



We make it work.

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JUG Bern

03.09.2025



JAVA
USER
GROUP
CH

Implementing DDD made easy

using Spring and jMolecules

What is Domain-driven design?

Why

- Software fit for purpose / client needs
- Less misunderstandings in team
- Greatly improved maintainability



DDD is
**letting the
code talk
business**

How

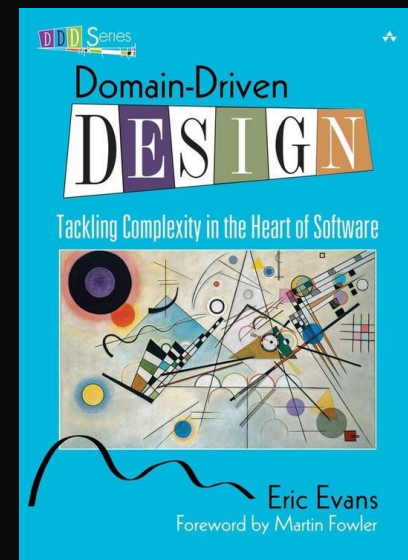
- Closely collaborate with domain experts
- Use succinct ubiquitous language
- Separate domain from technical logic



"The heart of software is its ability to solve domain-related problems for its users."

Eric Evans

Author of «the blue book»



What you will learn in this talk

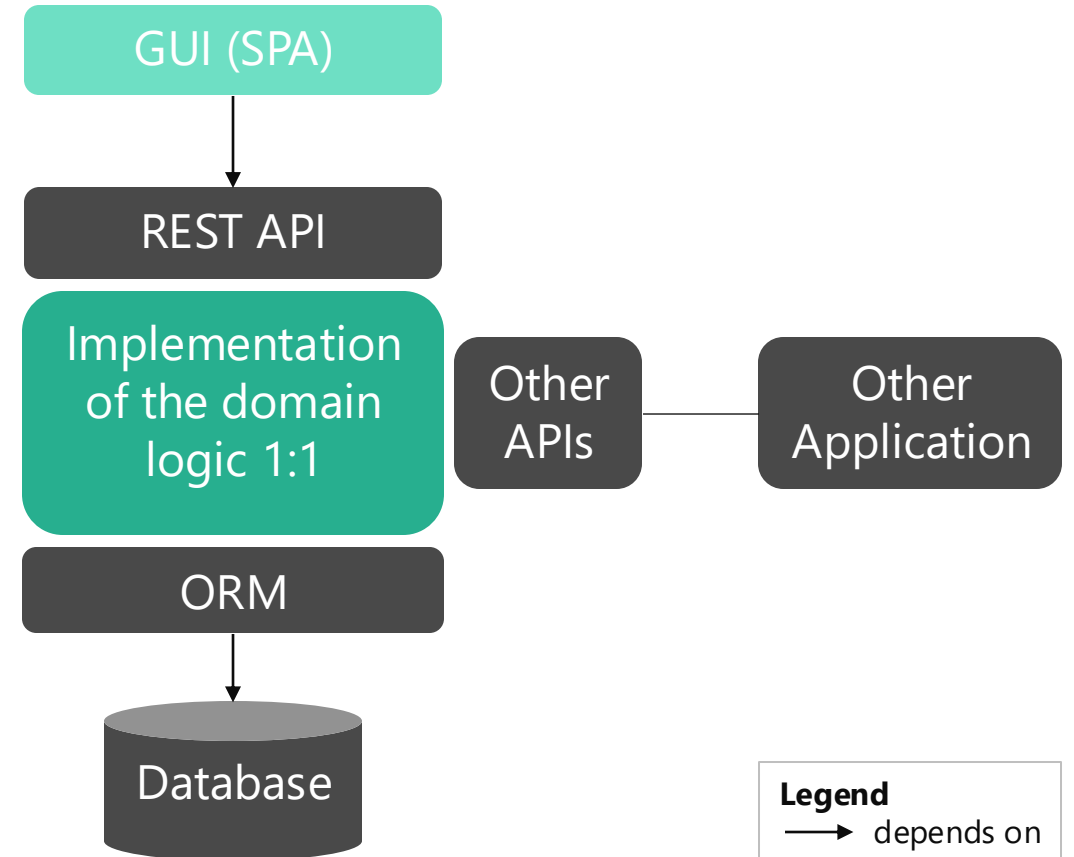
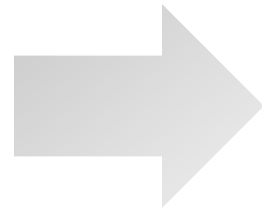
- 1 — Structure the code
- 2 — Implement the domain
- 3 — Add persistence and web API
- 4 — DDD at scale

Our Task



Event Model

- Aggregates
- Commands
- Domain events







Sample Domain: planeZ

Startup «planeZ»

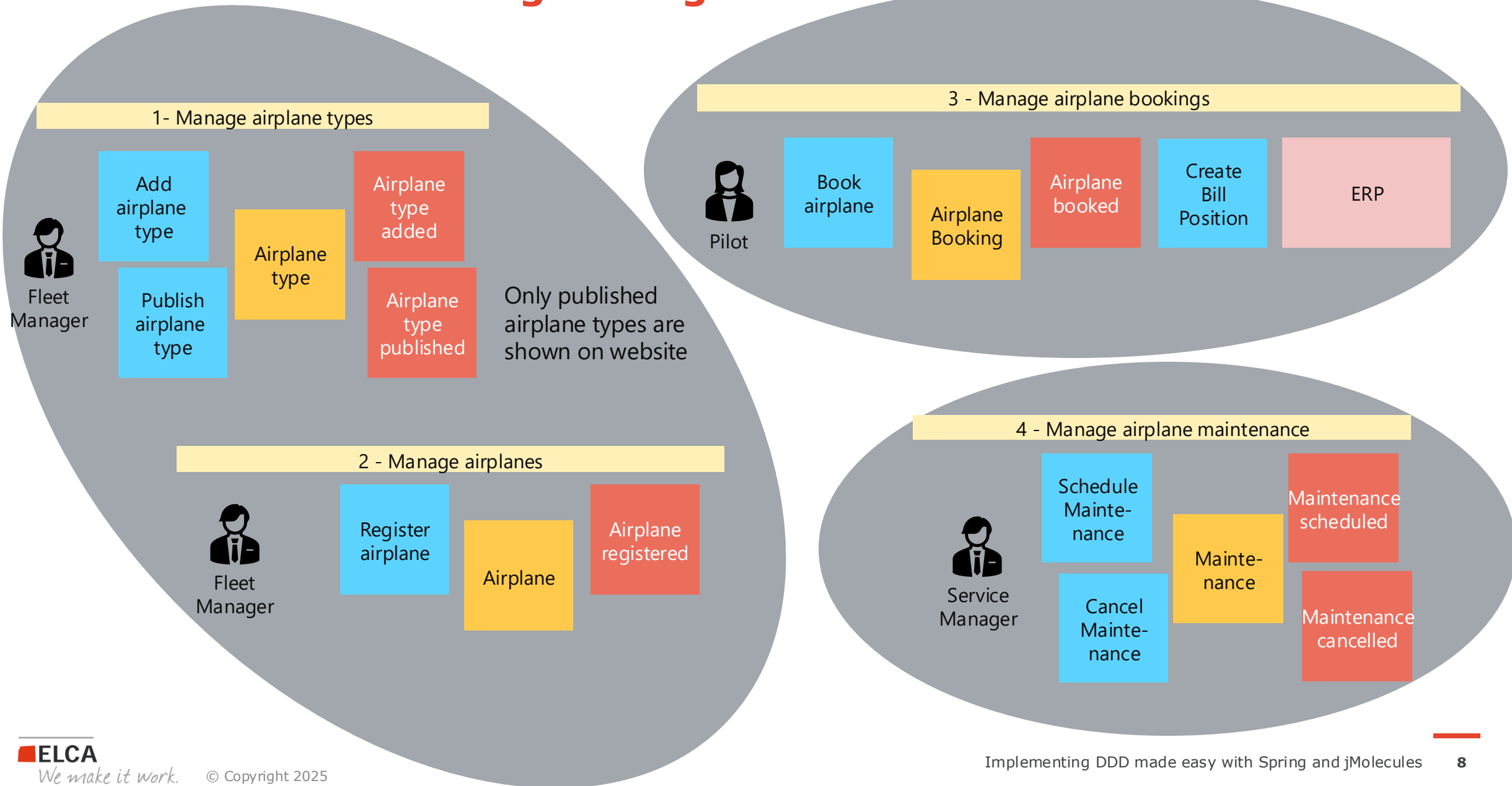
Rent airplanes with net zero emission

- Browse different airplanes available
- Book them on an hourly basis
- Access the airplane through app
- Pay per use

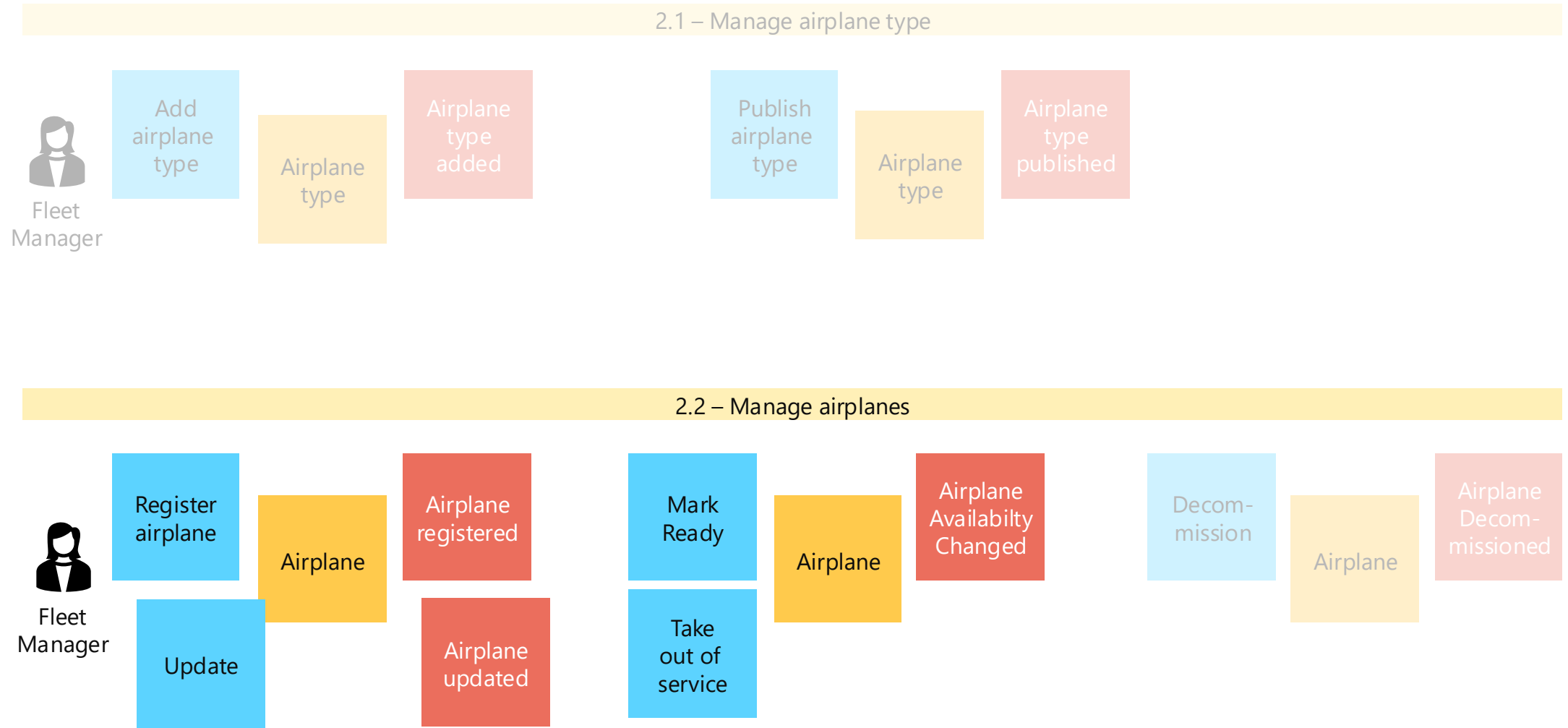
System to manage airplanes, their bookings as well as service cycles, where planes are not available.

Standard ERP for back-office tasks such as billing and book-keeping.

Event model – strategic design



Event model – airplane context



- 1 — **Structure the code**
- 2 — Implement the domain
- 3 — Add persistence and web API
- 4 — Insights from real projects

Find a suitable package structure

Classical: technical layers

myapp/
 entities/
 repositories/
 services/
 controllers/



Does not express any
domain concept!

Domain-driven: package by feature!

myapp/
 airplane/
 booking/
 maintenance/



Where to place technical stuff?

myapp/
airplanes/
 repository/
 service/
 controller/
bookings/
maintenance/



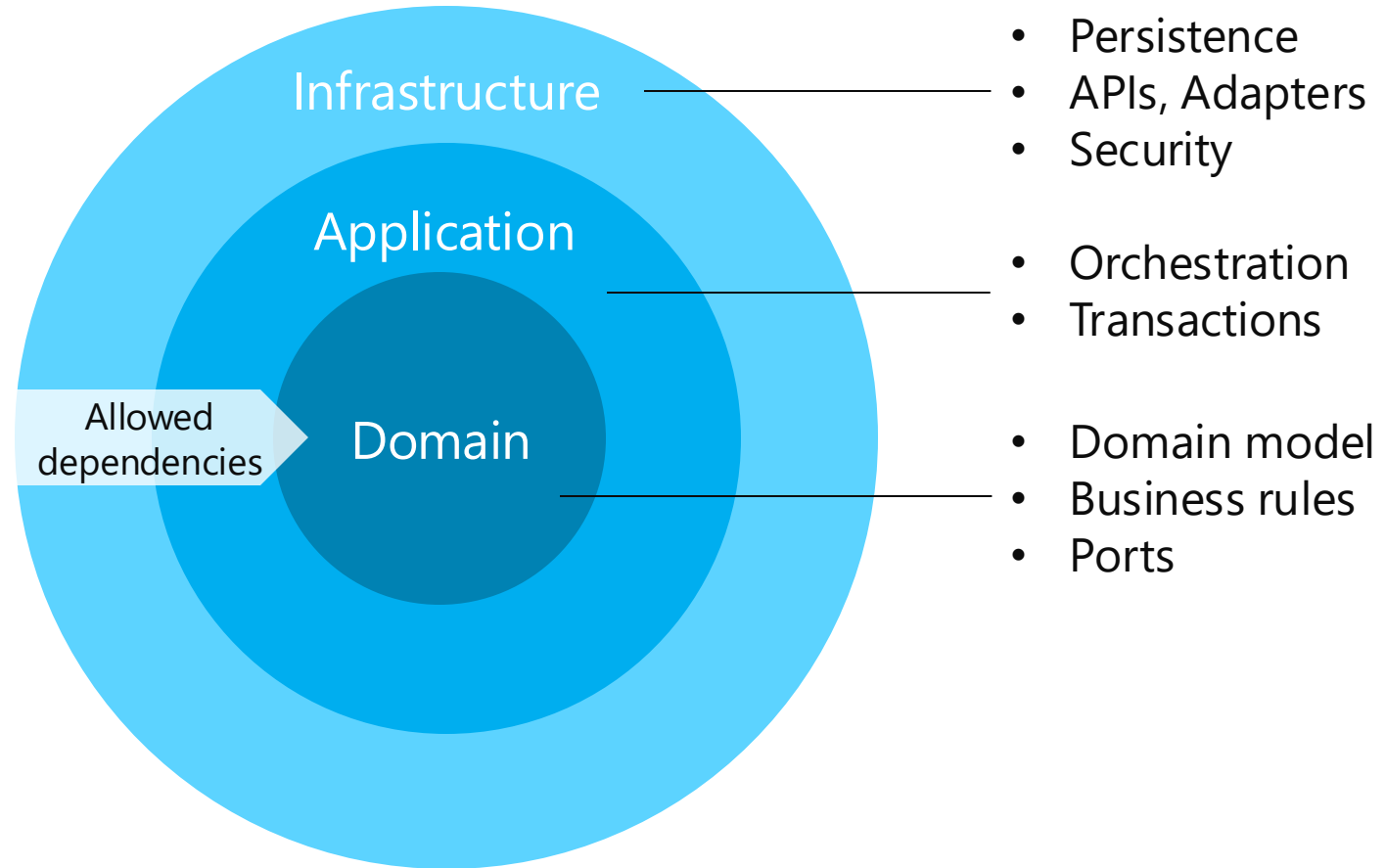
Are you kidding?

myapp/
airplanes/
 domain classes (top level / flat)

bookings/
maintenance/
 _application
 _infrastructure



Simplified Onion Architecture



Spring Modulith



- Package-based module architecture
- Convention over configuration
- Bootstrapping of verticals / modules to keep test execution fast
- Detect cycles in modules
- Inter-module eventing patterns ready to scale out to micro-services
- Event-persistence to let unpublished events survive system restarts

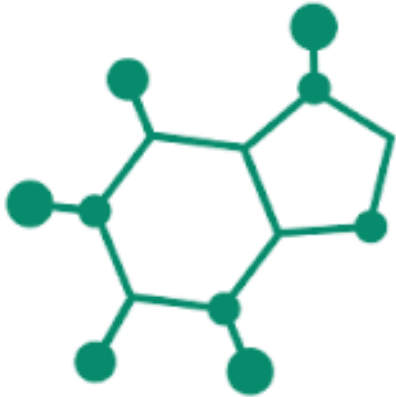


Oliver Drotbohm
ex. Spring Data



Book on Leanpub
66% complete

jMolecules – “Architecturally evident code”



Interfaces or Annotations

- Onion, Hexagonal, Layered architecture
- Elements of tactical DDD (Repository, Aggregate, Value Object, etc.)
- Optional technology integration: Spring, JPA, Jackson, etc.
- Compile-time and build-time **validation of architectural rules**

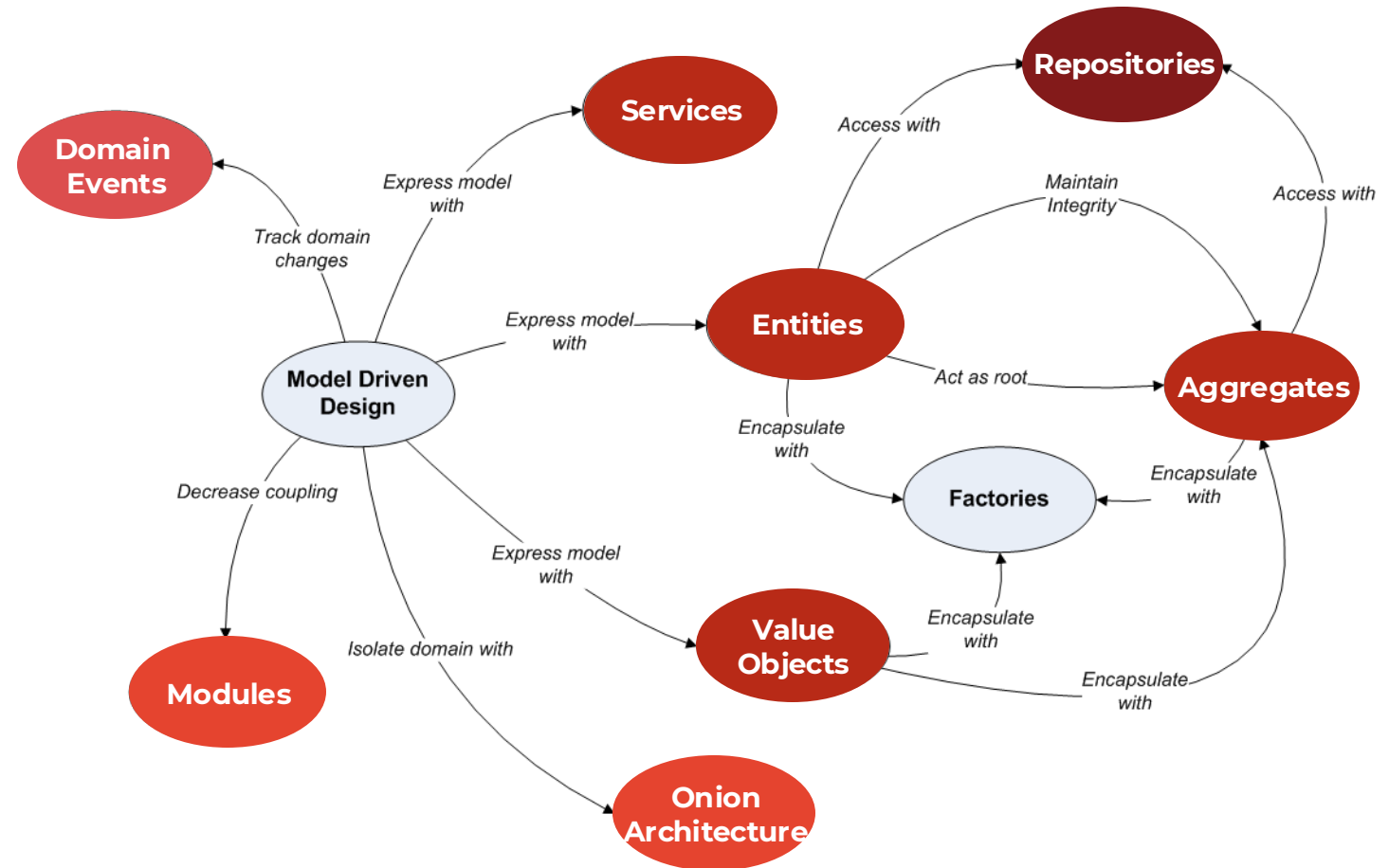


Oliver Drotbohm

- 1 — Structure the code
- 2 — **Implement the domain**
- 3 — Add persistence and web API
- 4 — Insights from real projects

Elements of tactical DDD

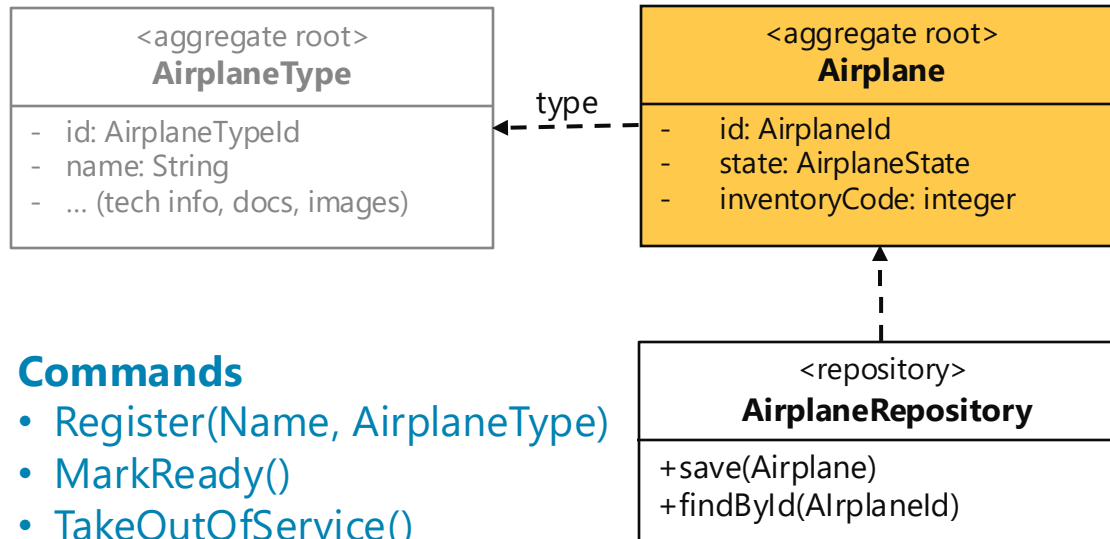
- **Data and logic:** Entities, value objects, aggregates, domain service
- **State change:** Domain events
- **Persistence:** Repositories
- **Structure:** Modules, layered architecture



Airplane model 0.1

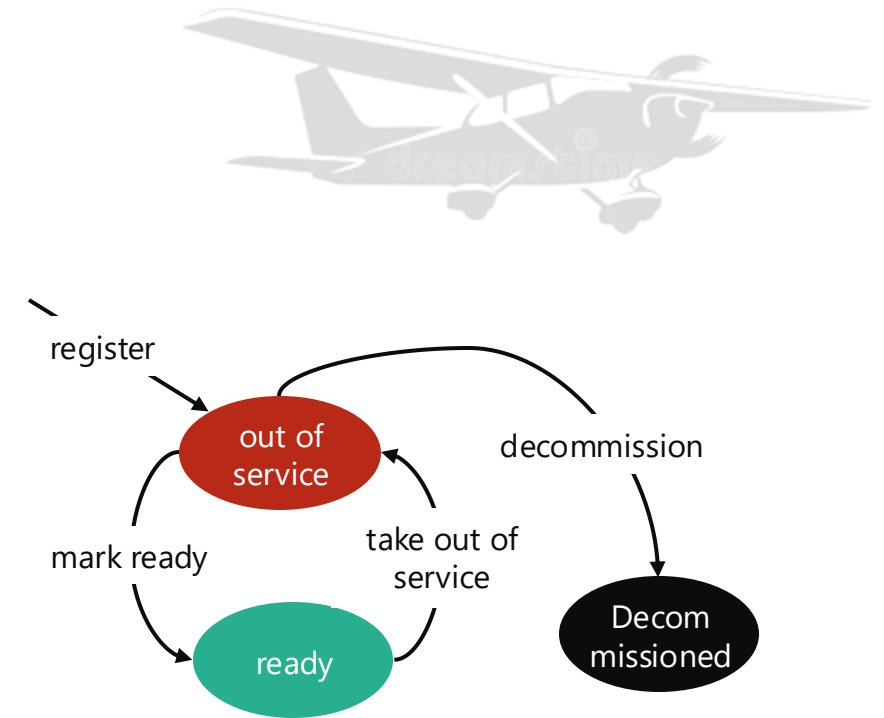
Business Rules

- After registration, the airplane is out of service until marked ready
- An airplane can be taken out of service at any time as long as it has not been decommissioned
- The inventory code can only be changed if the airplane is out of service



Commands

- `Register(Name, AirplaneType)`
- `MarkReady()`
- `TakeOutOfService()`



Domain Events

- `AirplaneRegistered(AirplaneId)`
- `AirplaneAvailabilityChanged(AirplaneId, AirplaneState)`

Expressing the domain model in Java

The screenshot shows an IDE with the following components:

- Project Explorer:** Displays the project structure for 'spring-ddd-starter'. The 'airplane' package is expanded, showing 'Airplane', 'AirplaneCommand', 'AirplaneEvent', 'Airplanes', and 'package-info.java'.
- Code Editor:** Shows the 'Airplane.java' file. The code defines the 'Airplane' class, which implements 'AggregateRoot'. It includes private fields for 'id', 'name', and 'state', and a static 'create' method.
- Run Console:** Displays the output of a successful build. The output includes log messages from 'jMolecules' and a 'BUILD SUCCESS' message.

Let's code!

```
1 package com.example.app.airplane;
2
3 > import ...
4
5 @Getter 27 usages
6 @AllArgsConstructor(access = AccessLevel.PRIVATE)
7 public class Airplane extends AbstractAggregate<Airplane, AirplaneId> implements AggregateRoot<Airplane, AirplaneId>{
8
9     private final AirplaneId id;
10    private String name;
11    private AirplaneState state;
12
13    public static Airplane create(CreateAirplane data) {
14        val result = new Airplane(
15            AirplaneId.random(),
16            data.name(),
17            AirplaneState.DRAFT);
18        result.registerEvent(new AirplaneCreated(result.id));
19        return result;
20    }
21 }
```

Run console output:

```
[INFO] Processing class files located in in: /Users/stefanheinzer/Development/de
[INFO] No jMolecules.config found traversing /Users/stefanheinzer/Development/de
[INFO] No types were transformed during plugin execution but 145 class file(s) w
[INFO] -----
[INFO] BUILD SUCCESS
[INFO] -----
[INFO] Total time: 0.465 s
[INFO] Finished at: 2025-08-22T15:53:57+02:00
[INFO] -----
Process finished with exit code 0
```

- 1 — Structure the code
- 2 — Implement the domain
- 3 — **Add persistence and web API**
- 4 — Insights from real projects

How to persist aggregates?

Option 1: Map the aggregates directly

Add persistence annotations to aggregates to make them persistable by an ORM

Option 2: Use separate persistence model

Map aggregates to and from separate persistence model, which lives in the infrastructure layer

Option 3: Event-sourced

Do not store the fields of the aggregate, but the history of events that lead to that state.

Option 1b: jMolecules Byte Buddy

Generate persistence annotations at build time on byte code only

Maven plugin in pom.xml

```
<plugin>
  <groupId>net.bytebuddy</groupId>
  <artifactId>byte-buddy-maven-plugin</artifactId>
  <version>${bytebuddy.version}</version>
  <executions>
    <execution>
      <goals>
        <goal>transform-extended</goal>
      </goals>
    </execution>
  </executions>
</plugin>
```


Invisible JPA for free

```
@Getter
@AllArgsConstructor(access = AccessLevel.PRIVATE)
public class Airplane implements AggregateRoot<Airplane, AirplaneId> {

    private final AirplaneId id;
    private String name;
    private Association<AirplaneType, AirplaneId> type;
    private AirplaneState state;
```

compile, byte-buddy:transform-extended



decompiled byte code

```
@Entity(
    name = ""
)
public class Airplane implements AggregateRoot<Airplane, AirplaneId>, Persistable<AirplaneId> {
    @EmbeddedId
    private final AirplaneId id;
    private String name;
    @Convert(
        converter = AirplaneTypeAssociationConverter.jMolecules.wrh2L5gA.class,
        disableConversion = false,
        attributeName = ""
    )
    private Association<AirplaneType, AirplaneType.AirplaneTypeId> type;
    private AirplaneState state;
    @Transient
    private boolean __jMolecules__isNew;
```

✓ JPA persistable

Purely domain

Implementing the REST API

Hooking into Spring Data REST

Approach:

- 1) Use read operations of Spring Data REST (getOne, getAll, search/findBy, projections)
- 2) Force aggregate updates to go through commands

WebConfiguration.java

```
@Override no usages  ⚙️ Heinz Stefan
public void configureRepositoryRestConfiguration(RepositoryRestConfiguration config, CorsRegistry cors) {
    // for aggregates, force modifying operations to go through the aggregate operation controller instead of using
    // the Spring Data REST CRUD API.
    config.getExposureConfiguration().withCollectionExposure((ResourceMetadata metadata, ConfigurableHttpMethods httpMethods)
        -> AggregateRoot.class.isAssignableFrom(metadata.getDomainType())
        ? httpMethods.disable(HttpMethod.POST, HttpMethod.PATCH, HttpMethod.PUT)
        : httpMethods);
    config.getExposureConfiguration().withItemExposure((ResourceMetadata metadata, ConfigurableHttpMethods httpMethods)
        -> AggregateRoot.class.isAssignableFrom(metadata.getDomainType())
        ? httpMethods.disable(HttpMethod.POST, HttpMethod.PATCH, HttpMethod.PUT)
        : httpMethods);
    config.setBasePath(BASE_PATH);
}
```

```

26 @Transactional
27 @RequiredArgsConstructor
28 @RepositoryRestController
29 @ExposesResourceFor(Airplane.class)
30 @SecurityRequirement(name = "basicAuth")
31 public class AirplaneCommandController {

```

5 Run all operations in transaction

1 Hook into Spring Data REST

```

32     private final Airplanes airplanes;

```

```

33     @Secured("ROLE_USER")

```

```

34     @PostMapping("/airplanes")

```

```

35     public ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> create(@RequestBody RegisterAirplane data) {

```

```

36         val result = airplanes.save(Airplane.register(data));

```

```

37         return ResponseEntity.ok(EntityModel.of(result));

```

```

38     }

```

2 Secure operations

```

39     @Secured("ROLE_USER")

```

```

40     @PostMapping(path = "/airplanes/{airplaneId}/update")

```

```

41     public ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> update(@PathVariable AirplaneId airplaneId,
42                                                         @RequestBody UpdateAirplane data) {

```

```

43         return doWithAirplane(airplaneId, Airplane it -> it.update(data));

```

```

44     }

```

3 Take command as input

4 Execute command on domain model

```

45     @Secured("ROLE_ADMIN")

```

```

46     @PostMapping(path = "/airplanes/{airplaneId}/takeOutOfService")

```

```

47     public ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> publish(@PathVariable AirplaneId airplaneId) {

```

```

48         return doWithAirplane(airplaneId, Airplane::takeOutOfService);

```

```

49     }

```

```

50     private ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> doWithAirplane(AirplaneId airplaneId, Consumer<Airplane> action) {

```

```

51         return airplanes.doWith(airplaneId, action) Optional<Airplane>

```

```

52             .map(EntityModel::of) Optional<EntityModel<...>>

```

```

53             .map(ResponseEntity::ok) Optional<ResponseEntity<...>>

```

```

54             .orElse(ResponseEntity.notFound().build());

```

```

55     }

```

Key features of this architecture

- No DTOs needed in Web layer
serializing directly aggregates, deserializing directly commands
- No separate model in persistence layer
saving directly byte-buddy enhanced aggregates
- Only required packages
separating domain modules and architectural layers
- Every element has its well-defined place

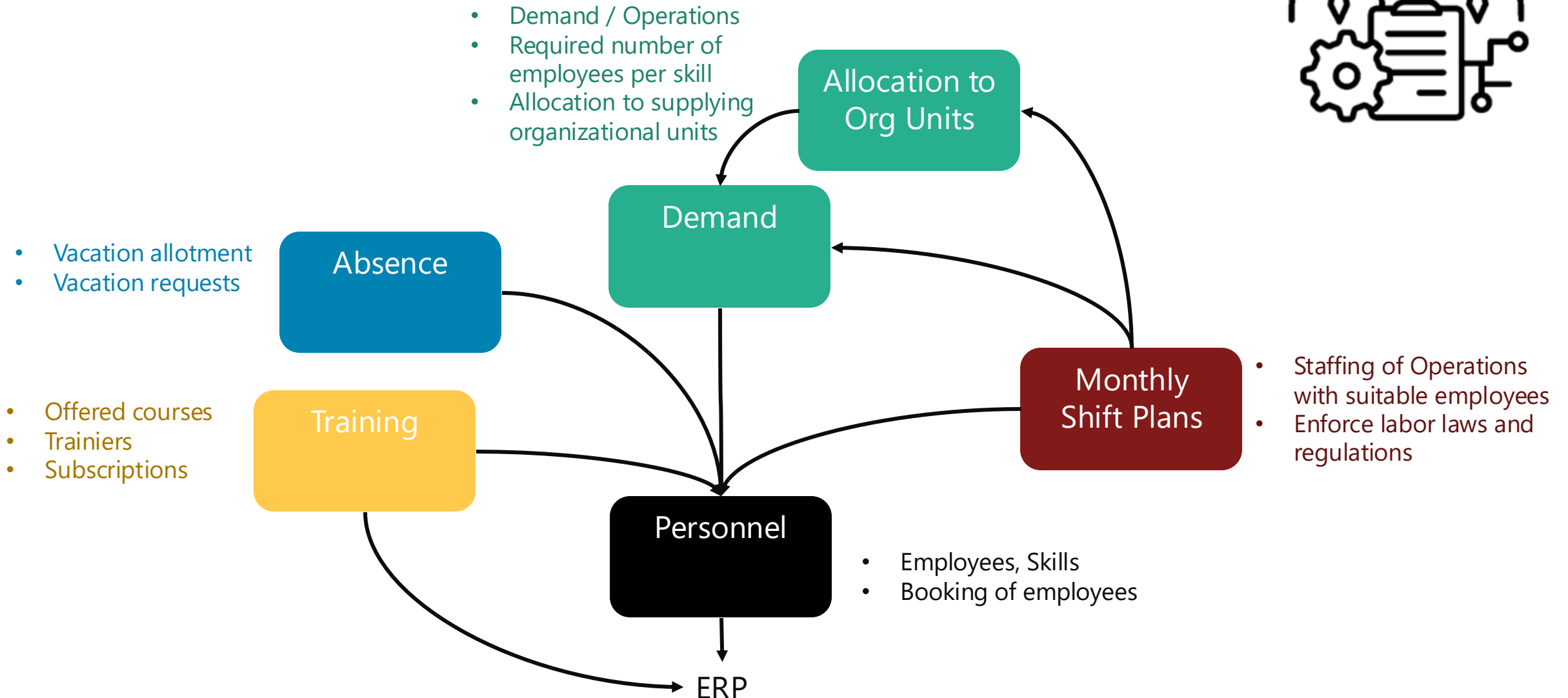
Not recommended
for public APIs!

→ Lean & crisp

- 1 — Structure the code
- 2 — Implement the domain
- 3 — Add persistence and web API
- 4 — **Insights from real projects**

Does it work at scale?

Personnel Deployment Planning



Bounded Contexts

Training

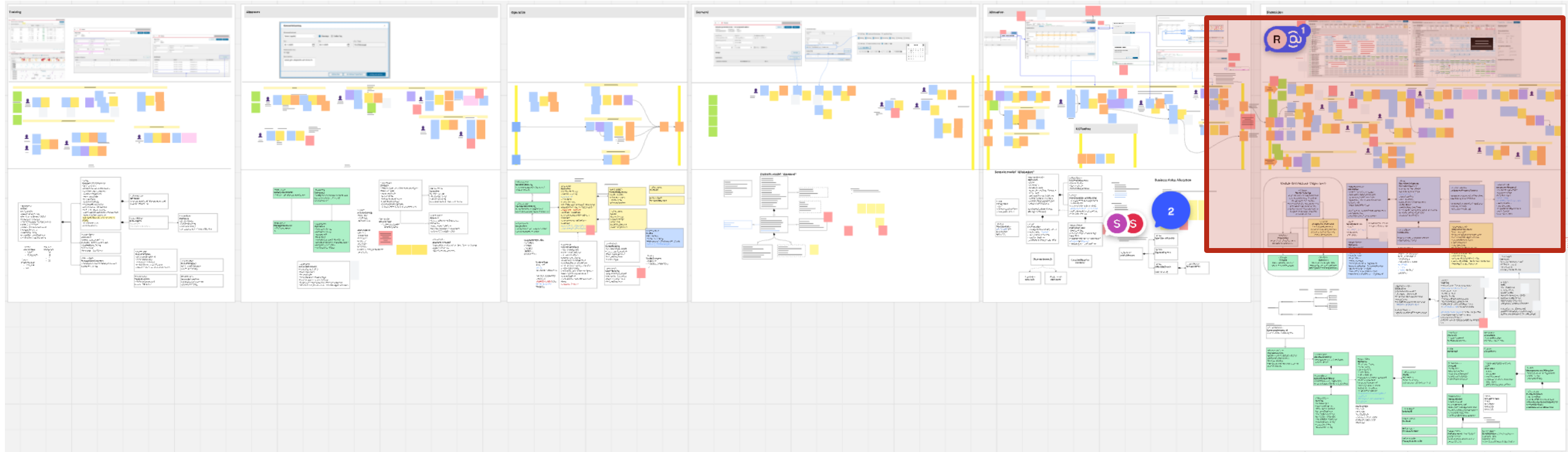
Absence

Employee

Demand

Allocation

Disposition



Event model

- Implementable model of the business process
- Naming of commands, aggregates, domain events
- Common understanding of team

- Domain Event (facts)
- Command (intentions)
- Aggregate (business object)
- Read model (input data)

Step through
months

Timeline
(days)

Einsatzzeiteilung Einheit 1

01.09.2025

September 2025

In Bearbeitung

94%

Ansicht & Filter

Einsätze: W 36 03.09. Do 04.09. Fr 05.09. Sa 06.09. So 07.09. W 37 Mo 08.09. Di 09.09. Mi 10.09. Do 11.09. Fr 12.09. Sa 13.09. So 14.09. W 38 Mo 15.09. Di 16.09. Mi 17.09. Do 18.09. Fr 19.09.

> HCN 1 06.08.2025 - 31.08.2025

▼ Schwergewicht LE Stefan 01.09.2025 - 06.09.2025

LAUZ P normal 1
04:00 - 12:00, P
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LHKA W früh 1
09:00 - 16:30, W
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LHKA W spät 1
16:30 - 00:00, W
LHKA W spät 2
16:30 - 00:00, W
LHKA W spät 3
16:30 - 00:00, W

Dispositions

Shifts

Dispositions

Shift slots
(location, skills,
time)



Observation: Need two views on shifts:

- By demand → disposition aggregate
- By employee → month plan aggregate

Employee
Assignments

Month Plan

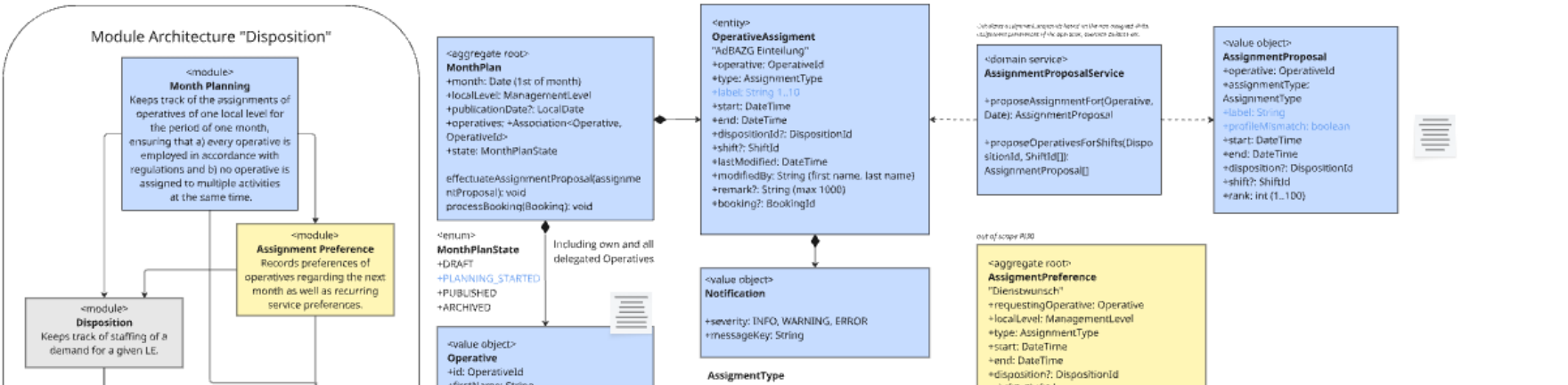
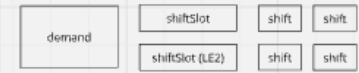
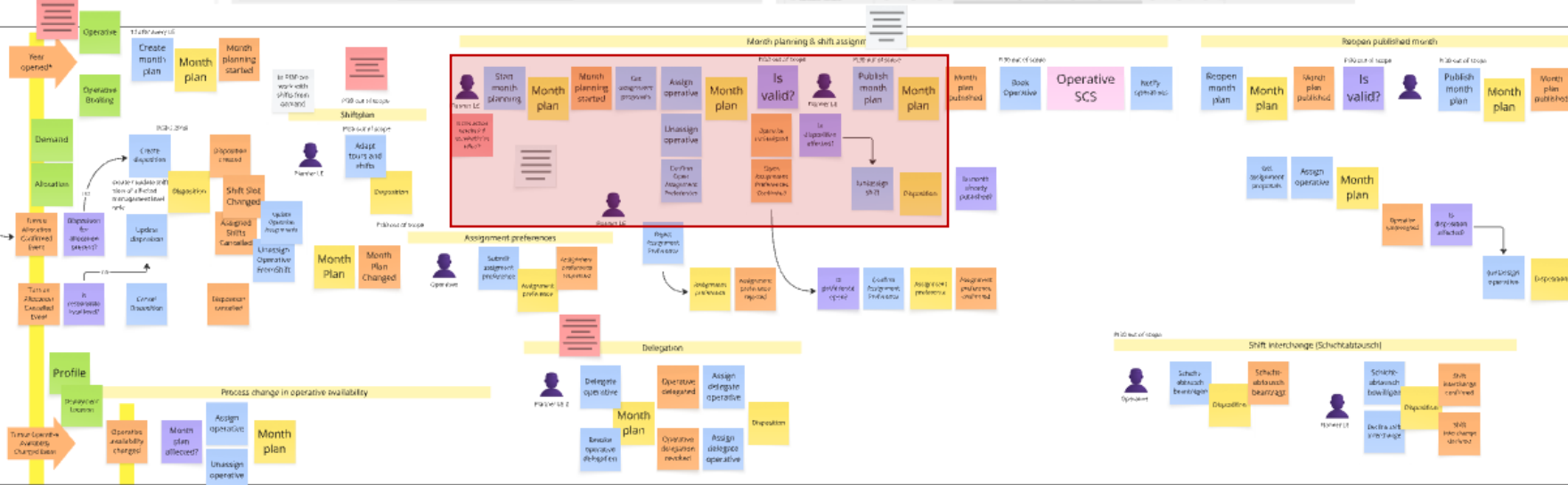
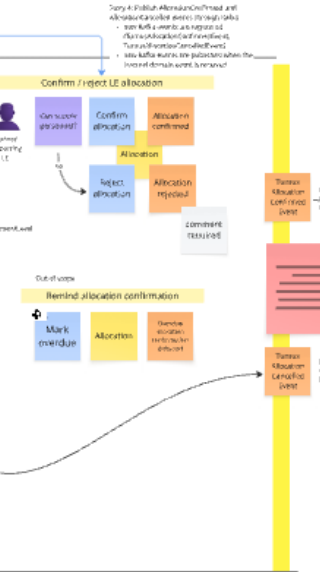
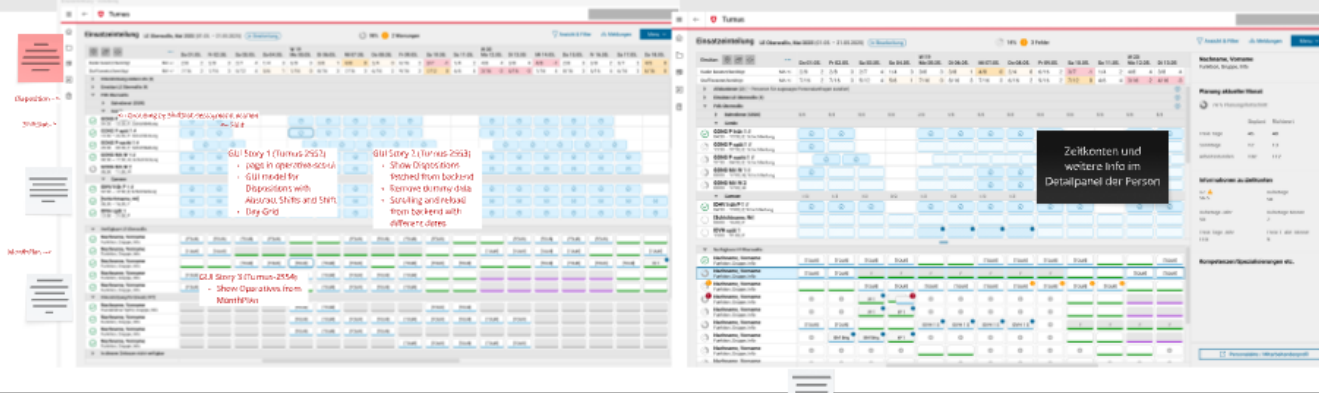
Employees



We make it work.

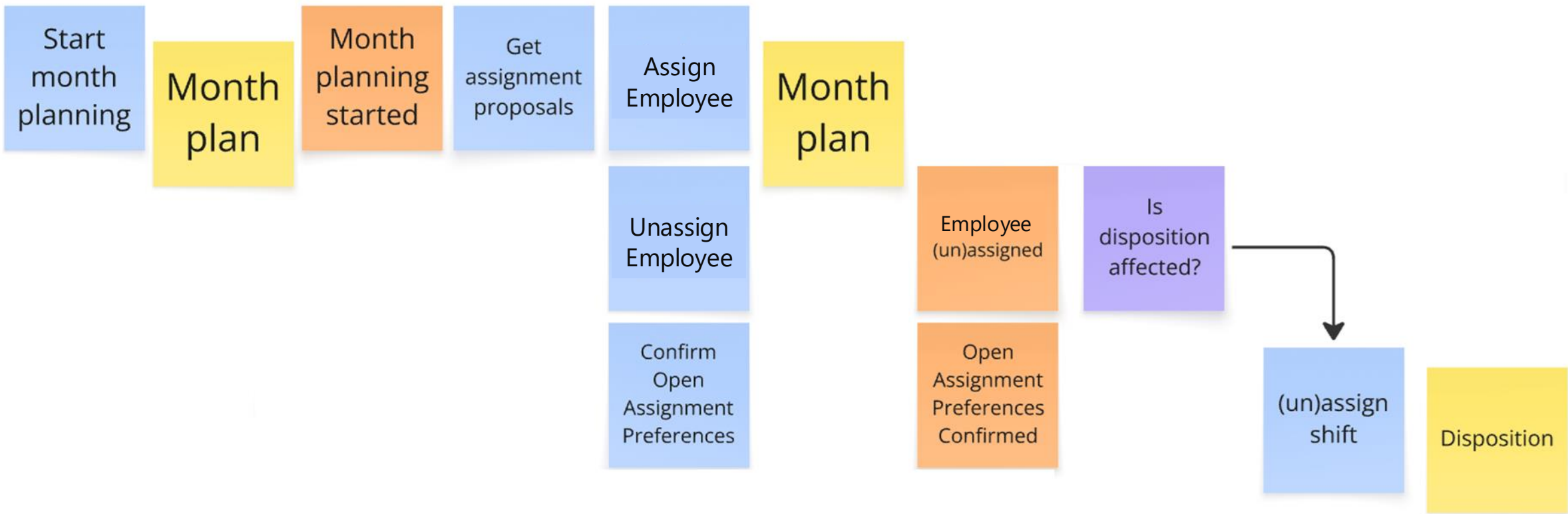
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Disposition





Planner LE



Einsätze:

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LHKA W spät 4

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1 Select shifts to assign

Einsätze:

...

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> HCN 1 06.08.2025 - 31.08.2025

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1

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04:00 - 12:00, P

✓

1

LAUZ P normal 2

04:00 - 12:00, P

✓

1

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LHKA W spät 3

16:30 - 00:00, W

LHKA W spät 4

16:30 - 00:00, W

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2 Select employee / individual days

Key learnings



- ✓ DDD works perfectly **at scale**
- ✓ Modularization by **bounded contexts** and aggregates keeps complexity manageable
- ✓ Continuous work on the **event model** keeps the team aligned (Customer, UX, BA, Dev, Test)
- ✓ Close collaboration between **user centric and domain driven design** highly beneficial

Conclusion

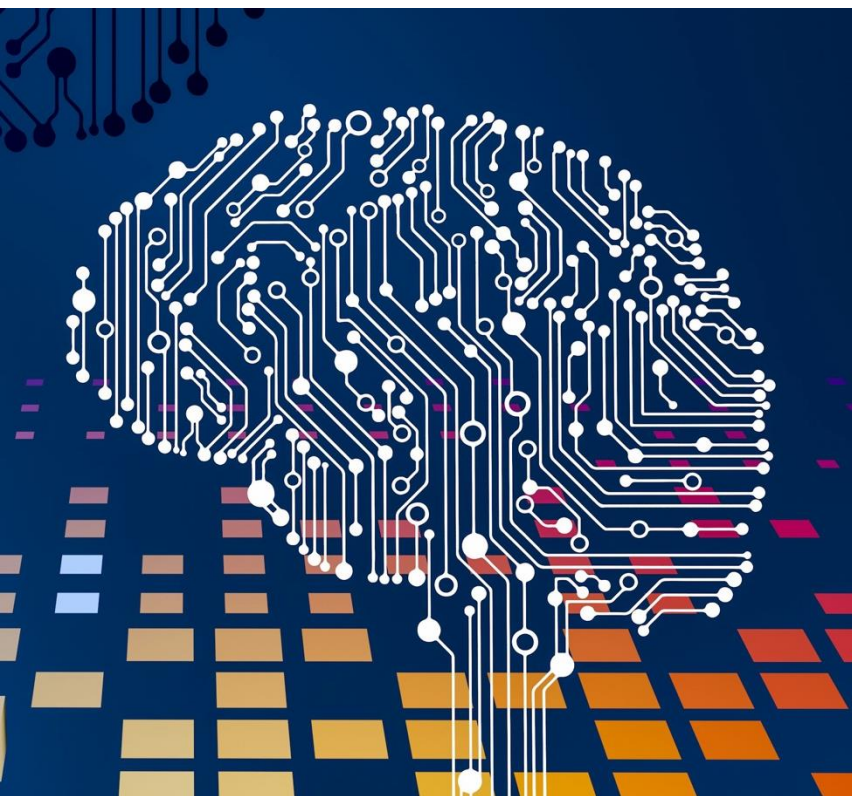
Wrap up



- DDD greatly helps **tackling complexity** through separation of concerns (contexts, modules, layers)
- jMolecules helps **expressing DDD concepts** in code and adds strong support for technology integration (e.g. JPA)
- Spring modulith comes in handy to **separate modules** and offers transactional event publication

With these tools, implementing DDD has become easy and lightweight

Outlook: DDD and AI



- Complexity of the world increases rapidly
- AI generated code which follows principles of DDD will still be **verifiable by humans**
- Our work will shift from coding to design and validation, with a strong focus on safety and security



*"Software development is
a learning process.
Working code is a side
effect."*

Eric Evans

Author of «the blue book»

Questions?

Contact

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Thank you!

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