new generations



Engine of evolutionary architecture

# Agenda



definition



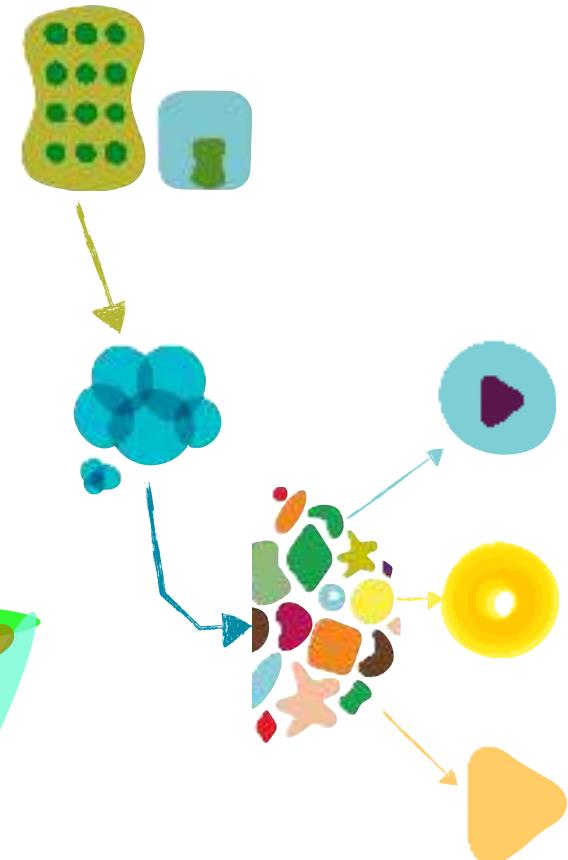
incremental change



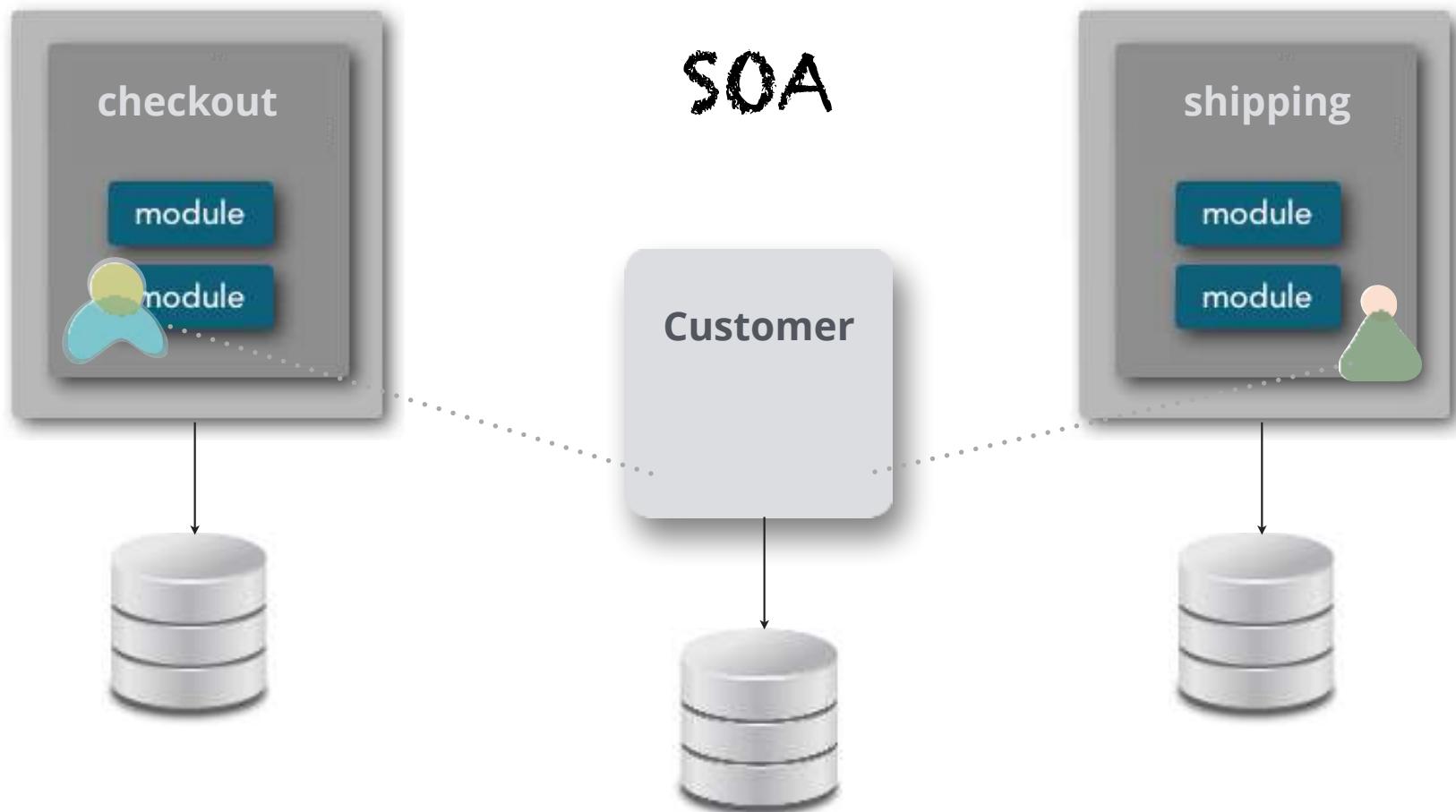
fitness functions



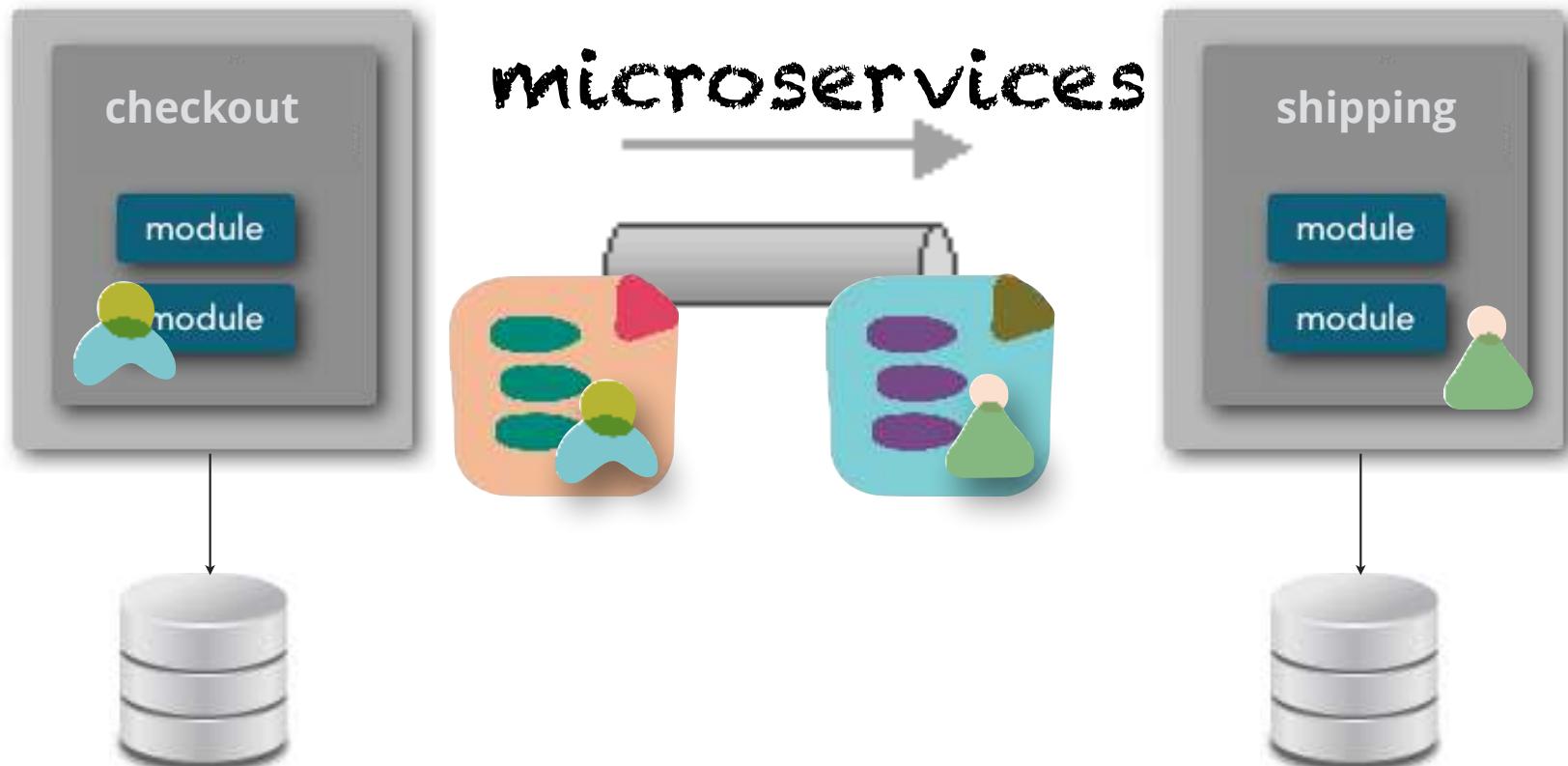
appropriate coupling

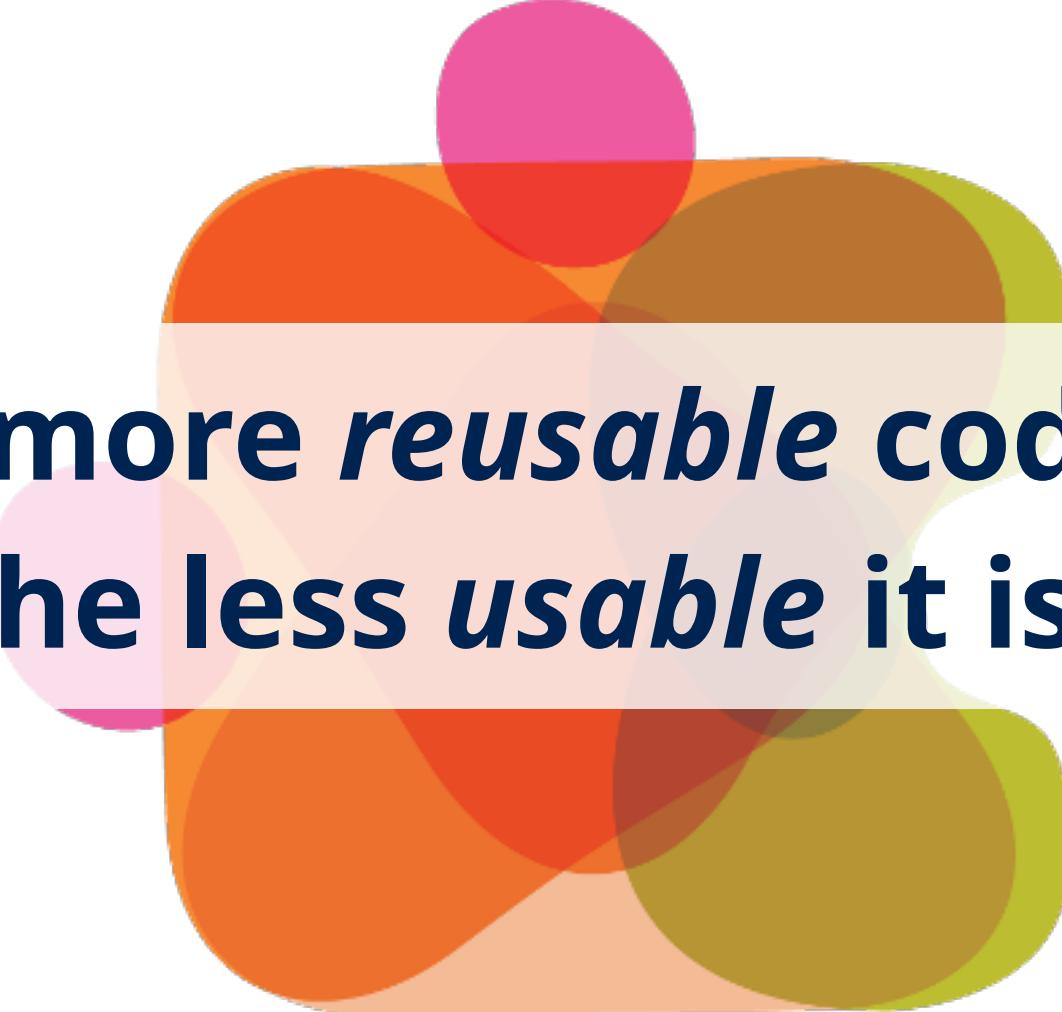


# Code Reuse (Over Time)



# Code Reuse (Over Time)

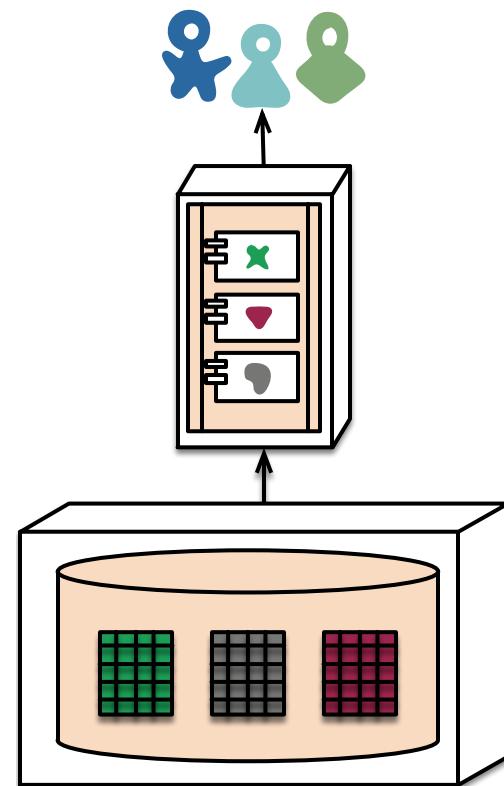




The more *reusable* code is,  
the less *usable* it is.

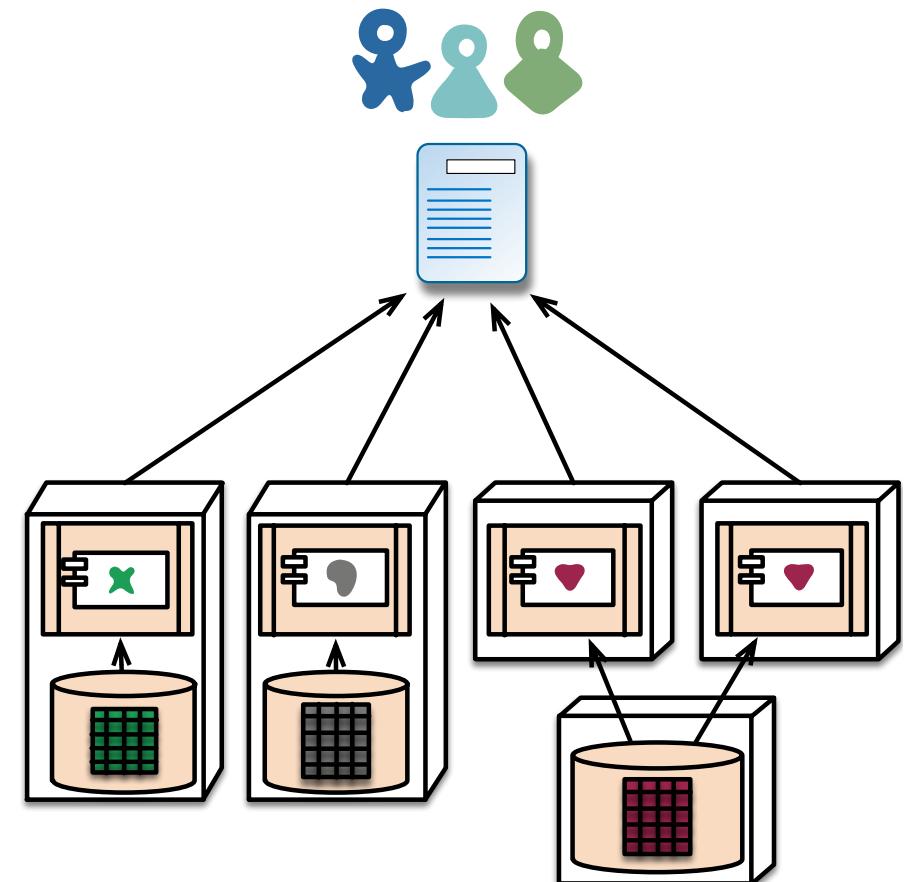
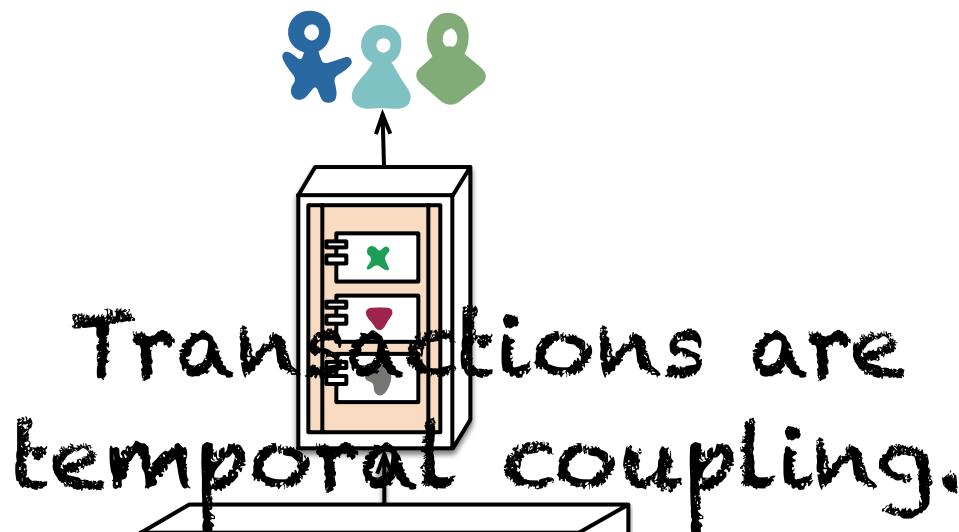


# Decentralized Data Management





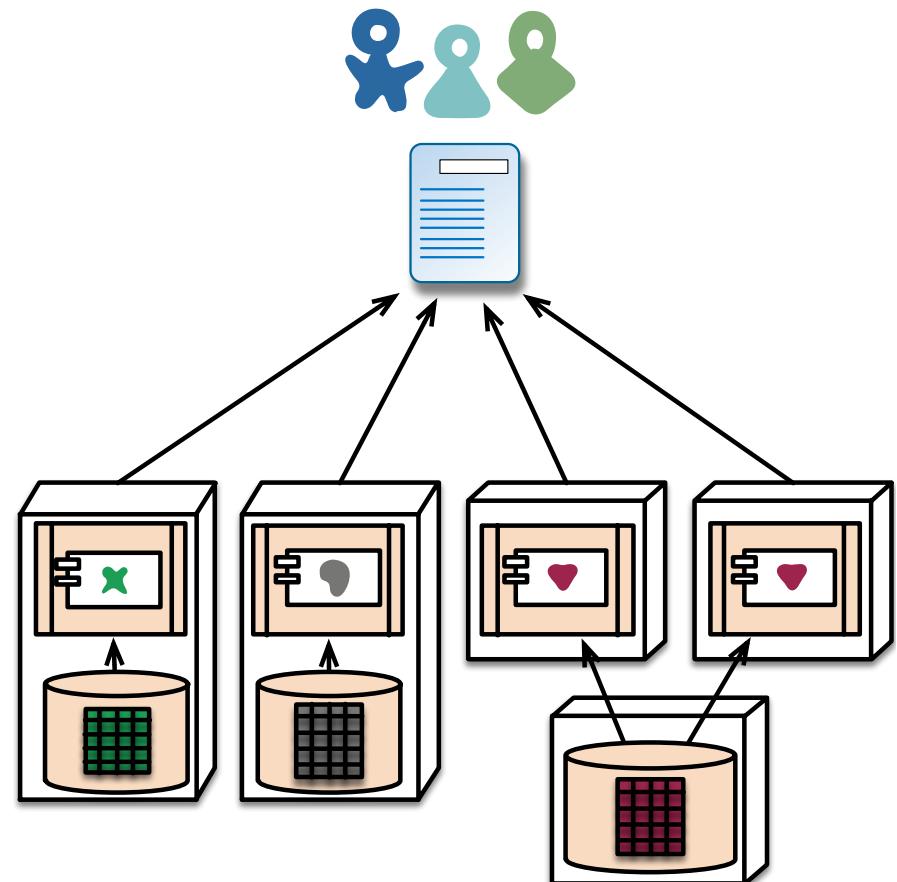
# Decentralized Data Management





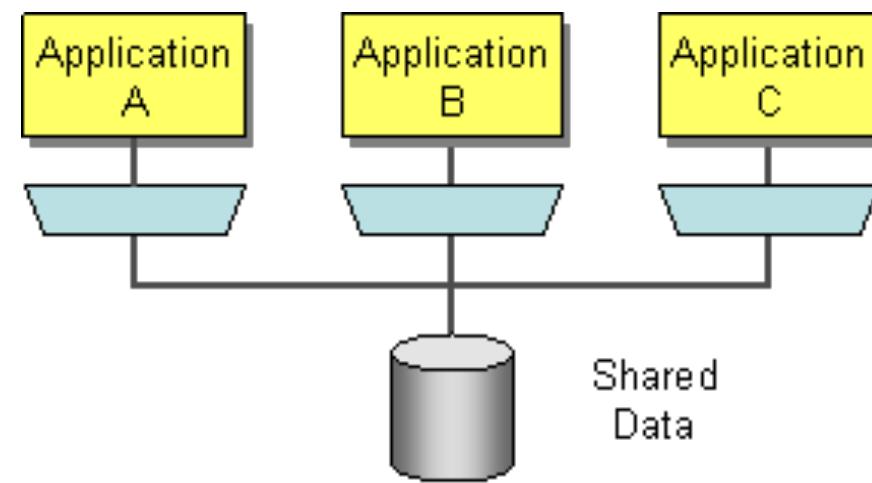
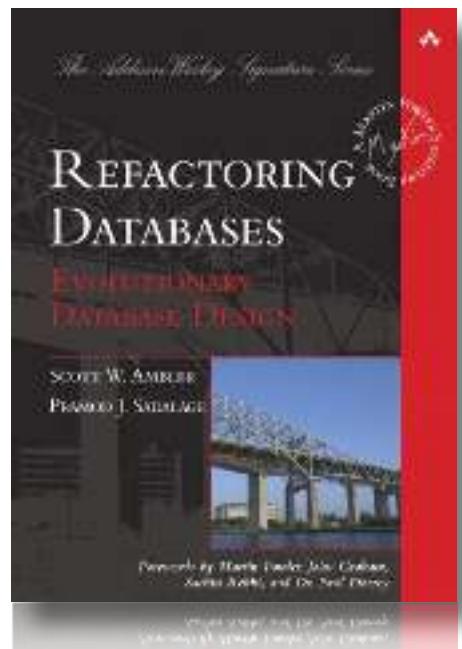
# Decentralized Data Management

Limit  
transactional  
contexts.





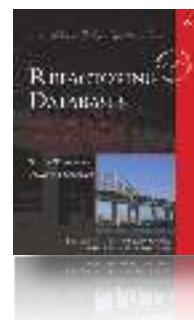
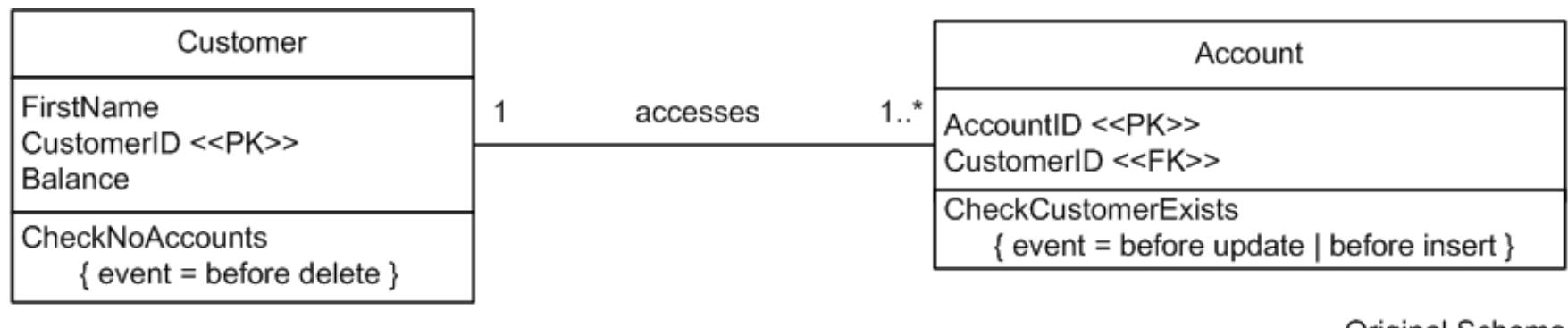
# Evolutionary Database Design



<http://databaserefactoring.com/>

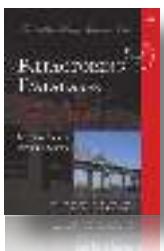


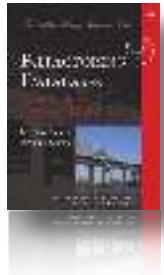
# Evolving Columns



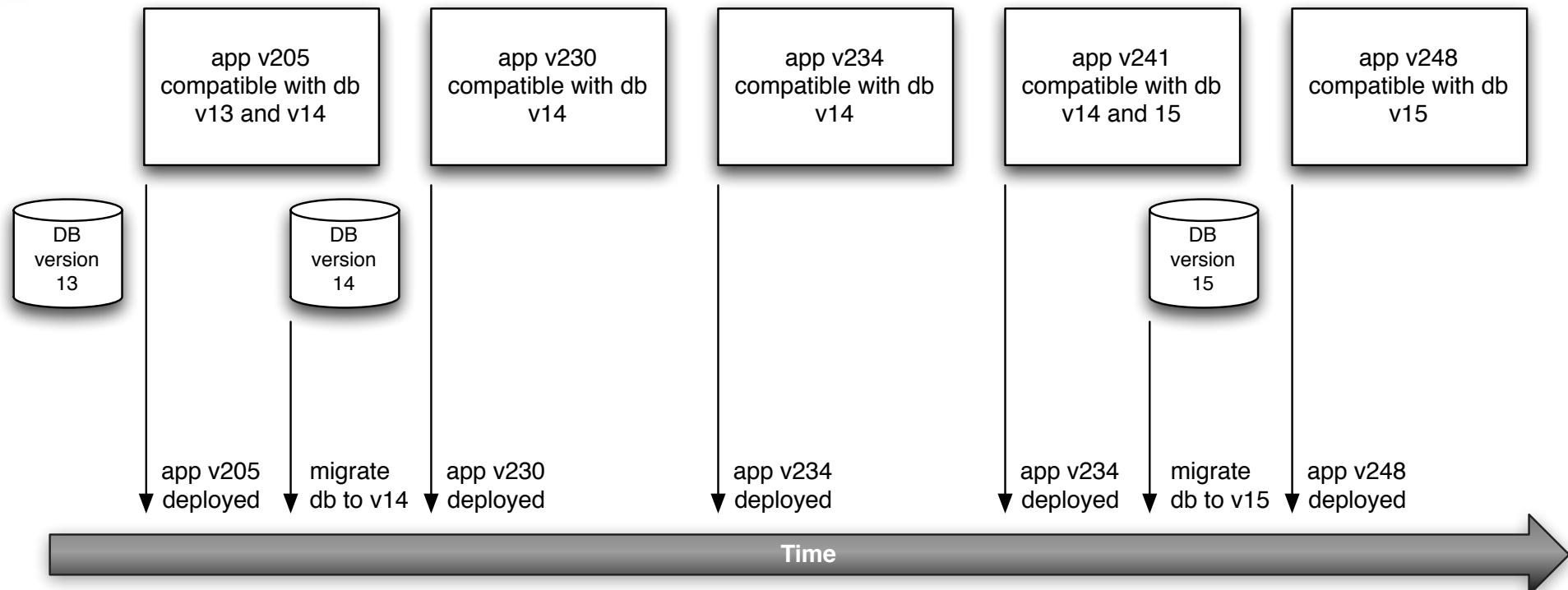


# Transition



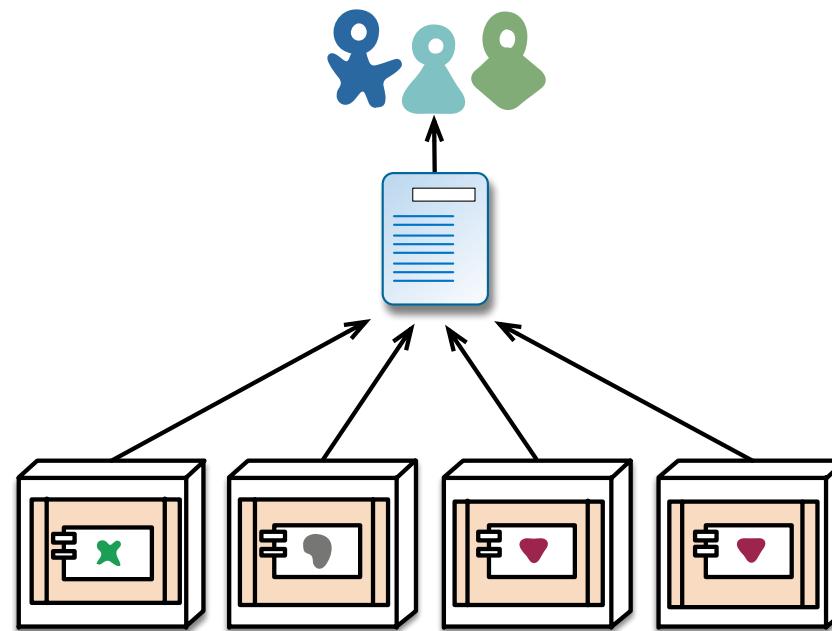


# Expand/Contract Pattern



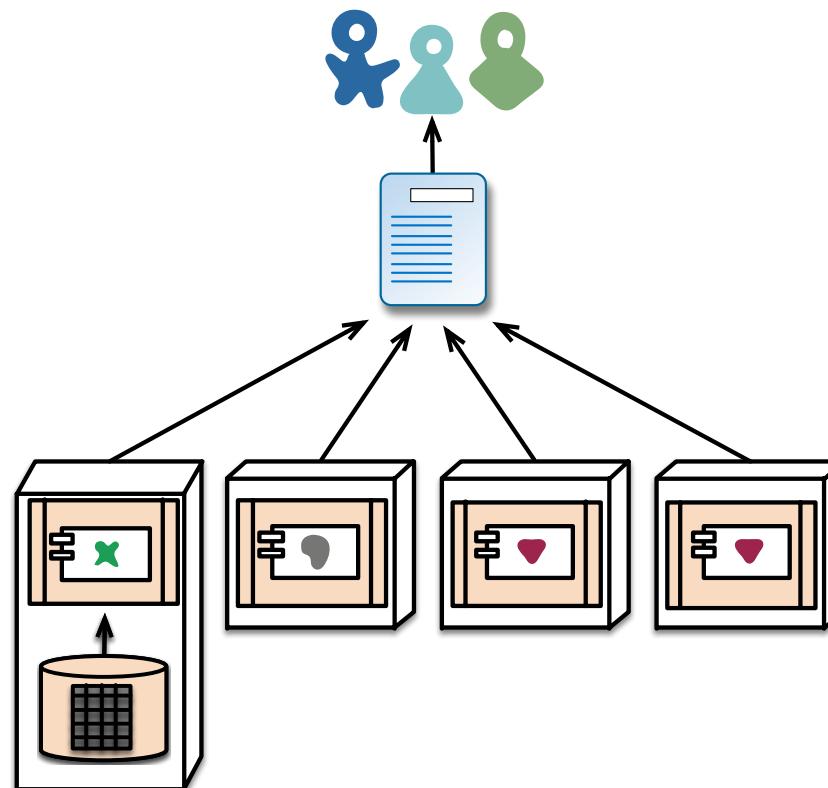


# Decentralized Governance



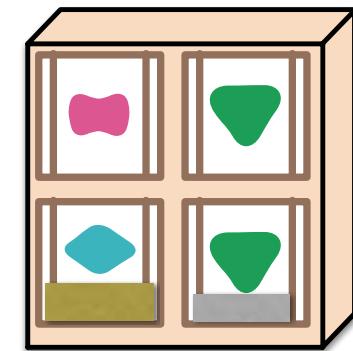
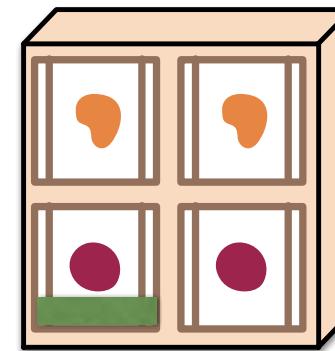
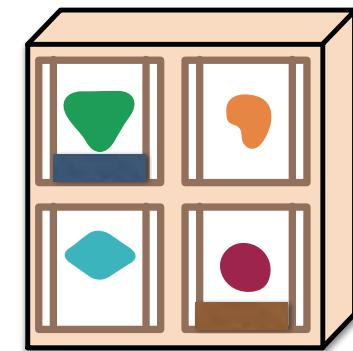
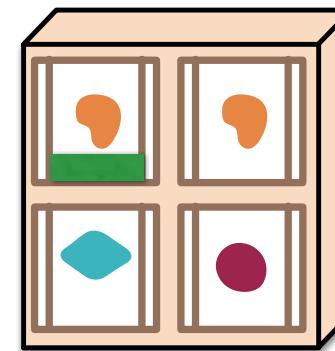
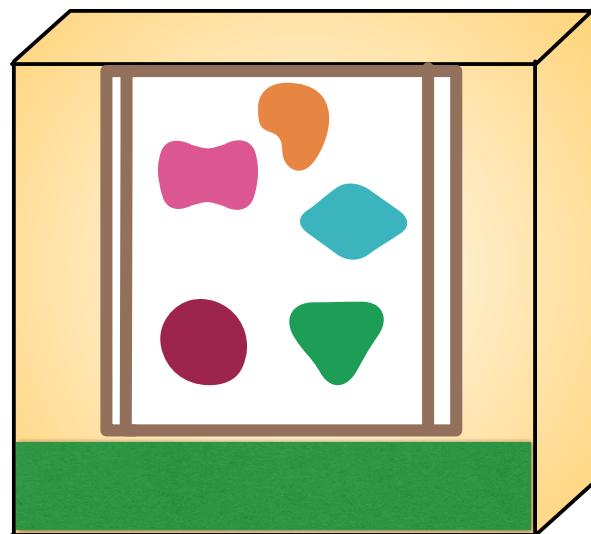


# Decentralized Governance





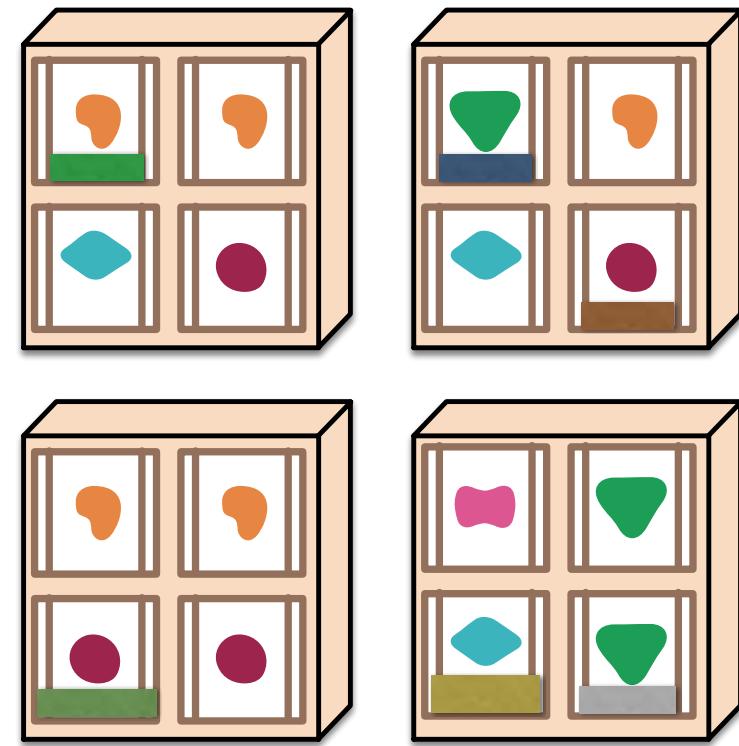
# Decentralized Governance





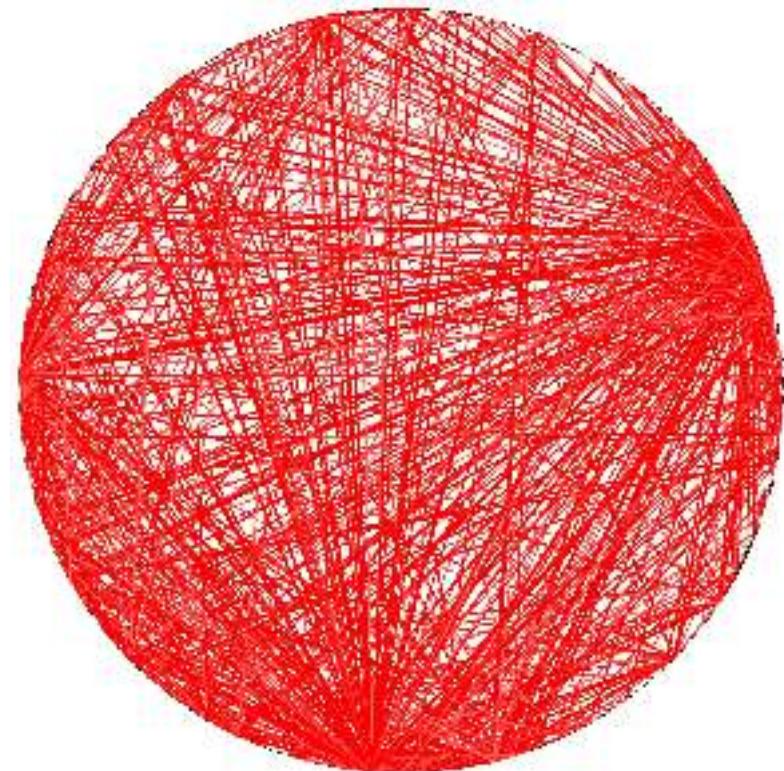
# “Goldilocks” Governance

Choose technology stacks appropriate to problem scale.



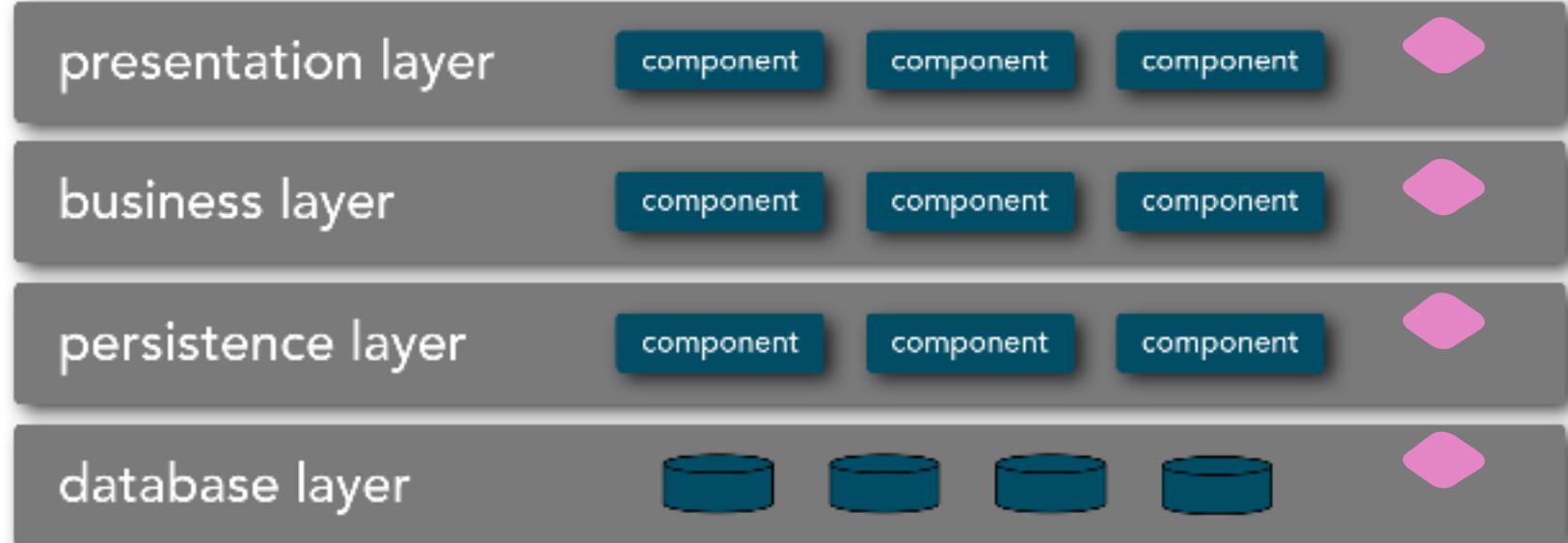


# Shift to Domain-centric Architectures



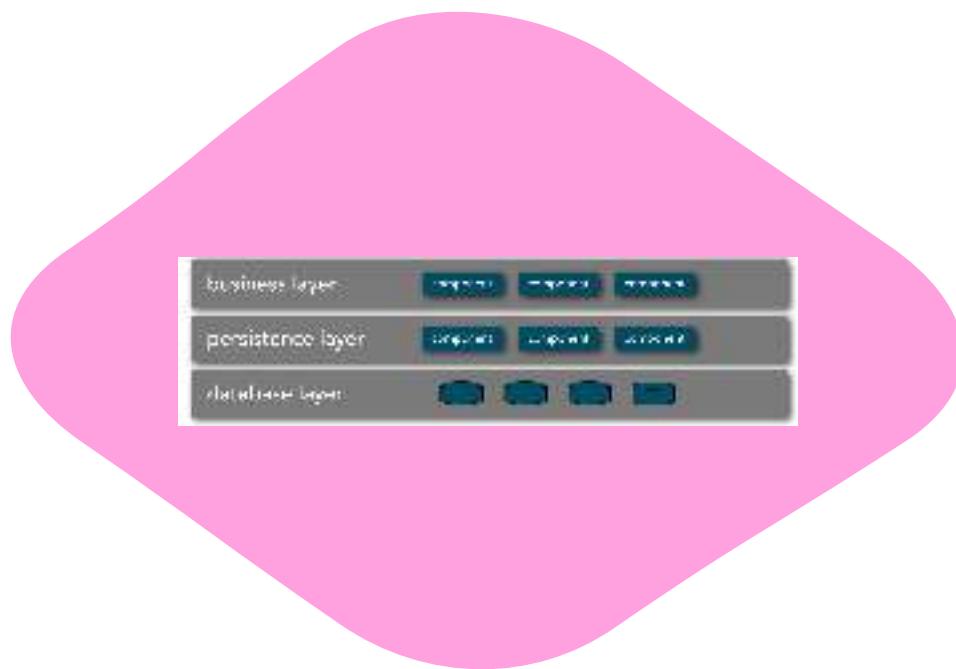


# Shift to Domain-centric Architectures

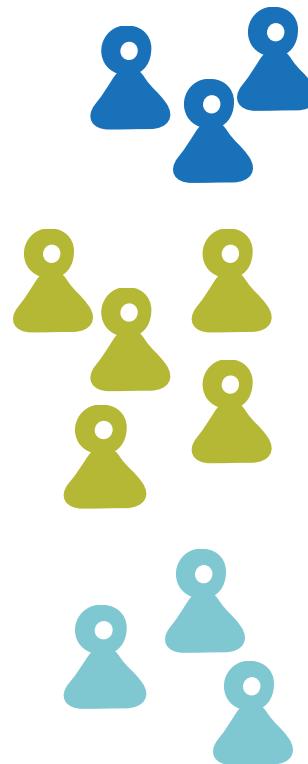




# Shift to Domain-centric Architectures



# Incidentally Coupled Teams



**user interface**

**server-side**

**DBA**



# Conway's Law

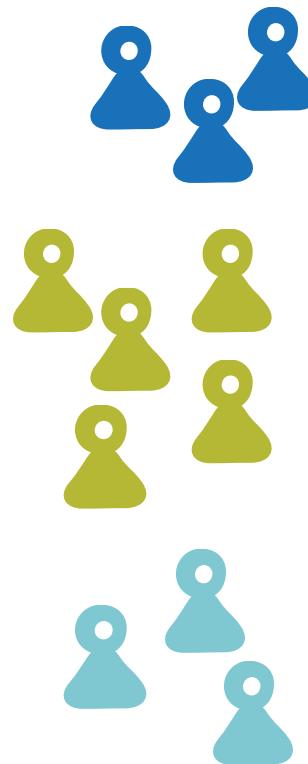
**“organizations which design systems ... are constrained to produce designs which are copies of the communication structures of these organizations”**

Melvin Conway, 1968

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s_law)



# Incidentally Coupled Teams



**user interface**

**server-side**

**DBA**



# Autonomous Teams



Orders



Shipping

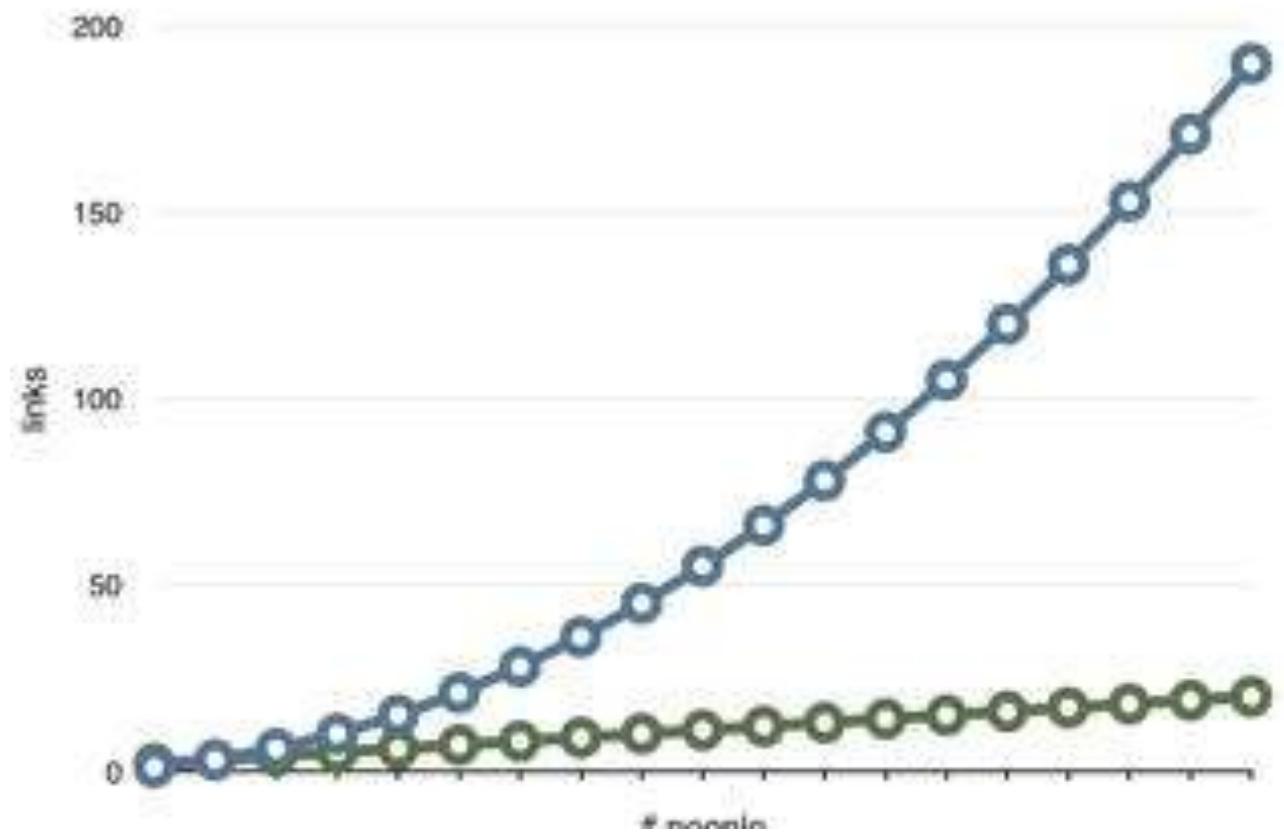
Inverse Conway Maneuver

Catalog

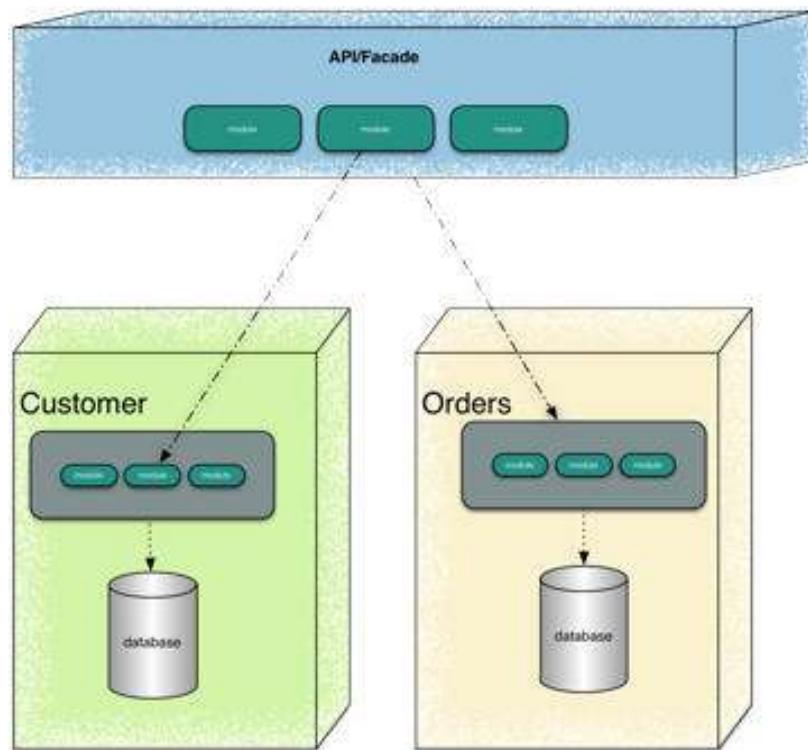


# Low Efferent Coupling between Teams

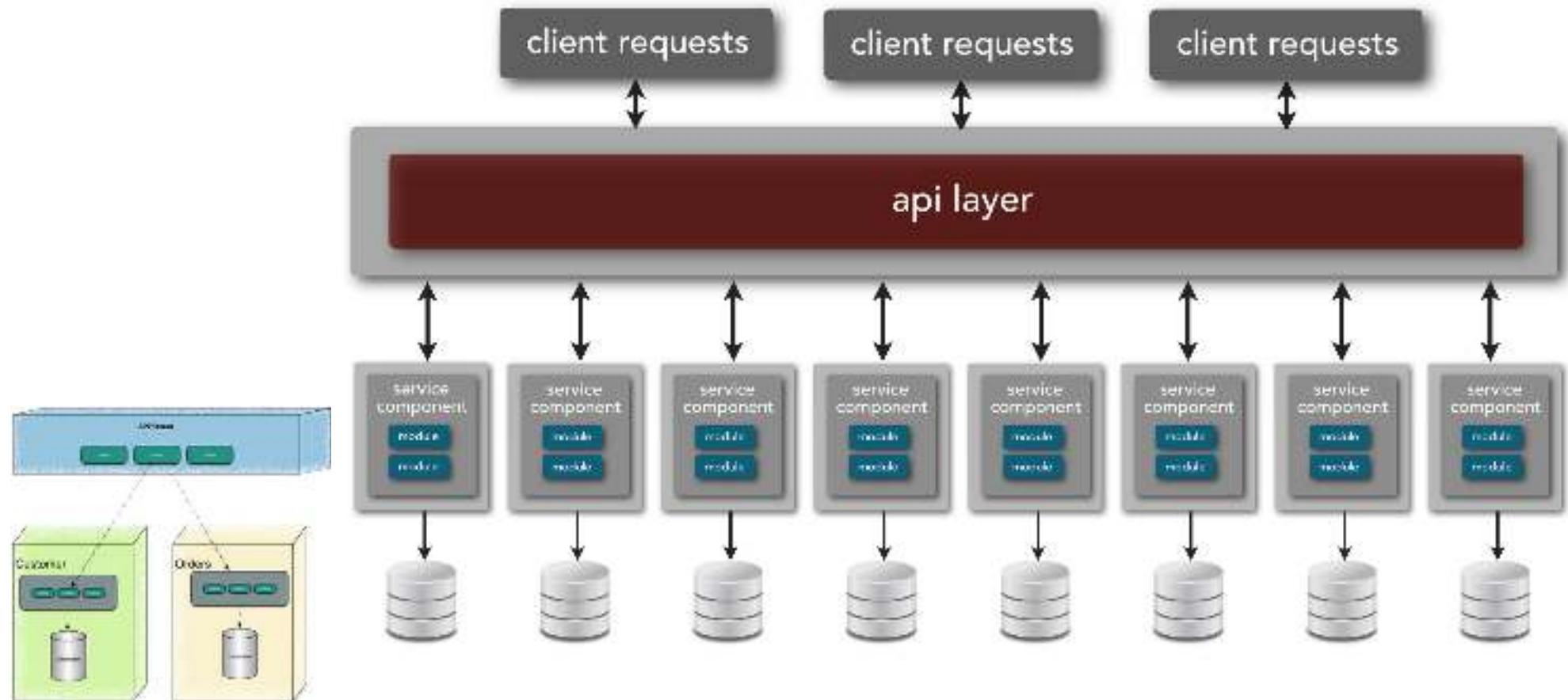
$$\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$



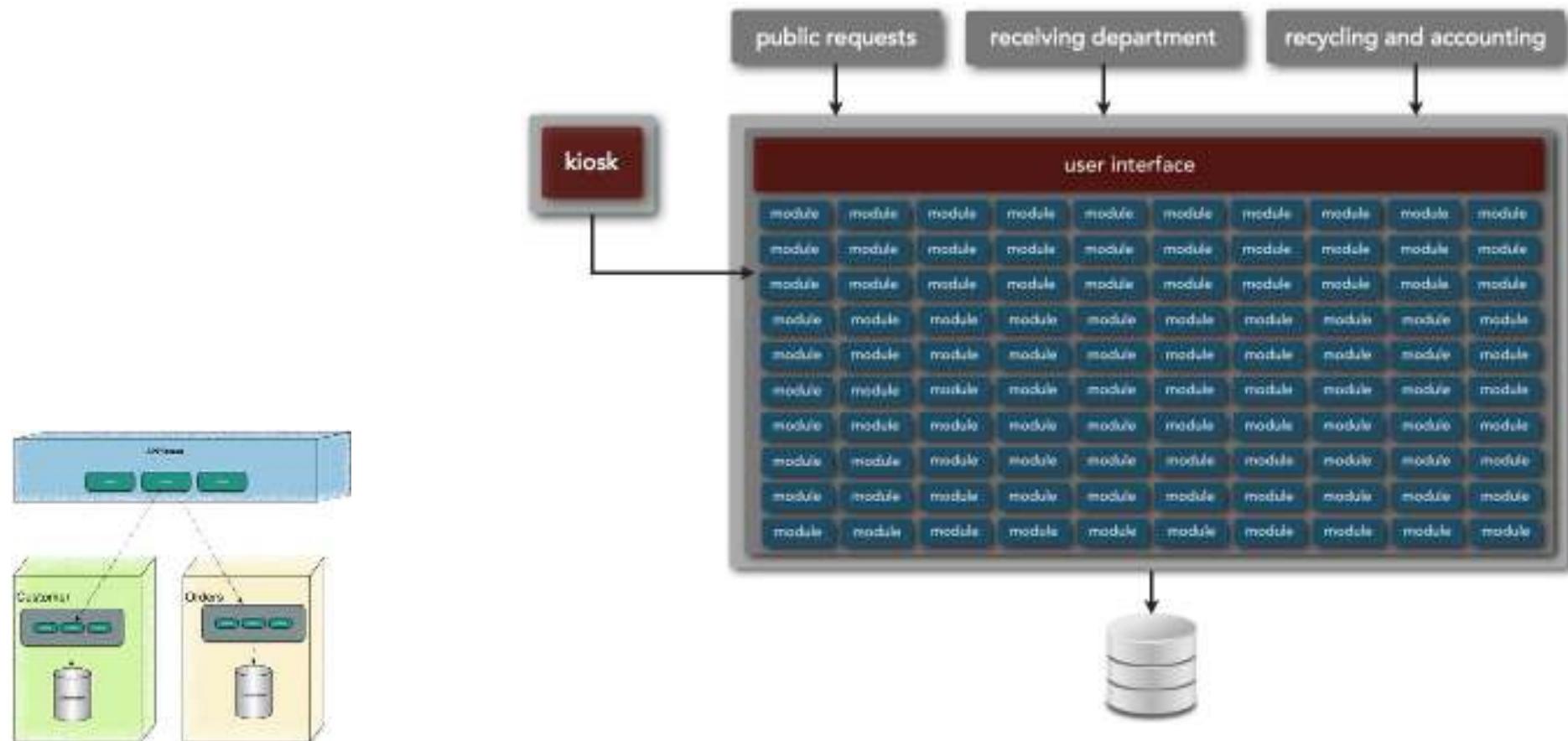
# Architectural Quantum



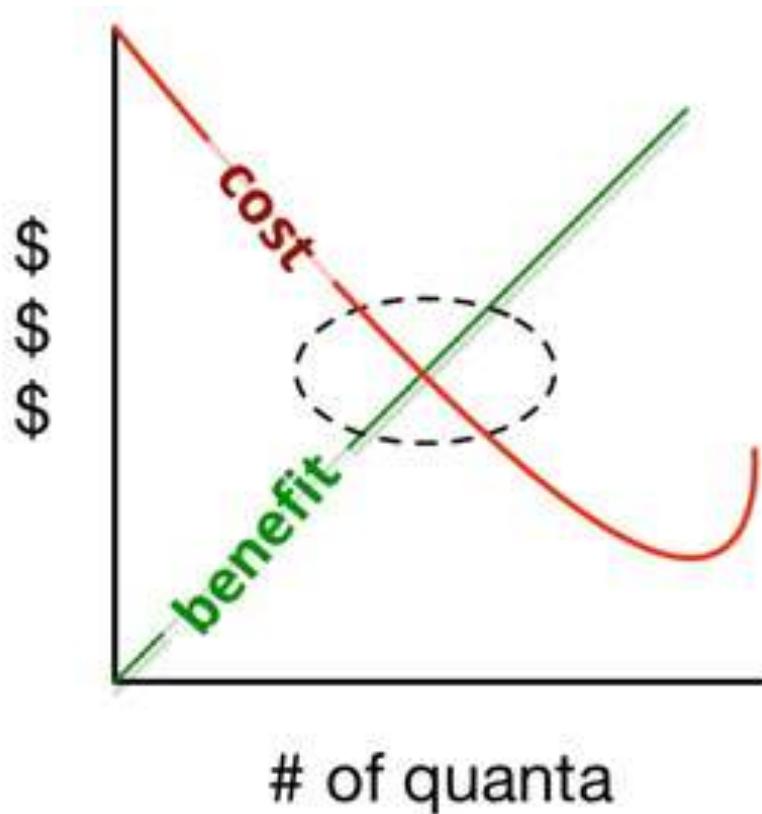
# Architectural Quantum



# Architectural Quantum



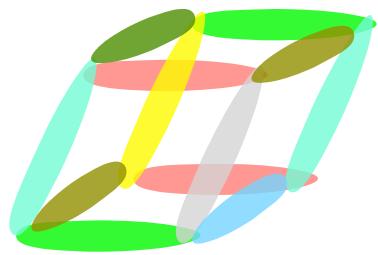
# Architectural Quantum



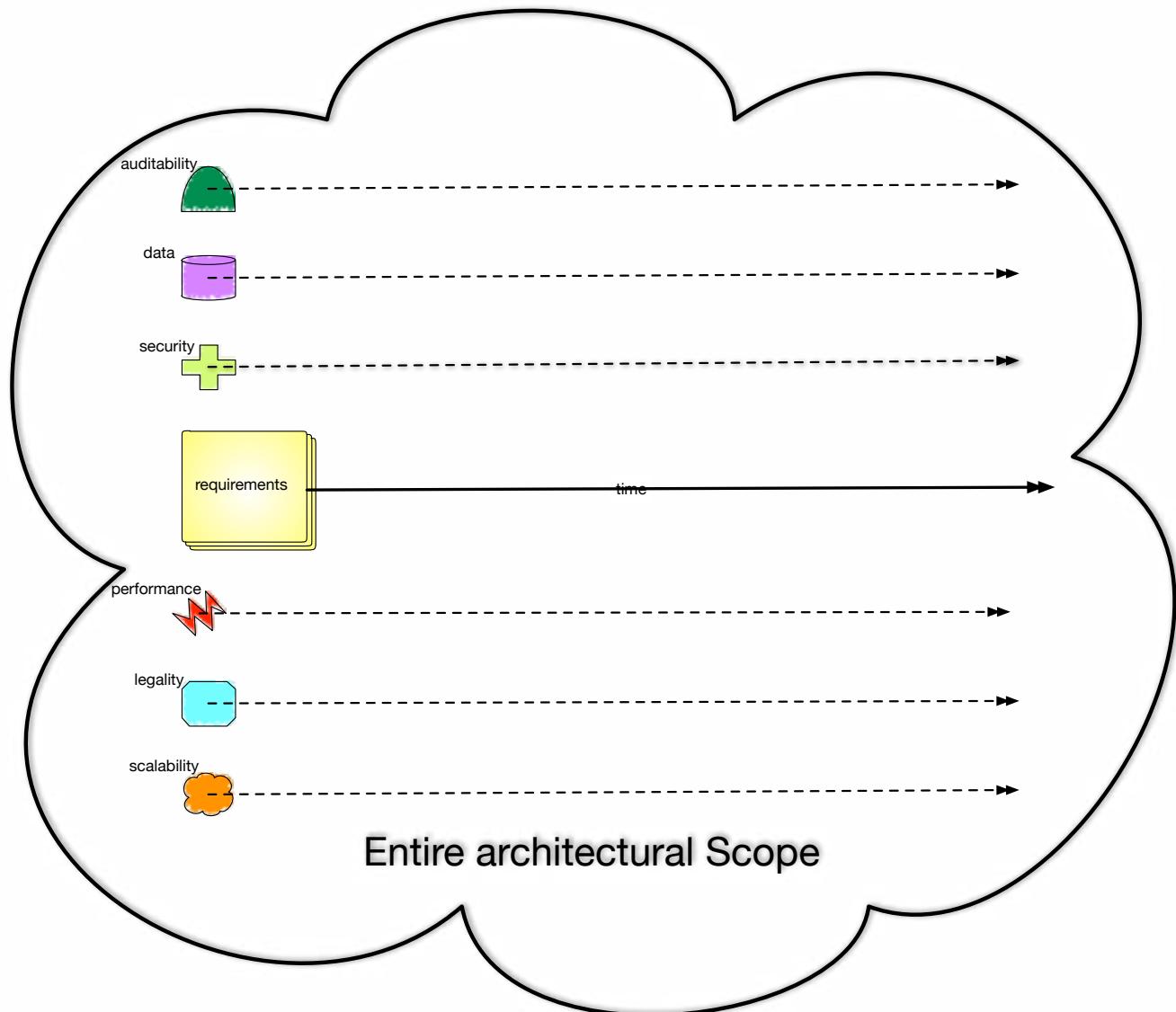


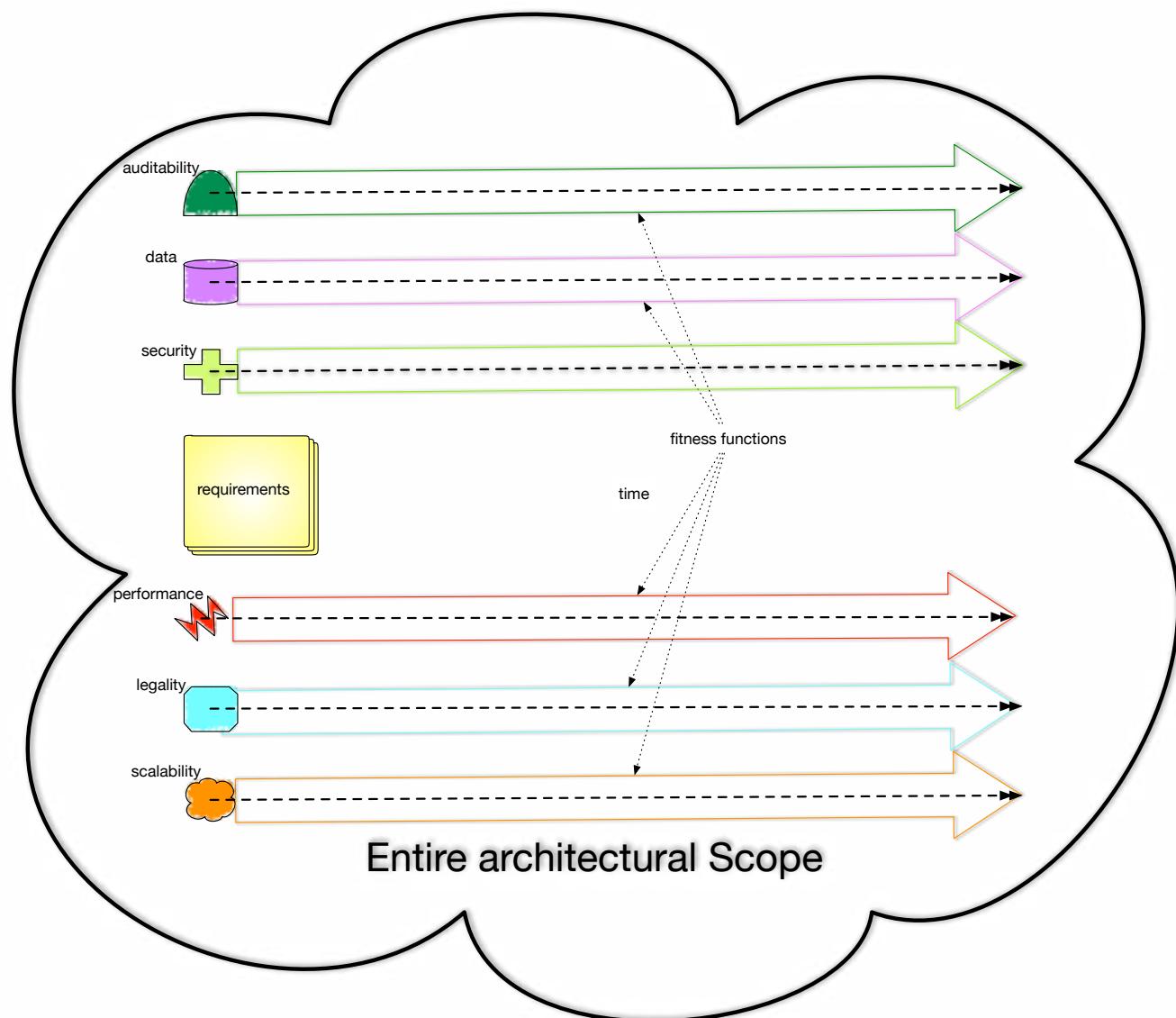
# Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture

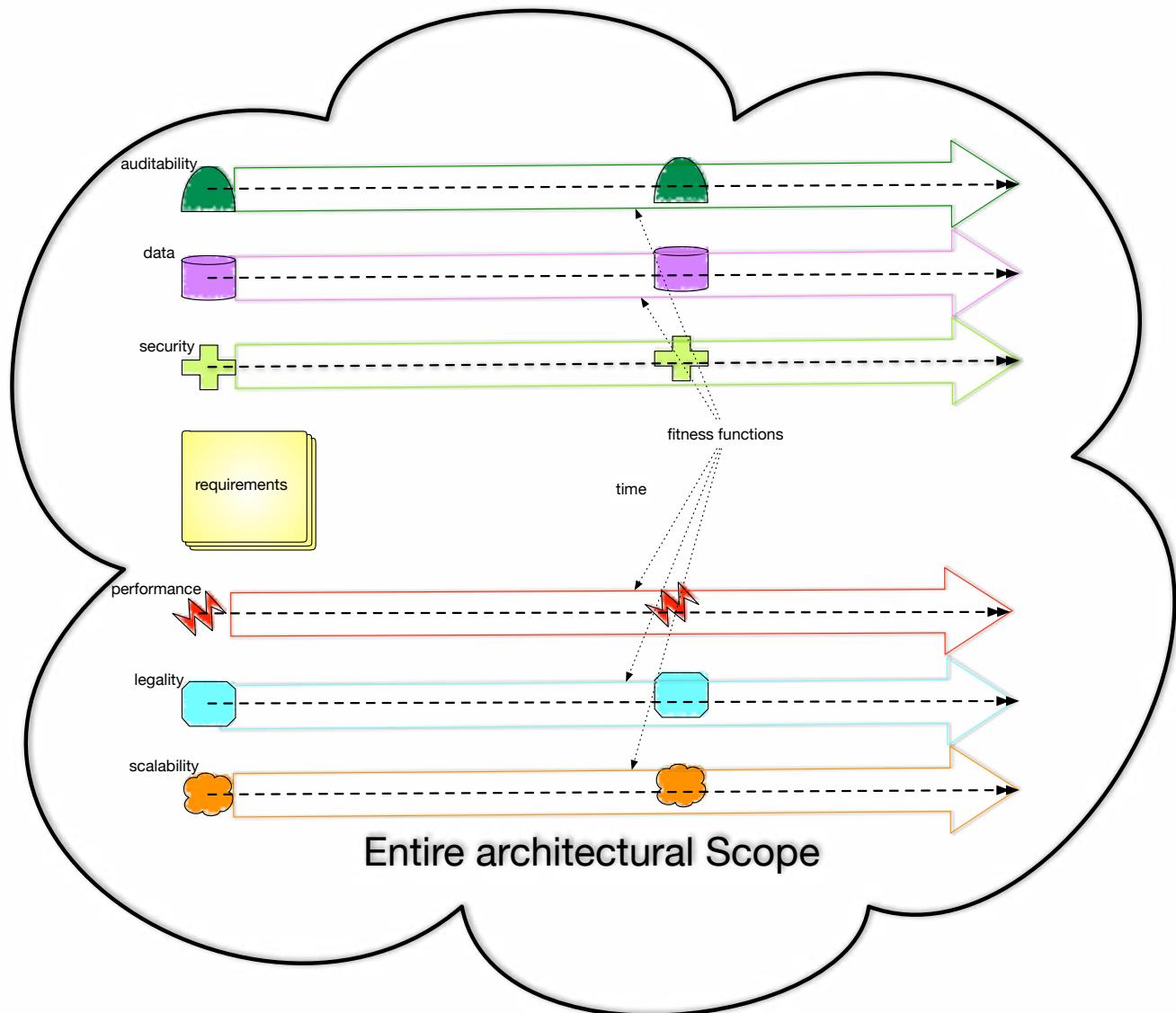




# 1. Choose Dimensions

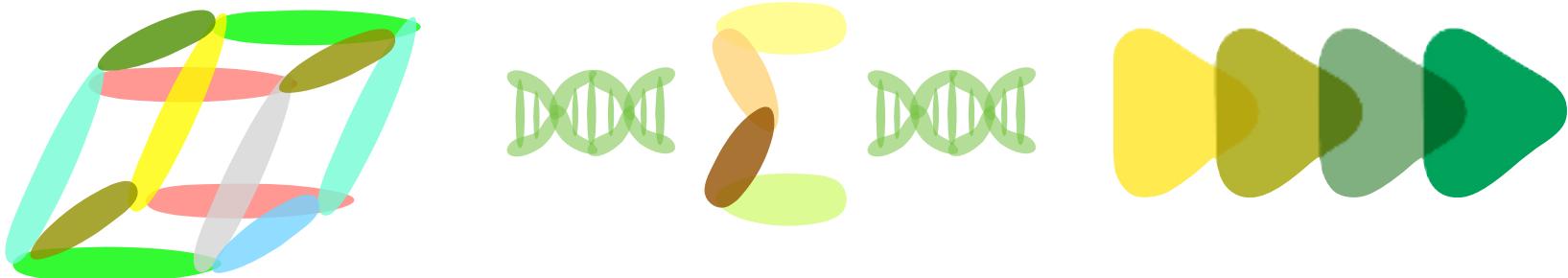








# Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture

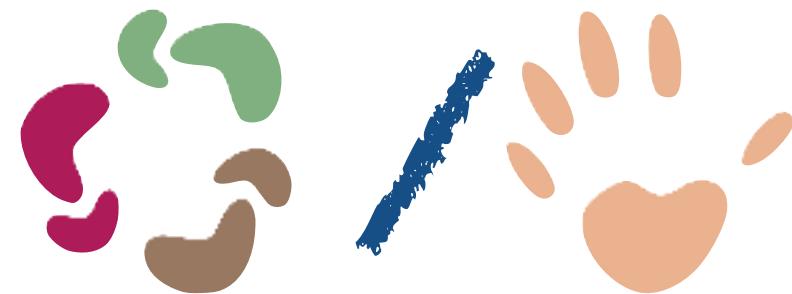




## 2. Identify Fitness Functions



atomic

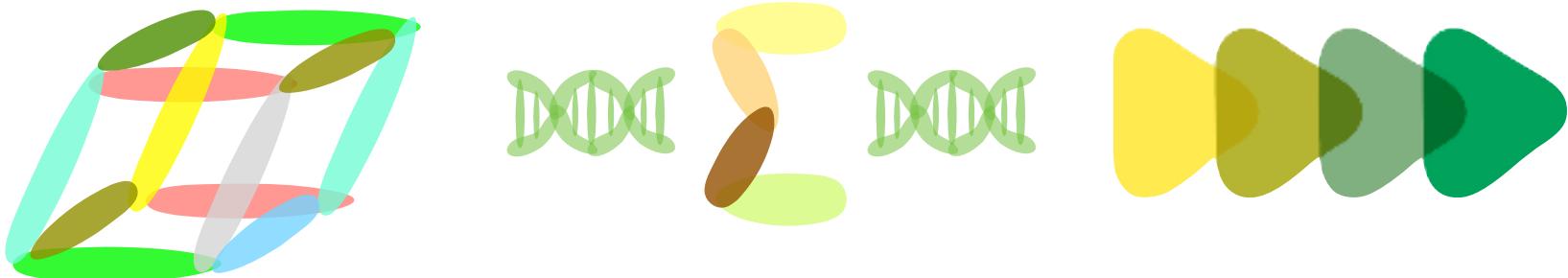


automated / manual



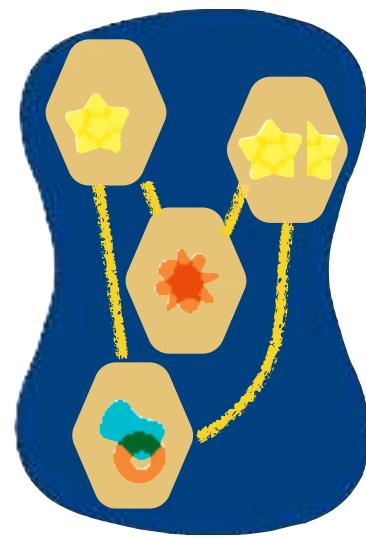
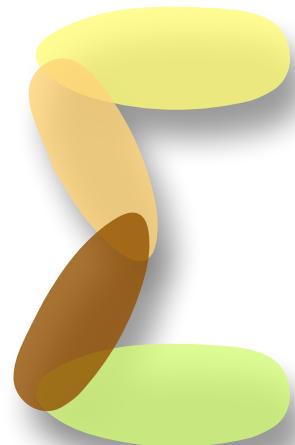
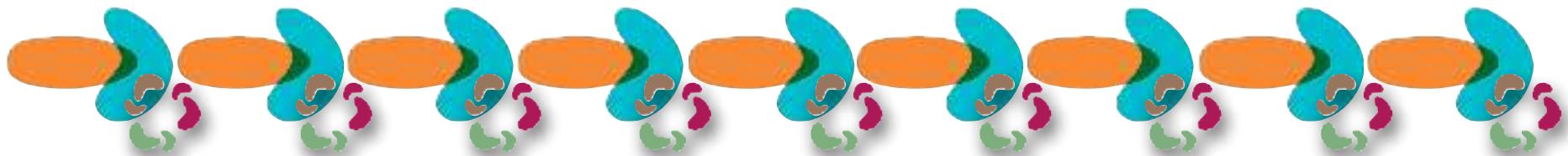


# Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture



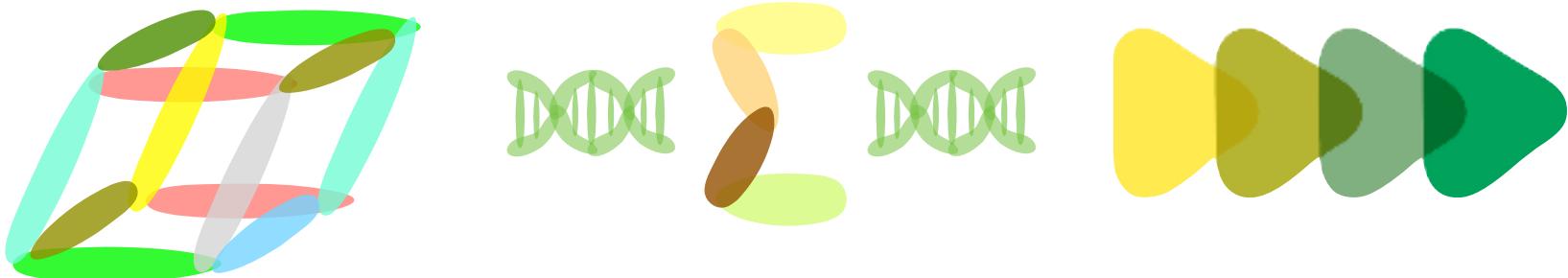


### 3. Apply Incremental Change





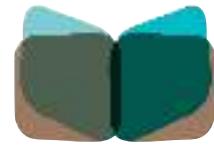
# Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture



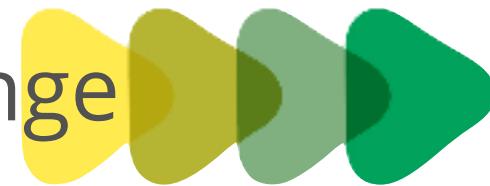


# **Utilizing Evolutionary Architecture**

# Agenda



definition



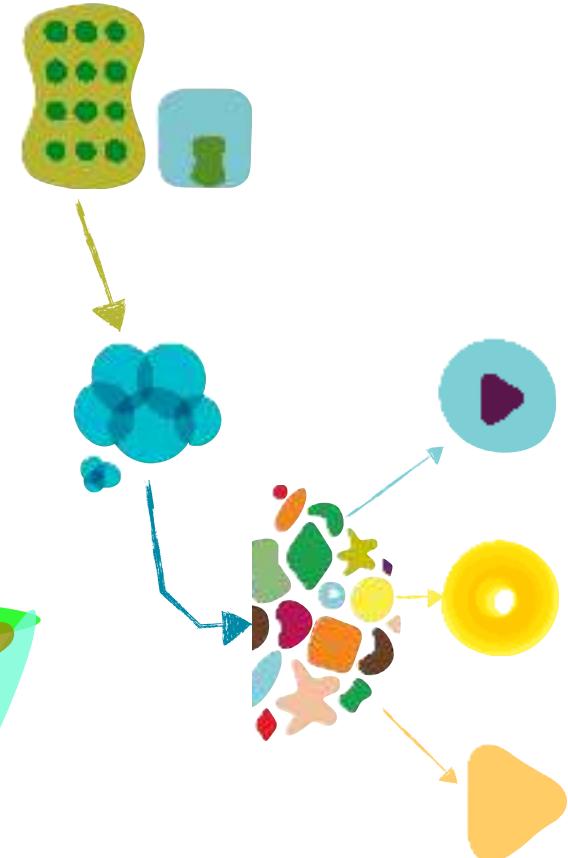
incremental change



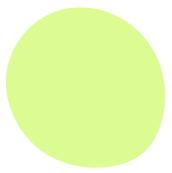
fitness functions



appropriate coupling



*Why should a company  
decide to build an  
evolutionary architecture?*

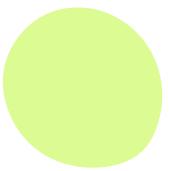


# Predictable versus Evolvable Scale

*Why should a company  
decide to build an  
Isolating “ilities” at the Quantum Level  
evolutionary architecture?*

Longer Lasting Useful Systems  
Advanced Business Capabilities

*Why should a company  
decide to build an  
evolutionary architecture?*



**Why would a company choose *not* to build an evolutionary architecture?**



Can't Evolve a Ball of Mud

Why would a company choose not  
Other Architectural Characteristics  
to build an evolutionary  
Dominant  
architecture?

Sacrificial Architecture

Planning on Closing the Business Soon

# Predictable versus Evolvable Scale

*Why should a company  
decide to build an  
Isolating “ilities” at the Quantum Level  
evolutionary architecture?*

Longer Lasting Useful Systems  
Advanced Business Capabilities



Hypothesis and Data  
Driven Development



# Move Fast & Fix Things

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [engineering.github.com/2015/12/15/move-fast-and-fix-things.html](https://engineering.github.com/2015/12/15/move-fast-and-fix-things.html). The page title is "Move Fast and Fix Things" by "GitHub" on December 15, 2015. The main content discusses technical debt and the importance of merge code in Git.

**Move Fast and Fix Things**

By GitHub | December 15, 2015

Anyone who has worked on a large enough codebase knows that technical debt is inevitable. As an application grows in size and complexity, the more technical debt it accrues. With GitHub's growth over the last 7 years, we have found plenty of hidden cruft in our codebase that are inevitably below our very best engineering standards. But we also have effective and efficient ways of paying down that technical debt, even in the most active parts of our systems.

At GitHub we're not big about the "feature" we've taken over the years to see in our web application more than 10 million users. In fact, we do quite the opposite: we make sure to constantly study our codebase looking for systems that can be rewritten to be cleaner, simpler and more efficient, and we develop tools and workflows that allow us to perform those rewrite efficiently and safely.

As an example, two weeks ago we replaced one of the most critical code paths in our Infrastructure code that performs merges when you push the `Merge Pull Request`. Although we couldn't prevent these kinds of relocations through our web app, the importance of the merge code makes it an interesting story to demonstrate our workflow.

## Merges in Git

We've [talked at length](#) in the past about the merge model that GitHub uses for repositories in our platform and our PostgreSQL offerings. There are many implementation details that may be less well-known in both performance and coverage, but the most relevant one here is the fact that repositories are always cloneable.

This means that the actual file in the repository (the one that you would see in your working directory when you clone the repository) is not actually available on disk in our Infrastructure; they are compressed and stored in our [object store](#).

Because of this, performing a merge in a production environment is somewhat unusual. GitHub never [uses rebasing](#), nor the usual merge strategy that you might be used to when using `git merge` to merge two branches in a local repository because the existence of a working tree for the repository, what that file checked out is.

The command we developed in the early days of GitHub for this function is `git merge`, but not particularly elegant. Instead of using the default `git merge--recursive` strategy, we wrote our own merge strategy based on the original one that Git used back in the day (`git merge recursive`). With some tweaking, the old strategy can be adapted to not require an explicit checkout of the repository.

To accomplish this, we wrote a shell script to run up a temporary working directory, in

```

def create_merge_commit(base, head, author, commit_message)
  base = resolve_commit(base)
  head = resolve_commit(head)
  commit_message = Rugged::Prettify.message(commit_message)

  merge_base = rugged.merge_base(base, head)
  return nil, "already_merged" if merge_base == head.id

  ancestor_tree = merge_base && Rugged::Commit.tee(rugged, merge_base).tree
  merge_options = {
    :full_indexing => true,
    :index_trees => true,
    :index_renames => true,
  }

  index = base.tree.merge(head.tree, ancestor_tree, merge_options)
  return nil, "merge_conflict" if index.conflicts?

  options = {
    :message => commit_message,
    :committer => author,
    :author => author,
    :parents => [base, head],
    :tree => index.write_tree(rugged),
  }

  rugged.commit.create(options), nil
end

```

```

def create_merge_commit(author, base, head, options = {})
  commit_message = options[:message] || "Merge #{{head}} into #{{base}}"
  now = Time.current

  science "create_merge_commit" do |e|
    e.context[:base] = base.to_s, :head => head.to_s, :repo => repository.repo
    e.use & create_merge_commit_gitiauthor, now, base, head, commit_message
  end
  e.try & create_merge_commit_ruggedauthor, now, base, head, commit_message
end

```



<https://github.com/github/scientist>



```
require "scientist"

class MyWidget
  def allows?(user)
    experiment = Scientist::Default.new "widget-permissions"
    experiment.use { model.check_user?(user).valid? } # old way
    experiment.try { user.can?(:read, model) } # new way

    experiment.run
  end
end
```

- It decides whether or not to run the try block,
- Randomizes the order in which use and try blocks are run,
- Measures the durations of all behaviors,
- Compares the result of try to the result of use,
- Swallows (but records) any exceptions raised in the try block
- Publishes all this information.



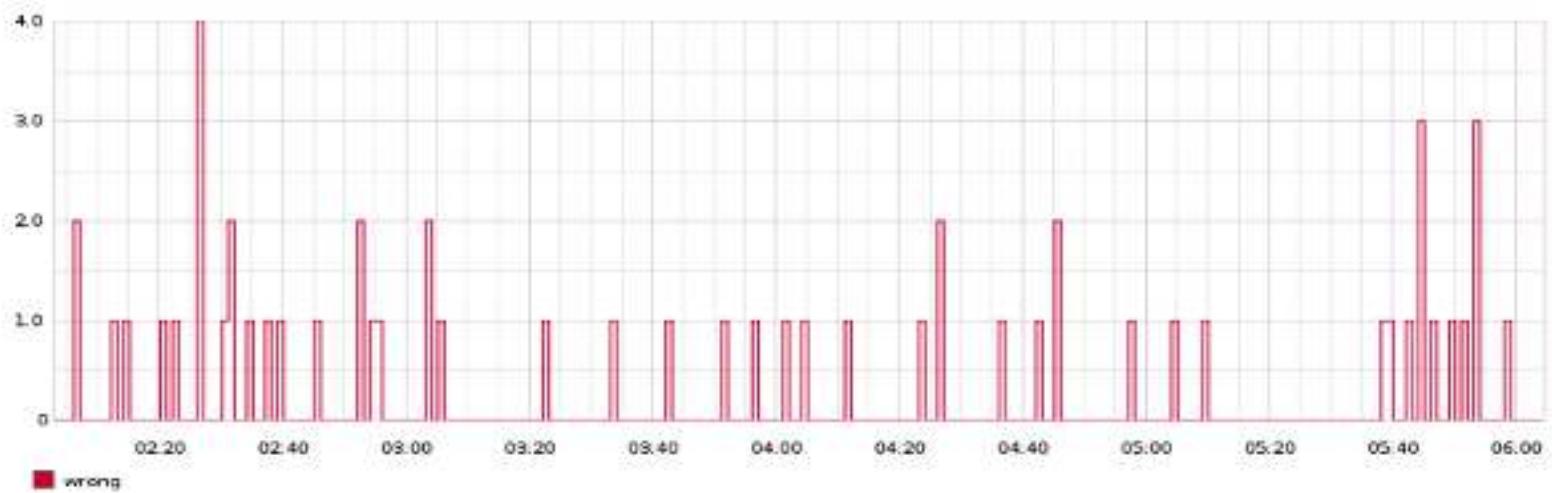
## Accuracy

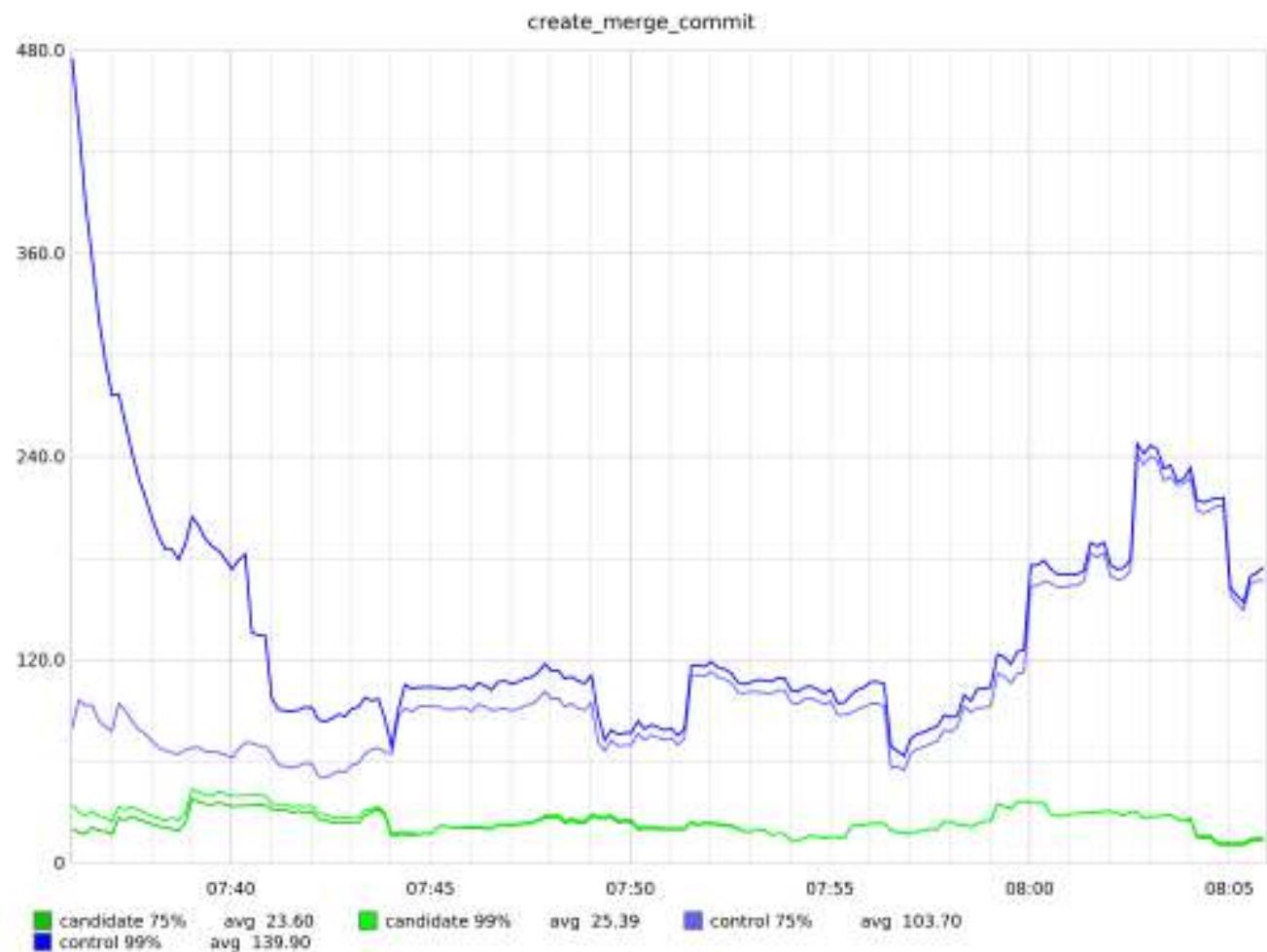
The number of times that the candidate and the control agree or disagree. [View mismatches](#)





The number of incorrect/ignored items.





## Bugs Found; Resolution

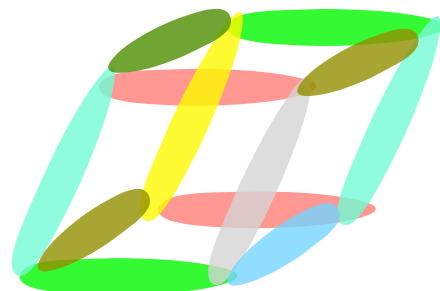
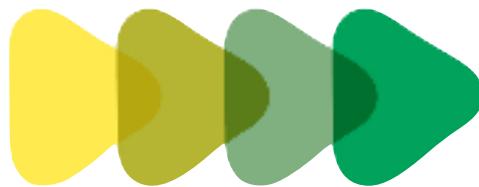
- ❑ faster conflict return because shell script exited immediately; replicated in library
- ❑ index write was causing O(n) problem; inlined into memory
- ❑ the ancestor had a file with a given filemode, whilst one side of the merge had removed the file and the other side had changed the filemode; bug in git!
- ❑ Git incorrectly successfully merged files w/ 768 conflicts; fixed git shell script
- ❑ new library was skipping an entire step; bug found & fixed

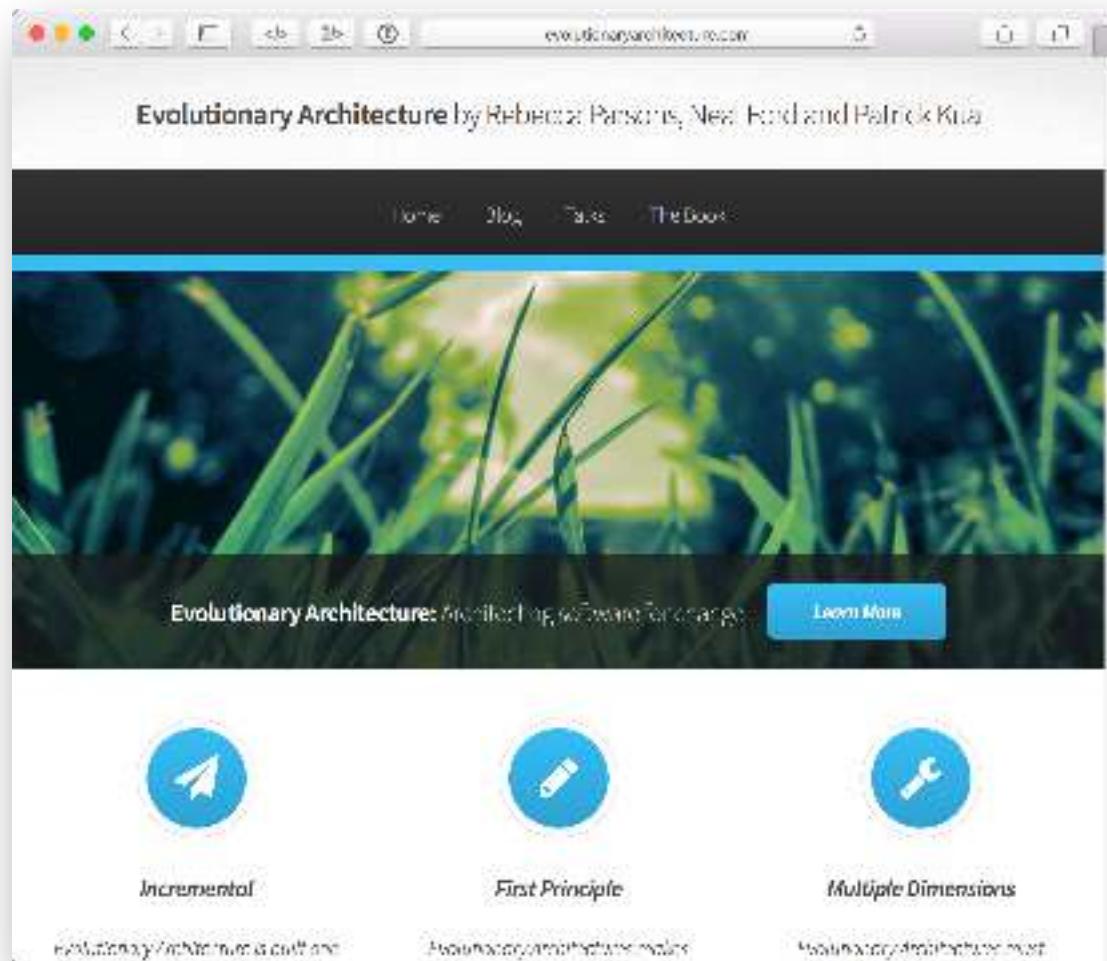


# Definition:

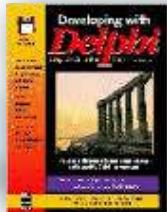
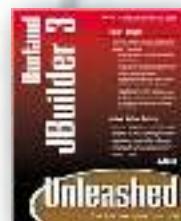
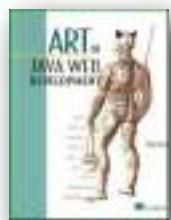
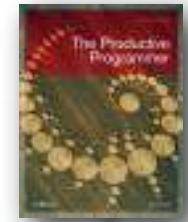
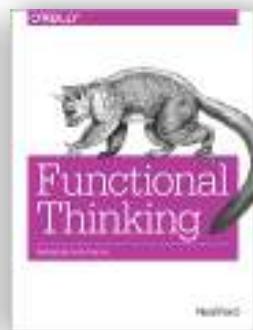
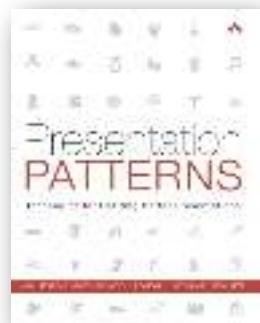
## *evolutionary architecture*

An evolutionary architecture supports incremental, guided change as a first principle across multiple dimensions.





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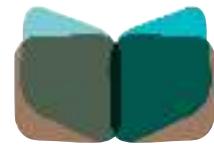


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# Agenda



definition



incremental change



fitness functions



appropriate coupling

