



*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



DDD is  
**letting the  
code talk  
business**

## How

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

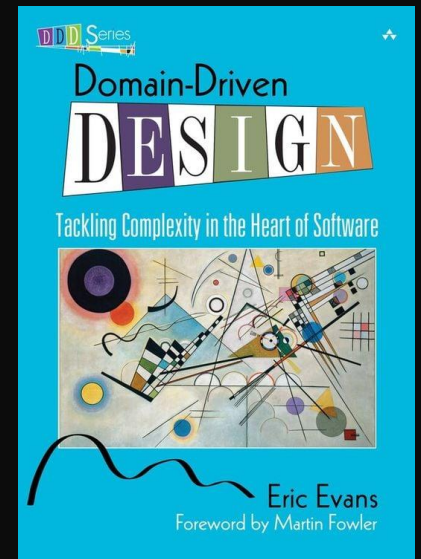




*"The heart of software is its ability to solve domain-related problems for its users."*

**Eric Evans**

Author of «the blue book»



## What you will learn in this talk

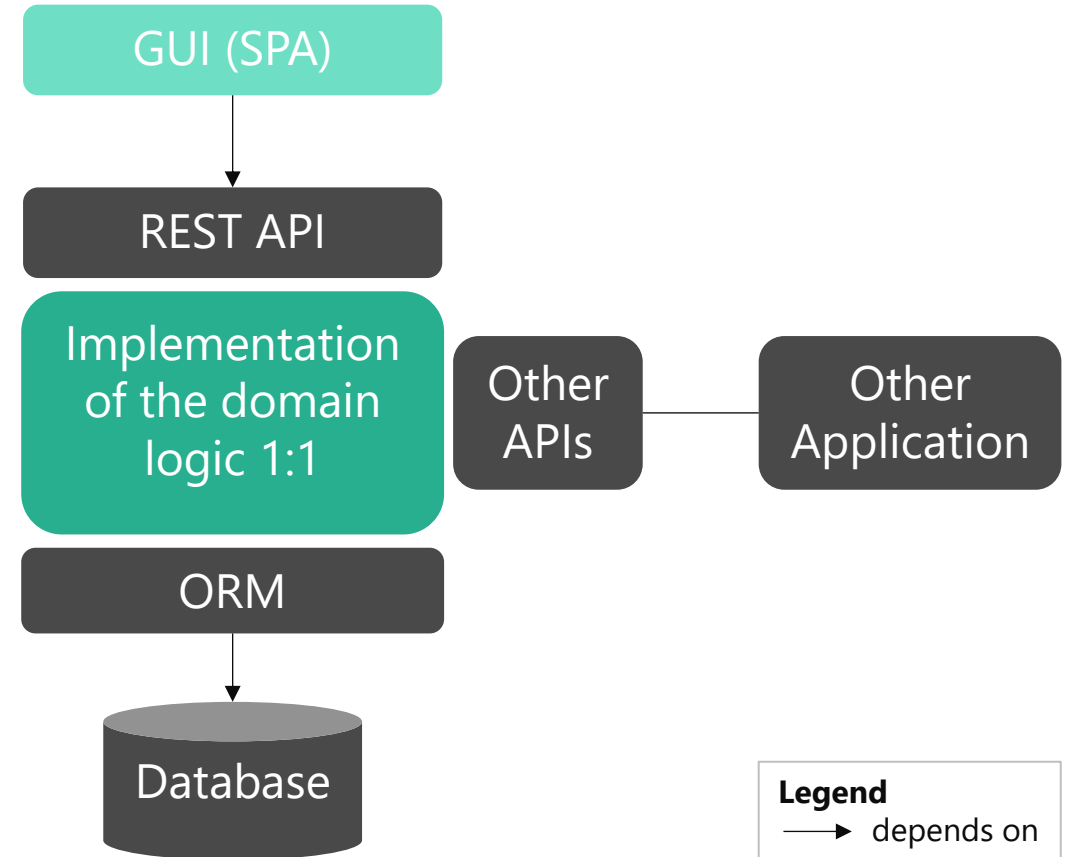
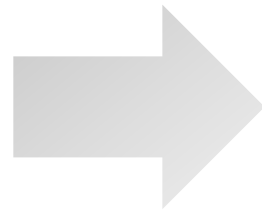
- 1 — Structure the code
- 2 — Implement the domain
- 3 — Add persistence and web API
- 4 — DDD at scale

# Our Task



## Event Model

- Aggregates
- Commands
- Domain events









# Sample Domain: planeZ

Startup «planeZ»

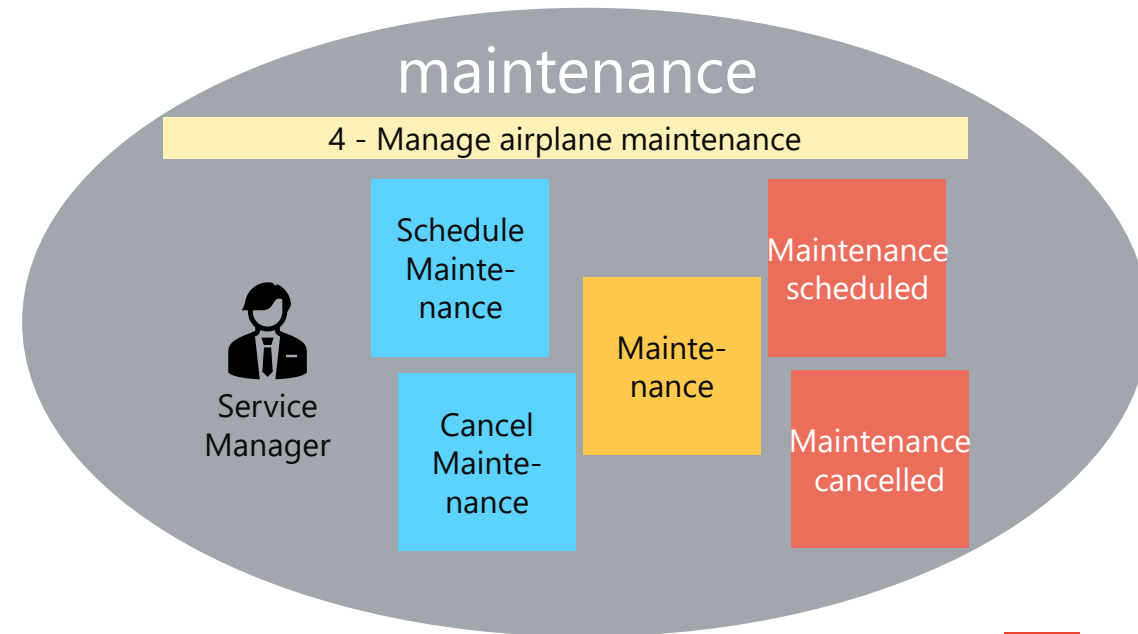
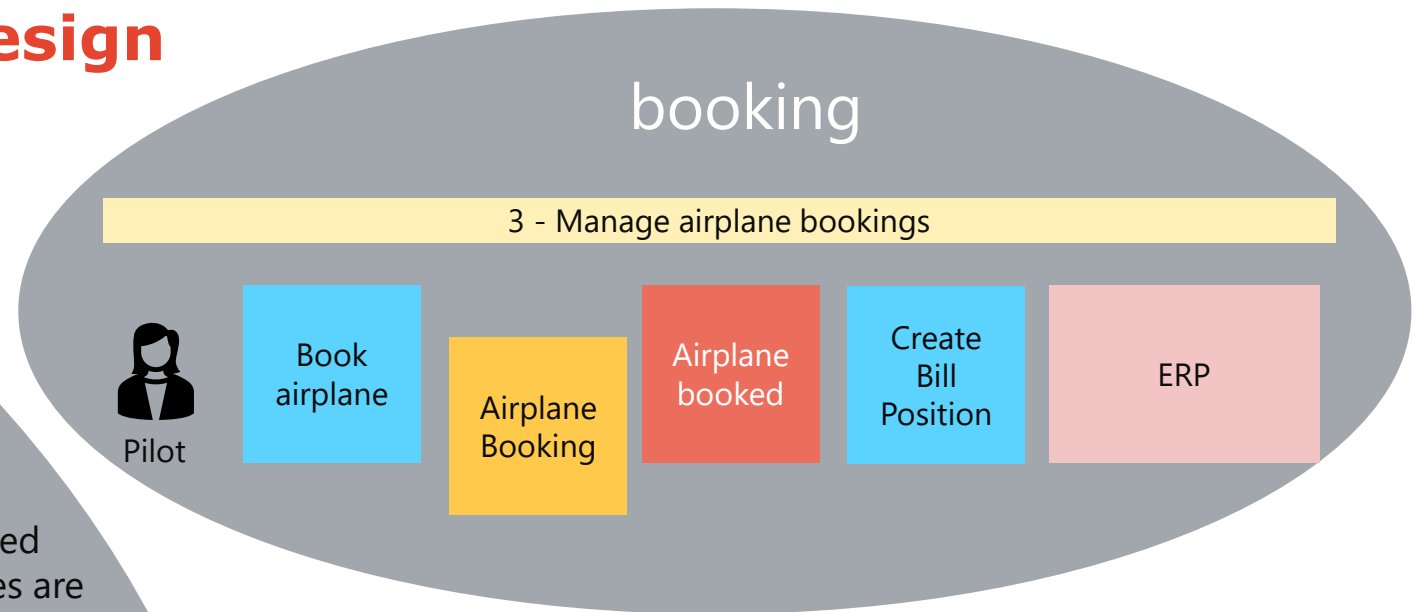
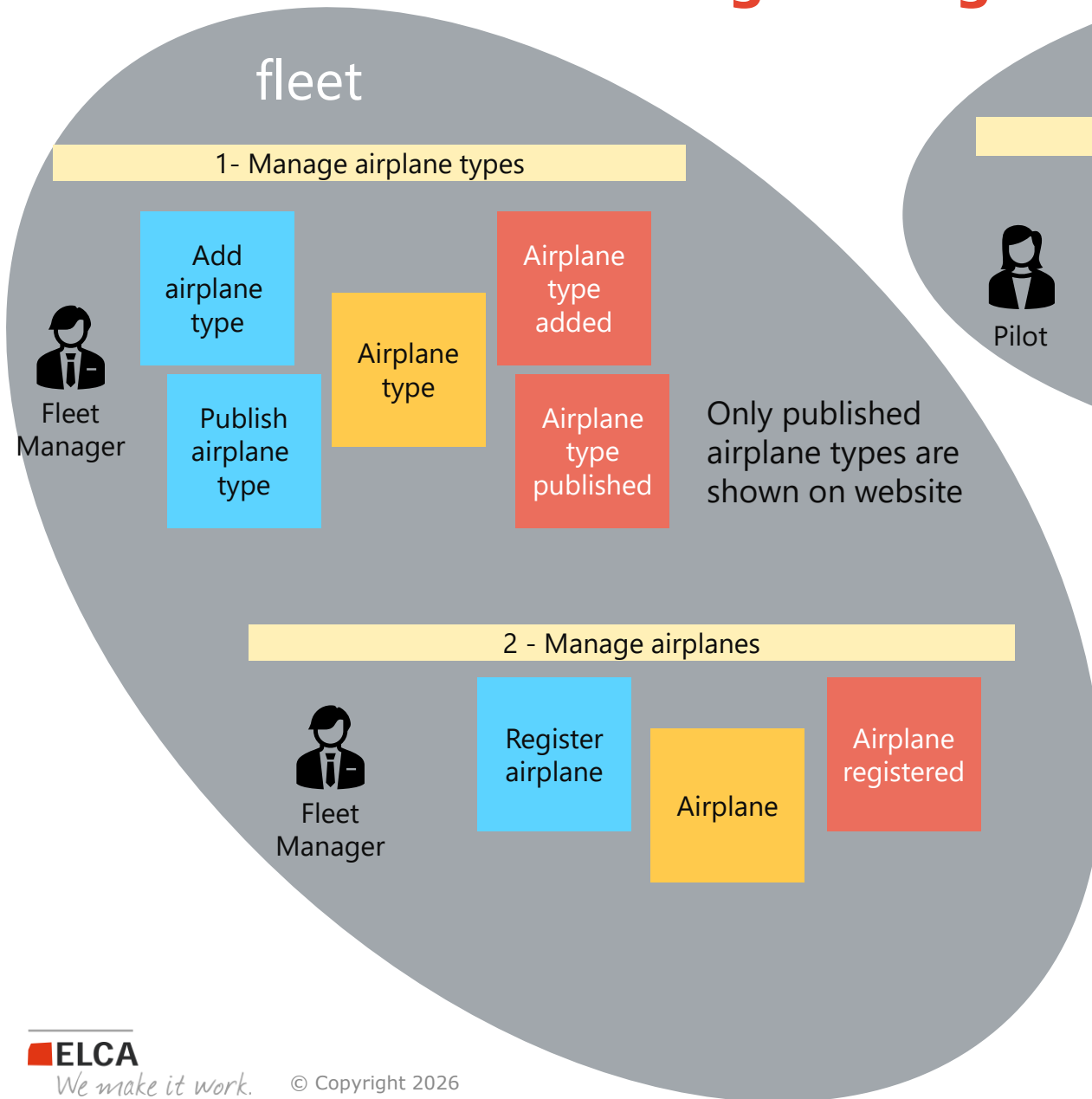
## Rent airplanes with net zero emission

- 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



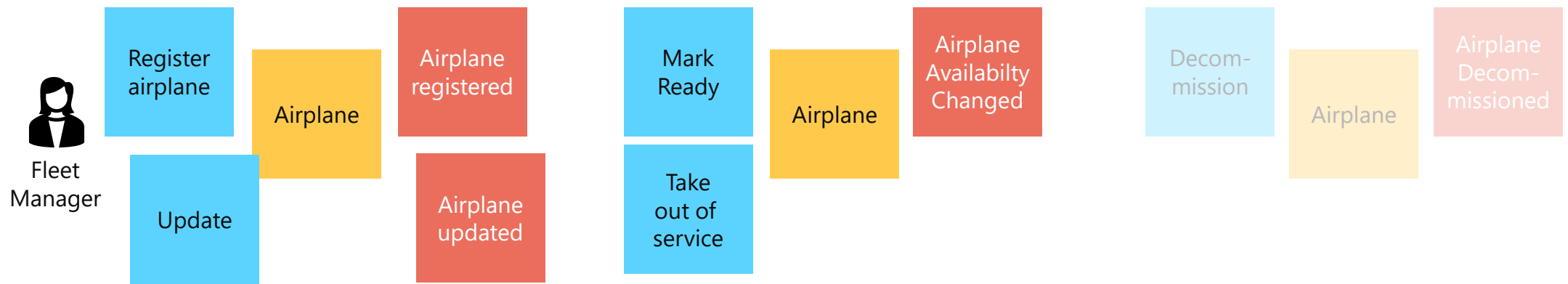


# Event model – airplane context

## 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/



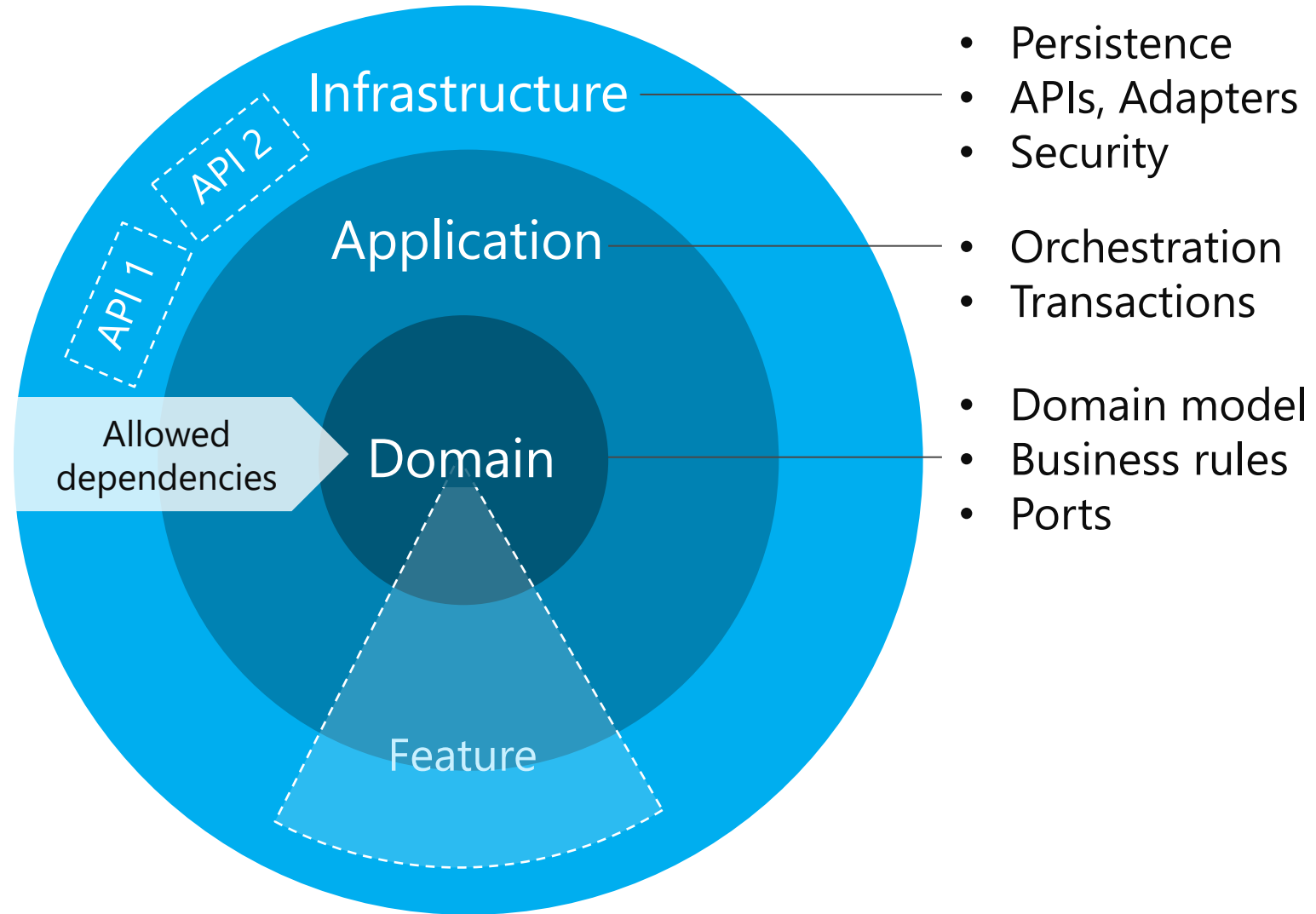
Are you kidding?

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
- Decoupling events from transactions and guaranteed event delivery
- Ready to scale out to micro-services



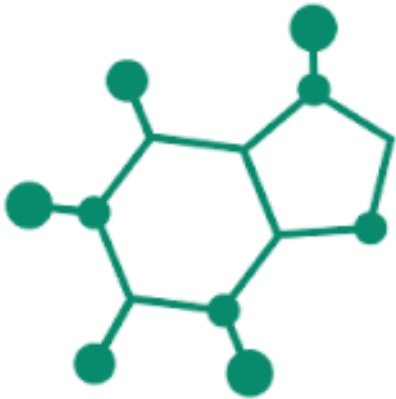
Oliver Drotbohm  
ex. Spring Data



Book on Leanpub  
66% complete



# jMolecules – “Architecturally evident code”



## 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**

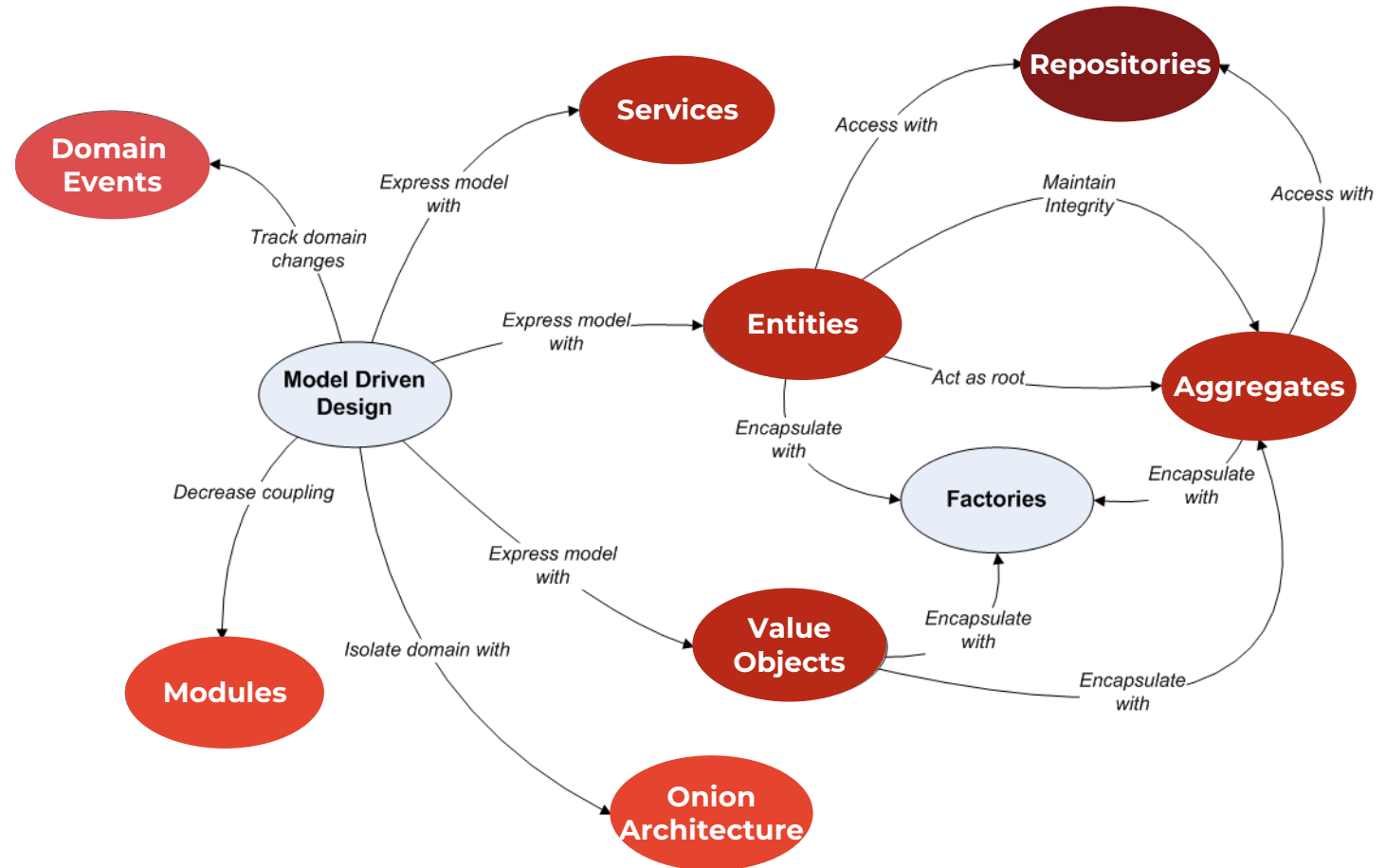


Oliver Drotbohm

- 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

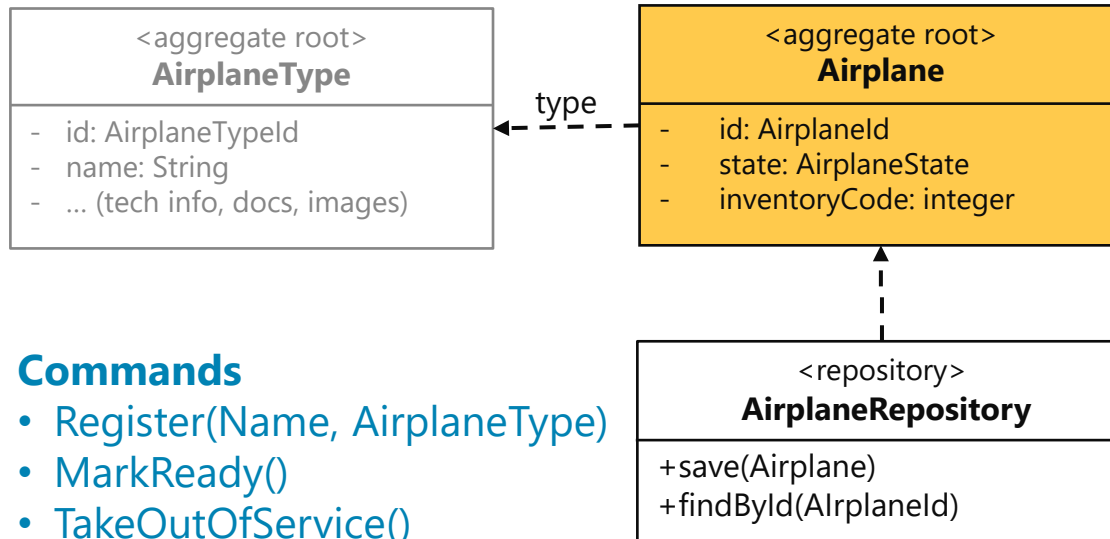




# Airplane model 0.1

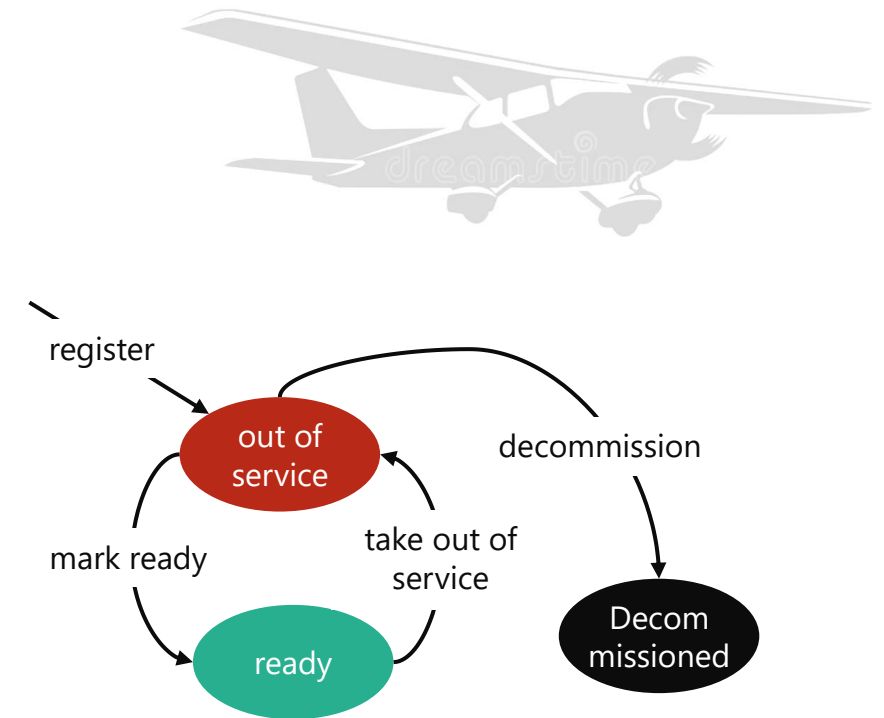
## Business Rules

- 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:** Shows the project structure with folders like `_infrastructure`, `airplane`, `booking`, `common`, `commands`, `logging`, and `model`. The `airplane` folder is expanded, showing `Airplane`, `AirplaneCommand`, `AirplaneEvent`, `Airplanes`, and `package-info.java`.
- Code Editor:** Displays the `Airplane.java` file. The code includes package declarations, imports, annotations like `@Getter` and `@AllArgsConstructor`, and the implementation of the `Airplane` class and its `create` method.
- Run Console:** Shows the output of the build process, including log messages like `[INFO] Processing class files located in in: /Users/stefanheinzer/Development/de` and `[INFO] BUILD SUCCESS`.

A large white text overlay "Let's code!" is diagonally across the code editor.

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for `sth77 / spring-ddd-starter`. The page includes navigation links for `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>
</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 ③ 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 @ExposesResourceFor(Airplane.class)
30 @SecurityRequirement(name = "basicAuth")
31 public class AirplaneCommandController {

```

5 Run all operations in transaction

1 Hook into Spring Data REST

```

32
33     private final Airplanes airplanes;
34
35     @Secured("ROLE_USER")
36     @PostMapping("/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     }

```

2 Secure operations

```

41
42     @Secured("ROLE_USER")
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     }

```

3 Take command as input

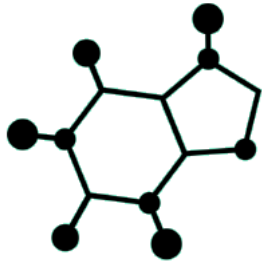
4 Execute command on domain model

```

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) {
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     }

```

# 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!

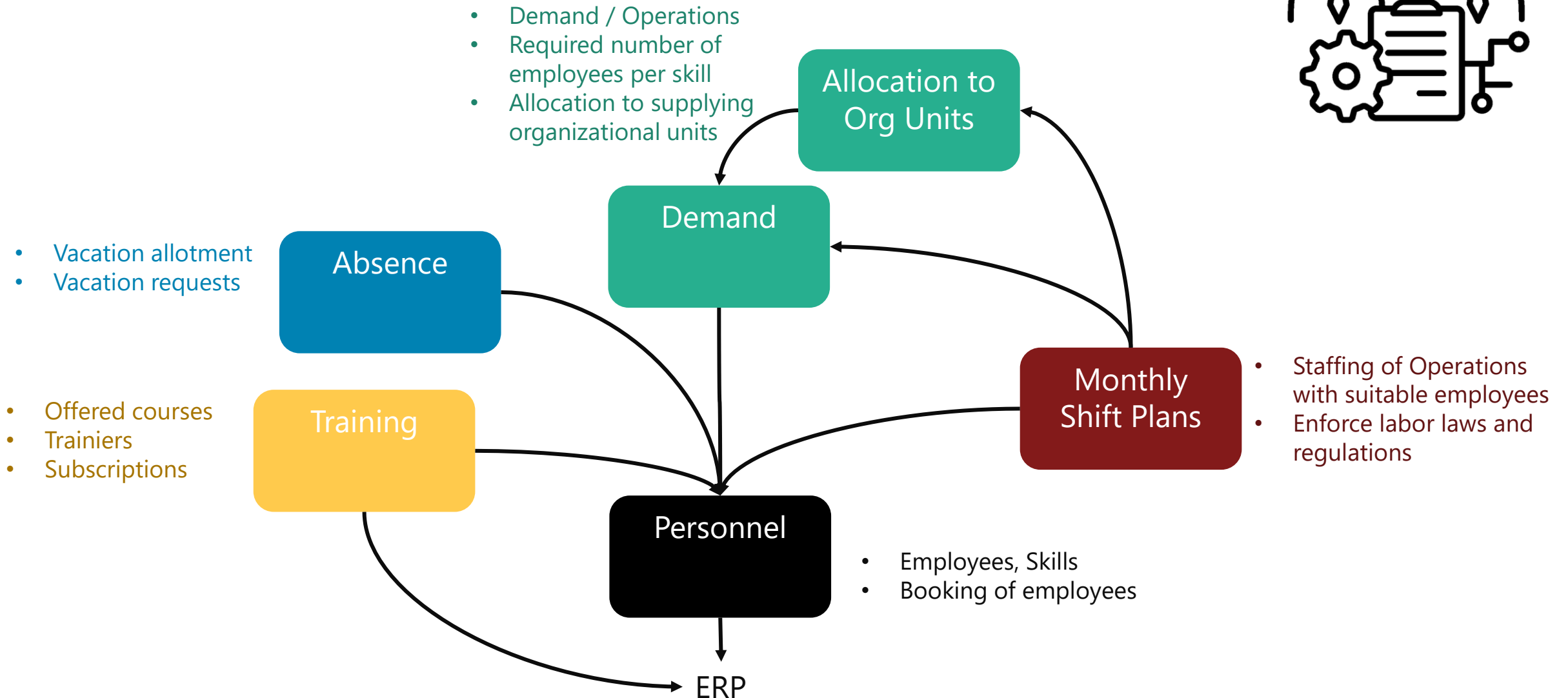
→ Lean & crisp



- 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

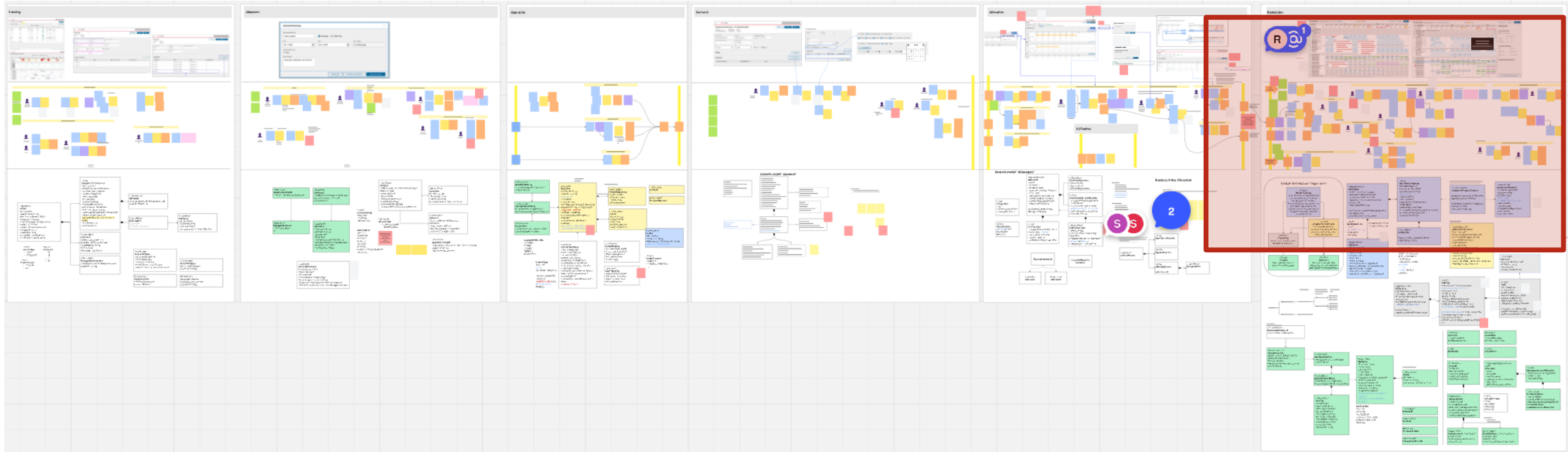
Absence

Employee

Demand

Allocation

Disposition



## 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:

Dispositions

Shifts

Dispositions

Shift slots  
(location, skills,  
time)

Employee  
Assignments

Employees

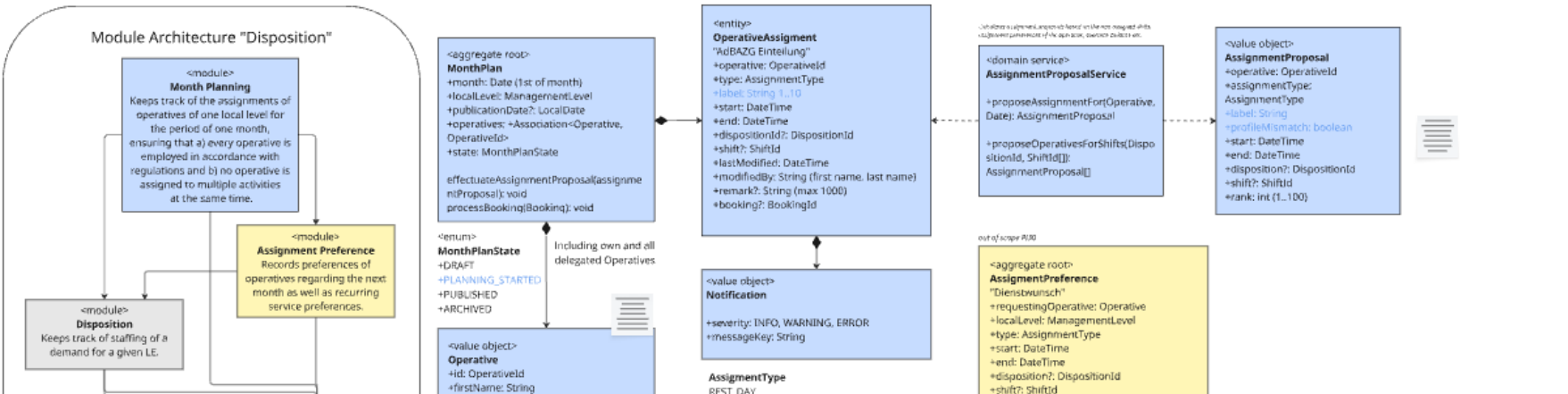
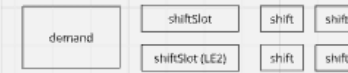
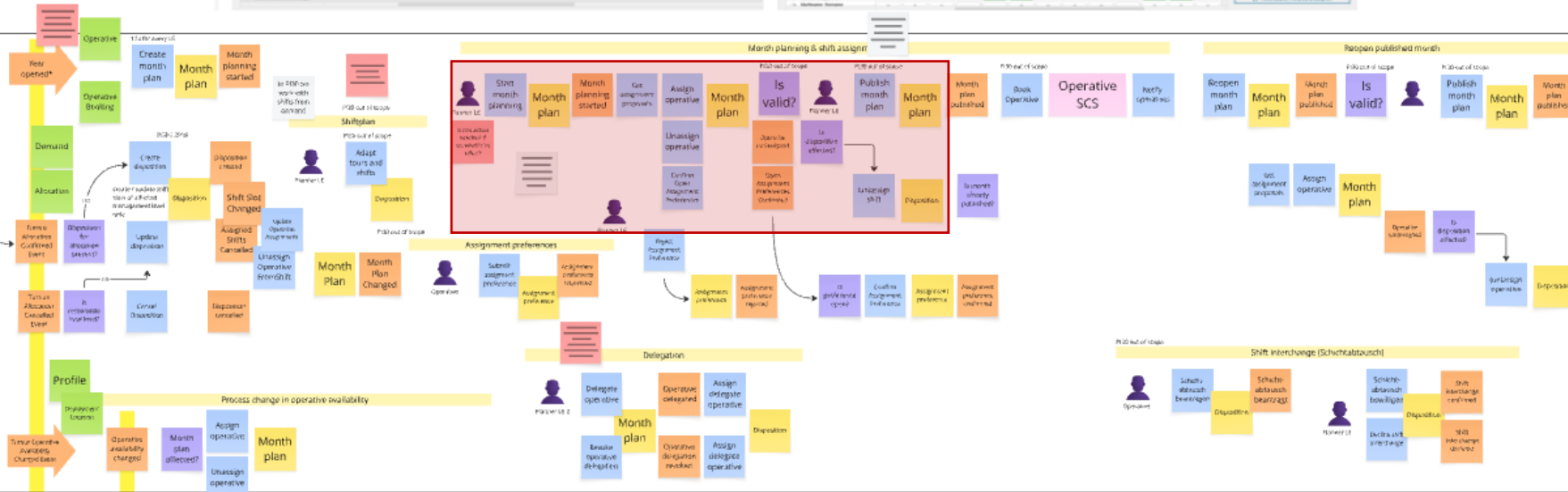
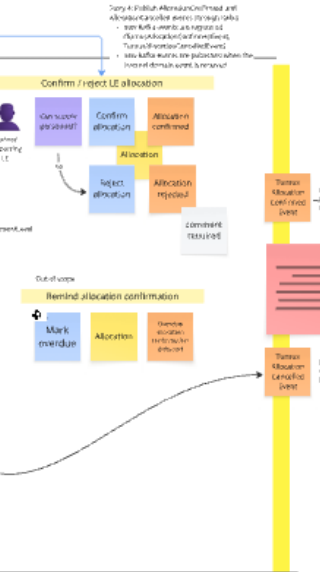


**Observation:** Need two views on shifts:

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

Month Plan

## Disposition







Planner LE

Start  
month  
planning

Month  
plan

Month  
planning  
started

Get  
assignment  
proposals

Assign  
Employee

Month  
plan

Unassign  
Employee

Confirm  
Open  
Assignment  
Preferences

Employee  
(un)assigned

Open  
Assignment  
Preferences  
Confirmed

Is  
disposition  
affected?

(un)assign  
shift

Disposition



**ELCA**  
*We make it work.*

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Einsätze:

...

W 36

Mo 01.09.

Di 02.09.

Mi 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

1

LAUZ P normal 1

04:00 - 12:00, P

1

LAUZ P normal 2

04:00 - 12:00, P

1

LHKA W früh 1

09:00 - 16:30, W

1

LHKA W früh 2

09:00 - 16:30, W

1

LHKA W früh 3

09:00 - 16:30, W

1

LHKA W früh 4

09:00 - 16:30, W

1

LHKA W spät 1

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 2

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 3

16:30 - 00:00, W

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LHKA W spät 4

16:30 - 00:00, W

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LAUZ P normal 1

04:00 - 12:00, P

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LAUZ P normal 2

04:00 - 12:00, P

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LHKA W früh 1

09:00 - 16:30, W

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LHKA W früh 2

09:00 - 16:30, W

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LHKA W früh 3

09:00 - 16:30, W

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LHKA W früh 4

09:00 - 16:30, W

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LHKA W spät 1

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 2

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 3

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 4

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

Select shifts to assign

> Verfügbare Einheit 1

Abdulah, 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

Mo 01.09.

Di 02.09.

Mi 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.

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Fr 19.09.

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LAUZ P normal 1

04:00 - 12:00, P

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LAUZ P normal 2

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LHKA W früh 4

09:00 - 16:30, W

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LHKA W spät 1

16:30 - 00:00, W

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LHKA W spät 2

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 3

16:30 - 00:00, W

1

LHKA W spät 4

16:30 - 00:00, W

2

Select employee / individual days

> 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, Alley

Funktion, Gruppe, Info

+

Buff, Deerdre

Funktion, Gruppe, Info

+

Buntschu, Anders

Funktion, Gruppe, Info

+

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, Alley

Funktion, Gruppe, Info

+

Buff, Deerdre

Funktion, Gruppe, Info

+

Buntschu, Anders

Funktion, Gruppe, Info

2 Select employee / individual days

# Key learnings

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- ✓ 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

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- 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!

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**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](http://www.elca.ch)**