

Proposal

Master of Science

Implementation of an enterprise service bus (ESB) with OpenShift und Camel

by

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1. Statement of the problem

Large enterprises work with several independent applications and systems which have the need to interexchange data. The data is represented in several formats and versions, which increases the complexity of the communication between the applications and systems. Another challenges are the configuration management and the maintenance of the integrations of the applications and systems to each other, which affects the whole development life cycle and release management.

The concepts of DevOps, PaaS, IaaS and microservice architecture differ to the classic development life cycle, release management and a server infrastructure where DevOps brings development and IT operations together and the classic server infrastructure will be replaced by platform as a service (PaaS) or infrastructure as a service (IaaS) or more likely both.

An enterprise service bus (ESB) is an enterprise pattern which in a large enterprise is often used to connect applications and systems together. There are several frameworks out there such as JBoss Fuse ¹, which is based on a jboss application server, which helps to design implement and run an ESB. Openshift is a open source cloud system where Gepardec thinks could be used to realize an ESB or at least several aspect of it. The idea is to split a monolithic ESB application into microservices and host them in an openshift cloud, where openshift provides features for monitoring, deploying, scaling and securing microservices.

The following questions shall be answered in the master thesis:

- 1. How can components, internal and external microservices be integrated in an openshift environment with as little configuration as possible?
- 2. How can different versions and stages of microservices be managed in an openshift environment?
- 3. How to secure microservices hosted in an openshift environment?

Along with using an cloud environment such as openshift changes will have to be made in the development life cycle, release management and interaction between the departments and service providers, because the classic approaches will not apply anymore when microservices are hosted in an cloud environment such as openshift.

https://developers.redhat.com/products/fuse/overview/

State of the art

2. State of the art

In my opinion today there are two established architectures for software. On the one hand there is the monolithic architecture, where the whole software is managed and organized in a single source repository, with one single complex build and deployment, and on the other hand there is the very popular micro service architecture, where the software components are organized, build, test and deployed independently from each other and therefore can be managed better.

The upcoming of cloud solutions such as Openshift have become very popular these days as they simplify life cycle of an infrastructure the services run on, because cloud solutions such as Openshift abstract us from the actual infrastructure, what is a main factor when using Platform as a Service (PaaS) solutions. Features such as load balancing, triggered deployments, isolated application processes, integrated security and templates allow developers to define an infrastructure by one or more templates which when instantiated represent our infrastructure hosted in Openshift.

The good integration of Continuous Integration/Deployment via Jenkins build server in Openshift allows to use Openshift as the platform to build, test and host services, where either a Jenkins Pipeline can create, trigger and test an Openshift build and/or deployment, or Openshift gets triggered by an hook and starts an build and/or deployment itself.

This redefines the infrastructure developers are used to build, test and host their services on. There is not only an application server anymore, there is also build and deploy mechanisms, a load balancer, integrated security and monitoring. In a common development, release and application life cycle, there is the build and deploy separated from the service load balancing, which is separated from the monitoring. There is a very good integration of several aspects of an development, release and application life cycle in Openshift, where the whole build, deploy and how to host the services in the infrastructure can be defined via templates and is therefore reproducible.

Openshift should allow the integration of an ESB application, where Openshift takes part of several aspects of the development, release and application life cycle and the ESB application will have to consider the micro service architecture approach in its software architecture to be able to be well integrated in Openshift.

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3. Deduction

It will be analyzed how an ESB application can be designed with a micro service architecture and how this ESB application can be integrated in Openshift, where maybe some aspects of an ESB are implemented with Openshift mechanisms. The development and release life cycle can be fully integrated in Openshift where a single build server environment will become obsolete, but nevertheless Jenkins is fully integrated in Openshift an can be used to configure an Openshift cluster.

This strong integration of the development and release life cycle in Openshift will require a changes in the management of the source code, the build definitions, tests and the release management as well. The separation of an ESB application into isolated services with their own development and release life cycle will bring the possibility of partial releases, but will also increase the complexity when it comes to the interaction between the services.

While the management of an ESB application, which is separated into isolated services, increases in complexity, the complexity of the build, release and necessary infrastructure of the service will become less complex, because of the available features in cloud solutions such as Openshift. Instead of spending time with a hard to maintain and hard to evolve infrastructure more time can be spent for management and organization of the development and release life cycle which becomes more important and complex when there are several independent services involved.

Another major aspect is security and how secrets are accessed, where Openshift contains a secret management where secrets of different types such as *ssh-auth*, *basic-auth or string-data* can be managed and injected into the Docker containers in several ways to provide the secret for a process. With Openshift the management of the security can be completely separated from the application development and referenced secrets can be represented by placeholders (e.g. environment variables) which get injected by Openshift during container start. During development time, no developer needs access to any secret anymore.

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A. Structuring

TODO: Your master thesis structuring goes here

B. Planing

TODO: Plan the master thesis

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C. Literature index

Überblick über bisher ermittelten Literaturquellen (Alphabetisch nach den Namen der Autoren sortiert)

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