



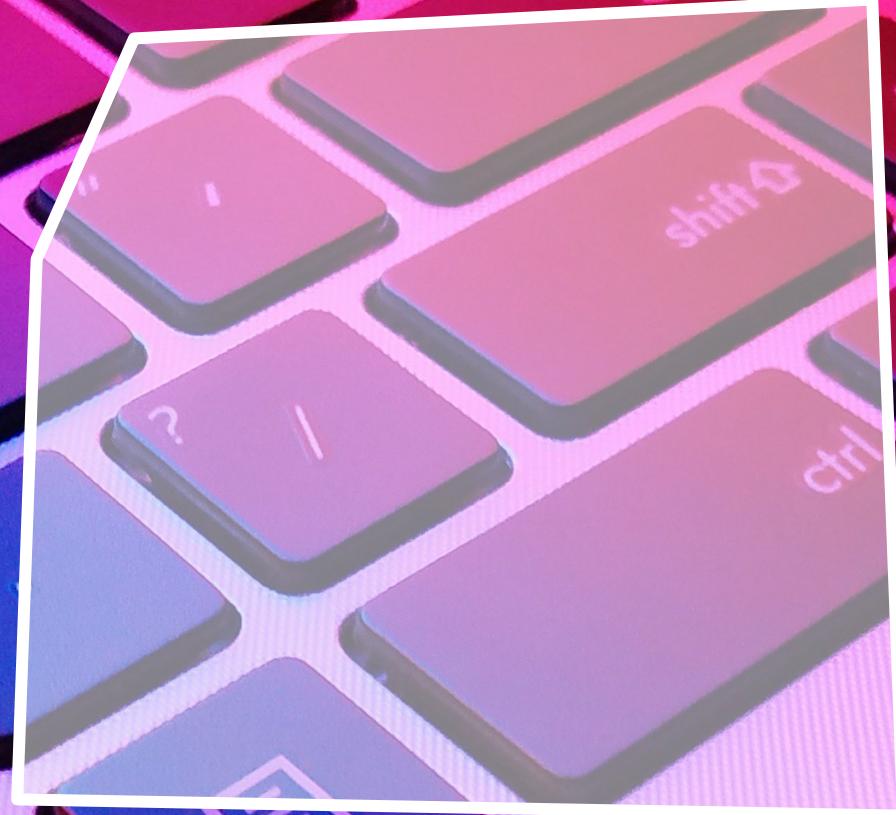
We make it work.

Stefan Heinzer
JUG Zurich
14.01.2026



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

How

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

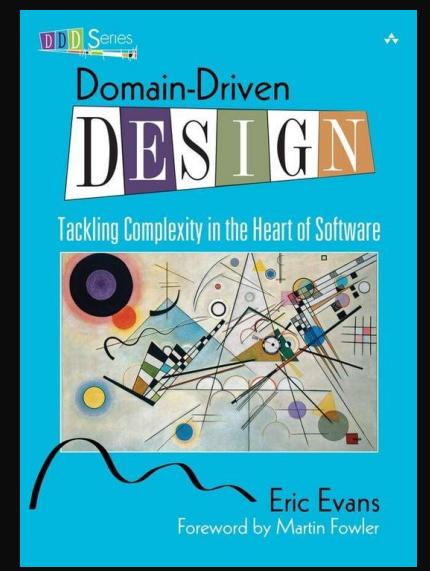


DDD is
**letting the
code talk
business**



"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

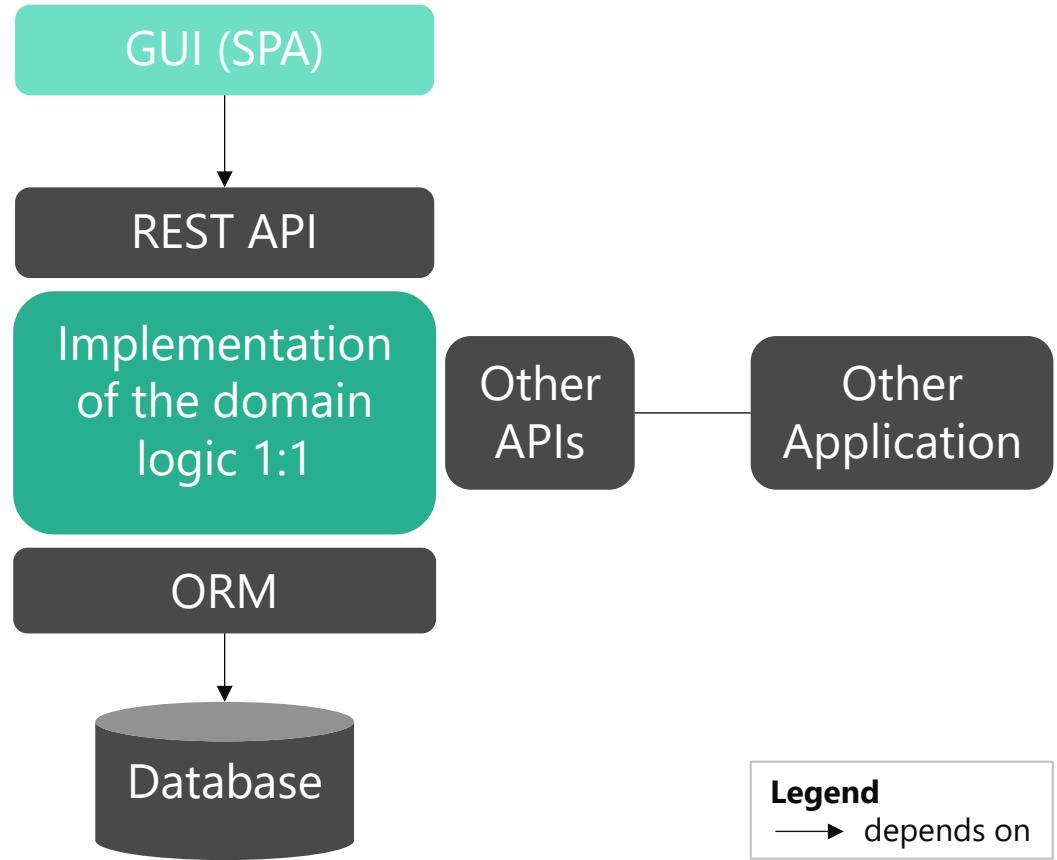
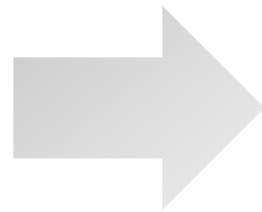
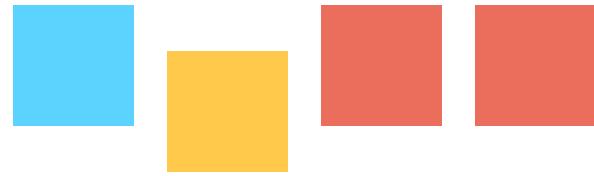




Image from <https://h55.ch>



Sample Domain: planeZ

Startup «planeZ»

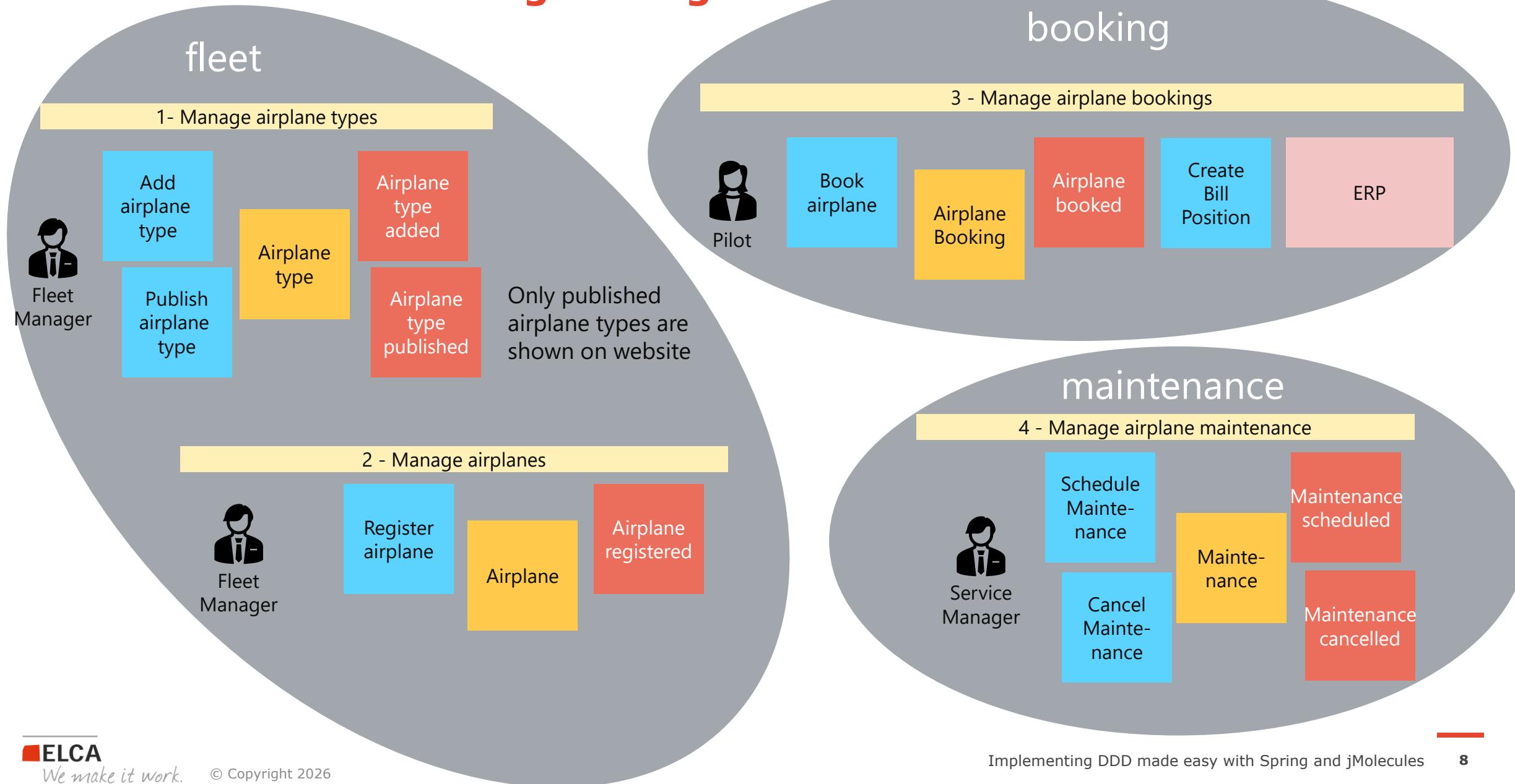
Rent airplanes with net zero emission

- 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

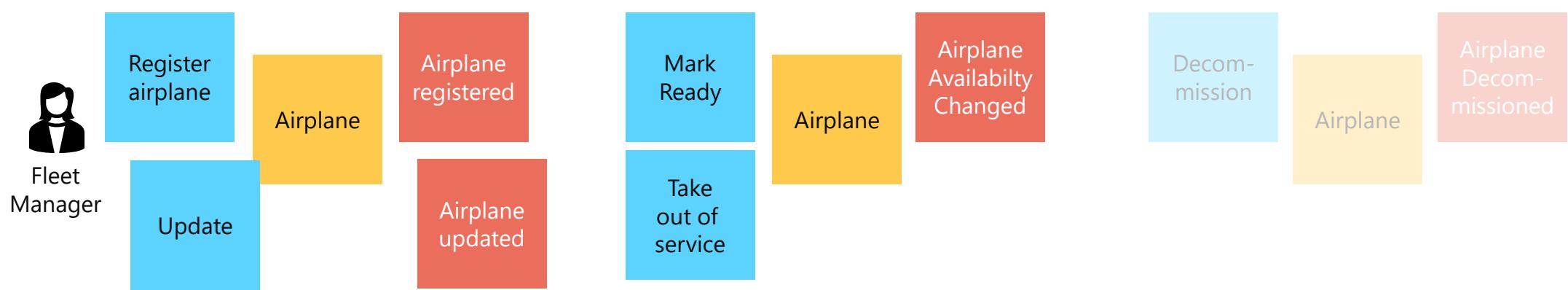


Event model – airplane context

2.1 – Manage airplane type



2.2 – Manage airplanes



- 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/

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

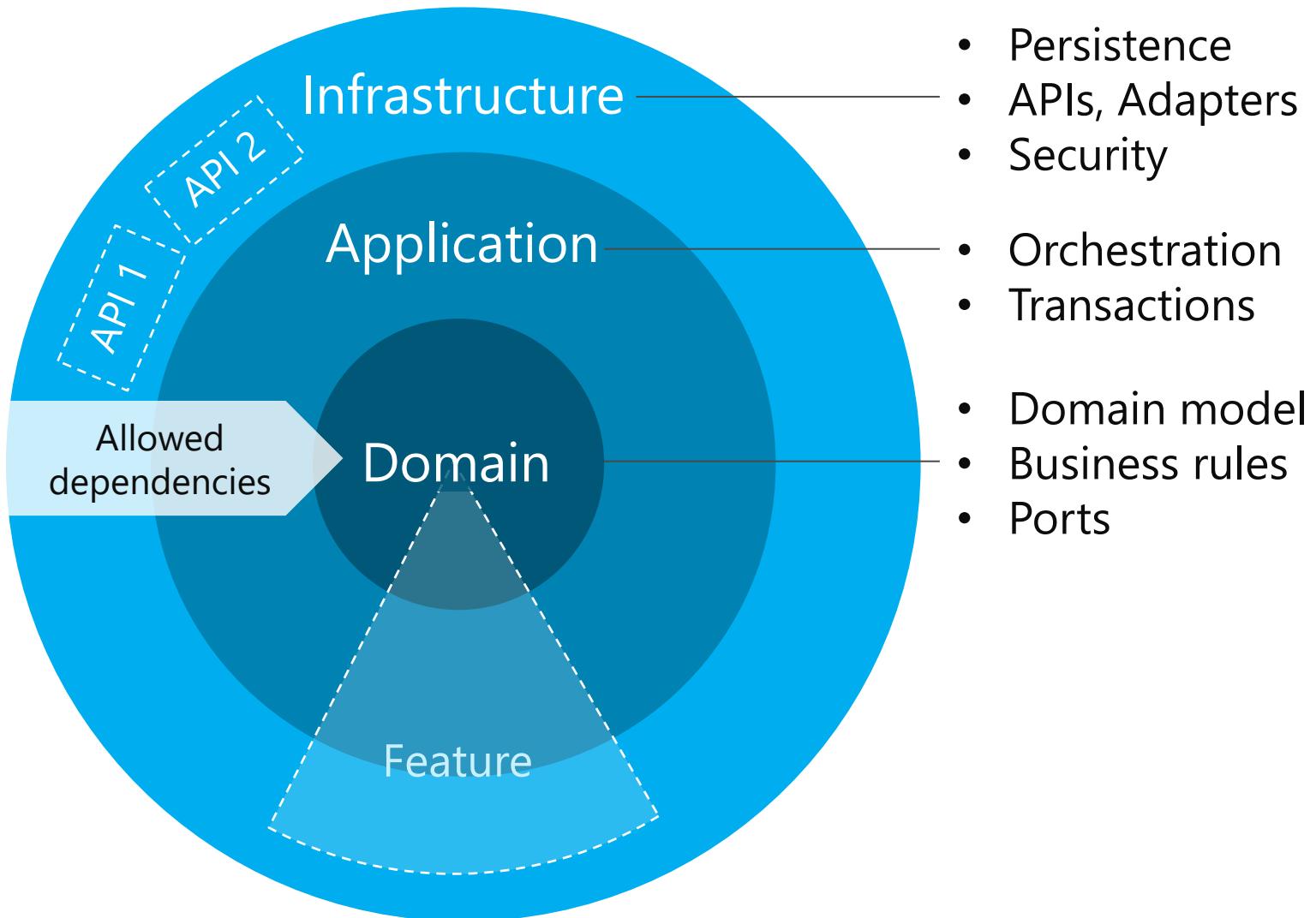
bookings/
maintenance/
application
infrastructure



Are you kidding?



Simplified Onion Architecture



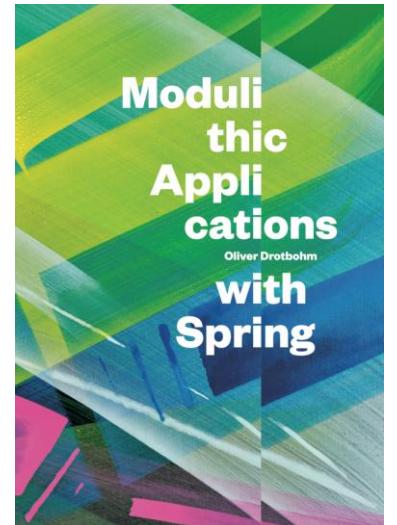
Spring Modulith



- Package-based module architecture
- Convention over configuration
- Bootstrapping of verticals / modules to keep test execution fast
- Detect cycles in modules
- Decoupling events from transactions and guaranteed event delivery
- Ready to scale out to micro-services



Oliver Drotbohm
ex. Spring Data

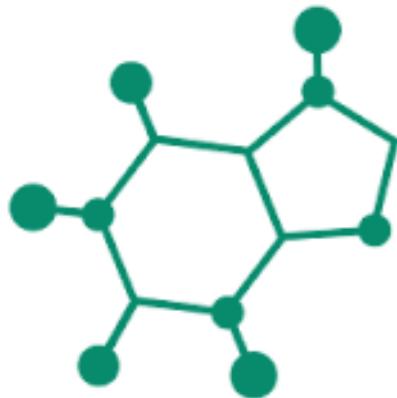


Book on Leanpub
66% complete

jMolecules – “Architecturally evident code”



Oliver Drotbohm



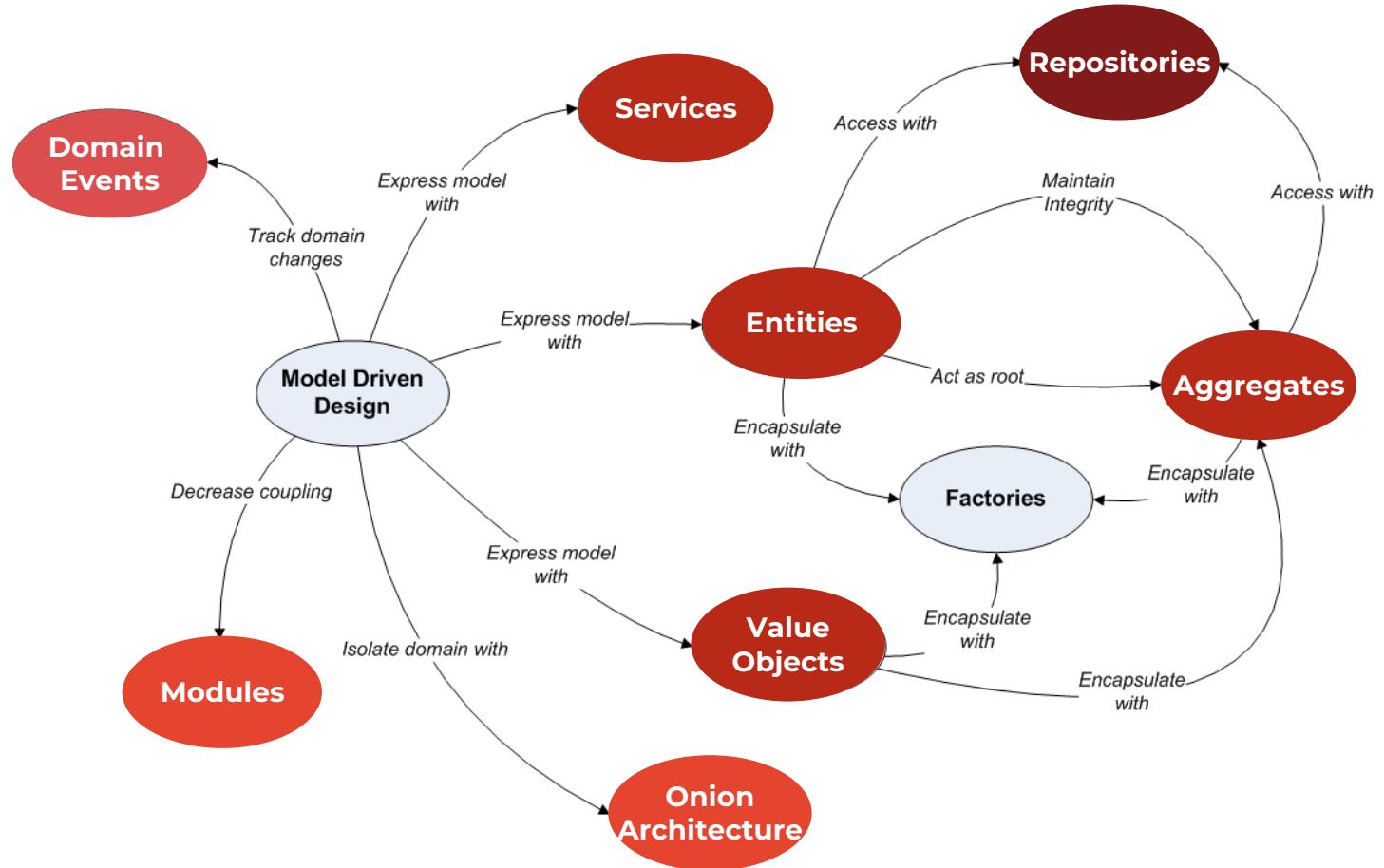
Interfaces or Annotations

- 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**

- 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

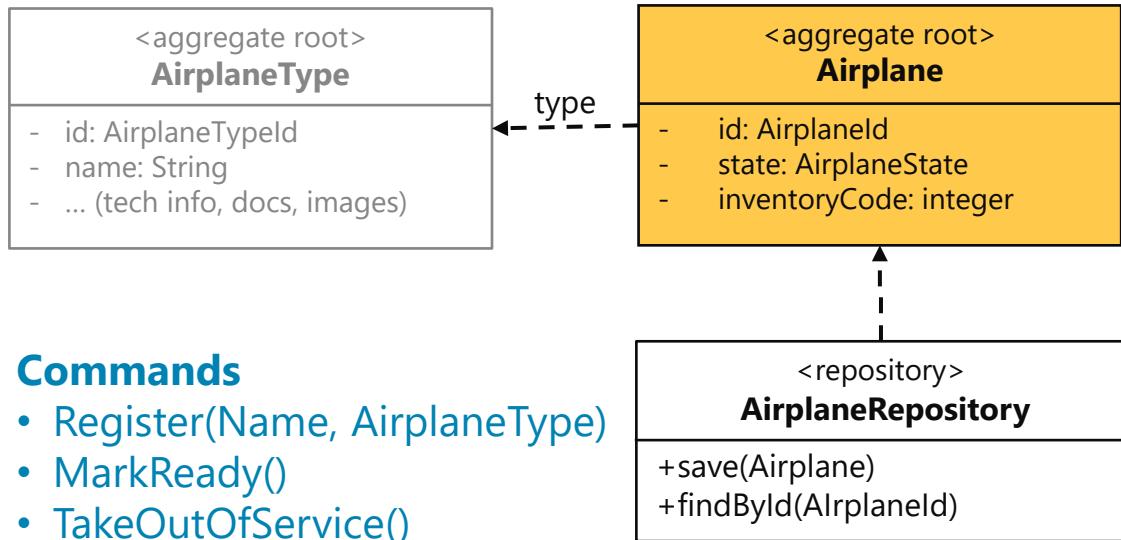


Airplane model 0.1



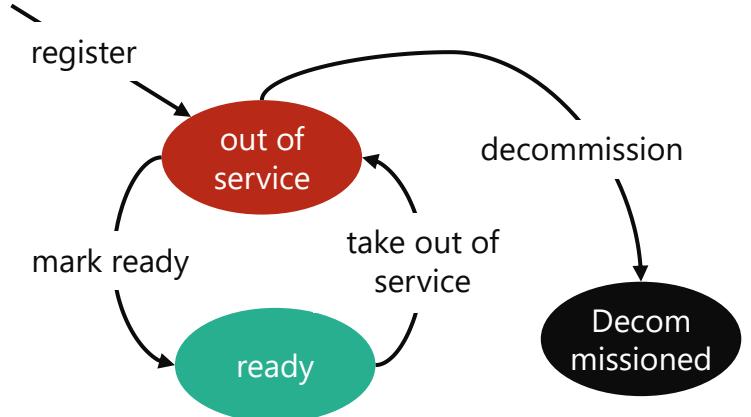
Business Rules

- 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 a Java IDE interface with the following details:

- Project Structure:** The project is named "spring-ddd-starter". The "airplane" package contains the "Airplane" class, which is currently selected in the code editor.
- Code Editor:** The "Airplane.java" file is open, showing the implementation of the `AbstractAggregate` interface. The code includes fields for `id`, `name`, and `state`, and a static method `create` that returns a new `Airplane` instance with a random `AirplaneId`, the provided `name`, and `AirplaneState.DRAFT`.
- Run Tab:** The "SampleApplication" is selected as the run configuration.
- Terminal:** The terminal shows the Maven build output, indicating a successful build ("BUILD SUCCESS") in 0.465 seconds, completed at 2025-08-22T15:53:57+02:00.
- GitHub Integration:** A large watermark reading "Let's code!" is overlaid on the IDE. To the right, a GitHub repository card for "sth77/spring-ddd-starter" is displayed, showing the repository URL and links to Code, Issues, Pull requests, and Actions.

- 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>
```

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, AirplaneType> type;  
    private AirplaneState state;
```

Purely domain

```
@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;
```

compile, byte-buddy:transform-extended



decompiled byte code

✓ JPA persistable

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 & Heinzer 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  @ExposeResourceFor(Airplane.class)
30  @SecurityRequirement(name = "basicAuth")
31  public class AirplaneCommandController {
32
33  private final Airplanes airplanes;
34
35  @Secured("ROLE_USER")
36  @PostMapping(path = "/airplanes")
37  public ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> create(@RequestBody RegisterAirplane data) {
38      val result = airplanes.save(Airplane.register(data));
39      return ResponseEntity.ok(EntityModel.of(result));
40  }
41
42  @Secured("ROLE_USER") 2 Secure operations
43  @PostMapping(path = "/airplanes/{airplaneId}/update")
44  public ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> update(@PathVariable AirplaneId airplaneId,
45  @RequestBody UpdateAirplane data) {
46      return doWithAirplane(airplaneId, Airplane it -> it.update(data));
47  }
48
49  @Secured("ROLE_ADMIN")
50  @PostMapping(path = "/airplanes/{airplaneId}/takeOutOfService")
51  public ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> publish(@PathVariable AirplaneId airplaneId) {
52      return doWithAirplane(airplaneId, Airplane::takeOutOfService);
53  }
54
55  private ResponseEntity<EntityModel<Airplane>> doWithAirplane(AirplaneId airplaneId, Consumer<Airplane> action) { 2 usages
56      return airplanes.doWith(airplaneId, action) Optional<Airplane>
57          .map(EntityModel::of) Optional<EntityModel<...>>
58          .map(ResponseEntity::ok) Optional<ResponseEntity<...>>
59          .orElse(ResponseEntity.notFound().build());
60  }

```

5 Run all operations in transaction

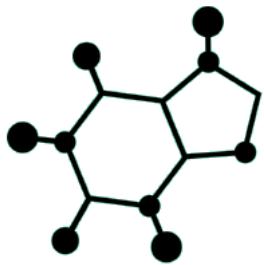
1 Hook into Spring Data REST

2 Secure operations

3 Take command as input

4 Execute command on domain model

Where are Spring Modulith & jMolecules?



jMolecules

clean tactical DDD and architecture (e.g. onion)

- Tagging of DDD elements in code and IDE
- Transparent persistence annotations → clean domain model
- Smooth integration of the domain model with REST / Jackson
- "Architecturally evident code"
- Architecture validation



Spring Modulith
clean module architecture

- Make modules explicit
- Manage module dependencies
- Allow for horizontal scaling
- Decoupled event notification between modules
- Module architecture validation



Spring
everything else

- Dependency injection
- Configuration
- Application Event Bus
- Persistence
- Transactions
- REST API
- ...

Key features of this architecture

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

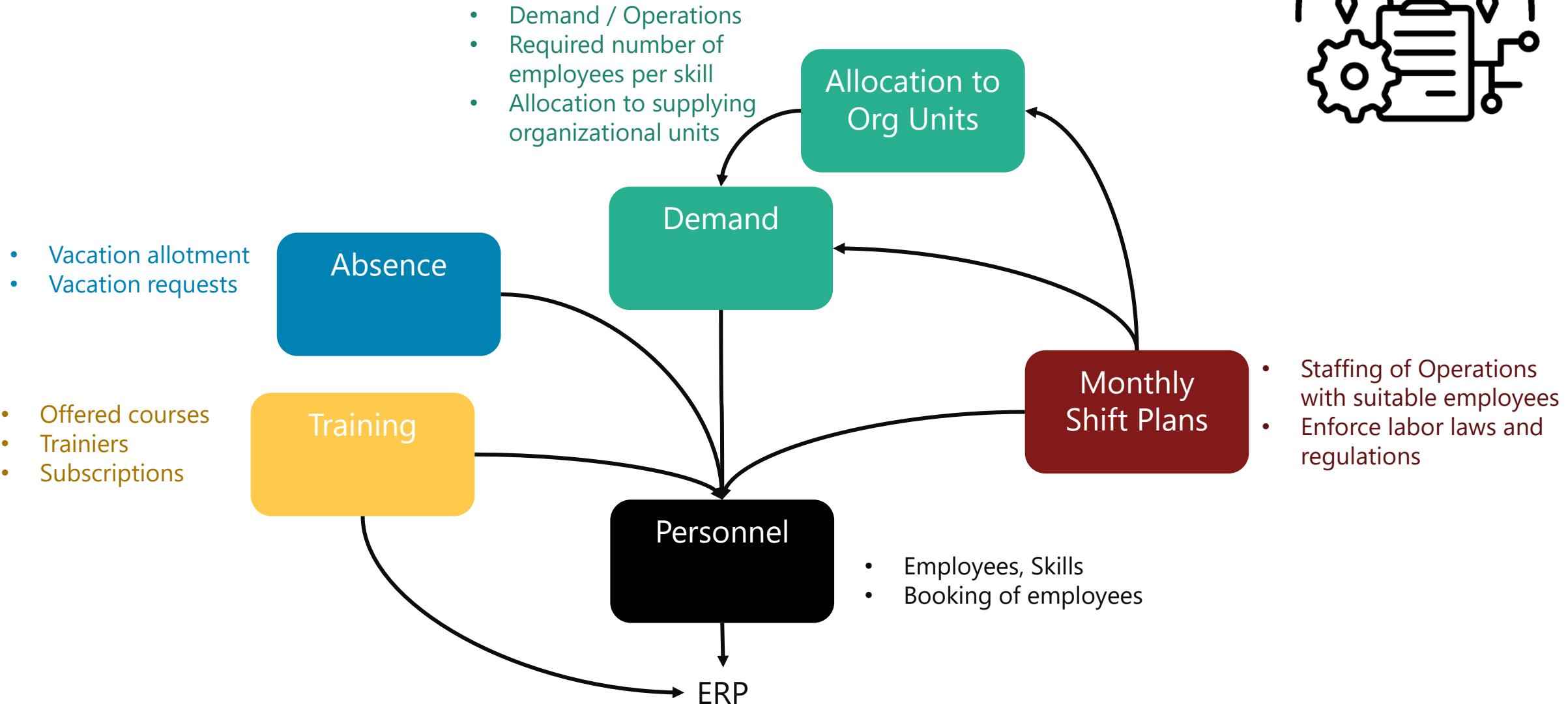
Not recommended
for public APIs!

→ Lean & crisp

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

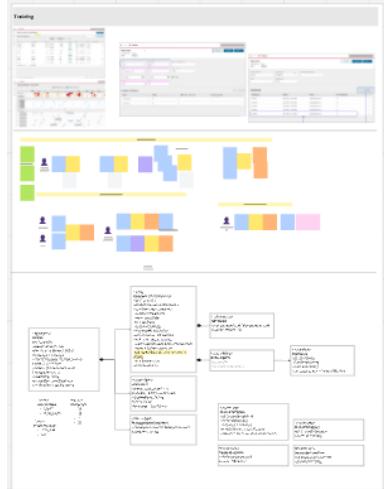
Does it work at scale?

Personnel Deployment Planning



Bounded Contexts

Training



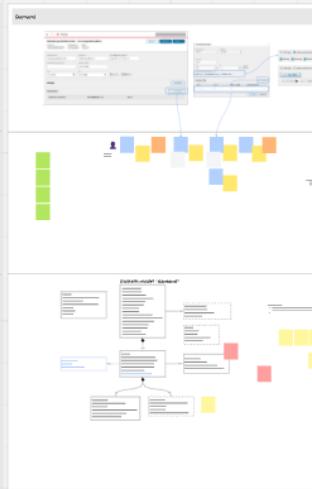
Absence



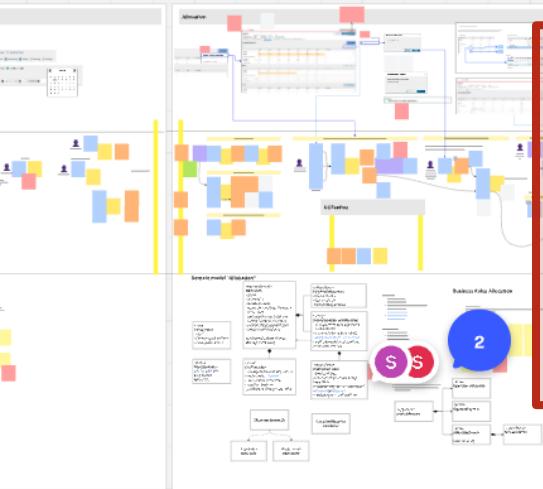
Employee



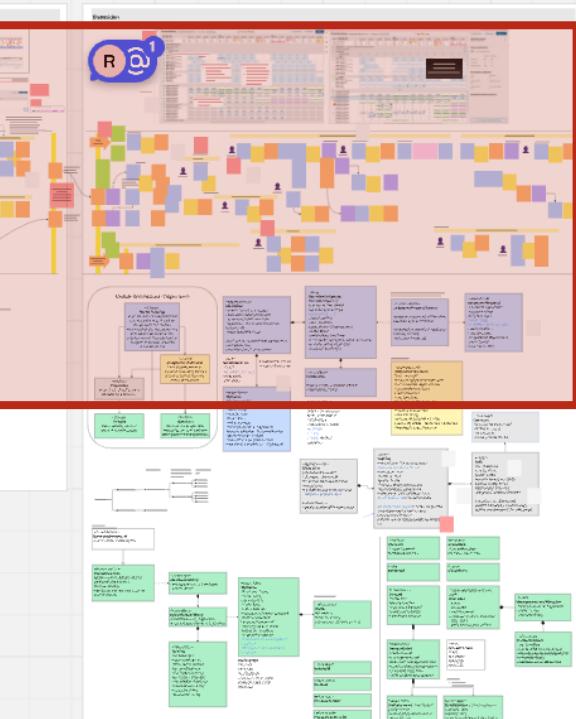
Demand

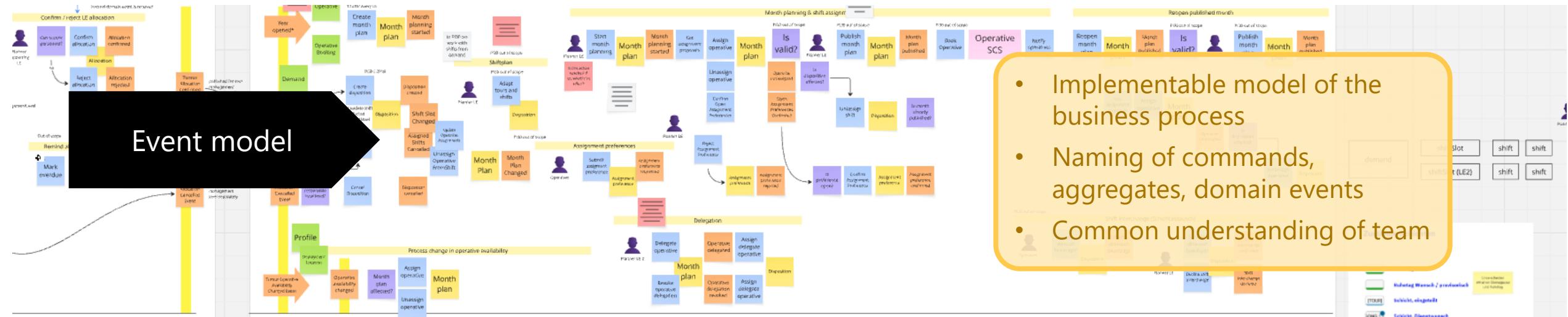


Allocation



Disposition





- 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)

Einsatzeinteilung Einheit 1

01.09.2025

September 2025

In Bearbeitung

Ansicht & Filter

Einsätze:		W 36		W 37		W 38												
		03.09.	Do 04.09.	Fr 05.09.	Sa 06.09.	So 07.09.	Mo 08.09.	Di 09.09.	Mi 10.09.	Do 11.09.	Fr 12.09.	Sa 13.09.	So 14.09.	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																	
LAUZ P normal 2	04:00 - 12:00, P																	
LHKA W früh 1	09:00 - 16:30, W																	
LHKA W früh 2	09:00 - 16:30, W																	
LHKA W früh 3	09:00 - 16:30, W																	
LHKA W früh 4	09:00 - 16:30, W																	
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																	
▼ Verfügbare Einheit 1		F		F		F		LIAC X		Employee Assignments								
Abdulahi, Chen	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Abreu, Arron	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Ackermann, Onik	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Alili, Rosana	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Aliti, Nils	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Allenbach, Michele	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Altmann, Chan	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Andenmatten, Rade	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Anderegg, Panto	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	
Antic, Caspar	Funktion, Gruppe, Info																	

Dispositions

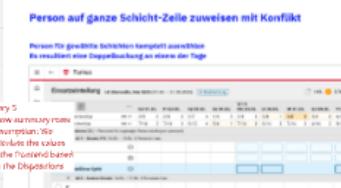
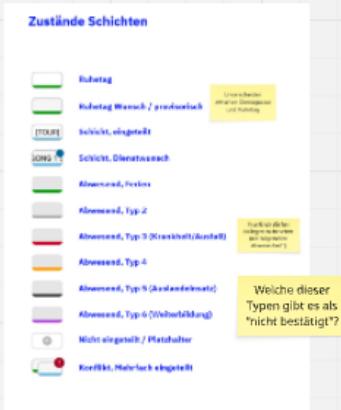
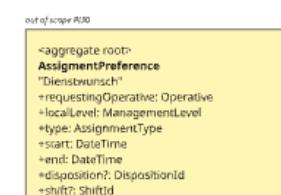
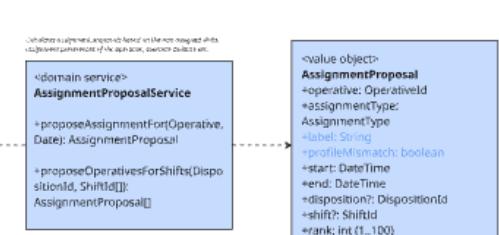
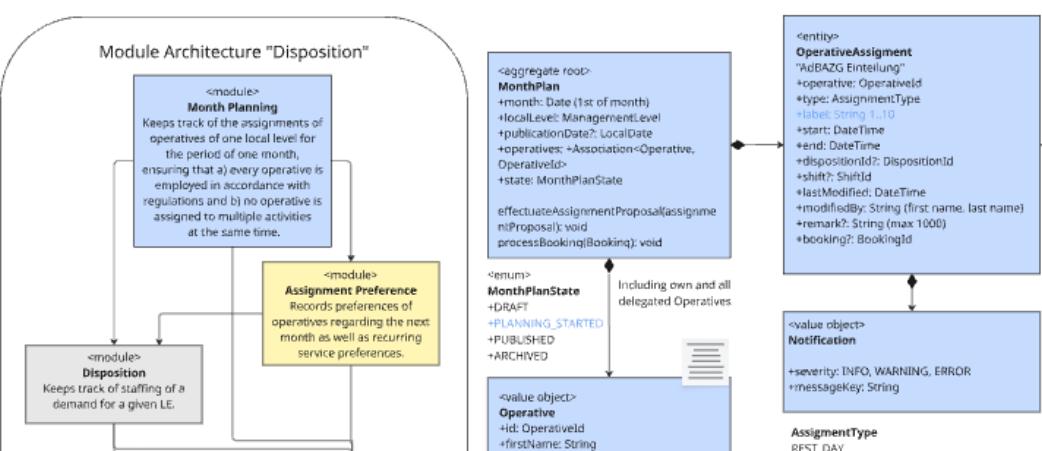
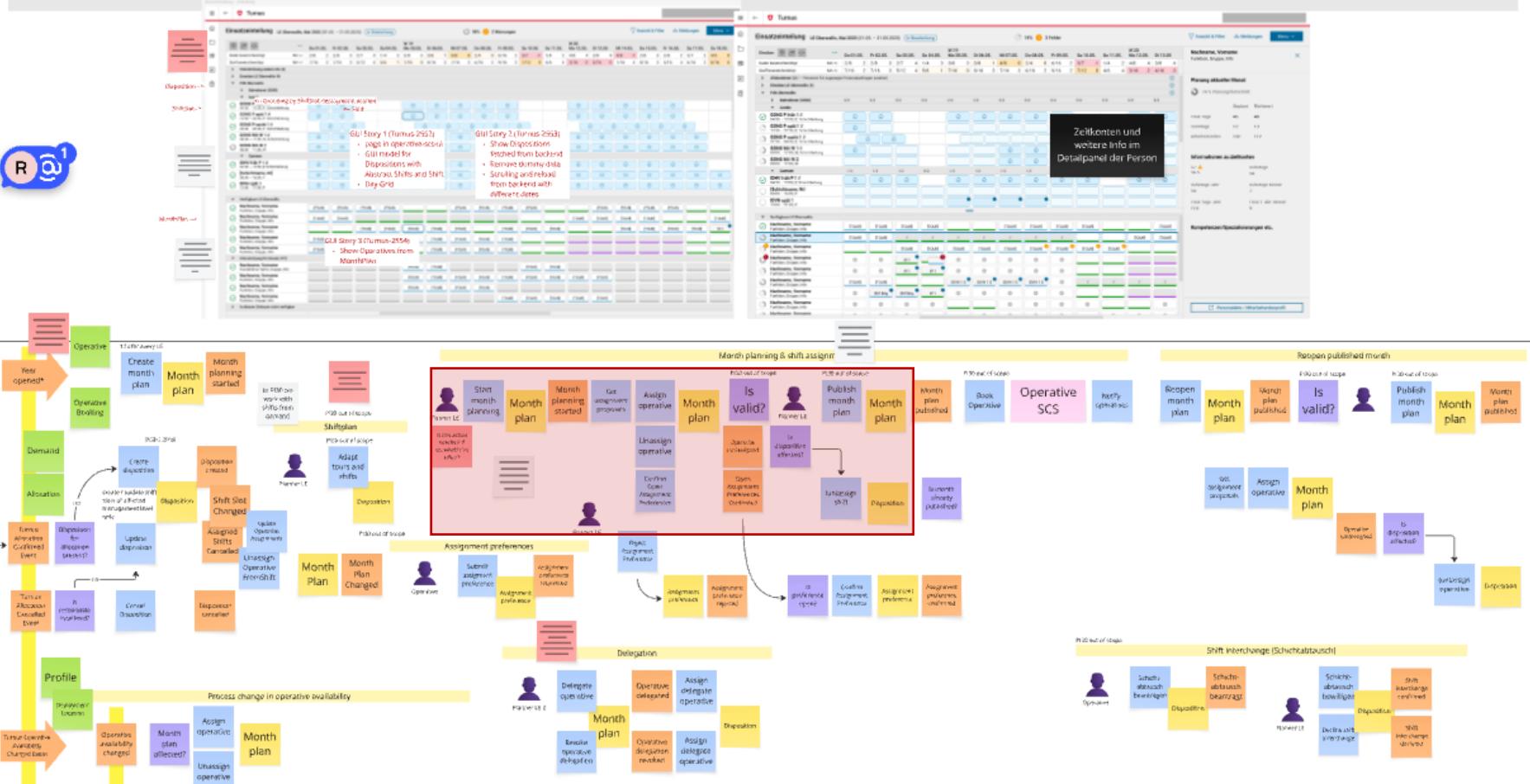
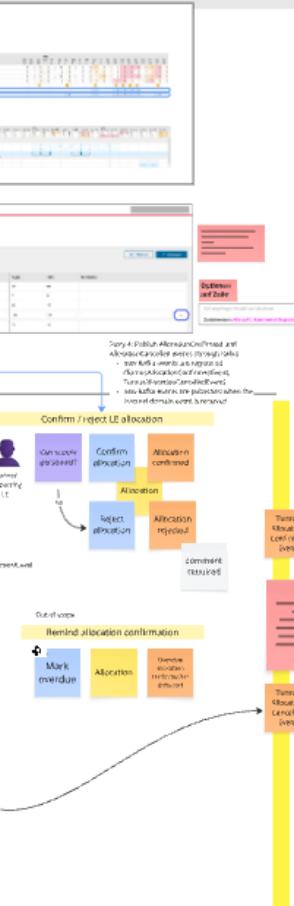
Observation: Need two views on shifts:

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



Month Plan

Disposition





Planner LE



Einsatzeinteilung Einheit 1 01.09.2025 September 2025 In Bearbeitung 94% Ansicht & Filter

Einsätze:		W 36							W 37							W 38						
		Mo 01.09.	Di 02.09.	Mi 03.09.	Do 04.09.	Fr 05.09.	Sa 06.09.	So 07.09.	Mo 08.09.	Di 09.09.	Mi 10.09.	Do 11.09.	Fr 12.09.	Sa 13.09.	So 14.09.	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		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
LAUZ P normal 2 04:00 - 12:00, P		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
LHKA W früh 1 09:00 - 16:30, W																						
LHKA W früh 2 09:00 - 16:30, W																						
LHKA W früh 3 09:00 - 16:30, W																						
LHKA W früh 4 09:00 - 16:30, W																						
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																						
Verfügbare Einheit 1																						
Abdulahi, Chen Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Abreu, Arron Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Ackermann, Onik Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Alili, Rosana Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Aliti, Nils Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Allenbach, Michele Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Altmann, Chan Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Andenmatten, Rade Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Anderegg, Panto Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						
Antic, Caspar Funktion, Gruppe, Info																						

1 Select shifts to assign



Einsätze:	W 36							W 37							W 38						
	Mo 01.09.	Di 02.09.	Mi 03.09.	Do 04.09.	Fr 05.09.	Sa 06.09.	So 07.09.	Mo 08.09.	Di 09.09.	Mi 10.09.	Do 11.09.	Fr 12.09.	Sa 13.09.	So 14.09.	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																					
LAUZ P normal 2 04:00 - 12:00, P																					
LHKA W früh 1 09:00 - 16:30, W																					
LHKA W früh 2 09:00 - 16:30, W																					
LHKA W früh 3 09:00 - 16:30, W																					
LHKA W früh 4 09:00 - 16:30, W																					
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																					
▼ Verfügbare Einheit 1																					
Aliti, Nils Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Andenmatten, Rade Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Arias, Derrik Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Balmelli, Abdellatif Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Barone, George Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Binggeli, Sunshine Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Bongard, Sylas Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Bozic, Alleyn Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Buff, Deerdre Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					
Buntschu, Anders Funktion, Gruppe, Info																					

2 Select employee / individual days

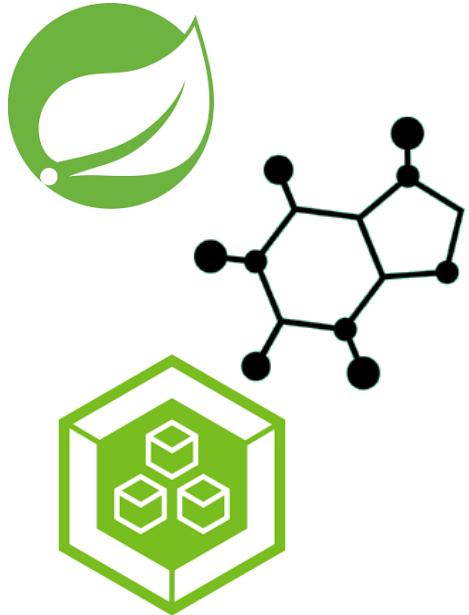
Key learnings



- ✓ 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

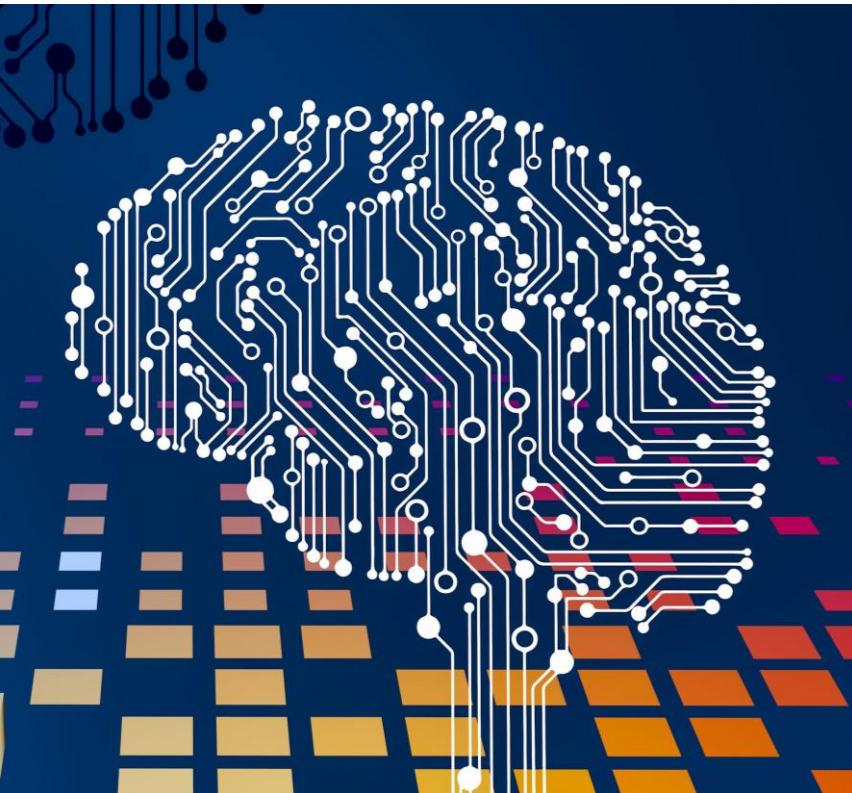
Wrap up



- 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

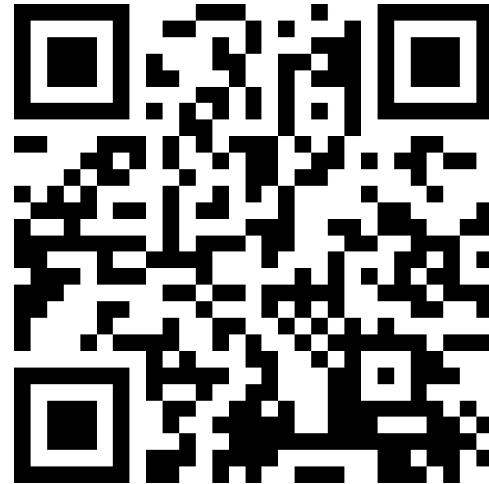
Author of «the blue book»

Questions?

Happy coding!



Spring Modulith



jMolecules



spring-ddd-starter

stefan.heinzer@elca.ch

Contact

Stefan Heinzer

Architecture BL

stefan.heinzer@elca.ch

Thank you!

ELCA Informatique SA

Lausanne 021 613 21 11 | Genève 022 307 15 11

ELCA Informatik AG

Zürich 044 456 32 11 | Bern 031 556 63 11 | Basel 044 456 32 11

www.elca.ch