GMA and the relational model – progress report, protocols, and where we might have strayed...

Abdeslem Djaoui, RAL

Steve Fisher, RAL <s.m.fisher@rl.ac.uk>

James Magowan, IBM & RAL

Gavin McCance, Glasgow

Manfred Oevers, IBM & RAL

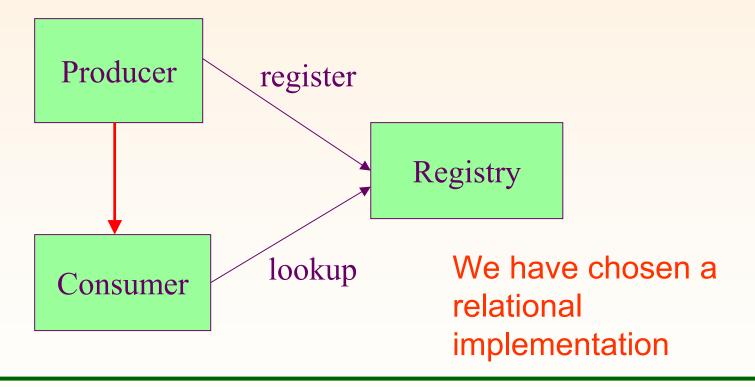
(people with code in CVS)

European DataGrid

- EU DataGrid project with 21 partners from a number of countries around Europe is partfunded by the EU.
- It brings together:
 - particle physics,
 - earth observation
 - bio-informatics
 - computer science
- For information and monitoring system, seeing if we can do "better" than MDS/LDAP

Grid Monitoring Architecture (gma)

 We use it not only for monitoring but also as the basis of an information system



Relational Approach

- Not a general distributed RDBMS system, but a way to use the relational model in a distributed environment where ACID properties are not generally important.
- Producers announce what they have by an <u>SQL</u>
 <u>"CREATE TABLE"</u> statement and publish it with an SQL "INSERT"
- Consumers collect information by an SQL "SELECT" statement.
- It may use a number of RDBMS for archival, for the schema and for the registry

Registration of producers

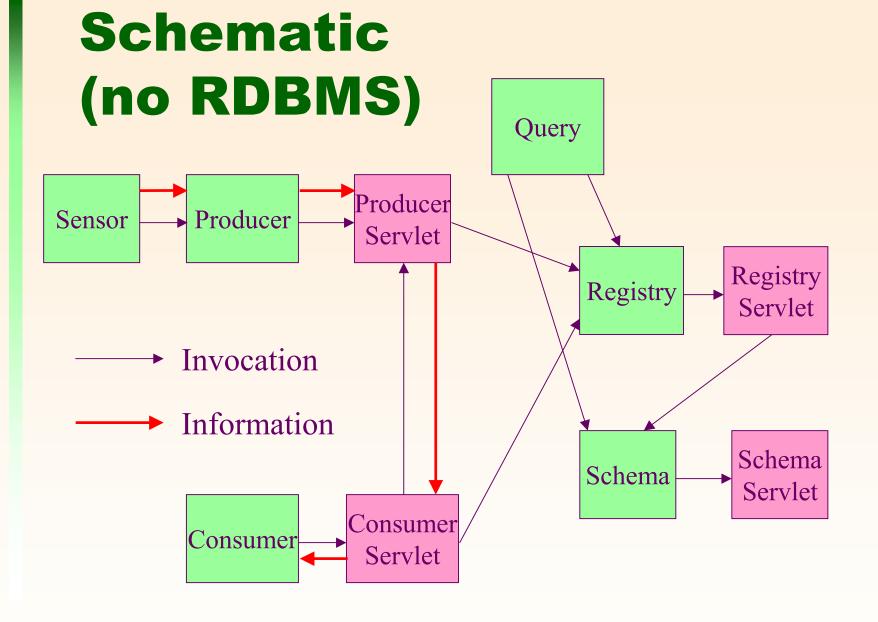
- Tables are effectively partitioned over several sites – we assume that each partition is characterised by fixed values of one or more columns (e.g. "site=CERN" or "site=RAL")
- Register the name of the table with the names of any attributes which are fixed and the values of those attributes.
- No explicit registration is carried out by the normal user.

Schema

- When a producer registers itself as a producer of a certain table, if the table is not known it is added to the schema. If a table is no longer used its definition can be removed.
 - Handles schema evolution.
- The schema information must be universally known within a VO.
- Schema will need to be replicated for scalability and reliability, but it must done in such a way as to allow producers around the world to add new tables.

Implementation - servlets

- Code is concentrated in servlets
- With one exception, all communication with servlets (even from another servlet) is via an interface object.
 - This interface object can be coded in multiple programming languages
 - Hides the communication bit (so it can be changed more easily)



Implementation - XML

 We use normal http parameters so that URLs such as:

```
http://localhost:8080/ProducerServlet/get
One?id=6&select=SELECT ...
will work – i.e. no XML encoding of the input.
```

- All responses as XML
 - Exceptions are trapped by the servlet and error message sent back as XML

Consumer/Producer XML

```
<?xml version = '1.0' standalone ='yes'?>
<ROWSET>
  <ROWDESC>
     <COL>animal</COL>
     <COL>legs</COL>
  </ROWDESC>
  <ROW>
     <COL>aardvark</COL>
     <COL>4</COL>
  </ROW>
  <ROW>
     <COL>tarantula</COL>
     <COL>8</COL>
  </ROW>
</ROWSET>
```

Multipart response

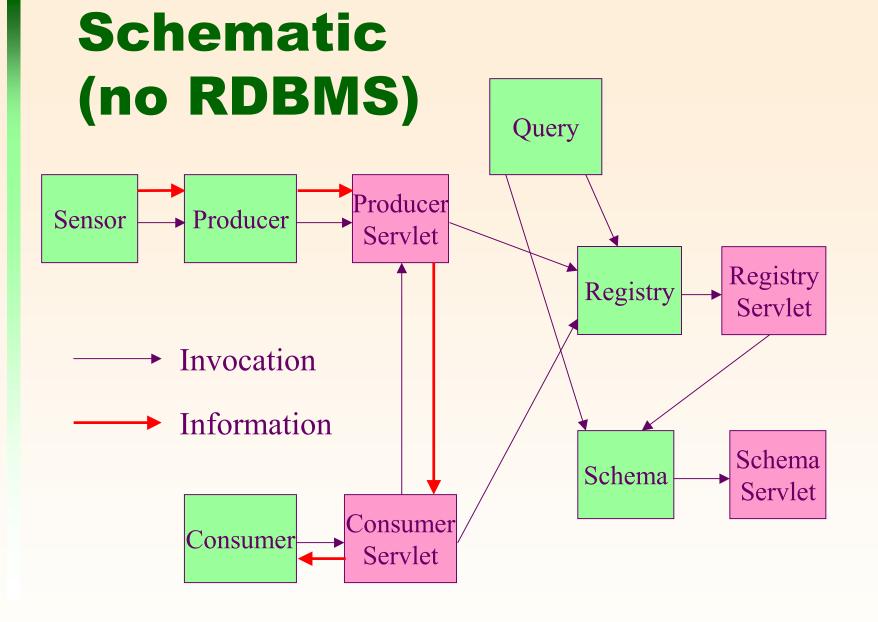
- We use multipart response to stream information
 - content type defines separator
 - keeps connection open.

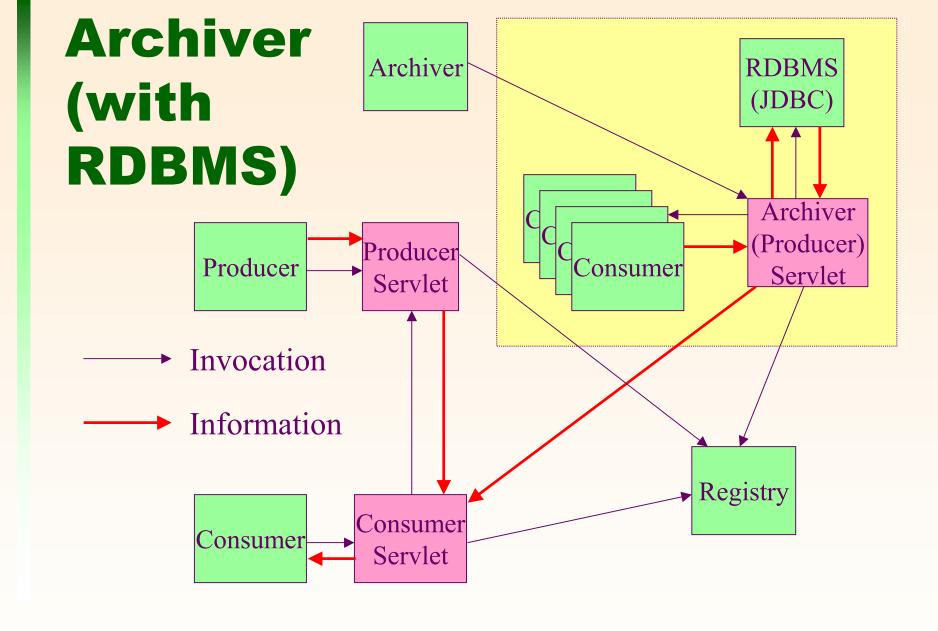
Comparison with proposed "Simple XML protocol"

- XML between consumer and producer is described by a single DTD/Schema
 - This is more compact though less "XML like"
- XML is only used for the response
 - Otherwise use http parameters hence would need more if it were separated from http
- Relies upon http(s)

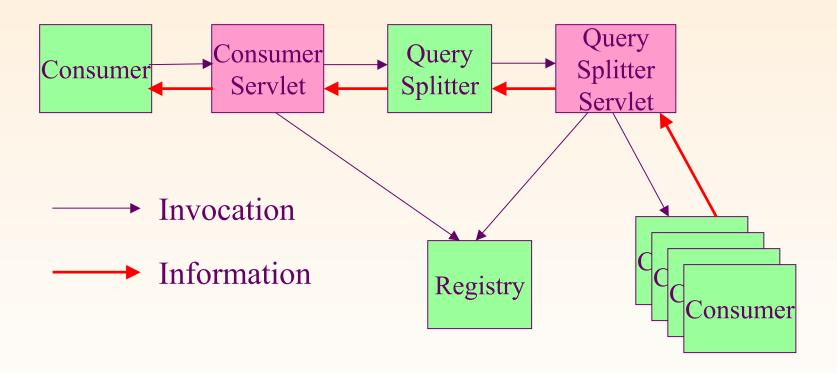
Comparison with "normal" GMA

- true to the GMA spirit as we understand it
- but:
 - Producer's don't find consumers (e.g. archives)
 - It is not really consistent with the GMA model for the producer to solicit client
 - In our case a person instantiating a producer could also instantiate an archive or tell an archive to consume from the producer
 - The user is not aware of the registry
 - Sensors not explicit a sensor/application instantiates a producer to publish its information



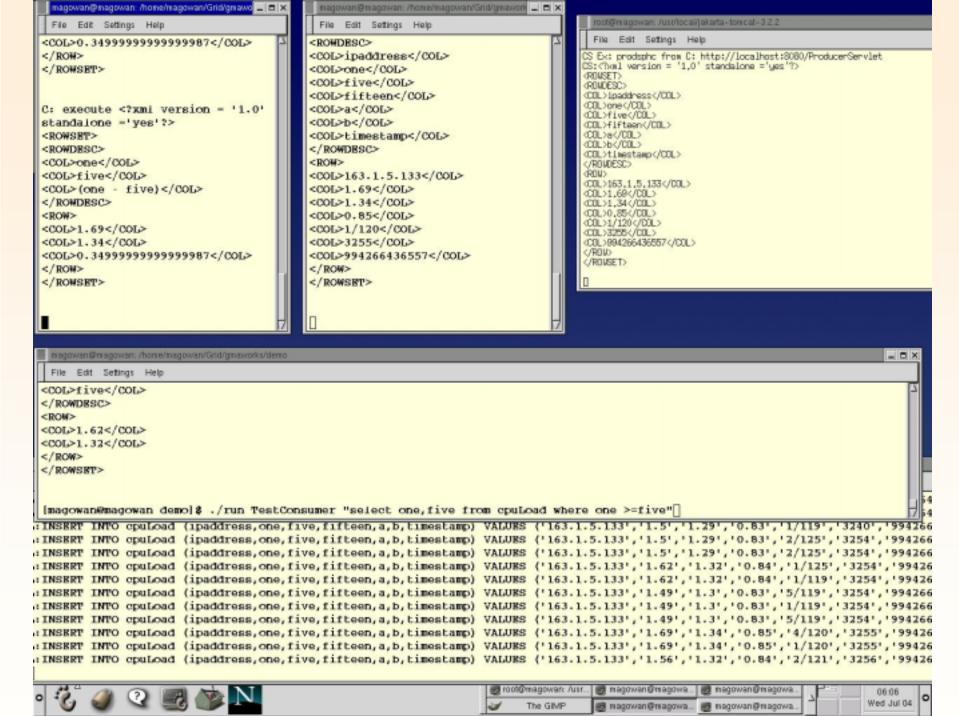


Query Splitter



Technology choices

- All in Java
- Tomcat servlet engine
- MySQL (and postgresql) via JDBC
- HTML queries return XML
- Multipart response
- DOM parser to read XML
- JavaCC to build SQL parser
- JUnit as test framework
- Log4j for internal logging



Problems

- How to maintain schema
 - Fairly static
 - Replicated
 - Reliable and consistent
 - Might require that dynamic names are prefaced by the originating DNS
- How to maintain registry of producers
 - Dynamic
 - Replicated
 - Maybe inconsistent
 - Maybe adopt/adapt an idea of EU DataGrid WP2
- How to do the query splitting.
 - Probably mostly in the textbooks
 - Hope we can find suitable open source code out there

Future work

- Tidy up what we have
- Archiver
- Access to data from GRIS
- C++ API for Producer and Consumer
- Package into RPM
- First release end of month (31st July 2001)

WE WOULD WELCOME EARLY (TOLERANT AND FRIENDLY) ADOPTERS

