

Understanding ROS 2 Topics

Estimated time to completion: 20 minutes

3.9 Use a Custom Interface

Now that you've learned how to create a custom interface, let's see how you can use it in your ROS 2 node!

- Example 3.6 -

- It's time to use the custom interface `RoverEvents` that we created.
- When compiling, the `Python` and `C++` classes for this interface were created.
- This means that if we want to use them, it will be just like any other interface already installed in the system, like the ones we have used, `geometry_msgs/msg/Twist` for example.
- This is how you would use them:

```
In [ ]:  
from custom_interfaces.msg import RoverEvents  
...  
rover_event = RoverEvents()  
rover_event.info.data = "The information we want to publ  
rover_event.rover_location.position.x = ROVERS_X_ODOM_LOC  
rover_event.rover_location.position.y = ROVERS_Y_ODOM_LOC
```

- Let's create a modification of the `plant_detector_node.py` to publish whatever is detected and retrieve the odometry location at that point.
- We will publish this data in a new topic named `_mars_rover_events`.
- We will need to create a subscriber for the odometry topic `/odom`:

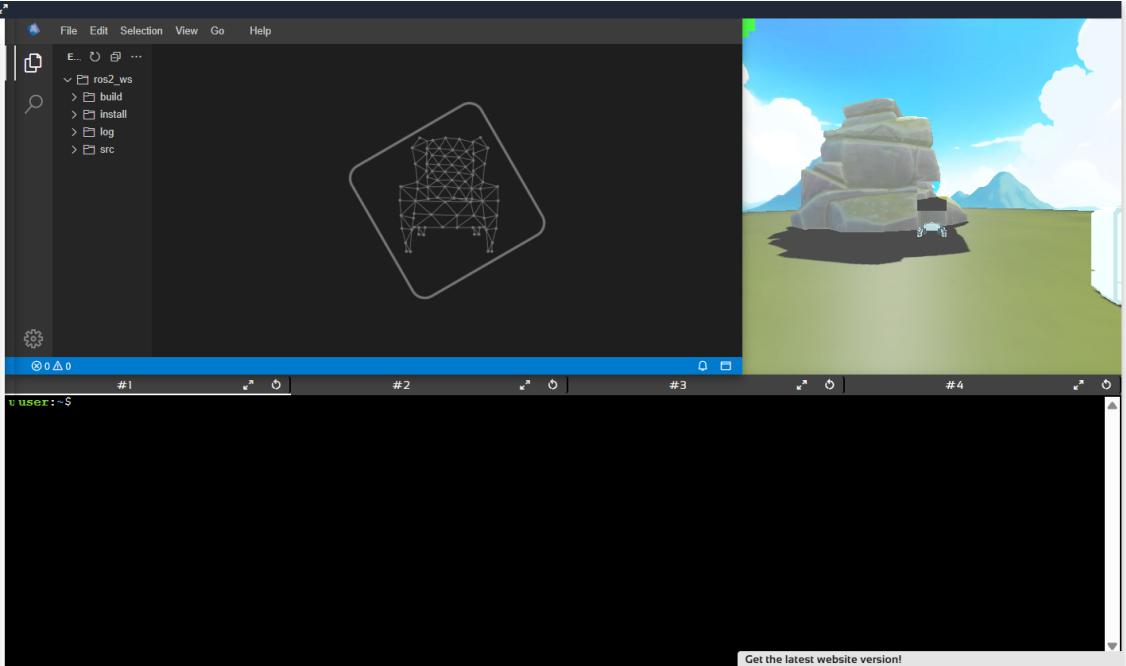
```
In [ ]:  
# Subscribe to the odometry topic  
self.odom_subscription = self.create_subscription(  
    Odometry,  
    '/odom',  
    self.odom_callback,  
    10)  
self.odom_subscription # prevent unused variable warning  
...  
  
def odom_callback(self, msg):  
    # Store the current odometry data  
    self.current_odom = msg
```

- Here we save the latest odometry data in the variable `self.current_odom`.
- This is because this way we can retrieve that data in another callback.

```
In [ ]:  
def image_callback(self, msg):  
    # Convert ROS Image message to OpenCV image  
    cv_image = self.bridge.imgmsg_to_cv2(msg, "bgr8")  
  
    # Use the PlantDetector to make a prediction  
    prediction = self.plant_detector.predict(cv2.cvtColor  
  
    # Create a RoverEvents message  
    rover_event = RoverEvents()  
  
    # Determine the result message based on the prediction  
    if prediction > 0.5:  
        rover_event.info.data = f"Plant detected with con  
        self.get_logger().warning(rover_event.info.data)  
        self.get_logger().warning("Publishing mars rover  
        rover_event.info.data = f"Plant detected with con  
        # If the odometry data is available, include the  
        if self.current_odom:  
            rover_event.rover_location = self.current_odo  
  
        # Publish the RoverEvents message  
        self.publisher_.publish(rover_event)  
    else:  
        rover_event.info.data = f"No plant detected. Conf  
        self.get_logger().info(rover_event.info.data)
```

- Now we **ONLY** publish into the `_mars_rover_events` when a plant is detected.
 - We retrieve the odometry data and publish it.
- At the end you should get something similar to this:

```
plant_detector_node.py  
In [ ]:  
import rclpy  
from rclpy.node import Node  
from sensor_msgs.msg import Image  
from nav_msgs.msg import Odometry # Import Odometry mess  
from custom_interfaces.msg import RoverEvents # Import R
```



```

from cv_bridge import CvBridge
import cv2
from mars_rover_tasks.plant_detector import PlantDetector

class PlantDetectorNode(Node):
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__('plant_detector_node')

        # Initialize the CvBridge
        self.bridge = CvBridge()

        # Initialize the PlantDetector
        path_to_model = '/home/user/rospack_ws/src/basic_ros'
        self.plant_detector = PlantDetector(model_path=path_to_model)

        # Subscribe to the image topic
        self.subscription = self.create_subscription(
            Image,
            '/leo/camera/image_raw',
            self.image_callback,
            10)
        self.subscription # prevent unused variable warning

        # Subscribe to the odometry topic
        self.odom_subscription = self.create_subscription(
            Odometry,
            '/odom',
            self.odom_callback,
            10)
        self.odom_subscription # prevent unused variable warning

        # Initialize the Publisher for rover events
        self.publisher_ = self.create_publisher(RoverEvent, '/rover_events', 10)

        # Variable to store the latest odometry message
        self.current_odom = None

    def odom_callback(self, msg):
        # Store the current odometry data
        self.current_odom = msg

    def image_callback(self, msg):
        # Convert ROS Image message to OpenCV image
        cv_image = self.bridge.imgmsg_to_cv2(msg, "bgr8")

        # Use the PlantDetector to make a prediction
        prediction = self.plant_detector.predict(cv2.cvtColor(cv_image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY))

        # Create a RoverEvents message
        rover_event = RoverEvents()

        # Determine the result message based on the prediction
        if prediction > 0.5:
            rover_event.info.data = f"Plant detected with {prediction:.2f} confidence"
            self.get_logger().warning(rover_event.info.data)
            self.get_logger().warning("Publishing mars rover event")
            rover_event.info.data = f"Plant detected with {prediction:.2f} confidence"
            if self.current_odom:
                rover_event.rover_location = self.current_odom
        else:
            rover_event.info.data = f"No plant detected, confidence: {prediction:.2f}"
            self.get_logger().info(rover_event.info.data)

        # Publish the RoverEvents message
        self.publisher_.publish(rover_event)

    def main(args=None):
        rclpy.init(args=args)

        plant_detector_node = PlantDetectorNode()

        rclpy.spin(plant_detector_node)

        # Destroy the node explicitly (optional)
        plant_detector_node.destroy_node()
        rclpy.shutdown()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    main()

```

- Let's compile and run this node:

Build and Run

Execute in Terminal #1

In []:

```
cd ~/ros2_ws
colcon build --packages-select mars_rover_tasks
source install/setup.bash
```

- And run it:

Execute in Terminal #1

- Start the `plant_detector_node`:

In []:

```
cd ~/ros2_ws
source install/setup.bash
ros2 run mars_rover_tasks image_plant_detector_executable
```

Execute in Terminal #2

- Move the Mars rover around to test whether the camera detects the plant when it sees it.

In []:

```
cd ~/ros2_ws
```

```
source install/setup.bash  
ros2 run teleop_twist_keyboard teleop_twist_keyboard
```

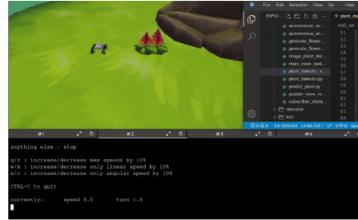
Execute in Terminal #3

- Echo the topic `/mars_rover_events` to see the publication of these detections.
- **BE CAREFUL** to `source install/setup.bash.`, because otherwise in that terminal ROS2 won't understand what the new custom type `RoverEvents`.

In []:

```
cd ~/ros2_ws  
source install/setup.bash  
ros2 topic echo /mars_rover_events
```

- You should see something like so, try moving to different points to see how the odometry changes:



- End of Example 3.5 -

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3.9 - Use a Custom Interface