# Reactive Programming in Modern Java using Project Reactor

#### **About Me**

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Building Software's since 2008

Teaching in UDEMY Since 2016

#### What's Covered?

- Need for Reactive Programming
- What is Reactive Programming
- Reactive Streams
- Write Reactive Programming using Project Reactor
- Build Nonblocking rest client using Spring Webclient
- JUnit test cases using JUnit5

### Targeted Audience

Any developer interested in learning Reactive Programming

 Any developer who has the requirement to write fast performing code under heavy load

Any developer who is curious to understand the internals of Reactive

Programming

# Source Code

# Thank You!

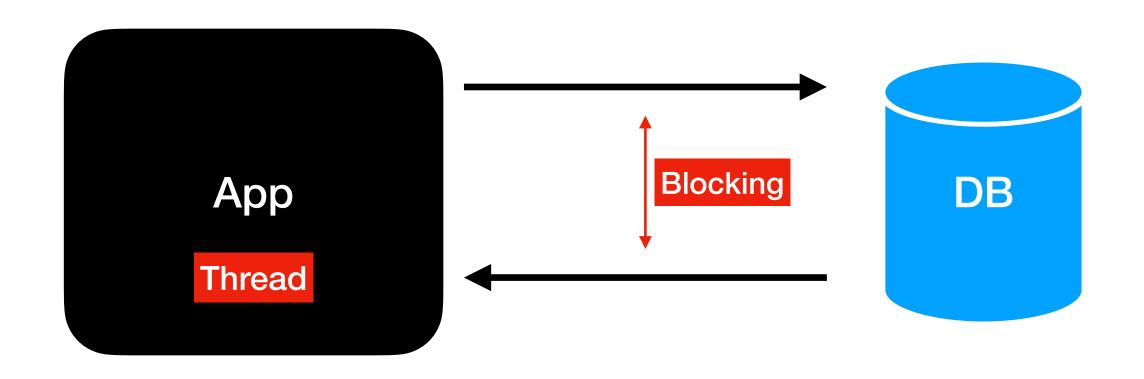
# Prerequisites

# Prerequisites

- Java 11 or Higher is needed
- Prior Java Experience is a must
- Experience writing Lambdas, Streams and Method References
- Experience Writing JUnit tests
- Intellij or any other IDE

# Why Reactive Programming?

# Traditional Programming



Synchronous or Blocking style of writing code

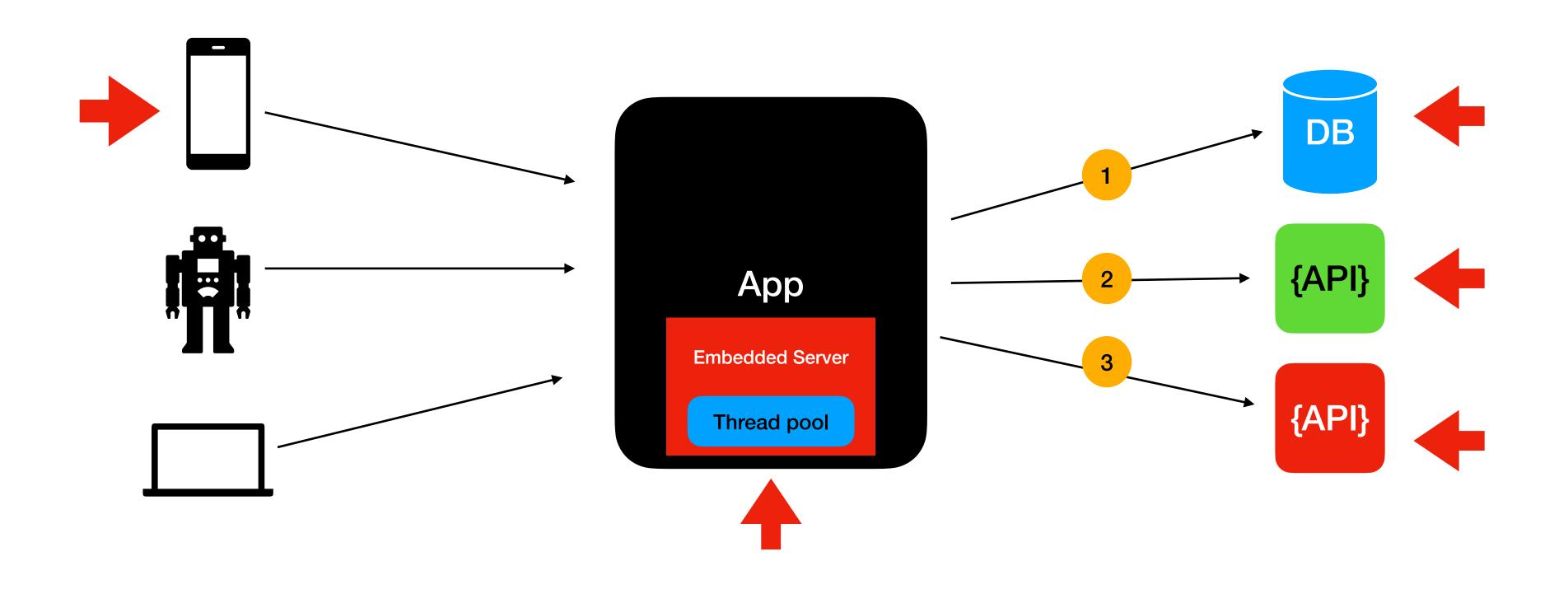
Blocking code won't scale well to fulfill today's customer needs

# What has changed?

# What has Changed?

- Internet usages spiked up
  - Network interactions are pretty common
- MicroServices Architectures are pretty much everywhere
- Applications are deployed in cloud environments
- Response times are expected in milliseconds
- No downtime

# Today's Architecture (Backend RestFul API)



Cannot have a Thread pool size of 100000

Latency = Summatid Popus MPI + API) response times

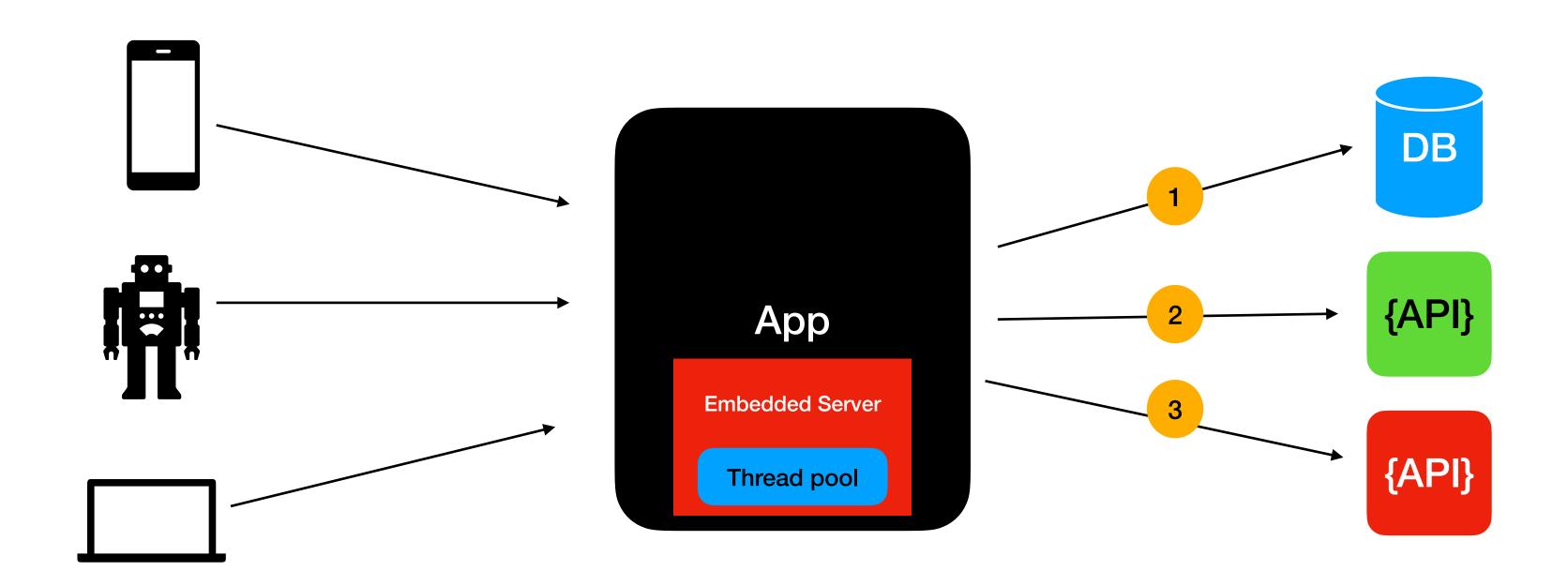
#### Threads and its side effects

• Thread is an expensive resource

• It takes up to 1 MB of heap space

 More threads leads to more heap space which leads to shortage of JVM memory for handling the request

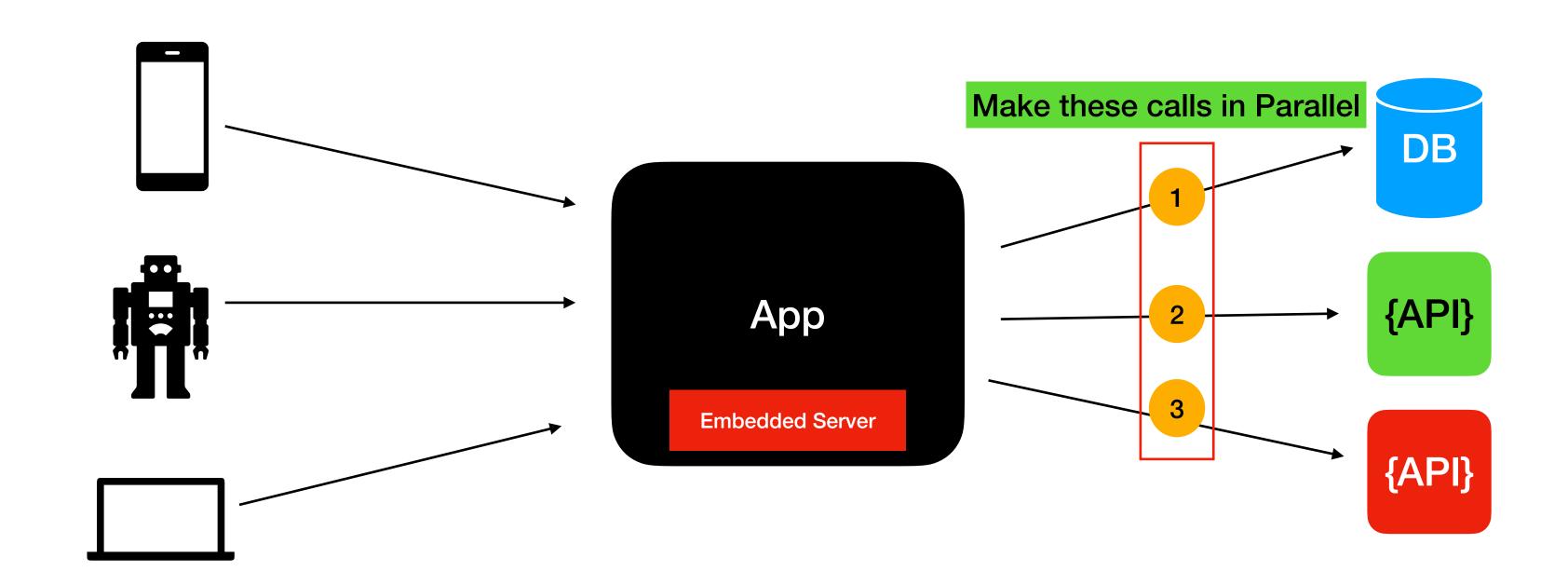
# Today's Architecture (Backend RestFul API)



- Blocking Code leads to In-efficient usage of Threads
- Wont scale to meet todays customer needs

# Can we do better?

# Today's Architecture (Backend RestFul API)



# What are the tools/api that's available in Java?

### Asynchronous/Concurrency APIs in Java

CallBacks

Future

# Callbacks

#### Callbacks

- Asynchronous methods that accept a callback as a parameter and invokes it when the blocking call completes.
- Writing code with Callbacks are hard to compose and difficult to read and maintain
- Callbackhell

# Future

# Concurrency APIs in Java

Future	CompletableFuture
<ul> <li>Released in Java 5</li> </ul>	Released in Java8
Write Asynchronous Code	<ul> <li>Write Asynchronous code in a functional style</li> </ul>
• Disadvantages:	Easy to compose/combine MultipleFutures
<ul> <li>No easy way to combine the result from multiple futures</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Disadvantages:</li> <li>Future that returns many elements</li> </ul>
• Future.get()	<ul> <li>Eg., CompletableFuture<list<result> will need to wait for the whole collection to built and readily available</list<result></li> </ul>
<ul> <li>This is a blocking call</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>CompletableFuture does not have a handle for</li> </ul>

CompletableFuture does not have a handle for

infinite values

#### Flow API

Release as part of Java 9

 This holds the contract for reactive streams but no implementation is available as part of JRE

#### Summary

Options in Java to solve the Effective Thread Utilization, Latency and Handling heavy load problem partially

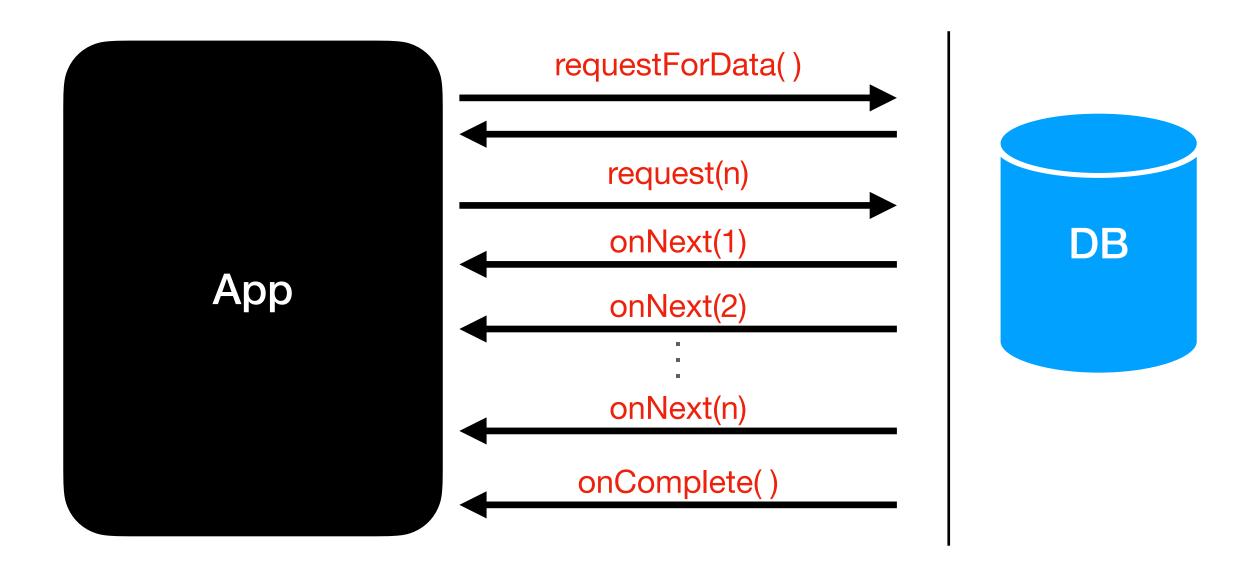
# Are there better options available?

# What is Reactive Programming?

# What is Reactive Programming?

- Reactive Programming is a new programming paradigm
- Asynchronous and non blocking
- Data flows as an Event/Message driven stream

# Reactive Programming



This is not a blocking call anymore

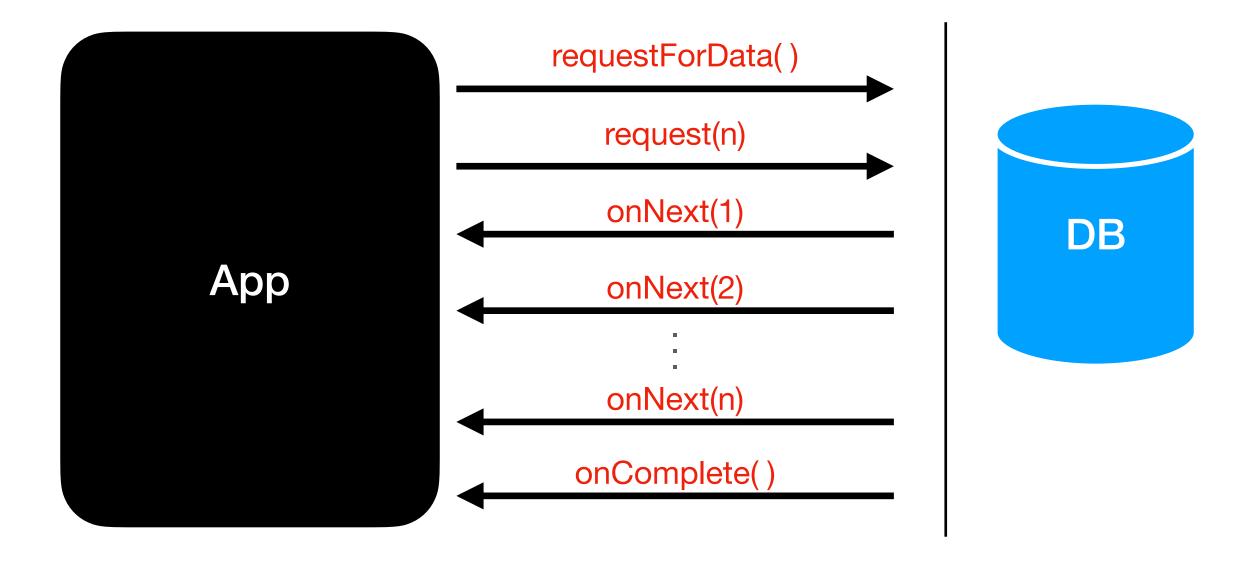
Push Based data streams model

Calling thread is released to do useful work

# What is Reactive Programming?

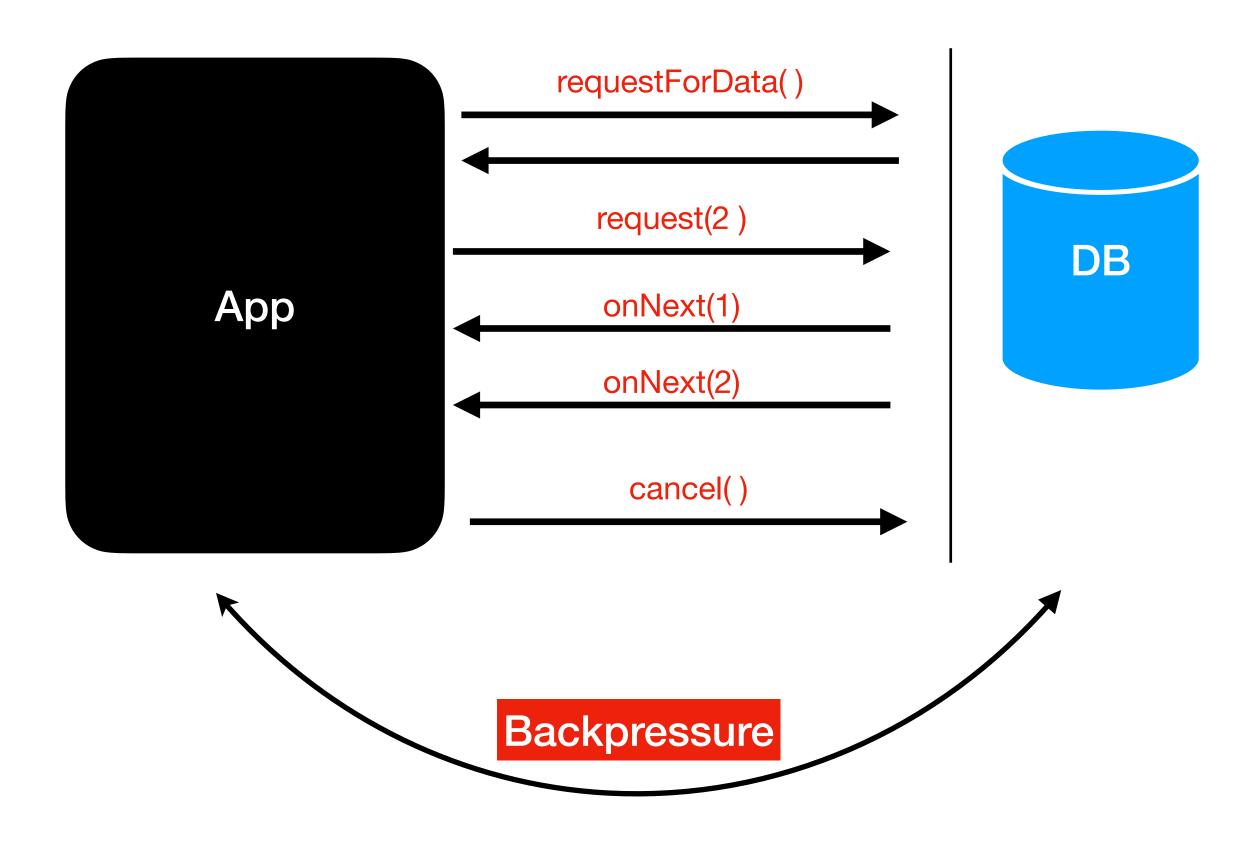
- Reactive Programming is a new programming paradigm
- Asynchronous and non blocking
- Data flows as an Event/Message driven stream
- Functional Style Code
- BackPressure on Data Streams

# Backpressure



Overwhelm the app with more data

# Backpressure



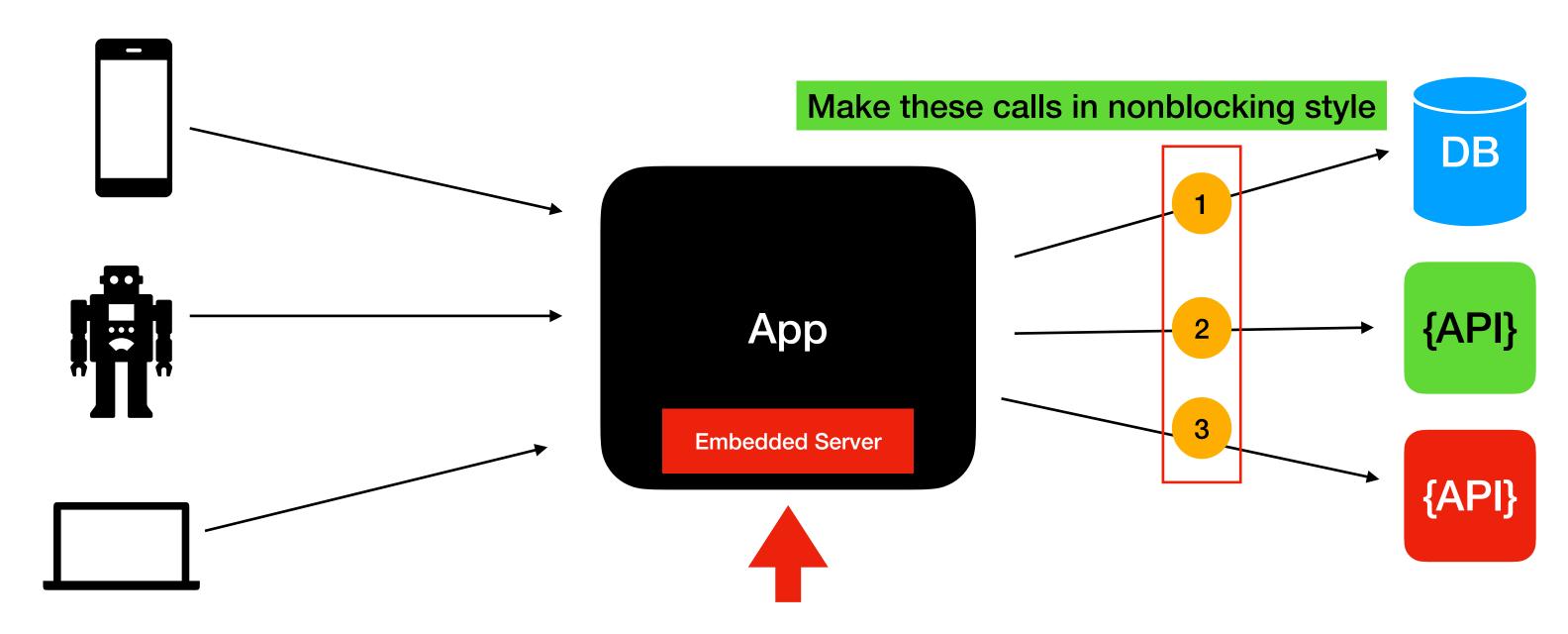
# Push-based data flow model

Push-Pull based data flow model

# When to use Reactive Programming?

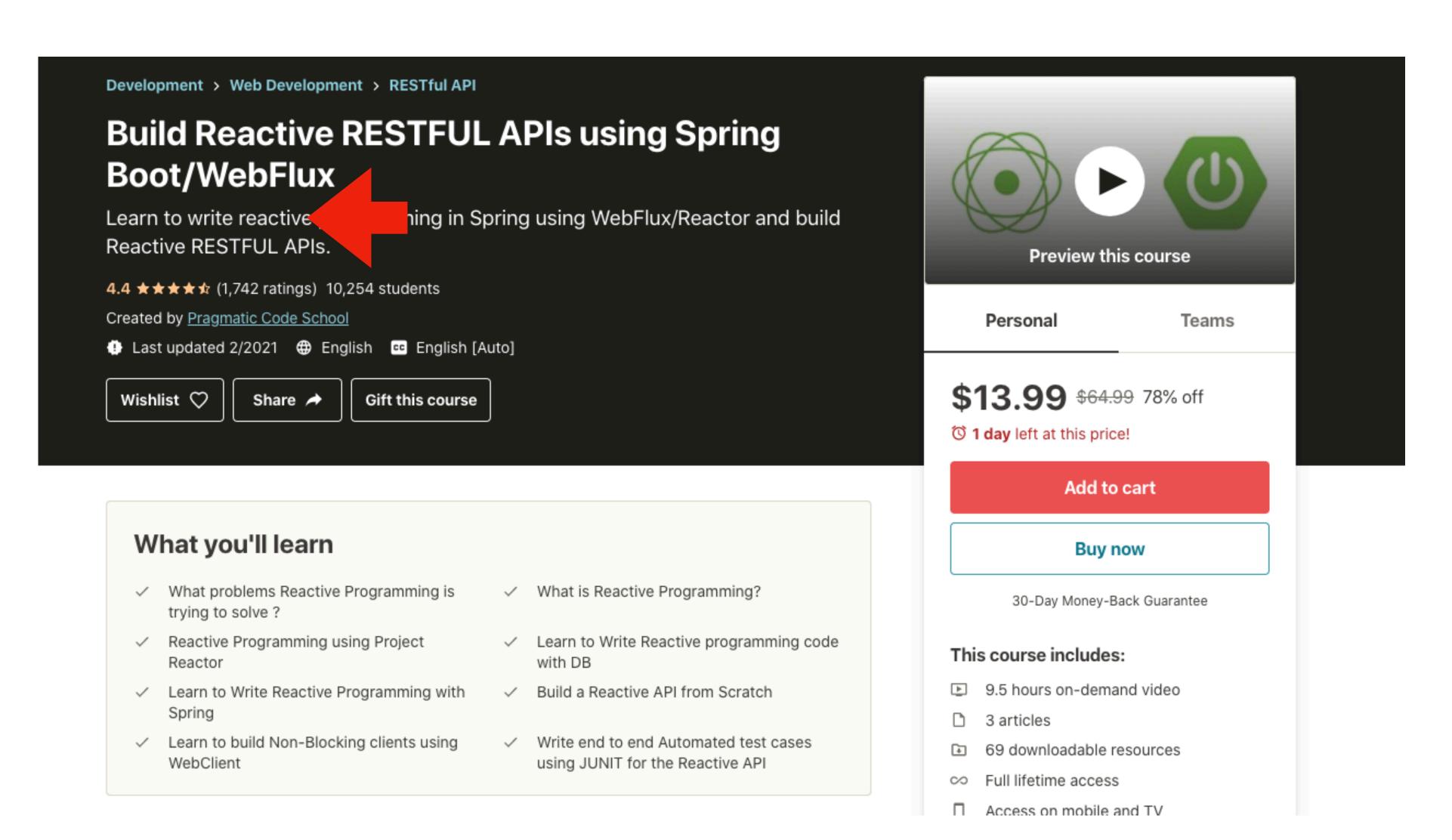
Use Reactive Programming when there is need to build and support app that can handle high load

#### Reactive App Architecture



- Handle request using non blocking style
  - Netty is a non blocking Server uses Event Loop Style
- Using Project Reactor for writing non blocking code
- Spring WebFlux uses the Netty and Project Reactor for building non blocking or reactive APIs

# Spring WebFlux using Project Reactor



#### Reactive Streams

# Reactive Streams are the foundation for Reactive programming.

#### Reactive Streams

 Reactive Streams Specification is created by engineers from multiple organizations:

- Lightbend
- Netflix
- VmWare (Pivotal)

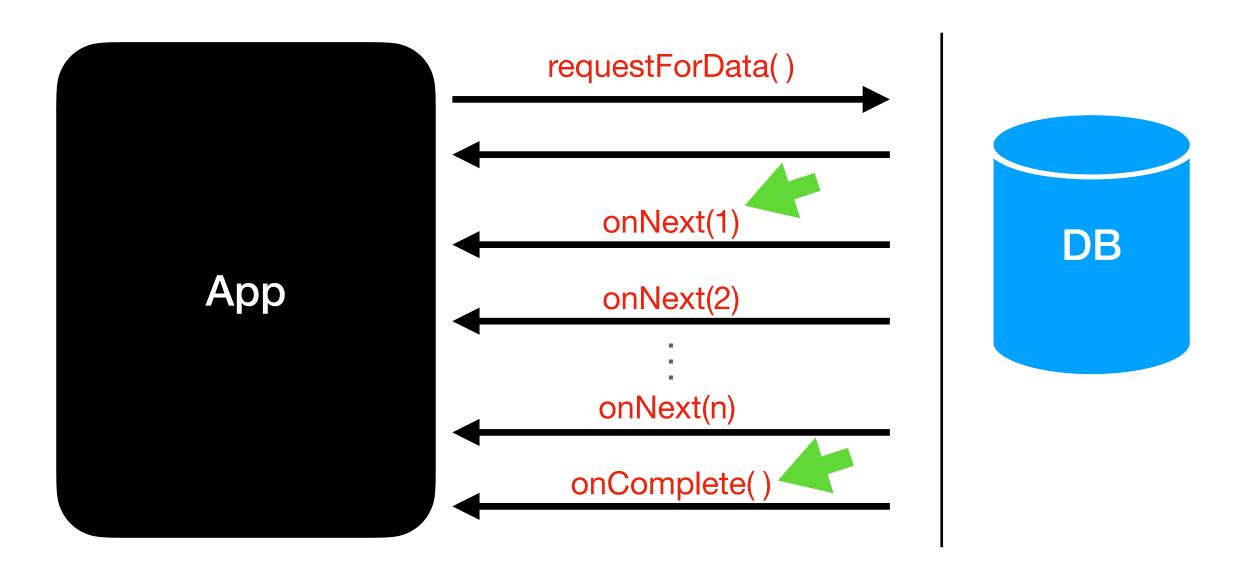
#### Reactive Streams Specification

- Reactive Streams Specification:
  - Publisher
  - Subscriber
  - Subscription
  - Processor

#### Publisher

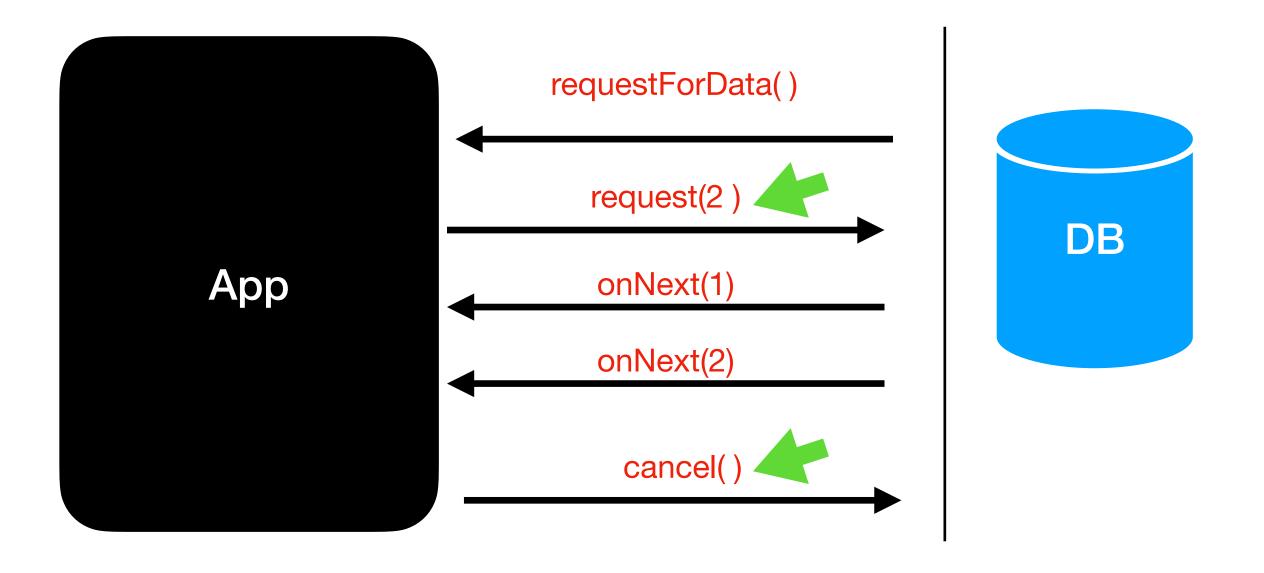
- Publisher represents the DataSource
  - Database
  - RemoteService etc.,

#### Subscriber



#### Subscription

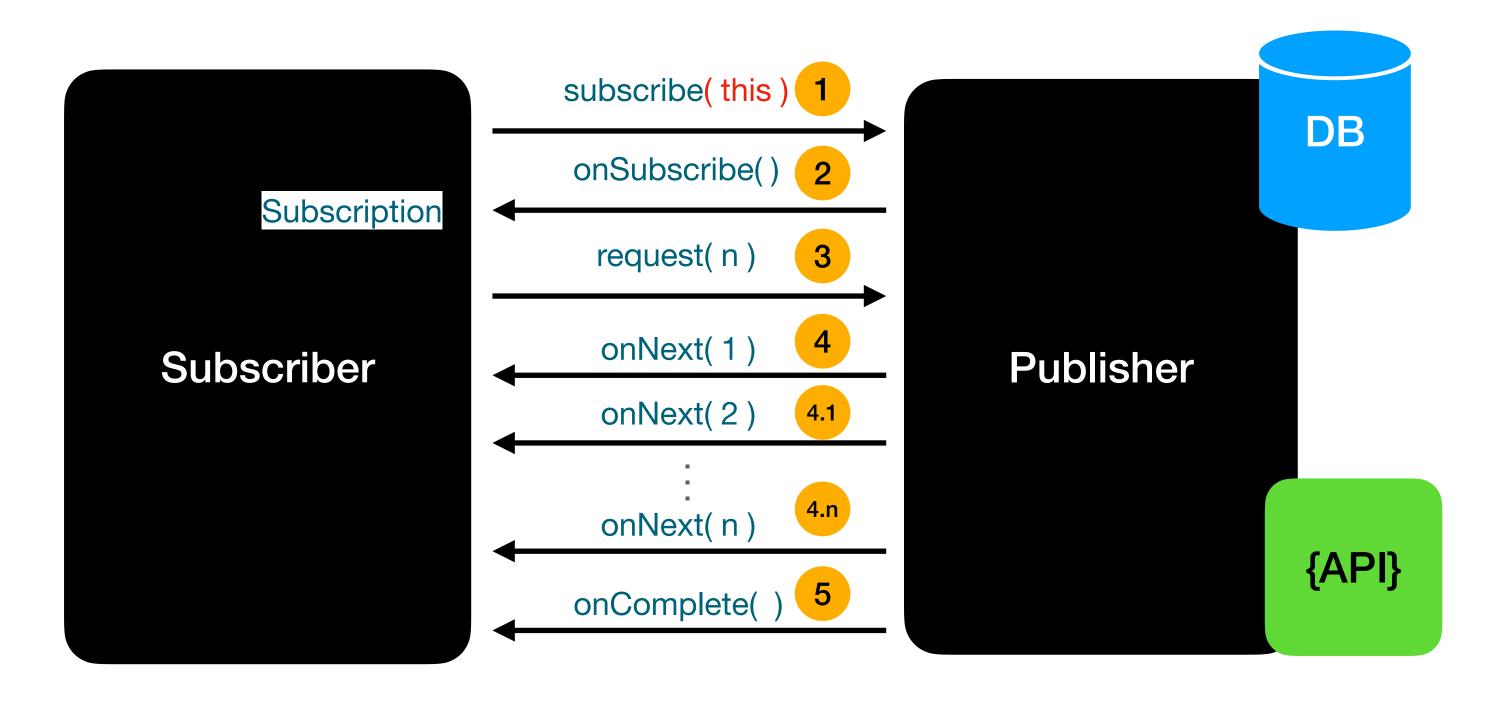
```
public interface Subscription {
   public void request(long n);
   public void cancel();
}
```



Subscription is the one which connects the app and datasource

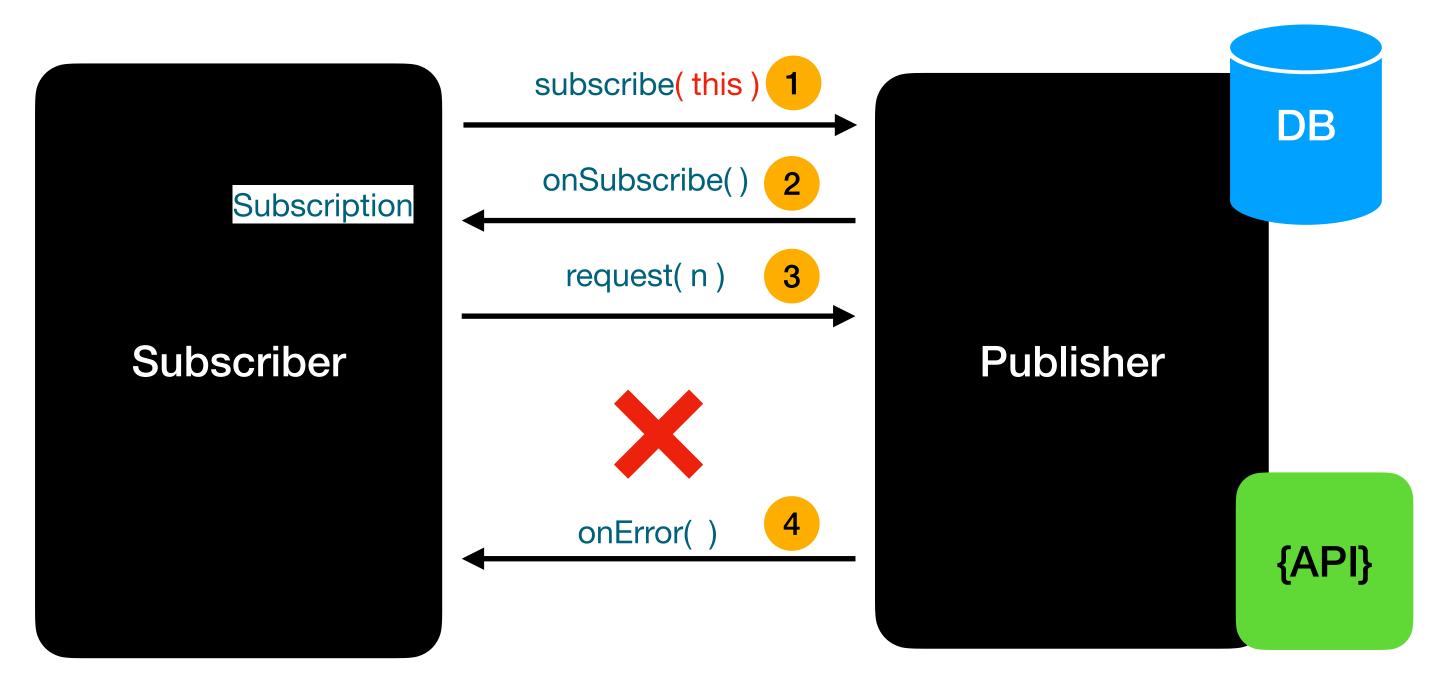
#### Reactive Streams - How it works together?

#### **Success Scenario**



#### Reactive Streams - How it works together?

#### **Error/Exception Scenario**



- Exceptions are treated like the data
- The Reactive Stream is dead when an exception is thrown

#### Processor

```
public interface Processor<T, R> extends Subscriber<T>, Publisher<R> {
}
```

- Processor extends Subscriber and Publisher
  - Processor can behave as a Subscriber and Publisher
  - Not really used this on a day to day basis

# Introduction to Project Reactor

#### Project Reactor

Project Reactor is an implementation of Reactive Streams Specification

Project Reactor is a Reactive Library

Spring WebFlux uses Project Reactor by default

# Flux & & Mono

#### Flux & Mono

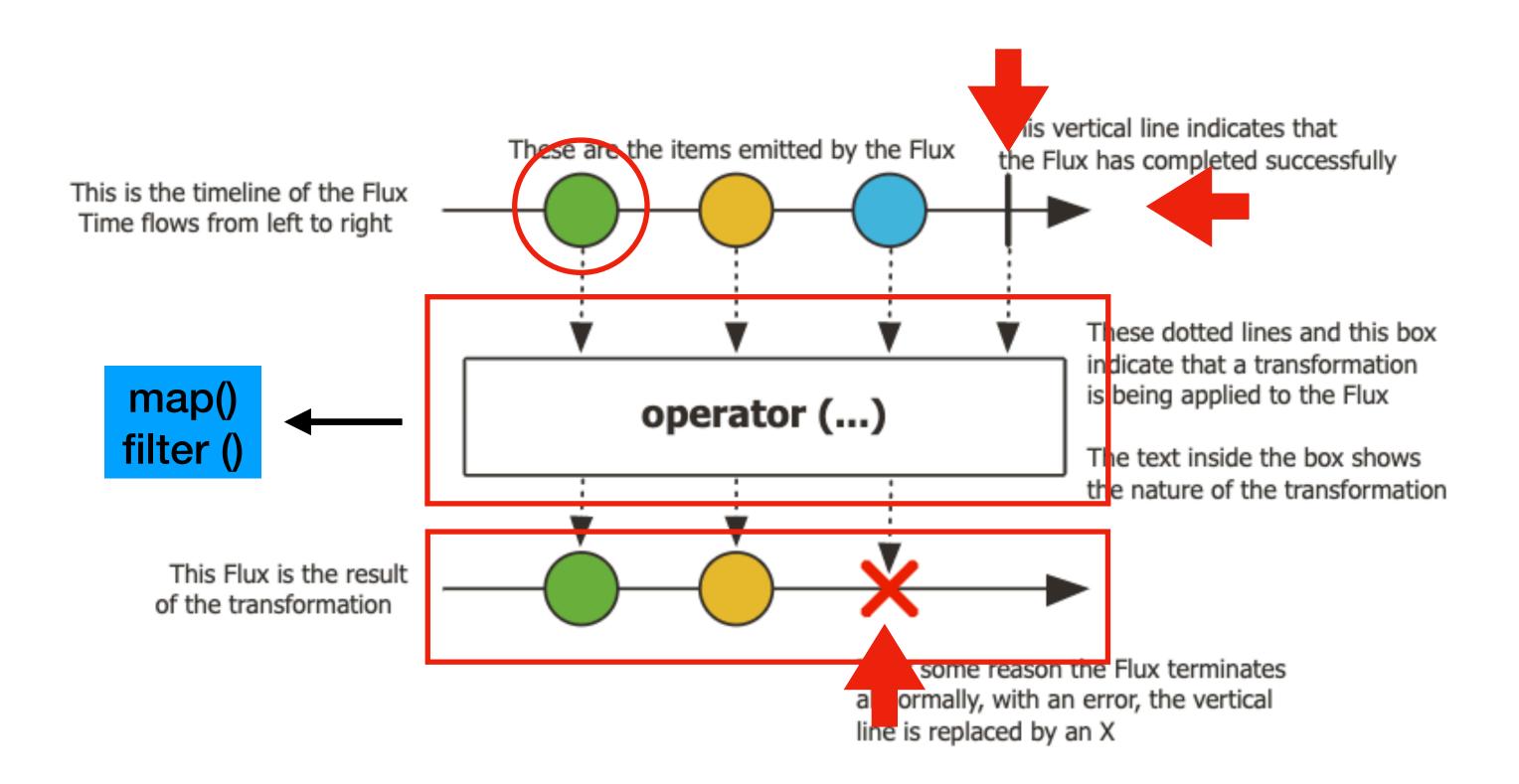
Flux and Mono is a reactive type that implements the Reactive Streams
 Specification

• Flux and Mono is part of the reactor-core module

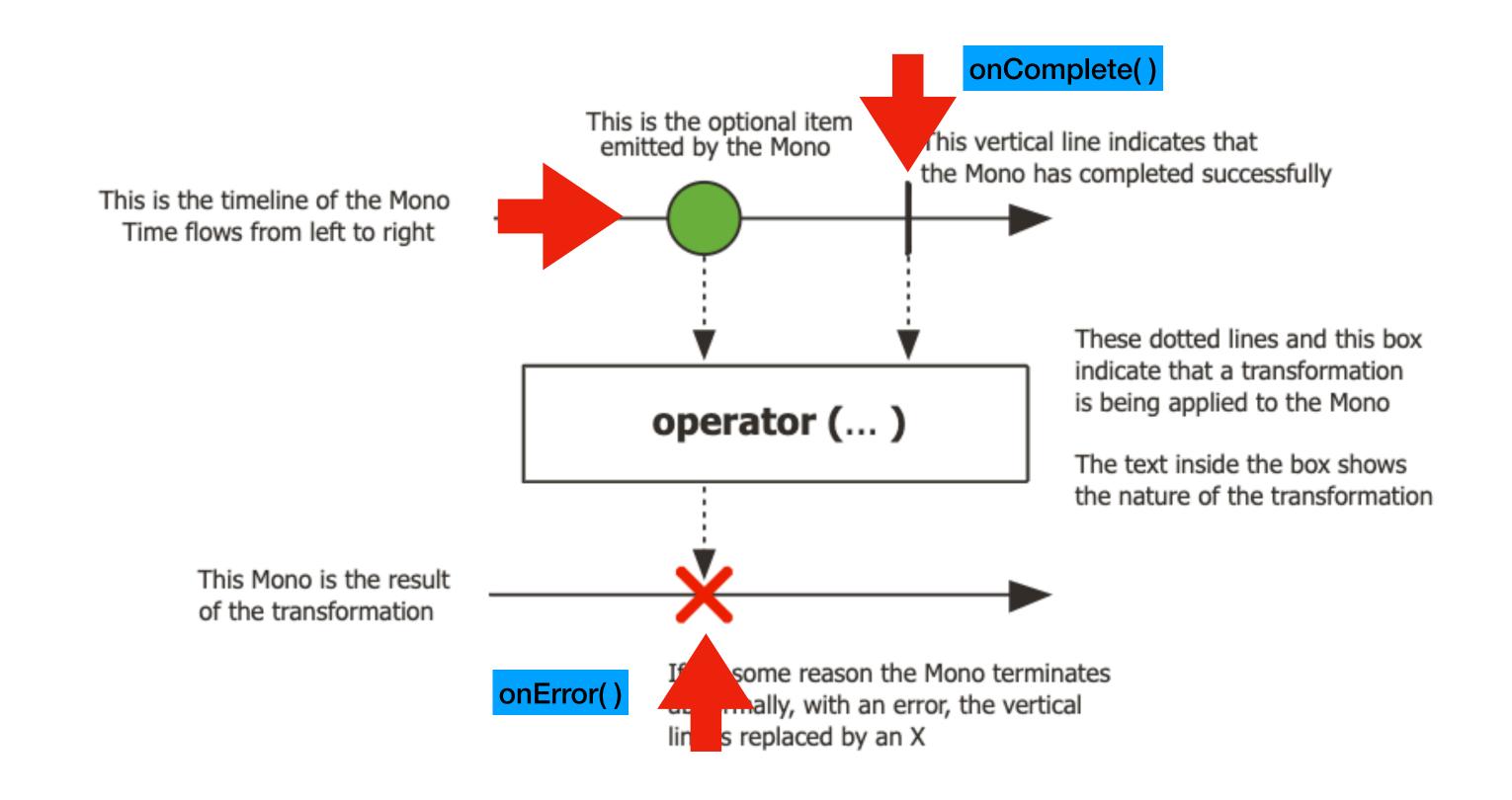
Flux is a reactive type to represent 0 to N elements

Mono is a reactive type to represent 0 to 1 element

#### Flux - 0 to N elements



#### Mono - 0 to 1 Element



### Project Setup

# Functional Programming In Modern Java

### Why Functional Programming?

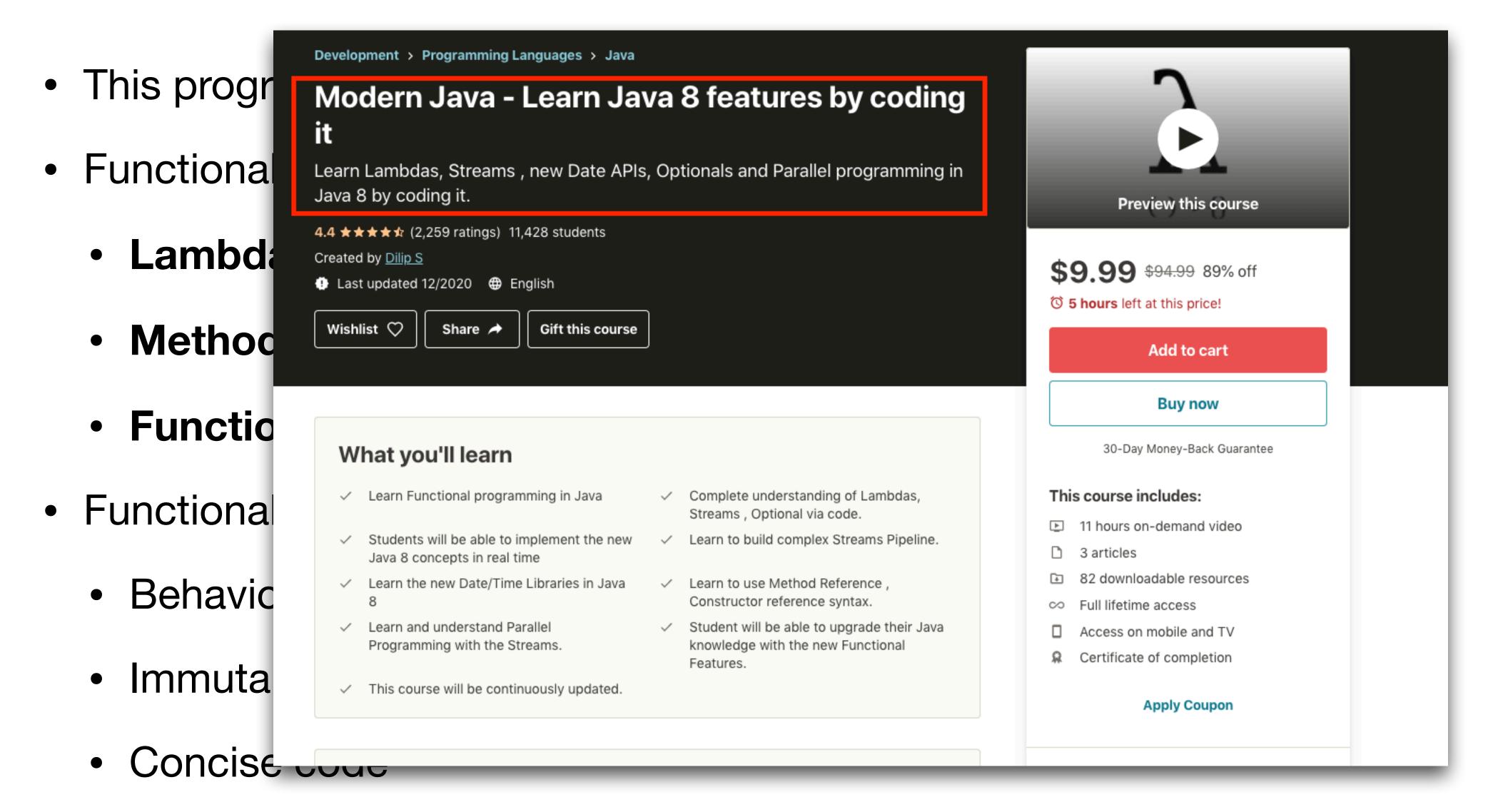
#### Why Functional Programming?

• Reactive programming uses Functional Programming style of code

• Eg., Code similar to Streams API

Reactive Programming is an extension to Functional Programming

#### What is Functional Programming?

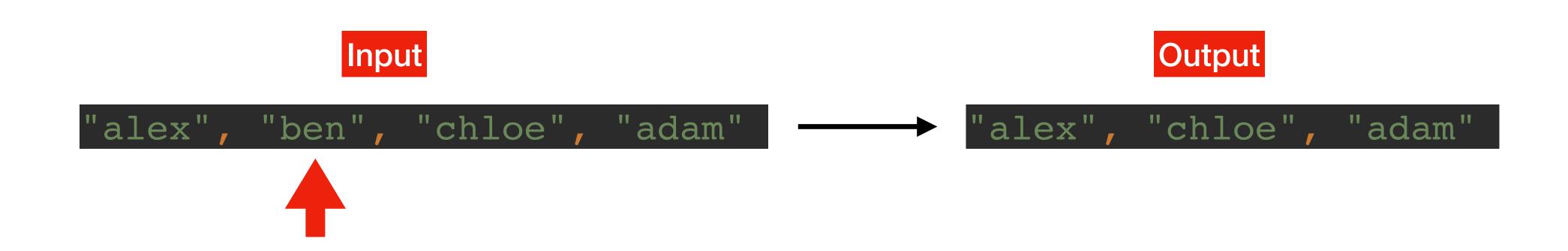


# What's the style of code that's written before Java 8?

### Imperative Style of Code

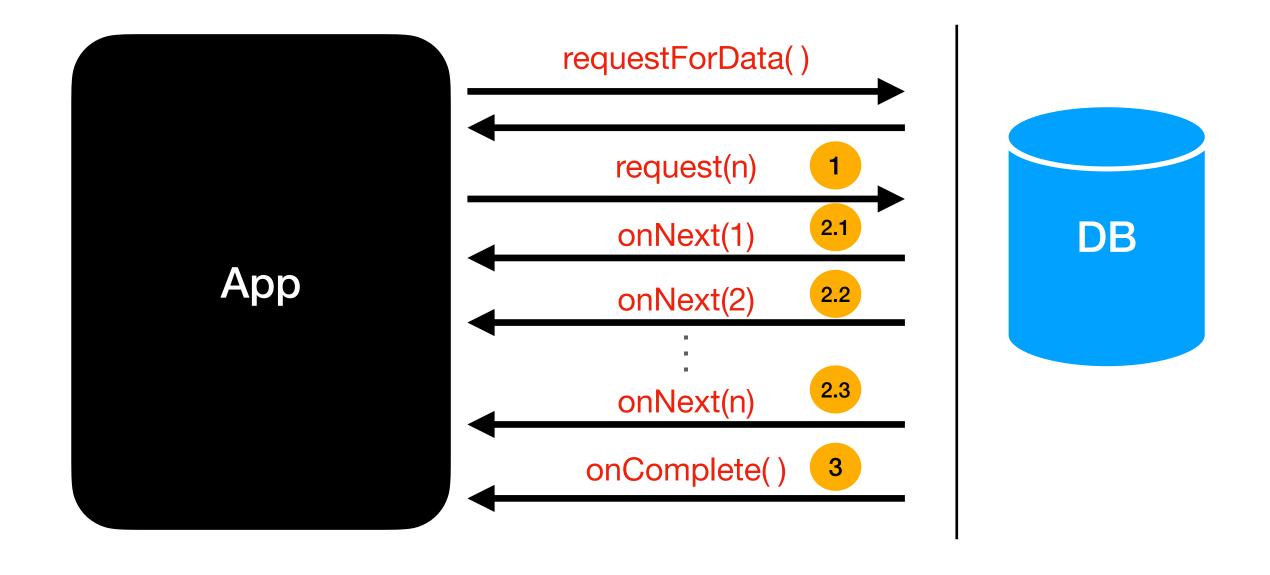
#### Use-case

# Filter the list of Strings whose length is greater than 3



### Reactive Stream Events

#### Reactive Streams Events



# Testing Flux and Mono using StepVerifier & JUnit5

# Transforming Data Using Operators in Project Reactor

#### Why Transform Data?

• It is pretty common for apps to transform data from its original form

```
Flux.just("alex", "ben", "chloe")

UpperCase

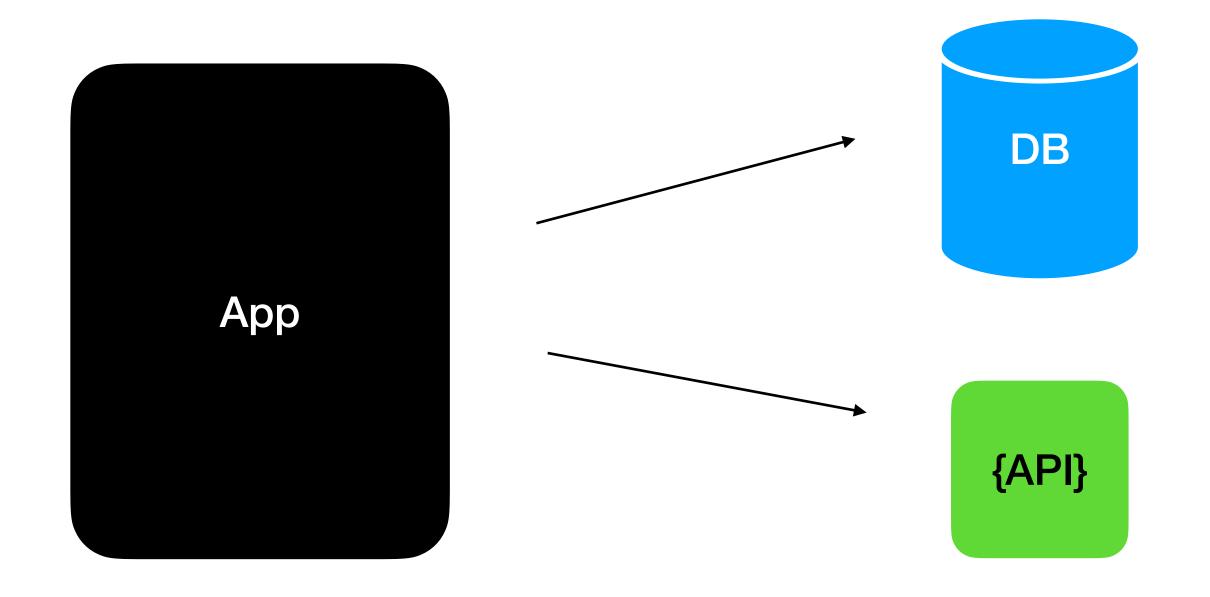
Flux.just("ALEX", "BEN", "CHLOE")

UpperCase & Filter String length is greater then 3

Flux.just("alex", "ben", "chloe")

Flux.just("ALEX", "CHLOE")
```

#### Why Transform Data?



## map()

#### map() Operator

Used to transform the element from one form to another in a Reactive Stream

Similar to the map() operator in Streams API

## filter()

#### filter() Operator

Used to filter elements in a Reactive Stream

• Similar to the filter() operator in Streams API

### flatMap()

#### flatMap()

Transforms one source element to a Flux of 1 to N elements

```
"ALEX" -> Flux.just("A", "L", "E", "X")
```

• Use it when the transformation returns a Reactive Type (Flux or Mono)

Returns a Flux<Type>

### map()

- One to One Transformation
- Does the simple transformation from T to V

- Used for simple synchronous transformations
- Does not support transformations that returns Publisher

### flatmap()

- One to N Transformations
- Does more than just transformation. Subscribes to Flux or Mono that's part of the transformation and then flattens it and sends it downstream
- Used for asynchronous transformations
- Use it with transformations that returns Publisher

### concatNap()

### concatMap()

Works similar to flatMap()

• Only difference is that concatMap() preserves the ordering sequence of the

Reactive Streams.

### Use concatMap() if ordering matters

### flatMap in Mono

### flatMap in Mono

Use it when the transformation returns a Mono \_\_\_\_



Returns a Mono<T>

```
private Mono<List<String>> splitStringMono(String s) {
    var charArray = s.split("");
    return Mono.just(List.of(charArray))
            .delayElement(Duration.ofSeconds(1));
```

Use flatMap if the transformation involves making a REST API call or any kind of functionality that can be done asynchronously

# flatMapMany() in Mono

### flatMap in Mono

Works very similar to flatMap()

```
private Flux<String> splitString_withDelay(String name) {
   var delay = new Random().nextInt(1000);
   var charArray = name.split("");
   return Flux.fromArray(charArray)
        .delayElements(Duration.ofMillis(delay));
}
```

### transform()

### transform()

Used to transform from one type to another

Accepts Function Functional Interface

Function Functional Interface got released as part of Java 8

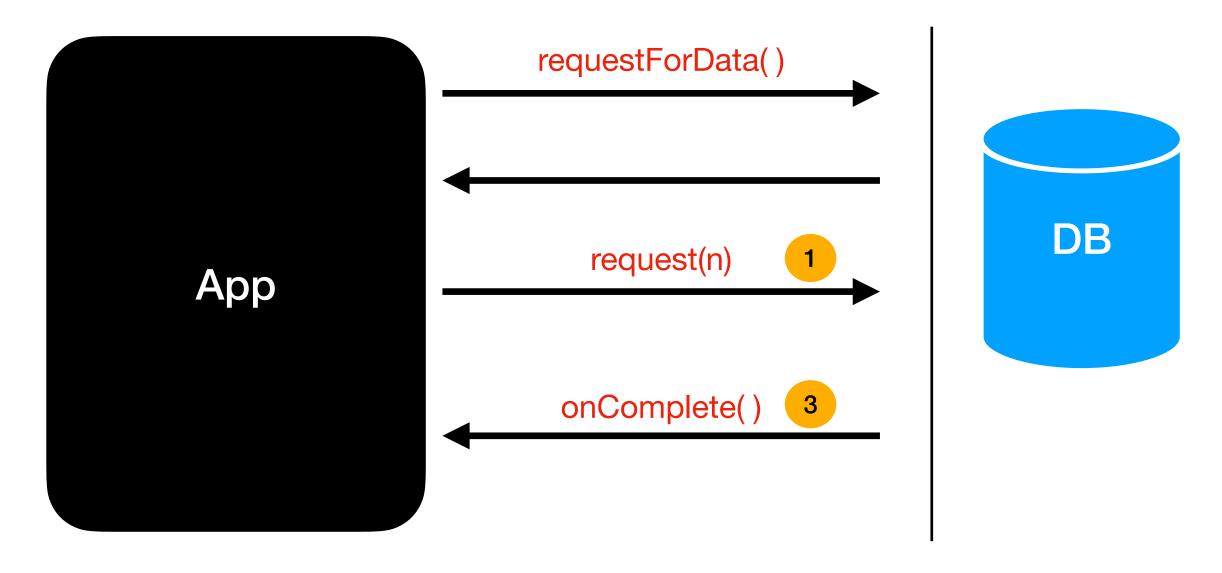
• Input - Publisher (Flux or Mono)

• Output - Publisher (Flux or Mono)

# defaultIfEmpty() & switchIfEmpty()

### defaultIfEmpty() & switchIfEmpty()

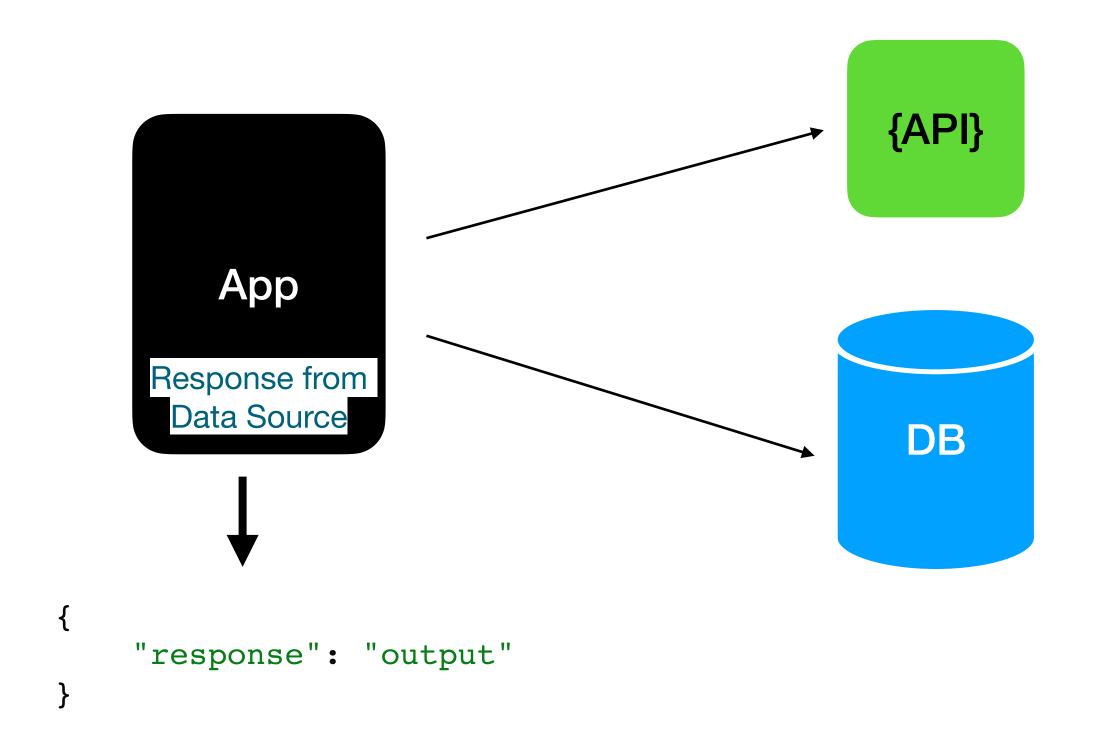
Its not mandatory for a data source to emit data all the time



We can use the defaultIfEmpty() or switchIfEmpty() operator to provide default values

# Combining Flux & Mono

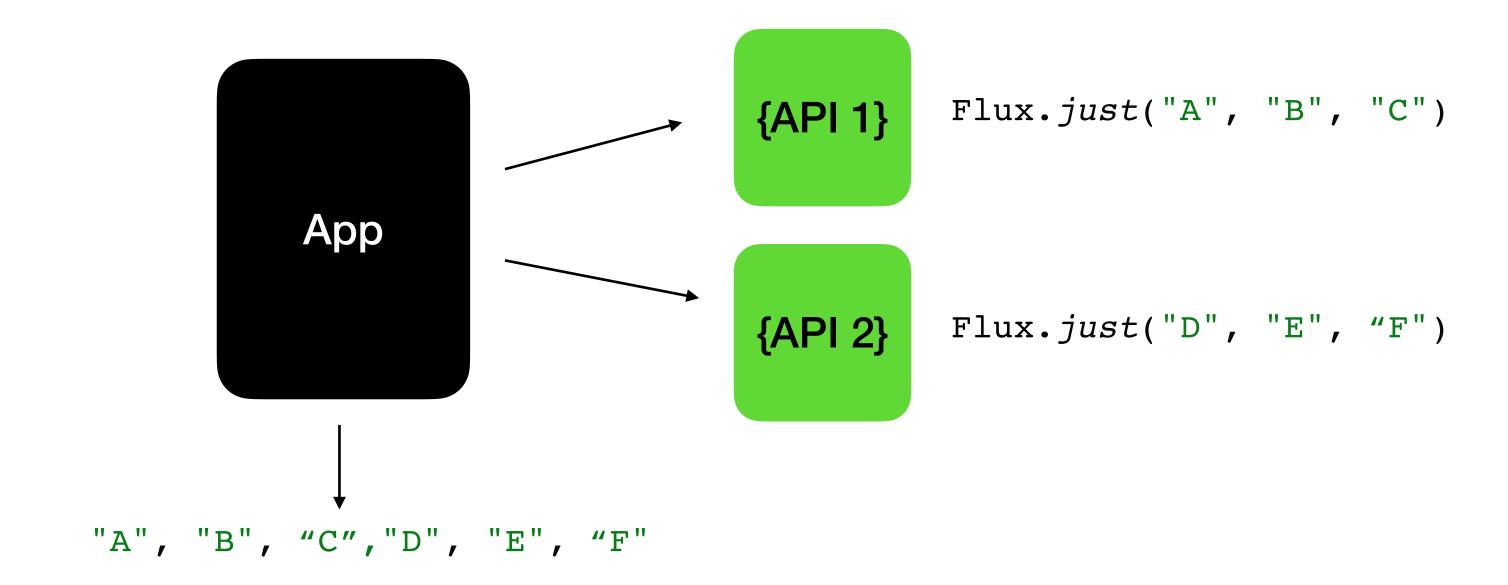
### Why combining Flux and Mono?



# concat() & concatWith()

### concat() & concatWith()

Used to combine two reactive streams in to one



### concat() & concatWith()

- Used to combine two reactive streams in to one
- Concatenation of Reactive Streams happens in a sequence
  - First one is subscribed first and completes
  - Second one is subscribed after that and then completes
- concat() static method in Flux
- concatWith() instance method in Flux and Mono
- Both of these operators works similarly

### merge() & mergeWith()

### merge() and mergeWith() are used to combine two publishers in to one.

### merge()

merge() operator takes in two arguments

### merge() & mergeWith()

- Both the publishers are subscribed at the same time
  - Publishers are subscribed eagerly and the merge happens in an interleaved fashion
  - concat() subscribes to the Publishers in a sequence
- merge() static method in Flux
- mergeWith() instance method in Flux and Mono
- Both of these operators works similarly

### mergeSequential()

### mergeSequential()

- Used to combine two Publishers (Flux) in to one
- Static method in Flux

- Both the publishers are subscribed at the same time
  - Publishers are subscribed eagerly
  - Even though the publishers are subscribed eagerly the merge happens in a sequence

### zip() & zipWith()

### zip()

Zips two publishers together in this example

```
// AD, BE, CF
public Flux<String> explore_zip() {
   var abcFlux = Flux.just("A", "B", "C");
   var defFlux = Flux.just("D", "E", "F");
   return Flux.zip abcFlux, defFlux, (first, second) ->first + second );
}
```

### zip() & zipWith()

- zip()
  - Static method that's part of the Flux
  - Can be used to merge up-to 2 to 8 Publishers (Flux or Mono) in to one
- zipWith()
  - This is an instance method that's part of the Flux and Mono
  - Used to merge two Publishers in to one
- Publishers are subscribed eagerly
- Waits for all the Publishers involved in the transformation to emit one element
  - Continues until one publisher sends an OnComplete event

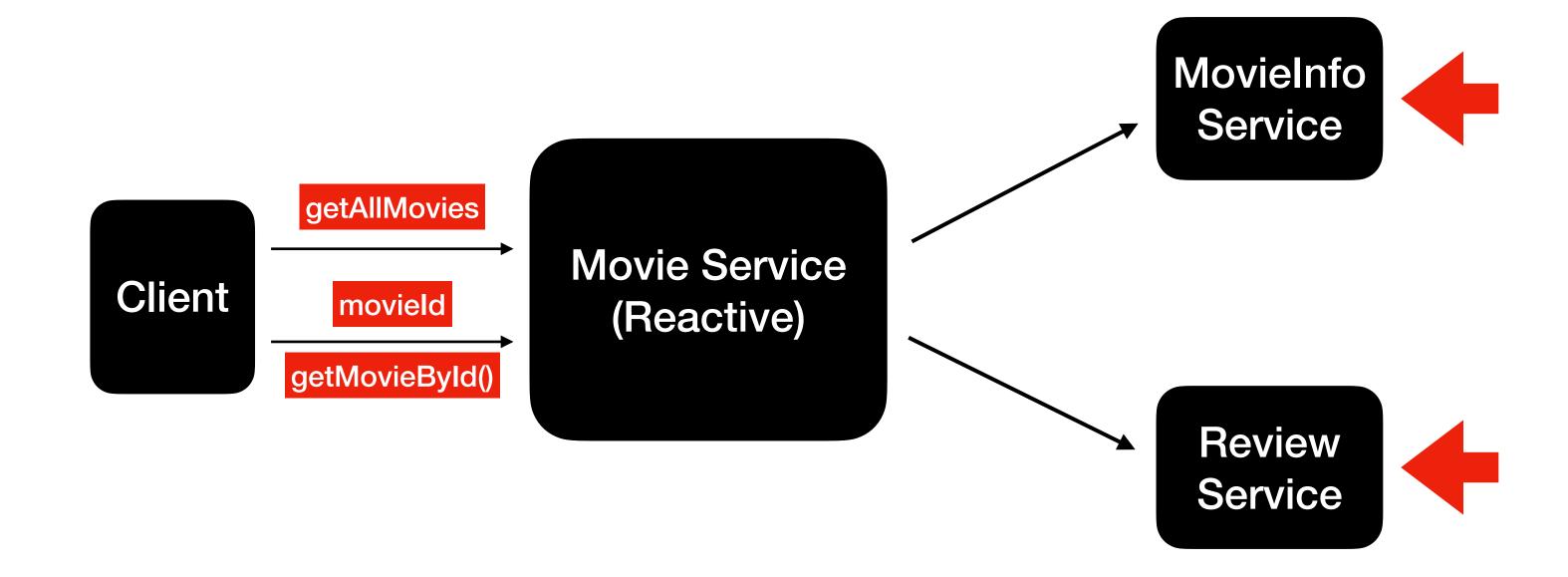
### zip()

Zips four publishers together in this example

zip() can be used to combine 2 to 8 Publishers zipWith() can be used to combine 2 Publishers

### Reactive MovieService

#### Reactive Movie Service



### doOn CallBacks

#### doOn\* CallBacks

- These operators allow you to peek in to the events that are emitted by the Publisher(Flux or Mono)
- These are also called side effect operators.
  - They don't change the original data at all
- There are many different callback operators that are available in Project
   Reactor

### DoOn\* CallBack operators

DoOn CallBack Functions	Usage
doOnSubscribe()	Invoked for every new subscription from the Subscriber
doOnNext()	Invoked for every element that's emitted from the publisher
doOnComplete()	Invoked when the Completion signal is sent from the publisher
doOnError ()	Invoked when an exception signal is sent from the publisher
doFinally ()	Invoked in a successful or error scenario

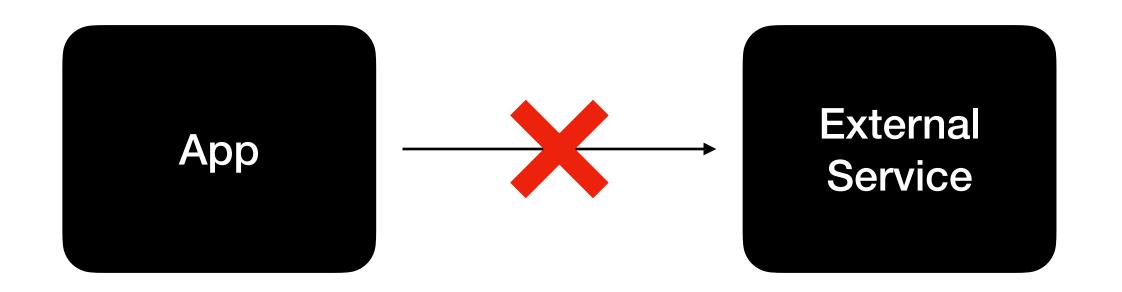
### When to use doOn\* CallBack operators?

• Used for debugging an issue in your local environment

Send a notification when the reactive sequence completes or errors out

# Exception In Reactive Streams

### **Exception in Reactive Streams**



## Any Exception will terminate the Reactive Stream

## Exception Handling In Project Reactor

#### **Exception Handling in Project Reactor**

Two Categories of Operators:

• Category 1: Recover from an Exception

• Category 2: Take an action on the exception and re-throw the exception

#### **Exception Handling in Project Reactor**

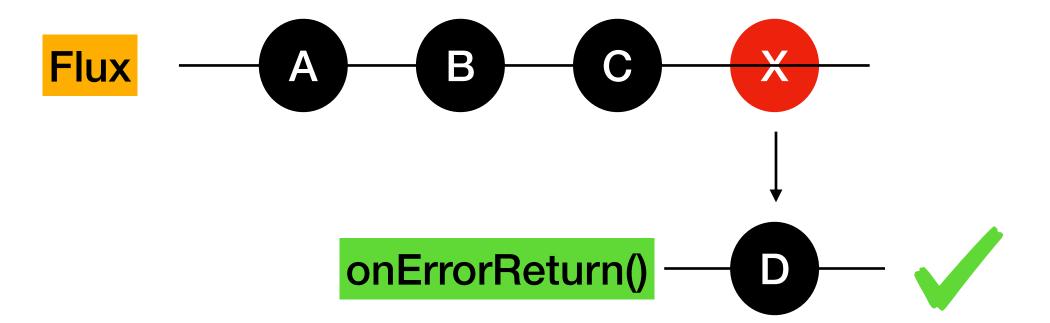
Recover From an Exception (Category 1)	Take an Action and throw the Exception (Category 2)
• onErrorReturn()	• onErrorMap()
• onErrorResume()	• doOnError()
<ul> <li>onErrorContinue()</li> </ul>	

## onErrorReturn()

#### onErrorReturn()

Catch the exception

This also provides a single default value as a fallback value

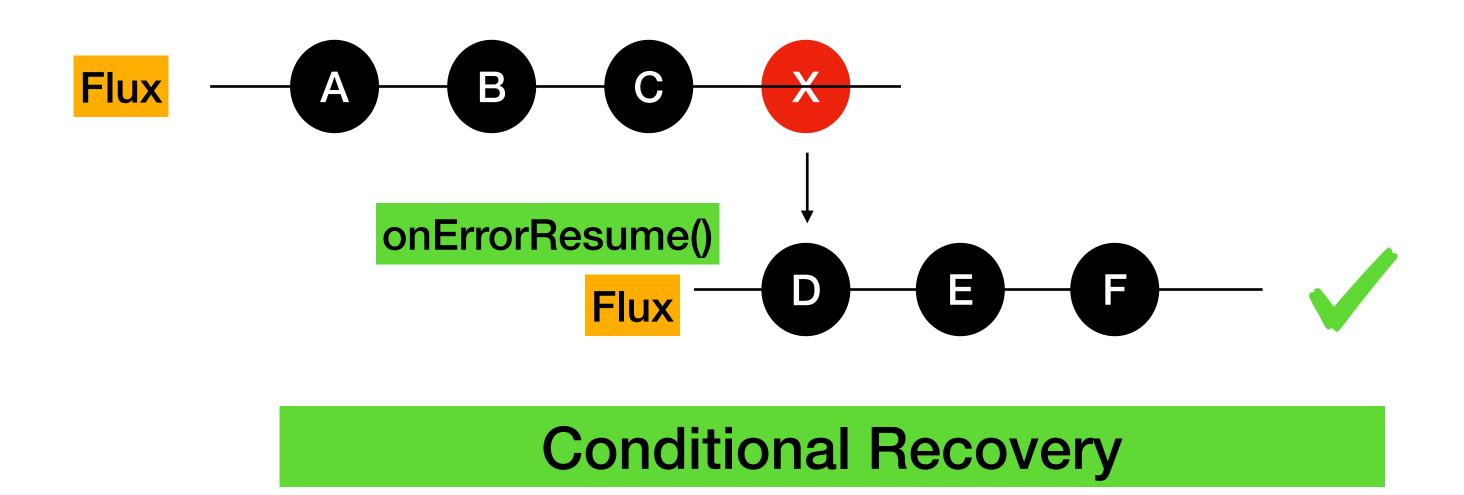


## onErrorResume()

#### onErrorResume()

Catch the exception

• This provides a fallback stream as a recoverable value

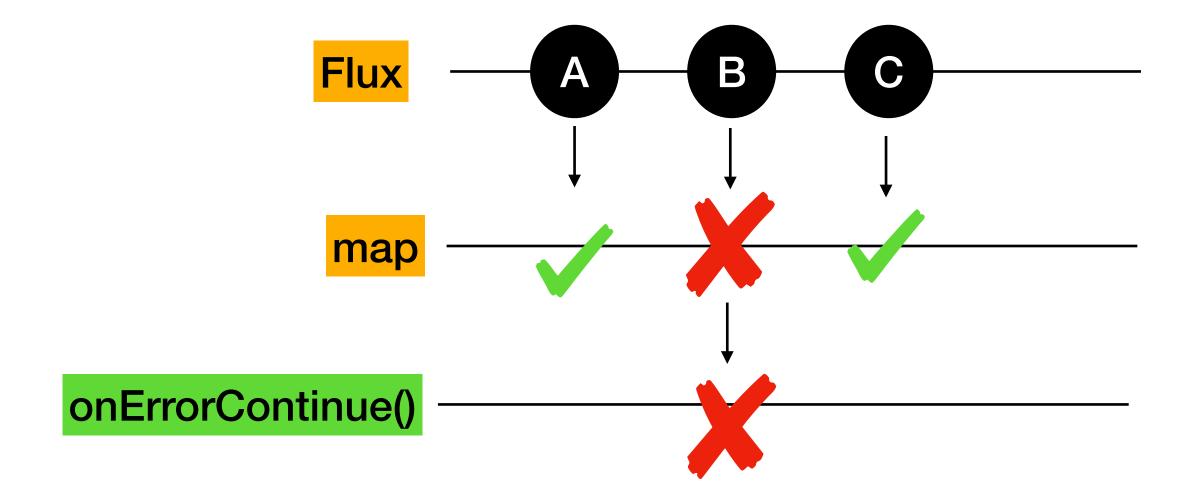


## onErrorContinue()

#### onErrorContinue()

Catches the exception

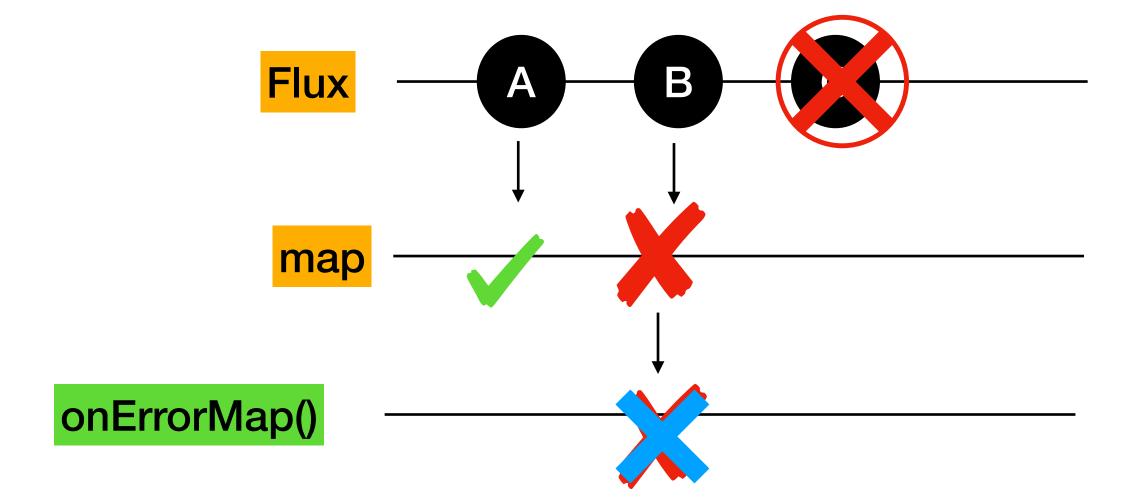
 This drops the element that caused the exception and continue emitting the remaining elements



## onErrorMap()

#### onErrorMap()

- Catches the exception
- Transforms the exception from one type to another
  - Any RunTimeException to BusinessException
- Does not recover from the exception



## doOnError()

#### doOnError()

Catches the exception

Take an action when an Exception occurs in the pipeline

Does not modify the Reactive Stream

• Error still gets propagated to the caller

```
public void exception(){
    try{
        // code statements
    }catch (Exception e){
        //log the exception
        throw e;
    }
}
```

#### **Exception Handling in Project Reactor**

#### Recover From an Exception (Category 1)

onErrorReturn()



- Catches the exception and provides a recoverable single default value
- Stream that caused the error will be terminated
- onErrorResume()



- Catches the exception and provides another dynamic reactive stream as a fallback value
- Stream that caused the error is terminated
- Conditional Recovery
- onErrorContinue(



 Catches the exception and allows the reactive stream to continue emitting elements Take an Action and throw the Exception (Category 2)

#### onErrorMap()



- Catches the exception and transform to some Custom Exception type
- doOnError()



 Catch the exception and propagate it down stream

# Exception Handling Operators In Mono

## Mono has the support for all the exception handling operators that we coded until now for Flux

#### Exception Handling in Mono

#### Recover From an Exception (Category 1)

#### onErrorReturn()



- Catches the exception and provides a recoverable single default value
- Stream that caused the error will be terminated

#### onErrorResume()



- Catches the exception and provides another dynamic reactive stream as a fallback value
- Stream that caused the error is terminated
- Conditional Recovery

#### onErrorContinue(



 Catches the exception and allows the reactive stream to continue emitting elements

#### Take an Action and throw the Exception (Category 2)

#### onErrorMap()



- Catches the exception and transform to some Custom Exception type
- doOnError()



 Catch the exception and propagate it down stream

## retry()

#### retry()

- Use this operator to retry failed exceptions
- When to use it?
  - Code interacts with external systems through network
    - Examples are: RestFul API calls, DB Calls
  - These calls may fail intermittently

#### retry()

- retry()
  - Retry the failed exception indefinitely
- retry(N)
  - N is a long value
  - Retry the failed exception "n" number of times

## retryWhen()

#### retryWhen()

• retryWhen() is more advanced compared to retry()

Conditionally perform retry on specific exceptions

## repeat()

#### repeat()

Used to repeat an existing sequence

 This operator gets invoked after the onCompletion() event from the existing sequence

Use it when you have an use-case to subscribe to same publisher again

This operator works as long as No Exception is thrown

#### repeat()

repeat()

Subscribes to the publisher indefinitely

repeat(n)

Subscribes to the publisher "N" times

## repeatWhen()

#### repeatWhen()

This is an advanced operator compared to repeat()/repeat(N)

Everything about repeat()/repeat(n) is true for repeatWhen()

You have more control on repeating a sequence

• Example, You can introduce a delay before repeating a sequence

• This only works when there is **No Exception** is thrown

#### retry() vs repeat()

- retry()
  - This operator gets invoked when there is an Exception
  - This operator makes our code more resilient to Exception/Errors
- repeat()
  - This operator gets invoked when there is an OnComplete() event from the original sequence

#### Reactor Execution Model

#### Reactor Execution Model

Reactor Execution model is determined by Scheduler

This is an interface which is part of the Project Reactor

 Similar to ExecutorService in Java which takes care of scheduling and executing tasks

## By default, the data flows in the thread where the subscribe() was invoked.

#### Reactor Execution Model

```
private Flux<String> splitString_withDelay(String name) {
   var delay = new Random().nextInt(1000);
   var charArray = name.split("");

   return Flux.fromArray(charArray)

   .delayElements(Duration.ofMillis(delay));
}
Switched the thread to "parallel"

}
```

No of threads = No of CPU cores in the machine

## Can we instruct the project-reactor to use a different Scheduler?

#### Scheduler Options

Schedulers is a factory class that can be used to switch the threads in the reactive pipeline execution

#### Schedulers.parallel()

- It has a fixed pool of workers. No of threads is equivalent to no of CPU cores
- The time based operators use this by default (delayElements(), interval())

#### Schedulers.boundElastic()

- It has a bounded elastic thread pool of workers
- The no of threads can grow based on the need. It can increase up to 10 X no of CPU cores
- This is ideal for making Blocking IO calls

#### Schedulers.single()

A single reusable thread for executing the tasks

## publishOn(Scheduler s)

#### publishOn(Scheduler s)

- This operator is used to hop the Thread of execution of the reactive pipeline from one to another.
- When to use publishOn(Scheduler s)?
  - Never block the thread in reactive programming
  - Blocking operation in the reactive pipeline can be performed after publishOn operator.
  - The thread of execution is determined by the Scheduler that passed to it

Operators after publishOn() call will use the same thread that's part of the Scheduler that's passed on to the publishOn()

### publishOn() influences the Thread downstream.

#### subscribeOn(Scheduler s)

#### subscribeOn(Schedulers)

 This operator is used to hop the Thread of execution of the reactive pipeline from one to another.

• subscribeOn() is used to influence the thread upstream()

It influences the operators above the subscribeOn() to switch the thread

#### subscribeOn(Schedulers)

```
var namesFlux1 = flux2()

.map((s) -> {
    log.info("Value of s is {}", s);
    return s;

})

subscribeOn(Schedulers.boundedElastic())
.log();
Thread of execution will be part of boundedElastic

Switch the thread of execution to boundedElastic
.log();
```

#### subscribeOn(Schedulers)

### subscribeOn() impacts the whole reactive pipeline

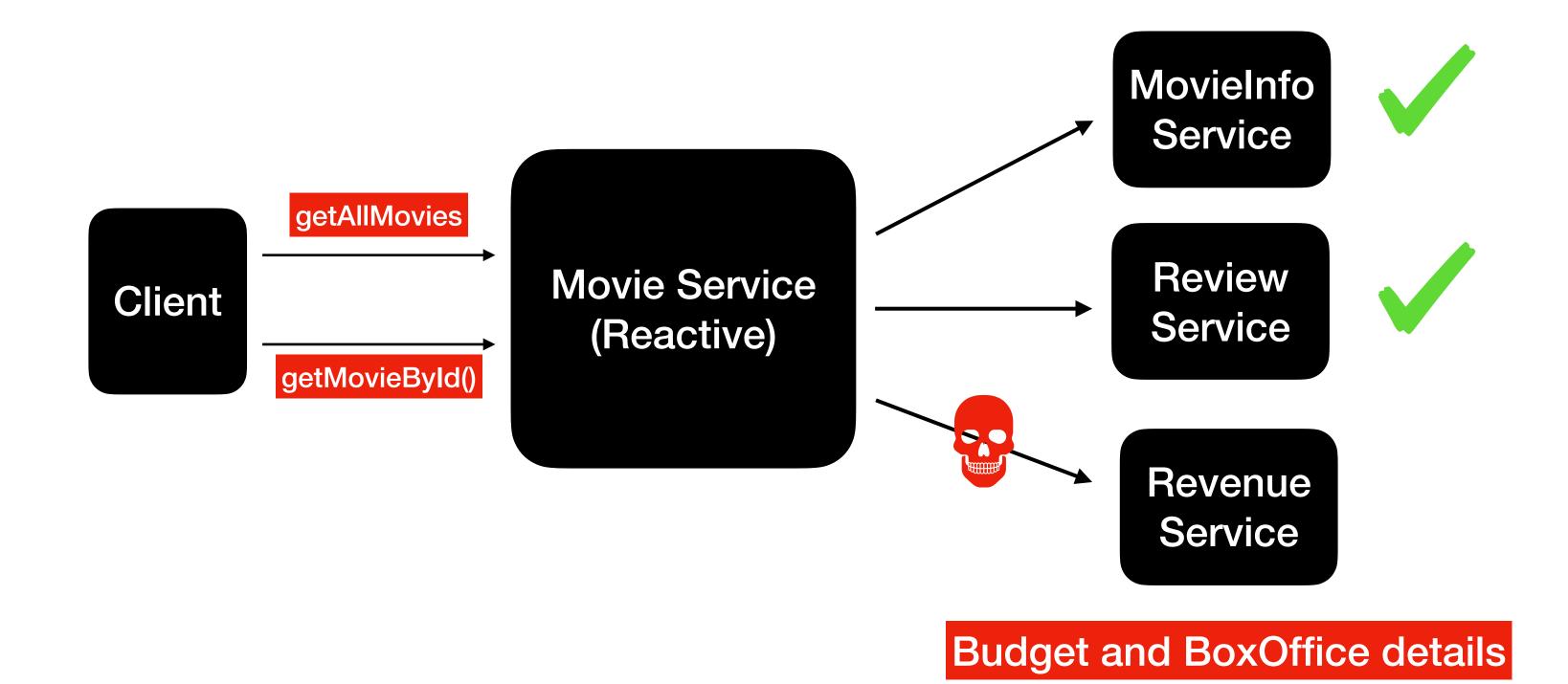
#### subscribeOn() - When to use it?

#### subscribeOn() - When to use it?

- Blocking code is part of the library where publishOn() is not added to it
  - Use subscribeOn() to influence the upstream to switch the thread

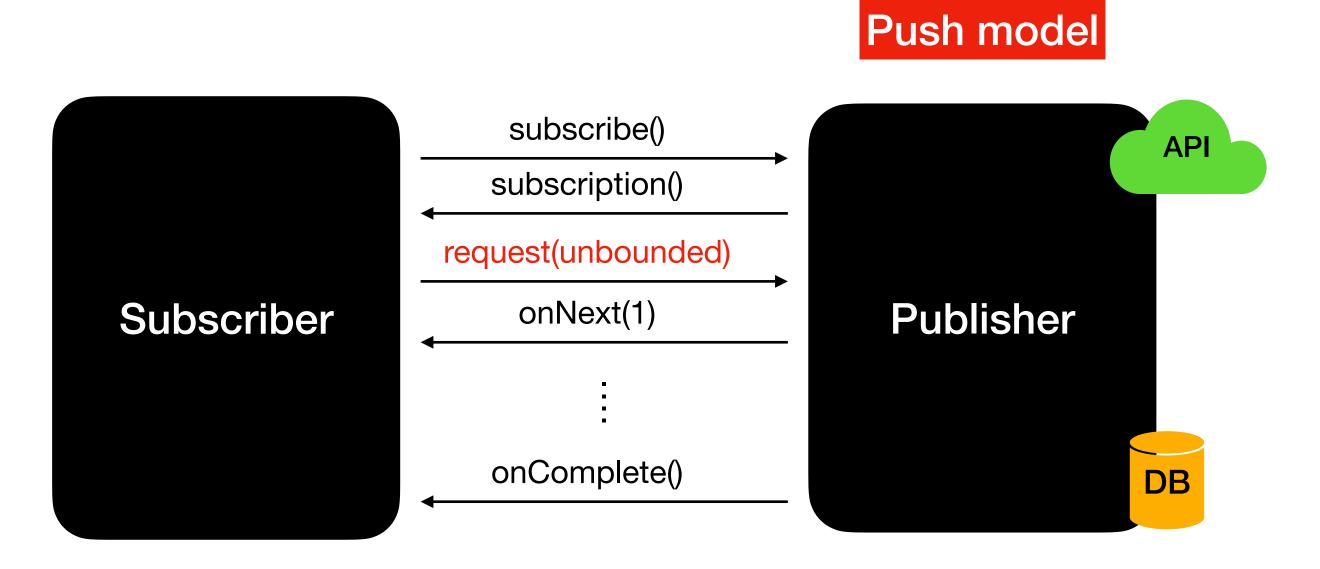
### Blocking Calls in MovieReactive Service

#### Movie Service



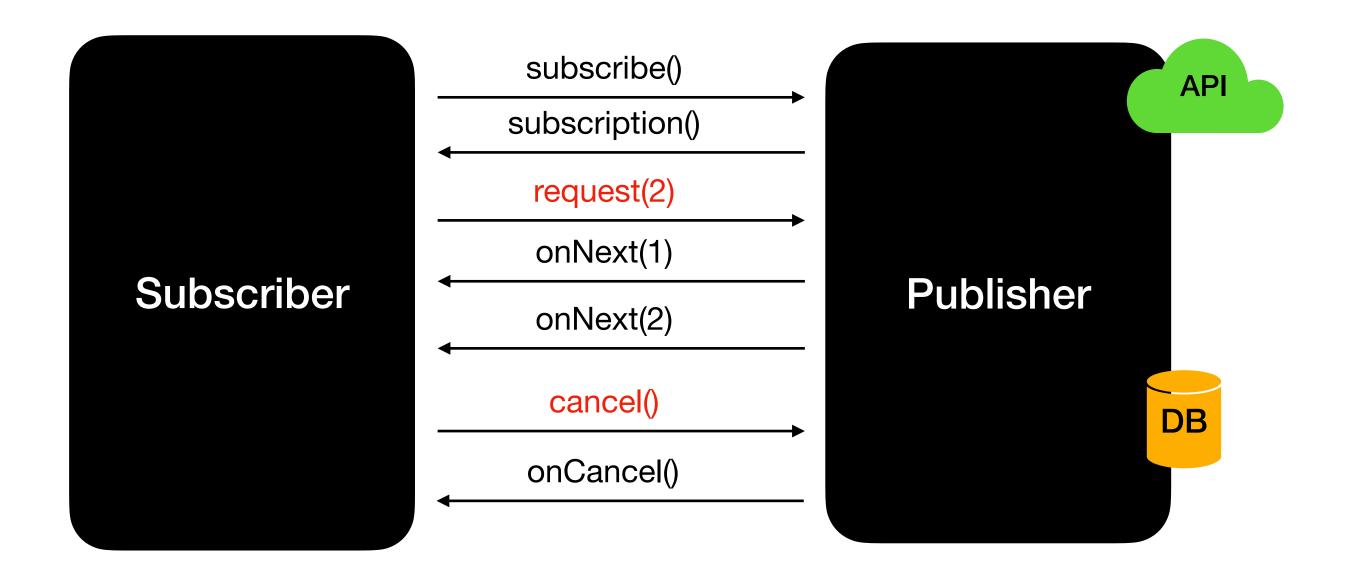
#### Backpressure

#### Reactive Programing - Recap and Issues



- 1. Overwhelmed with more data than the subscriber can handle
- 2. Data might be pushed at a faster rate than the subscriber can handle

#### BackPressure



#### onBackPressureDrop()

#### onBackPressureDrop()

Overrides the subscribers request and requests for unbounded data

It stores all the data in an internal queue

Drops the remaining elements that are not needed by the subscriber

This operator helps to track the items that are not needed by the subscriber

#### onBackPressureBuffer()

#### onBackPressureBuffer()

Overrides the subscribers request and requests for unbounded data

It stores all the data in an internal queue

Buffers the remaining elements that are not needed by the subscriber

 The advantage is that the following requests after the initial request for data from the subscriber does not need to go all the way to the Publisher

#### onBackPressureError()

#### onBackPressureError()

Overrides the subscribers request and requests for unbounded data

• It stores all the data in an internal queue

• Throws an **OverflowException** when the publisher sends more data than the subscriber's requested amount

# Processing Data in Parallel in Project Reactor

### Reactive Flow is sequential by default

#### ParallelFlux

#### ParallelFlux

- The idea behind **ParallelFlux** is to leverage the multi-core processors that we have in today's hardware
- MultiCore = Process multiple things at the same time

#### ParallelFlux

No of elements that can be processed in parallel is equal to the no of cores in your machine

#### Parallelism using flatMap()

#### flatMapSequential()

#### flatMapSequential()

This operator helps to achieve concurrency and maintain the ordering of elements at the same time

#### Cold & Hot Streams

#### **Cold Streams**

 Cold Stream is a type of Stream which emits the elements from beginning to end for every new subscription

#### **Cold Streams**

Examples of Cold Streams

HTTP Call with similar request

DB call with similar request

#### **Hot Streams**

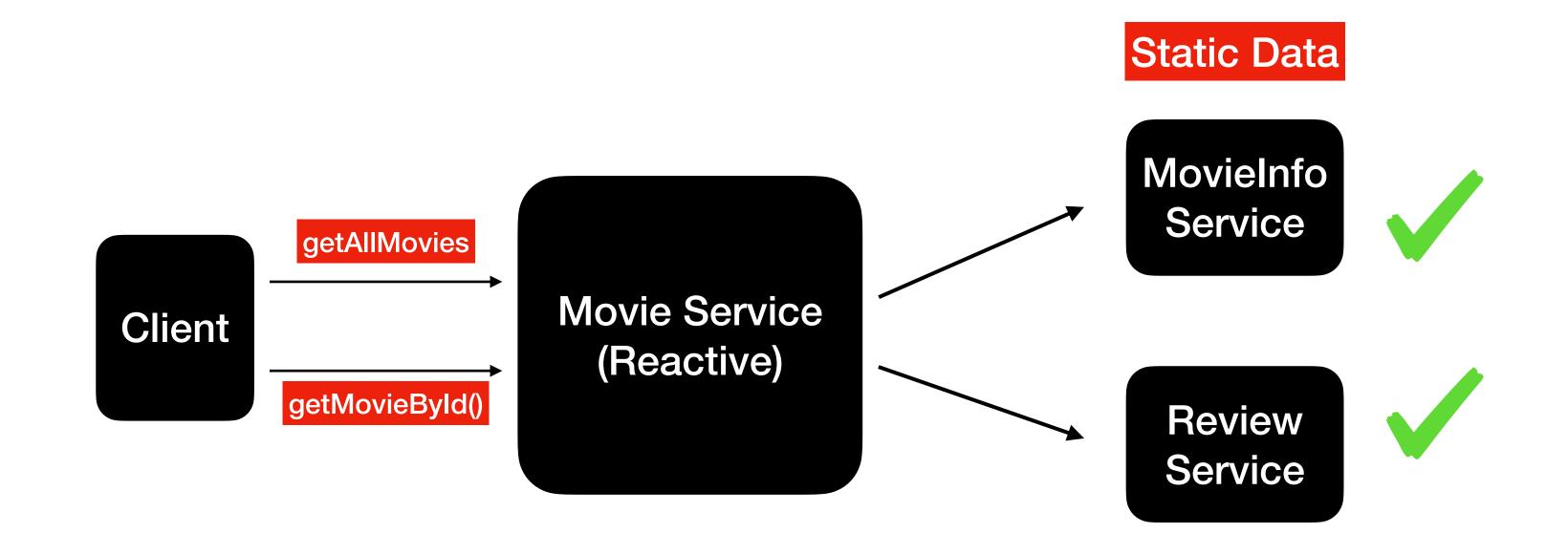
- Data is emitted continuously
- Any new subscriber will only get the current state of the Reactive Stream
  - Type 1: Waits for the first subscription from the subscriber and emits the data continuously
  - Type 2: Emits the data continuously without the need for subscription

#### **Hot Streams**

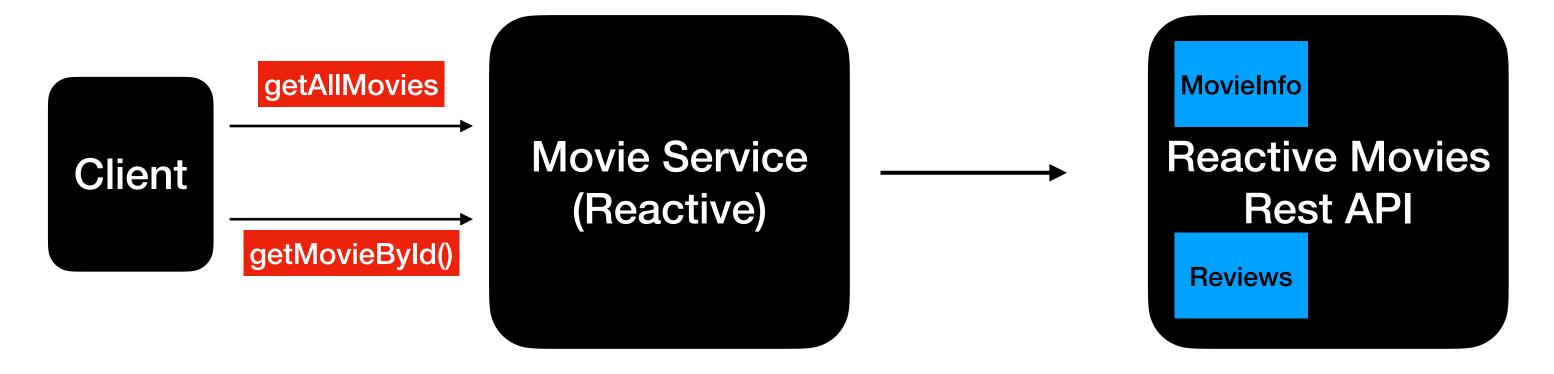
- Examples:
  - Stock Tickers Emits stock updates continuously as they change
  - Uber Driver Tracking -> Emits the of the current position of the Driver
     Continuously

## Building Non Blocking Client Using Spring WebClient

#### Movie Service



#### Movie Service



- Spring WebFlux
- Uses H2 InMemory DB

# Programmatically Creating Flux/Mono

#### Creating Flux/Mono Until Now

Mono Flux Flux.just("A", "B", "C"); Mono.just("alex"); Flux.fromIterable(namesList) Mono.empty() Flux.fromArray(charArray) Mono.fromCallable() webClient.get().uri("/v1/movie\_infos/{id}", Flux.range(0, max) movieInfoId) .retrieve() .bodyToMono(MovieInfo.class) webClient.get().uri(uri) .retrieve() .bodyToFlux(Review.class)

Any External System will have its own Reactive Adapters to build Flux and Mono

#### Creating Flux/Mono Programmatically

Flux	Mono
Flux.generate();	Mono.create()
Flux.create()	
Flux.push()	
Flux.handle()	

# We need to explicitly emit the OnNext, OnComplete and onError events from our code.

# Flux.generate()

#### Flux.generate()

- This operator takes a initial value and a generator function as an input and continuously emit values
- This is also called Synchronous generate
- We will be able to generate the OnNext, OnComplete and onError events using the SynchronousSink class
- Use this operator, if you have a use case to emit values from a starting value until a certain a certain condition is met. (Similar to **for** loop)

# Generate a sequence from 1 to 10 and Multiply each element by 2

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20

## Flux.create()

#### Flux.create()

- Used to bridge an existing API in to the Reactive World
- This is Asynchronous and Multithreaded

- We can generate/emit these events from multiple threads
- We will be able to generate the OnNext, OnComplete and onError events using the FluxSink class
- MultipleEmissions in a single round is supported

### Mono.create()

#### Mono.create()

Programmatically create a Mono

 We will be able to generate the OnNext, OnComplete and onError events using the MonoSink class

# Flux.push()

#### Flux.push()

Used to bridge an existing API in to the Reactive World

This is Asynchronous and Single Threaded

- We will be able to generate the OnNext, OnComplete and onError events using the FluxSink class
- MultipleEmissions in a single round is supported

### Hooks.onOperatorDebug()

#### Hooks.onOperatorDebug()

Gives you the visibility on which operator caused the problem

This feature captures the stack-trace each operator

• This feature needs to be activated during the start up of the application

Hooks.onOperatorDebug() is not recommended for prod as it may slow down the performance of the app.

# Production-ready Global Debugging using "ReactorDebugAgent"

#### ReactorDebugAgent

• This is recommended option for debugging exceptions in project Reactor

Java Agent that runs alongside your app

 It collects the stack trace information of each operator without any performance overhead

reactor-tools

#### Using ReactorDebugAgent in SpringBoot

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    ReactorDebugAgent.init();
    SpringApplication.run(Application.class, args);
}
```

## Next Steps

#### Next Steps:

Build Reactive APIS using Spring Webflux and Project Reactor

