



Ontology-Based CloudEvents
for Semantically Interoperable Systems

Ontology-Based CloudEvents for Semantic Interoperability

In the emerging digital world, billions of people, systems, and devices will interact and **react in real-time**, requiring new and disruptive approaches to distributed data/state management, interoperability, and rule-based event processing.

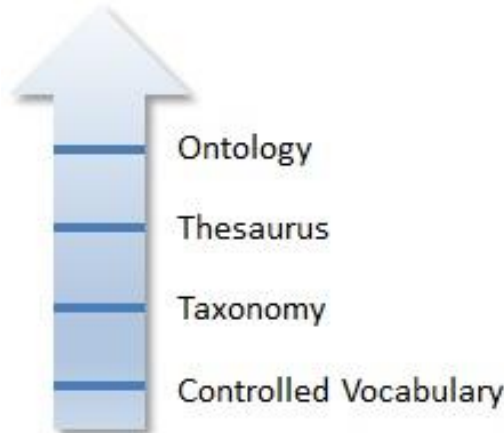
A key challenge to digital transformation is the ability to enable **end-to-end interoperability** across different industries, each having its own environments and interdependent use cases. A McKinsey report estimates that achieving interoperability in **IoT** would unlock an **additional 40 percent value** in the total available market.

An **Ontology-Based CloudEvent format** can provide a degree of abstraction necessary for highly distributed, interoperable digital systems. This common event format can break down data silos, eliminate complex system integrations, and unify information spaces – in a way that is **simple, scalable, and sustainable**.

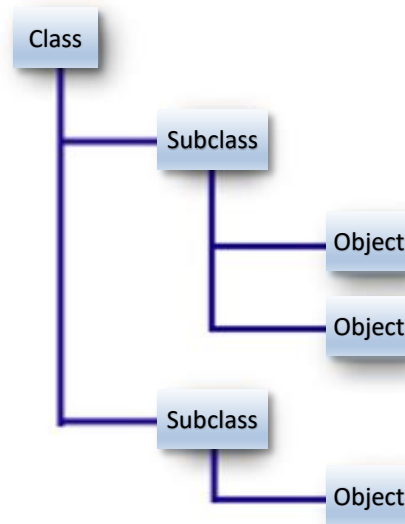
Common Ontology

- An **ontology** can provide a standardized classification of domain concepts through a collection of classes.
- Each **class** (concept) can represent a category of like **objects** (things) which can be uniquely identified.
- A class is defined to reflect the **attributes**, restrictions, and **relationships** unique to its objects (instances).

Semantic Levels

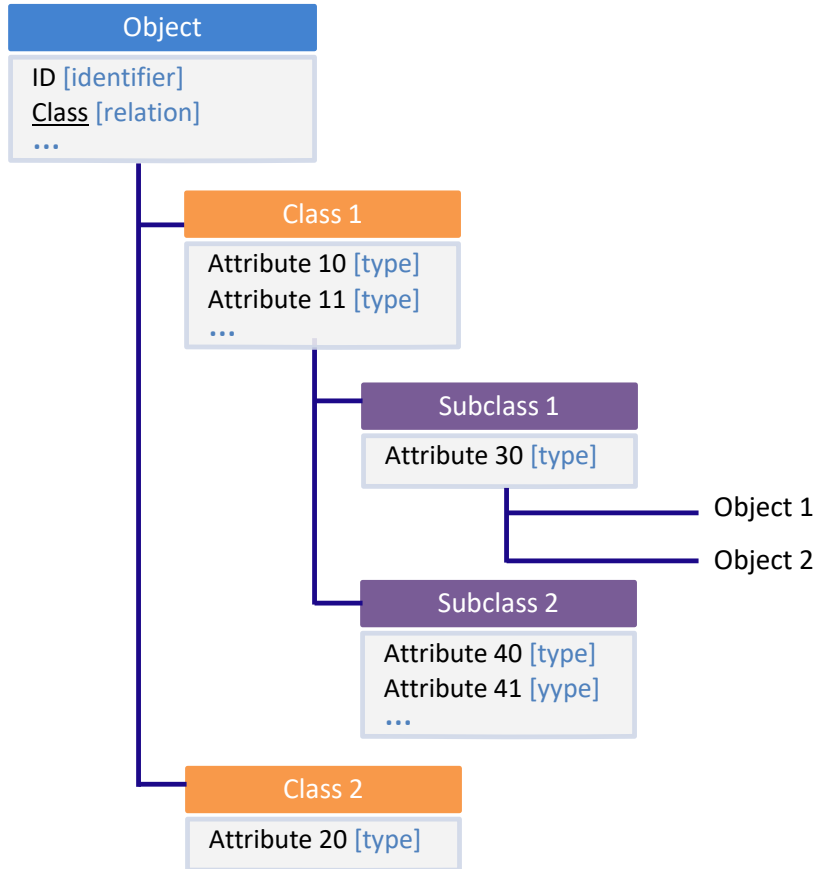


Hierarchical Classes



- A **class** (such as Sensor or Actuator) can be a subclass (type) of another class (Device).
- All **subclasses** inherit the attributes of its class.
- An **attribute** is attached at the most general class applicable to all of its objects, including subclasses.
- Similar to, but **metadata abstraction** from object-oriented programming

Common Ontology | Root, Top-Level, and Subclass Attributes



Attribute Inheritance

<i>Object</i>		<i>Class 1</i>		<i>Subclass 1</i>
Identifier	Class	Attribute 10	Attribute 11	Attribute 30
Value	Value	Value	Value	Value
Value	Value	Value	Value	Value

State

Ontology-Coupled Common Event Format

Event-defined architecture (EDA) needs a consistent view of contextual events based on a clearly defined, standardized, and tightly-coupled ontology.

A **common event format** can provide a "lowest common denominator" for distribution of object state changes, where an object represents an instance of an ontology class (e.g. Message, Location, Floor).

EDA implementations have typically defined a custom event schema for each ontology class, with elements within the custom event schema reflecting multiple attributes of the ontology class. Each event within a **common event format** represents a state change of a single attribute, which enables one event format to be utilized across any ontology class.

	Interval-based	Event-based	Timestamp	Attribute	Class	Object	Value	Unit
At	09:00 on 10/25	the	Air Temperature	of	Floor	# 4	is	75 °F
At	10:00 on 10/25	the	Air Temperature	of	Floor	# 4	is	75 °F
At	10:43 on 10/25	the	Air Temperature	of	Floor	# 4	is	76 °F

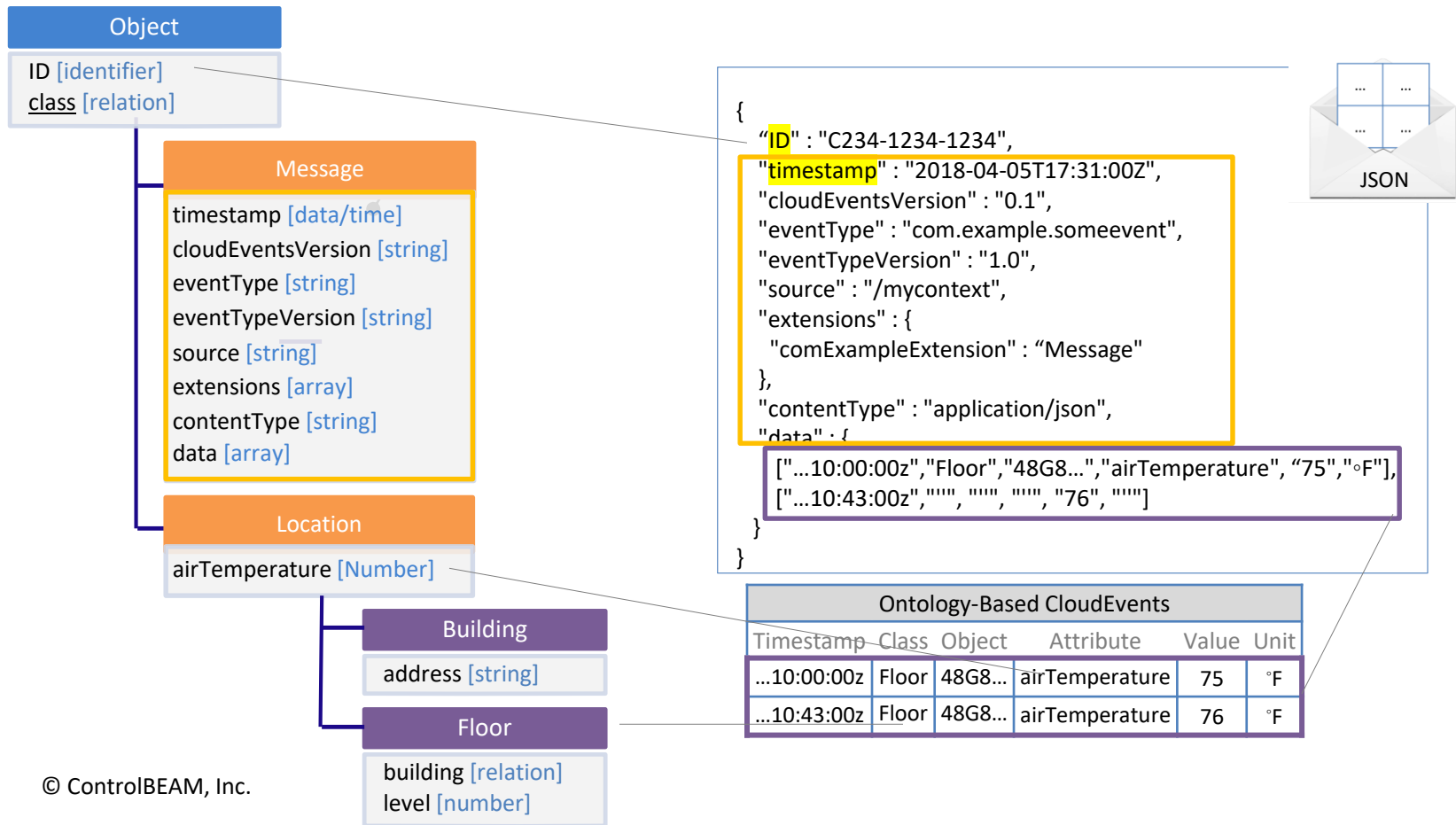
human-readable

machine-readable

...09:00:00z	airTemperature	Floor	48G8...	75	°F
...10:00:00z	airTemperature	Floor	48G8...	75	°F
...10:43:00z	airTemperature	Floor	48G8...	76	°F

ontology-based metadata identifiers

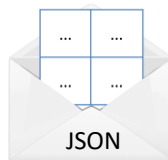
Ontology-Based Message object within CloudEvents



Correlations within Historic Ontology-Based CloudEvents

```

{
  "ID": "C234-1234-1234",
  "timestamp": "2018-04-05T17:31:00Z",
  "cloudEventsVersion": "0.1",
  "eventType": "com.example.someevent",
  "eventTypeVersion": "1.0",
  "source": "/mycontext",
  "extensions": {
    "comExampleExtension": "Message"
  },
  "contentType": "application/json",
  "data": {
    ["...10:00:00z", "Floor", "48G8...", "airTemperature", "75", "°F"],
    ["...10:43:00z", "", "", "", "76", ""] ]
  }
}
    
```



Historic Ontology-Based CloudEvents						Extensions
Timestamp	Class	Object	Attribute	Value	Unit	Message
...17:31:00z	Message	C234...	cloudEventsVersion	0.1		
...17:31:00z	Message	C234...	eventType	com.example...		
...17:31:00z	Message	C234...	eventTypeVersion	1.0		
...17:31:00z	Message	C234...	source	/mycontext		
...17:31:00z	Message	C234...	contentType	.../json		
...10:00:00z	Floor	48G8...	airTemperature	75	°F	C234...
...10:43:00z	Floor	48G8...	airTemperature	76	°F	C234...
...11:39:00z	Floor	48G8...	building	A025...		8603...
...11:39:00z	Floor	48G8...	level	4		8603...
...23:41:00z	Building	A025...	address	3100 Main St.		D820...

Correlations

From a Message at 17:31 on 08/03/18:

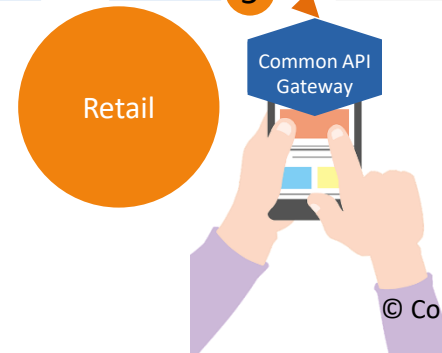
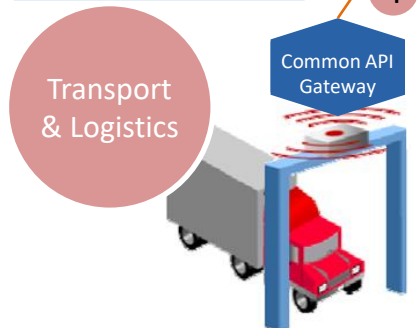
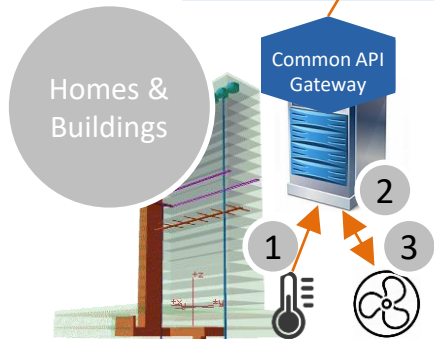
At 10:43 on 08/03/18, the Air Temperature of Floor Level 4 of Building Address 3100 Main St. is 76 °F.

Exchanging CloudEvents within Device & Business Systems



Ontology-Based CloudEvents are a **lowest common denominator** spanning use cases and industries

1	At	10:03 on 10/25	the	Air Temperature	of	Floor #	4	is	76	°F
2	At	10:03 on 10/25	the	Speed	of	Fan #	31	is	30	RPM
3	At	10:21 on 10/25	the	Status	of	Fan #	31	is	Failed	
4	At	12:07 on 10/25	the	Location	of	Inventory #	18234...	is	3100...	
5	At	12:07 on 10/25	the	Status	of	Order #	1032	is	Shipped	

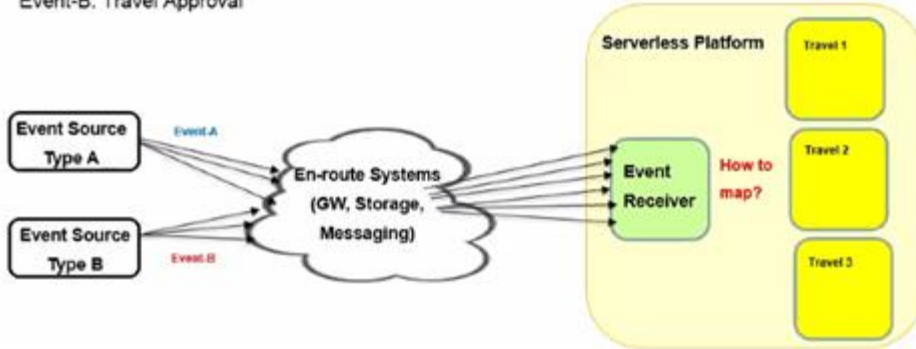


Use Case | Employee Travel Application

Ontology-Based CloudEvents					
Timestamp	Class	Object	Attribute	Value	...
...12:30:00z	Application	627D...	status	approved	



Event-A: Travel Application
Event-B: Travel Approval



Historic Ontology-Based CloudEvents					
...	Class	Object	Attribute	Value	...
	Application	627D...	status	approved	
	Application	E841...	number	1	
	Application	E841...	Employee	B830...	
	Application	E841...	status	requested	
	Application	627D...	Employee	82H7...	
	Application	627D...	Number	2	
	Application	627D...	status	requested	
	Employee	82H7...	name	John Smith	

Correlations

At 12:30 on 08/03/18, the Status of Application Number 2 of Employee Name John Smith is Approved

Source: Huawei