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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE,
IMADA

MASTER THESIS

Building a Package Manager for Jolie

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May 19, 2017

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Introduction

Introduction goes here

Background

Background goes here.

2.1 Microservices

- General stuff about microservices, actually introduce the thing

2.2 Package Managers

Some background on package managers.

2.3 Introduction to Jolie

Jolie is a service-oriented programming language, and is build to support a microservice natively. In this section we will cover what kind of language Jolie is, and how it is currently used.

Jolie has a C-inspired syntax, and is dynamically typed. Its interpreter is written in Java.

The language has no native functions or methods, but instead works in processes. A process has no arguments, and does not contain any stack (in the case of recursive calls). There are two pre-defined processes, which will always be called by the interpreter, these are called `init` and `main`.

```
1  include "console.iol"
2
3  define PrintOutput {
4      println@Console(output)() // Prints 'OK'
5  }
6
7  init { a = 1 }
8
9  main {
10     b = 2;
11     c = a + b; // c = 3
12     if (c == 3) {
13         output = "OK"
14     } else {
15         output = "Bad"
16     };
17     PrintOutput // Calls the defined process 'PrintOutput'
18 }
```

Listing 1: A very simple Jolie program

Listing 1 shows a very simple programming language, in what looks like what you might expect from a dynamic language with C-inspired syntax. However a few things may also strike you as odd.

First of all there are typos on lines 12, 14 or 16, the semicolon is not needed here, in fact it would be a syntax error. The reason for this is that the semicolon isn't used strictly for parsing purposes, but it instead for having multiple statements in a process. The "semicolon" statement, also called a sequence statement, has a syntax of `A ; B`, which should be read as: first perform statement A, then perform B. The sequence statement requires both of the operands to be present, hence the syntax error. Another similar statement is the parallel statement, which has a syntax of `A | B`, which reads as: do A and B in parallel. Using these operators together allows the programmer to easily create a fork-join workflow. This is typically used in microservices when we want to collect data in parallel, and continue once all of the data has been retrieved.

Secondly has slightly different rules for scoping. In Jolie everything not defined in the global scope goes into the same scope. This also persists through calls to defines. This is the reason that `PrintOutput` can use the output variable.

Several execution modes exists. The default execution mode, which was used in Listing 1 is `single`. This means that the `main` process is run just a single time. Two more modes exists, those being `concurrent` and `sequential`. TODO Some more stuff

Ports are the primitive that Jolie uses for communication, two types of ports exists: input and output. Ports describe a running service, where it is located (**Location**), and how to speak to it (**Protocol**), and finally which operations it supports (**Interfaces**). In Listing 2 we see a simple output port which contacts `example.com` on port 42000, using `http`. Note that it is only the ports that deal with the protocol, everything inside of the code is completely agnostic with respect to the protocol being used for communication. As a result it is easy to change a service from communicating using one protocol to another.

```
1 outputPort Example {  
2     Location: "socket://example.com:42000"  
3     Protocol: http  
4     Interfaces: IExample  
5 }
```

Listing 2: A simple output port which contacts the Google website

The interface which the port uses is called `IExample`, a full definition of it can be seen in Listing 3. Two types of operations exists in Jolie, namely `RequestResponse` and `OneWay`. The difference being fairly self-explanatory, the first receives a request and returns a response, the other simply receives a request, and produces no response.

```
1 interface IExample {  
2     RequestResponse:  
3         anOperation(RequestType) (ResponseType)  
4  
5     OneWay:  
6         hello>HelloType)  
7 }
```

Listing 3: An interface in Jolie defines which operations a port exposes

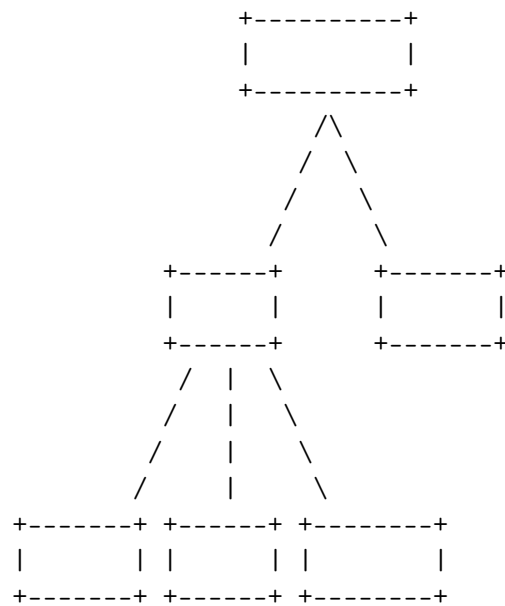
Whenever the Jolie interpreter invokes an operation on an output port, or receives a request on an input port, the types will be checked. This check ensures that we don't send out incorrect requests, and ensures that we do not attempt to process an incorrect request. Listing 4 show the request and response type of `anOperation`.

```
1  type RequestType: void {
2      .a: int
3      .b: string
4      .c: bool
5      .d: double
6      .e: any // any primitive type
7  }
8
9  type ResponseType: int {
10     .aFixedArray[1, 3]: string
11     .aNonFixedArray[0, *]: string
12     .fieldWithChildren: void {
13         .a: void {
14             .b: int
15         }
16     }
17 }
```

Listing 4: Jolie types are tree-like structures

In Jolie types are tree-like structures, very similar to how, for example, XML would be represented. Importantly the root may also contain a value, this is different from how most other programming languages work. This also means that certain encodings may have problems with this. JSON a popular format for serialization does not support root values, as a result Jolie will encode the root value under a special key to work around this fact.

TODO Actually use this illustration for something, should probably work with the actual example provided.



Jolie natively supports a variety of techniques for composition of services. The most important (for this work), which we will cover here are **aggregation** and **embedding**.

Embedding allows for a larger service to run smaller services as inner components. These services communicate with each other using more efficient local communication. These embedded services can be other Jolie services, but may also be services written in, for example, Java or even JavaScript. Communicating with these services is done exactly the same way as with any other service, it is entirely transparent to the application code where the service is located. TODO Can probably say a few more words about this subject. Might be easier to add this later when we know what we actually need.

Aggregation is a generalisation of proxies and load balancers. An illustration of this concept can be seen in Figure 2.1. Aggregation is useful for creating a wide variety of proxy like architectural patterns. The aggregation feature is often used along side the courier and interface extender features. Couriers allows the developer to insert code in-between the receiving the request and forwarding it. These features for example allow you to add authentication to a service which otherwise doesn't have it. This is done entirely without having to touch the original service.



Figure 2.1: Aggregation is a generalisation of proxies and load balancers

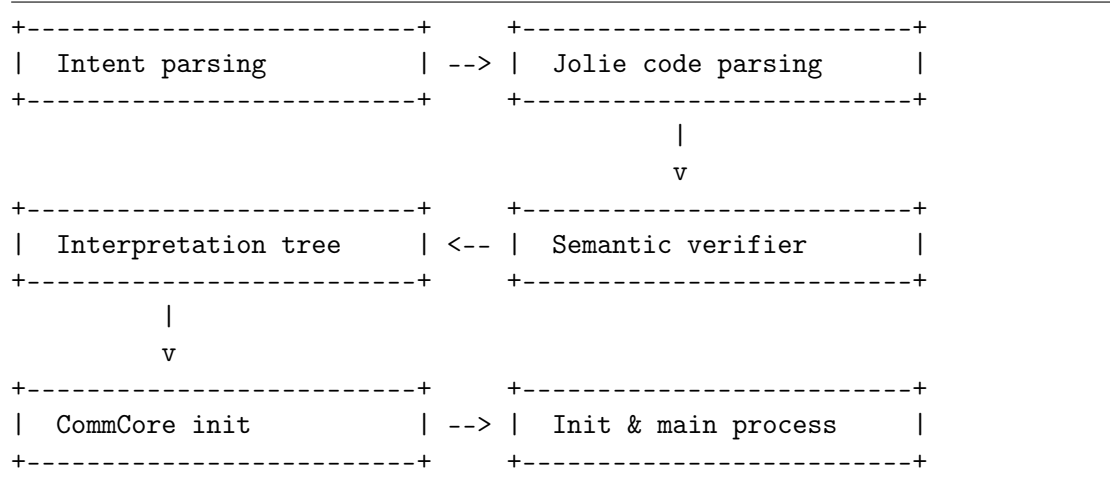
2.4 The Jolie Engine and Interpreter

- Values and types
- Phases of the compiler
- Anything we need to explain the changes that were made

In this section the internals of the Jolie engine will be introduced. This should give the reader the necessary knowledge to understand the changes made to support a module and package system for Jolie.

At the core of the Jolie engine is the interpreter. Each interpreter is responsible for parsing and executing a Jolie program. A single engine may run several instances of the interpreter, this is most commonly the case when embedding several other Jolie services.

A simplified view of the Jolie interpreter's pipeline can be seen in Figure 5.



Listing 5: A simplified view of the Jolie interpreter pipeline

The first phase of the interpreter is parsing the intent. In this phase we essentially figure out why the interpreter has been created, and what actions it should perform.

The Jolie engine can be invoked from the command-line, the command-line is the source of the intent which starts the first interpreter. The syntax for the command line is (roughly) as follows: `jolie [commands and options] <program> [program arguments]`. The options passed change the overall behaviour of the engine, and all interpreter instances share these. Commands and program arguments, however, only belong to the interpreter that they were originally passed.

The intent parsing phase is also responsible for locating and retrieving the program used. This is passed to the program parser. The program parser is the second phase, and is responsible for creating the Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) which represents the input program. The parser will produce only a single root node, namely the **Program** node. As a consequence of this, any file which is included is semantically identical to copying and pasting the source code of that file into the original file, in place of the include statement. It should also be noted that include paths are *not* relative to the file that includes, but rather relative to the current working directory (i.e. where the engine was started).

The third phase traverses the AST to make sure that it is semantically valid. This weeds out programs which are syntactically correct, but do not make sense. The amount of work done in this phase is somewhat limited, given the otherwise dynamic nature of the language.

Given a semantically valid AST the interpreter is ready to build the interpretation tree. The interpretation tree contains new nodes, known as processes. Each of these processes can be run, to execute the correct behaviour.

Once the interpretation tree is build, we're ready to execute the actual code (which lives

in the interpretation tree). First the init block is run, followed by the main block.

2.5 A Complete Application with Jolie

In this section we will describe a complete application written in Jolie. The application will contain several services, and will be written using best practices from before the module and package system.

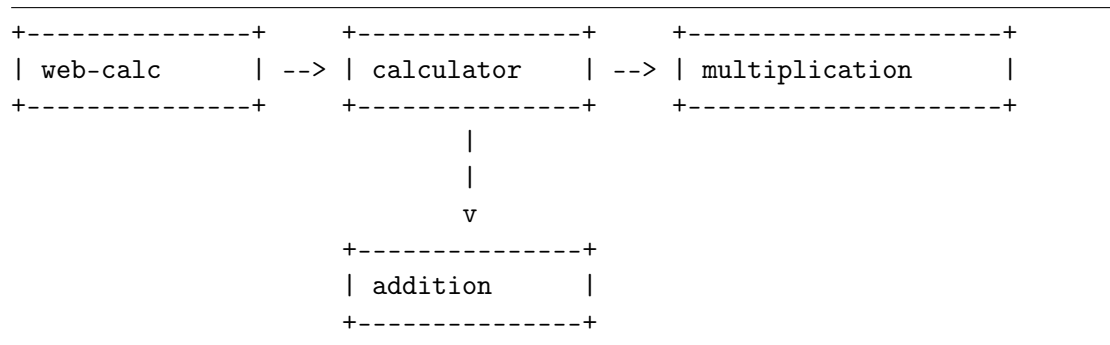
Along the way several patterns used for re-using code will be highlighted. This will serve as the core motivation for our solution.

2.5.1 Architecture

The application we will be building is a very simple calculator system. The architecture of our application is shown in Figure 6 we see an illustration of the system's architecture.

The calculator service will provide various operations for applying an operator on a sequence of numbers. In order to perform this, highly complex, action of applying these operators, the calculator will contact other microservices.

The dashed region (TODO) displays services that should be running in the same Jolie engine. This is accomplished via embedding, which was introduced in a previous section.



Listing 6: The Architecture of a Simple Microservice System

2.5.2 Implementing the Calculator Service

We will keep our focus on the *calculator* service, and its interacting with other services. Putting together the stuff learned from the previous sections, we can quickly setup an input port for the service, which has the appropriate interface. It is considered best

practice to place the public interfaces that a service exposes in its own separate file. Files intended for other services to include typically have the file extension `.iol` as opposed to `.ol`. There is no technical difference between the two, but it allows for the developer to more easily express intent. Files that are included can be placed in the `include` directory, this directory is always implicitly added to the search path.

Thus in order to implement our calculator service we create two files, one for the service implementation (`calculator.ol`), and another which can be used by other services (`calculator.iol`). The implementation and interfaces are shown in Listing 7.

| | |
|---|---|
| <pre> 1 // calculator.ol 2 include "console.iol" 3 4 inputPort Calculator { 5 Location: "socket://localhost:12345" 6 Protocol: sodep 7 Interfaces: ICalculator 8 } 9 10 main { 11 [sum(request)(response) { 12 println@Console("Implementation 13 ↳ goes here")() 14 }] 15 [product(request)(response) { 16 println@Console("Implementation 17 ↳ goes here")() 18 }] 19 }</pre> | <pre> 1 // calculator.iol 2 type Numbers: void { 3 .numbers[2, *]: int 4 } 5 6 interface ICalculator { 7 RequestResponse: 8 sum(Numbers)(int), 9 product(Numbers)(int) 10 }</pre> |
|---|---|

Listing 7: TODO Caption

Observation 1. The interfaces and types of a service are typically separated into their own files. This files typically has the extension `.iol` to indicate that it does not contain a service implementation, but is rather intended for inclusion by a service which requires it.

This file is typically put in the `include` directory. This directory is always added to the search path natively by the Jolie engine.

The operations that the calculator exposes, needs to collaborate with the other services. In order for us to speak to them they need output ports.

First of all the output ports needs interfaces. Like we did with the calculator service, the

other services have exposed their interfaces in a special file intended for inclusion. As a result we will have to copy the `.iol` files of these services into our own.

Secondly these output port needs to be reached. We can either embed the services, making it run inside of the same Jolie engine as our calculator service, or we can provide external bindings to it. For output ports we may change this binding dynamically at runtime. Note that this is unlike input ports which must be ready at deployment time.

Binding an output port to an external service is relatively easy. For example to let the `multiplication` port bind to a service using https, we might write `Location: "socket://mult.example.co` and `Protocol: https`. The input port at the multiplication processor would also have to match this, to ensure it runs on the correct port and speaks the correct protocol.

It is a similar to bind an output port to an embedded service. However this is done by setting the `Location` or `Protocol` attributes. We must instead instruct the engine to embed the service, which most importantly requires us to point to some executable service. The Jolie engine supports several language for these embedded services, including Jolie, Java, and JavaScript. For our desired deployment, we wanted to embed the addition service inside of the calculator service. Assuming that the addition service is written as a Jolie service, and its service is implemented in `addition.ol`, then we may create an embedding as shown in Listing 9. Just like in the case of the external services, the input port of the receiving service *must match*. In the case of embedded service there must be an input port listening on the `"local"` location.

Quite often the location of an input port is considered a deployment problem. We see this quite clearly in the case of embedding a service. All current solutions in Jolie, require us to *modify the source code of a service*, simply to change where the service should listen. Best practices in Jolie attempt to make this less of a problem by including a configuration file which contains constants. The addition service, might include a file called `addition.iol` with constants setting up the location and protocol of the service. An example of this is shown in Listing 8.

| | |
|--|---|
| <pre> 1 // addition.ol 2 include "addition.iol" 3 4 inputPort Addition { 5 Location: ADDITION_LOCATION 6 Protocol: ADDITION_PROTOCOL 7 }</pre> | <pre> 1 // addition.iol 2 constants { 3 ADDITION_LOCATION = "local" 4 ADDITION_PROTOCOL = sodep 5 }</pre> |
|--|---|

Listing 8: A common Jolie practice for solving configuration of a service, is to include a file containing constants with the desired configuration.

Observation 2. Most configuration of Jolie services are done via constants. Jolie constants, different from most other languages, can be simple literal types, or they may even contain identifiers. This makes them rather versatile in what they may configure.

The constants are placed in a separate source file, which is included by the service requiring the configuration.

```
1 embedded {  
2     Jolie:  
3         "addition.ol" in Addition  
4 }
```

Listing 9: Embedding the `addition` service in the `Addition` output port

With the code from Listing 7 where the output port `Console` is defined. The output port points to an embedding of the console service, and is included directly in the `console.iol` file. This is a fairly common pattern used in Jolie, especially for services that work in a library-like fashion (i.e. not intended as a stand-alone service). This pattern is used for almost every single service in the Jolie standard library.

Observation 3. Services intended to be used as libraries are often contained in a single `.iol` file. This file contain everything required to set it up, included interfaces, types and an embedded output port.

This makes it very easy to use the service, however it also makes it impossible to bind to this service externally, without first getting an embedding. This isn't possible since we cannot include the interfaces and types by themselves.

With the output ports correctly configured, we may now implement the actual business logic for our calculator. For completeness sake this might look like shown in Listing 10.

```

1 [sum(request)(response) {
2     total = 0;
3     for (i = 0, i < #request.numbers, i++) {
4         // Add current number with total, and store result in total
5         add@Addition({
6             .a = total,
7             .b = request.numbers[i]
8         })(total)
9     };
10    response = total
11 }]

```

Listing 10: Implementing the checkout operation

Finally we want to reflect slightly on the file structure that this service ended up having. In order to use external services, we had to include files which contain these interfaces. This version is worse when an embedding is desired, since the entire service with its implementation is suddenly required.

The files from these external service are also hard to manage. It isn't possible to simply move the source code of a service into its own directory. This is not possible since includes, unlike in most other languages, are not relative to the file performing the include, but rather relative to the project level root. Thus if we wish to move the service to a new directory, all includes in the source code would have to be updated. A common result of this is that every single file gets dumped into the project level root. When all files are stored in the same directory, we also get a much larger chance of having name conflicts. As a result names tend to become rather large, to make it less likely that a conflict occurs.

The final file structure of the calculator service is shown in Listing 11.

```

.
+-- include
|   +-- calculator.iol
|-- addition.iol
|-- addition.ol
|-- multiplication.iol
+-- calculator.ol

```

Listing 11: File structure of the calculator service

Observation 4. In order to collaborate with other services, it is often needed to manually copy files into the service. The files required depend on if an embedding is required, when an embedding is required we will need the entire service (and any services it may depend on itself). If we just need to interface with it, we can simply include the files required for its interface files.

Structuring the files is problematic, due to `include` statements not being relative to file performing inclusion.

Jolie Modules

3.1 Summarizing the Problem

The goal of this thesis is to promote, and facilitate better code reuse in Jolie. In Section 2.5 we showed how a typical Jolie service would be written, and summarized a number of patterns we have observed.

3.2 Modules

A module in Jolie is defined as a project root directory, and optionally an entry-point. Modules are uniquely identified by a name.

The Jolie engine needs to know about these modules. The engine is informed about these modules from the intent, passed as options, which starts the engine. This information is collected in the “intent parsing” phase, and is made available to any later phase that might need it. Since the intent is passed as an option, all interpreter instances inside the engine will know about each module. As a result any embedded service will also be aware of the same modules.

As an example, we may inform the engine about a module called “foo”, which has its source code placed in `/packages/foo` with an entry-point in `/packages/foo/main.ol` we would write: `--mod foo,/packages/foo/main.ol`. This implementation technique is very close to how, for example, you would add a JAR file to the classpath of a Java program.

The result of this decision is that quite a lot of additional options may need to be passed to the engine. However this choice was purposely chosen, it is left for another tool to make this job easier. In this case a package manager is expected to take the heavy lifting, and figure out which modules exists. This allows for more freedom in how these tools are implemented, and another implementation strategy, than the one provided in the package manager, could be created without any changes to the language infrastructure. See Section TODO about how the package manager passes this information to the engine.

To allow for better organization, a new type of include has been added to the language. These include allows the developer to include from a particular package. The syntax of

this include is shown in Listing 12. When a package include is used, the search path will be altered, such that the project root is changed to that of the package (as opposed to where the engine was started). Any file included from within this package should perform its includes relative to its own root, rather than the project root.

TODO Example

The new include syntax, along with native support for modules, allows for the code to properly organized. With this a module may be placed inside of its own directory, without any of the code having to be changed.

```
1 include "<file>" from "<module>"
```

Listing 12: Extension to the include statement, made for module imports

3.2.1 Include Algorithm for Jolie

TODO To this date I still don't understand how the include algorithm works. Ask Fabrizio about this.

3.2.2 Module Include Algorithm

TODO Module includes modify the search path. This also means the injection of the include directory, which is used as a convention. This helps maintain expected behaviour.

TODO In order to implement the root switching we use a stack.

3.3 Configuration

3.3.1 Motivation

From observation 2 we saw that most configuration was done via the inclusion of source code. This source code would expose constants (read: literal values *and* identifiers). The included source code, however, can do anything that Jolie source normally can, and isn't limited to just the desired configuration. As a result, a service developer cannot be certain that the configurator (entity who provides configuration) doesn't start messing with other details of the program. Deploying defensive programming¹ techniques against

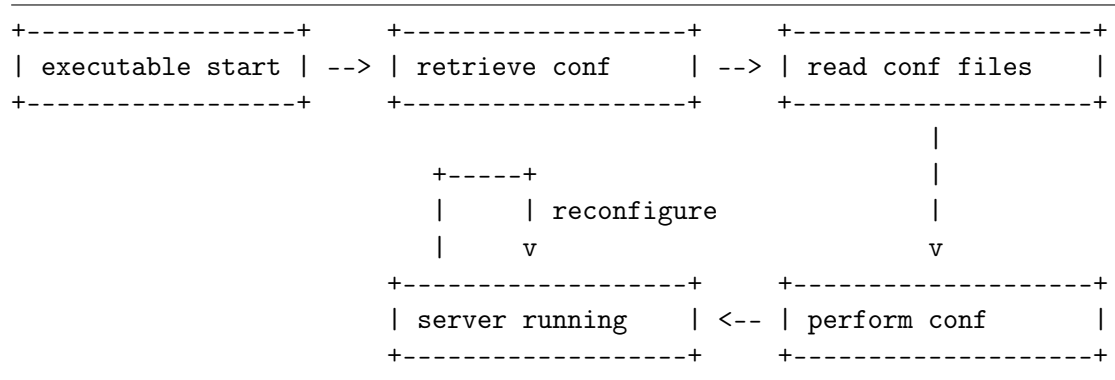
¹Defensive programming techniques are usually employed for systems that require high availability, or where safety and security is required.

this becomes significantly more problematic, since no guarantees about the configuration source file can really be made.

Distributing re-useable packages is also problematic with this approach. Several features of package management requires that the package remains read-only. For example, updating of packages require this, without it source-code merges would be required.

We also saw that a lot of issues, that should have been a deployment issue, became a code issue.

This gives us plenty of reason to explore the need for a native configuration format. Most other systems would most likely go for a system defined in user code, as opposed to natively. An example of such framework, could be Vert.x, it is a tool-kit for building reactive applications on the JVM. Examples of such “reactive applications” are microservices. The configuration workflow is shown in Figure 13. The system will retrieve, and read external configuration files, directed by the user code, and apply the configuration as needed.



Listing 13: Simplified workflow for configuration of Vert.x applications

TODO Defined deployment time somewhere

However implementing such as a system in Jolie has its problems, most of these come from the difference between general-purpose programming languages and specialized programming languages.

In general-purpose languages, the constructs (such as a server’s socket) for the microservice architecture are created in user code. As a result they are entirely accessible from user code. This make it feasible to change their behaviour, since code can run before deployment occurs.

In Jolie the constructs are managed directly by Jolie. Doing this has multiple advantages, such as less complexity in user code, but it also means that user code is capable of doing less. Jolie user code can for example not control networking directly, but is instead forced to use the abstractions provided by Jolie (sending messages). The language puts

constraints on certain constructs being fully prepared directly in the source code. This is analogous to a programming language requiring the types of a struct's field to be present at compile time. As a result, not all constructs can be changed at run time. Concrete examples of this includes the input ports, which needs to be ready at deployment time. Thus without native support for configuration of these, it would not be possible to change the input port.

3.3.2 Configuration Units

A configuration unit is the basic entity, which encapsulates the configuration of a single Jolie module. A configuration unit is known by its name (known as its “profile”), along with which module it configures. Having multiple profiles for the same module can be useful for a variety of use-cases. A common use-case, could for example be to have separate profiles for development and production.

The units hold configuration for every possible type of configurable construct in Jolie. The ones supported are:

1. Input and output ports
 - Location
 - Protocol and protocol parameters
 - Embedding of other services (output ports only)
2. General purpose parameters (constant values accessible from Jolie programs)
3. Interface rebinding

In the coming sections we'll mostly focus on the first two, in Section 3.5 we'll cover interface rebinding.

Configuration units are defined in configuration files, which may contain several units. These files may even include other files, to pull in more configuration units.

Jolie provides a new configuration file format. This format is custom, and made to mimic the syntax of Jolie. Listing 14 shows a very simple configuration unit. This unit sets the location and protocol for the output port `A`, the location of the input port `ModuleInput`, and a parameter.

```
1 profile "hello-world" configures "my-module" {
2     outputPort A {
3         Location: "socket://a.example.com:3000"
4         Protocol: sodep { .keepAlive = true }
5     },
6
7     inputPort ModuleInput {
8         Location: "socket://localhost:80"
9     },
10
11     myParameter = 42,
12     myParameter.subProperty = "hello"
13 }
```

Listing 14: A simple configuration unit named `hello-world` configuring the module `my-module`

Embedding of output ports can be performed from within a configuration unit. This moves the embedding from being a code problem to, what it should have been, a deployment problem. Listing 15 shows the embedding of output port `A`. Note that we need to make a reference to the module, since the profile names are placed under a namespace for each module. This way multiple services can share the same name, a situation which is likely to occur with common profile names, such as “development” and “production”.

```
1 profile "hello-world" configures "my-module" {
2     outputPort A embeds "a-module" with "a-profile"
3 }
4
5 profile "a-profile" configures "a-module" {
6     // configuration of a-module goes here.
7 }
```

Listing 15: Embeddings make reference to other configuration units

As we can see from the examples, it is not necessary to provide all the values of a port. It isn’t necessary for two reasons. The first reason is that certain values may be provided by the underlying module, which uses this unit. If a module provides a value, then the configuration unit cannot override it. The second reason is that configuration profiles may extend other profiles.

Configuration units may extend another unit, which configures the same module. The tree of inheritance may be of an arbitrary depth, but each unit may only extend a single

unit, and they must configure the same module. The child is also wins when it comes to configuration. This means that if unit “B” extends “A”, and they both configure the same value, then the values found in B is the one that is correct. Listing 16 shows an example of extension with units.

```

1  profile "a" configures "a-module" {
2      aValue = 42,
3      aValue.sub = "hello",
4
5      outputPort ExternalService {
6          Location: "socket://external.example.com:42000"
7      }
8  }
9
10 profile "b" configures "a-module" extends "a" {
11     aValue = 100
12     // aValue.sub = "hello"
13     // ExternalService.location = "socket://external.example.com:42000"
14 }
```

Listing 16: Configuration units may extend other units

The module developer is often aware of what the defaults should be. For this reason default configuration profiles may be shipped along the modules, which are implicitly imported into every configuration file. The Jolie engine will look for any `.col` file² in the `conf` folder. This folder should be placed relative to the module’s root. For example, if module “a” has a file called `conf/my-defaults.col`, which contains a unit called “default”. Then the user of the package may either write a configuration unit which extends this, simply by writing `profile "something" configures "a" extends "default"`, or the default directly. There is no need for any inclusion of this file.

It should be noted that no single unit is required to provide all configuration. The system doesn’t have any “abstract”³ configuration units. However it is required that the configuration file provides all the necessary configuration, as declared by the module. We’ll learn more about how a module declares configuration in Section 3.3.3.

3.3.3 Configuration and the Core Language

In section 3.3.2 we learned about the configuration files, but never actually saw the corresponding Jolie modules. In this section we’ll discover how the language has changed

²The file extension of the configuration file

³As in abstract classes, a concept often used in object oriented programming

to accommodate this configuration feature.

TODO The overall goals of the configuration system is:

- Easily identify the configuration possibilities of a module

Input and Output Ports

Input and output ports, both existing constructs, are defined just like before in the Jolie code. To understand how the configuration system works with Jolie code, it is important to first understand the subtleties of the pre-existing system. TODO Input ports require that all fields are defined at deployment time. Output ports require only the interfaces to be pre-defined, both the location and protocol can be rebound and run-time.

In order to make a port externally configurable you simply define the port like you normally would, and leave out the fields that should be configurable. Listing 17 shows a configurable input port. Only fields which are not already listed become configurable. This is particularly useful when building a service which needs to make assumptions about its input ports. For example if a developer is building a generic web-server, it is useful to allow the developer to change the location, but the protocol should be fixed.

One typical assumption that Jolie services make about their input ports come from aliases that are made in the protocol configuration, an example is shown in line 4 of Listing 17. The pointer statement takes two variable paths, and makes the one on the left link to the one on the right. The result of this pointer alias is that any operation running from that input port will be able to set the variable `statusCode` and the status code of the HTTP request will be set appropriately. It should also be noted that the configuration units *do not* support aliases, and there are no other ways of accessing variables hidden in the protocol configuration. As a result any service which needs to do something special with its protocol configuration, like aliasing, must do it in source code. Since the aliased variable now also takes on a new semantic meaning, it also makes sense that it must be named directly in source code, and not left to configuration, where it could take any arbitrary name.

```
1 inputPort MyWebServer {  
2   Protocol: http {  
3     .keepAlive = true;  
4     .statusCode -> statusCode;  
5   }  
6   Interfaces: MyWebServerInterface  
7 }
```

Listing 17: A bare-bones configurable input port for a web-server

If instead, all values could be overwritten of a port then the underlying service would not be able to make assumptions about the additional features provided by, for example, its protocol. For this reason only values not specified can be overwritten.

Parameters

Parameters are read-only values which are provided to a Jolie program at deployment time. A parameter is type-checked at deployment time, to ensure that its type matches what the underlying service expects. Listing 18 shows a parameter definition and its use.

The type-checking feature functions both as a mean of documentation and ensuring that the supplied configuration is valid. Like any other type-checked feature of Jolie, it is possible to opt-out simply by setting the type to be `undefined`.

| | |
|---|--|
| <pre> 1 // service.ol 2 parameters { 3 myParameter: string { 4 .foo: int 5 .bar: bool 6 } 7 } 8 9 main { 10 println@Console(myParameter()); // 11 ↪ "Root" 12 println@Console(myParameter.foo()); // 13 ↪ 42 14 println@Console(myParameter.bar()) // 15 ↪ false 16 }</pre> | <pre> 1 // service.col 2 profile "my-profile" configures "service" { 3 myParameter = "Root", 4 myParameter.foo = 42, 5 myParameter.bar = false 6 }</pre> |
|---|--|

Listing 18: A parameter definition and its use

From a high-level point of view, parameters are very similar to constants. However parameters weren't implemented as an extension of constants due to their technical implementation. Namely constants aren't implemented using the "Value" system, which is used by all variables and messages in Jolie, but rather implemented at the parser level.

When the Jolie parser encounters a constant definition, it will save the token from the assignment and associate it with the identifier on the left hand side. Only identifier tokens and simple value tokens are allowed. The constant definitions are limited to only

a single token. As a result it isn't possible to define more advanced tree-like values, which parameters such as `myParameter` from Listing 18 would require.

Whenever the parser reaches a places where a constant would be allowed, it will look at the next token, check if it is an identifier, and try to replace the current token with the token defined by the constant. This produces some rather surprising results and has limitations, which isn't commonly found in other programming languages. Listing 19 illustrates how the Jolie parser processes constants.

| | |
|--|--|
| <pre> 1 constants { 2 FOO = 42 3 BAR = ActualInterface 4 } 5 6 init { 7 println@Console(FOO)() 8 } 9 10 courier Foo { 11 [interface BAR(req)(res) { 12 /* ... */ 13 }] 14 }</pre> | <pre> 1 init { 2 println@Console(42)() 3 } 4 5 courier Foo { 6 [interface ActualInterface(req)(res) { 7 /* ... */ 8 }] 9 }</pre> |
|--|--|

Listing 19: Constants in Jolie works by replacing tokens at the parser level. Left: The input program. Right: The program which the parser ends up seeing

While it would have been possible to extend the value system to support values it was ultimately decided against. Adding both optional type-checking of constants and expanding to values was seen as too big a departure from the original intent of constants. For backward compatibility reasons constants would also still not have been pure values, but rather either an identifier or a value.

The new parameters block is an addition to the AST of Jolie programs. This addition currently only works in collaboration with the configuration and module system. The block is simply not valid to use without. If any parameter is not defined by configuration or has the wrong type the checking scripts of Jolie will throw an error.

Even though the parameters block is added to the AST it will not be visible in the final interpretation tree. We'll learn more about this in Section 3.4.

Syntax Considerations

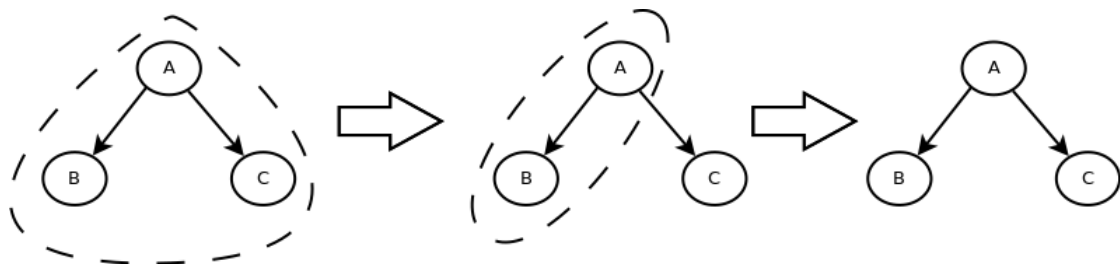
TODO

This problem is however not without its problem, again consider Listing 17. Previously this code would have resulted in an error from the semantic verification, specifically pointing out that an input port must have its `Location` property set. This leads to the question of how do we differentiate between code that is intended to be configurable and code which is simply invalid.

TODO Discuss approaches to marking these

3.3.4 Example

TODO This is just copy pasted from some markdown document. Might be able to find a better example. Syntax is most likely also outdated.



(The dashed region corresponds to which services that are embedded together)

This use-case is intended to show how we can easily go from a prototype where we embed everything (this is easier to run locally) to hosting each service by itself.

```

1  // A.ol
2
3  ext outputPort A {
4      Interfaces: AIface
5  }
6
7  ext outputPutPort B {
8      Interfaces: BIface
9  }
10
11 constants {
12     FOO: int
13 }

```

```

1  // A.col
2
3  include "B.col" // The includes work just like they do in Jolie

```

```

4  include "C.col"
5
6  // Previously called namespace. Configures makes it more explicit that we're
7  // talking about a specific package and not an arbitrary name
8  configures "A" {
9      // Like always we just put the definitions here
10     FOO = 42
11
12     // We alter the syntax slightly for output ports being embedded
13     outputPort B embeds B
14     // The second B refers to the profile B (if no profile is specified it gets
15     // the same name as the package it configures). This means that this
16     // configures block also has name "A". It could also have been written as:
17     // `profile "A" configures "A"`
18
19     outputPort C embeds C
20 }

```

Note: The previous proposal did not allow for embedding of services directly from the configuration. This is however needed since packages by themselves should be considered read-only. Thus if we want to configure a package to embed its dependencies, then this must be done from external configuration, we cannot do this in source.

```

1  // B.col
2
3  configures "B" {
4      inputPort B {
5          Location: "local"
6      }
7  }

```

```

1  // C.col
2
3  configures "C" {
4      inputPort C {
5          Location: "local"
6      }
7  }

```

In order to use an external B we need to update "A.col":

```
1 // A.col
2 include "C.col"
3
4 configures "A" {
5     outputPort B {
6         Location: "socket://b.example.org:8000"
7         Protocol: sodep
8     }
9     outputPort C embeds C
10 }
```

In order to update the deployment file of B we simply need to update the input port to no longer be local.

```
1 // B.col
2 configures "B" {
3     inputPort B {
4         Location: "socket://localhost:8000"
5         Protocol: sodep
6     }
7 }
```

In most cases however this would be unnecessary since the default configuration file for "B" could already include a default input port.

In that case we could simply deploy directly from the default configuration. The restriction on configuration units to only configure a single package helps a lot. This restriction means that we cannot from any node configure any other node which isn't a direct child of it. Without this we wouldn't be able to easily swap out one configuration unit for another.

3.4 Implementing the Configuration Format

The new interpreter pipeline is as follows, new phases marked in bold text:

1. Intent parsing
2. Jolie code parsing
3. **Configurator**
4. Semantic verifier

5. Interpretation tree builder
6. **Late verification**
7. Communication core init
8. Init & main process

The primary work occurs in the configurator service, but some of the verification work, namely the parameters, are postponed until after the interpretation tree has been build.

3.4.1 The Configuration Phase

The configuration phase builds upon the result of the intent and parsing phase. From the intent phase we receive information about modules and potentially receive the intent to use a certain configuration unit. From the parsing phase we obviously get the AST.

The configuration phase works by modifying the AST to insert the configuration gathered from the configuration unit. The processed AST is handed to the later phases, and the remainder of the pipeline works mostly like it has before.

Processing of Configuration Files

TODO Does it make sense to give a formal grammar for the configuration files?

The first step of the configurator is to gather a fully processed configuration unit. This process starts by looking for the configuration file which was passed from the intent. The intent passes the configuration file using `--conf <unitName> <fileName>`.

The configurator searches for the configuration file in TODO (parent services, and example for this is needed).

With the configuration file resolved, it is passed to the configuration parser along with a list of known modules. The parser follows the conventions established by the existing Jolie code parser. The parser is a hand-written recursive descent parser with one token lookahead.

The parser directly outputs the AST. At the top level the AST consists of **Regions** which directly map to the configuration unit abstraction. Each **Region** are namespaced under the module that they configure. Internally each namespace maps the name of the **Region** to the actual **Region**. The top-level node of the AST contains a dictionary mapping between the name of modules and their namespaces. The Java type for this mapping ends up being `Map<String, Map<String, Region>>`, this allows for easy access of **Regions** when they are needed. This does however also mean that duplicates must be caught during parsing, since they would otherwise just silently override previous entries.

This would typically have been performed in a later stage to keep the parser “pure”. In this case some purity was sacrificed for some efficiency and ease of use.

The grammar of the configuration format closely follows the grammar of Jolie code. As a result the configuration format also re-uses AST nodes where possible. As we will see later, this proved helpful when outputting a configured AST. The configuration grammar only supports a subset of the features that Jolie code does.

Recall from Section 3.3.2 that each module may publish default configuration units, which can be used by user-level configuration units. For this reason the parser will make special note of references to other configuration units. Such references currently only appear in output port embeddings (e.g.

```
outputPort Foo embeds "foo" with "a-foo-unit").
```

Once the initial file has been parsed, every single configuration file placed in the “conf” directory of referenced modules are parsed and placed in the same AST. Configuration files parsed during this phase may itself have references to other modules, in that case these will be pulled in as well. A set of parsed defaults is kept to avoid parsing the same file multiple times, or potentially infinite loops.

With the entire configuration tree in place, merging is performed to create a single **Region** which represents the actual configuration. The merging occurs between a **child** and its **parent** region (i.e. the one it extends, if any) and results in a **merged** region. The **parent** is always merged (via a recursive call) first. The first **child** selected is the **Region** matching the profile name and package given by the intent.

For ports, the merging algorithm works by inserting all the ports of the **child** into the **merged** region. The ports of the **parent** are then merged with the preliminary output of the **merged** region. The process of merging a **port** of the **parent** against the **merged** region is shown, in pseudo code, in Listing 20. In short the merging will favor the **child**, and the **parent** will only provide values if the **child** doesn’t.

TODO Define what a partial configuration is

```

1 procedure merge(port: Port, merged: ConfigTree): Region {
2     if (!merged.contains(port)) return port
3     existing = merged.getExisting(port)
4
5     if (existing.isComplete) return existing
6     // The existing port cannot be an embedding, since those cannot
7     // be partial.
8
9     for (property in Port.properties) {
10         if (existing[property] == null) {
11             existing[property] = merged[property]
12         }
13     }
14     return existing
15 }

```

Listing 20: Pseudo code for merging a **parent**'s **port** into a **merged** configuration tree

For parameters the same idea applies. However each parameter definition node in the AST potentially only provides a partial value. For example the node `foo.bar = 42`, where the type of `foo` is `string { .bar: int }`, only provides a partial definition of `foo`. For this reason the parameter nodes are first added from the **parent** and then by the **child**. This allows the definitions of the **child** to override those of the **parent**.

Applying Configuration to the AST

The **merged** region from the previous section is then used along with the AST corresponding to the Jolie program being run. The last phase of the configurator will process the entire AST and output a new AST, which is fully configured. This process works by running a **process** function on every single top-level node. The **process** function will inspect the node, and depending on the node return a list of replacement nodes.

Throughout this process the configurator will also verify that no configuration is performed on nodes which aren't configurable. This includes dynamic ports and non-empty interface definitions.

Ports When a port node is encountered in the AST, the **merged** region is searched for an output port matching its name. If none is found, the AST node is returned as it is, no modifications are made to it. Otherwise the configuration proceeds. For input ports and non-embedding output ports the process is the same. The properties of the AST port and the port represented in the configuration region are compared one-by-one. If any property is defined by both, an error is returned pointing to the AST node and the

place that the configuration took place. At the end, if no errors are returned, a new port is returned with their properties merged together.

For output ports which embed another module the process is slightly different. The configurator will first verify the existence of the configuration unit by looking it up in the configuration tree. If it is not found an error will be returned. Otherwise the configurator will output a new embedding node. The embedding node will contain a reference back to the same configuration file the current **Region** comes from. When the embedding is performed, the configurator of the embedded service will lookup the correct configuration unit from the same file. This will however cause an addition parsing of the same file, but a caching layer at the configuration parser could take care of this. The embedding process is demonstrated in Listing 21.

| | |
|---|--|
| <pre> 1 embedded { 2 Jolie: 3 "--conf foo-profile ↳ <inputConfigFile> foo.mod" in ↳ Foo 4 }</pre> | <pre> 1 outputPort Foo embeds "foo" with ↳ "foo-profile"</pre> |
|---|--|

Listing 21: AST nodes generated, shown as code (left), by configuration (right) for an output port containing an embedding

Interface Rebinding Just like ports, when an interface definition is found the **merged** region is searched for a matching interface definition. Assuming no errors, the configurator must now replace the dummy interface definition with the real interface definition as the configuration specifies.

Quickly recapping interface rebinding in the configuration is shown in Listing 22. Note that the only information the configurator has for locating the replacement is the name of the interface and its module.

| |
|--|
| <pre> 1 interface Dummy = Concrete from "my-module"</pre> |
|--|

Listing 22: Rebinding the interface **Dummy** to match the interface **Concrete** from the module **my-module**

The interface will be found by parsing the module's entry point. Its AST will then be searched for an interface matching the replacement. Simply replacing the dummy with its replacement, however, isn't enough. Consider, for example, the scenario shown in Listing 23. In this scenario, the processed AST will no longer be valid due to the missing types (**FooRequest** and **FooResponse**).

```
1 type FooRequest: void {  
2   .child: string  
3 }  
4  
5 type FooResponse: int  
6  
7 interface Concrete {  
8   RequestResponse:  
9     foo(FooRequest) (FooResponse)  
10 }
```

Listing 23: Simply copying the interface definition is not enough, the types must also be copied

The relevant type definitions are found by iterating through every operation of the replacement interface. If the types listed in the operations are type links those are followed. This leads to a recursive algorithm, which looks through every type looking for type links, which will cause more types to be copied over. In order to avoid infinite loops a set of already visited types is kept. If a type has been seen before then its children will not be visited.

In the end, the original interface definition will be replaced, and all necessary type definitions will also be added to the program.

Parameters TODO This hasn't been implemented yet.

3.4.2 Additions to the Semantic Verifier

TODO

This pretty much just includes the stuff that surrounds new additions to the language. Such as making sure that interfaces aren't empty, dynamic output ports cannot be changed etc.

3.4.3 Late Verification

TODO

This will pretty much cover (when implemented) why we need to do it, and how we actually do it. This stuff should be fairly simple.

3.5 Interface Rebinding

Words

Jolie Packages

4.1 Introduction

A Jolie Package is an extension of a Jolie Module. Recall that a Jolie Module was defined as a collection of resources, a name, and optionally an entry-point for the module. A package extends this concept by adding information required for package management.

A Jolie Package is described by a package manifest. The package manifest is a JSON file, which is always placed at the root of the package, and must be called `package.json`. The fixed location allows for the package manager to easily identify a package. The JSON format was chosen as it plain-text, and easy to both read and write for both humans and machines.

In listing 24 we show a simple package manifest. This manifest showcases the most important features of the manifest. A complete specification of the package manifest format can be seen in Appendix A. The service that this manifest describes is shown in figure 25.

```
1 {
2   "name": "calculator",
3   "main": "calc.ol",
4   "description": "A simple calculator service",
5   "authors": ["Dan Sebastian Thrane <dathr12@student.sdu.dk>"],
6   "license": "MIT",
7   "interfaceDependencies": [
8     { "name": "math", "version": "1.0.0" }
9   ],
10  "dependencies": [
11    { "name": "sum", "version": "1.2.X" },
12    { "name": "multiplication", "version": "2.1.0" }
13  ]
14 }
```

Listing 24: A Simple Package Manifest

```

+-----+      +-----+
|         | ==> |  sum  |
|         |      +-----+
| calculator |
|         |      +-----+
|         | ==> | multiplication |
+-----+      +-----+

```

Listing 25: A Calculator Service

Lines 2-3 take care of the module definition. The remaining attributes, however, are entirely unique to packages. Some attributes included in the manifest are there for indexing and discoverability purposes, examples of such attributes are shown in lines 4-6. The rest of the document describes the dependencies of this package.

A JPM dependency is defined as a “code dependency”. What this means is that the dependencies listed, should only be packages that we depend on for code. This might be different from the typical definition in microservices. For example, one might state that the calculator also has a dependency on the client who speaks to it. In JPM however, we will not need to list the client, as we do not depend on any code that the client has (in fact we know nothing about how the client works).

JPM deals with two different types of dependencies: interface dependencies, and ordinary dependencies. These two serve similar, but slightly different purposes, and all depends on how the dependency is to be used.

An ordinary dependency should be used if we wish to use the code of some other service, and want to option of embedding it. This will tell JPM to download both ordinary dependencies, as well as interface dependencies.

Interface dependencies are instead dependencies that are only required to interface with the package itself, and dependencies we need to interface with others. An interface dependency will only cause us to download the interface dependencies of each sub-dependency.

The interface dependency type isn’t common in other package managers, but having multiple types of dependencies is fairly common. For example, a package manager might provide dependencies which are only used during testing, we see this in Maven, or it might provide dependencies only used during development, seen in NPM.

4.2 Architecture

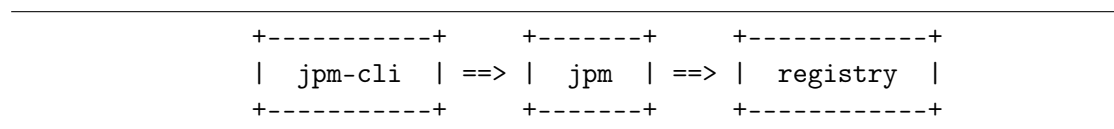
Before continuing with the packages we’ll take a quick de-tour to look at the overall architecture of JPM. This should help the reader understand in which context the packages

exist. The details of this architecture will be covered in Chapter 5.

The entirety of the ecosystem around JPM is written in Jolie, using the features that the Jolie Module System provides, along with the features that JPM itself provides.

At the ten-thousand foot view of the architecture, it consists of three core services, as shown in figure 26:

1. **Registry**: Responsible for serving packages known to the registry.
2. **JPM**: Provides the back-end of JPM. This includes communication with one, or more, registries, for example to download packages.
3. **CLI**: Provides the front-end of JPM. The front-end is responsible for displaying a user-facing interface, and will communicate with the back-end to perform the actual work.



Listing 26: Ten-thousand foot view of the JPM architecture

4.3 Package Manifest

In this section we'll cover, in details, the format of Jolie manifests. The complete specification for the package manifest can be found in Appendix A. However in this section we'll also cover some of the reasoning behind the choices found in Appendix A.

4.3.1 The name Attribute

The **name** attribute uniquely identifies a package. We'll start this discussion by looking at the constraints imposed on it, from Appendix A:

1. The name of a package is *not* case-sensitive
2. The length of a name is less than 255 characters
3. Names may only contain unreserved URI characters (Section 2.3 of [RFC3986])
4. Names are US-ASCII
5. Every registry must only contains a single package with a given name.

Points 1 through 4 all contribute towards a common goal: packages should be displayable in URLs. This will allow us to more easily create, for example, a web application where a developer can browse through packages.

Putting some constraints on the package name is also helpful in multiple places of the package manager. Consider for example a system that might store packages organized by their name (say for example a caching mechanism). If one package would be named “../foo”, then that might accidentally override the contents of the package named “foo”. Of course these name constraints are not a general solution for these types of injection attacks, but it does allow for several services working with packages to not worry as badly about the package names.

It should also be noted that the package names are not compatible with the rules of identifiers. This has affected the design of the Jolie module system. This is, for example, the reason that strings are used in both configuration files and module includes, when making references to other modules.

Rule 4 states that package names are unique within a single registry. But this constraint actually goes even further, since these packages directly extend from the modules, we cannot have a system containing two packages named the same thing, even if they reside in two different registries. Generally we make no assumptions that registries communicate with each other, for this reason it is perfectly allowed that two distinct registries may contain name clashes, but any single package must not have a dependency which clashes either with another dependency, or the package who has the dependency itself.

4.3.2 The Meta Data Attributes (`license`, `authors`, `description`)

These attributes are mostly used for search results. They allow for a developer seeking information about a package, to quickly gather the most important information.

License identifiers are validated against a pre-existing list of license identifiers. This is done to ensure that typos are not made in license names. The identifiers used are from the SPDX license list, which contains a list of commonly found licenses. Currently only the license identifiers are supported, this could be extended to use SPDX License Expression Syntax, which allows for references to custom licenses.

4.3.3 The version Attribute

The `version` attribute used by packages declare which version of the source code the manifest describes. This field uses the Semantic Versioning (SemVer) specification for version numbers. It is a requirement to use SemVer versions, if a version is specified, which is not a valid SemVer version, then validation of the manifest will fail. Enforcing this standard allows for several other features, which will be covered in a moment.

SemVer version numbers consists of three fields, all integers, those being the *major*, *minor*, and *patch* version numbers. Additionally a version may have a pre-release label or additional meta data. Labels and build meta-data won’t be covered, as they are not

that important for our use-case. The (simplified) syntax of SemVer version number is shown in Listing 27.

```
<major>.<minor>.<patch>[-<label>] [+<meta-data>]
```

Listing 27: Simplified syntax of a SemVer version number

Precedence of version numbers are determined by comparing each unit numerically in the order of major, minor, and finally patch. The first differentiating units determine the precedence. Thus, for example: $1.0.0 < 1.0.1 < 1.1.0 < 1.10.0 < 2.0.0$.

Semantic Versioning dictates rules for how version numbers should change, depending on how the public API changes. The rules can be summarized as:

1. The patch version number *must* be incremented, if only backwards compatible bug fixes are introduced.
2. The minor version number *must* be incremented, if backwards compatible functionality is introduced.
3. The major version number *must* be incremented, if incompatible changes are introduced.

Having a major version of 0, indicates that the product is not yet stable. At this point normal rules for incrementing version numbers do not apply. As a result version 1.0.0 indicates the first public API.

Semantic Versioning has become a commonly used standard across many different package managers, examples include Cargo¹ and NPM².

TODO Highlight benefits of using semantic versioning.

For dependencies the version field allows for a bit more flexibility using SemVer expressions, also known as SemVer ranges. These expressions allows the developer more freedom in which version to use. In short the expressions allows the developer to both whitelist certain ranges for use, and blacklist certain ranges for use.

This provides both a convenience factor, i.e. the developer can express that she doesn't care which specific version is used, as long as it has feature X (released in some known version).

This feature also provides benefits for when the dependency tree is to be calculated. Consider, for example, two dependencies A and B which both depend on C with the same level of functionality, which was released in version 1.2.0. Assuming that expressions were not allowed, these two services would have to describe their dependency in an exact

¹<http://doc.crates.io/manifest.html>

²<https://docs.npmjs.com/getting-started/using-a-package.json>

version. Service A might have been written at a time when 1.2.3 of service C was the newest, while B was written a bit later and is thus depending on version 1.2.6. The problem is now that the client depending on A, and B, cannot do so, because A and B have conflicting requirements, despite the fact that they both require the same level functionality. With SemVer expressions these services may more accurately describe what they actually depend on, service A might state that it depends on " $\geq 1.2.0$ ", while B is a bit more conservative and wants exactly version 1.2.6. In this case the package manager will be able to choose version 1.2.6, since this version fulfills the requirements of all dependencies.

Allowing for SemVer expressions to be used, is however not without its drawbacks. In Section 4.5 we cover one of these problems, and its solution.

4.3.4 The **TODO Name Attributes** (`events`, `main`)

These attributes control aspects of the package related to the execution of scripts, by the package manager, related to the package.

The `main` attribute controls the entry-point of the module. This is used both in informing the Jolie Engine where the entry-point is located (Section TODO). The attribute is also used for starting the package, we discuss this in Section TODO.

The `events` attribute defines a series of lifetime hooks, which are scripts that are run when specific lifetime events occur, this is described in Section TODO.

4.3.5 The **registries Attribute**

The package manager may communicate with one or more registries, when performing its work. This may either be to install dependencies, or it could be to perform some of the more organizational commands, such as creating an account.

For this the package manager will need to know about the different registries. This is what the `registries` attribute describes, it is an array containing definitions for all known registries (known to the package).

A registry is defined by a unique (within the package) name, and a location (a URI following the same rules that Jolie does for its port locations). Listing 28 shows an example.

```
1 {  
2   "name": "my-registry",  
3   "location": "socket://registry.example.com:9999"  
4 }
```

Listing 28: A registry named `my-registry` being hosted at `registry.example.com` running on port 9999

Every package manifest has an implicit entry which is named “public”. This entry points to the public registry. Every command which needs to use a registry, will optionally receive a registry name. If this name is specified, it will look within the `registries` attribute. If no name is specified, the “public” entry will be used.

TODO Should we talk about why it is good to have multiple registries here?

4.4 Dependencies

4.5 Lock Files

Lock files are a feature designed to solve some of the drawbacks associated with allowing SemVer expressions in the version field of dependencies. To see how SemVer expressions pose a problem, we must first inspect the typical engineering process in which it is used. This feature is by no means original, prior work includes, for example, Cargo, and Yarn.

Continuous integration (CI) is a software development process. This process is used to avoid the so called “integration hell”, in which the time taken to integrate, or merge, the changes from multiple developers into a single track. The process works by, multiple times a day, integrating all these changes, this way failure in integration is found much earlier. We’ll quickly summarize one possible implementation of CI here. This is not the only way to do it, but summarizes the most important parts, which we’ll use to highlight potential problems with SemVer expressions.

For this process to work efficiently it frequently uses automated tests and builds, in order to perform this integration. The automated tests and builds are then performed by a dedicated server. The server will most likely pull the source code from a single repository, which represents the most up-to-date track of development.

When new features are developed, the developer will pull the most up-to-date source code, and develop the feature locally with this. This includes performing all of the builds and tests. Thus when the feature is pushed back onto the source control all of these tests should still pass. The role of the CI server is then to verify that the process is correctly followed.

How the build and testing is performed obviously depend on which technologies are used. A typical JPM based project might perform the following steps:

1. Pull source code from version control
2. Perform the build
 - (a) Download JPM dependencies (i.e. `jpm install`)
 - (b) Potentially build other necessary artifacts (such as Java libraries)
3. Run tests

It is in step 2(a) the need for lock files arises, the problem is most easily demonstrated by an example.

Consider the following scenario: a developer wishes to develop a new feature which uses package X of at least version 2.1.0. For this reason the developer adds the following line to the dependencies section: { `"name": "X", "version": ">=2.1.0"` }. Afterwards the developer performs an install of this package, at the moment this dependency to version 2.1.3. At this point the developer continues with developing the feature, without having to perform any additional installs of the package. Once the feature is developed, the developer performs all of the tests, and see that they pass.

At this point the code is pushed onto the source control system, where it is picked up by the CI server for testing. The CI server will then perform all of the steps listed above, including installing the dependencies anew. However, since the initial install by the developer had been performed a new version has been released, say version 2.3.0. This version still fulfills the expression listed in the dependency, and is hence chosen, since this is the best fitting package for this dependency. Remember the CI server has no way of knowing which package was originally installed, it only has the package manifest to work with.

Installing a different version of the package may however lead to the tests no longer working! As a result, we cannot guarantee what works on a developers machine, necessarily works on any other machines that might try to run it. As a result, some might choose to never use SemVer expressions, to avoid this pitfall.

Lock files offer a compromise between these two extremes. A lock file contains the exact versions that every dependency was resolved to. This file should be put into source control, thus when another machine attempts to perform the build the package manager will know which exact version should be used for the build.

The convenience factor of SemVer expressions is even still left in. When we perform the initial install, we might not care so which version to use, and the package manager will still be able to just pick the best version for us. Additionally the package manager can provide upgrade scripts, which uses these expressions as guidelines.

The lock file is placed in the package directory, and is called `jpm_lock.json`. Listing 29 shows the lock file, which would have been generated for the scenario above.

It should however be noted that fresh lock files are generated for every package. This means that the lock files are *not* used by a client package. As a result library developers should still be careful not specifying too wide expressions. This feature is only intended to guarantee that a package will have the same dependencies regardless of which machine it runs on. It is not intended as a replacement for specifying exact versions. If a package requires a specific version, then that should be reflected in the package manifest.

```
1 {
2   "_note": "Auto-generated file notice",
3   "locked": {
4     "X@>=2.1.0/RegistryName": {
5       "resolved": "2.1.3",
6       "checksum": "...",
7     }
8   }
9 }
```

Listing 29: A lock file showing that the dependency for package X of at least version 2.1.0 has been resolved to version 2.1.3

4.6 Lifetime Hooks

A lifetime hook is a script that “hooks” onto certain lifetime events that occur during normal use of the package manager. These scripts allows the package developer to augment the package manager, and potentially affect the work it performs.

This is a feature which is available in many other types of software, for example the popular version control system Git³ provides such a feature.

All hooks are performed on the client-side, and never on the server side (i.e. registries). Only the hooks of the current package will be run, the hooks of a dependency will not be executed. Hooks that run before a certain action, denoted by a **pre-** prefix, may stop the corresponding command from being executed. These scripts may do so by returning a non-zero exit code.

These features become useful for augmenting the workflow with in-house conventions. This may for example include ensuring that, for example, tests pass before publishing a new version. Using a simple process interface allows for the user to write these scripts in whichever technology they choose.

³<https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Customizing-Git-Git-Hooks>

The hooks are defined in the “events” section of the package manifest. Listing 30 shows an example hook, which runs before publishing which ensure that all tests pass.

```
1 {  
2     // ...  
3     "events": {  
4         "pre-publish": "./run_tests.sh"  
5     }  
6 }
```

Listing 30: Defining a lifetime hook, which runs the script `run_tests.sh` before publishing the package to the registry

The following are the hooks that JPM supports:

- **pre-start**: Script is run right before the `start` command is invoked on a service.
- **post-start**: Run right before the `start` command terminates. There is no guarantee that this script is run (i.e. if the service was forcefully terminated).
- **pre-install**: Runs before the `install` command is invoked.
- **post-install**: Runs after the `install` command has finished.
- **pre-publish**: Runs before the `publish` command is invoked.
- **post-publish**: Runs after the `publish` command has finished.

4.7 The .pkg Format

The `.pkg` file format, is the format that JPM uses for distribution of packages. Simply the file format contains a Jolie package zipped up into a single file.

Currently the contents of the zip file maps directly with the underlying package. The format is however open to extension, by allowing for new files to be introduced that can be used in various extensions. One such extension could for example be native code signing, which we discuss in more details in Section TODO. An obvious implementation strategy would involve adding the necessary files directly into the ZIP archive.

Extending the ZIP file format is a quite common occurrence. Especially when shipping what is essentially a collection of files. Popular examples of other file formats using this approach includes the JAR⁴ format, and Office Open XML⁵.

⁴Package file format typically used for aggregating many Java class files together

⁵Developed by Microsoft, used in their office applications

4.8 Integrity Checks

This is a section about integrity checks in JPM.

- Some background about checksums (probably)
- How we do it. Reason we don't go for something like code signing (in pkg manager)
- Code signing, and why we would prefer this.

Package Manager

5.1 Introduction

TODO This is just an introduction to the CLI. Re-write to match the package manager overall

The command line application serves as the user interface to JPM. The application is, perhaps not unsurprisingly, named `jpm`. The tool will be used in several examples.

The command line application is responsible for displaying a more user friendly interface to inner workings of JPM. The tool will perform almost not work by itself, but will instead delegate this to the back end (See Section TODO).

When first running the tool, the user will be welcomed with the following message:

```
JPM - The Jolie Package Manager
Version 1.0.0
```

```
Usage: jpm <COMMAND> <COMMAND-ARGUMENTS>
```

```
Command specific help: jpm help <COMMAND>
```

```
Available commands:
```

```
-----
init           Initializes a repository
search         Searches repositories for a package
install        Install dependencies
publish        Publish this package
start          Start this package.
```

```
[ Remaining commands removed from snippet ]
```

As clearly visible from this snippet, for the tool to do any work we must first give it something to do via a command. The commands that JPM understands almost directly mirror the functionality provided by the back end. To use JPM to create a new package, the user must simply use the `init` command. This will display a prompt, guiding the

user through the mandatory field, and automatically create a package with the required structure. This is shown in Listing 31.

```
$ jpm init
Package name
-----
> my-package

Package description
-----
> This is my package

Author: [Format: name <email> (homepage)]
-----
> Dan Sebastian Thrane <dathr12@student.sdu.dk> (github.com/DanThrane)

Private package? [Y/n]
-----
> n

$ cat my-package/package.json | json name
my-package
```

Listing 31: The jpm tool provides a user interface for common tasks. In this example, creating a new package.

5.2 Registry

Stuff we need to cover in this section:

- Core responsibilities, such as: publish and download
- Secondary responsibilities: Package information and dependencies
- Tertiary responsibilities: Users and groups
- Once responsibilities are in place we should talk about how we split up the workload.

5.3 Security

The authorization of JPM is implemented in the `security` service. The `security` service provides two different services, which work together to form the `security` service:

1. **An authentication system:** Responsible for proving identity of users.
2. **An authorization system:** Responsible for deciding which users are allowed to do what.

In this section, the client represents a service which uses the `security` services. The system is written to assume that a client *is not* an actual user. As a result most operations have been written to support various options which should not be available to actual users. This means that when the `security` service is deployed, care must be taken to ensure that it is not reachable by any ordinary user. Only the services which use the `security` service should be able to reach it. The services that use the `security` service, will then proxy only the relevant parts along.

5.3.1 Authentication

The authentication system has a user based system. Users authenticate themselves using a password. A group is a collection of users, which have an associated set of permission. A single user may be part of many groups, it is from groups that a user gains permission to use parts of the system. We cover user permissions in Section 5.3.2.

The authentication system is build following recommendations from OWASP[OWA1; OWA2; OWA3]. In this section the authentication implementation, and rules surrounding the system are summarized.

Username and Password Rules

The usernames used for the system are unique and case in-sensitive. The username is required to be between 1 and 64 characters long. All character types are allowed in usernames. Encoding of the usernames (and passwords) are deployment dependent, specifically it depends on the protocol and its configuration.

Passwords are case sensitive. The only limitation put on password is a length requirement between 5 and 128 characters.

The maximum lengths used for these are mostly to establish reasonable limits. Accepting an unlimited amount of data can be of concern for both storage and amount of network traffic. For data that should be presented, i.e. username, having a maximum is helpful for the design of user interfaces.

Storage

The usernames and passwords are stored in a SQL database. The database itself, along with its driver is configurable via the configuration system (See Section 3.3). Passwords are hashed with BCrypt¹[PM99], each individual password has its own salt. “Salting” a password is the act of adding a randomly generated string to each password. The salt itself isn’t secret, but is instead used to avoid precomputed reverse lookup tables for the hashes (rainbow tables).

Authentication Process

We start the discussion of how the authentication process works by looking at how a client will successfully authenticate itself, this is shown in Figure 5.1.

During the initial request nothing special really happens. The **security** service collaborates with both the **bcrypt** service, along with its own database. The database contains both **user** objects and **session** objects. The **user** object has already been explained, and simply contains the username, the hash of the salted password, and the salt itself. The **session** object represents an active session. It contains the actual token, which is a string generated by a cryptographically secure random number generator. Along with this token, the object contains a timestamp for generation, and a reference to the user object which created the session. The timestamp will be used for implementing timeouts for the session.

At the end of the initial request, the client receives the token. This token is what the client will have to provide for every privileged operation. An invalidation of a session may occur. This would ordinarily happen due to a logout, or potentially a timeout which is handled by the client. The **security** service also supports checking the “freshness” of a session token, by making sure it isn’t older than some amount of time. This could be useful for ensuring re-authentication before critical operations, such as changing your password.

Figure 5.1 showed us the successful case. Internally, validation will be performed at most steps. In the case of failure at any of these steps a generic error message will be returned to the client. The error message will only indicate if it was a user error or a server error. This way an attacker cannot abuse the error messages for information. For example given the error message “Invalid password” an attacker would most likely be able to assume that the username itself is correct.

¹BCrypt is a password hashing algorithm which has been used by OpenBSD and others

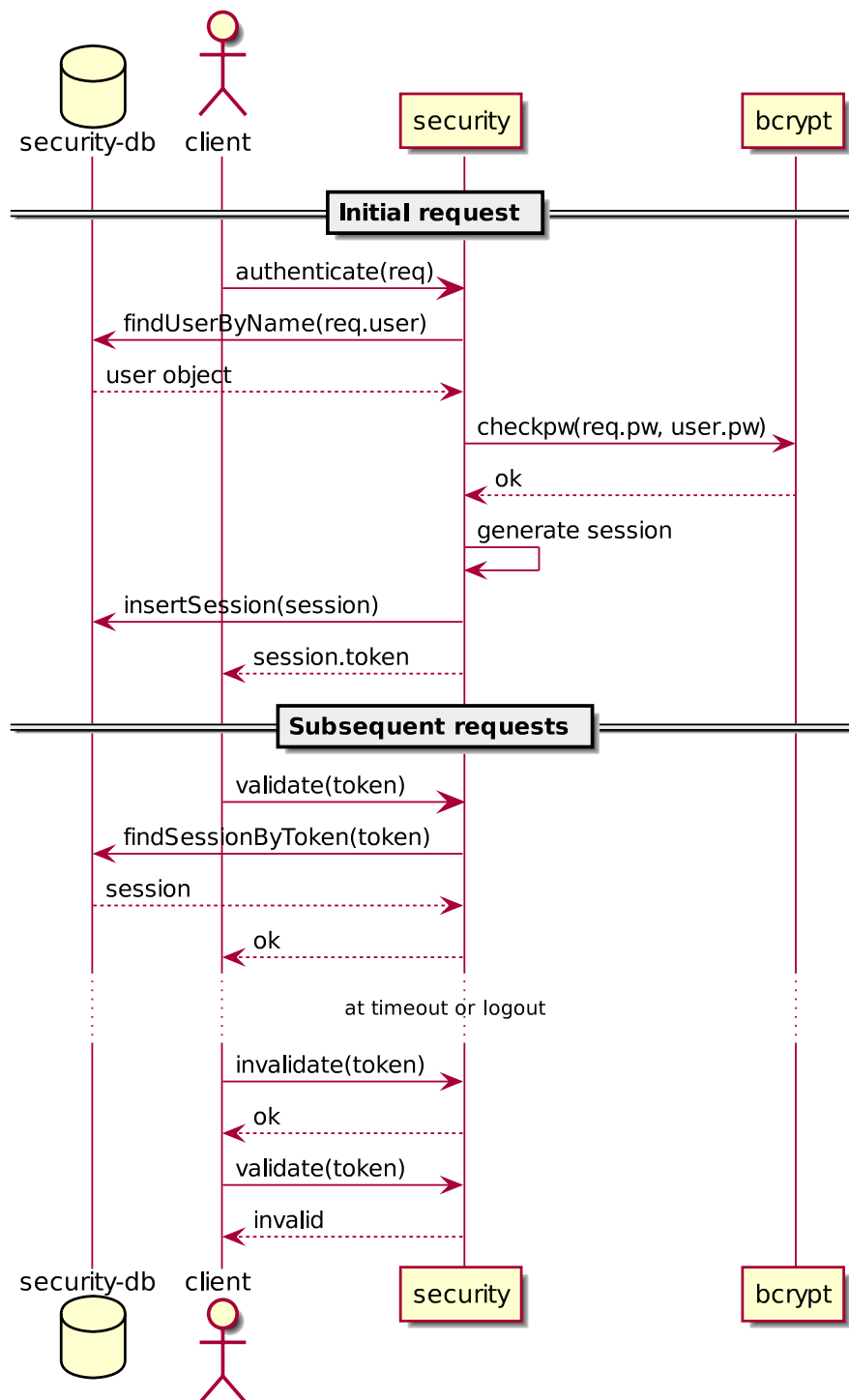


Figure 5.1: The authentication process when successful

5.3.2 Authorization

The authorization system based on an “Access Control Matrix”[SS94] to define its security model. An access control matrix, is a matrix A , where A_{ij} contains the *rights* that *role* i has for *resource* j .

A *right* is a single piece of information. It describes something that an entity is allowed to do for a specific resource in a role. In this implementation a right is a simple string.

A *resource* represents any entity that can have any rights associated with it. This could, for example, be a file, which might have associated rights such as “read” and “write”.

A *role* is some entity which have a set of rights for resources. In the implementation roles have been replaced with *groups*. A group is a collection of users, which are provided by the authentication system.

Table 5.1 shows an access control matrix for a few files, which can be either read from or written to.

| | File 1 | File 2 | File 3 |
|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Group 1 | read, write | read | |
| Group 2 | read | read | read, write |

Table 5.1: A sample access control matrix for some computer files, which can be read from and written to by different groups

5.3.3 Integration with JPM

The **registry** service is the only consumer of the **security** service. On top of this service the **registry** service implements the security model JPM uses. JPM supports users these map one-to-one with the user model of the **security** service. On top of this JPM supports teams which are supported by a single underlying group. The purpose of a team is to allow for multiple users to all have ownership of a single package. Every single user and team get their own group, user groups only have a single member, while a team group has members corresponding to the team. The user groups are named **users.<name>**, and teams **groups.<name>**.

When a package is downloaded from or published to the **registry** the user’s permissions will be checked. For a user to download a package, the user must be in a group having the **read** (or **write** for publishing) right for the corresponding resource. Each package has an associated resource called **packages.<name>**. A wild card resource (**packages.***) also exists. The wild card resource represents every single package, thus if a group holds the **packages.*/read** right then that group is allowed to download ever package in the **registry** . This is exactly how a **registry** might provide guest downloads.

TODO Find a place for this

Limiting number of login attempts within a period is often recommended. This is done to avoid brute-force attacks. This isn't possible in Jolie, since the sender isn't available to Jolie user code. This is most likely due to the fact that no unique sender ID exists, since Jolie can accept messages from various types of networks.

5.4 Calculating Dependency Trees

1

5.5 The JPM Back End

5.5.1 Introduction and Responsibilities

The back end service is responsible for performing most of the heavy lifting, for the commands that are sent to it from the front end. Some of the jobs are performed directly by this service, while quite a few others are delegated.

The most important partner the back end service has is the registry service. The back end will communicate with one or more registry services, which are covered more in depth in Section TODO.

The responsibilities of the back end can roughly be divided into three categories:

1. **Package management (See Section TODO)**

- Installing packages
- Publishing packages
- Upgrading packages
- Searching for packages

2. **Account management (See Section TODO)**

- Login/logout with each registry
- Create user
- Team management

3. **Helper scripts (See Section TODO)**

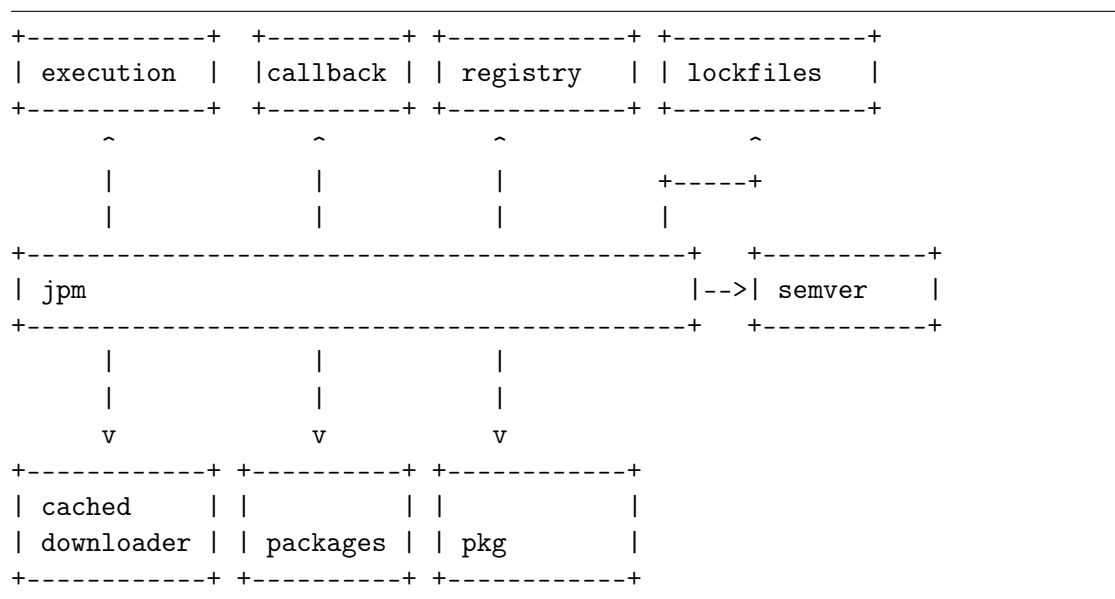
- Creating a new package

- Clearing the cache
- Starting a package

5.5.2 Architecture

The JPM back end collaborates with a few external services, these are illustrated in Figure 32.

1. **registry**: Primary collaborator, responsible for storing packages. See Section TODO
2. **execution**: Used for starting package (Section TODO), and executing life-time hooks (Section TODO)
3. **lockfiles**: Handles the lockfiles feature (Section TODO)
4. **semver**: Library package for dealing with semantic versioning (Section TODO)
5. **cached downloader**: Acts as a cache for downloaded packages (Section TODO)
6. **packages**: Validator for the internal package format (Section TODO)
7. **pkg**: Responsible for creating the binary format used for distribution (Section 4.7)



Listing 32: System architecture, from the back end's point of view

5.6 Authentication Tokens

In Section 5.3.2 we covered the authorization framework that JPM uses. When a user successfully authenticates the authorization framework will provide an authentication token proving the user's identity.

For user convenience the JPM system does not require a valid username and password combination for every privileged operation. To avoid this, JPM will store the authentication token returned by the **registry**. These are stored in a file on the file-system.

TODO I can't write smart things right now. Words no good :-)

The authentication token (or session token) is saved instead of the username and password. Since if an attacker were to gain access to both the username and password, she would be able to gain full control over the user, this includes being able to generate new authentication tokens.

If an attacker instead were to gain only the authentication token, the damage is not as bad. The attacker would still be able to pose as the user, but only while the authentication token is valid.

Several steps are taken to mitigate the damage that can be done in case of session hijacking. TODO I just called a session, without defining it.

Session timeout

Manual session invalidation (logging out)

Re-authentication before critical actions

https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Authentication_Cheat_Sheet

https://www.owasp.org/images/0/08/OWASP_SCP_Quick_Reference_Guide_v2.pdf

5.7 The JPM Cache

The **cache** of JPM is responsible for downloading packages, and maintaining the packages in a local cache.

The local cache acts as a database of known packages. This database contains both the information needed to know about the database, as well as the binary containing the package data.

The local cache consists of previously downloaded packages, along with a locally kept database which matches the type that the **registry** uses. The database kept also track the origin **registry**, since the **cache** will potentially download from multiple. The key

used for this is the location URI of each **registry** . The name cannot be used, since these differ between each package.

The primary operation that the **cache** exposes is the **installDependency** operation. This operation will install a dependency directly into a package. JPM assumes that dependencies are installed under `<pkgRoot>/jpm_packages/<depName>`. Having packages stored under a common folder makes it easy to locate. This is, for example, useful when needing to filter out the packages. Common places for this would be version control, or from JPM when publishing a package.

The **cache** will first attempt to retrieve the package from its local database, if not found it will forward the request to the registry. In order to forward the request, the operation is fed both the registry and authentication token.

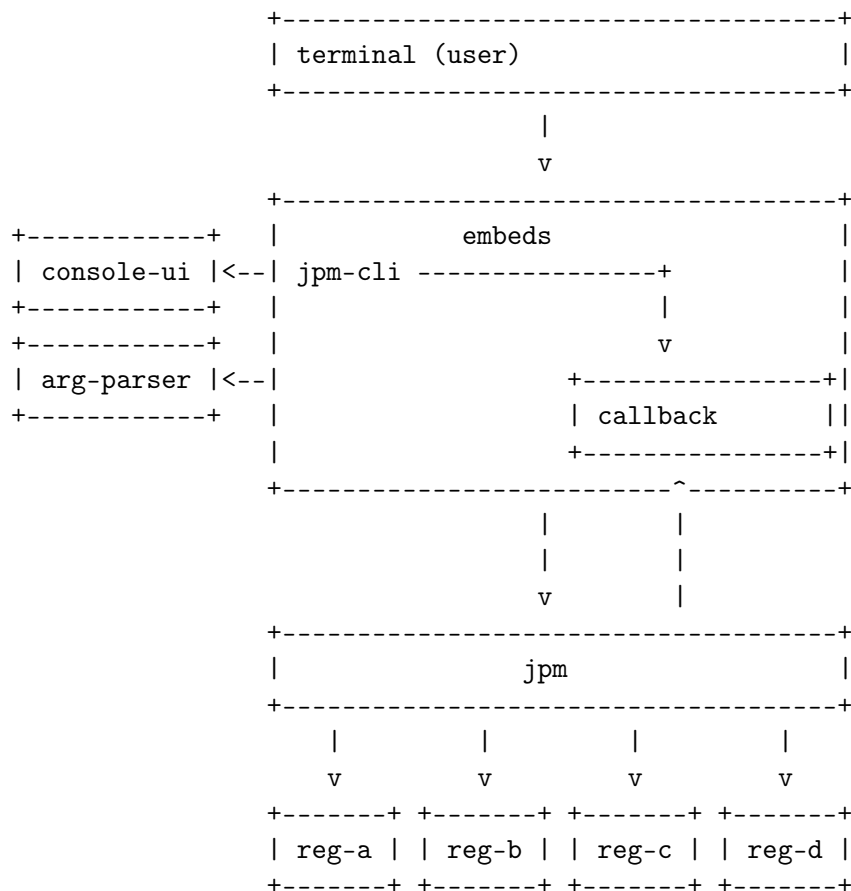
When a new package is received from a **registry** , two parts will be returned: the binary itself, along with the checksum that the **registry** believes the package to have. Checksums are both checked when initially receiving the package, but also at every install from the cache. This helps prevent initial corruption and further protects from the cache itself being corrupted. A more thorough discussion of this feature can be found in Section 4.8.

The **cache** will maintain a **registry-db** just like the **registry** component does. When new entries are loaded into the **cache** , it will update the **registry-db** in a similar fashion. As a result the **cache** is technically capable of performing the exact same responsibilities as the **registry** . This could for example allow for fully offline downloads assuming the data is already loaded into the cache.

5.8 The Command Line Interface

5.8.1 Internal Organization and Deployment

The command line tool delegates most of the work to the back end service (here called **jpm**). Figure 33 shows the architecture from the CLI's point of view. Most notably is the callback server, this server is responsible for receiving information about events that occur in the back end. These are primarily used to communicate progress, this is especially useful for long running processes, such as downloading dependencies. The back end will in these cases send these events to a callback server, which can then choose to display information about this event. The need for a separate service comes mostly from a limitation in Jolie. In Jolie all communication follows either a one-way, or request-response communication pattern. As a result of this, it isn't possible for JPM to send back information while a request is being processed. To handle this the front end (in this case **jpm-cli**) will inform the back end of where it should send events.



Listing 33: The system architecture from the CLI’s point of view

Quite a lot of services exists on the client side, notable `jpm-cli` and `jpm`. From a usability perspective this is less optimal. For this reason the `jpm` binary, which ships with the package manager, will use a deployment which embeds all of the core services together. Future versions of the package manager, may wish to optionally spin up the required services, and run them as daemons². This will remove quite a bit of the overhead associated with spinning up the JVM (required for the Jolie engine) and every embedded service. Such a practice is done by similar tools, as an example the JVM based build tool Gradle provides such a daemon³. This conversion would be relatively straight forward, since the server architecture required by the daemon is already implemented.

²A daemon is a background process running on a computer

³https://docs.gradle.org/current/userguide/gradle_daemon.html

Appendix

A.1 Appendix A: JPM Manifest Specification

This document covers the specification of the file which defines a package. The format used for this document will be JSON, but the format and whether or not to allow for several documents is still up for discussion. For now we should avoid using any features which the generic Jolie value cannot support.

A.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the package document is to define what a package is. Every Jolie package will contain such a document, and it describes several important properties about the package. These properties are described in the section “Format and Properties”.

A.1.2 Table of Contents

- Format and Properties
 - name
 - version
 - license
 - authors
 - private
 - main
 - dependencies
 - dependency
 - * name
 - * version
 - * registry
 - registries
 - registry
 - * name
 - * location

A.1.3 Format and Properties

name

Name: name

Optional: false

Type: string

Description: The **name** property uniquely defines a package in a registry. Every registry must only contain a single package with a given name.

Rules:

- The name of a package is *not* case-sensitive
- The length of a name is less than 255 characters
- Names are US-ASCII
- Names may only contain unreserved URI characters (see section 2.3 of RFC 3986)

If any of these rules are broken the JPM tool should complain when *any* command is invoked. Similarly a registry should reject any such package.

version

Name: version

Optional: false

Type: string

Description: This property describes the current version of this package.

Rules:

- The version string must be a valid SemVer 2.0.0 string (see <http://semver.org/spec/v2.0.0.html>)

license

Name: property_name

Optional: false

Type: string

Description: Describes the license that this package is under.

Rules:

- Must be a valid identifier. See <https://spdx.org/licenses/>

authors**Name:** authors**Optional:** false**Type:** string|array<string>**Description:** Describes the authors of this package**Rules:**

- The array must contain at least a single entry
- Each entry should follow this grammar:

```
name ["<" email ">"] ["(" homepage ")"]
```

private**Name:** private**Optional:** true**Type:** boolean**Description:** Describes if this package should be considered private. If a package is private it cannot be published to the “public” repository.**Rules:**

- By default this property has the value of **true** to avoid accidental publishing of private packages.

main**Name:** main**Optional:** true**Type:** string**Description:** Describes the main file of a package.**Rules:**

- The value is considered to be a relative file path from the package root.

dependencies**Name:** dependencies**Optional:** true**Type:** array<dependency>**Description:** Contains an array of dependencies. See the “dependency” sub-section for more details.**Rules:**

- If the property is not listed, a default value of an empty array should be used

dependency**Type:** object**Description:** A dependency describes a single dependency of a package. This points to a package at a specific point on a specific registry.**name** **Name:** name**Optional:** false**Type:** string**Description:** Describes the name of the dependency. This refers to the package name, as defined earlier.**Rules:** A dependency name follows the exact same rules as a package name.**version** **Name:** version**Optional:** false**Type:** string**Description:** Describes the version to use**Rules:**

- Must be a valid SemVer 2.0.0 string
- (This property follows the same rules as the package version does)

registry **Name:** `registry`

Optional: `true`

Type: `string`

Description: This describes the exact registry to use. If no registry is listed the “public” registry will be used.

Rules:

- The value of this property must be a valid registry as listed in the **registries** property.

registries

Name: `registries`

Optional: `true`

Type: `array<registry>`

Description: Contains an array of known registries. See the registry sub-section for more details.

Rules:

- This property contains an implicit entry which points to the public registry. This registry is named “public”.

registry

Type: `object`

Description: A registry describes a single JPM registry. A JPM registry is where the package manager can locate a package, and also request a specific version of a package.

name **Name:** `name`

Optional: `false`

Type: `string`

Description: This property uniquely identifies the registry.

Rules:

- A name cannot be longer than 1024 characters

- The name cannot be “public”
- No two registries may have the same name

TODO:

- Encoding of name
- Should the length limit be dropped? There is no technical reason for the limit

location **Name:** `location`

Optional: `false`

Type: `string`

Description: Describes the location of the registry.

Rules:

- Must be a valid Jolie location string (e.g. “`socket://localhost:8080`”)

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