

"A distributed system is one in which the failure of a computer you didn't even know existed can render your own computer unusable."

(Leslie Lamport)



# **OVERVIEW**

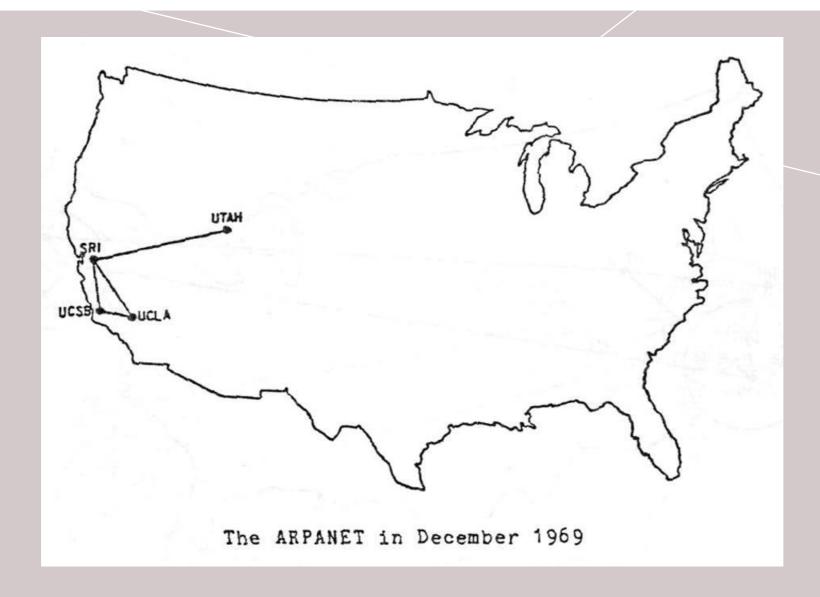
- Distributed Systems
- TCP/IP, HTTP, SOAP, REST/JSON
- Networking with .NET/C#
  - WCF Windows Communication Foundation
  - .NET Core
- Example Project
- Microservices



# DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS

- Collection of multiple autonomous systems
- Collaboration in order to provide services or solve a problem
- Communication with messages





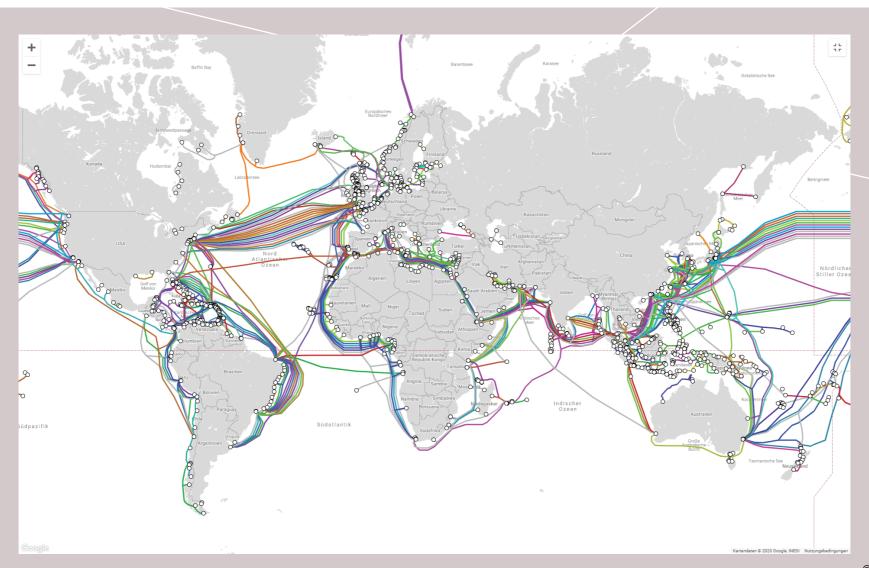








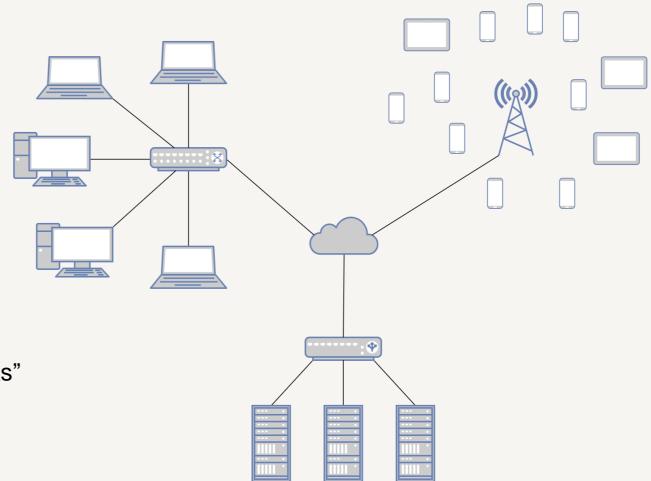






# **TOPOLOGIES**

- Bus
- Ring
- Star
- Internet: "Network of Networks"





# **PROTOCOLS**

- Protocols define rules how messages are exchanged
- **IP** Internet Protocol
- TCP Transmission Control Protocol
- **HTTP** Hypertext Transfer Protocol



```
Protocol Layering
     higher-level
        TCP
  internet protocol
|communication network|
```



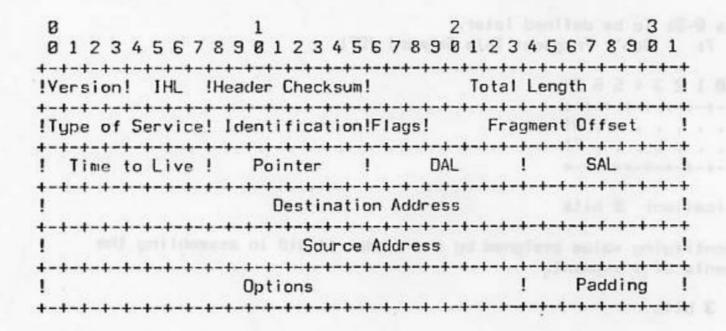
#### IP – INTERNET PROTOCOL

- Basic transmission of data
- Sending and receiving packets of data
- Supports complex network topologies
- Connection of multiple networks with gateways/routers
- Packets can be sent over multiple network nodes ("hops")
- Protocol is independent of the actual physical transmission! (electrical, wireless, optical, carrier pigeon...)
- No reliable transmission! (packets can get lost)



#### 3.3. Internetwork Header Format

A summary of the contents of the internetwork header follows:



Example Internet Packet Header

Various Centrol Filega-



# TCP - TRANSMISSION CONTROL PROTOCOL

- Addressing of applications over ports
  - 80 HTTP
  - 21 FTP
  - •
- Reliable transmission!
  - Segmentation and numbering of packets
  - Received packets are always ACKnowledged
  - When no ACK is received, the sender re-transmits the message



# TCP CONNECTIONS

- Connection establishment: "3-Way-Handshake"
  - 1. Request from client to server (**SYN**chronize)
  - 2. Response from server (SYNchronize ACKnowledgement)
  - 3. Final confirmation from client (**ACK**nowledgement)
- Data Exchange
- Connection termination ("Teardown")



| TCP Header Format   |  |
|---|--|
| 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+ |  |
| Sequence Number   |  |
| +-  |  |
| Acknowledgment Number   |  |
| +-  |  |
| Data    U A P R S F <br>  Offset  Reserved  R C S S Y I  Window  <br>     G K H T N N                                     |  |
| Checksum   Urgent Pointer   |  |
| Checksum   Urgent Pointer   +-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+   |  |
| Options   Padding   |  |
| data  |  |
| +-  |  |
| TCP Header Format   |  |
|   |  |



# DEMO: TCP/IP

Simple communication directly based on TCP



SOME PROTOCOLS BASED ON TCP...

DHCP

VolP

HTTP

DNS

SSH

HTTPS

Telnet



# HTTP – HYPERTEXT TRANSFER PROTOCOL

- Application Layer Protocol (on the very top of the ISO/OSI layer model)
- Originally invented in 1989 by Tim Berners-Lee for transferring web pages ("human to machine communication")
- Nowadays also very widespread for realizing communication between systems ("machine to machine communication")



# HTTP RESOURCES, URI & URL

- HTTP provides access to resources
- A resource can be uniquely identified with a "Uniform Resource Identifier" (URI) (e.g. a GUID, an XML namespace or a web address)
- If an URI provides means of locating the resource, it is called a "Uniform Resource Locator" (URL) (e.g. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/URL">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/URL</a>)



#### HTTP URL

- An HTTP URL consists of:
  - The "Scheme" followed by ":" (e.g. "http:" or "https:")
  - An "Authority" consisting of "//" followed by:
    - An optional user info (e.g. "user1@")
    - A host name (e.g. "wikipedia.org")
    - An optional port (e.g. ":55555")
  - A hierarchical path (e.g. "/wiki/URL")
  - An optional list of URL parameters (e.g. "?id=4&anotherParameter=someText")



# HTTP METHODS

- A URL can be accessed using different methods, the most common ones are:
  - GET read (used when typing in a URL in a browser)
  - POST create a new resource in the hierarchy below the specified URL
  - PUT update (or create) a resource at the specified URL
  - DELETE remove a source at the specified URL



### HTTP - DEALING WITH STATE

- HTTP itself is completely stateless (i.e. doesn't remember any previous communication)
  - Load balancing and caching is made easy
  - Reduced complexity
- When state is needed (e.g. session IDs or shopping carts), it must be included in every request
  - Storing information on the client side with a "Cookie"
  - Required information is included with each request in the header
  - Alternatives to cookies exist (e.g. "device fingerprinting", social media IDs...)
    - but don't really solve the problem of users not being wanted to be tracked



#### HTTP SERVICES

- HTTP can be used to implement machine-readable services
- SOAP Simple Object Access Protocol
  - Remote method calls based on HTTP POST of XML data
  - Provides a variety of additional standards, e.g. for transactions or formally describing services
- REST Representational State Transfer
  - Directly incorporates the HTTP philosophy of accessing resources with methods
  - Typically uses JSON data (other formats are possible, e.g. XML)



# **RUNNING EXAMPLE**

- A simple service providing Create, Read, Update and Delete operations (CRUD)
- A text can be stored in the service which will assign an ID to it and return both text and ID
- The text stored under an ID can be read, updated and deleted



#### SOAP – SIMPLE OBJECT ACCESS PROTOCOL

- SOAP provides remote method calls by posting XML data to a URL
- One URL is typically used for several operations
  - Operation names and arguments are defined within the XML
- WSDL Web Service Description Language
  - Provides a formal, machine-readable description of the service
  - Can be used to automatically generate a proxy for accessing the service



#### SOAP call of method "Create" with object parameter "data" having an attribute "Text":



#### SOAP response, returning the created text and its assigned ID:



#### SOAP call of method "Read" with parameter "id":



# SOAP response:



#### **REST/JSON**

- REST directly incorporates the HTTP philosophy of accessing resources with methods
- The "REST way of thinking" is a bit different to remote method calls
  - Dynamic URLs representing hierarchical resources (instead of one URL for a whole service)
  - HTTP methods specifying access to resources
- Typically based on JSON data (but other formats are possible, e.g. XML)



# **EXAMPLE WITH REST/JSON**

- Create operation:
  - HTTP POST to http://localhost:333/main
  - HTTP body: {"text":"Hello REST!"}
  - Response: { "id": 0, "text": "Hello REST!"}
- Read operation:
  - HTTP GET from <a href="http://localhost:333/main/0">http://localhost:333/main/0</a>
  - Response again: { "id": 0, "text": "Hello REST!"}
  - Note that the ID is not a parameter but becomes part of the URL!







### WCF – WINDOWS COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION

- .NET Framework for realizing distributed systems based on services
  - "Standalone Service" (to be deployed and hosted e.g. on IIS or Azure)
  - "Self-hosted Service" (can be hosted within an arbitrary application)
- "ABC-Principle":
  - Address location of the service
  - Binding mode of communication (e.g. protocol, data format or security)
  - Contract structure of data and definition of operations
- Each can be further specified with so-called "behaviors"



### WCF - CONFIGURATION

- WCF separates a service's implementation from its configuration
- Implementation: programming code realizing data structures, interfaces and service logic
- Configuration: definition of operational aspects (hostname, protocols, security...)
  - XML configuration file
  - Configuration with program code also possible



## WCF - CONTRACTS

- Both WCF services and clients can use contracts to specify the service interface
- Data Contract: specifies the structure of data that is transmitted over the service
- Service Contract: specifies which methods a service provides



#### WCF data contract:

```
[DataContract]
15 references
public class MainData
{
      [DataMember]
      5 references
      public int Id { get; set; }

      [DataMember]
      2 references
      public string Text { get; set; }
}
```



#### WCF service contract:

```
[ServiceContract]
1 reference
public interface IMainService
    [OperationContract]
    1 reference
    Task<MainData> Create(MainData data);
    [OperationContract]
    1 reference
    Task<MainData> Read(int id);
    [OperationContract]
    1 reference
    Task Update(bool createIfNotExisting, MainData data);
    [OperationContract]
    1 reference
    Task Delete(int id, bool errorIfNotExisting);
```



## WCF – DATA CONTRACTS

- Per default, the contract's .NET identifiers are also used within the service
- If the service should use a different naming (e.g. for other naming conventions), a mapping can be specified, for example to use lower-case attributes in JSON:

```
[DataMember(Name = "text")]
6references
public string Text { get; set; }
```



## WCF - REST SERVICE CONTRACTS

• The mapping to REST methods, data formats and URL parameters can be done like this:

```
[OperationContract]
[WebInvoke(
    Method = "DELETE", ResponseFormat = WebMessageFormat.Json,
    BodyStyle = WebMessageBodyStyle.Bare,
    UriTemplate = "/main/{id}?errorIfNotExisting={errorIfNotExisting}"
    )]
2 references
Task Delete(string id, bool errorIfNotExisting);
```



#### WCF - BINDINGS

- WCF provides a variety of different bindings:
  - webHttpBinding REST
  - basicHttpBinding SOAP 1.1 ("lightweight SOAP")
  - wsHttpBinding SOAP 1.2 (SOAP with lots of additional features, e.g. sessions or transactions)
  - wsDualHttpBinding duplex SOAP binding
  - netTcpBinding proprietary binding directly based on TCP
  - Several more, e.g. supporting Windows Pipes or MSMQ (Microsoft Message Queueing)



#### WCF - CONFIGURATION FILES

- Configuration files can specify:
  - Mapping of service contract to its implementation
  - Binding
  - Endpoint, address and port (can also be specified "from outside", e.g. IIS, Azure or VS)
  - Behavior, configuration etc.
- Can get a bit confusing... often there are multiple ways to do the same thing



#### WCF service contract for a standalone SOAP service:



#### WCF service contract for a standalone REST service:

```
<system.serviceModel>
 <behaviors>
   <serviceBehaviors>
     <behavior name="serviceBehavior">
       <serviceMetadata httpGetEnabled="true"/>
       <serviceDebug includeExceptionDetailInFaults="true"/>
     </behavior>
   </serviceBehaviors>
   <endpointBehaviors>
     <behavior name="web">
       <webHttp/>
     </behavior>
   </endpointBehaviors>
 </behaviors>
 <services>
   <service behaviorConfiguration="serviceBehavior" name="RestServiceWCF.MainService">
     <endpoint behaviorConfiguration="web" binding="webHttpBinding" contract="RestServiceWCFContracts.IMainService"/>
   </service>
 </services>
 <serviceHostingEnvironment multipleSiteBindingsEnabled="true"/>
</system.serviceModel>
```



#### WCF service contract for a self-hosted REST service:

```
<system.serviceModel>
    <behaviors>
       <serviceBehaviors>
            <behavior name="">
                <serviceMetadata httpGetEnabled="true" httpsGetEnabled="true" />
                <serviceDebug includeExceptionDetailInFaults="false" />
            </behavior>
       </serviceBehaviors>
    </behaviors>
    <services>
        <service name="SelfHostedRestServiceWCF.MainService">
            <endpoint address="" binding="webHttpBinding" contract="RestServiceWCFContracts.IMainService">
                <identity>
                    <dns value="localhost" />
               </identity>
            </endpoint>
            <host>
                <baseAddresses>
                    <add baseAddress="http://localhost:333/" />
                </baseAddresses>
            </host>
       </service>
    </services>
</system.serviceModel>
```



# **DEMO: WCF SERVICES**

- SOAP
- REST
  - Standalone
  - Self-hosted
  - .NET Core



#### **WCF CLIENTS**

- WCF can also be used to implement service clients
- Multiple approaches possible:
  - "Add Service Reference" works very well with SOAP/WSDL, often not so good with REST
  - ChannelFactory simple way to connect to a service when .NET contracts are available (e.g. within a project that is shared between client and server)
  - "Manually" connecting to a REST service



## **DEMO: WCF CLIENTS**

- RestServiceWCFClient (ChannelFactory)
- Client App
  - Manual connection for REST
  - Automatically generated proxy for SOAP (via "Add Service Reference")



## EXERCISE: IMPLEMENT SOME WCF SERVICES

- Convert your "Fruit Stand" project to actual web services based on technology of your choice (REST, SOAP, standalone, self-hosted...)
  - Search Service
  - Product Service
  - Price Service
- Implement a simple client based on the Console



#### **EXERCISE: FRUIT STAND HINTS**

- To include a .csv file in the service:
  - Copy it into the project
  - Go to file properties, set build action to "Content" and "Copy to output directory if newer"
  - The file can then be accessed like this:
    - string filePath = HostingEnvironment.MapPath("~/Fruit Search.CSV");



## **EXERCISE: FRUIT STAND HINTS**

- Product and Price can be either realized with:
  - HTTP GET and passing a list of Ids e.g. within the URL or as URL parameters
    - The values need to be separated with a special character
    - Service needs to parse the list
  - HTTP POST and passing either a dedicated request object or a list of IDs directly
    - Simple list of values in JSON: [0, 1, 2, 3]



# MICROSERVICES



## **MICROSERVICES**

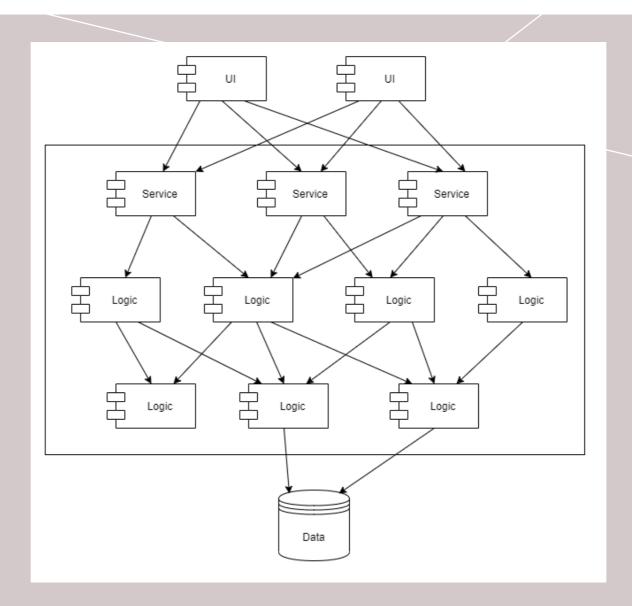
- Architectural style based on "smaller" services (instead of one large monolithic system)
- Loose coupling between services (above all, no shared code!)
- Smaller and more independent teams (~ 5, maximum of 10 people)
- Shorter release cycles
- Works very well with an agile development process



#### SERVICE ORIENTED ARCHITECTURE

- SOA Service-oriented Architecture (late 2000's, early 2010's):
- Separation between business logic (service) and clients (e.g. UI or other services)
- Communication over established Internet techniques (mostly SOAP over HTTP)
- Clear service interfaces over a well-defined API
- Many backend systems turned out to be rather heavyweight:
  - Big projects with lots of code providing multiple API's
  - Often no clear separation between different business logic domains
  - Shared code between different logic domains
  - Hard to change only one thing without possibly changing something else
  - Project consists of a single deployment unit



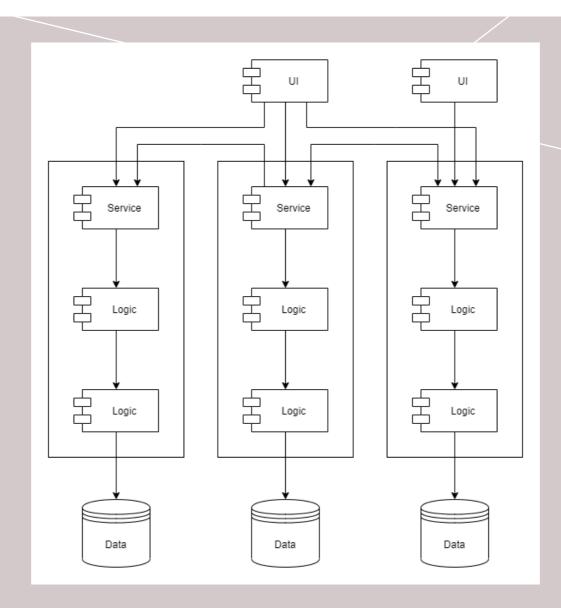




#### **MICROSERVICES**

- Microservices "philosophy" has early origins, became widespread in the mid 2010's
- Smaller services dealing with a defined busines logic domain ("Do one thing and do it well")
- Self-contained services (no shared code with other services)
- Services can be deployed independently from each other
- Communication between services must be "explicit":
  - API calls
  - Integration over the UI
  - Synchronization of data (possible but not always ideal as it introduces dependency)







#### **BOUNDED CONTEXT**

- "Bounded Context" is a term from Domain-Driven Design
- Within a bounded context, an entity has a well-defined meaning
- In another context, the same entity can have a different meaning
  - "User" in context "User Management" will focus on things like "Name", "Address" or "Login"
  - "User" in context "Search" will focus e.g. on "personal preferences" or "search history"



## VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SEPARATION

- Vertical separation ("technical"):
  - User Interface
  - Business Logic
  - Data Storage
  - External Services
- Horizontal separation ("business domain"):
  - Separation by bounded context
  - Typically matches the structure of an organization!



#### **CONWAY'S LAW**

- "Any organization that designs a system will produce a design whose structure is a copy
  of the organization's communication structure." (Melvin Conway)
- Not ideal: separation of teams along technical boundaries (e.g. UI team and Backend team)
  - Typically requires lots of communication about technical aspects
  - Everybody must deal with lots of business logic from different domains
  - · High risk for building a monolith!
- Better: separation based on business domains
  - System architecture with only low coupling
  - Reduced communication between teams
  - Improved communication between development and stakeholders



#### MICROSERVICES - DATA

- In order to achieve a real decoupling, also data storage needs to be decoupled!
- Separation of logic alone will not bring real independence if in the end everything comes together again in one single shared database with many dependencies between logic domains
- Data synchronization between services makes sense in some scenarios (e.g. when migrating existing architectures)
- Event-driven messaging queues can achieve data synchronization without coupling too much



## **MICROSERVICES - UI**

- There are multiple approaches for realizing user interfaces within a microservice architecture
- User interface can be the "glue" between several services
- Approach A: monolithic UI which calls and integrates all the services
  - Communication between services can be handled over the UI
- Approach B: each service also provides its own part of the UI
  - Very high decoupling possible



#### **MICROSERVICES**

- Microservices can lead to:
  - A more manageable amount of code for each team
  - Shorter development times
  - Higher code quality
  - Happy developers ©
- However, they come at a cost:
  - Loose coupling between components creates an overhead in development and communication
  - Integration testing becomes difficult
  - The path from an existing monolithic project to Microservices is typically hard



