Understanding the Architecture of Enterprise Applications Through Their Dependencies

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Use Dependencies to Manage Architecture

Represent and manage large-scale architectures

Learn to manage the architecture of enterprise applications using dependencies that span domains such as services, applications, configurations, and databases. This session includes a demo and real-life examples.

Agenda

Representing Large-Scale Systems Using a Dependency Structure Matrix (DSM)

Patterns, Rules, and Algorithms

Demo: Java™ Technology and Spring Framework

Demo: Java Technology, Hibernate, and Oracle

Real-World Examples

Q&A

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Real-World Examples

Q&A

The Approach

- Provides a precise big picture view of the architecture
- Not code-centric—architecture encompasses configuration files (e.g., Spring framework, Hibernate configurations), databases, and other elements
- Highly scalable—has been applied to systems with thousands of elements
- Enables explicit management of architectural evolution

What Is a DSM?

		1	2	3	4
Module A	1	▪		X	X
Module B	2		▪	X	
Module C	3	X		▪	X
Module D	4				▪

Fig 1: A Simple DSM

		1	2	3
Module D	1	▪		
Module A-C	2	X	▪	
Module B	3		X	▪

Fig 3: Lower Triangular

		1	2	3	4
Module D	1	▪			
Module A	2	X	▪	X	
Module C	3	X	X	▪	
Module B	4			X	▪

Fig 2: Block Triangular after Partitioning

			1	2	3	4
Module D		1	▪			
A-C	Module A	2	X	▪	X	
	Module C	3	X	X	▪	
Module B		4			X	▪

Fig 4: Hierarchical

What Is a Dependency?

- Module A depends on a module B if there are explicit references in A to syntactic elements of B

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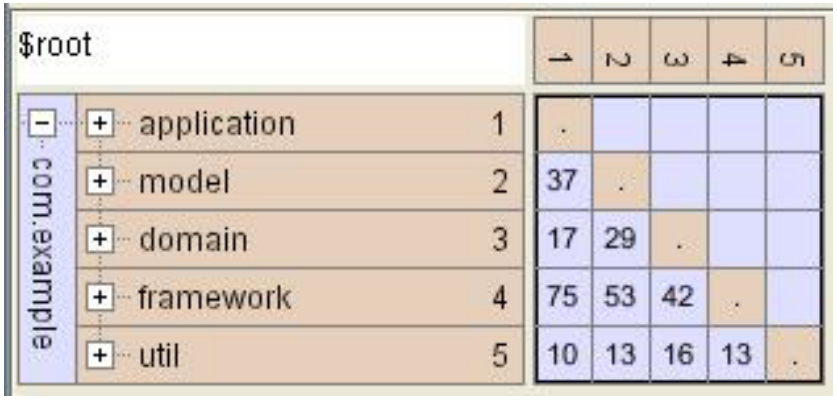
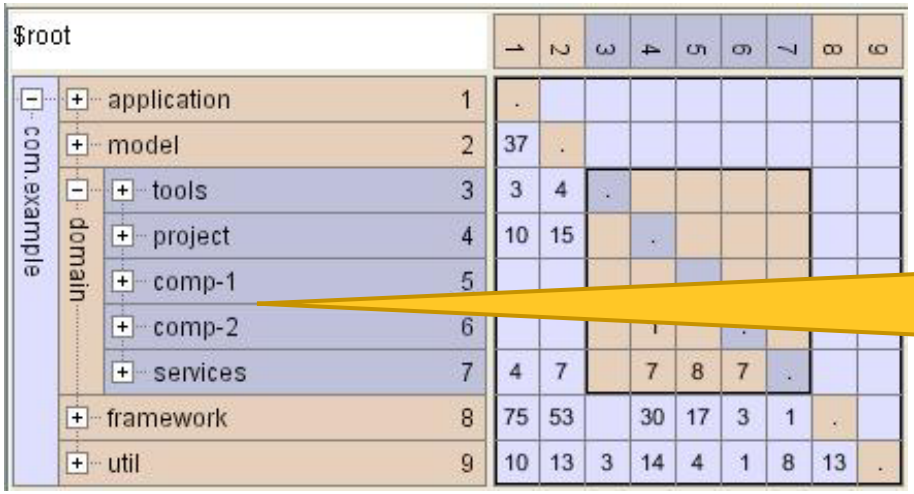
Architectural Patterns—I



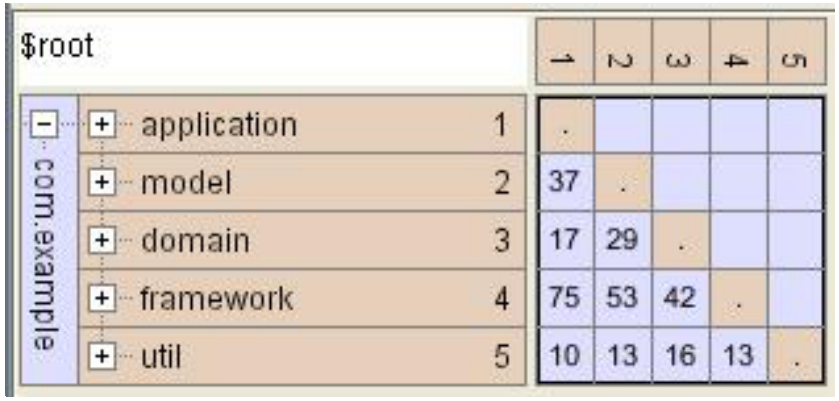
Layered System



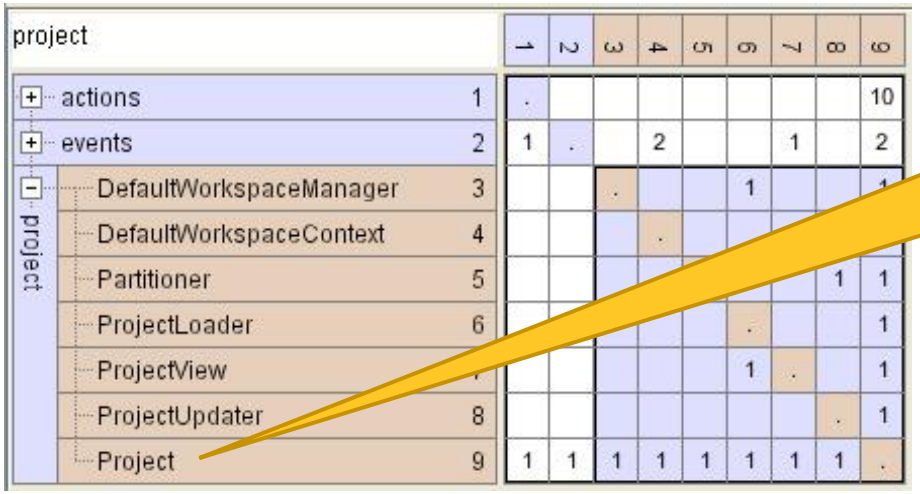
Private Components

Not Visible Outside “Domain”

Architectural Patterns—II



Imperfectly Layered System



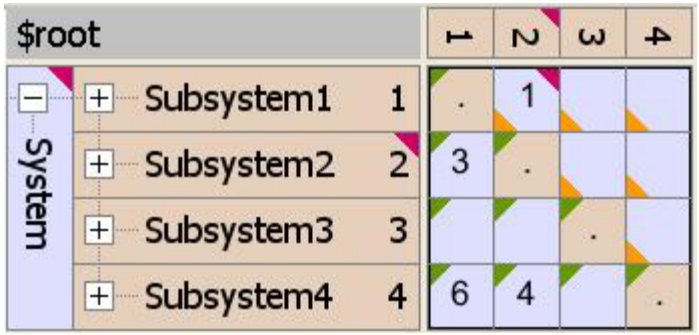
Change Propagator

Design Rules

- Succinct specification of acceptable and unacceptable dependencies between subsystems
- Each cell of the DSM represents design intent
- DSM offers a powerful way to visualize and specify design rules

Dependency Model = DSM + Design Rules

Design Rules

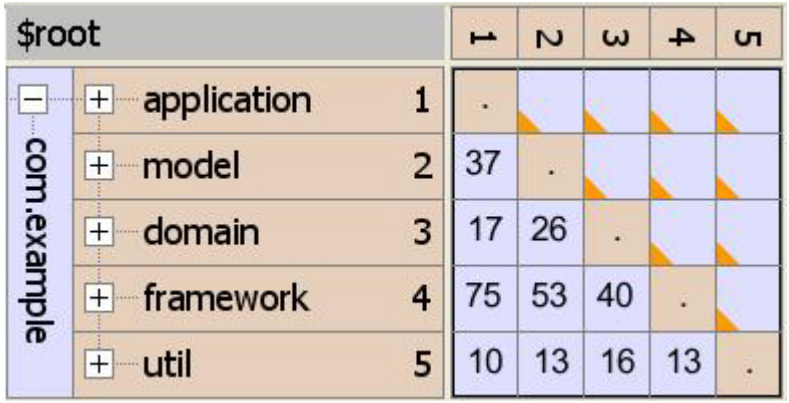


DSM with Rules View

Green Triangle: Dependency Acceptable

Yellow Triangle: Dependency Unacceptable

Red Triangle: Rule Violation Discovered



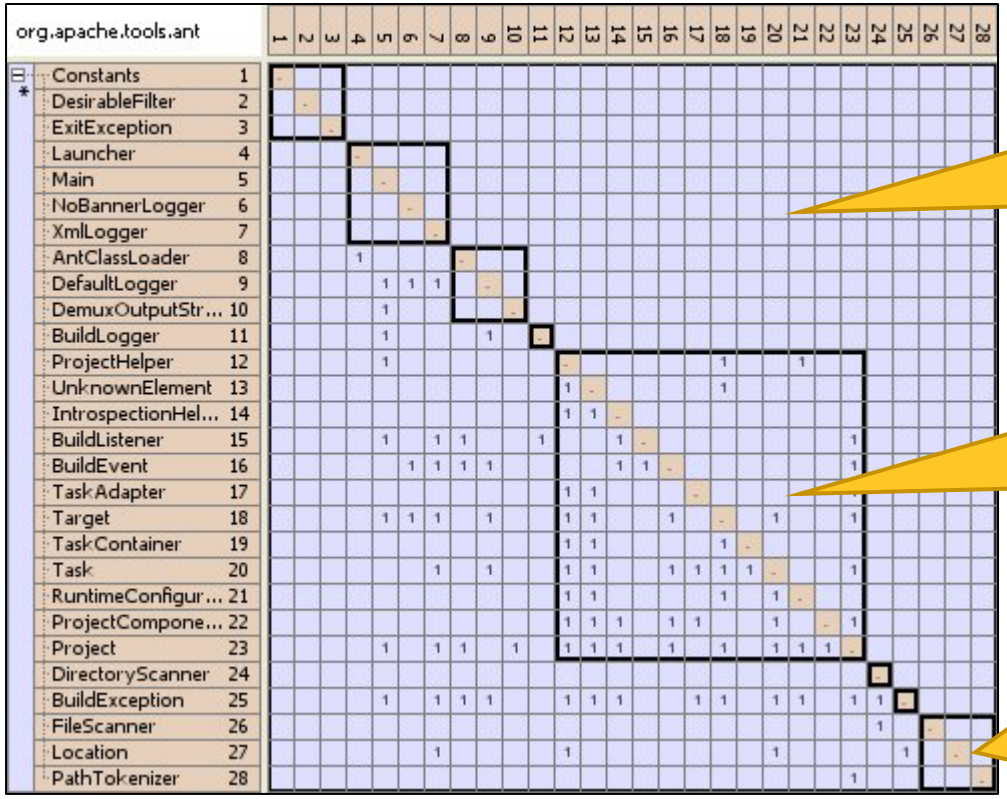
Rules for Layering

1. $root can-use $root
2. model cannot-use application
3. domain cannot-use application, model
4. framework cannot use application, model, domain
5. util cannot-use application, model, domain, framework

Types of DSM Algorithms

- Partitioning
  - Warfield, Gebala, Eppinger
- Clustering
  - Hartigan, Provider-Proximity
- Hierarchy improvements
  - Lattix

Algorithms: Partitioning



Acyclic Graph of Subsystems

Strongly Connected

Independent Subsystems

Partitioning Is Central to DSM

DEMO

Enterprise Architecture:
Java Technology and Spring Framework
Java Technology, Hibernate, and Oracle

Impact Analysis

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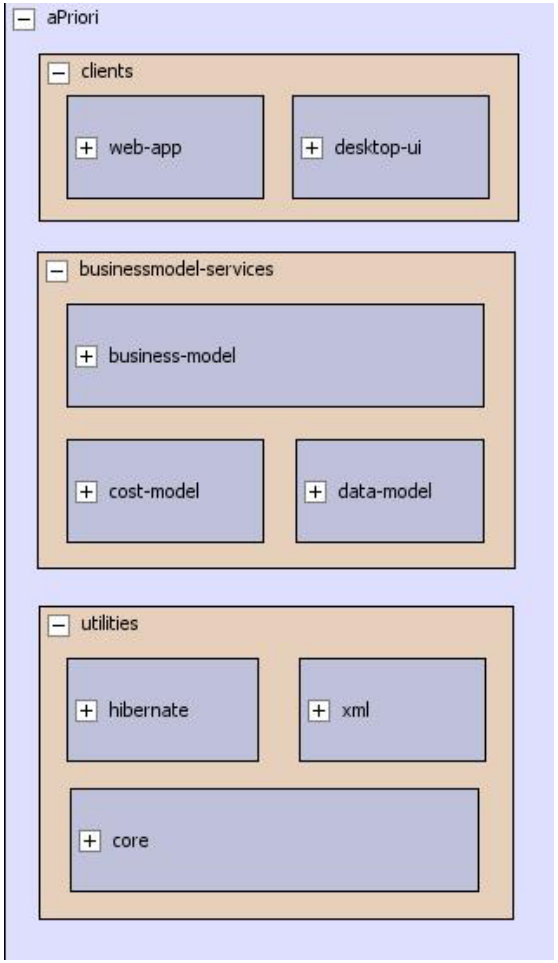
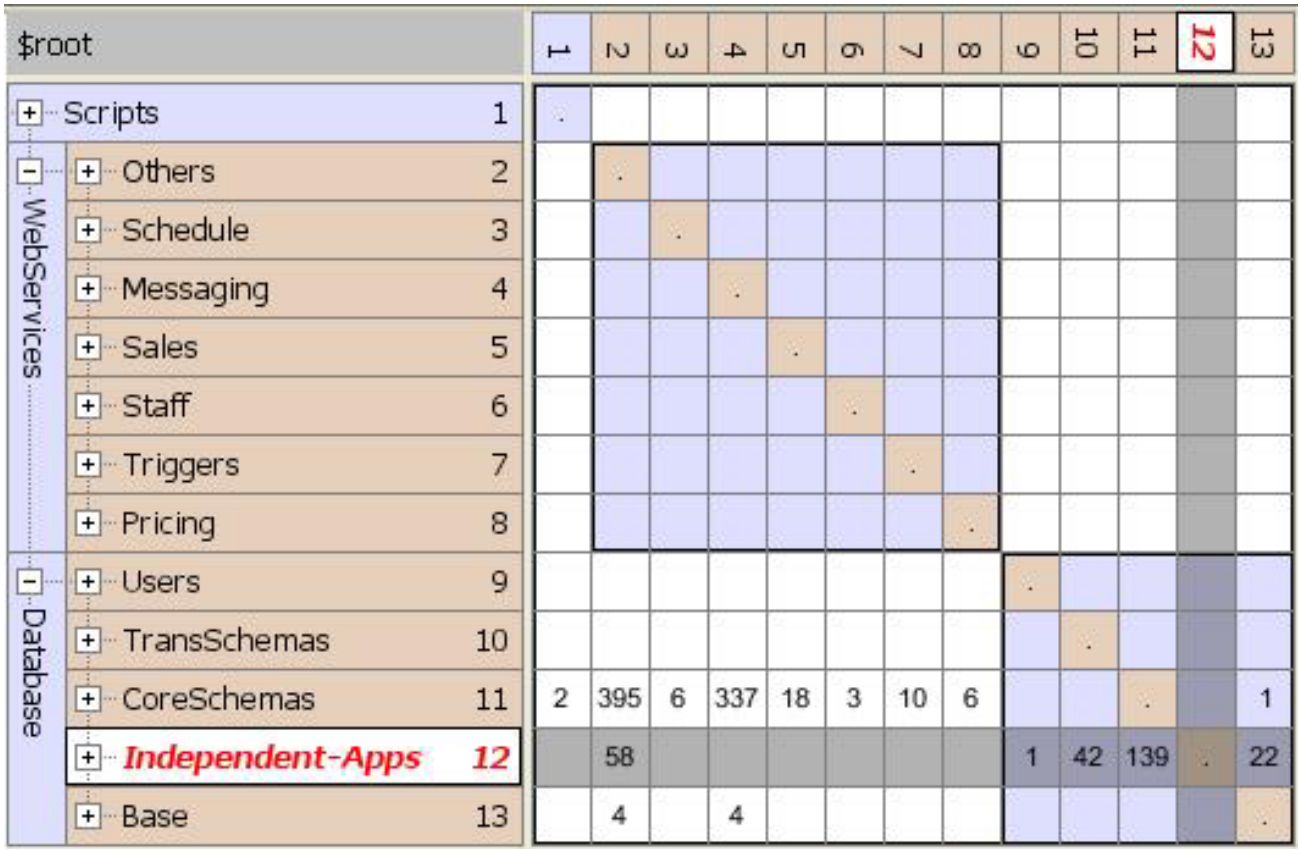
Architectural Analysis: Extract Components



$root			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
aPriori	cl...	web-app 1	.							
		desktop-ui 2		.						
	busin...	business-... 3		98	.					
		cost-model 4		6	23	.				
		data-model 5		188	312		.			
	utilities	hibernate 6	4	2	9		28	.		
		xml 7	3	1		9			.	
		core 8	29	164	127	71	54	54	7	.

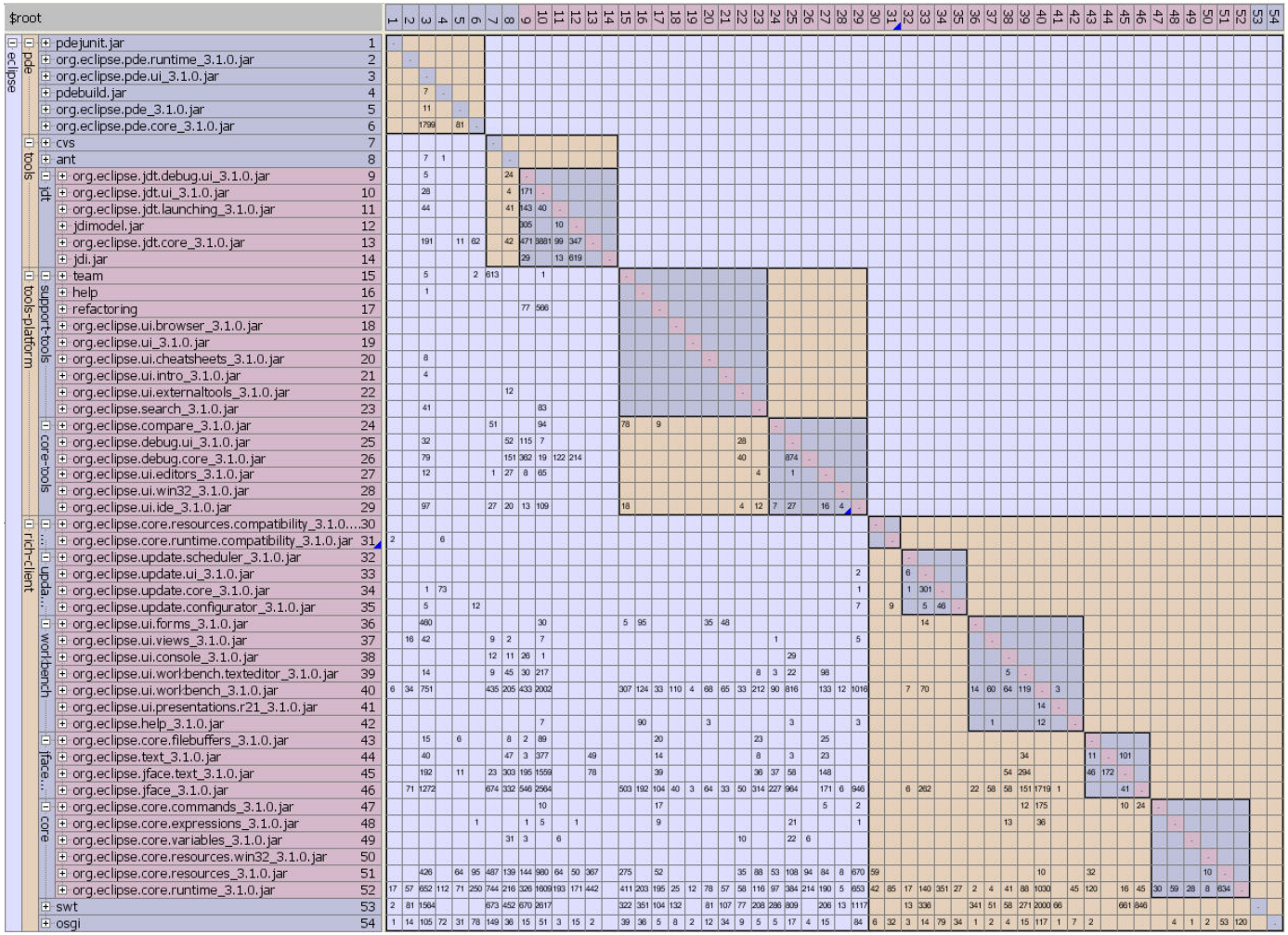
Extracting Components Requires Splitting Up Business Logic

Risk Management: Impact Analysis

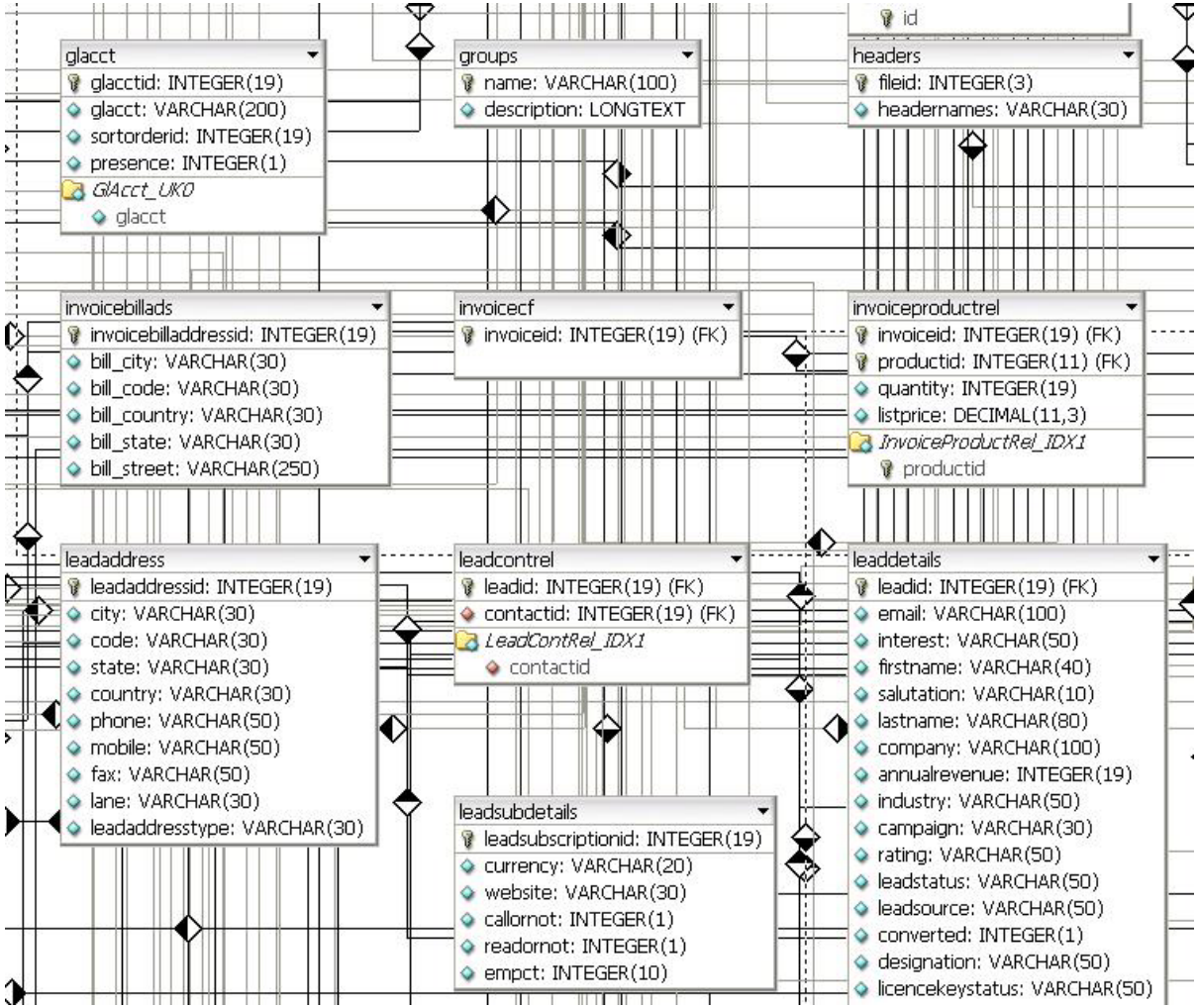


Impact DSM: Subset Showing What's Affected

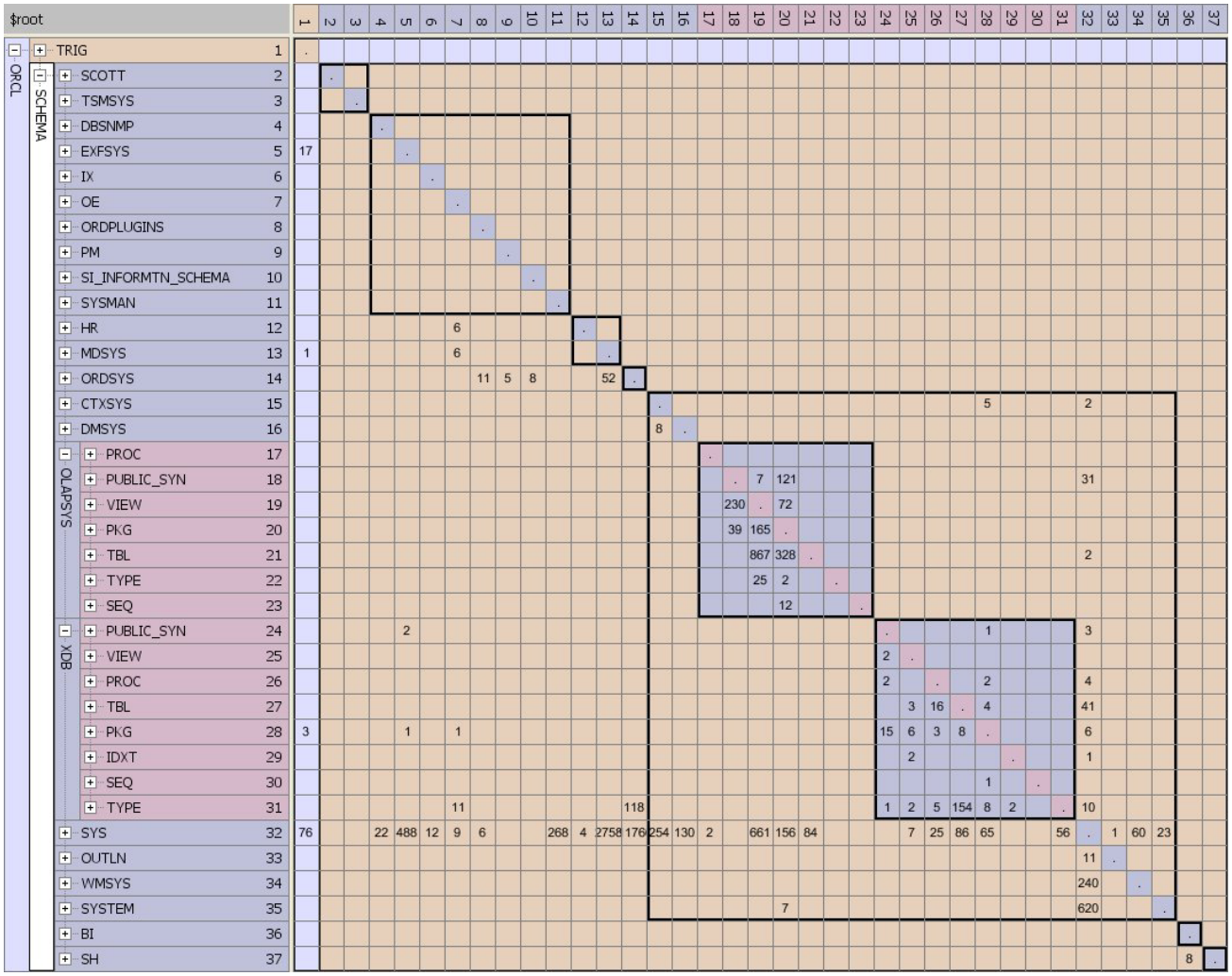
Dependency Model View of Eclipse Platform



ER Diagram (Part of a CRM System)



DSM for an Oracle Database (Default)



Summary: Big Picture View That Scales Across Multiple Domains

- Highly scalable—represent massive systems to give you a precise big picture view
- Dependency analysis is not only for code, but can also be applied to a variety of domains
- Large parts of dependency extraction can be automated allowing you to test your architecture and to prevent it from eroding
- Critical visibility of the architecture is achieved very quickly—try it out on your own software!

For More Information

- Steven D. Eppinger, “Innovation at the Speed of Information”, Harvard Business Review, January 2001.
- Baldwin, C.Y. and Clark K.B., The Power of Modularity Volume 1, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2000
- Herb Simon, The Sciences of the Artificial, 3rd Edition, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA 1996
- Neeraj Sangal, Ev Jordan, Vineet Sinha, Daniel Jackson, “Using Dependency Models to Manage Complex Software Architecture”, OOPSLA 2005 http://sdg.lcs.mit.edu/pubs/2005/oopsla05-dsm.pdf
- DSM Website: http://www.dsmweb.org
- Lattix: http://www.lattix.com

Q&A

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