

Javonta Young

Assignment 6.2

Case Study: Strangler Pattern at Blackboard Learn (2011)

So, what Ashman found out is that the team could not commit code anymore because it had so many problems that were piled up from the previous years. The problems finally caught up with the team and it forced them into having to not commit anymore code because it would just create more problems. So, Ashman said if we do not do anything now it will get worse and there will be no end in sight. So, in 2012 Ashman set out to re-architect the whole database with the strangler fig pattern. The team made something call “Building Blocks” which helped the developers work in different spaces (Decoupled branches) so they would not add to the main branch. The monolith started to decrease because now developers had their own space to test code and make sure that it worked before iterating it into the codebase. This helped create more creativity and success when finding new features to add to the codebase and made sure it actually worked. The Building Blocks was a huge success for the team at Blackboard and it prevented huge mistakes that could have shut down the whole system.

I believe that having separate branches from the main branch is very helpful to make sure that nothing damages the main branch. I think that customers benefit from this as well because they do not have to worry about the bugs that could come up and now it frees up time for developers to get to feedback faster than 24 to 36 hours like before.