ComputationWorld 2018

February 18-22, Barcelona, Spain

Normalized Information Systems:

Toward Continuous Rejuvenation of Software Applications

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Contents

- Normalized Systems Key Insights
- Software Dimensions of Evolvability
- Rejuvenating Software Applications
- Discussion and Conclusion
- Questions

KEY INSIGHTS OF NST

Key Insight 1: On Coupling

"expect families of routines to be constructed on *rational principles* so that families fit together as **building blocks"**

from: Doug McIlroy, *Mass Produced Software Components*, 1968 NATO Conference on Software Engineering, Garmisch, Germany.

Key Insight 1: On Coupling

The Law of Increasing Complexity
Manny Lehman

"As an evolving program is continually changed, its complexity, reflecting deteriorating structure, increases unless work is done to maintain or reduce it."

Proceedings of the IEEE, vol. 68, nr. 9, september 1980, pp. 1068.

Key Insight 1: Deplete Combinatorial Effects

Systems Theoretic Stability

Core concept:

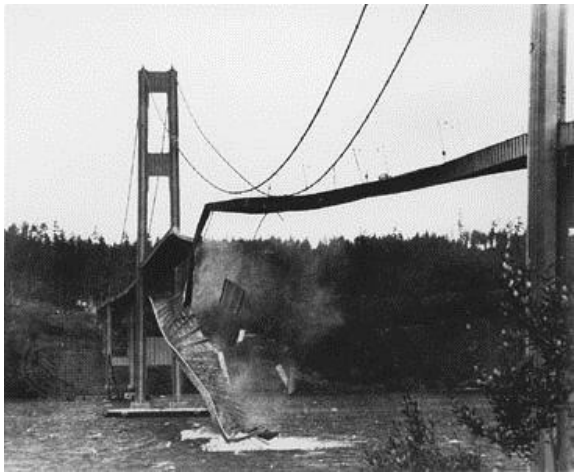
Coupling/Ripple Effects/

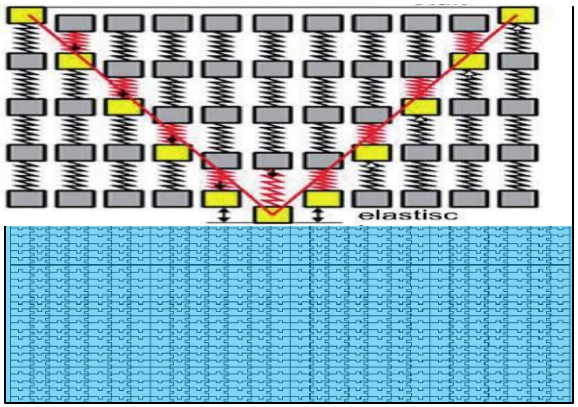
Combinatorial Effects

NS Principles

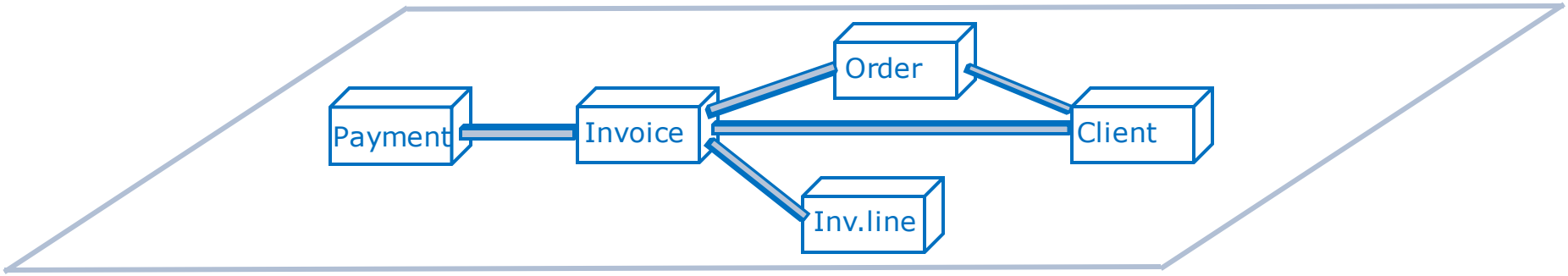
- Separation of concerns
- Data version transparency
- Action version transparency
- Separation of state

NS ➔ Fine-grained Modularity

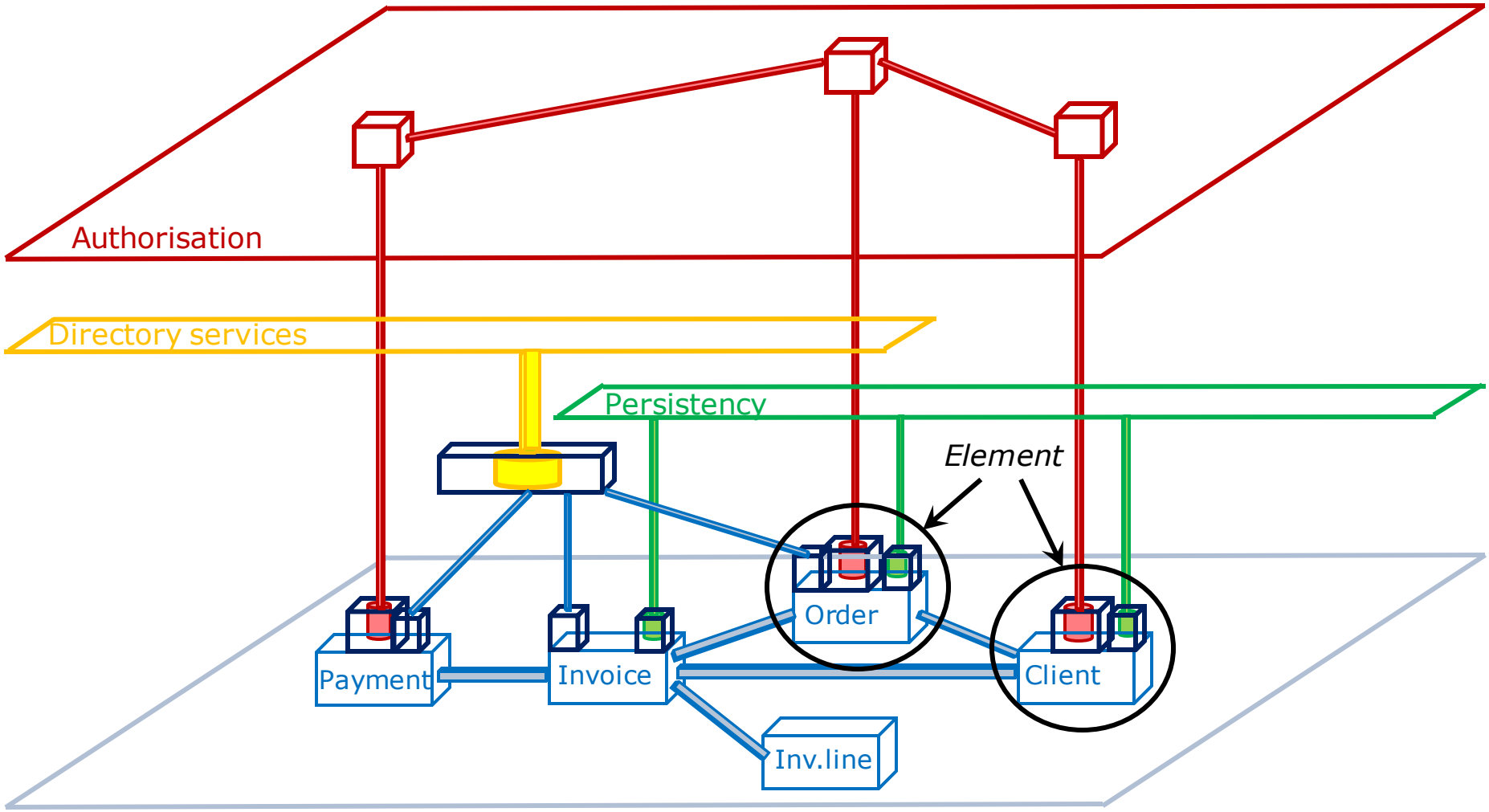




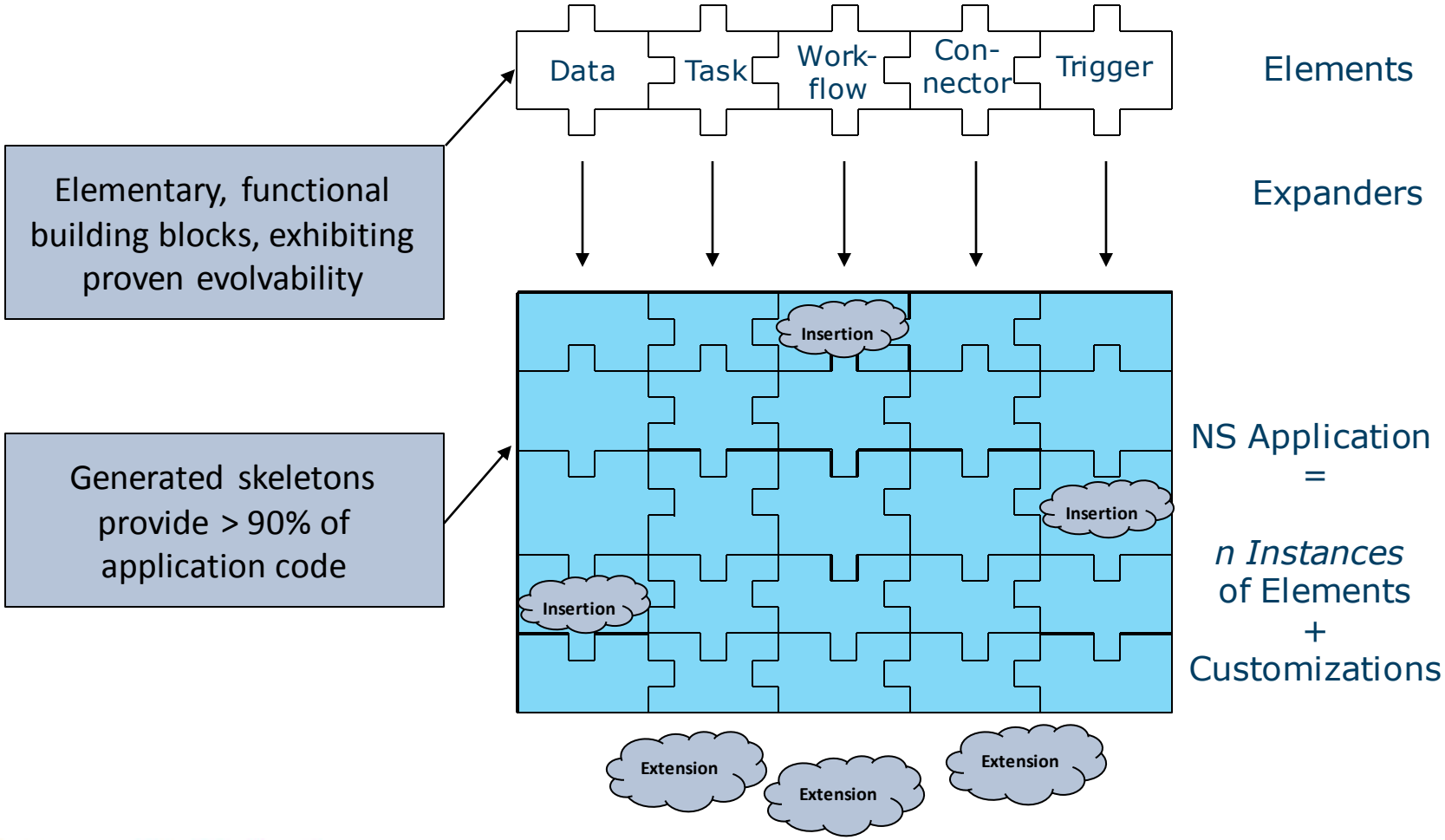
Key Insight 2: On Concerns



Key Insight 2: On Concerns



Key Insight 2: Generate Recurring Structure



Key Insight 3: On Updating

- Structure should be recurring, as variations:
  - increase complexity of codebase
  - decrease consistency in behaviour
- Recurring structure may need to vary over time:
  - new insights
  - discovery of flaws
  - changes in technologies

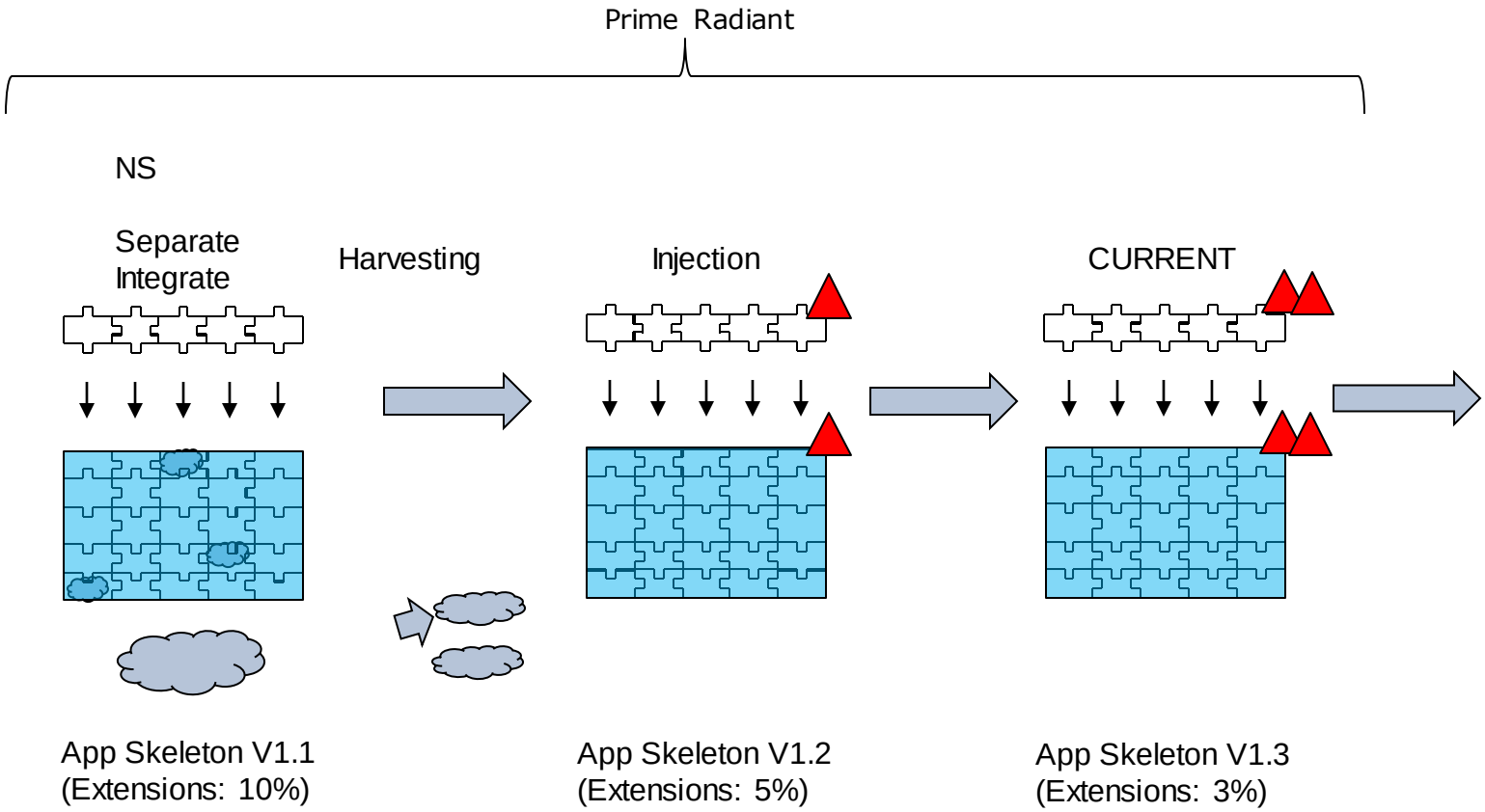
Structural changes may need to be applied with retroactive effect, but the efforts increase with the frequency of change.

N *instances, update every* K ➔ ***#updates*** $= \frac{N(N+K)}{2K}$

N=100

K	Total
100	100
50	150
20	300
10	550
5	1050
2	2550
1	5050

Key Insight 3: Rejuvenate Skeleton Texture

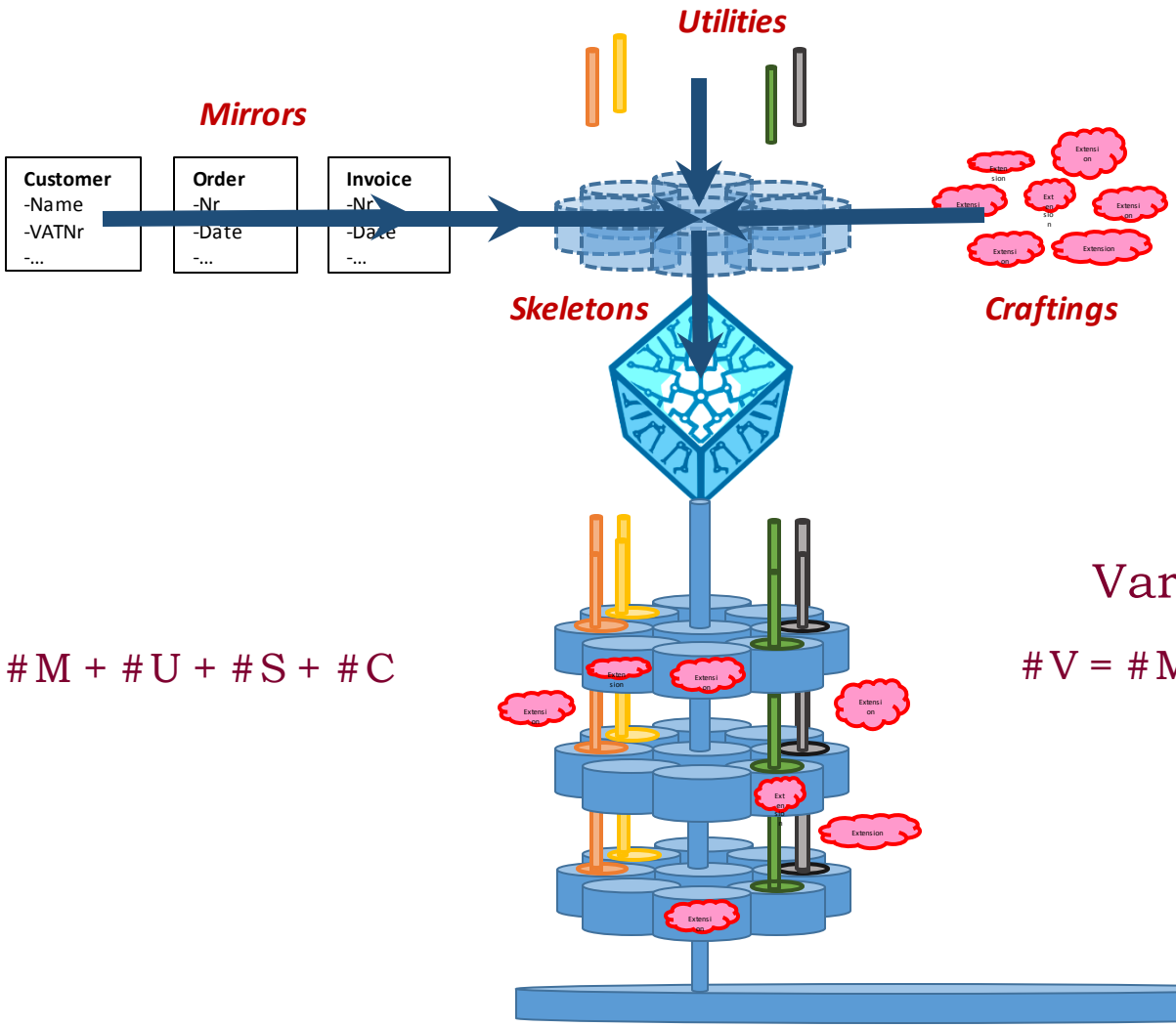


DIMENSIONS OF EVOLVABILITY

Dimensions of Evolvability

- ***mirrors : analysis models***
  new data attributes/relations, new elements
- ***skeletons : element structures***
  new or improved implementations of concerns
- ***utilities: technology frameworks***
  new frameworks to implement various concerns
- ***craftings : custom plugin code***
  new or improved implementations of tasks, screens

Dimensions of Evolvability



$\#V = \#M + \#U + \#S + \#C$

Variation Gain

$\#V = \#M \times \#U \times \#S \times \#C$

Insulating utilities/frameworks

Concern type	*Multiplicity*	*Implementations*
Database	4	Postgres, HSQL, SQLServer, MySQL
Persistency	2	OpenJPA, Hibernate
Transaction	2	EJB2, EJB3
Remoting	2	RMI, WS
Controller	3	Cocoon, Struts2, Struts2-Knockout
Styling	2	Bootstrap, Plain
Access	2	JavaEE, NS

Table 15.2: Overview of various technological implementations.

#U = 4+2+2+2+3+2+2 = 17

Variation Gain

#U = 4x2x2x2x3x2x2 = 384

Evolution: Functional: Data

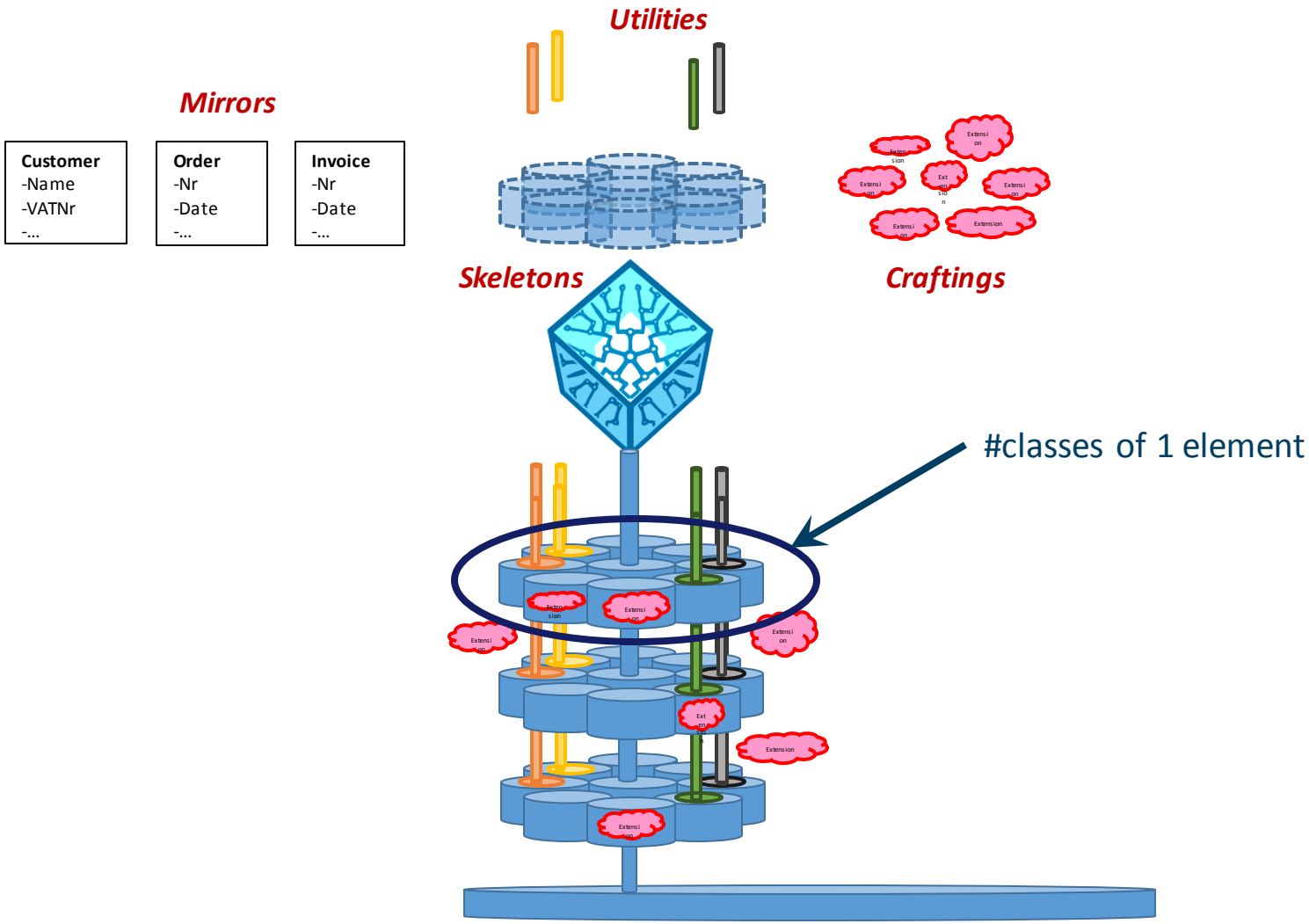
Ex-Ante 1 *In an information system implemented with normalized software elements as detailed above, a new version of a data entity D_n, including an additional data attribute, can be implemented in a stable way.*

$$\mathcal{S}_{marg} \subseteq \{S_{m,k}\}_{k=1,\ldots,K} \cup \{F_{m,l}\}_{l=1,\ldots,L}$$

Ex-Ante 2 *In an information system implemented with normalized software elements as detailed above, an additional data entity D_m can be implemented in a stable way.*

$$\mathcal{S}_{marg} \equiv \{S_{m,k}\}_{k=1,\ldots,K} \cup \{F_{m,l}\}_{l=1,\ldots,L}$$

Dimensions of Evolvability

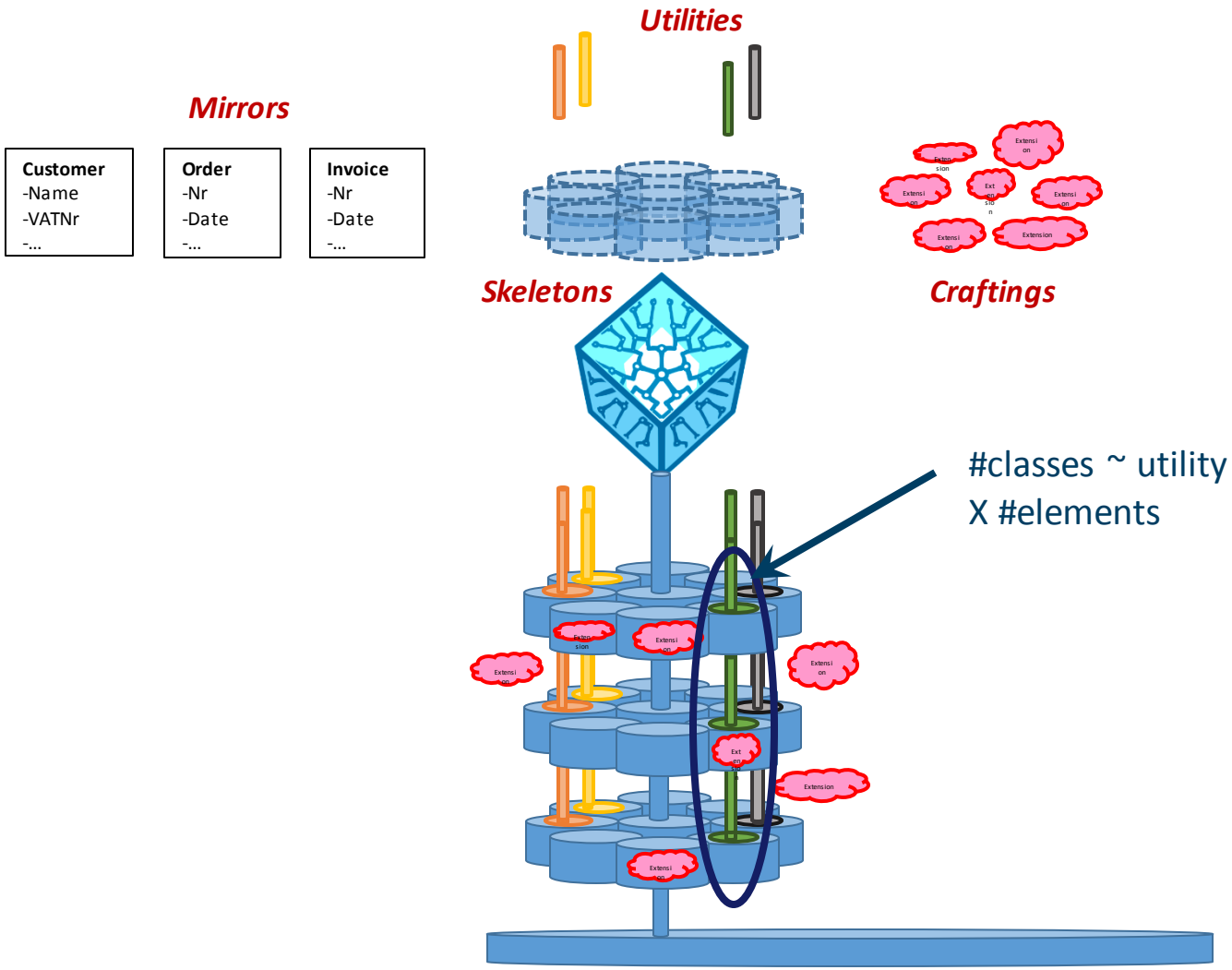


Evolution: Software: Concerns

Ex-Ante 8 *In an information system implemented with normalized software elements as detailed above, a technology implementation of a specific concern for one element, or a listed set of elements, can be changed in a stable way.*

$$\mathcal{S}_{marg} \subset \{S_{m,k}\}_{k=1,\ldots,K} \cup \{F_{m,l}\}_{l=1,\ldots,L}$$

Dimensions of Evolvability



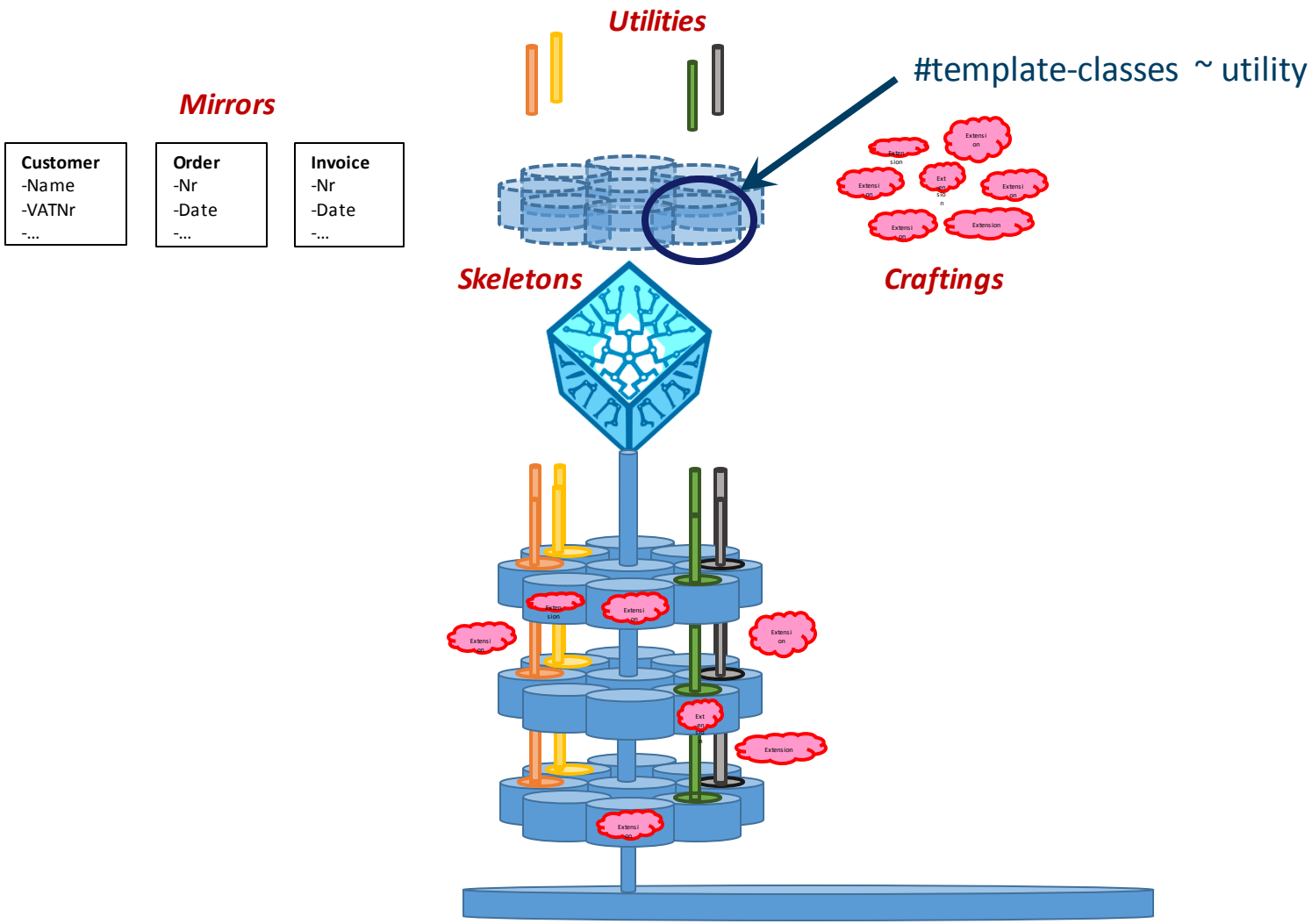
Evolution: Software: Concerns

Ex-Ante 9 *In a normalized systems software environment featuring the expansion and rejuvenation of normalized information systems as detailed above, an additional technology implementation for a specific concern of a type of element, can be made available for all information systems in a stable way.*

$$\mathcal{S}^T_{marg} \subset \{S^T_k\}_{k=1,\ldots,K} \cup \{F^T_l\}_{l=1,\ldots,L}$$

Ex-Ante 10 *In a normalized systems software environment featuring the expansion and rejuvenation of normalized information systems as detailed above, a new technology implementation for a specific concern of a type of element, can be made mandatory for all existing information systems in a stable way.*

Dimensions of Evolvability



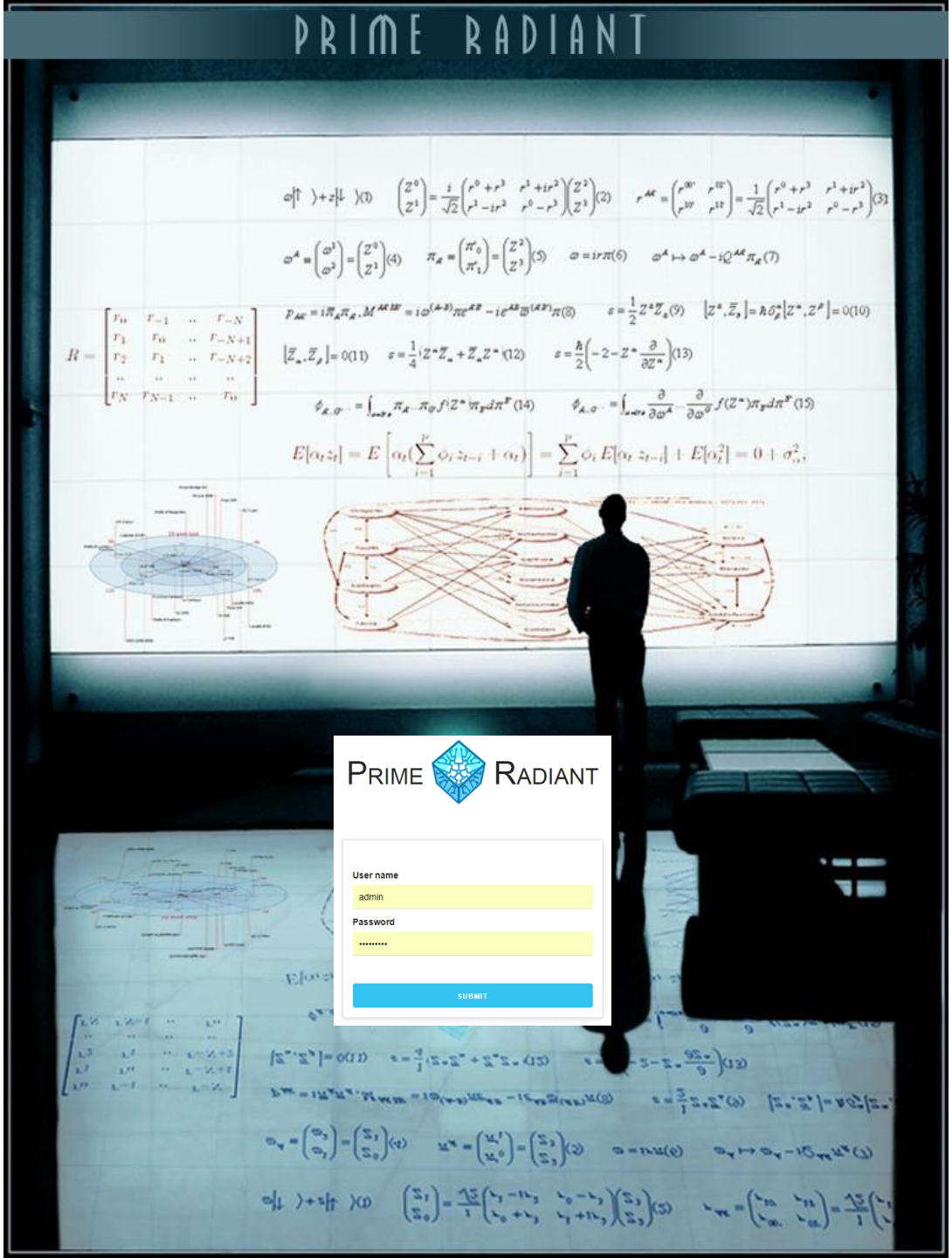
Evolution: Software: Concerns

Ex-Ante 11 *In a normalized systems software environment featuring the expansion and rejuvenation of normalized information systems as detailed above, an additional concern for an of element can be made available for all information systems in a stable way.*

$$\mathcal{S}^T_{concern} \equiv \{S^T_k\}_{k=K+1,\ldots,K+\Delta_K} \cup \{F^T_l\}_{l=L+1,\ldots,L+\Delta_L}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^T_{marg} \subset \{S^T_k\}_{k=1,\ldots,K+\Delta_K} \cup \{F^T_l\}_{l=1,\ldots,L+\Delta_L}$$

Ex-Ante 12 *In a normalized systems software environment featuring the expansion and rejuvenation of normalized information systems as detailed above, an additional concern for a type of element can be made mandatory for all existing information systems in a stable way.*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PRIME RADIANT
User name
admin
Password
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localhost:9000/primeRadiant/elements/component/all

						○ EU Rent Work Model 2 ○
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brouwen	haachtPlm:brouwen	1.0		NSI	Herwig	○ Haacht PLM
eval	procesEval:eval	1.0	NSX	NSX	Paul	○ Proces Eval
flexData	eandis:flexData	2.0	NSX	NSX		○ Eandis:flexDatahub
hiringTutor	hiringApp:hiringTutor	1.0	NSI	NSI	Philip	○ Hiring Tutor App
hiringWork	hiringApp:hiringWork	1.0	NSI	NSI	Philip	○ Hiring Work App

Data element | Task element | Flow element | Service element | Value field type | Options | Dependencies | Perform Tasks | Documents | Features | Layer code | Instances

+ | Zoek op name zoals | Pagina 1 van 2 (14 items)

Naam	Package name	Component	Type	Status
DerdeProcesEvaluatie	be.uantwerpen.fte	eval	Primary	Ready

Pharo Virtual Machine! (D:\nsp-1.8.0\nsp.image)

Applications Browser | Help | Settings | Image

EU Rent Work Model 4 - OpenPonk

Project | Editor

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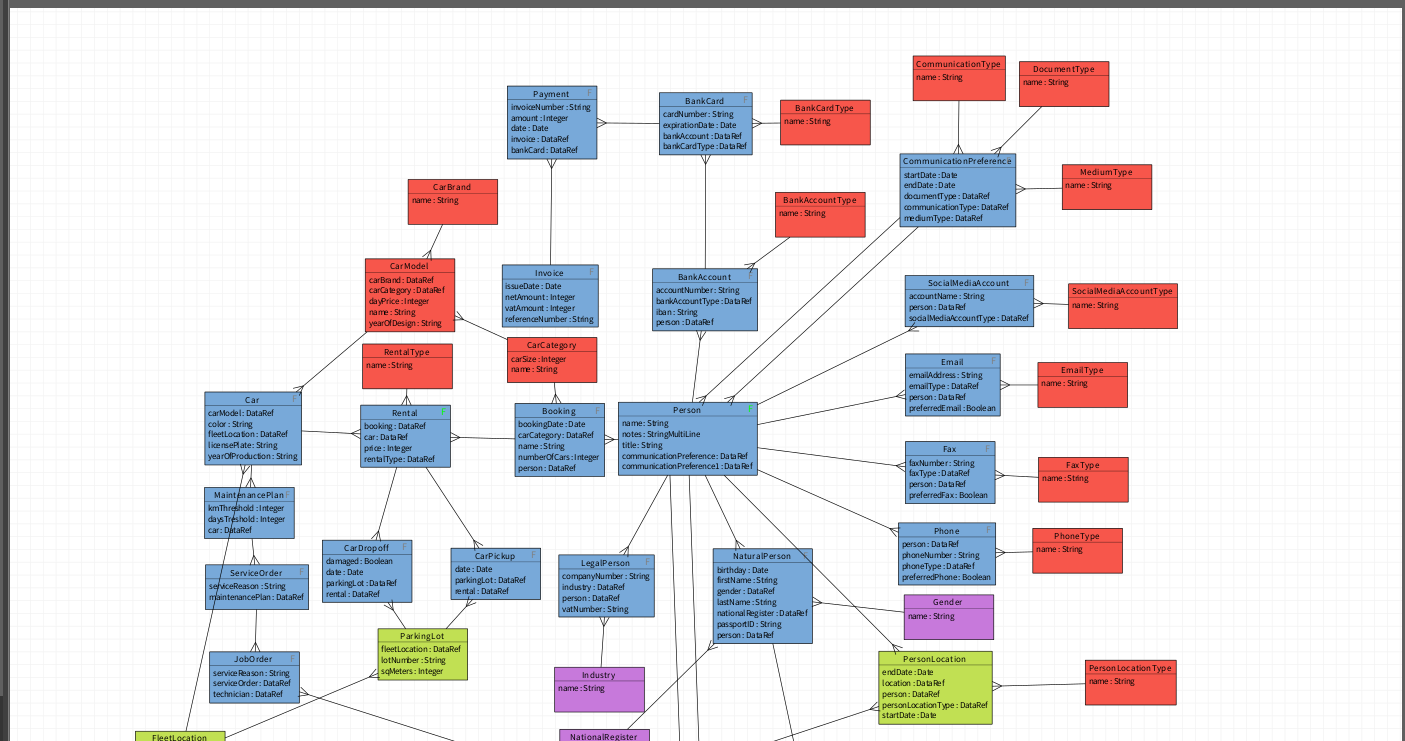
  - BankAccountType
  - BankCard
  - BankCardType
  - Booking
  - Car
  - CarBrand
  - CarCategory
  - CarDropoff
  - CarModel
  - CarPickup
  - City
  - CommunicationPref
  - CommunicationTyp
  - Connection
  - ConnectionType
  - Country
  - DocumentType
  - Email
  - EmailType
  - Fax
  - FaxType
  - FleetLocation
  - Gender
  - Industry
  - Invoice
  - JobOrder
  - LegalPerson
  - Location
  - MaintenancePlan
  - MediumType
  - NationalRegister
  - NaturalPerson
  - ParkingLot
  - Payment

rentWorkModel4 | Person | Rental



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Component Options
Edit Component Options

Select
Data Element
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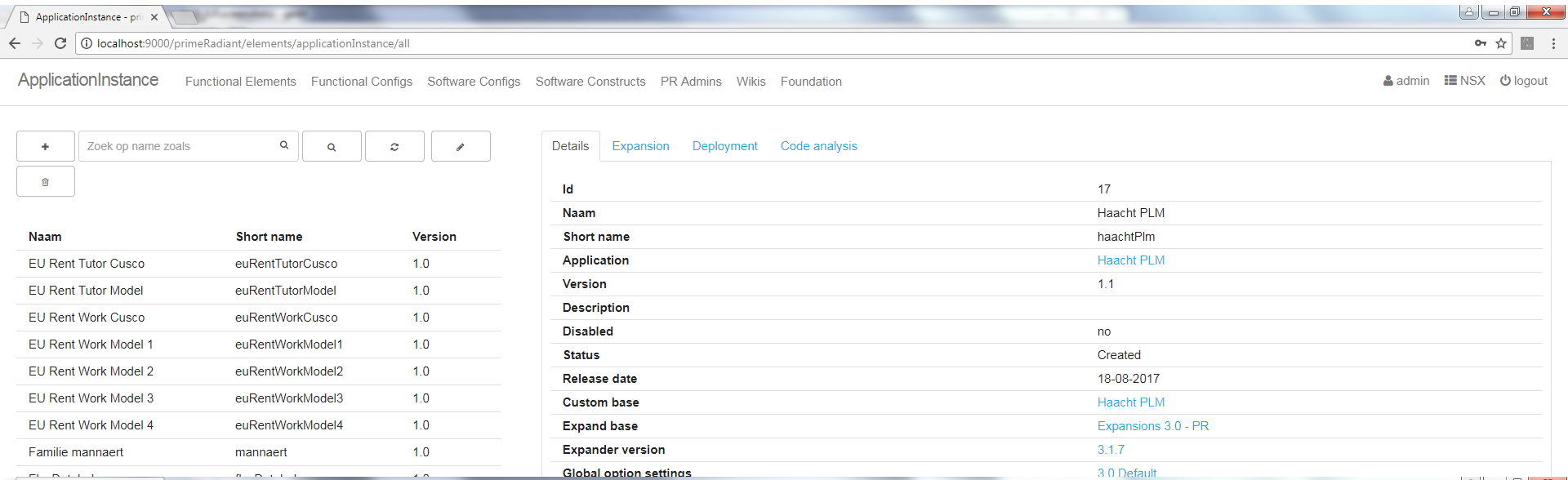
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Status
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Global option settings
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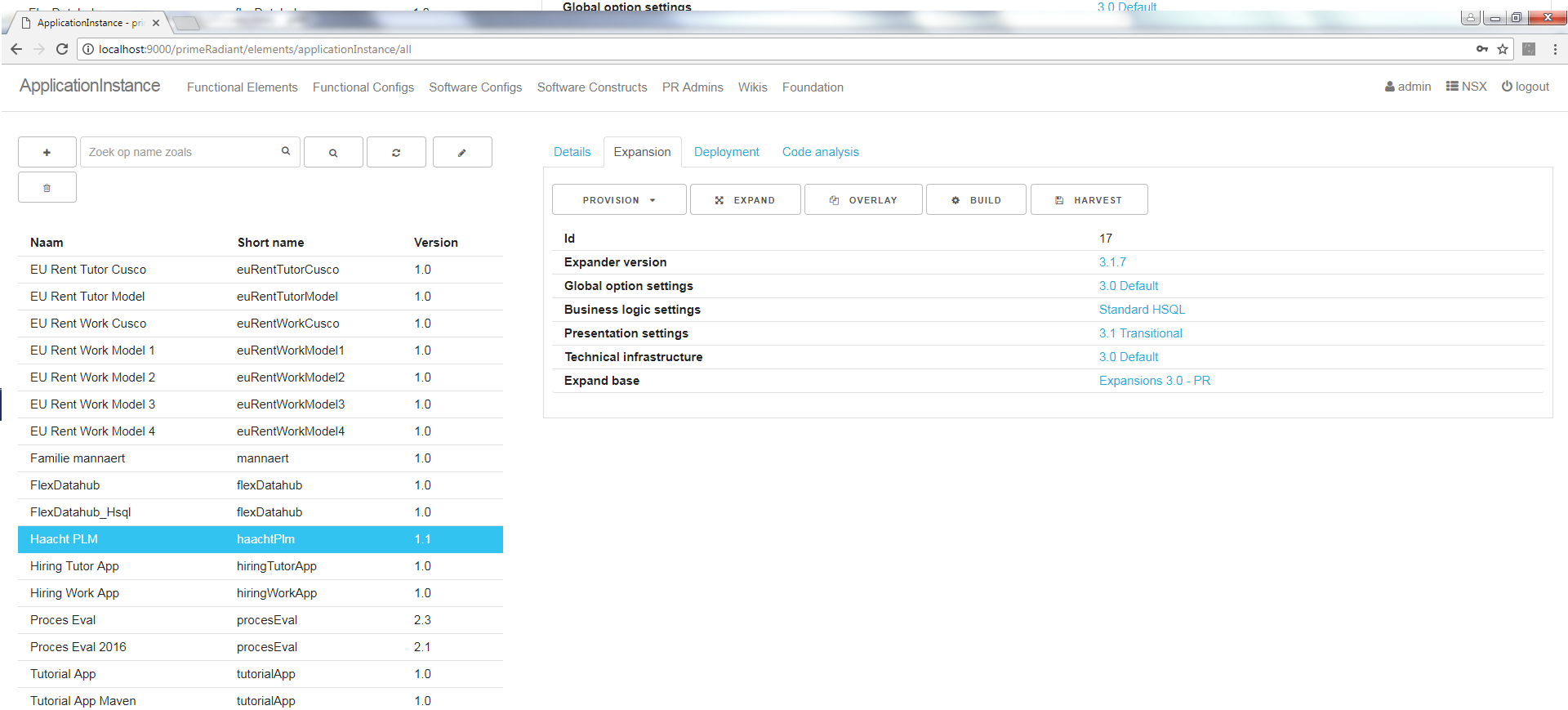
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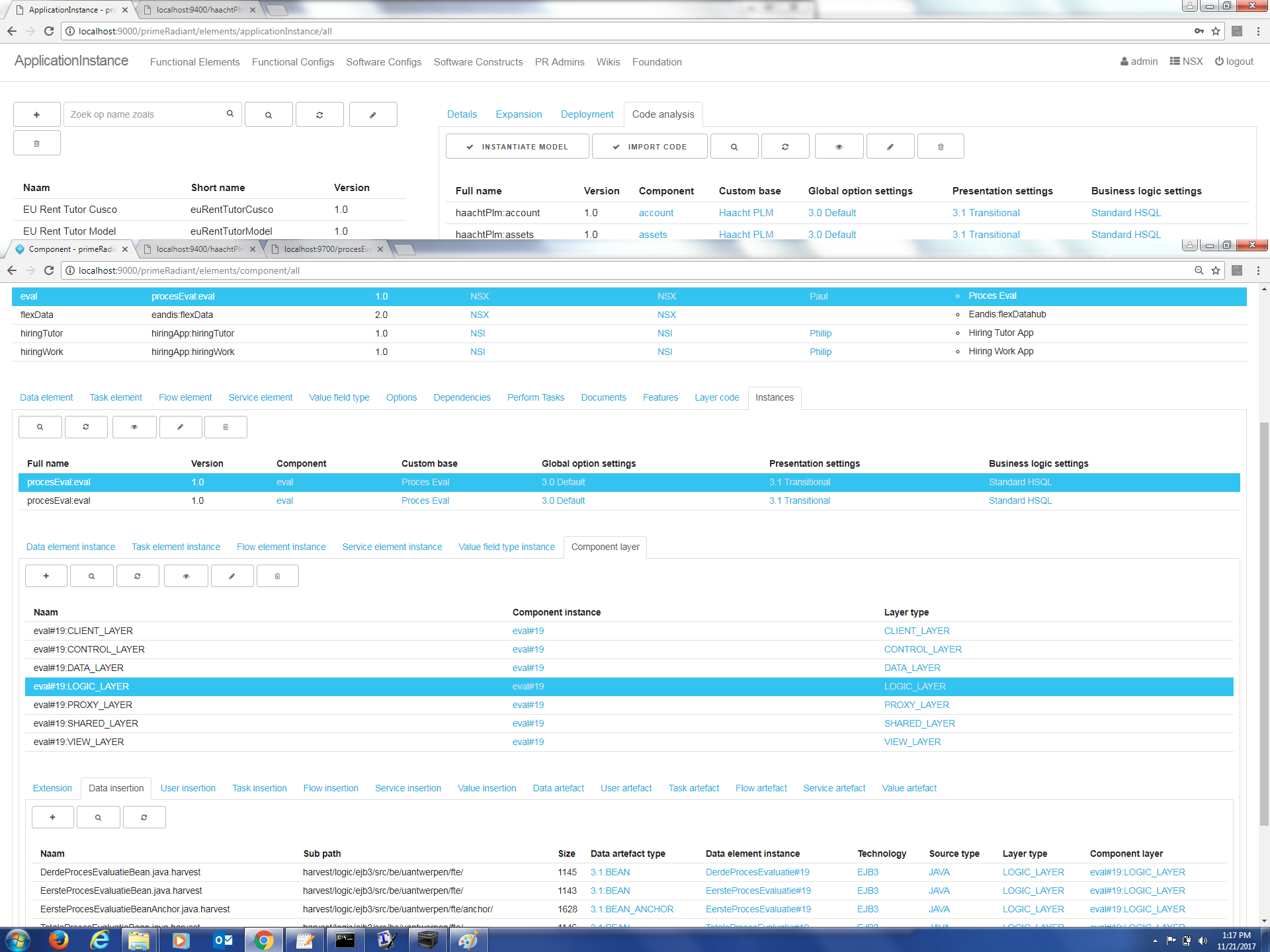
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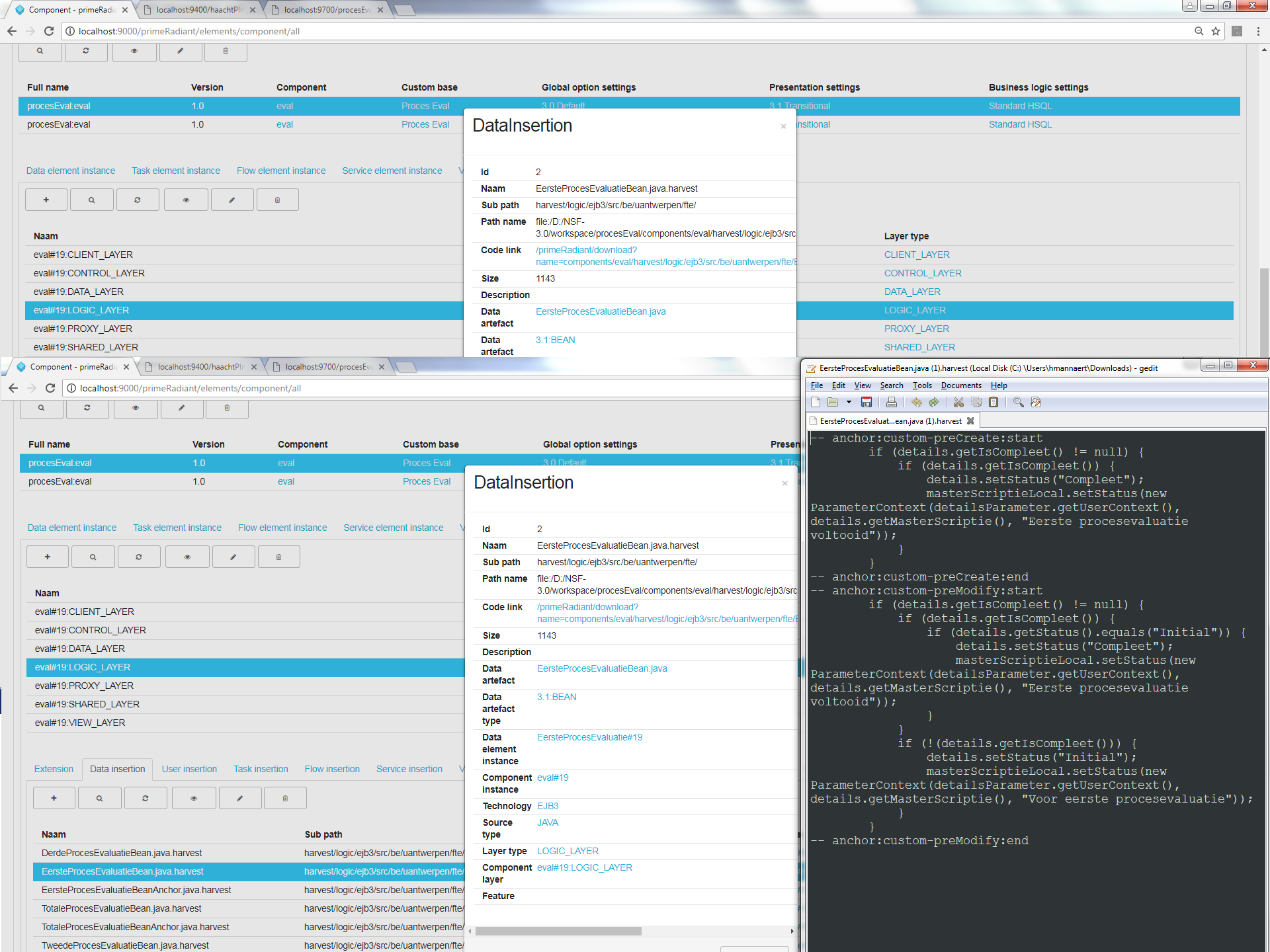
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if (details.getIsCompleet() != null) {
if (details.getIsCompleet()) {
details.setStatus("Compleet");
masterScriptieLocal.setStatus(new ParameterContext(detailsParameter.getUserContext(), details.getMasterScriptie(), "Eerste procesevaluatie voltooid"));
}
}
-- anchor:custom-preCreate:end
-- anchor:custom-preModify:start
if (details.getIsCompleet() != null) {
if (details.getIsCompleet()) {
if (details.getStatus().equals("Initial")) {
details.setStatus("Compleet");
masterScriptieLocal.setStatus(new ParameterContext(detailsParameter.getUserContext(), details.getMasterScriptie(), "Eerste procesevaluatie voltooid"));
}
}
if (!(details.getIsCompleet())) {
details.setStatus("Initial");
masterScriptieLocal.setStatus(new ParameterContext(detailsParameter.getUserContext(), details.getMasterScriptie(), "Voor eerste procesevaluatie"));
}
}
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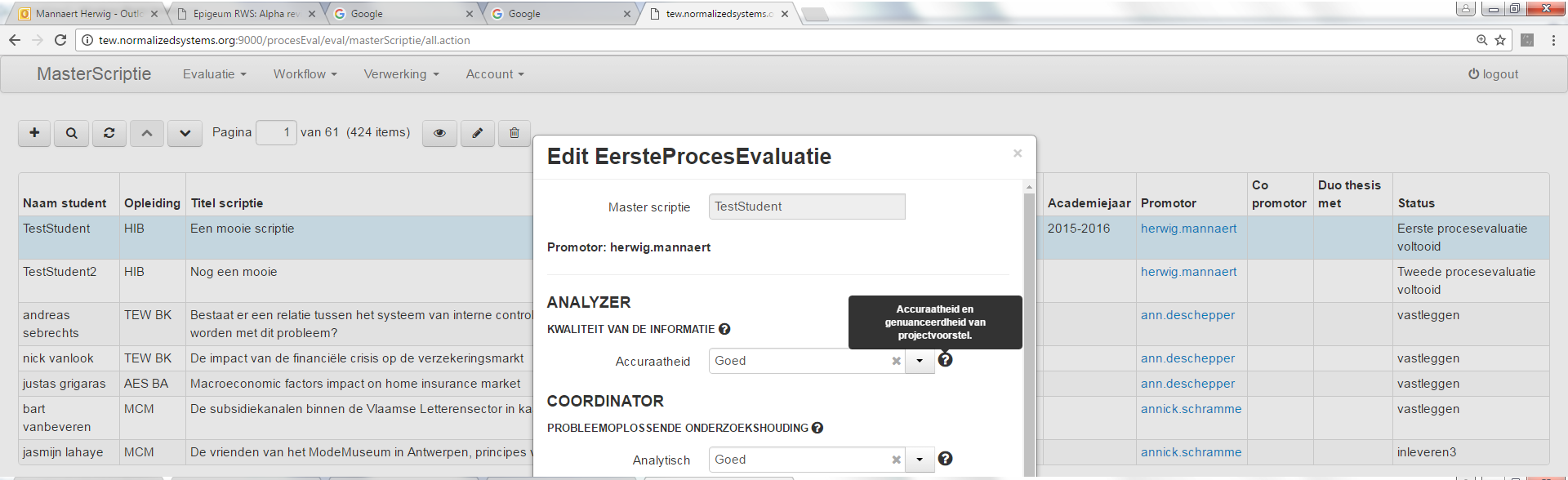
REJUVENATING APPLICATIONS

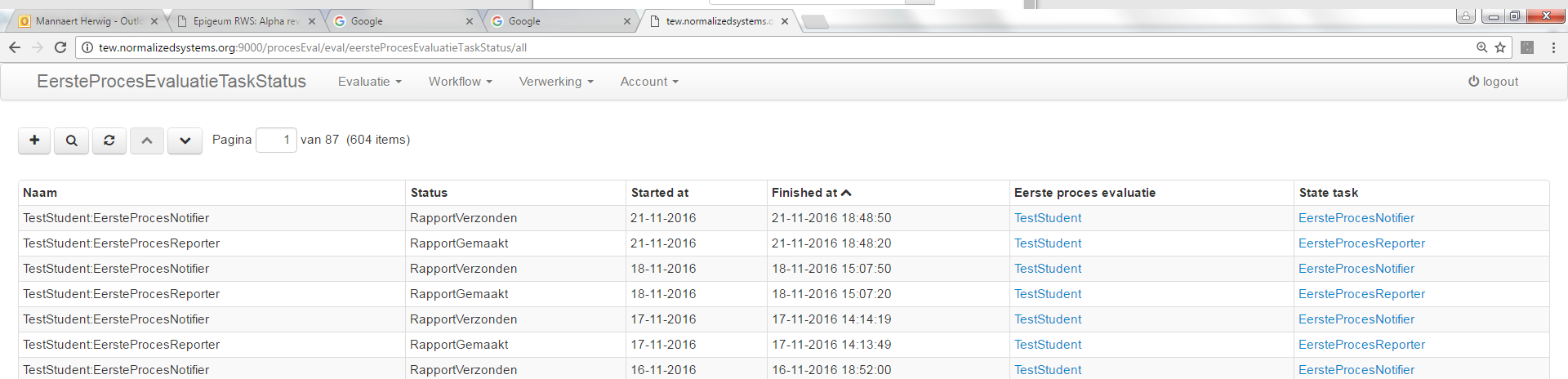
Rejuvenating Applications

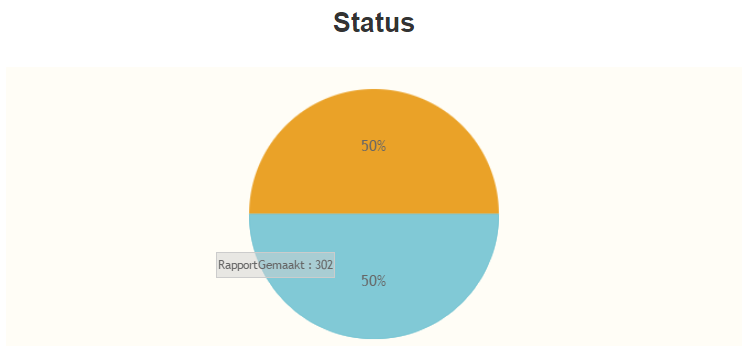
- Regenerating a software application with
  - a given model (data, task, flow, connector, and trigger element parameters)
  - a given codebase of custom code (extensions and insertions)
- Applying
  - a new version of the skeletons or generator/expander templates
  - possibly new (versions of) utility frameworks

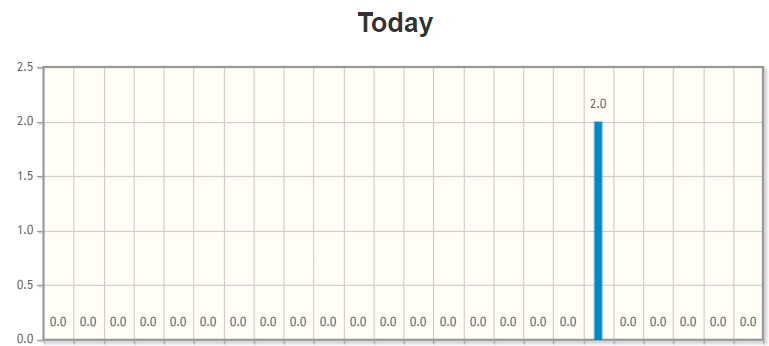
Types of ½ Applications

- Budget follow-up tool
- Master thesis evaluation
- Diplomatic card services
- Data centre management
- Solar panels monitoring
- Beverage product lifecycle
- Energy datahub management
- IoT data inflow engine
- Privacy and digital vault
- …. (incl. many from *Dutch Tax Authority*)


tew.normalizedsystems.org:9000/procesEval/eval/masterScriptie/all.action
MasterScriptie
Evaluatie
Workflow
Verwerking
Account
logout
Pagina 1 van 61 (424 items)
Naam student
Opleiding
Titel scriptie
Academiejaar
Promotor
Co promotor
Duo thesis met
Status
TestStudent
HIB
Een mooie scriptie
2015-2016
herwig.mannaert
Eerste procesevaluatie voltooid
TestStudent2
HIB
Nog een mooie
herwig.mannaert
Tweede procesevaluatie voltooid
andreas sebrechts
TEW BK
Bestaat er een relatie tussen het systeem van interne contro
worden met dit probleem?
ann.deschepper
vastleggen
nick vanlook
TEW BK
De impact van de financiële crisis op de verzekeringsmarkt
ann.deschepper
vastleggen
justas grigaras
AES BA
Macroeconomic factors impact on home insurance market
ann.deschepper
vastleggen
bart vanbeveren
MCM
De subsidiekanalen binnen de Vlaamse Letterensector in ka
annick.schramme
vastleggen
jasmijn lahaye
MCM
De vrienden van het ModeMuseum in Antwerpen, principes
annick.schramme
inleveren3
Edit EersteProcesEvaluatie
Master scriptie
TestStudent
Promotor: herwig.mannaert
ANALYZER
KWALITEIT VAN DE INFORMATIE
Accuraatheid en genuanceerdheid van projectvoorstel.
Accuraatheid
Goed
COORDINATOR
PROBLEEMOPLOSSENDE ONDERZOEKSHOUDING
Analytisch
Goed


tew.normalizedsystems.org:9000/procesEval/eval/eersteProcesEvaluatieTaskStatus/all
EersteProcesEvaluatieTaskStatus
Evaluatie
Workflow
Verwerking
Account
logout
Pagina 1 van 87 (604 items)
Naam
Status
Started at
Finished at
Eerste proces evaluatie
State task
TestStudent:EersteProcesNotifier
RapportVerzonden
21-11-2016
21-11-2016 18:48:50
TestStudent
EersteProcesNotifier
TestStudent:EersteProcesReporter
RapportGemaakt
21-11-2016
21-11-2016 18:48:20
TestStudent
EersteProcesReporter
TestStudent:EersteProcesNotifier
RapportVerzonden
18-11-2016
18-11-2016 15:07:50
TestStudent
EersteProcesNotifier
TestStudent:EersteProcesReporter
RapportGemaakt
18-11-2016
18-11-2016 15:07:20
TestStudent
EersteProcesReporter
TestStudent:EersteProcesNotifier
RapportVerzonden
17-11-2016
17-11-2016 14:14:19
TestStudent
EersteProcesNotifier
TestStudent:EersteProcesReporter
RapportGemaakt
17-11-2016
17-11-2016 14:13:49
TestStudent
EersteProcesReporter
TestStudent:EersteProcesNotifier
RapportVerzonden
16-11-2016
16-11-2016 18:52:00
TestStudent
EersteProcesNotifier


Status
50%
RapportGemaakt : 302
50%
RapportGemaakt
RapportVerzonden


Today
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
2.0

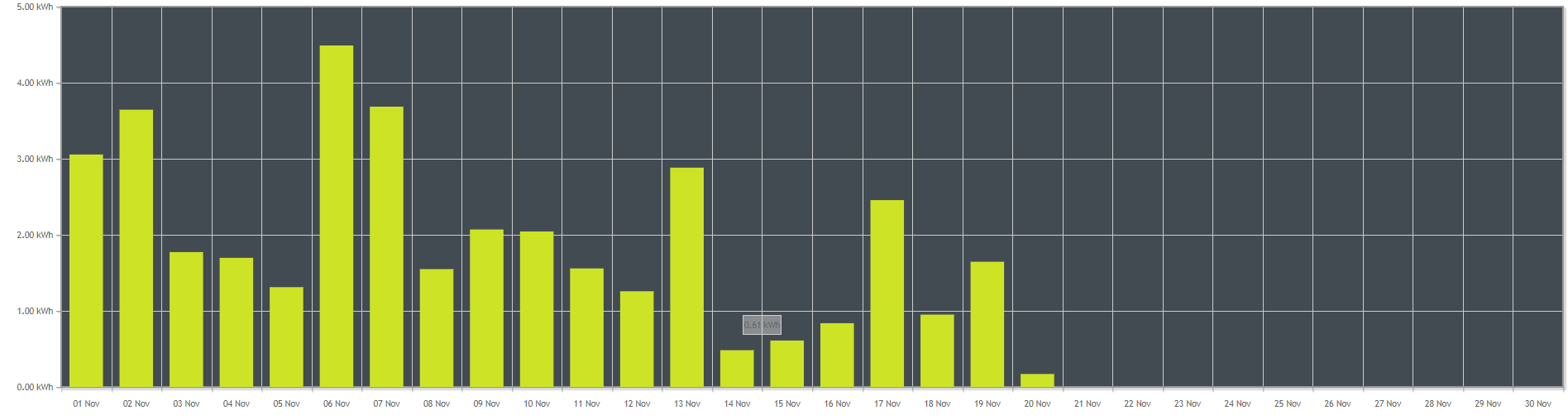
Prime Radiant | localhost:9400/haachtPl | localhost:9700/procesEv | https://128.199.44.182/s | https://128.199.44.182/s

Niet veilig | https://128.199.44.182/smartMon/pvMon/month?meter=264216

Pv Month Overview | PV_Monitor | Workflow | Account | Utils | ... | logout

Dag | Maand | Jaar | Alle jaren

November 2017



localhost:9700/engie/funnelUI/funnel/all

Funnel | Utils | Validation | Account | Workflow | UI | logout

Stap 1 Mijn situatie | **Stap 2** Mijn verbruiksadres | **Stap 3** Mijn pack & verbruik | **Stap 4** Mijn gegevens | **Stap 5** Mijn beslissing

Ik wil energie ontvangen op dit adres

Mijn verbruiksadres: full name

Dit verbruiksadres:
- Wordt mijn hoofdverblijfplaats
- is een extra adres (anders dan hoofdverblijfplaats, bv. buitenverblijf)

Aantal gezinsleden op deze hoofdverblijfplaats: 0

Ik wil elektriciteit en/of aardgas ontvangen vanaf een bepaalde datum:

1) Vink aan of u elektriciteit en/of aardgas wilt ontvangen op uw verbruiksadres.
2) Geef aan wat de situatie van uw aansluiting is (open, gesloten, nog aan te vragen).
3) Bepaal vanaf welke datum u elektriciteit en/of aardgas wenst te ontvangen.

- Elektriciteit

EAN-code: 541448820058951710

Prime Radiant | localhost:9400/haachtPl | localhost:9700/procesEv | https://128.199.44.182/s | https://128.199.44.182/s

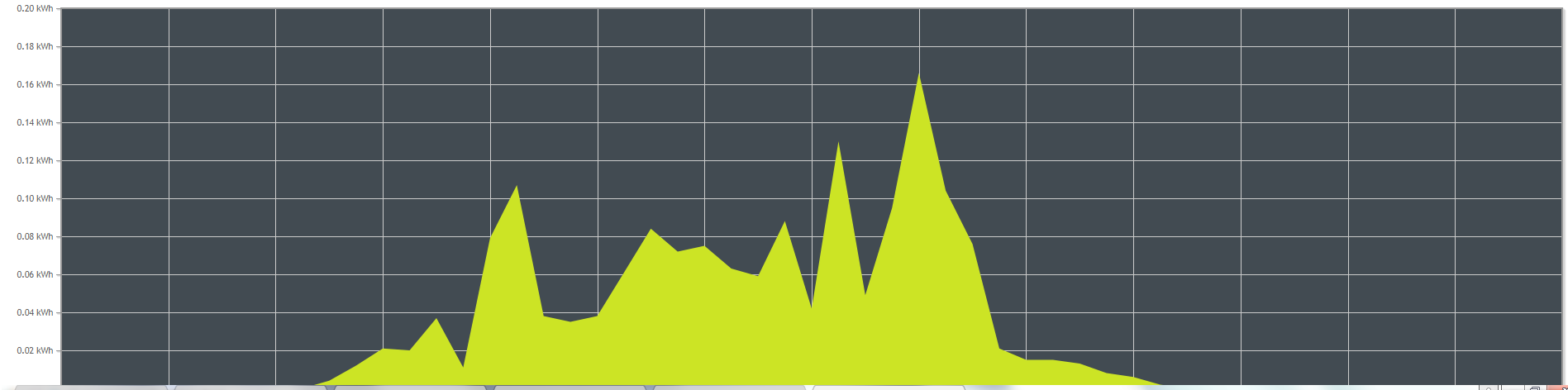
Niet veilig | https://128.199.44.182/smartMon/pvMon/day?meter=264216

Pv Day Overview PV_Monitor Workflow ... logout

Dag | Maand | Jaar | Alle jaren

19-11-2017

19 November 2017



Prime Radiant | localhost:9400/haachtPl | localhost:9700/procesEv | https://128.199.44.182/s | Please login | DCIM Basic

Niet veilig | hardin.normalizedsystems.org:9000/#MxConsoleDetailPlace:dashboard

Minkels - Varicontrol DCIM Basic

Navigation

Data Center

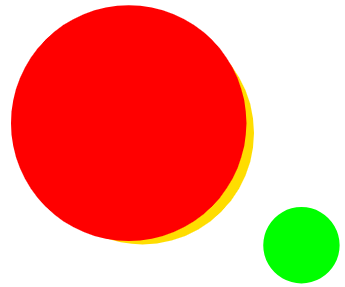
Dashboard

Export

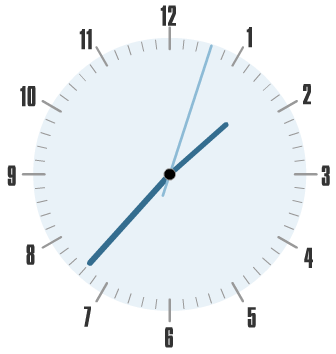
Settings

Welcome | Dashboard

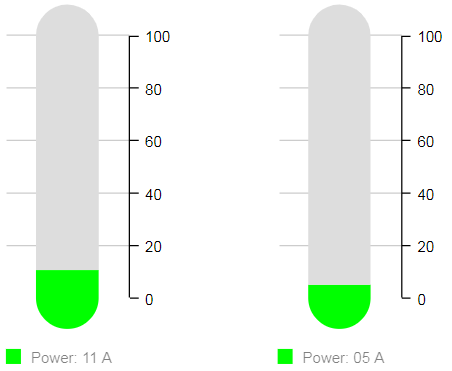
Alarms



System Time



Power: Feed A+B



Environment

Temperature: 00.0 C

PUE

3

Some Figures on ½ Codebase

Applications	± 20
Components	43
Data elements	1546
Attributes	7094
Task elements	535
Flow elements	133

Skeletons	Total
Classes	± 40.000

Extensions	Total
Data layer	6
Logic layer	1731
Shared layer	250
Proxy layer	5
Control layer	218
View layer	1186

Insertions	Total
Data element	1436
User connector	146
Task element	401
Flow element	0

Some Reports on Applications

- Detailed status report:
  - Model with various elements/attributes
  - Custom extensions/insertions in various layers
- Evolution report:
  - Model with various elements/attributes
  - Custom extensions/insertions in various layers
- Example: IoT Data Inflow Engine
  - Component monitoring

Some Figures on Utilities

Concern type	*Multiplicity*	*Implementations*
Database	4	Postgres, HSQL, SQLServer, MySQL
Persistency	2	OpenJPA, Hibernate
Transaction	2	EJB2, EJB3
Remoting	2	RMI, WS
Controller	3	Cocoon, Struts2, Struts2-Knockout
Styling	2	Bootstrap, Plain
Access	2	JavaEE, NS

Table 15.2: Overview of various technological implementations.

Variation Gain

4+2+2+2+3+2+2 = 17

4x2x2x2x3x2x2 = 384

From Continuous Integration to Continuous Rejuvenation

- Current CICD encompasses:
  - custom code evolution
  - model evolution
- CICD+Rejuvenation introduces:
  - new generator/skeleton versions
  - newly supported utility frameworks
- Our CICD environment expands and builds
  - most applications in several utility settings
  - all applications in new generator/skeleton version

From Continuous Integration to Continuous Rejuvenation

- Applications between 10 and 0 years old:
  - Some have been rejuvenated > 10 times
- Last rejuvenation max 3 or 6 months old:
  - Skeleton code (>90%) max 3-6 months old
  - Used frameworks supported by newest skeletons
  - Custom code
    - Has no conflicts with new(er)(est) skeletons
    - Does not depend on obsolete frameworks

From Continuous Integration to Continuous Rejuvenation

- All applications may benefit at once from:
  - Newly supported frameworks
  - Additional features skeletons
  - Improved security features
- Applications have benefitted in the past from:
  - New knockoutjs UI implementation
  - Auto-generation of waterfall screens
  - Configurable authentication/authorization
  - Improved high-throughput flow processing
  - …

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Discussion and Conclusions

- Contributions
  - *Insight* into current problems ~ Lehman's Law
  - Proposing the structure of a possible *solution*
    - Software elements to guarantee stability
    - Applications as instantiations of elements
  - Charting *dimensions of evolvability*
    - Decoupling of skeletons and frameworks
    - Separating skeletons and custom code
  - Setting up a *rejuvenation CICD* environment
    - For a pretty significant *application set*

Discussion: Limitations

- Limitations:
  - Limited time span
  - Limited application set
  - Limited set of frameworks
  - *No collaborative model realized*
    - ➔ *working on an "Expander API"*

Goal:

All participating expander developers can make improvements to skeletons, that may be applied to all applications

Some References

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- Mannaert Herwig, Verelst Jan, Ven Kris.- Towards evolvable software architectures based on systems theoretic stability. Software practice and experience - ISSN 0038-0644 - 42:1(2012), p. 89-116
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  [c:irua:91112]
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  https://doi.org/10.1007/s12599-017-0510-4

Questions

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