



# From APIs to Microservices: Design and Build

Mike Amundsen, API Academy, CA Technologies @mamund

July 2017

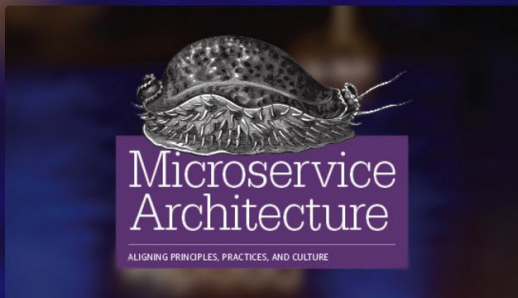




Mike Amundsen  
@mamund



## EBOOK



# MICROSERVICE ARCHITECTURE: ALIGNING PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES & CULTURE

DESIGN AND APPLY MICROSERVICES TO EMBRACE CONTINUAL  
CHANGE IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

READ MORE

# <http://g.mamund.com/msabook>

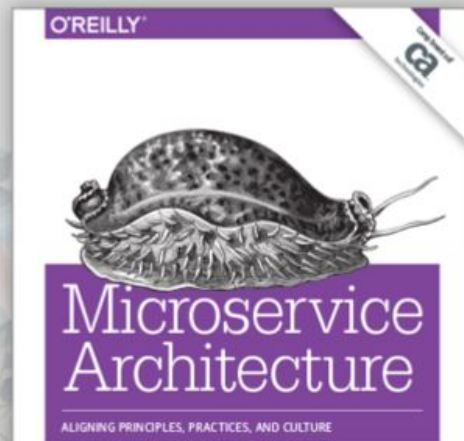


## Microservice Architecture: Aligning Principles, Practices, and Culture

Microservices is the next evolution in software architecture designed to help organizations embrace continual change in the digital economy. But how do you design and apply an effective microservice architecture?

This new book from O'Reilly provides comprehensive guidance through seven valuable chapters that give you a deep-dive into:

- The benefits and principles of microservices
- A design-based approach to microservice architecture
- Lessons for applying microservices in practice



# Overview

- The Business of APIs
- Microservices
- The Value of Design
- An API Design Methodology
- Three-Steps to API Implementation



```
1 <alps>
2 <doc>Simple Banking Example</doc>
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9 </descriptor>
10 <descriptor id="updatePreferences" type="Idempotent">
11 <descriptor href="#accountId" />
12 <descriptor href="#preference" />
13 </descriptor>
14 <!-- structures -->
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17 <descriptor href="#value" />
18 <descriptor href="#name" />
19 </descriptor>
```



# The Business of APIs



# API

abbreviation

1. application programming interface





GET /weather



```
{  
  "city": "London",  
  "temp": 22  
}
```

# APIs allow us to unlock hidden business value

- Create New Applications
- Identify New Revenue Streams
- Initiate New Businesses



A photograph of a forest path made of logs. The path is composed of many large, light-colored logs laid out in a winding pattern on a forest floor covered with fallen leaves and green moss. The trees are tall and thin, with dark trunks, and the overall atmosphere is dark and serene. The text "good APIs make interaction easy" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

good APIs make interaction easy

# Typical Mobile App

**Frontend  
(client)**

**Backend  
(server)**



user input



Build page and send

temperature data (by location)

layout, graphics and text

# Powered by APIs

**Frontend**  
**(client)**

**Backend**  
**(server)**



user input

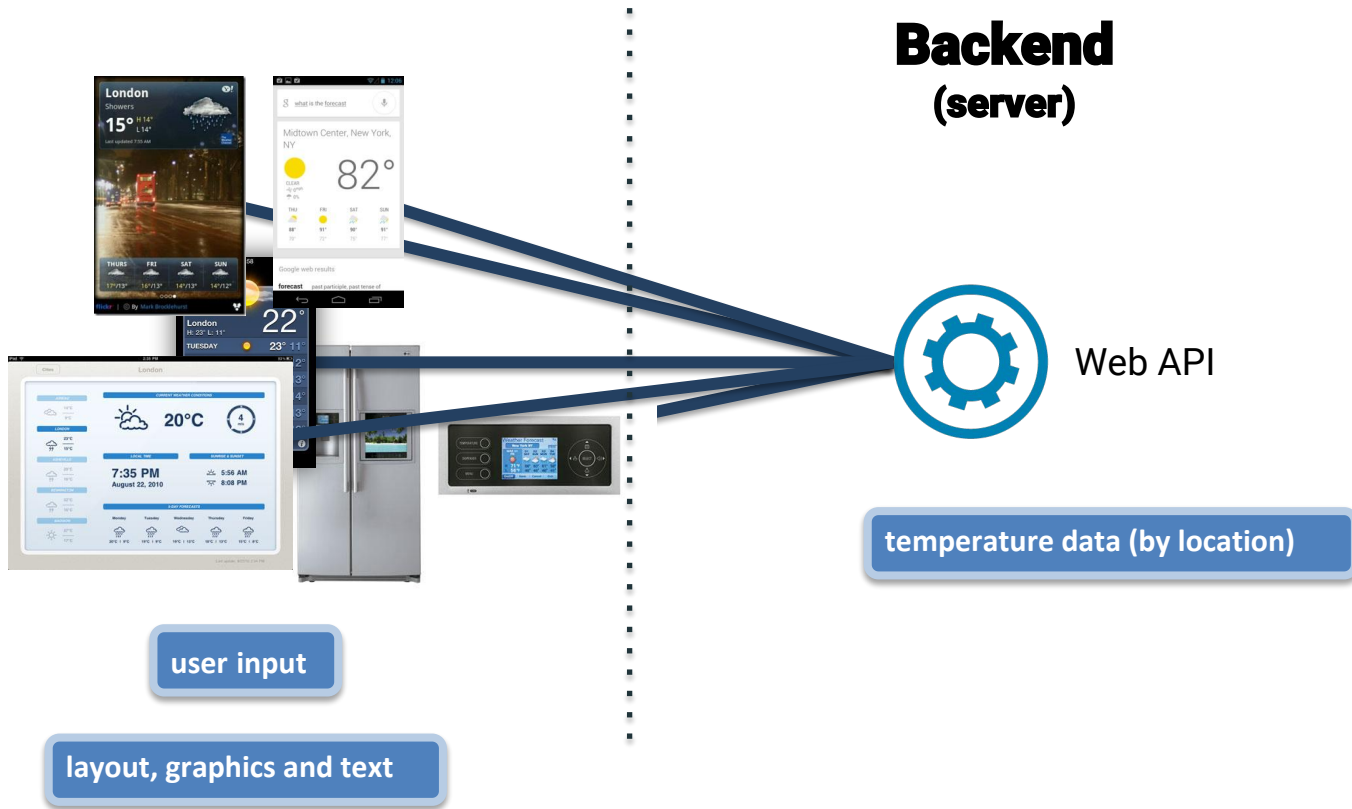
layout, graphics and text



Web API

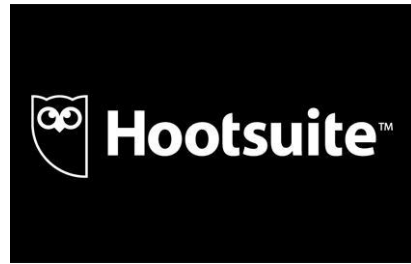
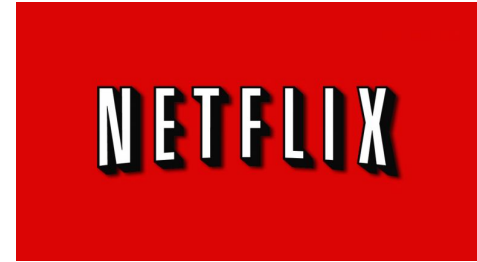
temperature data (by location)

# APIs enable Multi-channel Delivery



# Microservices

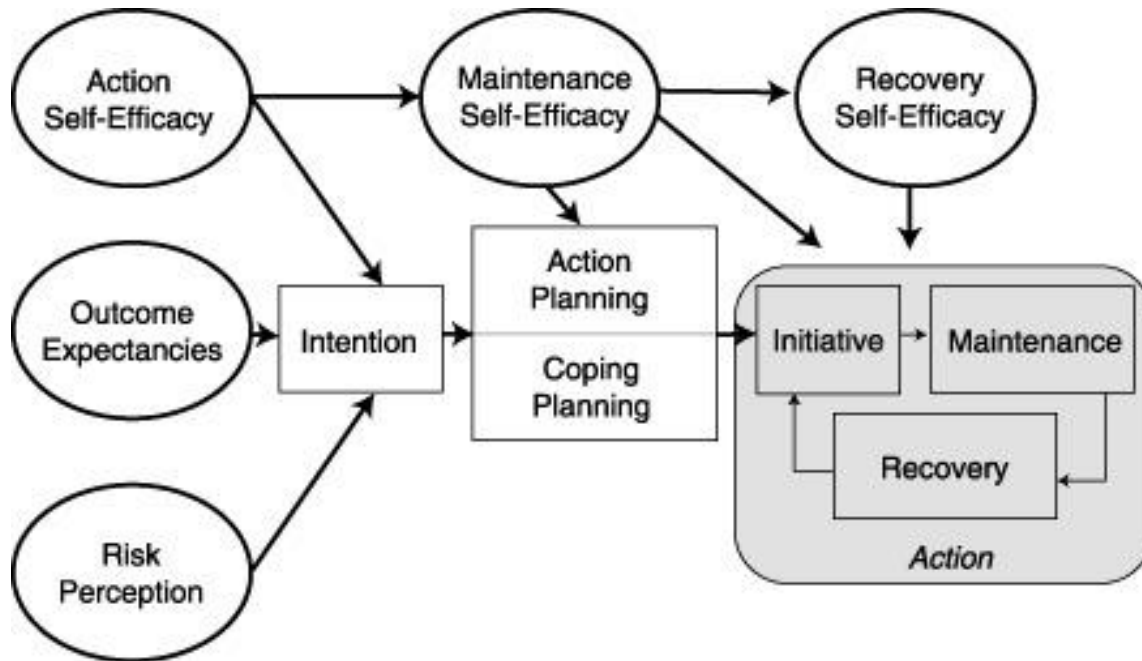


















FLY CALIFORNIA



**VAULT DOOR**

WEIGHT: 22 1/2 Tons

THICKNESS: 22 Inches

STEEL: 11 Layers of Special  
Cutting and Drill Resistant

LOCKS: 4 Hamilton Watch  
Movements for Time Locks



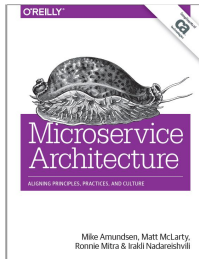




# Balancing Speed and Safety at Scale

# The Microservice Way

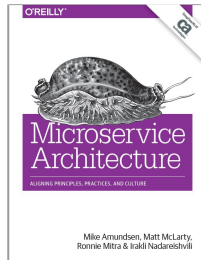
A ***microservice*** is an independently deployable component of bounded scope that supports interoperability through message-based communication.



# The Microservice Way

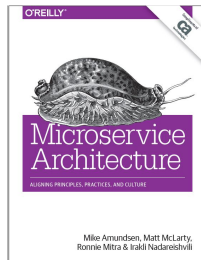
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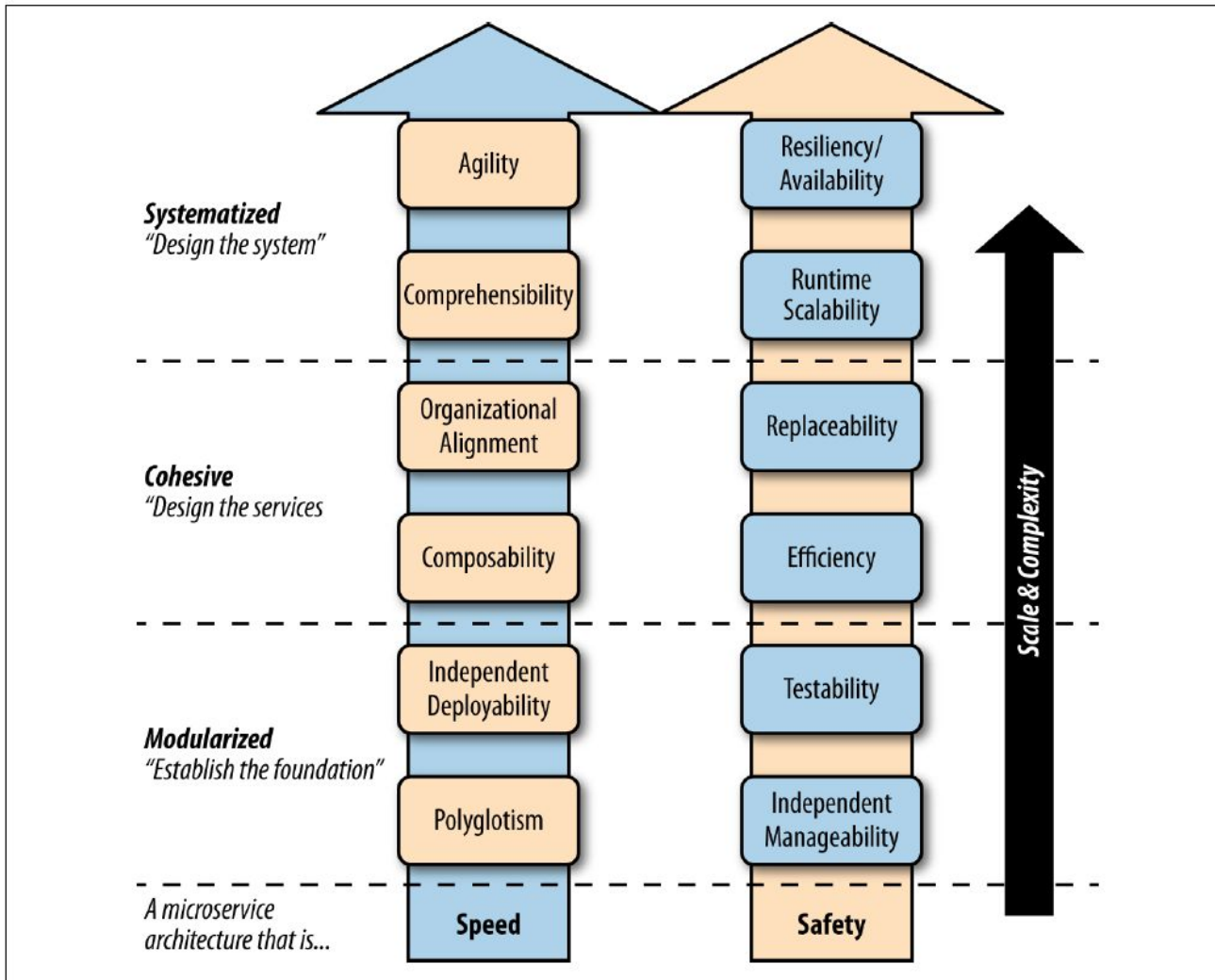
***Microservice architecture*** is a style of engineering highly automated, evolvable software systems made up of capability-aligned microservices.



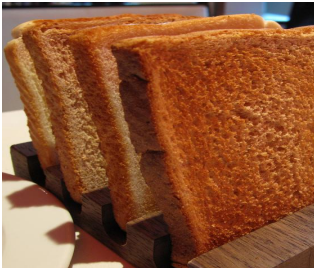
# The Microservice Way

- Microservices are ideal for **big systems**
- Microservice architecture is **goal-oriented**
- Microservices focus on **replaceability**





# The Value of Design



“ Few people think about it or are aware of it. But there is nothing made by human beings that does not involve a design decision somewhere. ”

Bill Moggridge  
Interaction Design Pioneer



# Functionality, Usability, and User Experience: Three Areas of Concern

Niamh McNamara | University College Cork, Ireland | [n.mcnamara@ucc.ie](mailto:n.mcnamara@ucc.ie)

Jurek Kirakowski | University College Cork, Ireland | [jzk@ucc.ie](mailto:jzk@ucc.ie)

**design**

Functionality

Usability

Experience



A stack of four slices of golden-brown toast is presented on a dark wooden toast rack. The toast has a slightly textured, porous appearance. The rack is placed on a light-colored table. In the background, a white bowl, a white napkin, and a silver spoon are visible, suggesting a dining setting. The word "toast" is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow font in the center of the image.

toast

# Functionality



# Usability



# Experience



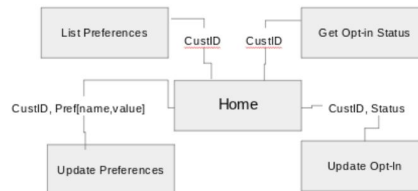
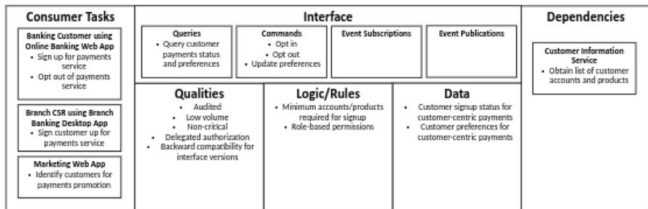
# An API Design Methodology

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2 <doc>Simple Banking Example</doc>
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# An API Design Methodology

## *A repeatable process to govern the creation of interfaces*

- Produce a Service Canvas
- Draw a Diagram
- Apply Vocabularies
- Create Description Document

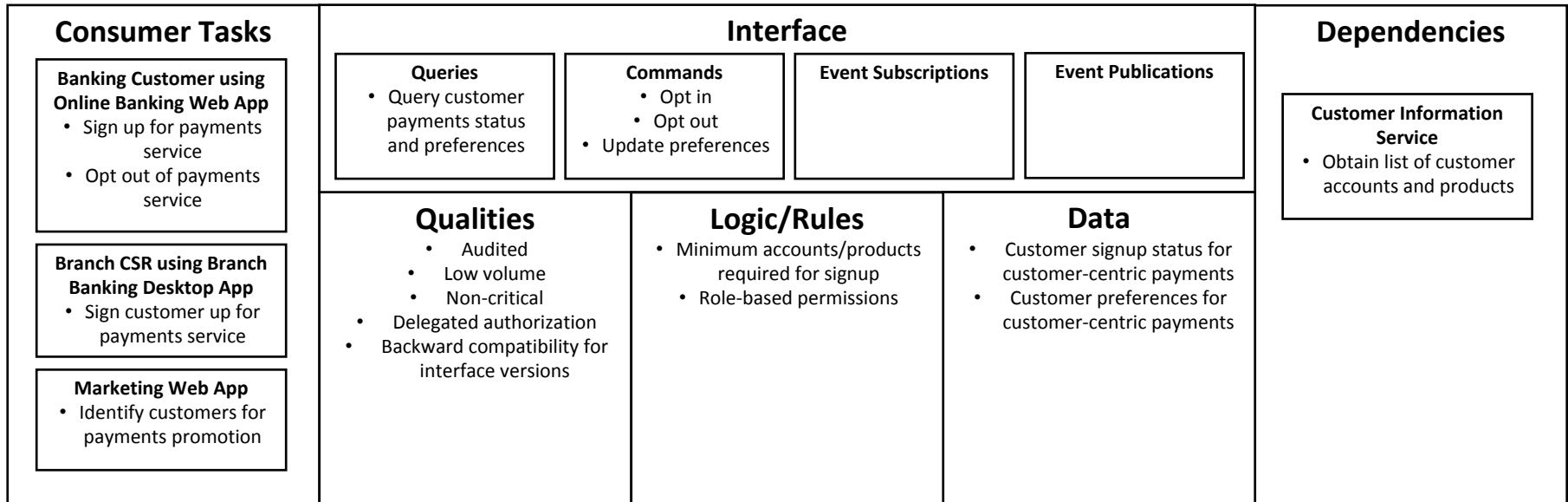


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# Produce a Service Canvas

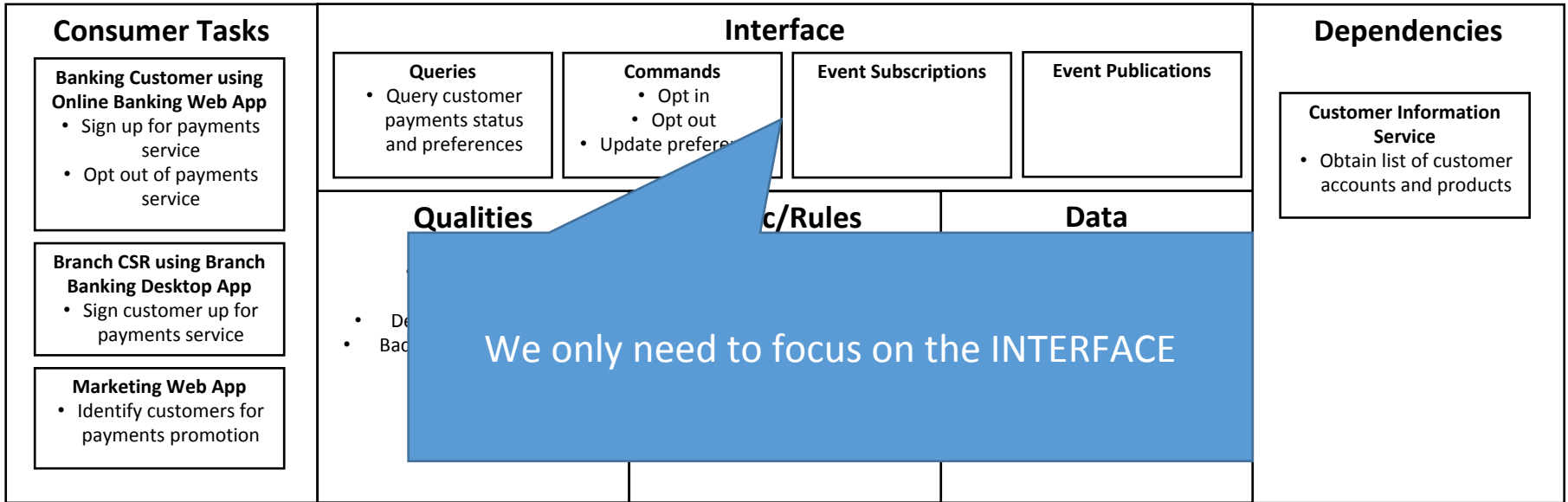
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# Design Canvas: Customer-centric Payments Management Service



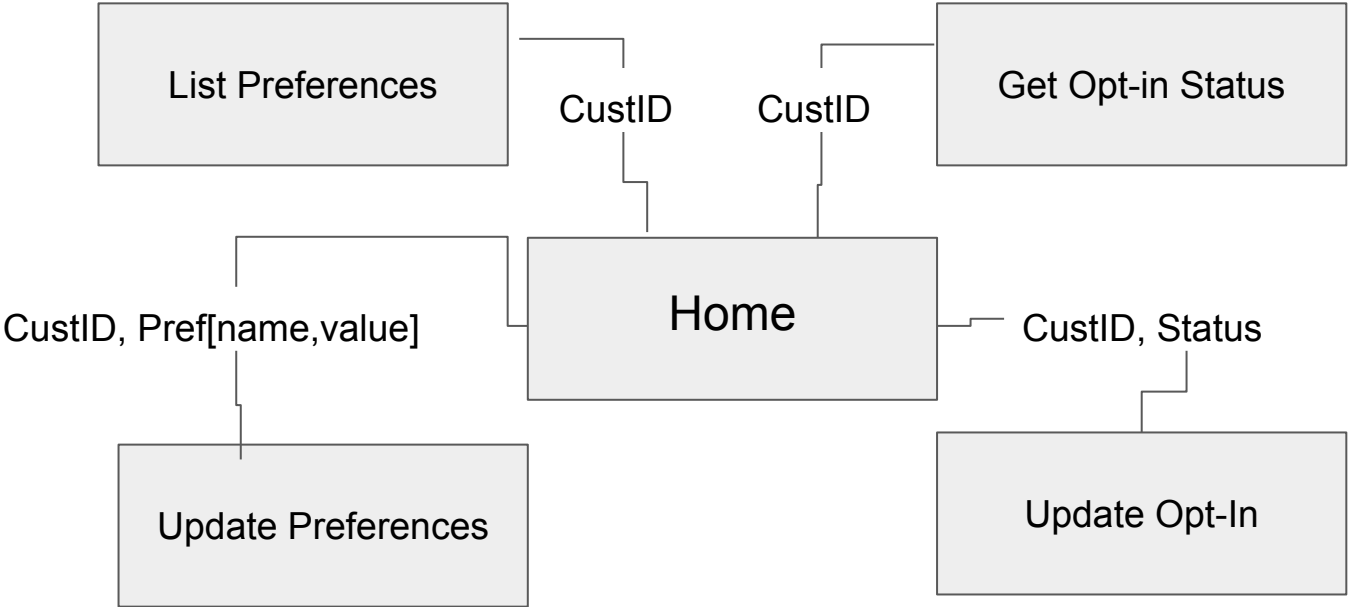


# List all the Actions



# Draw a Diagram

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# Apply Vocabularies

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# Sources for Vocabularies

- IANA Link Relation Values
- schema.org
- microformats
- Dublin Core
- Activity Streams
- Industry Vocabularies (BIAN, etc.)
- Your Enterprise Vocabularies

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# Before Applying Vocabularies

- CustID,
- CustomerName,
- AccountName,
- AccountType
- Optin-Status(in, out)
- Preference(Name, Value, Prompt)
- GetStatus
- GetPreferences
- UpdateStatus
- UpdatePreferences

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# After Applying Vocabularies

- `BankAccount.identifier,`
- `Customer.familyName,`
- `Customer.givenName,`
- `BankAccount.name,`
- `BankAccount.category`
- `ActionStatus("in", "out")`
- `ItemList(identifier, value, name)`
- **GetStatus**
- **GetPreferences**
- **UpdateStatus**
- **UpdatePreferences**

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# Create a Description Document

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# Description vs. Definitions

- Describing the interface doesn't define it.
- Description languages
  - ALPS
  - DCAP
  - JSON Home

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# Description vs. Definitions

- Describing the interface doesn't define it.
- Description languages
  - ALPS
  - DCAP
  - JSON Home
- Definition languages
  - WSDL
  - Swagger
  - RAML
  - Blueprint

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# Description vs. Definitions

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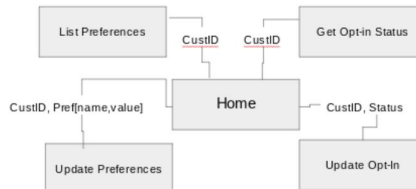
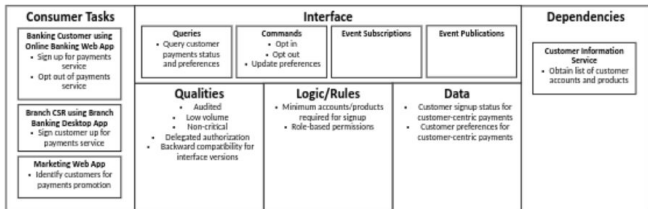
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# Design Artifacts

- Service Canvas
- Diagram
- Description Document

*Check these into source control*



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# Three Steps to API Implementation



# Implementing APIs

- APIs are Interfaces, Not Functionality
- Implementing APIs means translating the Design
- Three-phase API Implementation
  - Sketching
  - Prototyping
  - Building



# APIs are Interfaces

- You're not designing the functionality of a service
- You MAY already have that functionality somewhere
- You MAY need to create the functionality
- Focus on the "API-First"





# You MAY already have the functionality

- Your job is to act as a "proxy" between the interface design and the existing functionality
- Identify the existing functionality (e.g. the MSC or portion of a monolith)



# You MAY need to create the functionality

- Your job is to act as a "guide" for the new functionality
- Offer a "shell" for future functionality
- Be prepared to do conversions



# API First, API Forever

- Assume the API will not change, but the implementation details will
- Once released to production, it is easier to modify functionality than interfaces



# trans·late

/trans'lāt, tranz'lāt/ 

*verb*

verb: **translate**; 3rd person present: **translates**; past tense: **translated**; past participle: **translated**; gerund or present participle: **translating**

1. express the sense of (words or text) in another language.  
"the German original has been **translated into** English"  
*synonyms:* render, put, express, convert, change; [More](#)



# Translating the Design

- Translations are always approximate
- In many cases we "lose something in the translation..."
- API styles affect translation
  - SOAP
  - CRUD
  - Hypermedia
  - Reactive
- Don't worry if the translation is not exact.



# Three-Phase API Implementation



# Three-Phase API Implementation

- To reduce cost and risk, take a three-phase approach
- **Sketching** - disposable experiments
- **Prototyping** - testable examples
- **Building** - production implementation



# Reduce Cost and Risk in API Implementation

- Implementation can be costly
- Mistakes may be uncovered along the way
- Uncover mistakes early when they are inexpensive to fix
- Put off writing code for as long as possible.



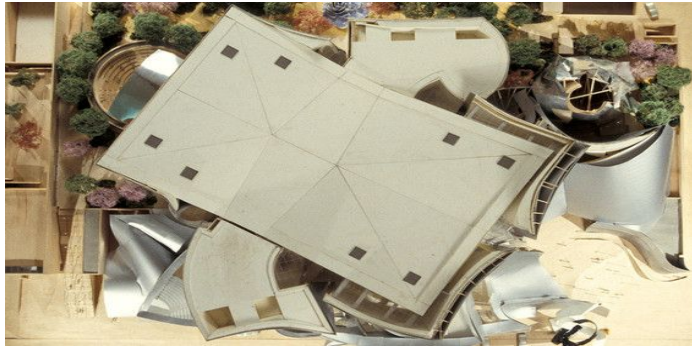
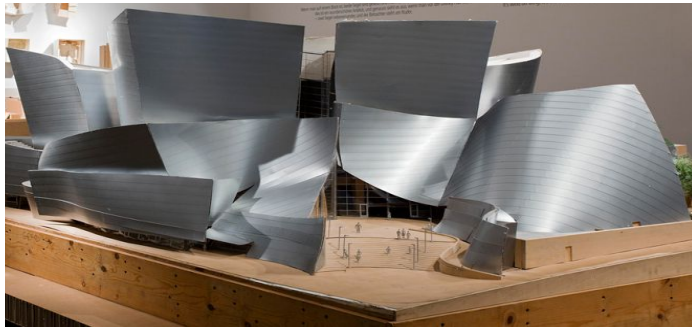


# Frank Gehry

An architect is given a program, budget, place, and schedule. Sometimes the end product rises to art



# Frank Gehry



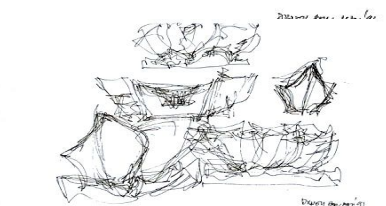
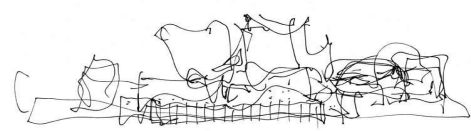
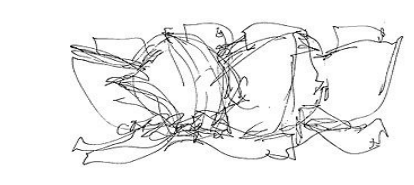
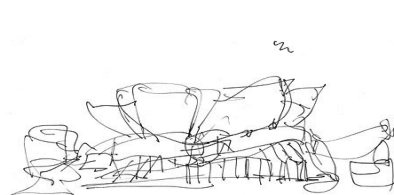
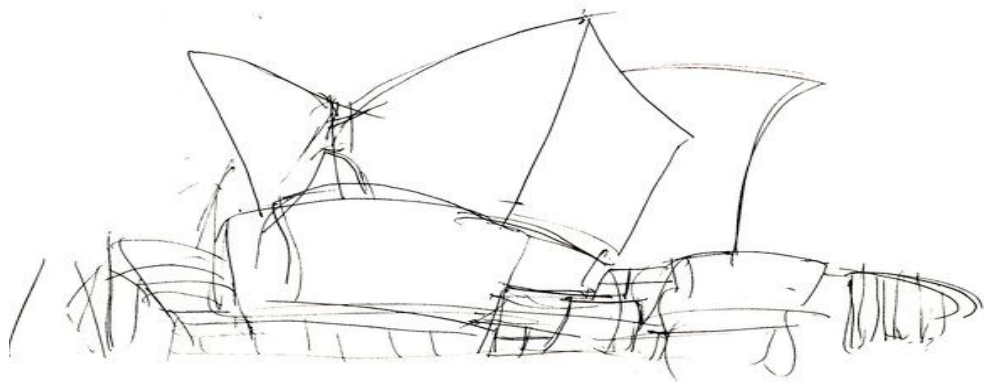
# sketch

/skeCH/ 

*noun*

1. a rough or unfinished drawing or painting, often made to assist in making a more finished picture.  
"a charcoal sketch"  
*synonyms:* (preliminary) drawing, **outline**; [More](#)





Sketchy sketchy sketchy

# Sketching APIs

- Sketches are terse, rough drawings
- They give the general idea of a thing but lack important details.
- Usually, one can glean the basics from a sketch but
- Sketches usually are just explorations of ideas, not fully-formed items.



# Apiary Blueprint



Hypermedia Banking API  
Yours

Documentation Traffic Inspector Editor



Ronnie



API Blueprint Syntax Tutorial

Valid API Blueprint



Preview

Save API Blueprint

```
1 |FORMAT: 1A
2 |HOST: http://www.google.com
3 |
4 | # Hypermedia Banking API
5 | Notes API is a *short texts saving* service similar to its physical paper presence on your table.
6 |
7 | # Group Notes
8 | Notes related resources of the **Notes API**
9 |
10 | ## Notes Collection [/notes]
11 | ### List all Notes [GET]
12 | + Response 200 (application/json)
13 |
14 |     [
15 |         {
16 |             "id": 1, "title": "Jogging in park"
17 |         }
18 |     ]
```

# Sketching APIs

- Use tools like Apiary Editor to create a sketch.
- Show it to others (devs, stakeholders) and get their feedback.
- If possible use simple API consumer tools (curl, NodeJS, etc.) to test.
- Continue to modify the simple sketches as needed




***Sketches are made to be thrown away.***





# pro·to·type

/'prōdə,tīp/ 

*noun*

1. a first, typical or preliminary model of something, especially a machine, from which other forms are developed or copied.  
"the firm is testing a prototype of the weapon"







# Prototyping APIs

- Prototypes look like the real thing, but are not. They're "fakes."
- They let you work up something with all the details of a real API, but without the actual functionality behind it.
- They're an inexpensive way to work out the details
- Use them to discover challenges before you go into production.



# Swagger Editor

The image shows the Swagger Editor interface. On the left, a code editor displays a Swagger specification for a 'TODO List API'. The specification includes details like version (1.0.1), host (api.todos.com), and a 'get' endpoint for '/todos' with a 'page' query parameter. On the right, the rendered API documentation is visible, showing the title 'TODO List API', a description 'The Power of TODOs in an API', and the version '1.0.1'. It also features a 'User' tag, a 'Paths' section for '/todos', and a detailed view of the 'GET /todos' endpoint, including a summary, parameters table, and responses section.

```
1 {
2   "swagger": "2.0",
3   "info": {
4     "title": "TODO List API",
5     "description": "The Power of TODOs in an API",
6     "version": "1.0.1"
7   },
8   "host": "api.todos.com",
9   "schemes": [
10    "https"
11  ],
12  "basePath": "/v1.0.1/api",
13  "produces": [
14    "application/json",
15  ],
16  "paths": {
17    "/todos": {
18      "get": {
19        "summary": "Use this call to get a list of all todo
20        items",
21        "parameters": [
22          {
23            "name": "page",
24            "in": "query",
25            "description": "Requested page number.
26            Defaults to 1.",
27            "required": false,
28            "type": "integer",
29            "format": "int32"
30          }
31        ],
32        "tags": [
33          "User"
34        ],
35        "responses": {
36          "200": {
37            "description": "An array of users matching the
38            query parameters (if any).",
39            "schema": {
40              "$ref": "#/definitions/Users"
41            }
42          }
43        }
44      }
45    }
46  }
47 }
```

## TODO List API

The Power of TODOs in an API

**Version** 1.0.1

Filter operations by a tag:

**User**

### Paths

/todos

#### GET /todos

**User**

#### Summary

Use this call to get a list of all todo items

#### Parameters

Name	Located in	Description	Required	Schema
page	query	Requested page number. Defaults to 1.	No	⇔ integer (int32)

#### Responses

Code	Description	Schema
200	An array of users matching the query parameters (if any).	#/definitions/Users

# Prototyping APIs

- Use tools like Live API Creator, NodeJS express, or other code-generating platforms.
- It's also a good idea to use service-virtualization frameworks to mock up the response data.
- If possible, include access-control checking when running tests against the prototype.
- If possible use existing production-level API consumers to test out the prototype.



***Prototypes are made to be tested.***



# build

/bild/ 

*verb*

1. construct (something, typically something large) by putting parts or material together over a period of time.

"the factory was built in 1936"

*synonyms:* [construct](#), [erect](#), [put up](#), [assemble](#); [More](#)







By Patrick Creighton - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49014485>

# Building APIs

- API builds are the real thing
- Production-ready, access-controlled, resilient, scalable.
- Building the production implementation means
  - Working out all the kinks
  - Supporting all the use-cases identified during the sketch and prototype phases.



# Building APIs

```
var express = require('express'),
    app = express();
var port = 8080;
app.listen(port);

app.get("/tasks", function(req, res) {
  res.status(200).send(`<response>
    <tasks>
      <task>
        <name>Pick up Kai</name>
        <priority>1</priority>
      </task>
    </tasks>
  </response>' );
})
```

# Building APIs

GET  
/tasks



The screenshot displays the Layer 7 Policy Manager interface. The main window is titled "Layer 7 Policy Manager" and shows a configuration for a policy named "Special JSON 2 [/nl/json2] (v15, active)".

The left sidebar shows a tree view of policy categories:

- Policy Assertions
  - Access Control
  - Transport Layer Security (TLS)
  - XML Security
  - Message Validation/Transformation
  - Message Routing
  - Service Availability
  - Logging, Auditing and Alerts
  - Policy Logic
  - Threat Protection
  - Internal Assertions
  - Policy Templates
- Identity Providers

The right pane shows the configuration for the selected policy, "Special JSON 2 [/nl/json2] (v15, active)". The configuration includes the following steps:

- Route via HTTP to `http://ssgdemo:8080/teams/nrl`
- Response: Apply XSL Transformation
- Response: Add Header Access-Control-Allow-Headers: Accept, ETag, Content-Type
- Response: Add Header Access-Control-Allow-Methods: GET,POST
- Response: Add Header Access-Control-Allow-Origin: \*
- Return Template Response to Requestor

The bottom status bar indicates the user is logged in as "admin @ ssg615\_2.l7tech.com [connected to node: Gateway1]".

# Building APIs

- Each implementation has their own challenges to overcome.
- Each deserves their own guidance and style-guides.
  - Gateway Policies
  - ESB Rules
  - Scripting (NodeJS)
  - Code (Java/C#)
- All require exhaustive testing at the unit, acceptance, and integration levels.
- All require detailed access control.



***Production APIs are made last.***



**So...**

# Summary

- API enable Multi-channel Delivery
- Functionality, Usability, Experience
- Canvas, Diagram, Description
- Sketch, Prototype, Build



```
1 <alps>
2 <doc>Simple Banking Example</doc>
3 <!-- actions -->
4 <descriptor id="getList" type="safe" />
5 <descriptor id="getStatus" type="safe" />
6 <descriptor id="updateStatus" type="Idempotent">
7 <descriptor href="#accountId" />
8 <descriptor href="#actionStatus" />
9 </descriptor>
10 <descriptor id="updatePreferences" type="Idempotent">
11 <descriptor href="#accountId" />
12 <descriptor href="#preference" />
13 </descriptor>
14 <!-- structures -->
15 <descriptor id="preference" type="semantic">
16 <descriptor href="#identifier" />
17 <descriptor href="#value" />
18 <descriptor href="#name" />
19 </descriptor>
```







# From APIs to Microservices: Design and Build

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