

The Future of Strategy Technology Shift

Our new software development stack

Goals

- Move to a modern web framework that supports a responsive UI that works on any device.
- Separate the business rules from the applications so can be used wherever the data is accessed (Strategy, API).
- Use an open API service layer for the Strategy applications.
- Improve release management to reduce release conflicts and speed up release cadence.
- Accelerate application migration of the existing Strategy applications.

Web Framework Selection

Many to choose from

Angular, React, Vue

And the winner is: Angular

- Full featured relative to other frameworks
- Opinionated but modular design allows flexibility
- Strong language support (TypeScript)
- Component architecture matches well with existing Strategy application
- Frequent and predictable upgrade cycle

Application Demo

Logon

Dashboard overview

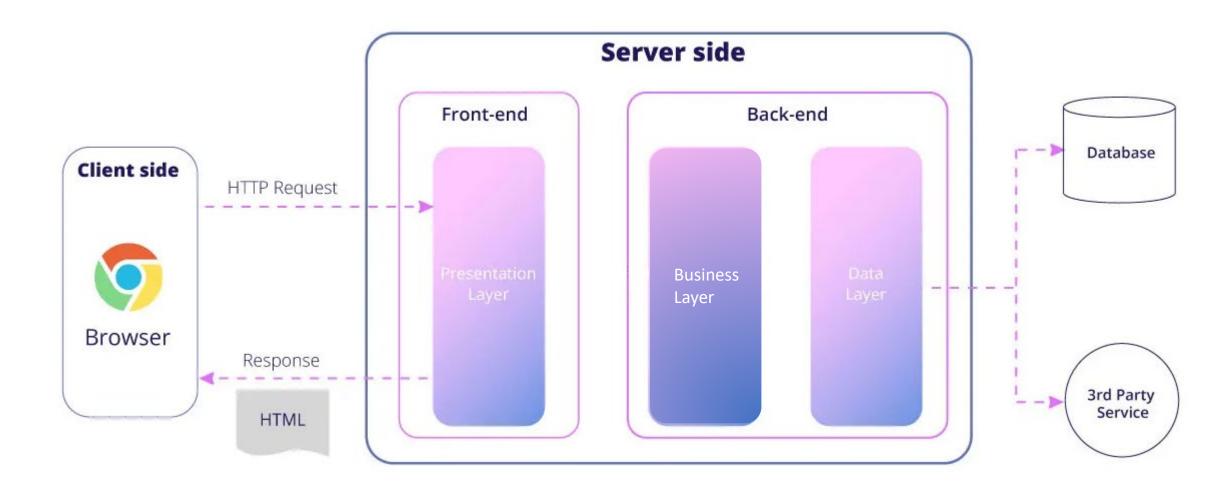
- Landing page made of components that can be customized to user preferences
 - Process/task queues, MRU lists, dashboard summaries
- Familiar navigation menu structure
 - Nest module navigation down the side
 - Standard menu bar at the top
- User profile flyout

Angular – SPA

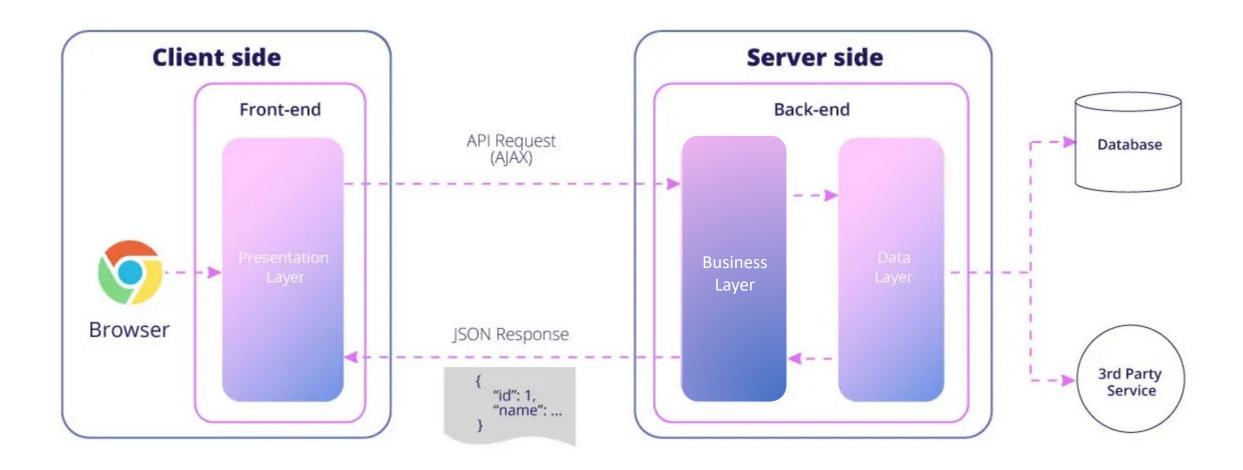
What is a SPA framework?

- Single Page Application Client/Server redux
- Server-side vs client-side
 - Server-side (traditional web server/MPA)
 - HTML page is composed on the server
 - Page is "submitted" to the server all at once with all the input fields and a new page is returned from the server (like green screen)
 - Reload on navigation
 - Client-side (SPA)
 - HTML page is composed on the client
 - Data is retrieved and updated via web API's (like client/server)
 - Seamless user experience

Traditional Web Applications



Single Page Applications



Angular UI

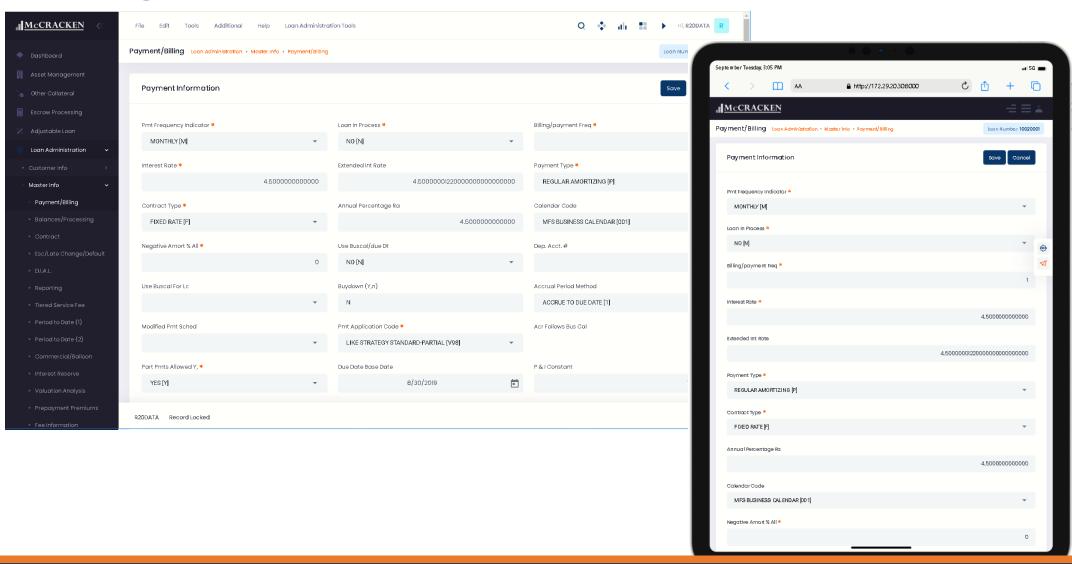
Familiar UI

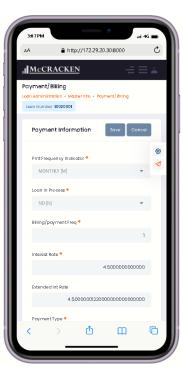
- Left hand navigation bar
- Page loaded right side based on navigation
- Top menu bar (File, Tools, Additional, module specific)

Responsive UI

- Current portal apps optimized for FHD (1920x1080) screens
- A responsive UI automatically adapts to device specific characteristics
 - From mobile through large 4k monitors taking advantage of the available screen real estate
- Natively supported by Bootstrap framework requiring no additional programming effort

Angular UI - Demo





Strategy Metadata

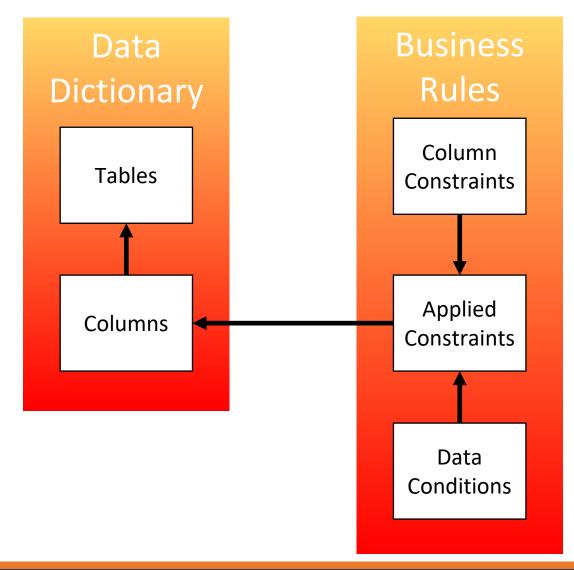
Data Dictionary

- Documents Strategy database structure and elements
- Provides business definitions for all fields in the system
- Provides schema definition for reporting module

Business Rules

- Defines data conditions when rules (constraints) are applied
- Constraints restrict available values for entry
- Used to validate entered data and control UI behaviors
- Provides business context on why constraints are applied

Metadata Repository



Business Rules

Most business rules are in fact not validations but rather situations where the acceptable values for a field are limited.

- When a data condition occurs
- Limit the acceptable values of one or more fields

Example

- When the Payment Frequency Indicator is Daily (D)
- Then the Bill/Payment Frequency must be greater than 7

Business Rule Constraints

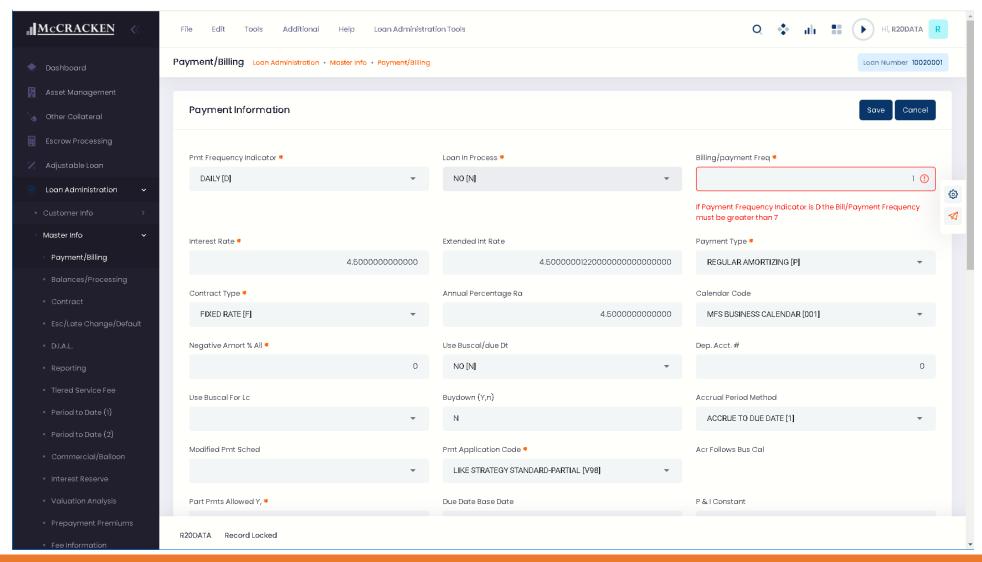
Available actions

- Filter drop down lists
- Constrain numeric/date values
- Dynamically apply required constraints
- Optionally make fields not applicable
- Default a field value

Context sensitive guidance

- Immediate validation feedback on field entry
- Data dictionary provides business field definitions
- Any applied business rule descriptions are displayed

Business Rules - Demo



Business Rules Definitions

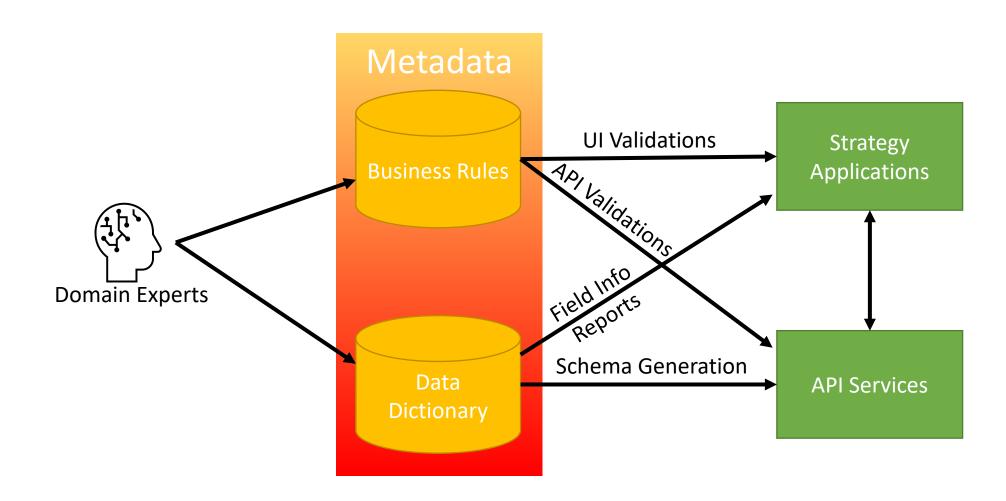
All business rules are stored in the database

- Data conditions represented using JsonLogic language
- Data constraints defined based on column type

Example:

- Condition
 - {"if" : [{"==": [{"var":"PMASTR.CMMORD"}, "D"] }, {"var": ""}, false]}
- Constraint
 - Field: PMASTR.CMBPF
 - Type: ConstrainNumber
 - Constraint: setLower
 - Value: 8
 - Message: If Payment Frequency Indicator is D the Bill/Payment Frequency must be greater than 7

Strategy Metadata



API Services

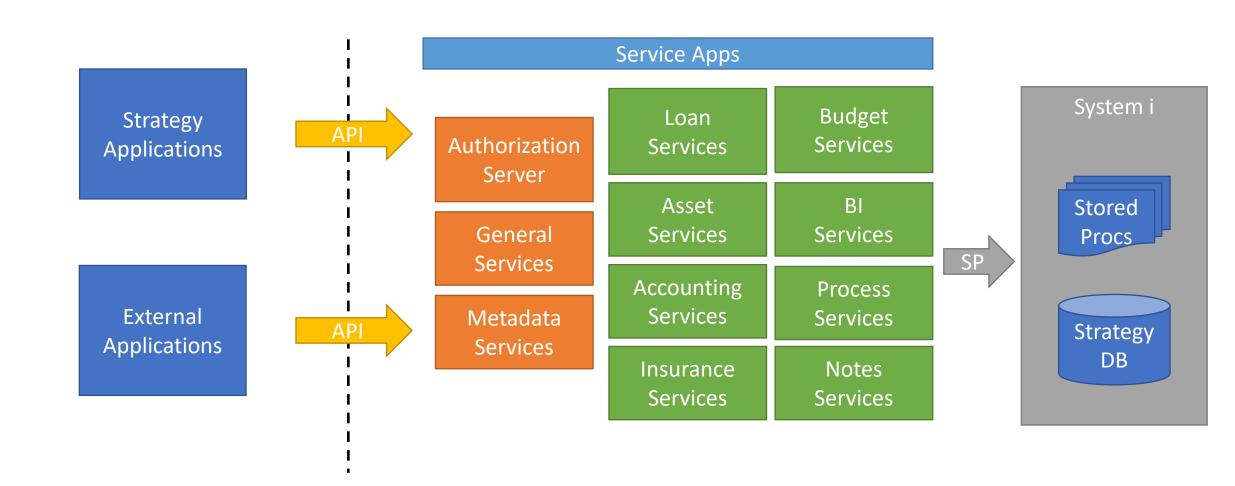
API Service Layer

- Standardized access to the Strategy engine
 - Oauth 2.0 security
- Reduces the tight coupling between front-end and back-end
 - Can be updated at will as long as API contracts are maintained
- System API Services: organized by function
 - Authorization, metadata, general
- Business API Services: organized by business domains
 - Loan data, Asset data, Accounting data, Insurance data, etc.

API Documentation

API documentation generated when the service is built

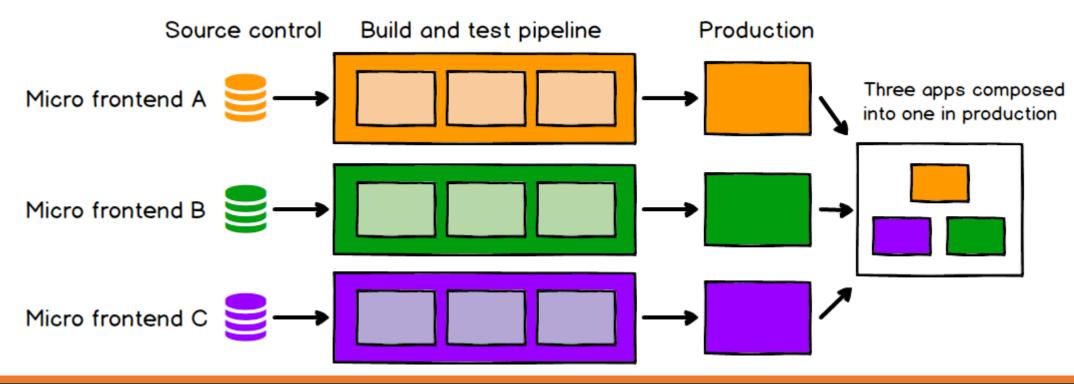
API Services



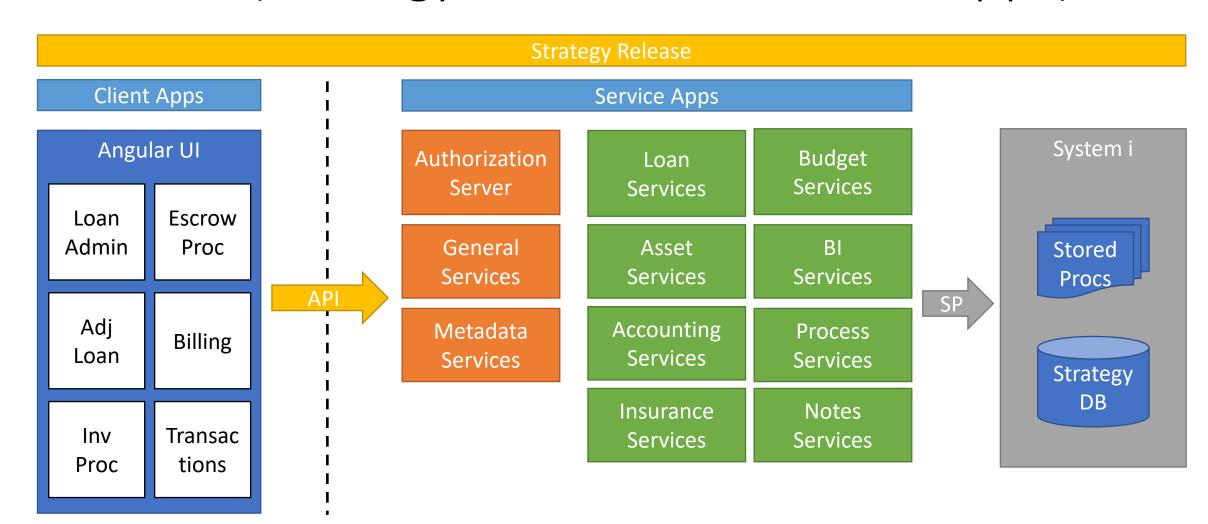
Improve Release Management

Micro Frontend

- Allow composition of individual SPA applications into a single user experience
- Loose coupling allows updating of individual applications



Releases (Strategy, API Services, Client Apps)



Releases (Strategy, API Services, Client Apps)

Strategy Releases

Same as today – database release along with all the supporting programs.

API Service Releases

• Can be more frequent than the Strategy release but highly dependent on the specific Strategy release (e.g., stored proc names, stored proc parameters, etc.).

Client Application Releases

- Can be more frequent than API Service releases and are much less dependent on the specific API Service release.
- As long as the API contracts are maintained, new versions of the API Services and/or Strategy can be released without updating the client applications.
- Conversely, client applications can be updated independent of the API Service layer, as long as the API Services support the API's required by the client applications.
- Angular release updates

Improving software packaging/deployments

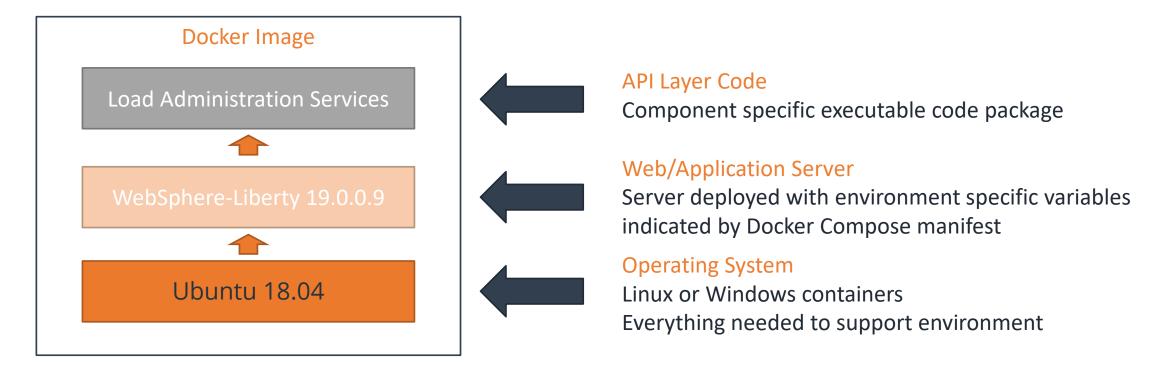
Containerization

- Applies to API service layer and Client applications
- Packaging an entire software solution into a single image that can be deployed on any server.
 - operating system, runtime environment, configuration, application code –outside dependencies.
- Consistent Isolated Environment
 - Same image is used for test and production.

Docker Container Benefits

- Continuous deployment and testing
 - Configurations and dependencies maintained internally
- Rapid Deployment
 - Docker instances can be deployed and rolled back in seconds
- Scalability
 - Fine grain control over resource operational load
 - Orchestration with Kubernetes
- Security
 - Isolation ensures each component has no access to running processes or data in use by other containers
- Multi-Cloud Platforms
 - Portable across cloud platforms (supported by Amazon Web Services, Google Compute Platform, Microsoft Azure, OpenStack, etc)

Container Architecture



Docker Compose allows automatic deployment of multiple containers to construct complete environment Kubernetes facilitates distributed orchestration and scaling for loads exceeding single host limitations

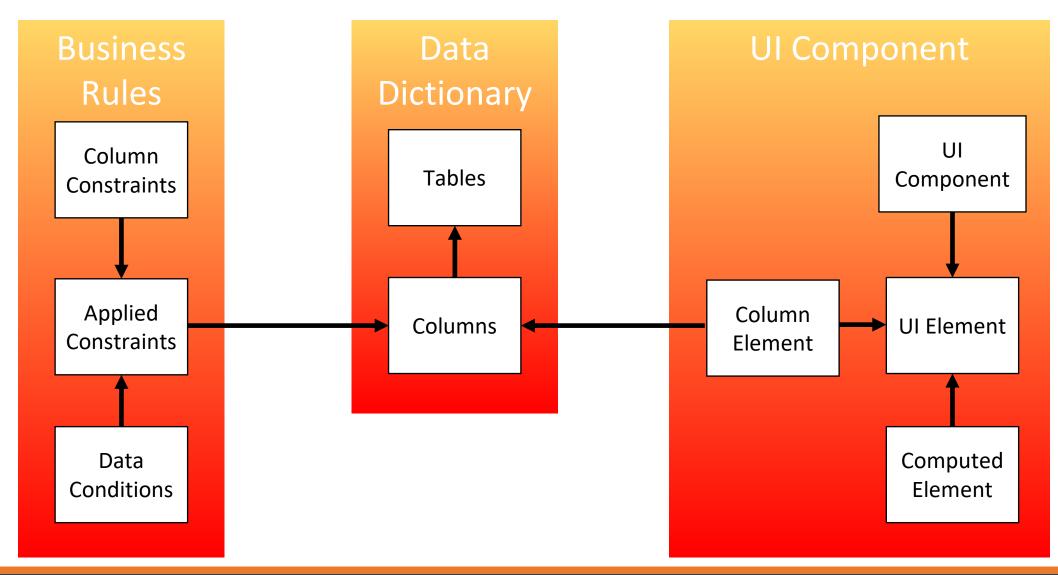
Accelerate Application Migration

Really the culmination of previous items plus code generation.

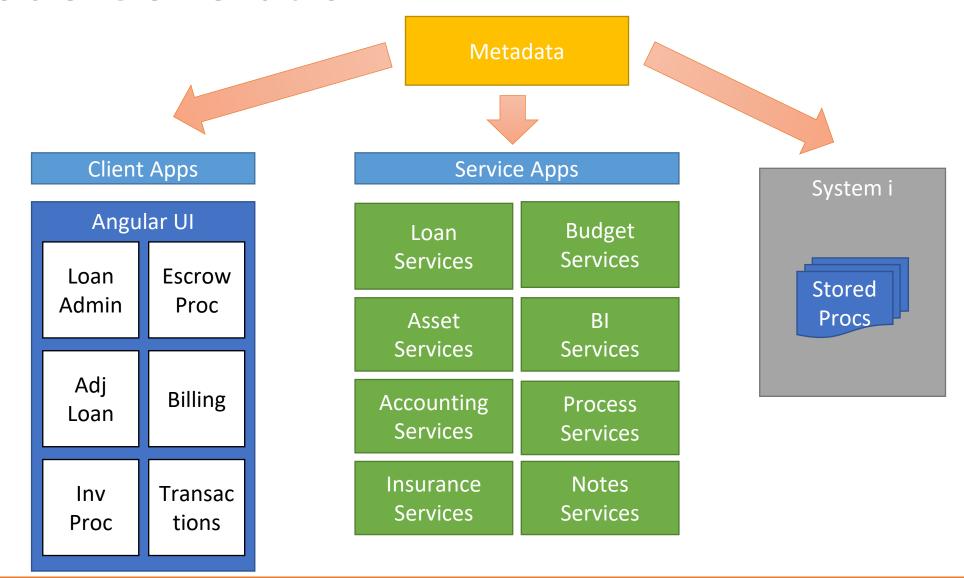
Code generation for the easy stuff

- A lot of Strategy is simple table maintenance (CRUD)
- Currently most application complexity revolves around implementing business rules
 - Which are now managed in the database instead of in application code
- Metadata driven code generation based on UI design
 - Generate UI components, supporting API services and backend stored procedures
- Not everything can be automatically generated but much of it can be
- Lays the groundwork for future technology changes

Code Generation Metadata



Code Generation



The Future of Strategy

Angular SPA framework

- Modern web development with a responsive UI that works on any device
- Full featured for enterprise applications

Metadata driven business rule engine

- Separates the business rules from the applications and API's
- Allows a rule to be developed independently

API Services

- Open and well documented API standard
- Customers to leverage the same functionality as the Strategy applications

Release management

- API layer reduces release dependency
- Micro frontend allows multiple applications to composed together in a single interface
- Container technologies ease deployment

Metadata driven code generation

Accelerates the migration of the existing Strategy applications

The Future of Strategy

Questions?

