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Angular's Future Without NgModules: Architectures with Standalone Components

Thanks to standalone components, Angular applications will no longer need NgModules in future. That makes them more straightforward and lightweight. While the principles behind this new feature are quickly understood, the really interesting question is: How can applications be structured without NgModules? This question is answered here. After showing the basics and mental model of standalone components (pipes and directives), you will see several approaches for structuring your application and for grouping related building blocks. We also go into edge cases for lazy loading and the use of existing libraries based on NgModules. We discuss the interaction with tree-shakeable providers and how you can convert existing solutions step-by-step into standalone components. By the end you know, how to improve your architectures with standalone components.

Angular 14, June 2022

```
@Component({
  standalone: true,
  selector: 'app-root',
  imports: [
    HomeComponent,
    AboutComponent,
    HttpClientModule,
  ],
  templateUrl: '...'
})
export class AppComponent {
  [...]
}
```

The Angular team switched out the compiler to Ivy and everything still works, they now made NgModule optional with no breaking changes to allow standalone components.

What Does this Mean for

... my **Architecture?**



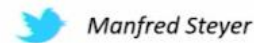
Agenda

#1
Routing &
Lazy Loading

#2
Structuring
Applications

The Router is the lynchpin of your application that holds together all the parts and thus influence your architecture. You can now structure your applications with standalone components, this is modularization without using ng-modules.

About me...



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Google Developer Expert
for Angular



Trusted Collaborator
in the Angular Team



#1: Routing & Lazy Loading without NgModules



Registering Root Routes

```
bootstrapApplication(AppComponent, {  
  providers: [  
    [...]  
  ]  
});
```

When building a standalone component, you don't need the NgModule anymore.

Registering Root Routes

```
bootstrapApplication(AppComponent, {  
  providers: [  
    MyGlobalService,  
    importProvidersFrom(HttpClientModule),  
    importProvidersFrom(RouterModule.forRoot(APP_ROUTES)),  
  ]  
});
```

You can import providers from existing modules into your standalone function as above

Registering Root Routes

```
bootstrapApplication(AppComponent, {
  providers: [
    MyGlobalService,
    importProvidersFrom(HttpClientModule),
    provideRouter(APP_ROUTES,
      withPreloading(PreloadAllModules),
      withDebugTracing(),
    ),
  ]
});
```

You can also use helper functions using the `provideRouter` approach in your standalone component as above, it helps treeshaking too

Lazy Loading

```
export const APP_ROUTES: Routes = [
  [...],
  {
    path: 'flight-booking',
    loadChildren: () =>
      import('@nx-example/booking/feature-book')
        .then(m => m.FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES)
  },
  [...],
];
```

We can now directly point to a lazy router configuration as above

Lazy Loading

```
export const APP_ROUTES: Routes = [
  [...],
  {
    path: 'flight-booking',
    loadChildren: () =>
      import('@nx-example/booking/feature-book')
        .then(m => m.FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES)
  },
  [...],
];
```

Now with `loadChildren`, we can directly point to our router configuration to the configuration with the child routes.

Lazy Loading

```
export const APP_ROUTES: Routes = [
  [...],
  {
    path: 'flight-booking',
    loadChildren: () =>
      import('@nx-example/booking/feature-book')
        .then(m => m.FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES)
  },
  {
    path: 'next-flight',
    loadComponent: () =>
      import('@nx-example/booking/feature-tickets')
        .then(m => m.NextFlightComponent)
  },
];
```

We can also use **loadComponent** to directly point to another standalone component that we want to lazy load.

Routes With Injector

```
export const FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES: Routes = [{
  path: '',
  component: FlightBookingComponent,
  providers: [
    MyService
  ],
  children: [
    [...]
  ]
}];
```

We can use a routing configuration as above; it has child routes or for the root route

Routes With Injector

```
export const FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES: Routes = [{
  path: '',
  component: FlightBookingComponent,
  providers: [
    MyService
],
  children: [
    [...]
  ]
}];
```

Scope: This route + all child routes

(Lazily) loaded with route config

If possible, use providedIn: 'root'

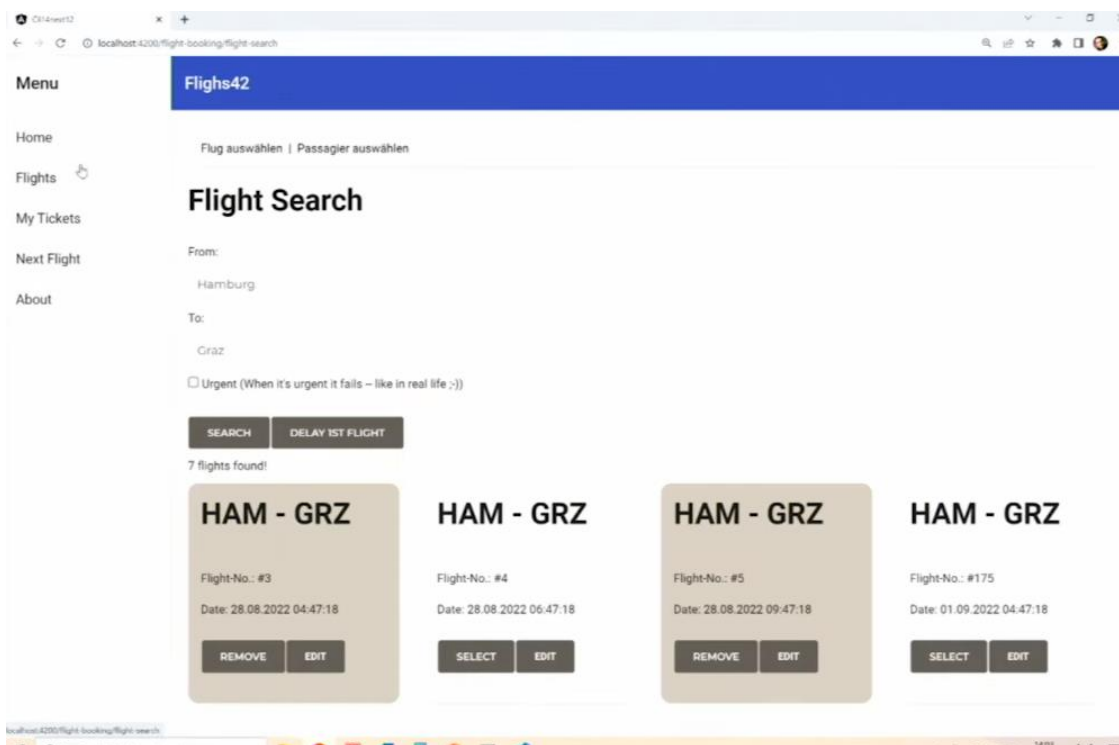
We can now define our providers for a specific route and for all its child routes.

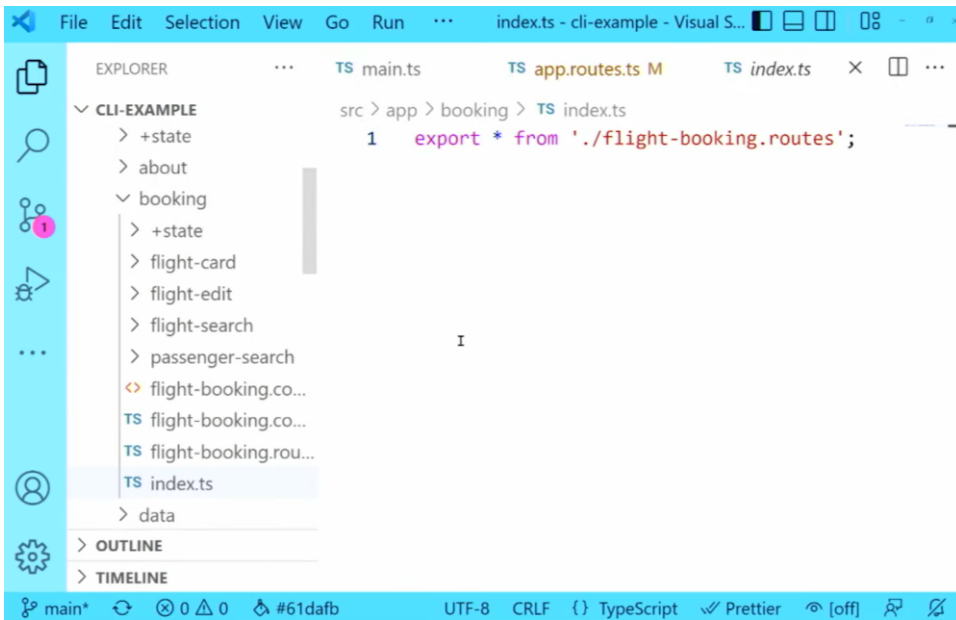
Routes With Injector

```
export const FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES: Routes = [{
  path: '',
  component: FlightBookingComponent,
  providers: [
    provideState(bookingFeature),
    provideEffects([BookingEffects])
  ],
  children: [
    [...]
  ]
}];
```

We can use this for cases where we want to configure something like a feature slice for an NgRx store like state and effects.

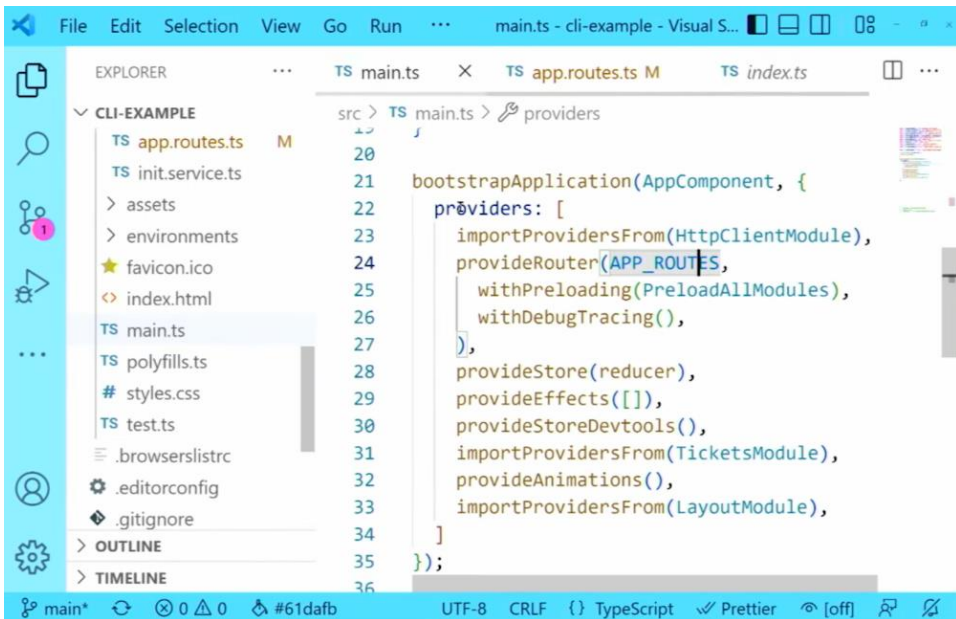
DEMO





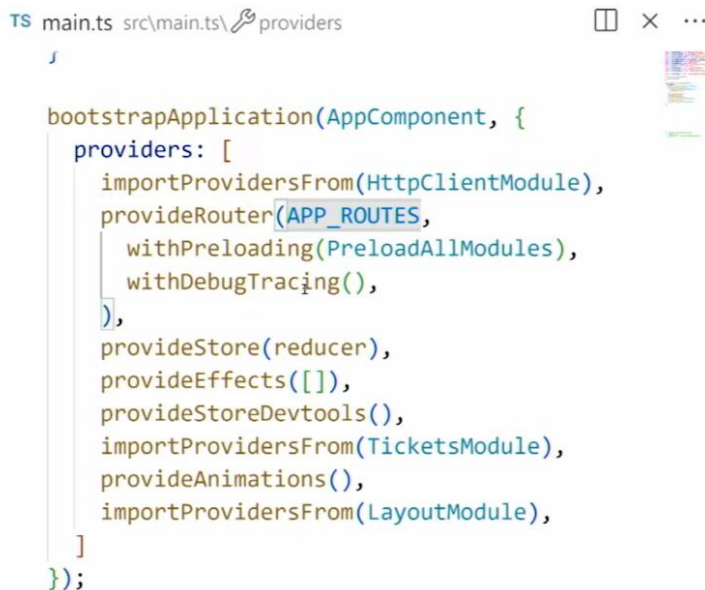
VS Code interface showing the Explorer sidebar with the 'CLI-EXAMPLE' folder expanded. The 'index.ts' file is selected. The main editor shows the content of 'index.ts'.

```
src > app > booking > TS index.ts
1 export * from './flight-booking.routes';
```



VS Code interface showing the Explorer sidebar with the 'main.ts' file selected. The main editor shows the content of 'main.ts'.

```
src > TS main.ts > providers
20
21 bootstrapApplication(AppComponent, {
22   providers: [
23     importProvidersFrom(HttpClientModule),
24     provideRouter(APP_ROUTES,
25       withPreloading(PreloadAllModules),
26       withDebugTracing(),
27   ],
28   provideStore(reducer),
29   provideEffects([]),
30   provideStoreDevtools(),
31   importProvidersFrom(TicketsModule),
32   provideAnimations(),
33   importProvidersFrom(LayoutModule),
34 ]
35 });
36
```



VS Code interface showing the Explorer sidebar with the 'main.ts' file selected. The main editor shows the content of 'main.ts'.

```
TS main.ts src/main.ts providers
bootstrapApplication(AppComponent, {
  providers: [
    importProvidersFrom(HttpClientModule),
    provideRouter(APP_ROUTES,
      withPreloading(PreloadAllModules),
      withDebugTracing(),
    ],
    provideStore(reducer),
    provideEffects([]),
    provideStoreDevtools(),
    importProvidersFrom(TicketsModule),
    provideAnimations(),
    importProvidersFrom(LayoutModule),
  ]
});
```



```

TS app.routes.ts M src\app\app.routes.ts APP_ROUTE
port { Routes } from "@angular/router";
port { HomeComponent } from "../home/home.compo

port const APP_ROUTES: Routes = [
  {
    path: '',
    pathMatch: 'full',
    redirectTo: 'home'
  },
  {
    path: 'home',
    component: HomeComponent
  },
  {
    path: 'flight-booking',
    loadChildren: () =>
      import('./booking').then(m => m.FLIG
  },

```

```

TS app.routes.ts M src\app\app.routes.ts APP_ROUTE
{
  path: 'home',
  component: HomeComponent
},
{
  path: 'flight-booking',
  loadChildren: () =>
    import('./booking').then(m => m.FLIG
},
{
  path: 'next-flight',
  loadChildren: () =>
    import('./next-flight/next-flight.co
      .then(m => m.NextFlightComponent
},
{
  path: 'about',
  loadChildren: () =>

```

```

TS app.routes.ts M c:\app\app.routes.ts APP_ROUTES
HomeComponent

'-booking',
  () =>
    import('./booking').then(m => m.FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES)

'light',
  () =>
    import('./next-flight/next-flight.component')
      .then(m => m.NextFlightComponent)

,
  () =>

```

We are doing lazy loading using **loadChildren** and directly pointing to another routing configuration

```

TS app.routes.ts M [e]APP_ROUTES\loadComponent
},
{
  path: 'next-flight',
  loadComponent: () =>
    import('./next-flight/next-flight.component')
    .then(m => m.NextFlightComponent)
},
{
  path: 'about',
  loadComponent: () =>
    import('./about/about.component').the
},

```

```

TS app.routes.ts M [e]APP_ROUTES\loadComponent
component: HomeComponent

path: 'flight-booking',
loadChildren: () =>
  import('./booking').then(m => m.FLIGHT_BOOKING)

path: 'next-flight',
loadComponent: () =>
  import('./next-flight/next-flight.component')
  .then(m => m.NextFlightComponent)

path: 'about',
loadComponent: () =>
  import('./about/about.component').then(m =>

```

We are also using **loadComponent** to directly point to another standalone component

```

TS flight-booking.routes.ts oking\flight-booking.routes.ts [e]Fi
export const FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTES: Routes = [
  {
    path: '',
    component: FlightBookingComponent,
    providers: [
      provideState(bookingFeature),
      provideEffects([BookingEffects])
    ],
    children: [
      {
        path: 'flight-search',
        component: FlightSearchComponent
      },
      {
        path: 'passenger-search',
        component: PassengerSearchComponent
      },
      {
        path: 'flight-edit/:id'

```

Here is another routing configuration where we are providing some services like State and Effects for ngRx for this lazy section of our application.

#2: Structuring without NgModules



What does all these mean for structuring our application? How can we divide our app into pieces without ngModules?

Folder

```

▼ booking
  > +state
  > flight-card
  > flight-edit
  > flight-search
  > passenger-search
  flight-booking.component.html
  flight-booking.component.ts

```

Use folders to divide or use a barrel (index.ts file) as below

Barrels

```

▼ booking
  > +state
  > flight-card
  > flight-edit
  > flight-search
  > passenger-search
  flight-booking.component.html
  flight-booking.component.ts
  index.ts

```

```

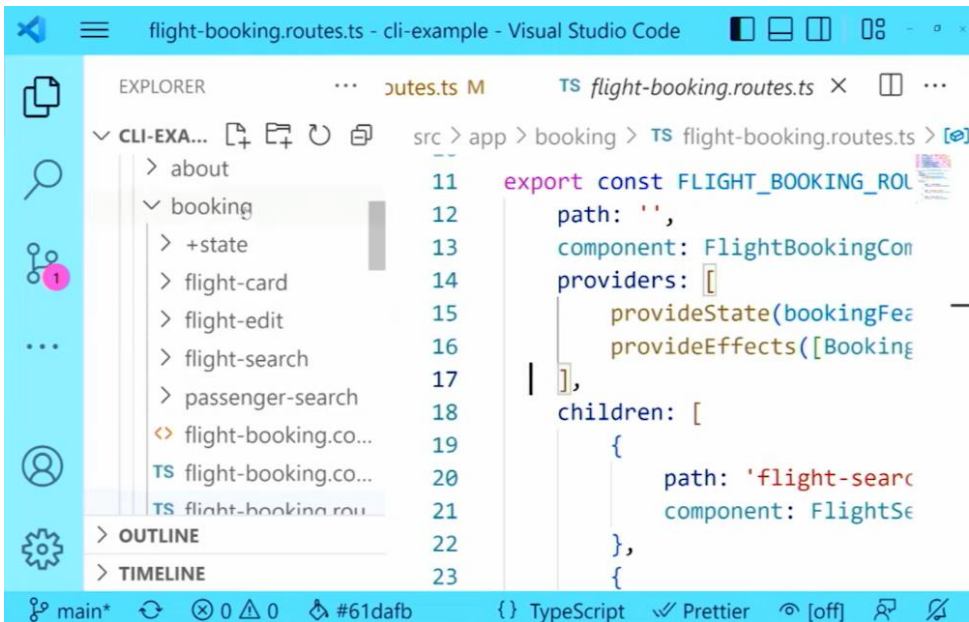
// index.ts == Public API

export *
  from './flight-booking.routes';

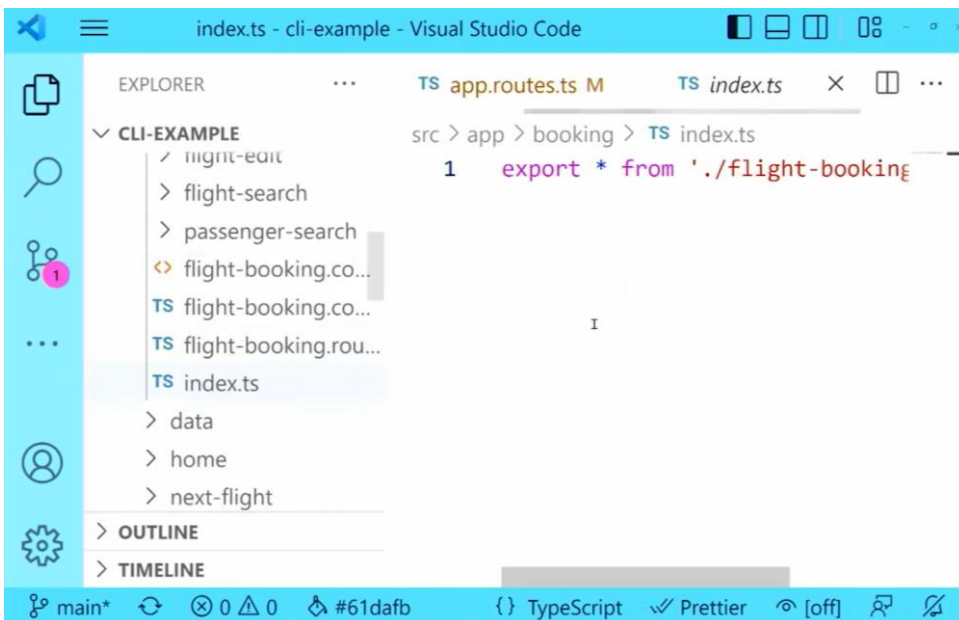
```

The barrel (index.ts) is your public API and everything you expose from it is intended for other parts of the application to be used, anything not exposed are internal and can be easily changed afterwards or rewritten and not backward compatible. Barrels are the better replacement for ngModules, they give you a real public API with simple vanilla JS.

DEMO



```
11 export const FLIGHT_BOOKING_ROUTE = {
12   path: '',
13   component: FlightBookingComponent,
14   providers: [
15     provideState(bookingFeature),
16     provideEffects([BookingActions]),
17   ],
18   children: [
19     {
20       path: 'flight-search',
21       component: FlightSearchComponent,
22     },
23   ],
24 }
```



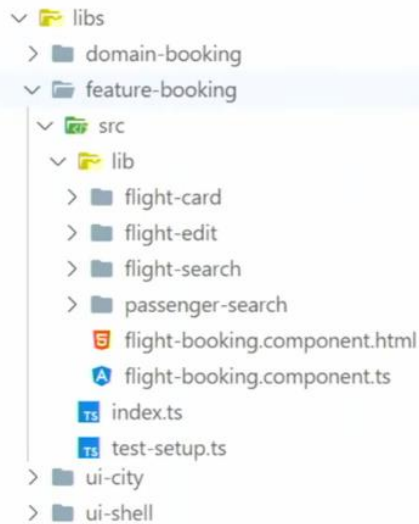
```
1 export * from './flight-booking.routes';
```

```
TS index.ts src/app/booking/index.ts
export * from './flight-booking.routes';
```

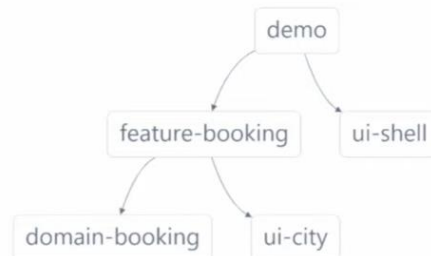
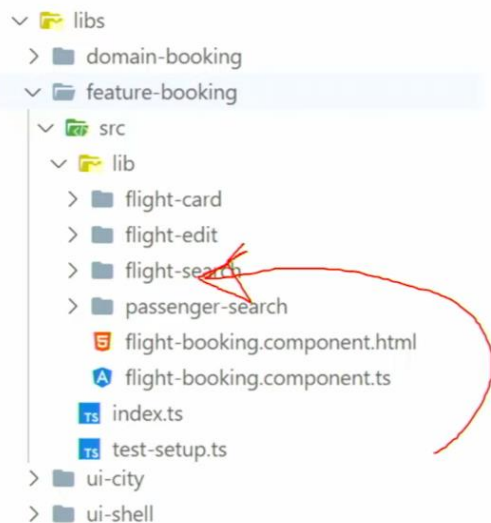
This barrel is exporting everything to other parts of the application to use.

The Next Logical Step: Nx Workspaces





Nx easily allows you to subdivide a huge application into libraries, a **library** is just a folder with **source code** and a **barrel**.



- + Generates path mappings
- + Generates initial barrel
- + Prevents bypassing *index.ts*
- + Restricting access between libraries

Nx gives you a dependency graph to see coupling and dependencies in your application. You can also generate path mappings so that all your libraries get a beautiful name instead of complex relative routes. You also get linting rules that prevent you from grabbing into the private parts of your defined library barrels.

Accessing other Libraries

```
import { FlightCardComponent } from '@nx-example/booking/ui-common';  
import { CityValidator } from '@nx-example/shared/util-common';
```

You can import things from your libraries,

Constraints: "No Broken Windows!"

```
import { FlightCardComponent } from '@nx-example/booking/ui-common';  
import { CityValidator } from '@nx-example/shared/util-common';  
import { CheckinService } from '@nx-example/checkin/domain';
```

```
(alias) class CheckinService  
import CheckinService
```

A project tagged with "domain:booking" can only depend on libs tagged with "domain:booking",
"domain:shared" eslint(@nrwl/nx/enforce-module-boundaries)

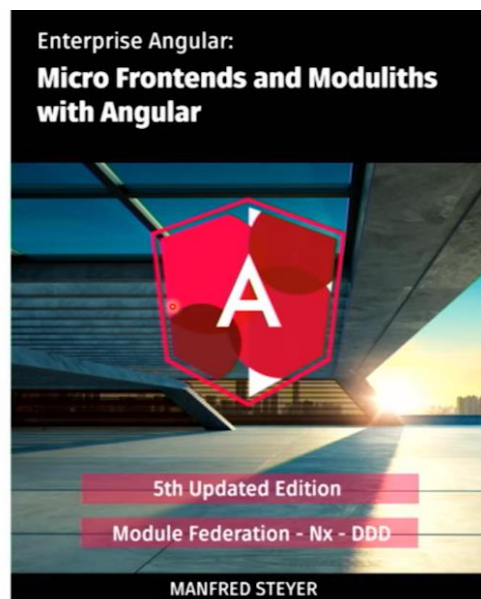
[View Problem](#) [Quick Fix... \(Ctrl+.\)](#)

You also get error messages when trying to use something you aren't allowed to use.

Free eBook (5th Edition)

Module Federation & Nx

ANGULARarchitects.io/book



Conclusion

provideRouter
& withXYZ

Directly point to
lazy router configs

Folders
& Barrels

Nx, Libs, and
Constraints FTW!

Contact and Downloads

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