-**ENPM702**-

INTRODUCTORY ROBOT PROGRAMMING

L11: Robot Operating System (ROS) - Part III v1.0

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Changelog

≡Changelog **■**

■v1.0: Original version.

Learning Objectives



By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Executors Covers single/multi-threaded executors and callback groups.
- Name Remapping Includes namespaces, node/topic/parameter remapping via CLI and launch files.
- Lifecycle Nodes Understand state machine transitions, configure/activate/deactivate callbacks, and controlled startup/shutdown.
- Quality of Service (QoS) Configure reliability, durability, and history policies for different communication requirements.

Executors

Scaling Beyond Single Tasks _____

The proportional controller demo (previous lecture) illustrated a **single-purpose node**: one callback managing robot movement. But real robotic systems require:

Multiple Simultaneous Tasks

- Process sensor data (cameras, lidar, IMU).
- Update control commands at different rates.
- Monitor system health and safety.
- Handle user commands.
- Log data for analysis.

Coordination Challenges

- How to handle multiple callbacks?
- What if one callback blocks others?
- Can we process sensors in parallel?
- How to prioritize critical tasks?
- When to use threads vs. sequential processing?

Solution: ROS 2 Executors

Executors

Executors manage how and when your callbacks run, enabling complex multi-task robotic systems.

- Executors simplify the task of handling threads by providing an abstraction layer, allowing operation with either a single thread (e.g., single-threaded executor) or multiple threads (e.g., multi-threaded executor).
- Executors can manage the callbacks of one or more nodes at the same time.

Thread

In computer science, a thread of execution (or thread) is the smallest sequence a of programmed instructions that can be managed independently by a scheduler, which is typically a part of the operating system.

Build the package:

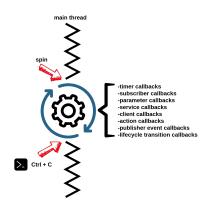
colcon build --packages-select executors_demo --symlink-install

Executors > Single-Threaded Executors

! Single-Threaded Executors

A **single-threaded executor** ensures that all these callbacks are executed sequentially in a single thread.

- One callback at a time in the order they are scheduled and without concurrency.
- Suitable for applications with low computational demands or when deterministic execution is required.



Executors Single-Threaded Executors

Example _____

Imagine a robot subscribing to sensor data and publishing commands. With a single-threaded executor:

- 1. It receives a sensor message and runs the callback to process it.
- 2. Only after the first step is done does it move to the next task, like running a timer callback to publish a command.

- This approach keeps things simple and predictable, avoiding issues like race conditions that can pop up when multiple threads access shared resources.
- However, it is not great for performance if you have a lot of tasks that could run independently, for that, you might look at a multi-threaded executor instead.

= rclcpp::spin() vs SingleThreadedExecutor

They are essentially the same! rclcpp :: spin(node) is a convenience wrapper.

Using rclcpp :: spin()

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    rclcpp::init(argc, argv);
    auto node = std::make_shared<MyNode>();

    // Simple spinning
    rclcpp::spin(node);

    rclcpp::shutdown();
}
```

What happens internally:

- Creates a SingleThreadedExecutor
- Adds your node to it
- Calls executor.spin()
- Blocks until shutdown

Using Executor Explicitly

More control over:

- Multiple nodes in one executor
- Switching executor types easily
- Custom spin behaviors

Executors Single-Threaded Executors



When to use explicit executors?

Multiple Nodes

```
executor.add_node(camera_node);
executor.add_node(lidar_node);
executor.spin();
```

Easy Type Switching

```
// Just change the type!
rclcpp::executors::MultiThreadedExecutor executor;
```

Executors Multi-Threaded Executors

* Multi-Threaded Executors _____

A multi-threaded executor, is a mechanism for managing and executing callbacks across multiple threads, allowing for concurrent processing of tasks.

- Thread pool: A multi-threaded executor creates a pool of threads (you can often specify how many). Each thread can independently process callbacks from nodes added to the executor.
- Callback scheduling: When events occur, like a message arriving on a topic, a timer firing, or a service request, the executor assigns pending callbacks to available threads. If multiple callbacks are ready at once, they can run concurrently across different threads.
- Spinning: Calling executor.spin() starts an event loop that continuously checks for and dispatches work to the thread pool.

Benefits

- **Performance**: Ideal for applications with many independent tasks (e.g., processing data from multiple sensors). Concurrent execution can reduce latency and improve throughput.
- Scalability: Handles multiple nodes or high-frequency callbacks better than a single-threaded executor, which can bottleneck under heavy load.
- Responsiveness: Critical tasks (like responding to an emergency stop signal) might not get delayed by slower, less urgent ones.



Executors Multi-Threaded Executors

= Challenges _____

■ Race Conditions: If callbacks access shared resources (e.g., a class attribute), you will need synchronization mechanisms like locks to prevent data corruption. Single-threaded executors avoid this issue entirely.



■ Overhead: Managing multiple threads introduces some complexity and CPU overhead. If your application is lightweight, the extra threads might not be worth it.

Executors > Callback Groups

Callback Groups

A callback group is a container within a node that holds callbacks (e.g., for subscriptions, timers, or services). Each group defines how its callbacks are handled in terms of execution and threading.

- By default, all callbacks belong to the node's implicit callback group. You can create explicit callback groups to customize execution behavior.
- Two types exist: MutuallyExclusive (only one callback executes at a time) and Reentrant (multiple callbacks can execute in parallel).
- Useful for managing concurrency, preventing race conditions, prioritizing certain callbacks, and isolating time-critical operations from blocking ones.
- The executor type (single-threaded vs. multi-threaded) determines whether callback groups can actually leverage concurrency.

Executors Callback Groups Mutually Exclusive Callback Group



Callbacks within a mutually exclusive callback group cannot run at the same time, even in a multi-threaded executor. They are executed sequentially, one after another.

Use case: When callbacks share resources (e.g., modifying the same variable) and you want to avoid race conditions without explicit locks.

Executors Callback Groups Reentrant Callback Group



Callbacks within a **reentrant callback group** can run concurrently with each other (and with callbacks in other reentrant groups), assuming the executor supports multiple threads.

Use case: Independent tasks that don't interfere with each other, maximizing concurrency.

If you use a MultiThreadedExecutor without explicitly defining callback groups, the default behavior is equivalent to all callbacks being in a single, reentrant callback group.

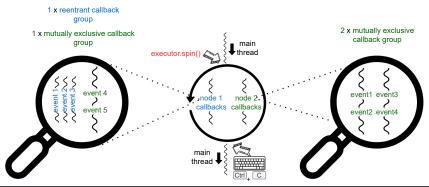
ROS 2 assumes that callbacks are independent unless told otherwise.

Executors Callback Groups

Example =

Consider two nodes added to a multi-threaded executor:

- ros2 run executors_demo mutex_reentrant
 - One reentrant callback group containing 3 callbacks.
 - One mutually exclusive callback group containing 2 callbacks.
- ros2 run executors_demo two_mutex
 - Two mutually exclusive callback groups, each containing 2 callbacks.



Executors Callback Groups



Reentrant callback groups allow multiple instances of the same callback to run simultaneously on different threads.

- Include a delay of 5 seconds in timer1_callback() (mutex_reentrant.cpp)
 - Second 1: Timer1 starts (Thread ID: 12475764978651514590) and begins sleeping for 5 seconds.
 - Second 2: Timer1 starts AGAIN (Thread ID: 9514691491644469051) on a different thread while the first instance is still sleeping.
 - Second 3: Timer1 starts AGAIN (Thread ID: 8441981844220120691) on yet another thread
 - And so on...

Reentrant = Multiple Concurrent Executions



- The executor doesn't wait for Timer1 to finish before starting it again.
- Each timer firing gets its own thread and can run in parallel.
- You can have multiple instances of the same callback running simultaneously.

Name Remapping

Name remapping in ROS2 is a feature that allows you to change the names of ROS entities (topics, services, parameters, and node names) at runtime without modifying the source code. This provides flexibility in how nodes communicate and helps avoid naming conflicts in complex systems.



- 1. 😐 colcon build --symlink-install --packages-select remapping_demo
- 2. Source the workspace.

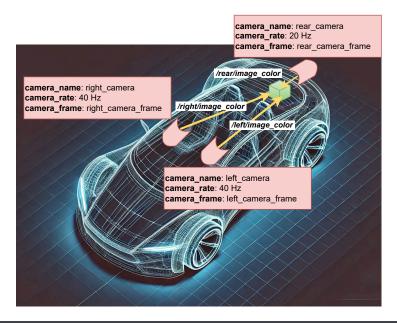


- ROS 2 Documentation: Node Name Arguments
- ROS 2 Design: Topic and Service Names
- ROS 2 Documentation: Using Launch Files
- ROS 2 Documentation: Node Name Remapping
- Robotics Backend: ROS 2 YAML Parameter Files

Name Remapping

- 📜 Remapping Types 📖
 - Node names: Run the same node multiple times with a different name.
 - **Topic names:** Redirect publishers and subscribers to use different topic names.
 - Service names: Change the names of services that nodes provide or use.
 - Parameter names: Change the names of parameters a node looks for.

Name Remapping



Name Remapping Namespaces

! Namespaces

Namespaces provide a hierarchical organization system that helps manage complexity in robotic applications. They function as **prefixes** that group related nodes, topics, services, and parameters together under a common path.



- When you apply a namespace to a node, all of its associated ROS entities (topics, services, parameters) automatically inherit that namespace prefix.
- You can apply namespaces through launch files, command-line arguments, or programmatically within nodes.

■ Advantages

- Prevents naming conflicts when running multiple instances of the same node
- Creates logical groupings of related components
- Simplifies visualization and debugging of complex systems
- Enables clear separation between subsystems

Name Remapping ▶ Namespaces ▶ CLI

- **Contraction** ——
- ros2 run remapping_demo camera_demo --ros-args -r __ns:=/rear_camera
- rqt_graph
 - The node name becomes n /rear_camera/camera_demo
 - The topic becomes t /rear_camera/camera/image_color (if defined without a leading slash).
 - Parameters are stored as p /rear_camera/camera_demo.<parameter_name>
 - The parameters are still technically **namespaced** but in a different way: they are organized under the fully-qualified node name, not directly under the namespace prefix.
 - param list /rear_camera/camera_demo
 - □ ros2 param get /rear_camera/camera_demo camera_name

Start the same node two more times with different namespaces.

- ros2 run remapping_demo camera_demo --ros-args -r __ns:=/right_camera
- ros2 run remapping_demo camera_demo --ros-args -r __ns:=/left_camera

Name Remapping > Namespaces > Launch File

Example: Launch File =

```
right_camera_node = Node(
       package='remapping_demo',
       executable='camera_demo',
       namespace='right_camera',
       output='screen',
       emulate_tty=True
left camera node = Node(
   package='remapping demo',
   executable='camera_demo',
   namespace='left_camera',
   output='screen',
   emulate tty=True
rear camera node = Node(
   package='remapping_demo',
   executable='camera_demo',
   namespace='rear_camera',
   output='screen',
   emulate ttv=True
```

Name Remapping ▶ Namespaces ▶ Launch File

- Comparison Demonstration
 - ros2 launch remapping_demo demol.launch.py
 - ros2 node list
 - rqt_graph

Name Remapping Node Remapping



Node remapping allows you to change the name of a node at runtime without modifying the code. This is crucial when running multiple instances of the same node type in a system.

Each node in a ROS 2 system must have a unique name.

Name Remapping ▶ Node Remapping ▶ CLI



Node remapping via command line:

- pros2 run remapping_demo camera_demo --ros-args -r __node:=rear_camera_demo
 - The __node argument is a special remapping target for the node name.
 - The node that would normally be named n camera_demo is now n rear_camera_demo
 - All parameters will be associated with the new node name.
 - ROS commands must refer to the remapped name:
 □ ros2 node info /rear_camera_demo

≔ToDo _____

Remap the two other nodes.

Name Remapping Node Remapping Launch File

Example: Launch File =

```
right_camera_node = Node(
   package='remapping_demo',
   executable='camera_demo',
   name='right_camera',
   output='screen'.
   emulate ttv=True
left camera node = Node(
   package='remapping_demo',
   executable='camera_demo',
   name='left_camera',
   output='screen',
   emulate tty=True
rear camera node = Node(
   package='remapping_demo',
   executable='camera_demo',
   name='rear_camera',
   output='screen',
   emulate ttv=True
```

Name Remapping ▶ Node Remapping ▶ Launch File

- Comparison Demonstration
 - ros2 launch remapping_demo demo2.launch.py
 - ros2 node list
 - rqt_graph

Name Remapping > Topic Remapping

Topic Remapping

Topic remapping allows you to change the names of topics that nodes publish or subscribe to without modifying the node code.

- - Creating logical topic hierarchies, e.g., t sensors/rear_camera/image_color
 - Connecting nodes with incompatible topic name expectations.
 - Creating topic names that better describe the data they carry.

Name Remapping ▶ Topic Remapping ▶ CLI

```
🗱 Demonstration 🛚
```

ros2 run remapping_demo camera_demo --ros-args -r __node:=rear_camera_demo \
-r /camera/image_color:=/rear_camera/image_color

- The format is -r original_topic:=new_topic
- The topic that would normally be t /camera/image_color is now
 - t /rear_camera/image_color
- Subscribers must use the remapped topic name to receive the data.
- Check active topics with: pros2 topic list
- Remap the two other nodes and topics.

Name Remapping ▶ Topic Remapping ▶ Launch File

🚣 Example: Launch File ______

```
right_camera_node = Node(
   package="remapping_demo",
   executable="camera_demo",
   name="right_camera",
   remappings=[
        ("/camera/image_color", "/right/image_color")
   ],
   output="screen",
   emulate_tty=True,
)
```

Comparison Demonstration

- ros2 launch remapping_demo demo3.launch.py
- pros2 node list
 - ros2 topic list
- 🔲 😐 rqt_graph

Name Remapping > Parameter Remapping



Parameter remapping is the action of changing the value at runtime. This was covered in the previous lecture.

Name Remapping > Combining Remapping Approaches

Combining Remapping Approaches

You can combine all remapping types in a single command.

\$ Demonstration _____

```
ros2 run remapping_demo camera_demo --ros-args \
    -r __ns:=/vehicle \
    -r __node:=right_demo \
    -r camera/image_color:=right/image_color \
    -p camera_name:=right_camera \
    -p camera_rate:=40 \
    -p camera_frame:=right_camera_frame
```

Name Remapping Dombining Remapping Approaches

Example _______

```
right camera node = Node(
    package="remapping demo",
    executable="camera demo",
    namespace='vehicle',
    name="right_camera",
    remappings=[
        ("camera/image_color", "right/image_color"),
    parameters=[{
    'camera name': 'right_camera',
    'camera_rate': right_camera_rate,
    'camera frame': right camera frame
    output="screen",
    emulate_tty=True,
```

Comparison Demonstration

- □ ros2 launch remapping_demo demo5.launch.py
- 😐 ros2 node list
- 🛮 😐 ros2 topic list
 - rqt_graph

Lifecycle Nodes

ROS2 lifecycle nodes provide managed state transitions for controlled startup, shutdown, and runtime management of nodes. They follow a standardized state machine pattern for:

- Controlled initialization sequences.
- Graceful shutdown procedures.
- Runtime activation/deactivation.
- Error handling and recovery.

≡ Key Benefits **■**

- **Deterministic Startup**: Control node initialization order.
- Resource Management: Proper cleanup of resources.
- Runtime Control: Activate/deactivate without restarting.
- **System Coordination**: Synchronize multiple nodes.

= Primary States

- Unconfigured: Initial state, minimal resources.
- Inactive: Configured but not processing.
- Active: Fully operational and processing.
- Finalized: Cleanly shut down.

Lifecycle Nodes ▶ State Machine

- **■** State Transitions
 - Configure: Unconfigured → Inactive
 - Activate: Inactive → Active
 - **Deactivate**: Active → Inactive
 - Cleanup: Inactive → Unconfigured
 - **Shutdown**: Any state \rightarrow Finalized
- Resources _____
 - Managed Nodes

Lifecycle Nodes > Lifecycle Demo

Create a "Sensor Publisher" Lifecycle Node

ξ≡

- 1. Implement a lifecycle node that publishes sensor data.
- 2. Override transition callbacks (configure, activate, deactivate, cleanup).
- 3. Test manual state transitions using ROS2 services.
- 4. Demonstrate controlled startup and shutdown.

Lifecycle Nodes ▶ Lifecycle Demo ▶ Basic Lifecycle Node

≡ Include Headers _____

```
#include "rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp"
#include "rclcpp_lifecycle/lifecycle_node.hpp"
#include "std_msgs/msg/string.hpp"
```

Class Declaration ______

```
class SensorPublisher : public rclcpp_lifecycle::LifecycleNode
{
public:
    SensorPublisher() : LifecycleNode("sensor_publisher")
    {
        RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "Sensor Publisher created");
    }
}
```

Lifecycle Nodes ▶ Lifecycle Demo ▶ Configure Callback

Configure Transition ____

Lifecycle Nodes ▶ Lifecycle Demo ▶ Activate Callback

Activate Transition

```
rclcpp_lifecycle::node_interfaces::LifecycleNodeInterface::CallbackReturn
on_activate(const rclcpp_lifecycle::State& previous_state) override
 RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "Activating from: %s",
             previous state.label().c str());
 publisher ->on activate();
 timer = create wall timer(std::chrono::seconds(1), [this]() {
   auto msg = std_msgs::msg::String();
   msg.data = "Sensor reading: " + std::to string(counter ++);
   publisher ->publish(msg);
   RCLCPP INFO(get logger(), "Published: %s", msg.data.c str());
 return rclcpp_lifecycle::node_interfaces::LifecycleNodeInterface::
        CallbackReturn::SUCCESS:
```

Lifecycle Nodes ▶ Lifecycle Demo ▶ Deactivate Callback

■ Deactivate Transition _____

Lifecycle Nodes ▶ Lifecycle Demo ▶ Cleanup Callback

≡ Cleanup Transition

Lifecycle Nodes ► Lifecycle Demo ► Member Variables and Main

■ Private Members

```
private:
   rclcpp_lifecycle::LifecyclePublisher<std_msgs::msg::String>::SharedPtr
    publisher_;
   rclcpp::TimerBase::SharedPtr timer_;
   int counter_ = 0;
};
```

■ Main Function **■**

```
int main(int argc, char** argv)
{
  rclcpp::init(argc, argv);

auto node = std::make_shared<SensorPublisher>();
  rclcpp::spin(node->get_node_base_interface());

  rclcpp::shutdown();
  return 0;
}
```

Lifecycle Nodes Testing Lifecycle Nodes

```
□ colcon build --packages-up-to lifecycle_demo
□ source install/setup.bash
□ ros2 run lifecycle_demo sensor_publisher
□ ros2 lifecycle -h
```

■ Manual State Transitions _____

- ros2 lifecycle set /sensor_publisher configure
- ros2 lifecycle set /sensor_publisher activate
- ros2 topic echo /sensor_data
- pros2 lifecycle set /sensor_publisher deactivate
- ros2 lifecycle set /sensor_publisher cleanup

Quality of Service

ROS2 Quality of Service (QoS) policies define how data flows between publishers and subscribers, providing fine-grained control over communication reliability, performance, and resource usage.

- Network reliability and fault tolerance.
- Real-time performance guarantees.
- Resource management and optimization.
- Compatibility with existing systems.

■ Key QoS Policies

- Reliability: Best-effort vs reliable delivery.
- **Durability**: Transient vs volatile data storage.
- **History**: Keep last N messages vs all messages.
- Lifespan: How long messages remain valid.

Common Use Cases _____

- Sensor Data: High-frequency, best-effort streaming
- Commands: Reliable delivery with acknowledgment
- Configuration: Persistent, reliable parameters.
- Diagnostics: Periodic status with history

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Profiles

■ Built-in QoS Profiles ———

- **Default**: Reliable, volatile, keep last 10
- Sensor Data: Best-effort, volatile, keep last 5
- Services: Reliable, volatile, keep last 10
- Parameters: Reliable, transient local, keep last 1000
- System Default: Platform-specific defaults

■ QoS Compatibility

Publishers and subscribers must have **compatible** QoS settings to communicate:

- Reliability: Reliable publisher can send to best-effort subscriber.
- Durability: Transient publisher can send to volatile subscriber.
- History: Flexible matching based on depth.



QoS Settings

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Demo

Create a "Sensor Monitor" with Different QoS

ξ≡

- 1. Create a publisher with sensor data QoS profile.
- 2. Implement subscribers with different QoS settings.
- 3. Compare reliable vs best-effort delivery.
- 4. Test history depth and durability settings.

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Demo ▶ QoS Header

include/qos_demo/sensor_monitor.hpp

```
class SensorMonitor : public rclcpp::Node
 SensorMonitor();
 void timer_callback();
 void reliable callback(const sensor msgs::msg::Temperature::SharedPtr msg);
 void best_effort_callback(const sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature::SharedPtr msg);
```

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Demo ▶ Publisher with Sensor QoS

≡ Sensor Data Publisher **■**

```
SensorMonitor::SensorMonitor(): Node("sensor_monitor")
 sensor_publisher_ = create_publisher<sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature>(
   "temperature",
   rclcpp::SensorDataQoS() // Best-effort, volatile, keep last 5
 timer = create wall timer(
   std::chrono::milliseconds(100),
   std::bind(&SensorMonitor::timer_callback, this)
 );
 RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "Sensor monitor started with SensorDataQoS");
```

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Demo ▶ Subscribers with Different QoS

≡ Reliable Subscriber **_____**

```
// Reliable subscriber - will miss some messages from best-effort publisher
auto reliable_qos = rclcpp::QoS(10)
    .reliability(rclcpp::ReliabilityPolicy::Reliable)
    .durability(rclcpp::DurabilityPolicy::Volatile);

reliable_subscriber_ = create_subscription<sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature>(
    "temperature", reliable_qos,
    std::bind(&SensorMonitor::reliable_callback, this, std::placeholders::_1)
);
```

Best-Effort Subscriber =

```
// Best-effort subscriber - compatible with sensor data QoS
best_effort_subscriber_ = create_subscription<sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature>(
    "temperature", rclcpp::SensorDataQoS(),
    std::bind(&SensorMonitor::best_effort_callback, this, std::placeholders::_1)
);
```

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Demo ▶ Custom QoS Configuration

≡ Custom QoS Profile

Temperature Publishing ______

```
void SensorMonitor::timer_callback()
  auto msg = sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature();
 msg.header.stamp = now():
 msg.header.frame_id = "sensor frame";
  static double base_temp = 25.0;
  base temp += (std::rand() % 100 - 50) * 0.01: // \pm 0.5^{\circ}C noise
 msg.temperature = base_temp;
 msg.variance = 0.1;
  sensor publisher ->publish(msg);
  static int count = 0;
 if (++count % 10 = 0) {
    RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "Published temperature: %.2f°C",
                msg.temperature);
```

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ QoS Demo ▶ Callback Implementations

Subscriber Callbacks _____

```
void SensorMonitor::reliable callback(
 const sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature::SharedPtr msg){
 static int reliable count = 0:
 reliable count++:
 if (reliable count % 20 = 0) {
   RCLCPP_WARN(get_logger(),
                "Reliable subscriber (incompatible): received %d messages",
                reliable count):
void SensorMonitor::best effort callback(
 const sensor_msgs::msg::Temperature::SharedPtr msg){
 static int best effort count = 0;
 best effort count++;
 if (best effort count % 20 = 0) {
   RCLCPP INFO(get logger(),
                "Best-effort subscriber: received %d messages",
               best effort count);
```

Quality of Service (QoS) ▶ Testing QoS

```
□ colcon build --packages-select qos_demo
□ source install/setup.bash
□ ros2 run qos_demo sensor_monitor
□ ros2 topic info /temperature --verbose
```

- **■** QoS Inspection Commands
 - ros2 topic info /temperature --verbose
 - ros2 node info /sensor_monitor
 - ros2 topic echo /temperature --qos-reliability best_effort
 - pros2 topic hz /temperature

Quality of Service (QoS) QoS Troubleshooting

- Common QoS Issues _____
 - No Connection: Incompatible reliability policies
 - Missing Messages: History depth too small
 - High Latency: Reliable delivery with network issues
 - Memory Usage: Large history depth with transient durability

Debugging Commands =

```
# Check QoS compatibility
ros2 topic info /topic_name --verbose

# Monitor connection status
ros2 node info /node_name

# Test different QoS settings
ros2 topic echo /topic_name --qos-reliability reliable
ros2 topic echo /topic_name --qos-history keep_all
```

Thank you for the semester!!