

Software Technical Design Specification

for

SBAC-11 Monitoring and Alerting

Version 1.0

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
04-22-2013	1.0	Initial Draft	Russ Hammond
04-29-2013	1.1	Added content, diagrams	Mike Stern

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.1	Purpose	4
1.2	Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium logical components overview	5
		5
2.	Design Goals, Constraints and Assumptions	6
2.1	Design Goals	6
2.2	Design Constraints	7
3.	Use-Case View Figure	7
4.	Process View	9
5.	Data View	9
5.1	Physical Data Model	9
6.	Component Layered View	14
7.	Dynamic View	16
7.1	Sequence diagram – Get Lookup Values for WebApp	16
7.2	Sequence diagram – Create Alert	18
7.3	Sequence diagram – Search Log	19
7.4	Sequence diagram – Register Component (with Hyperic)	20
7.5	Sequence diagram – Register MetricInfo	21
7.6	Sequence Diagram – Create Performance Metric	22
7.7	Sequence Diagram – Create Metric	24
7.8	Sequence Diagram –	25
7.9	Sequence Diagrams –	27
7.9.1	Sequence Diagram – Asynchronous Alert Creator	28
7.9.2	Sequence Diagram – Asynchronous Alert Creator	29
7.9.3	Sequence Diagram – Asynchronous Metric Loader	31
7.9.4	Sequence Diagram –	32
8.	Implementation View	33
8.1	Source Code	33
8.2	Build Process	33
8.3	Third party dependencies	33
8.4	Test Automation Dependencies	33

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

9.	Deployment View	34
10.	<i>Security</i>	37
11.	<i>Exception and error handling</i>	37
11.1	Error handling	37
11.2	Exception handling	37
12.	Quality	37
12.1	Size & Performance	37
12.2	Scalability	38
12.3	Reliability	38
12.4	Availability	38
13.	API	38

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

Software Technical Design – Monitoring and Alerting

1. Introduction

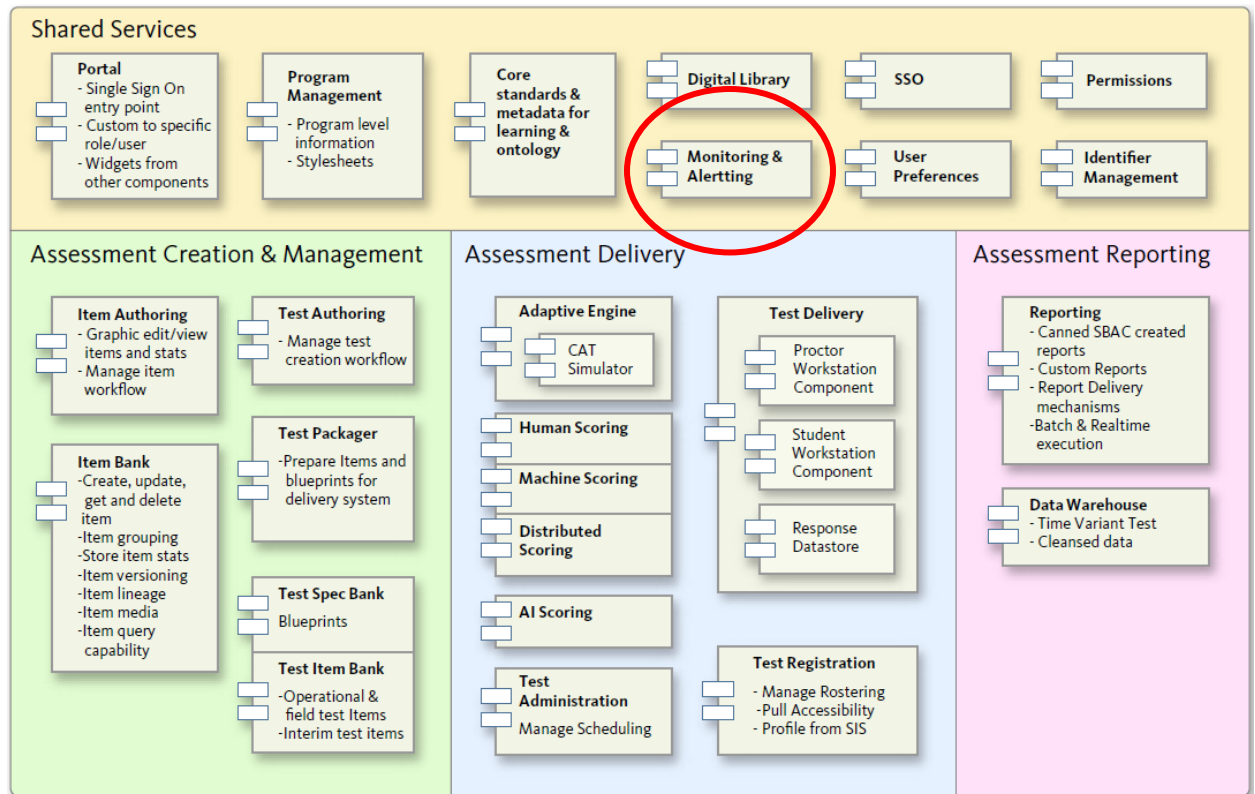
1.1 Purpose

The objective of this document is to create SBAC-11 Monitoring and Alerting software technical design specifications. All architectural information related to the software within the scope of this document will be included and is intended to be a living document updated as needed throughout the life-cycle of the project. On project close the design document will be included in the project close documentation and ownership of the document will fall to the Production support of the application(s) described within. Production support teams are then responsible for updating documentation upon completion of architecturally significant changes.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

1.2 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium logical components overview

The diagram below depicts the components of the assessment system. The focus of this document is ‘Monitoring and Alerting’ which is highlighted in red.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

2. Design Goals, Constraints and Assumptions

2.1 Design Goals

- Monitor system health
- Monitor component availability
- Provide consistent framework for persisting logs and errors, metrics, and alerts
- Allow searchable access to Monitoring and Alerting messages
- Allow users to define notification rules based on logs, metrics and errors
- Define groups of users to receive email notification of events

The primary purpose of Monitoring and Alerting is to allow administrators to identify situations where the system is experiencing problems which require intervention to keep the system operational. It is responsible for tracking the performance of the servers and the availability of system components, and provides for the centralized persistence and searching of logs and errors, metrics, and alerts. Monitoring and Alerting is designed to serve two audiences: technical administrators and business users. To meet the needs of technical administrators who must monitor the health of the components and hardware, Monitoring and Alerting incorporates the Hyperic HQ open source product. Monitoring and Alerting also provides a custom-coded user interface for technical and non-technical users to search logs and business alerts and set up email notification of desired users. Monitoring and Alerting's services are available to all system components to record important system or business events which are persisted in a central location.

Technical system administrators will access the Hyperic HQ user interface to monitor system health. An agent which monitors server health is deployed to each server in the system. Metrics such as CPU and disk utilization are recorded, and alerts can be configured based on the number of occurrences of an event in a period of time. Technical administrators can identify situations where intervention is required to keep the system operating effectively. Since the open source version of Hyperic HQ does not offer any reporting capabilities, no reporting has been provided with the Monitoring and Alerting component.

Technical and non-technical users can access the custom-coded user interface to search logs and business alerts. Monitoring and Alerting does not send users notification of workflow events, but users are able to check the status of actions they have taken. For example, the addition of new items to an item bank will not cause a notification to be sent to an item approver but the user who requested the upload of items can find the status of the upload through the custom-coded interface. Users are able to create notification rules that scan incoming Monitoring and Alerting entries for a regular expression, and can create notification groups of email addresses which will receive an email when a notification rule has been triggered.

Monitoring and Alerting entries are persisted in a centralized data store for ease of access. Logging is also done on each server to provide information in the case of system failure. MongoDB was chosen as the database used for the centralized persistent data store because MongoDB handles large volumes of data without a defined schema, is cloud-deployable and open source. Monitoring and Alerting data can be managed by using MongoDB database maintenance utilities. No user interface was created for the management of persisted data.

Servers and components are registered and their availability is monitored by Monitoring and Alerting, but each client component is responsible for using the RESTful services provided by Monitoring and Alerting to record significant events. The API for the Monitoring and Alerting services are included in section 13 of this document.

The Smarter Balanced Architecture and Technology Report, section 4.5, states that Monitoring and Alerting is

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

associated with the Test Administration segment of the assessment lifecycle, but Figure 4.2 of the document (repeated in section 1.2 of this document) represents Monitoring and Alerting as a shared component for the entire system. The requirements included in RFP-11 do not limit the scope of Monitoring and Alerting to one portion of the assessment lifecycle; therefore, the component has been created to make services available to all system components. The Monitoring and Alerting component will not be used for managing alerts sent to the proctor workstation during Test Delivery; the Test Delivery component will manage that alerting function. However, the Monitoring and Alerting component is available to the Test Delivery component for recording logs and metrics.

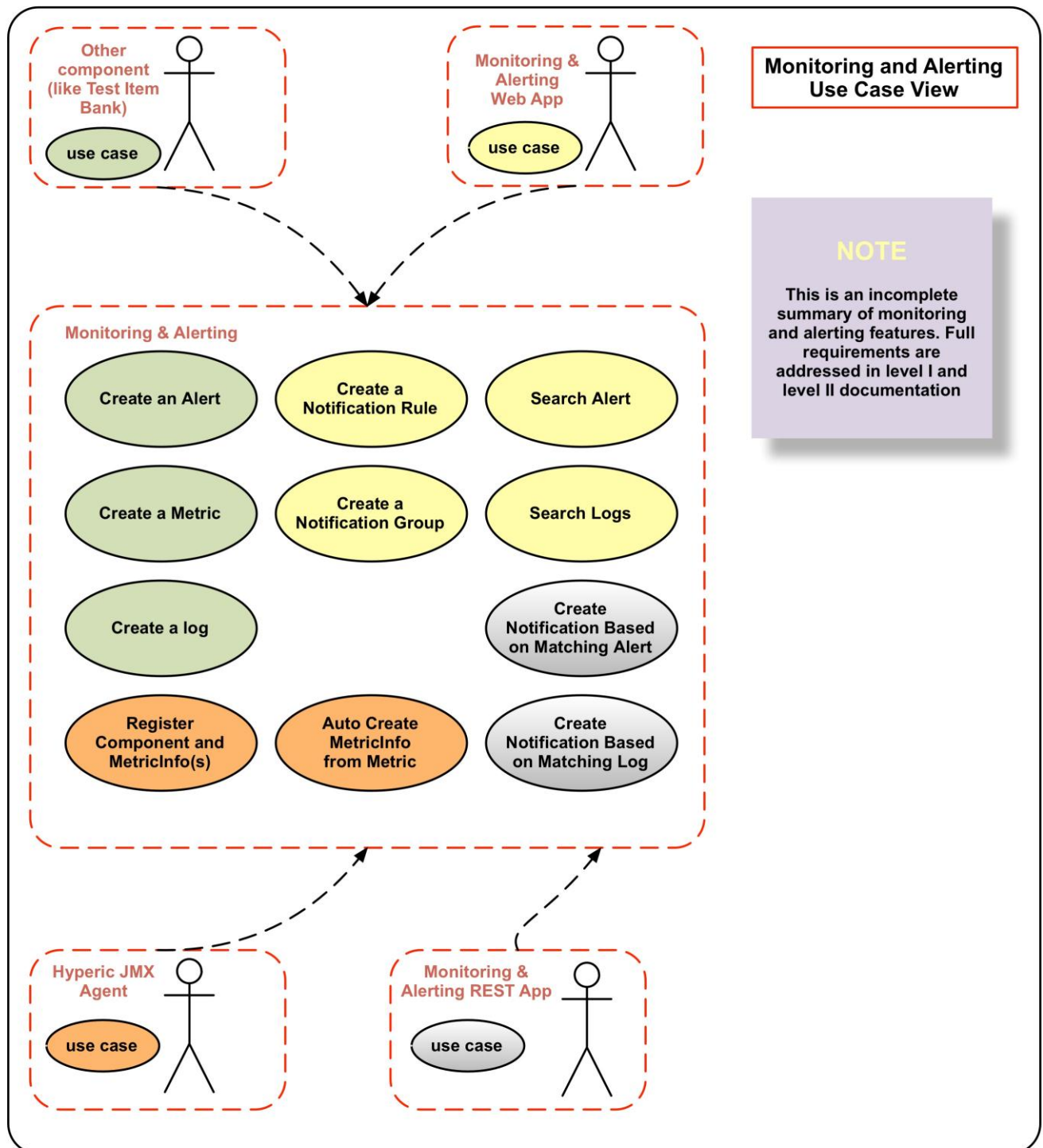
2.2 Design Constraints

- Reporting is limited to the capability of the selected tool. No reporting is provided by the open source version of Hyperic HQ.
- Monitoring and Alerting database (MongoDB) will be manipulated via MongoDB utilities rather than creating a user interface in Monitoring and Alerting.
- Logging level will be changed through JConsole and not through the Monitoring and Alerting user interface.
- The Monitoring and Alerting component will not be used to send alerts to the Proctor Workstation during Test Delivery. That functionality will be included in the Test Delivery component and its subcomponents. However, the Monitoring and Alerting component is available to Test Delivery for recording logs and metrics as needed.

3. Use-Case View Figure

The following use cases are based on level-II requirements only. It is subject to change based on the review comments.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

4. Process View

4.1 The Monitoring and Alerting component provides services to all components and is not part of a business process.

5. Data View

5.1 Physical Data Model

The Monitoring and Alerting NoSQL physical schema consists of the following collections and nested documents:

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

These entities are used to register components as well as track metrics for integration with Hyperic

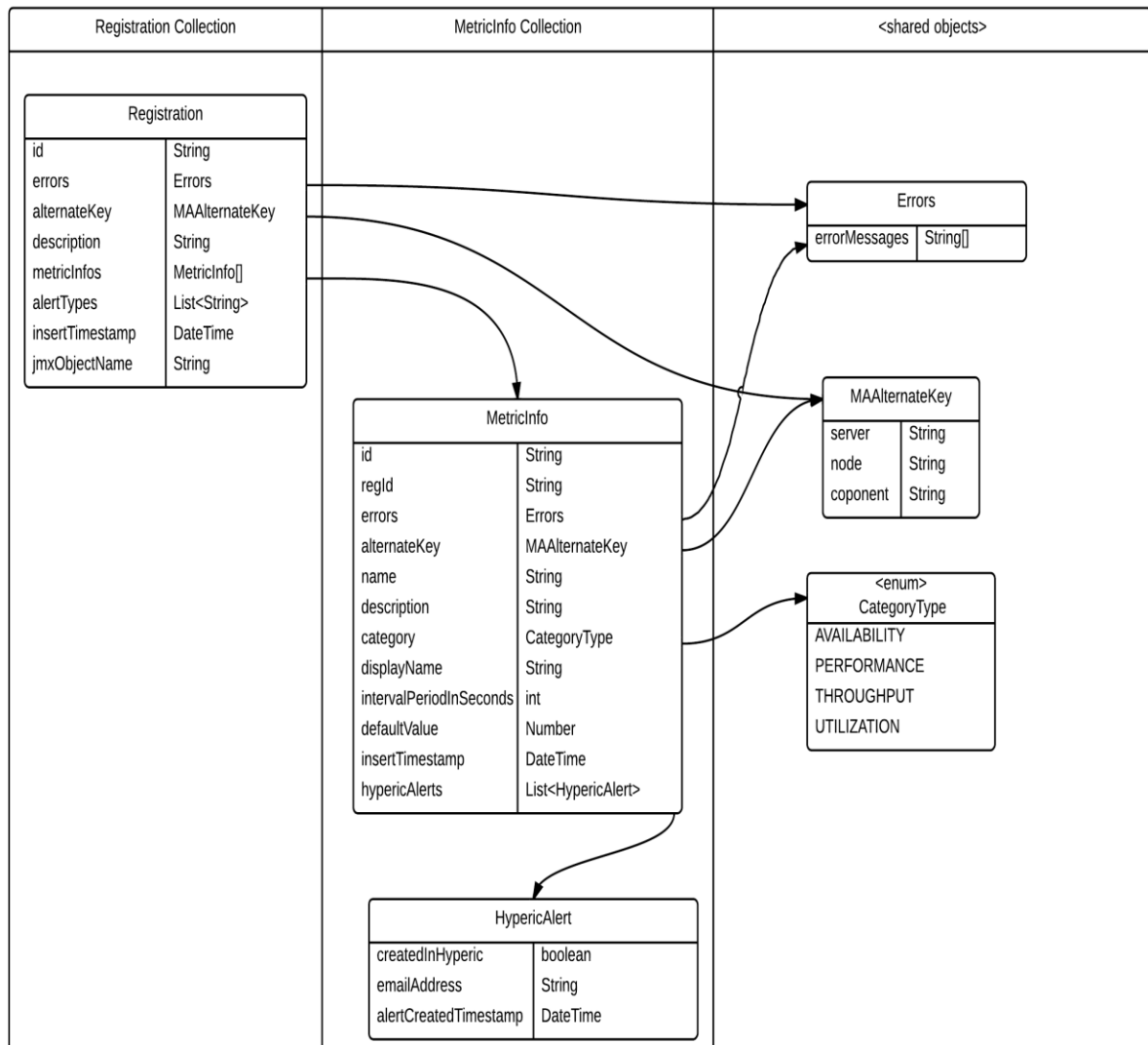


Figure 5.1 - Registration Persistence

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

These entities are used by the Monitoring and Alerting web application for setting up rules to fire Notifications when criteria is matched by a created Alert or Log

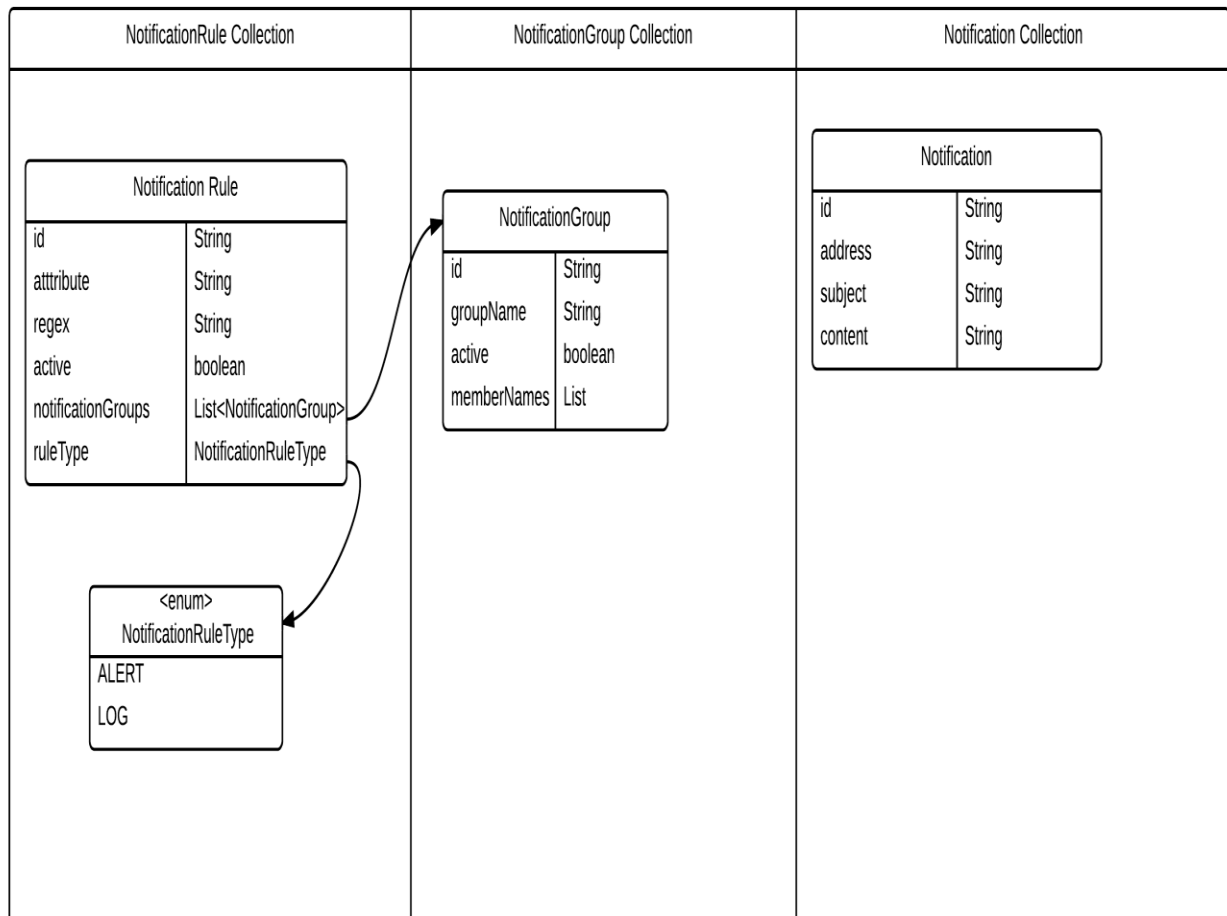


Figure 5.3 - Notification Persistence

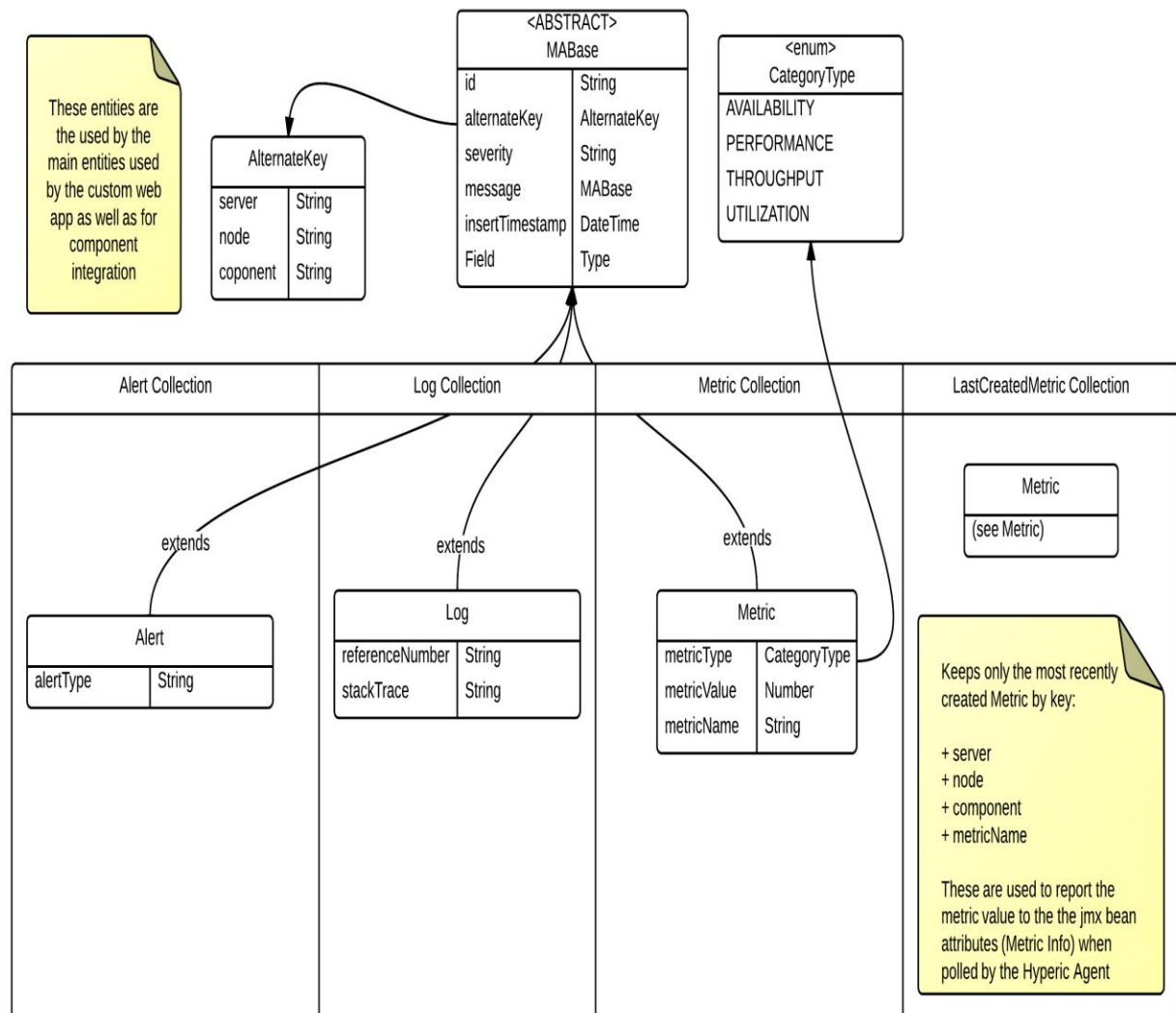


Figure 5.4 - REST Persistence

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

6. Component Layered View

The component is divided into two major pieces: JMX which is used to register metrics and components and REST endpoints which provide Monitoring and Alerting services to other components.

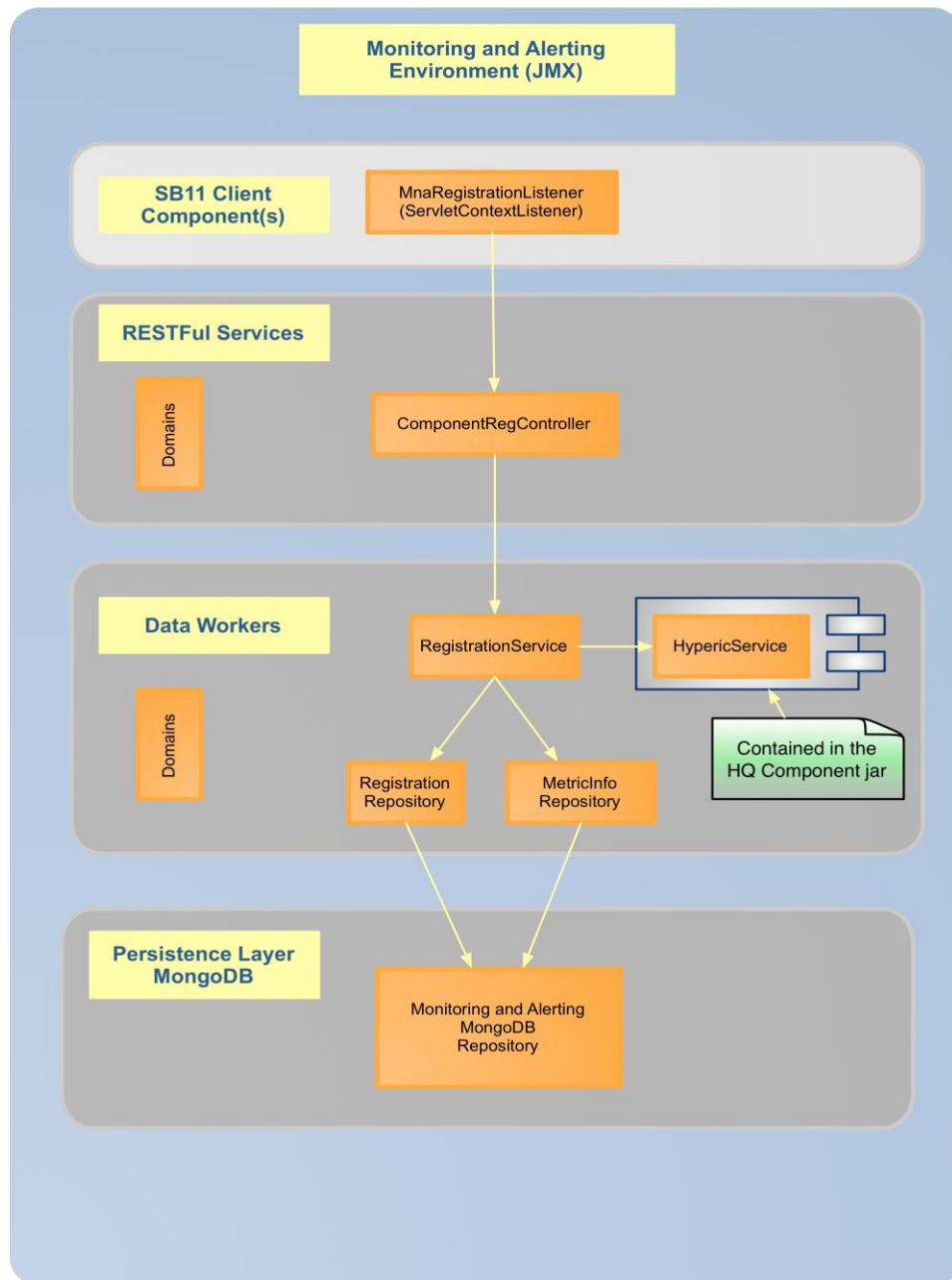


Figure 6.1 – JMX

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

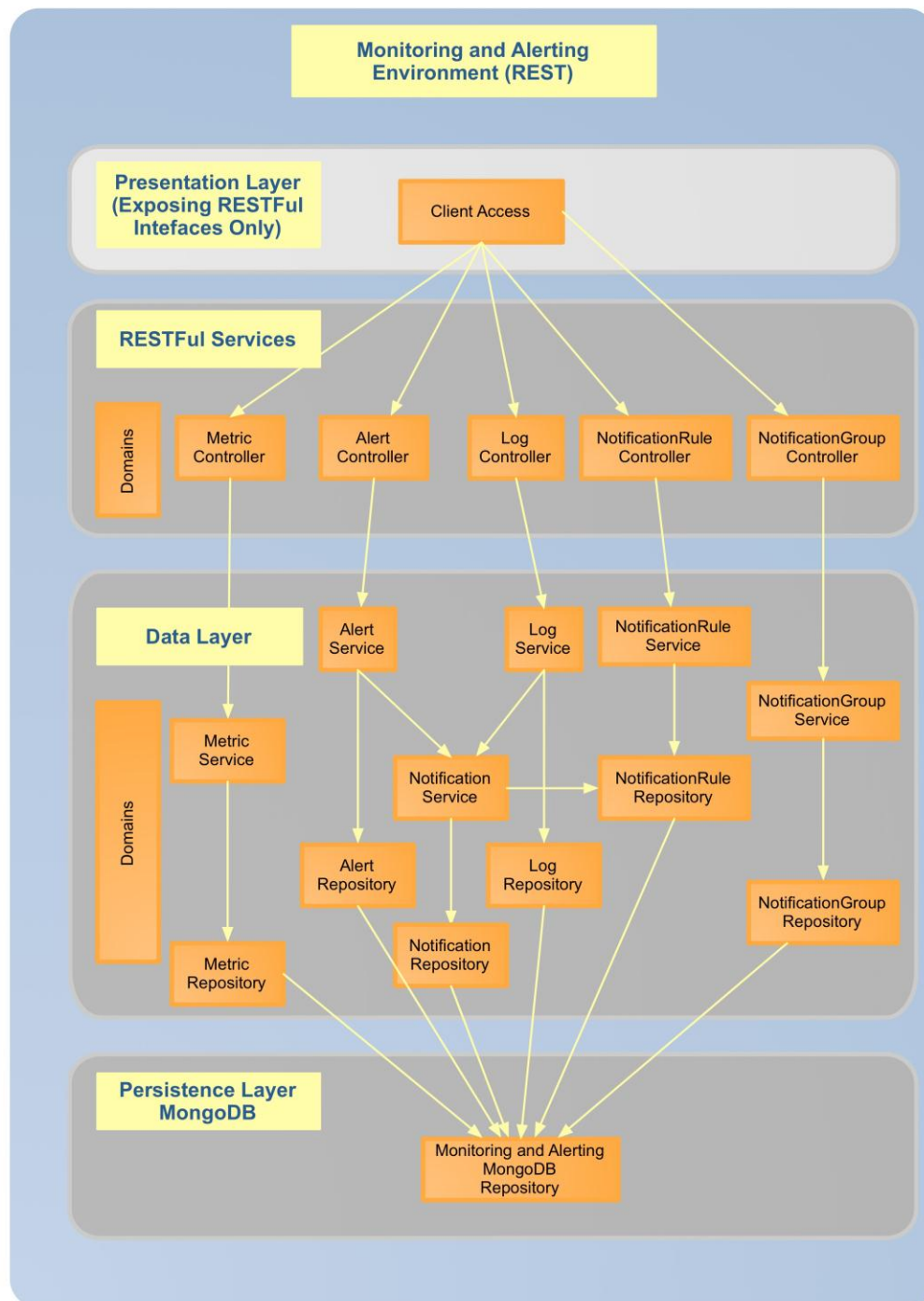


Figure 6.2 - REST

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7. Dynamic View

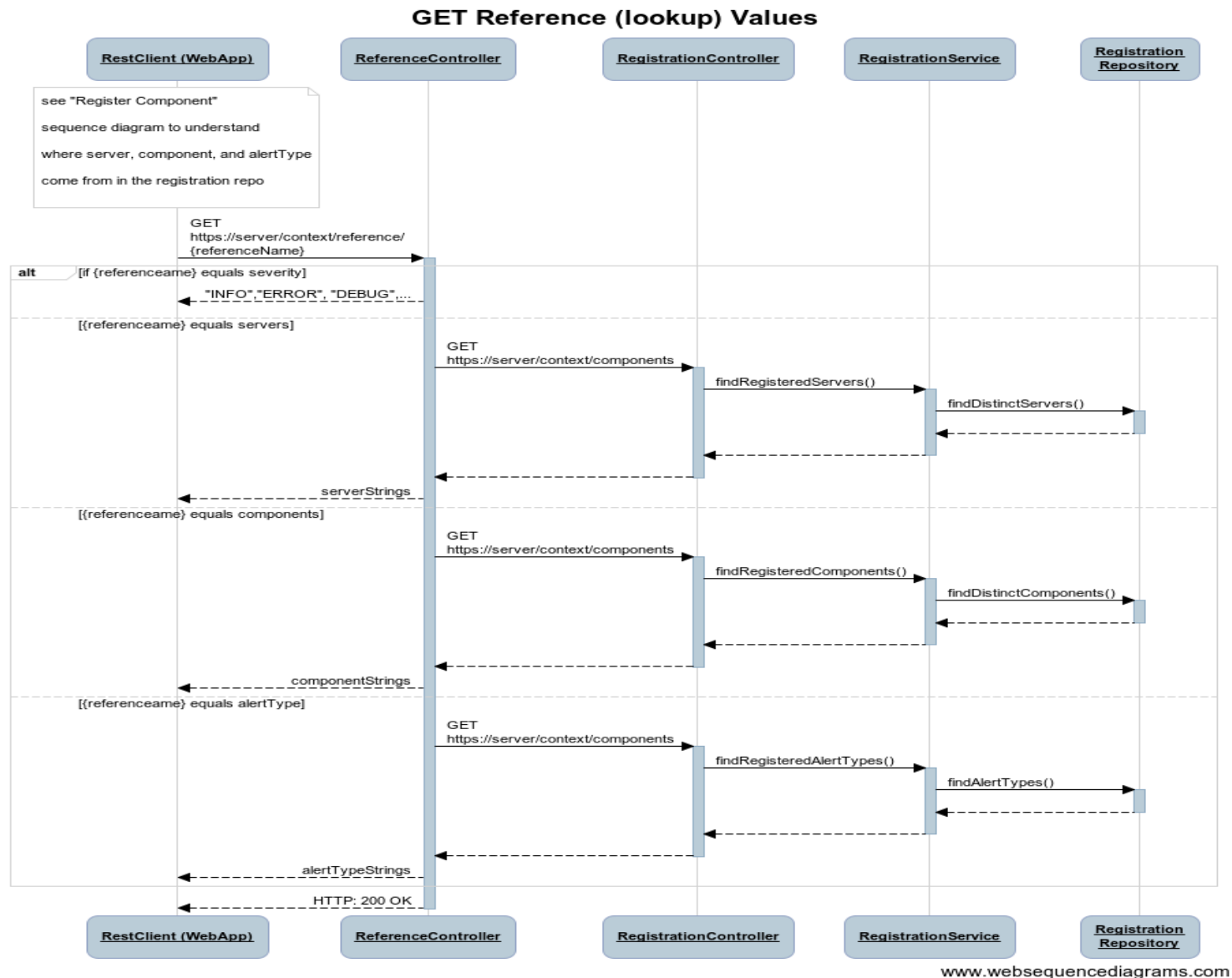
The sequence diagrams have been created to be used as a guided tour through the code. The diagrams do not incorporate every endpoint or process flow, but rather highlight representative patterns within the application's design. The sequence diagrams are best consumed with the code base.

Update and Delete patterns have been omitted since the pattern is very similar to the Create with no significant design points of interest.

7.1 Sequence diagram – Get Lookup Values for WebApp

The following diagram shows the endpoints used for looking up (READ ONLY) reference data used by the webapp. These values are derived from operational and registration data within the Monitoring and Alerting data store.

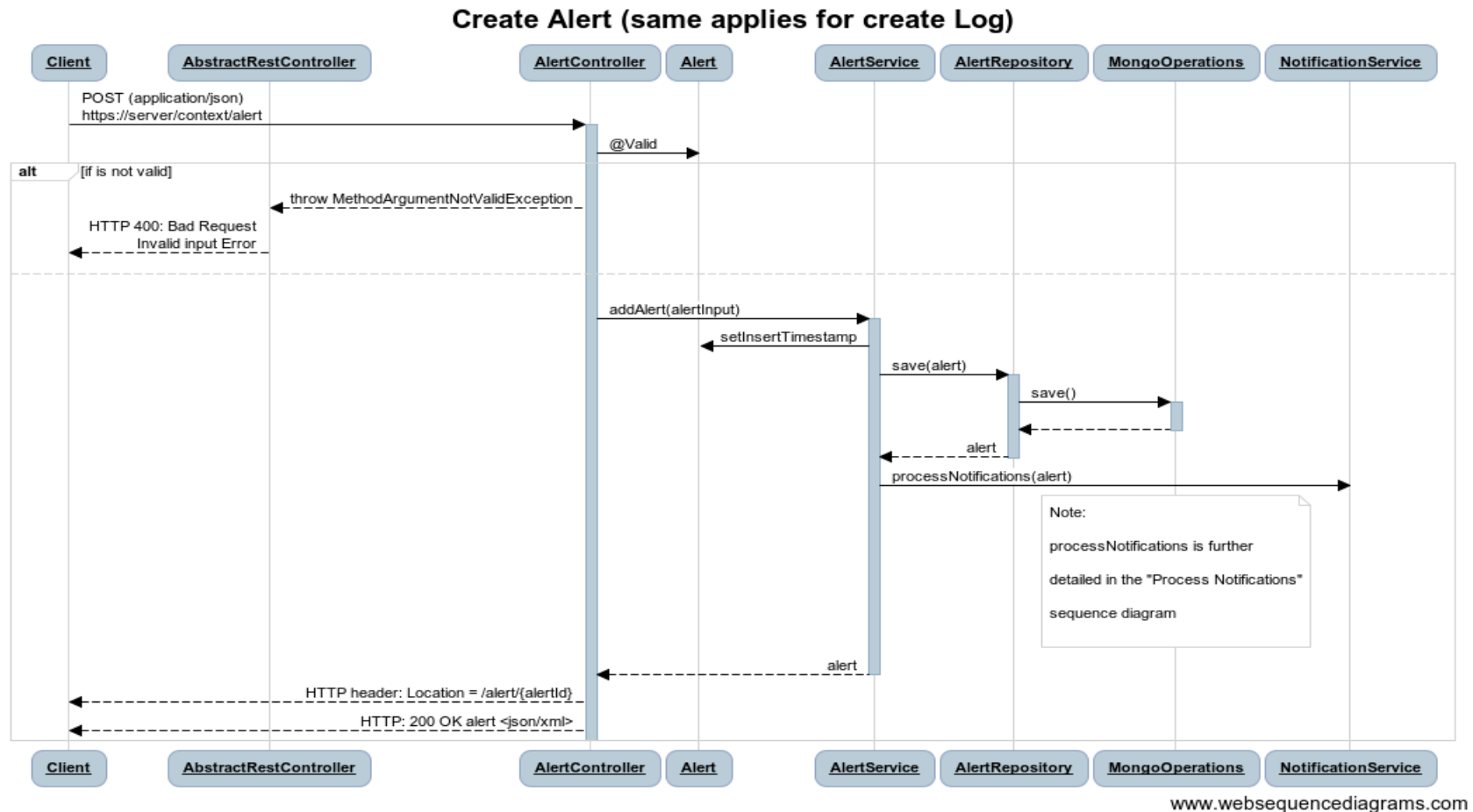
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.2 Sequence diagram – Create Alert

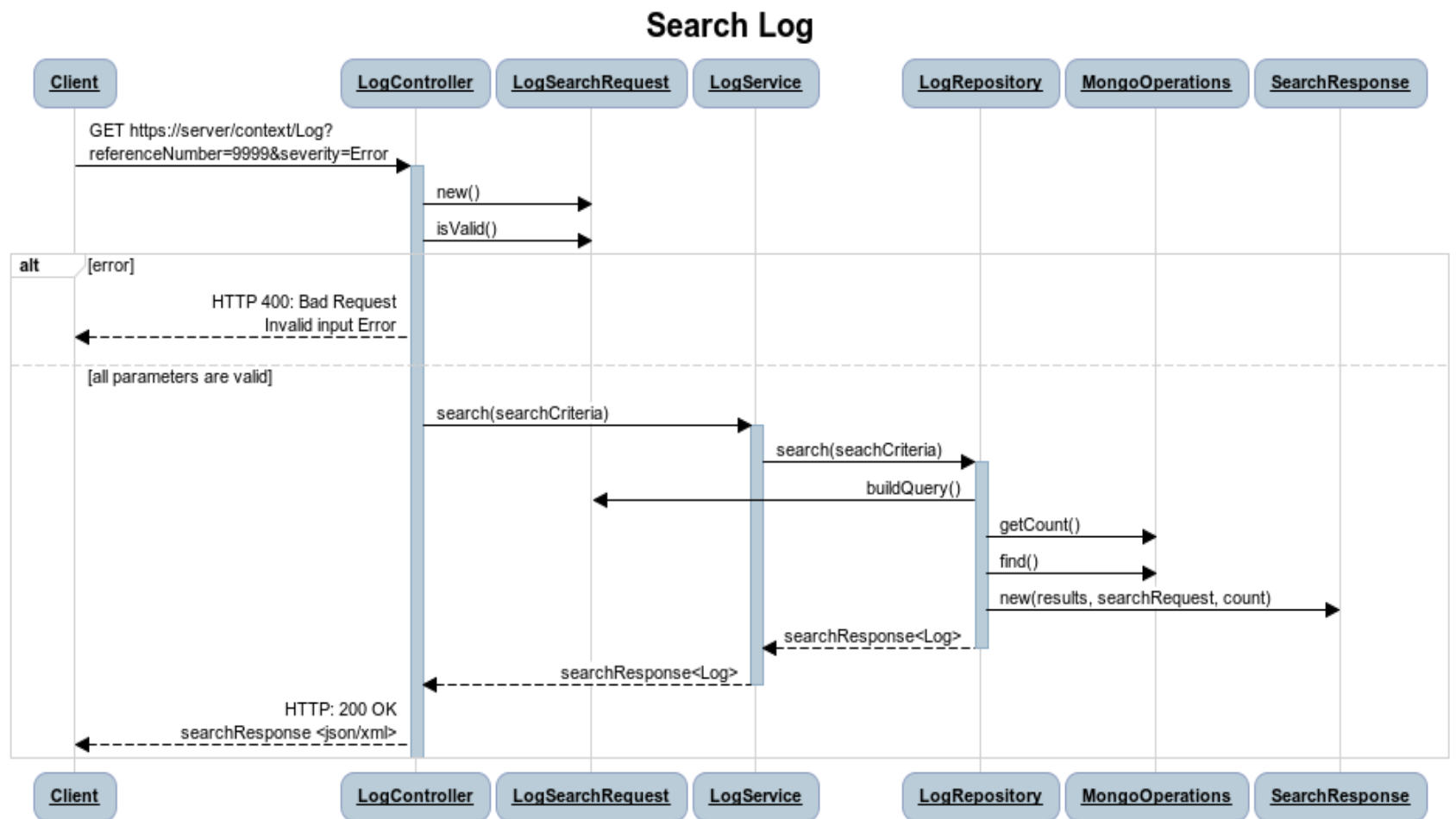
The following diagram is representative of the Create pattern used for most persisted entities in Monitoring and Alerting. The general pattern applies for most entities appearing in **Section 5.1 Physical Data Model**. Any special cases (such as Create Metric) have been included as separate models.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.3 Sequence diagram – Search Log

The following diagram is representative of the Search pattern used for most persisted entities in Monitoring and Alerting. The general pattern applies for most entities appearing in **Section 5.1 Physical Data Model**.

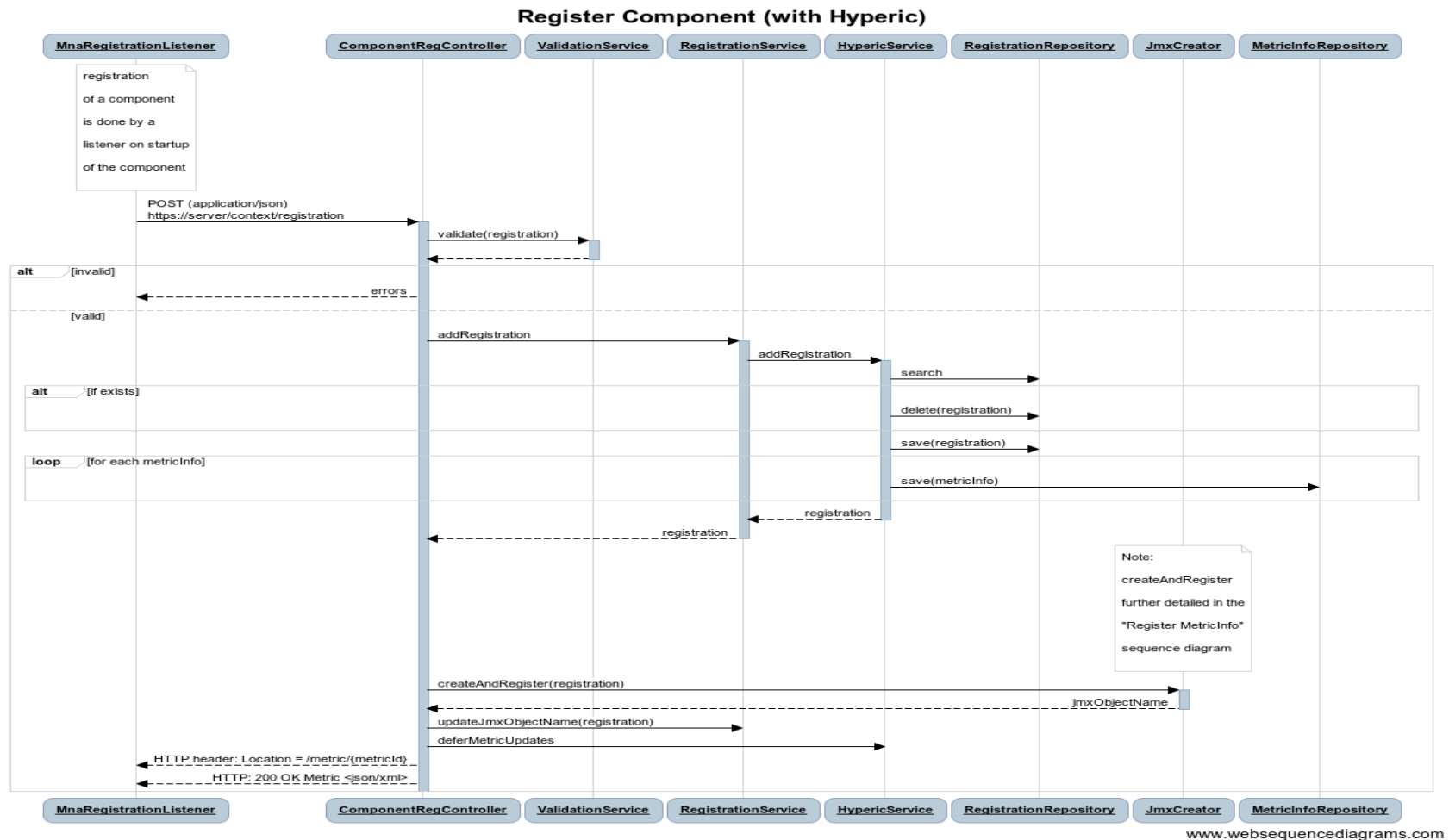


www.websequencediagrams.com

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.4 Sequence diagram – Register Component (with Hyperic)

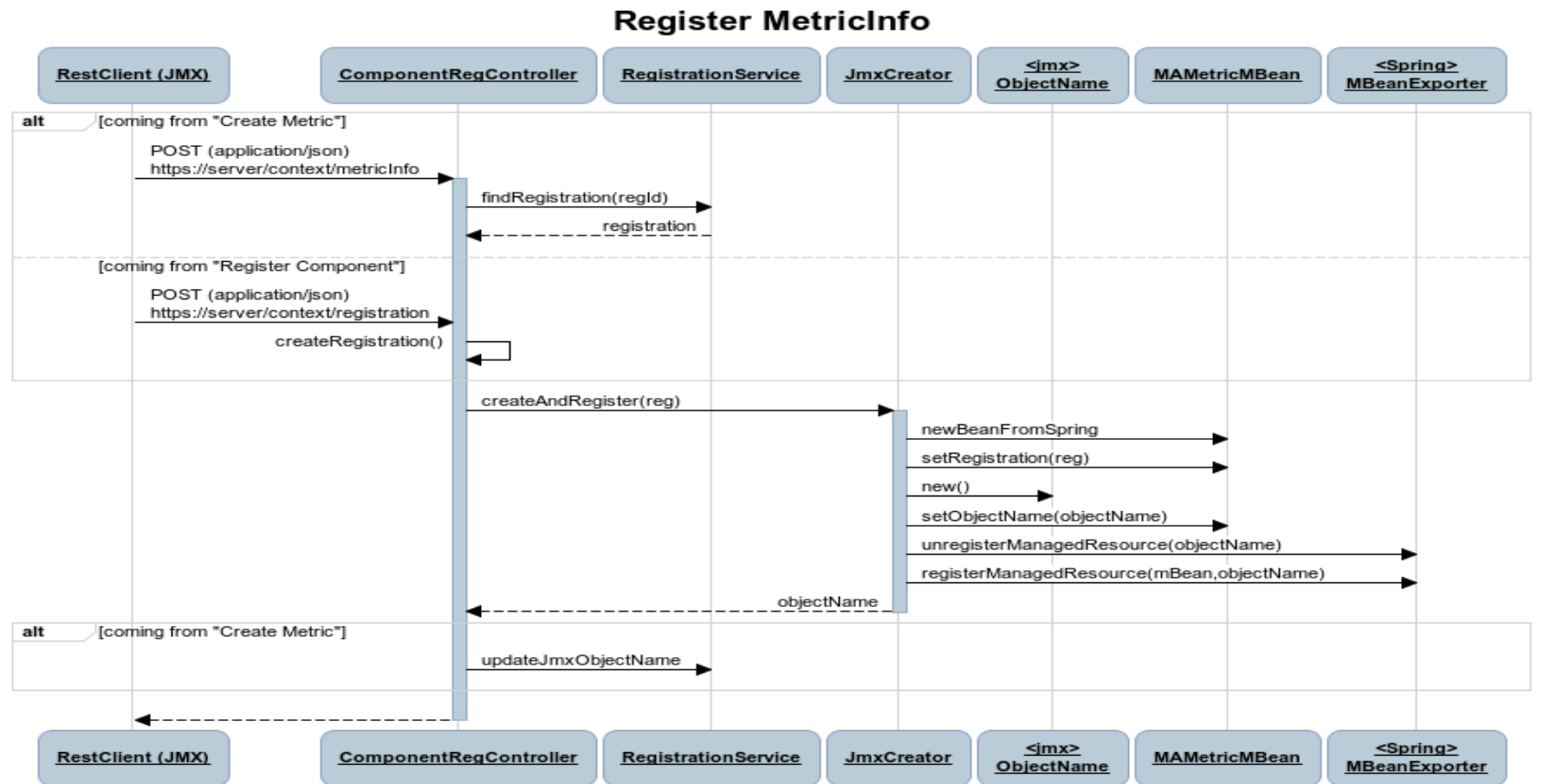
The following diagram shows the component registration process that integrates into the Hyperic HQ application. By registering a component, administrators can see a component (and its associated metrics) in the Hyperic console. By default, an Availability metric is also registered at startup time. This Availability metric periodically provides a ‘heartbeat’ that will create an alert if not provided for a period of time.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.5 Sequence diagram – Register MetricInfo

The following diagram shows the metric registration process that integrates a specific data element with the Hyperic HQ application. By registering a metric, administrators can see the components data within the Hyperic console. Some examples of the Smarter Balanced metrics are Availability and Performance (which logs the time taken to perform a specific method). A metricInfo can be registered ahead of time or as needed when a metric is created (see **7.7 Sequence Diagram – Create Metric**).



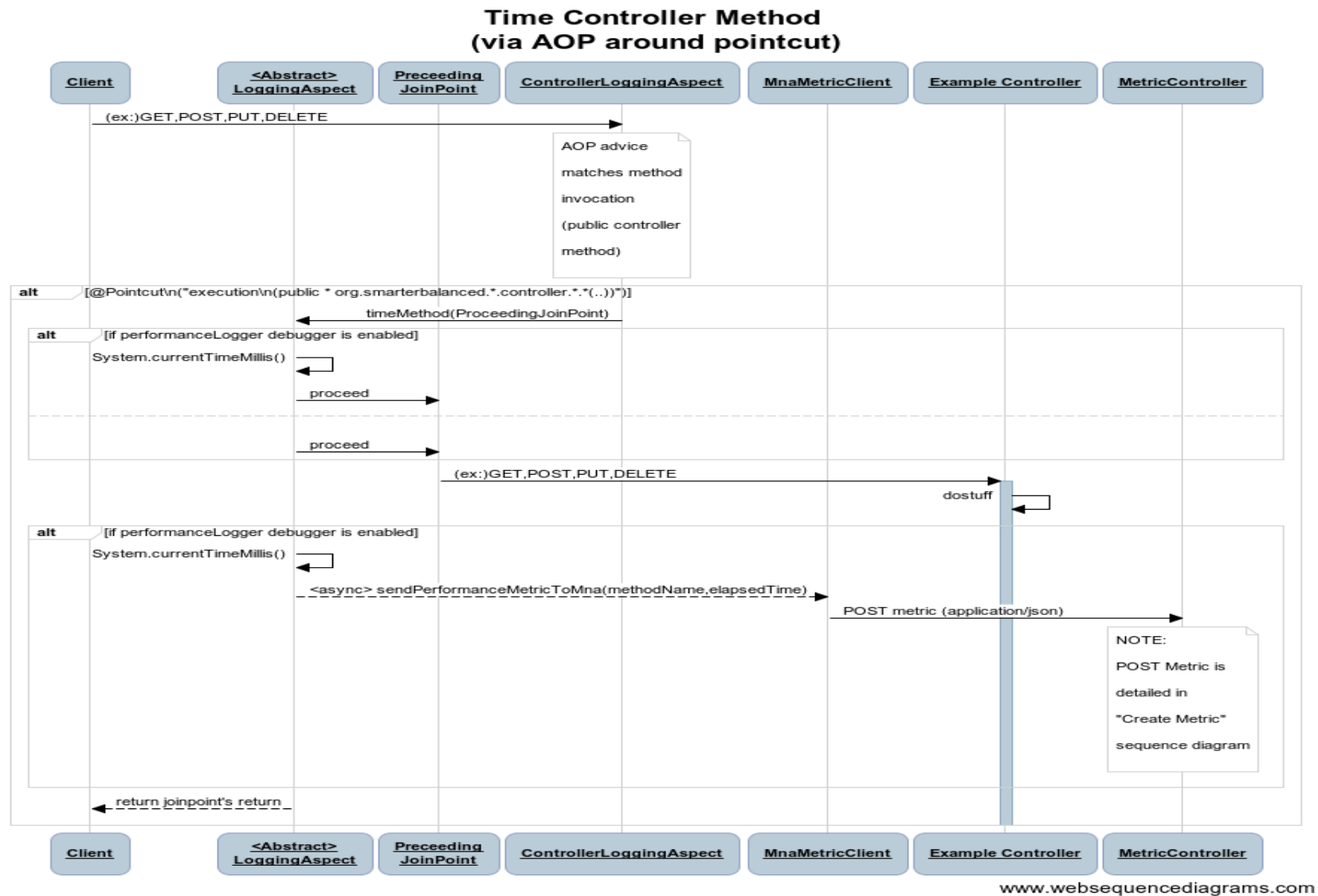
www.websequencediagrams.com

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.6 Sequence Diagram – Create Performance Metric

The following diagram shows how a metric is created using Aspect Oriented Programming (AOP). The benefit of AOP is that a method can be ‘decorated’ to log performance without having to change the logic of the method itself. The use of Spring AOP and Pointcuts separates the concerns. Given that the application may not want to register every possible method that may have its performance measured, MetricInfos can be dynamically registered when a metric is created (see **7.7 Sequence Diagram – Create Metric**).

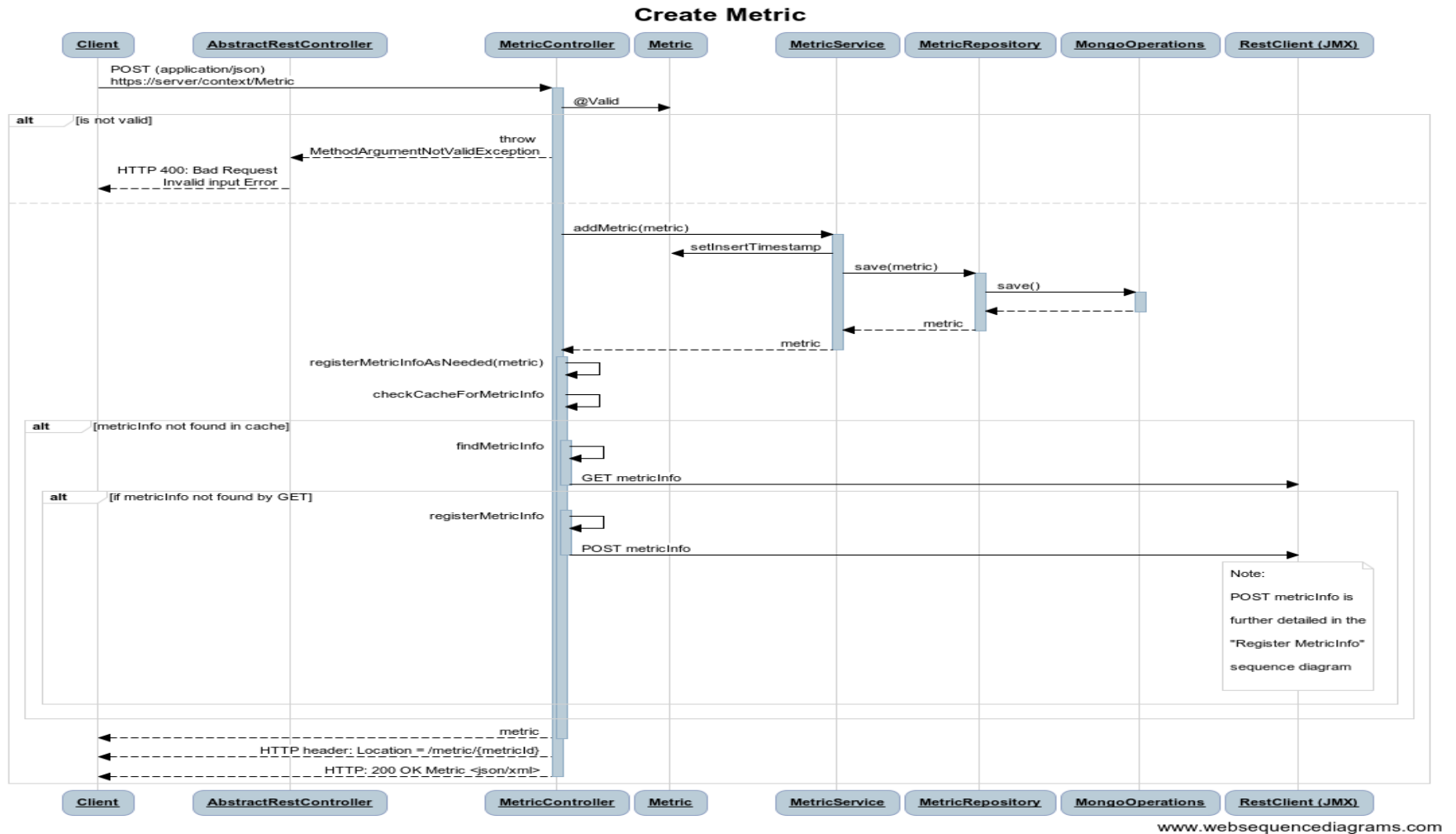
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.7 Sequence Diagram – Create Metric

The following diagram illustrates the creation of a metric. Also included in this flow is the dynamic registration of a MetricInfo as needed.



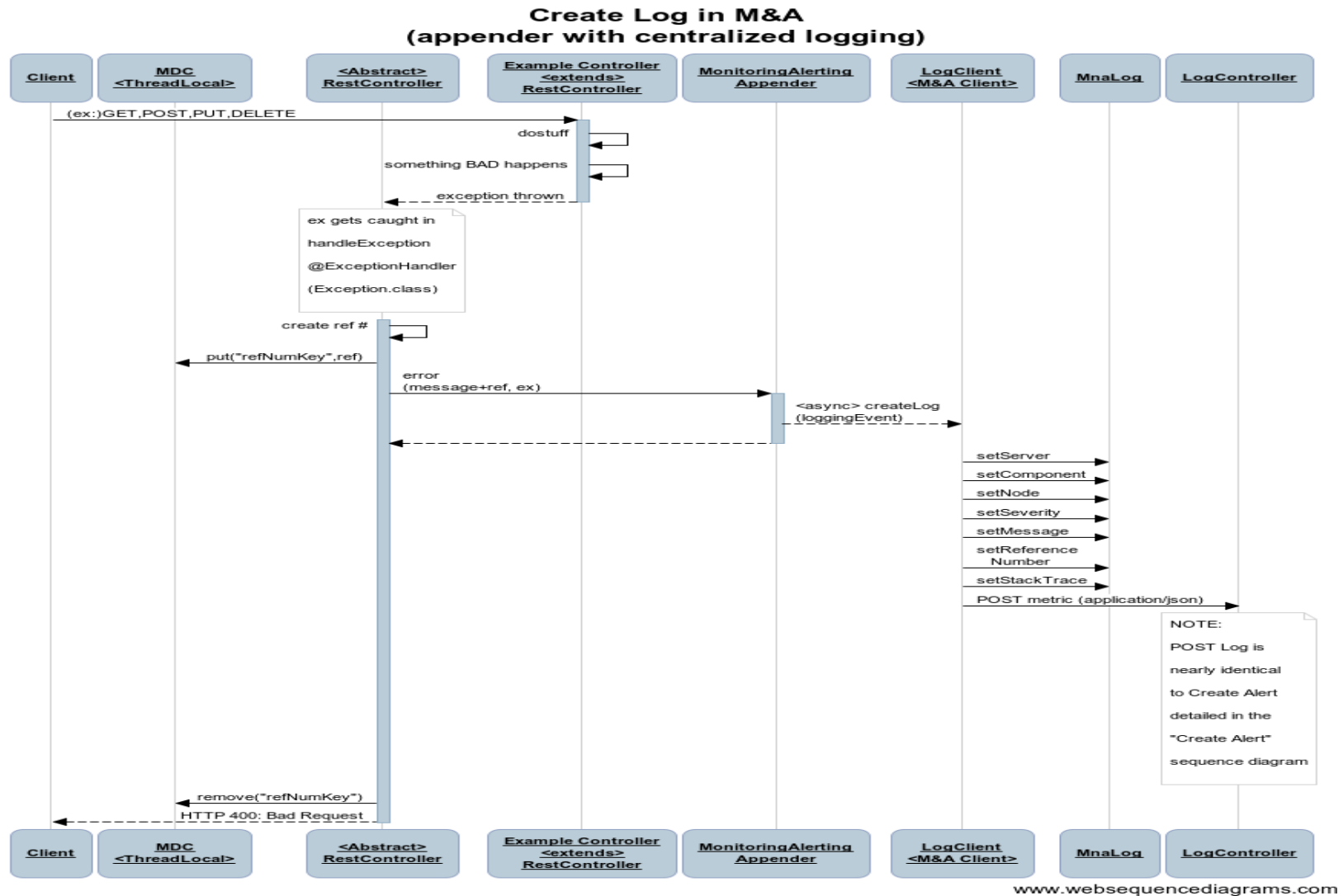
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.8 Sequence Diagram –

The following diagram illustrates the creation of a log. This highlights the use of a custom Log4J appender which utilizes the Monitoring and Alerting Client .jar.

NOTE: The Test Item Bank has been integrated to use this appender to centralize its logging into Monitoring and Alerting.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

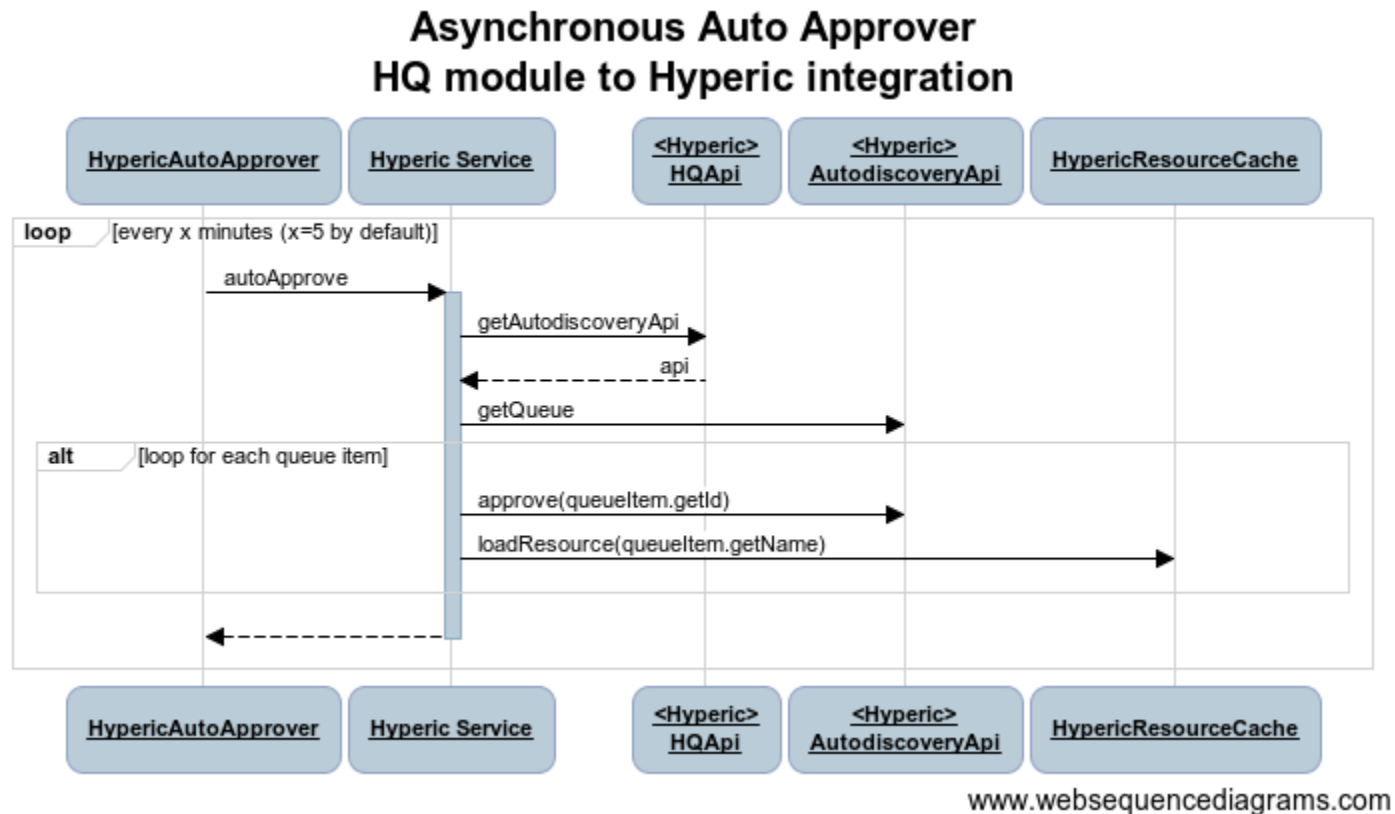
7.9 Sequence Diagrams –

The following four sequence diagrams depict asynchronous scheduled jobs that perform various maintenance tasks at regular intervals. The majority of the tasks need to be scheduled due to timing prerequisites constrained by the Hyperic API. Additionally, the dynamic nature of metrics and components requires the ability to change Hyperic without requiring downtime.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.9.1 Sequence Diagram – Asynchronous Alert Creator

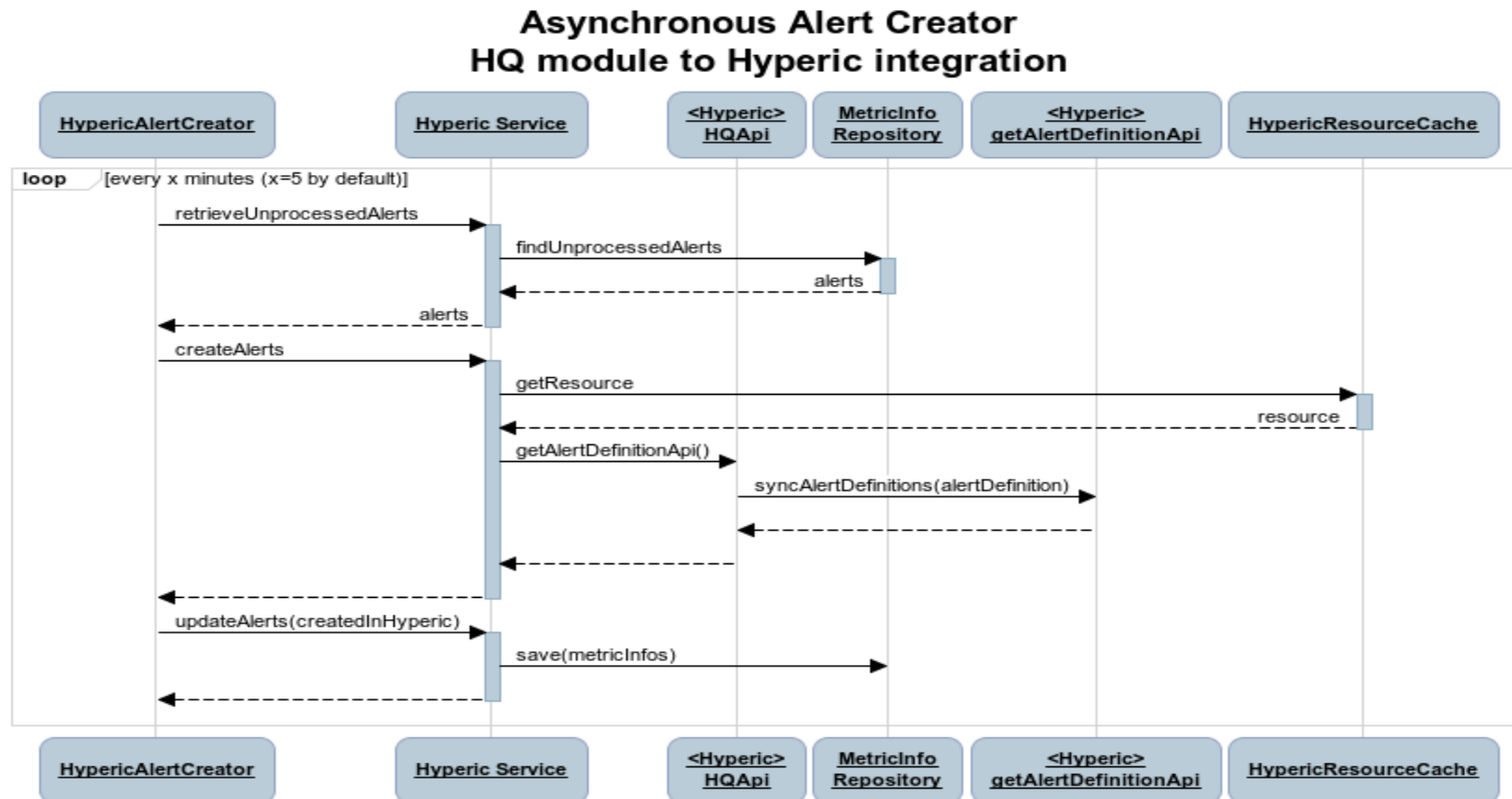
The following sequence diagram captures the scheduled process that approves resources which were auto discovered by the Hyperic agent/HQ. These resources may include servers, as well as Smarter Balanced components and metrics.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.9.2 Sequence Diagram – Asynchronous Alert Creator

The following sequence diagram captures the schedule process that creates a default alert for Availability Metrics when a component registers itself. The alert is a simple email alert that is customizable in the property files utilized by Monitoring and Alerting. The alert will be generated by Hyperic HQ utilizing some defaulted values that are applicable to Availability ('heartbeat') metrics. The reason this process happens on a schedule is due to the need for a metric to have been created before an alert definition can be created in Hyperic.



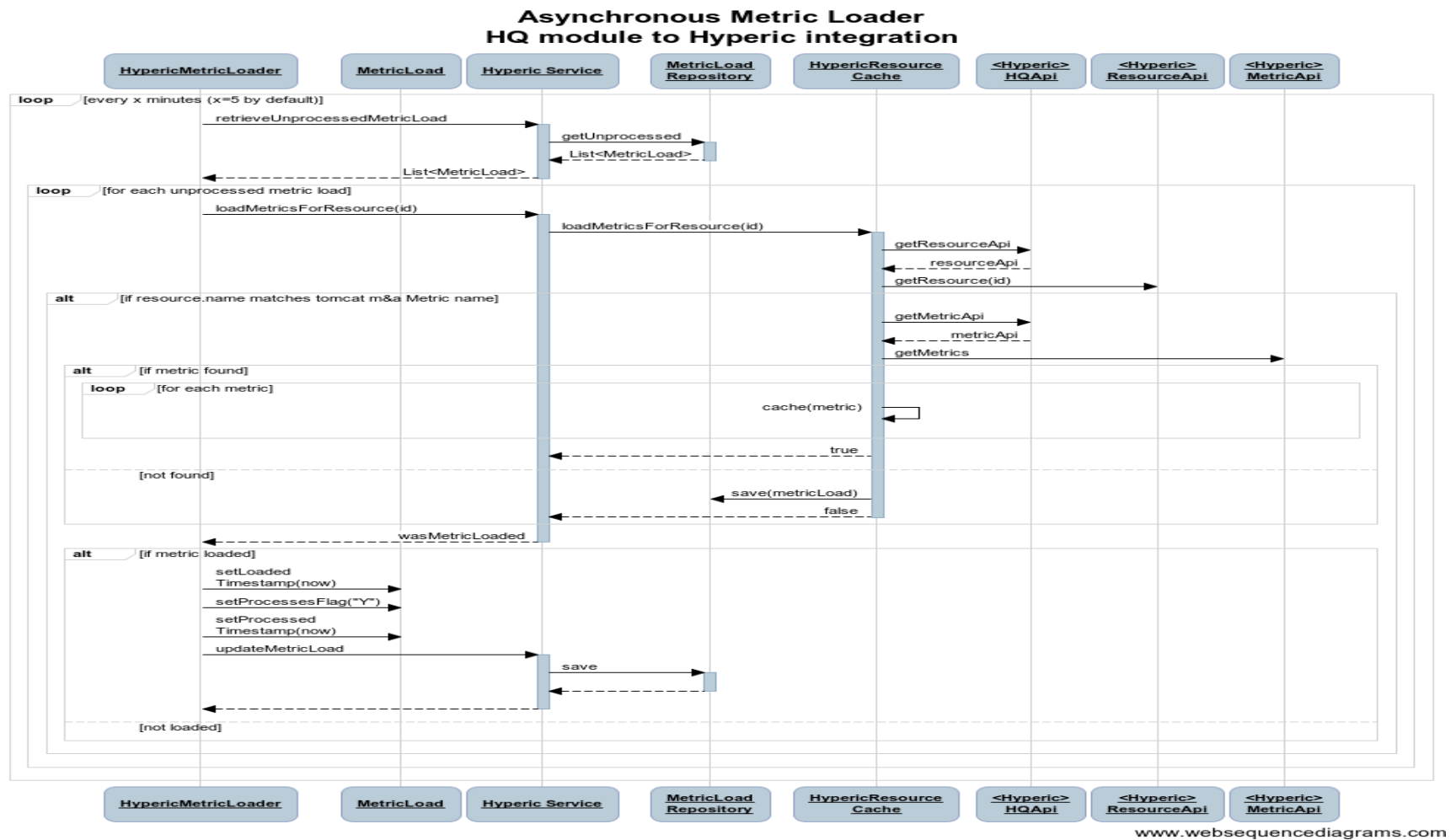
www.websequencediagrams.com

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.9.3 Sequence Diagram – Asynchronous Metric Loader

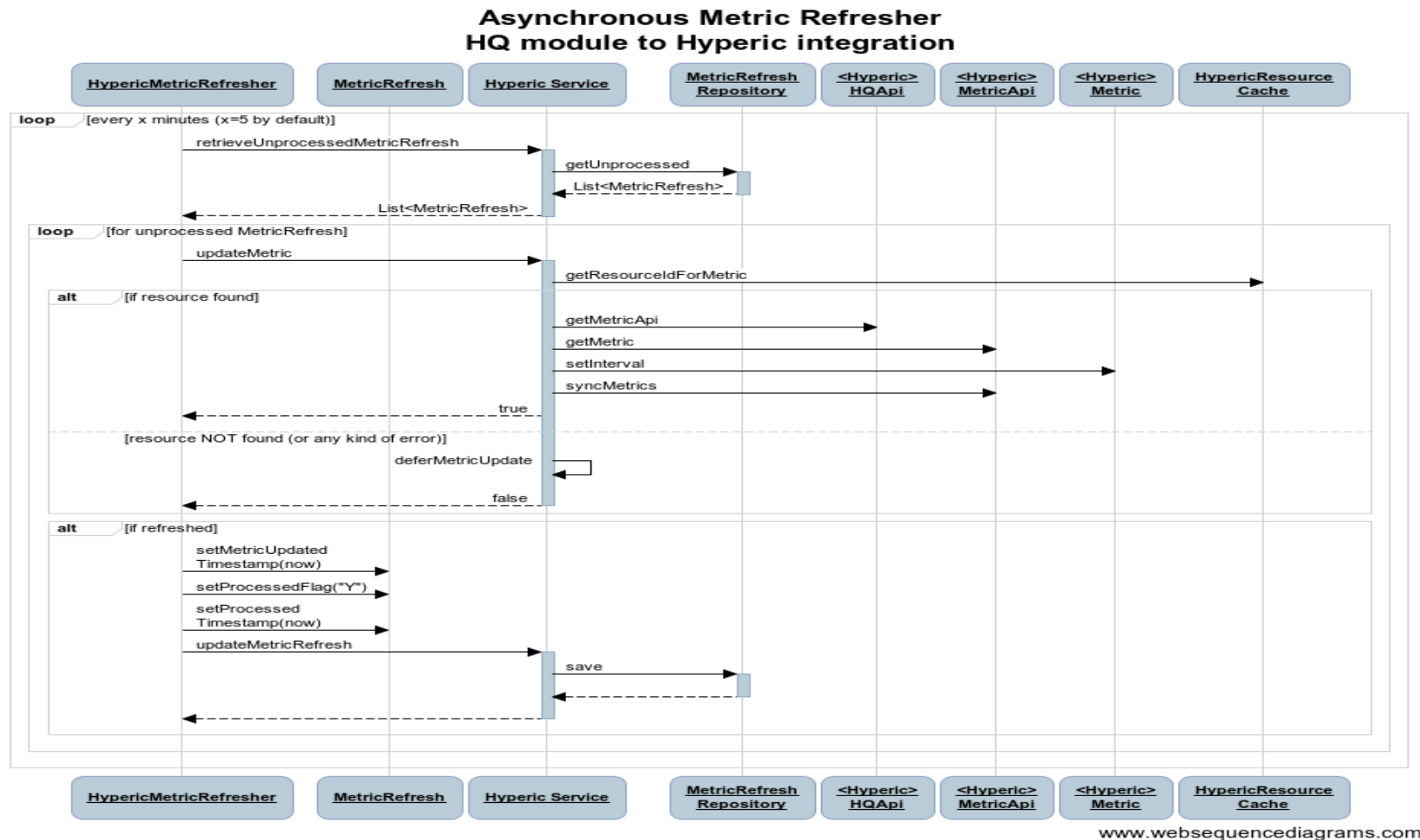
The following sequence diagram captures the schedule process that prepopulates the resource cache utilized by the other scheduled asynchronous processes. The reason this process happens on a schedule is due to the need for a metric to have been created before a resource can be accessed in Hyperic HQ.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

7.9.4 Sequence Diagram –

The following sequence diagram captures the scheduled process that customizes attributes on created metrics. The attribute currently modified is the refresh rate. This allows the component to customize how frequently a metric will be captured and graphed in HQ. For example, the refresh rate varies by metric type, and Availability may have a less frequent refresh rate than a Performance metric.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

8. Implementation View

This view describes the organization of static software modules (source code, data files, executables, documentation etc.) in SBAC-11 Monitoring and Alerting component development in terms

- Source code, Packaging and layering
- Configuration Management (build and release strategy etc.)

8.1 Source Code

The source code for Monitoring and Alerting is implemented independent of other components. The component source repository is divided into sub-projects as follow:

- **mna-client**: code to be used by client components for utilizing Monitoring and Alerting services
- **domain**: objects shared by the data workers and controllers. The sb11-shared-code project contains code that can be shared across multiple components. Dependencies on sb11-shared-code and sb11-shared-build are managed with maven.
- **hq**: code used to integrate with the Hyperic HQ open source product
- **jmx**: source code used to register components and metrics with Monitoring and Alerting
- **parent**: the master project which organizes the other subprojects
- **persistence**: data workers and the MongoDB implementation
- **rest**: controllers implementing the RESTful API
- **webapp**: the custom, non-Hyperic user interface

8.2 Build Process

Monitoring and Alerting is using maven to automate the compile/test/package process. A parent pom.xml at the top level defines common dependencies for each component. Child pom.xml files add dependencies unique to each sub-project.

8.3 Third party dependencies

Monitoring and Alerting is relying on the following third party components:

- org.springframework: spring-beans, spring-context, spring-core, spring-web
- org.springframework.data: spring-data-commons-core, spring-data-mongodb
- org.springframework.integration.spring-integration-core
- org.mongodb.mongo-java-driver
- javax.servlet: jstl, servlet-api, jsp.jsp-api
- slf4j & log4j
- cglib
- javax.inject
- org.aspectj.aspectjrt
- org.codehaus.jackson.jackson-mapper-asl
- org.hibernate.hibernate-validator

8.4 Test Automation Dependencies

Monitoring and Alerting is leveraging following testing frameworks:

- Junit
- org.springframework spring-test
- org.springframework spring-test-mvc

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

9. Deployment View

The component is divided into two major pieces: JMX which is used to register metrics and components and REST endpoints which provide Monitoring and Alerting services to other components.

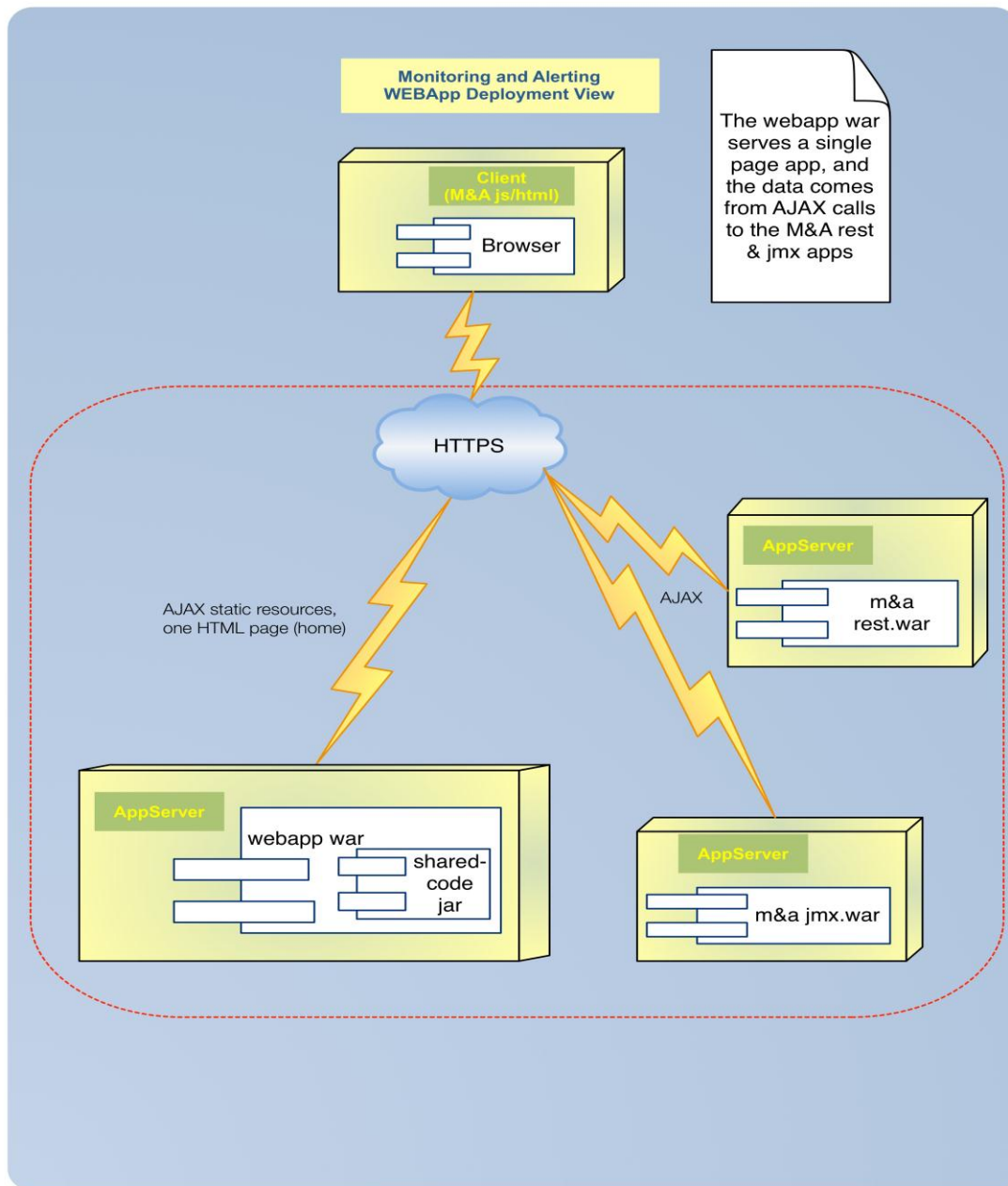


Figure 9.1 - Web App Deployment

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

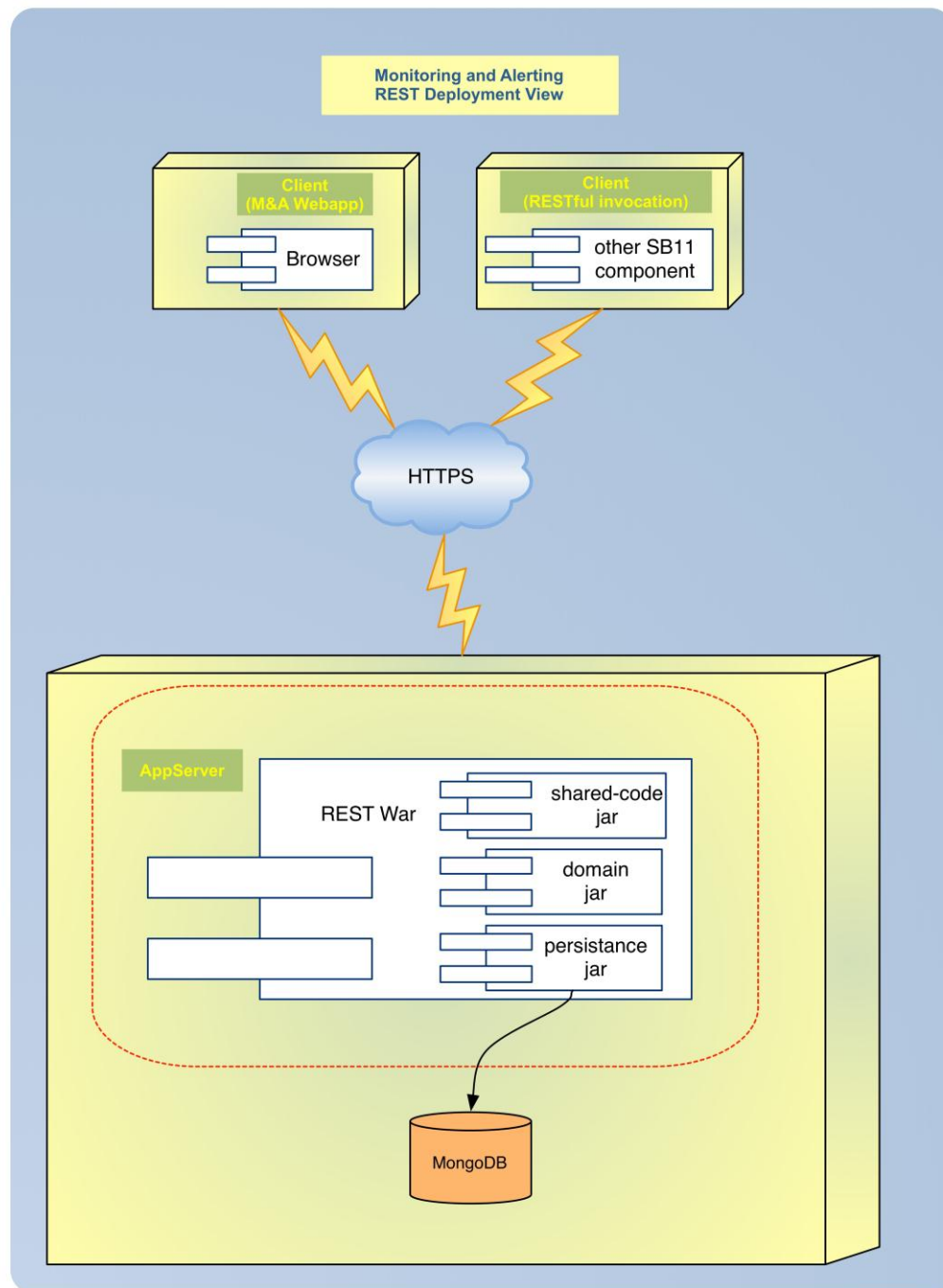


Figure 9.2 - REST

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

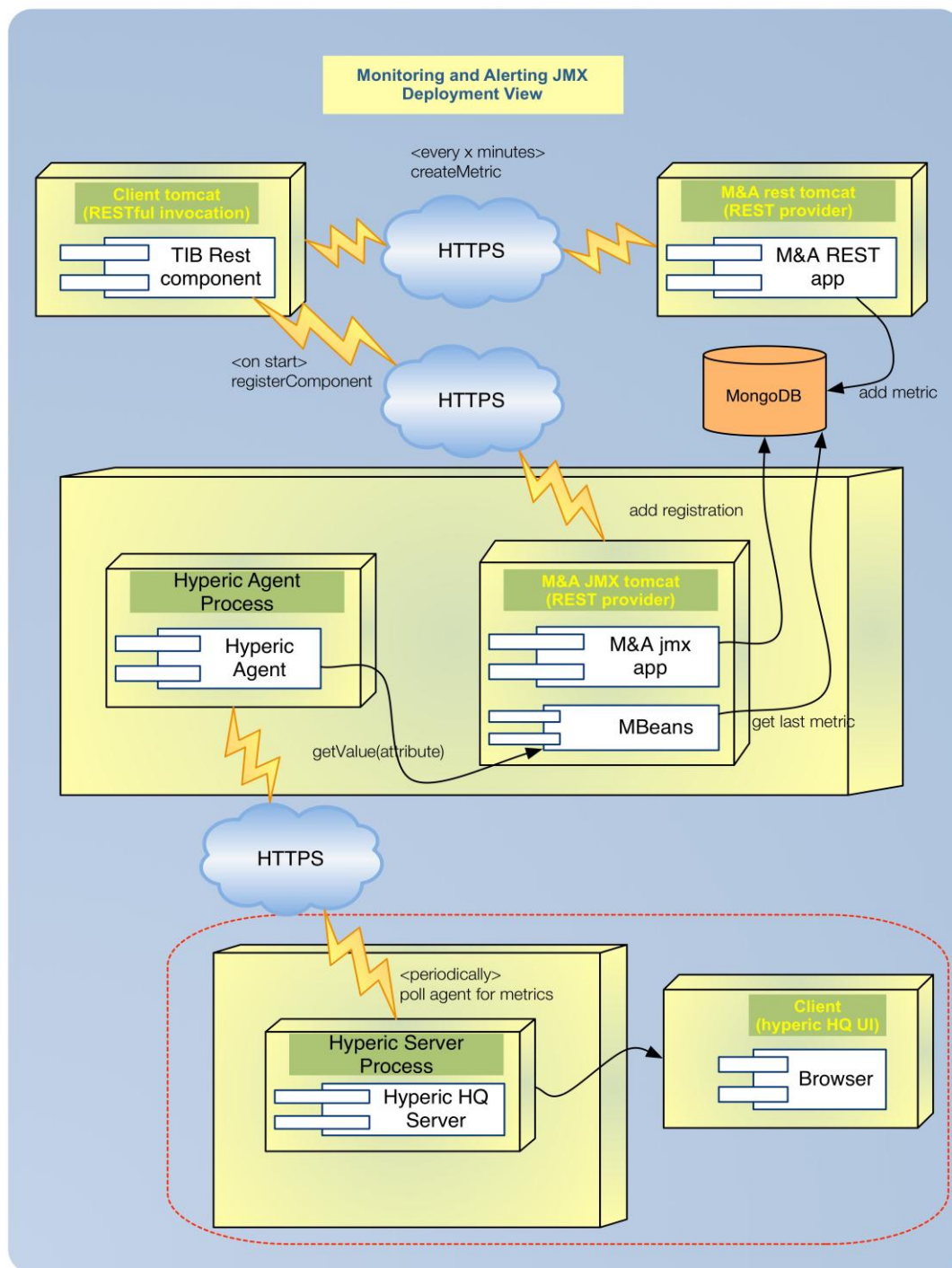


Figure 9.3 - JMX Deployment

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

10. Security

HTTPS will be provided in the hosted environment. This is not a concern of the application layer as all negotiation and encryption is handled between the network and application server container. Authentication and Authorization is an orthogonal concern within the application. At a servlet container level, Spring Security allows for global and/or more specific security masking of web resources. For example, all web service endpoints can require clients to be authenticated while leaving other assets (such as images or static content) unsecured.

All web service endpoints will be secured using Spring Security Annotations. These annotations allow for role based security. Authentication and user/role mapping will be provided by a shared component. Within the functional components, such as this one, the annotations will be configured to ensure the roles provided by the shared authentication component are in alignment. Spring Security handles insufficient authorization by denying access with a HTTP 403 error returned. Given that the shared component is currently not completed, the exact mechanism of security will remain uncompleted until the Authorization & Authentication can be integrated together.

11. Exception and error handling

11.1 Error handling

Known error conditions such as validation rules will be reported to the client in a consistent manner. The errors will be returned to the user with an HTTP 400: BAD REQUEST and the error message text included in the returned payload. Known errors are enumerated within a component and the dynamic portion of the message parameterized. This allows for static portions of the messages to have multiple translations (a development time concern as defined by the requirements). Spring Validation is being used as the base framework for error checking and validation logic is extended within the application as necessary. Some of the Monitoring and Alerting error handling examples are:

POST: the service will return HTTP status 201 (created) when a log entry is added

POST: the service will return HTTP status 201 (created) when a notificationRule is added, and an id will be returned which can be used to fetch the rule

GET with query params: return a list of results and HTTP 200 when valid query parameters are specified, and HTTP 400 Bad Request if the query parameters are not valid.

11.2 Exception handling

For all exceptions generated from unanticipated conditions, a fault barrier has been put in place to ensure that no details of the originating exception are exposed to the client of the web service. Instead of exposing the exception details (which may contain implementation details), a customizable error message including a unique reference to the logged exception is returned to the user. The unique reference allows the user to communicate with technical support in an unambiguous manner to quickly locate the original root cause for problem resolution. The logged exception will be logged to the local application server environment as well as to the Monitoring and Alerting component for centralized aggregation.

12. Quality

12.1 Size & Performance

Monitoring and Alerting is leveraging NoSQL MongoDB for storage which provides the following size & performance benefits:

- MongoDB eliminates object-relation-mapping work and the so-called “impedance mismatch by leveraging JSON object-style-data.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium	Version: 1.0
Software Technical Design Specifications	Date: 04/22/13
Monitoring and Alerting	

- Allows dynamic schemas or schemaless operations
- Easy to store and manipulate complex and polymorphic data
- Reduces the amount of work required to scale out the application and increase system speed

Monitoring and Alerting services use asynchronous transmission of messages to eliminate I/O bottlenecks.

12.2 Scalability

The design of Monitoring and Alerting's RESTful services allows horizontal scaling. Monitoring and Alerting's persistence layer uses MongoDB which has auto-sharding capability to scale from a single server deployment to large, complex multi-site architectures.

12.3 Reliability

Monitoring and Alerting logs messages on each local server as well as writing messages to a centralized data store for persistence. The local log can be used by system administrators if communication with the Monitoring and Alerting component is lost. The MongoDB data store has built-in replication with automated failover which provides enterprise-grade reliability and operational flexibility.

Each system deployment must provide at least two component servers to host the Monitoring and Alerting component to provide failover.

12.4 Availability

Each system deployment must provide at least two component servers to host the Monitoring and Alerting component to provide failover. Monitoring and Alerting leverages MongoDB's built-in replication with automated failover to provide high availability for data.

13. API

The component is divided into two major pieces: JMX which is used to register metrics and components, and REST endpoints which provide Monitoring and Alerting services to other components. Because of the length of the API documentation, it is included in a separate document. Once the Monitoring and Alerting component is installed and running, the API can be viewed by entering one of the following links:

- [Server-context/jmx/api](#)
- [Server-context/rest/api](#)