Haskell in the Real World

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4. September 2014

Who am I? What are we doing?

- Haskell user since 2013
- Started in academia
- Since 2010: using Haskell in industry
- *factis research*, Freiburg, Germany
  - Software for the healthcare market
  - Server-side software written in Haskell
  - Vast experience with complex mobile applications

Why functional? Why Haskell?

- Controllable side-effects
- Modularity
- Testability
- Short but readable code
- Abstraction made easy
- Reusability
- Expressive type-system: if the program compiles it works ;-)
- "World's finest imperative programming language"
- Great support for parallel and concurrent programming
- "Smart people"

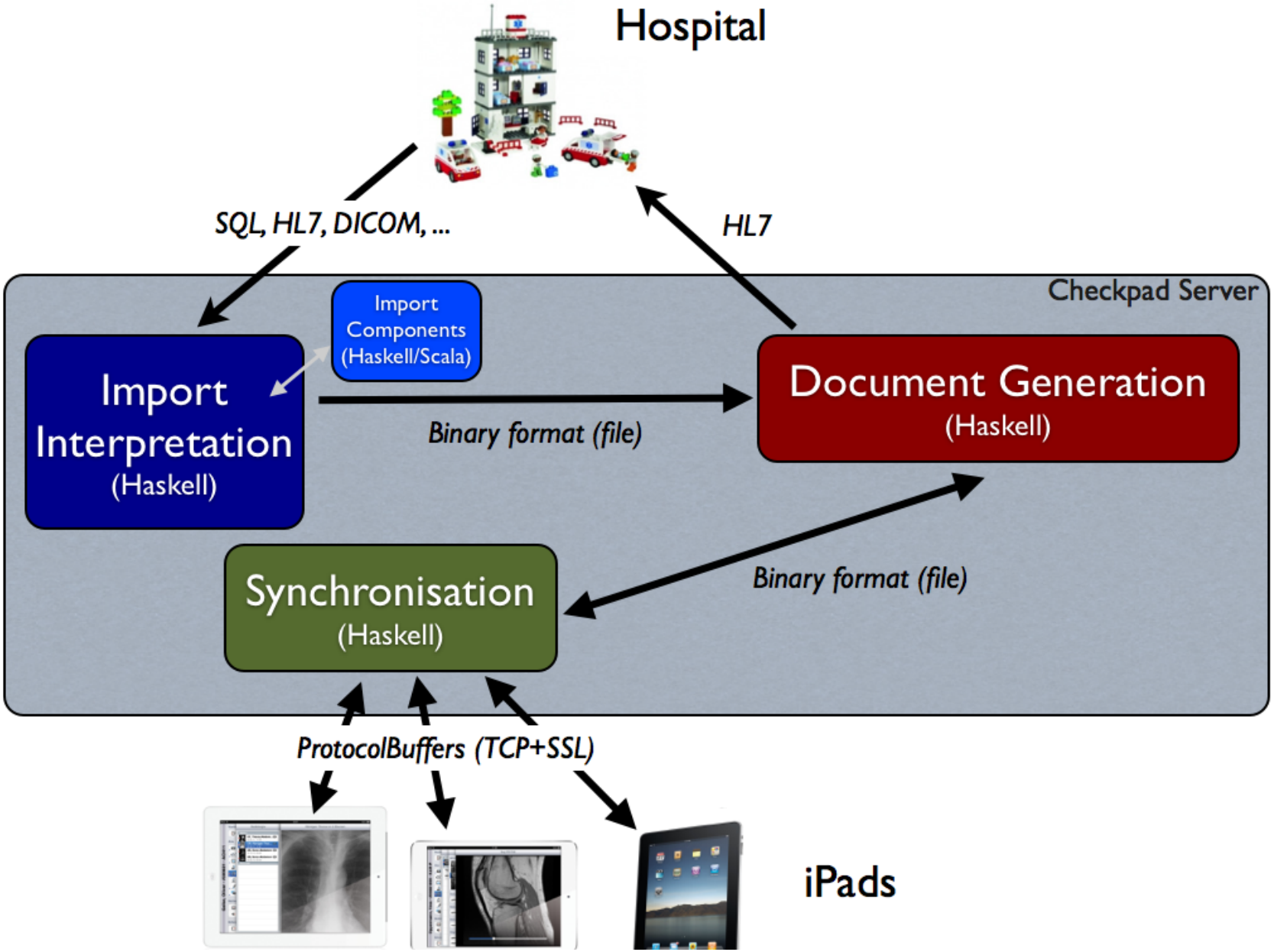
What to expect today?

- Have a look at a commercial software product written in Haskell
- Experience from more than 4 years of commercial software development in Haskell
- Example: Messaging System
  - Serialization and persistence
  - Network programming
  - Concurrent programming
  - Testing
  - Logging
  - Build system

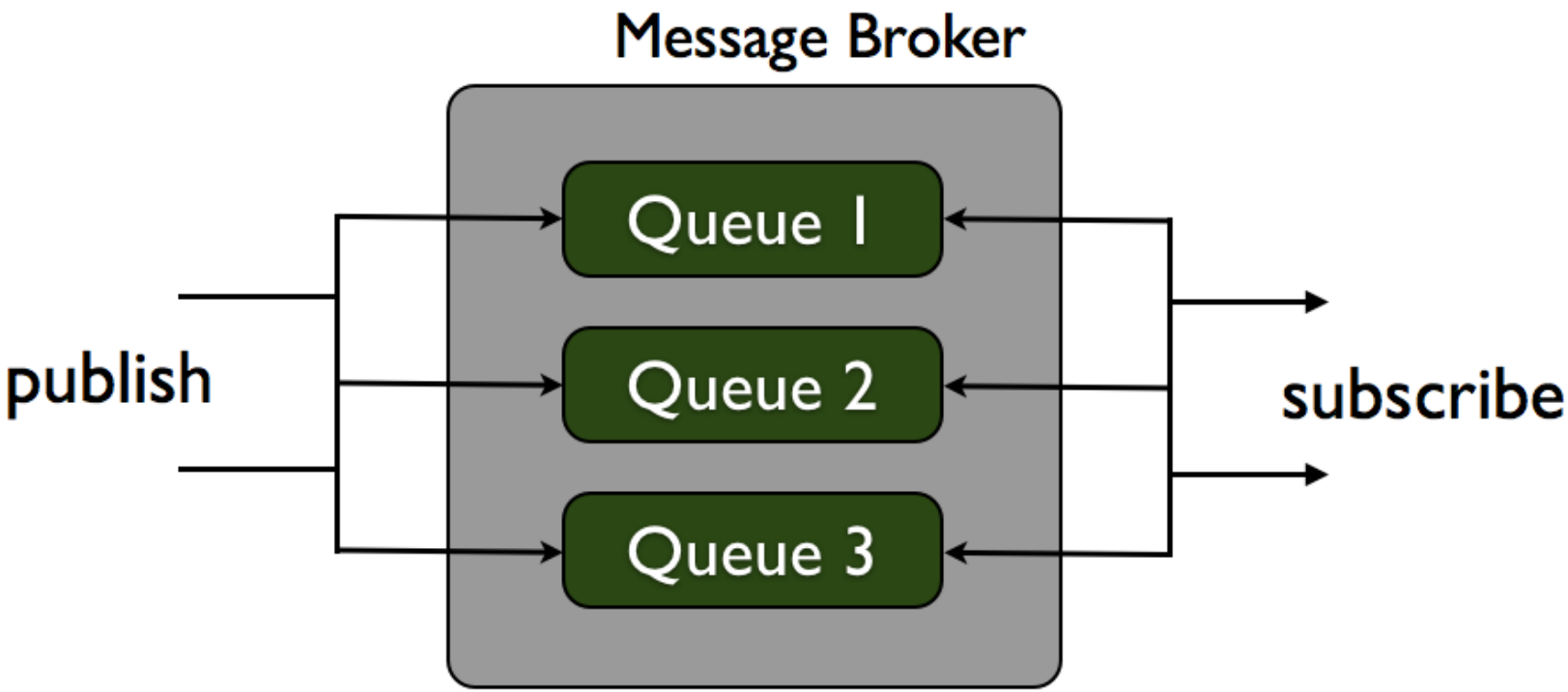
Commercial software development in Haskell

- *Checkpad MED*: electronic health record for the iPad/iPhone
  - Give doctors instant access to all medical data
  - Support collaboration
  - Independent from the Hospital Information System
  - Demo
- Under development since 2010
- Today: several paying customers, several proof-of-concept installations

Architecture



Messaging System



- Code at github: https://github.com/factisresearch/mq-demo

Key data type: MessageBroker

```
data MessageBroker q
    = MessageBroker
      { mb_subscribeToQueue ::
          q -> Subscriber -> STM SubscriberId
      , mb_unsubscribeFromQueue ::
          q -> SubscriberId -> STM ()
      , mb_publishMessage ::
          q -> Message -> IO ()
      , mb_lookupQueue ::
          QueueName -> STM (Maybe q)
      , mb_knownQueues :: STM [QueueName]
      }
```

- Demo
- Code sample:
  `server/src/lib/Mgw/MessageQueue/Types.hs`

Concurrency with STM

- Simple example: bank accounts
  - `transfer acc1 acc2 amount`: transfer `amount` from accout `acc1` to account `acc2`
  - `transfer` should be thread-safe
  - In our example: bank accounts live only in memory
- Problems with threads
  - Deadlocks, Race conditions
  - Break modularity
- The idea behind STM
  - Declare which parts of your code are "atomic"
  - The runtime system ensures atomicity (similar to database transactions)
- Advantages of Haskell:
  - Immutability
  - Lazyness

Bank account transfer with STM

```
transfer :: Account -> Account -> Int -> IO ()
transfer acc1 acc2 amount =
    atomically (do deposit acc2 amount
                   withdraw acc1 amount)
```

- `atomically :: STM a -> IO a`
  - Executes the given action atomically
  - Argument to `atomically` is often called "transaction"
  - `STM a`: type of a transaction with result type `a`
  - `STM` is a monad

Transaction variables

- STM-actions communicate via transaction variables
  - `TVar a`: transaction variable for values of type `a`
- `readTVar :: TVar a -> STM a`
- `writeTVar :: TVar a -> a -> STM ()`

```
type Account = TVar Int

deposit :: Account -> Int -> STM ()
deposit acc amount =
    do bal <- readTVar acc
       let !newBal = bal + amount
       writeTVar acc newBal

withdraw :: Account -> Int -> STM ()
withdraw acc amount = deposit acc (- amount)
```

Blocking with STM

- Concurrent programming often requires waiting for a certain condition
- Example: `limitedWithdraw` should block until there is enough money on the account

```
limitedWithdraw :: Account -> Int -> STM ()
limitedWithdraw acc amount =
    do bal <- readTVar acc
       if amount > 0 && amount > bal
       then retry
       else writeTVar acc (bal - amount)
```

- `retry :: STM a`
  - Aborts the current transation
  - Retries it later (if there's a chance it could succeed)

Combining transactions

- Example: withdraw money from the first account with enough money on it

```
limitedWithdrawMany :: [Account] -> Int -> STM ()
limitedWithdrawMany [] _ = retry
limitedWithdrawMany (acc:rest) amount =
    limitedWithdraw acc amount `orElse`
    limitedWithdrawMany rest amount
```

- `orElse :: STM a -> STM a -> STM a`
  - `orElse t1 t2` first executes `t1`
  - If `t1` is successful, so is `orElse t1 t2`
  - If `t1` aborts (by calling `retry`), then `t2` is executed
  - If `t2` retries, so does `orElse t1 t2`

Summary of the STM API

```
atomically :: STM a -> IO a

retry  :: STM a
orElse :: STM a -> STM a -> STM a

newTVar   :: a -> STM (TVar a)
readTVar  :: TVar a -> STM a
writeTVar :: TVar a -> a -> STM ()
```

Type system prevents disaster (1)

- Cannot re-execute IO actions
- Type system prevents you from executing IO actions inside a STM transaction

```
launchMissiles :: IO ()
launchMissiles = -- ...

bad xv yv =
    atomically (do x <- readTVar xv
                   y <- readTVar yv
                   when (x > y) launchMissiles)
```

```
$ ghc Bad.hs
Bad.hs:12:25:
    Couldn't match type 'IO' with 'STM'
    Expected type: STM ()
      Actual type: IO ()
```

Type system prevents disaster (2)

- Accessing transaction variables outside of transactions easily leads to race conditions
- Type system allows access to transaction variables only from within a transaction

```
doSomethingBad :: TVar Int -> IO ()
doSomethingBad v =
    do x <- readTVar v
       writeTVar v (x + 1)
```

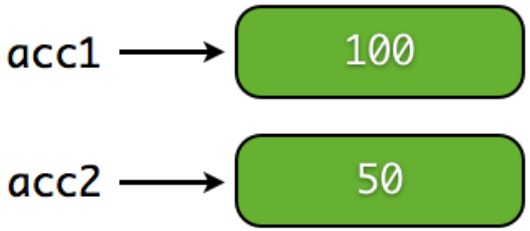
```
Bad2.hs:5:13:
    Couldn't match type 'STM' with 'IO'
    Expected type: IO Int
      Actual type: STM Int

Bad2.hs:6:8:
    Couldn't match type 'STM' with 'IO'
```

Some notes

- Avoid storing thunks in `TVars` or make sure to force the thunks directly after the transaction
  - Otherwise, you get memory leaks
- Use `runTx` instead of `atomically`
  - Emits a warning if a transaction retries very often
  - It's on hackage: `stm-stats` (`runTx` is called `trackSTM` there)

Example: Executing STM



Thread A: `transfer acc1 acc2 50`

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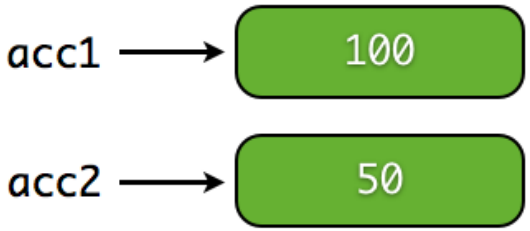

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Log A

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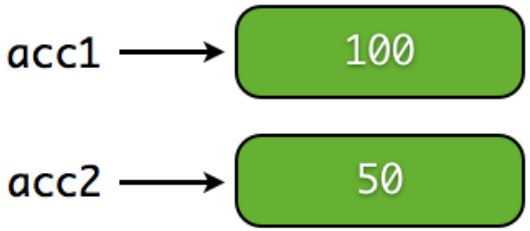

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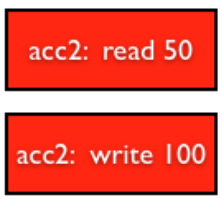

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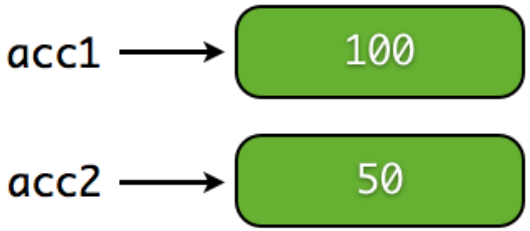

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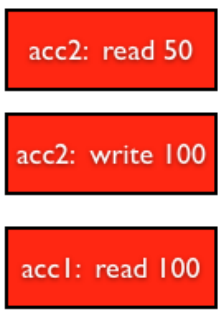

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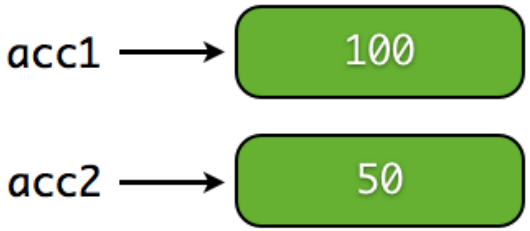

Thread A: transfer acc1 acc2 50

```
atomically (do  bal2 <- readTVar acc2
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Log A

- acc2: read 50
- acc2: write 100
- acc1: read 100
- acc1: write 50

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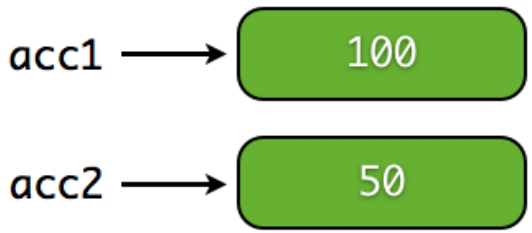

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Thread B: `transfer acc1 acc2 50`

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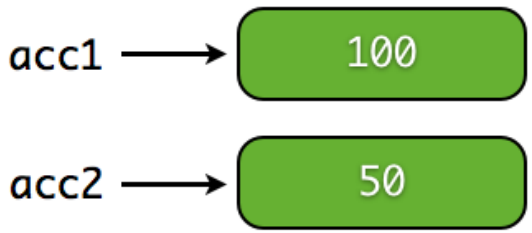

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- acc1: write 50

Log B

- acc2: read 50

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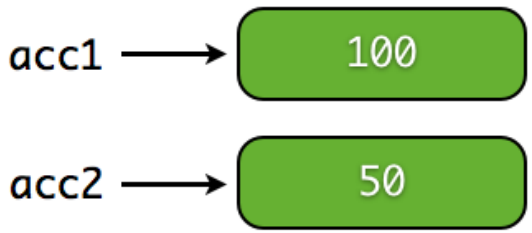

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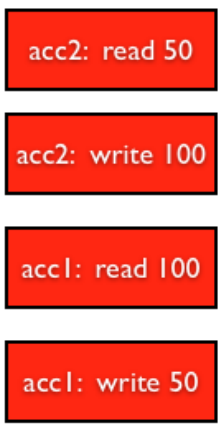
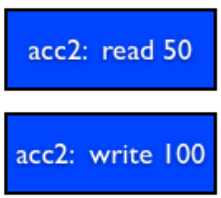


Log B



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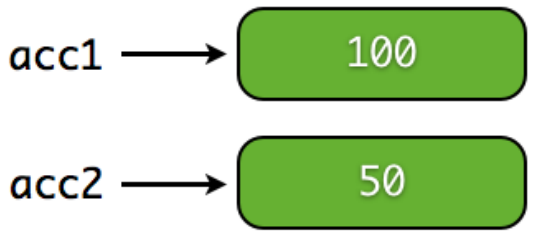

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Log A

- acc2: read 50
- acc2: write 100
- acc1: read 100
- acc1: write 50

Log B

- acc2: read 50
- acc2: write 100
- acc1: read 100

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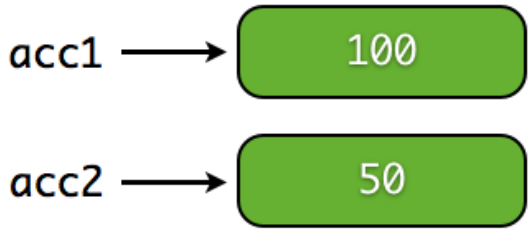

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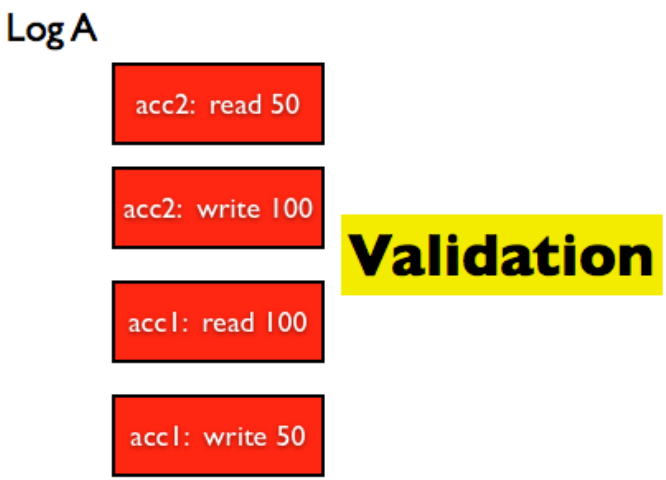

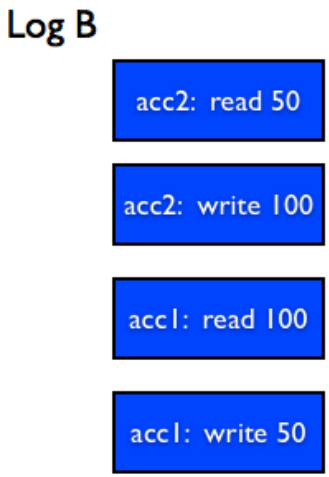

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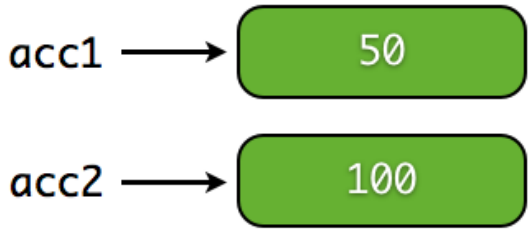

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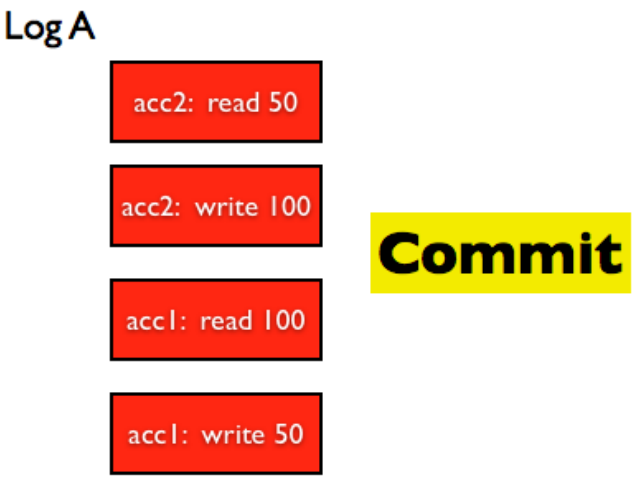

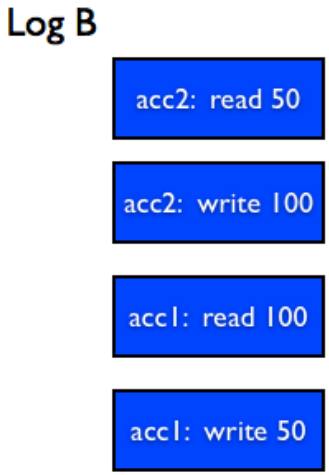

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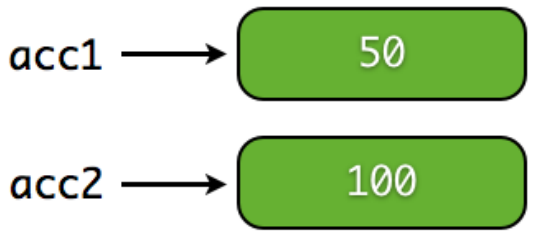

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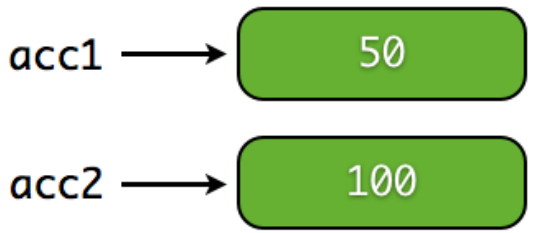
Log B

- acc2: read 50
- acc2: write 100
- acc1: read 100
- acc1: write 50

Validation schlägt fehl!

Example: Executing STM



Thread A

Thread B: `transfer acc1 acc2 50`

```
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```

Rollback

Log B

acc2: read 100

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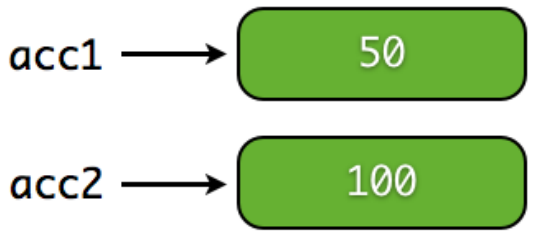

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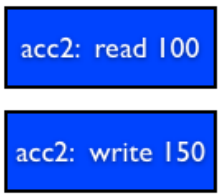

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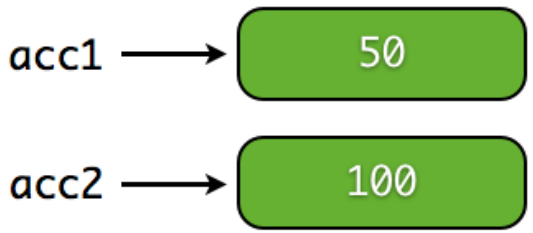

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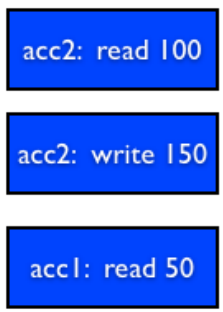

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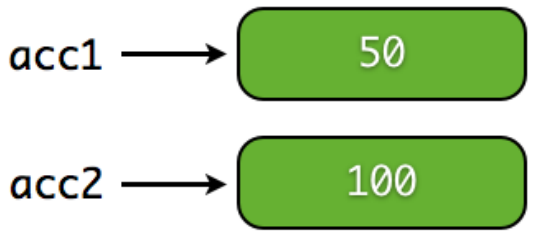

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```

Log B

- acc2: read 100
- acc2: write 150
- acc1: read 50
- acc1: write 0

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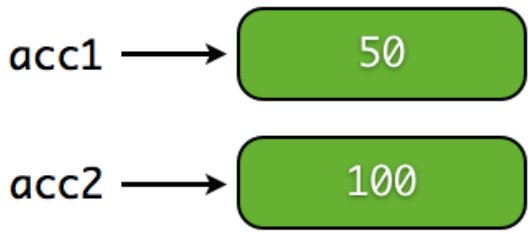

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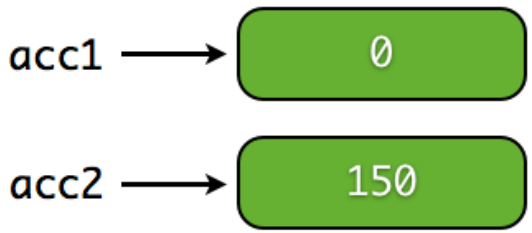
```
atomically (do  bal2 <- readTVar acc2
                writeTVar acc2 (100 + 50)
                bal1 <- readTVar acc1
                writeTVar acc1 (50 - 50))
```

Log B

- acc2: read 100
- acc2: write 150
- acc1: read 50
- acc1: write 0

Validation

Example: Executing STM



Thread A

Thread B: `transfer acc1 acc2 50`

```
atomically (do  bal2 <- readTVar acc2
                writeTVar acc2 (100 + 50)
                bal1 <- readTVar acc1
                writeTVar acc1 (50 - 50))
```

Log B

- acc2: read 100
- acc2: write 150
- acc1: read 50
- acc1: write 0

Commit

Executing STM, Summary

- Execute `atomically t` optimistically, without locks
- `writeTVar v x` writes to the log, not into memory
- `readTVar v` reads first from the log, and if `v` is not in the log from the memory
- If `readTVar v` reads a value from memory, it records the value read in the log.
- Validation at the end of a transaction
  - Must be atomic (typically uses locks)
  - Validation is successful if all values read during the transaction are still consistent with the main memory.
- On successful validation: write values to main memory
- `retry` uses the log to check whether it should re-run the transaction

Local MessageBroker

```
createLocalBroker :: LogId
                  -> Maybe FilePath
                  -> [(QueueName, QueueOpts)]
                  -> IO (MessageBroker Queue)

data QueuePersistence
    = PersistentQueue | TransientQueue
      deriving (Eq, Show)

data QueueOpts
  = QueueOpts { qo_persistence :: QueuePersistence }
    deriving (Eq, Show)
```

- Code:
  `server/src/lib/Mgw/MessageQueue/LocalBroker.hs`

Writing tests with HTF

- Package `HTF` on Hackage
- Automatically collects your unit tests and QuickCheck properties
- Error messages contain file name and line number
- Diff for failing equality assertions
- Replay of failing QuickCheck properties
- Parallel execution of tests
- Machine-readable output (if desired)

Serialization with SafeCopy

```
{-# LANGUAGE TemplateHaskell #-}

deriveSafeCopy 1 'base ''MessageId
deriveSafeCopy 1 'base ''Message

safeDecode :: (Monad m, SafeCopy a)
           => BS.ByteString -> m a
safeEncode :: SafeCopy a => a -> BS.ByteString
```

Migration with SafeCopy

```
data MessageV1 = MessageV1
       { msgV1_id :: !MessageId
       , msgV1_payload :: !BS.ByteString }
data Message = Message
       { msg_id :: !MessageId
       , msg_time :: !(Option ClockTime)
       , msg_payload :: !BS.ByteString }
deriveSafeCopy 1 'base ''MessageId
deriveSafeCopy 1 'base ''MessageV1
deriveSafeCopy 2 'extension ''Message
instance Migrate Message where
    type MigrateFrom Message = MessageV1
    migrate msg =
      Message { msg_id = msgV1_id msg
              , msg_payload = msgV1_payload msg
              , msg_time = None }
```

Lazyness and memory leaks

- Thunks (expression not yet evaluated) may lead to memory leaks
- Difficult to find
- Quiz: Does the following code have a memory leak?
  - Assumption: the map of checksums is long-living

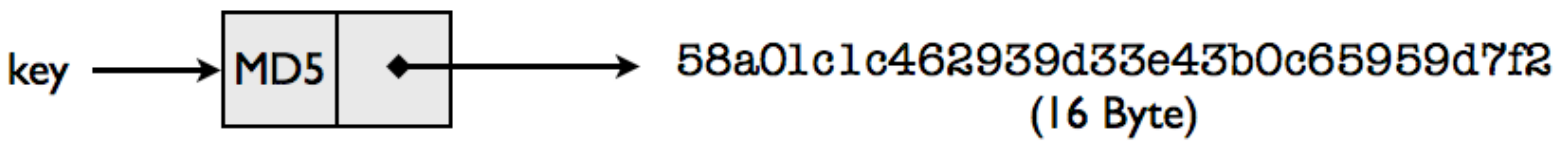
```
import qualified Data.ByteString as BS

md5 :: BS.ByteString -> MD5
md5 bs = MD5 (md5' bs)
    where
      md5' :: BS.ByteString -> BS.ByteString
      md5' = ...
storeMD5 :: Key -> BS.ByteString -> Map.Map Key MD5
         -> Map.Map Key MD5
storeMD5 key bs = Map.insert key (md5 bs)
```

No memory leak!

```haskell
import qualified Data.Map.Strict as Map

data MD5 = MD5 { unMD5 :: !BS.ByteString }
```

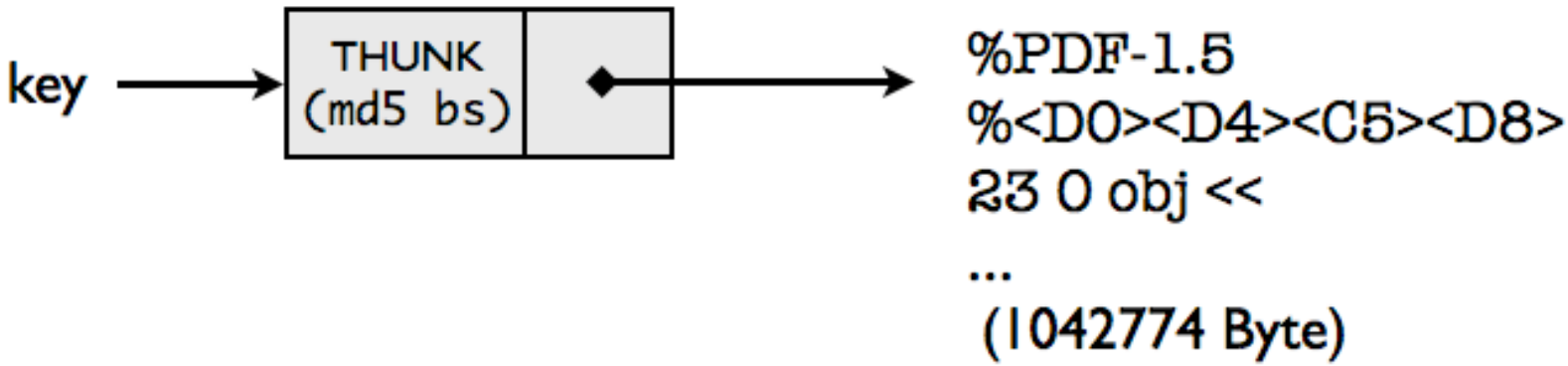



```haskell
storeMD5 :: Key -> BS.ByteString -> Map.Map Key MD5
         -> Map.Map Key MD5
storeMD5 key bs = Map.insert key (md5 bs)
```

Yes, there is a memory leak!

```haskell
import qualified Data.Map.Lazy as Map

data MD5 = MD5 { unMD5 :: !BS.ByteString }
```

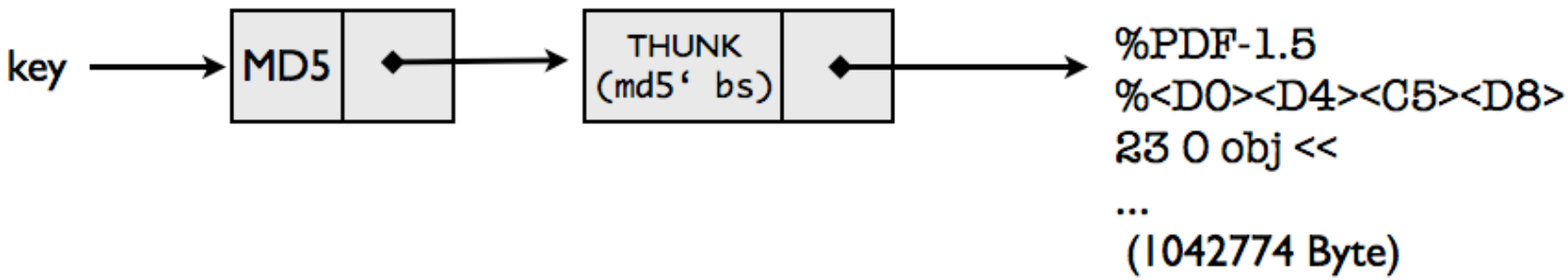



```haskell
storeMD5 :: Key -> BS.ByteString -> Map.Map Key MD5
         -> Map.Map Key MD5
storeMD5 key bs = Map.insert key (md5 bs)
```

Another memory leak!

```
import qualified Data.Map.Strict as Map

data MD5 = MD5 { unMD5 :: BS.ByteString }
```

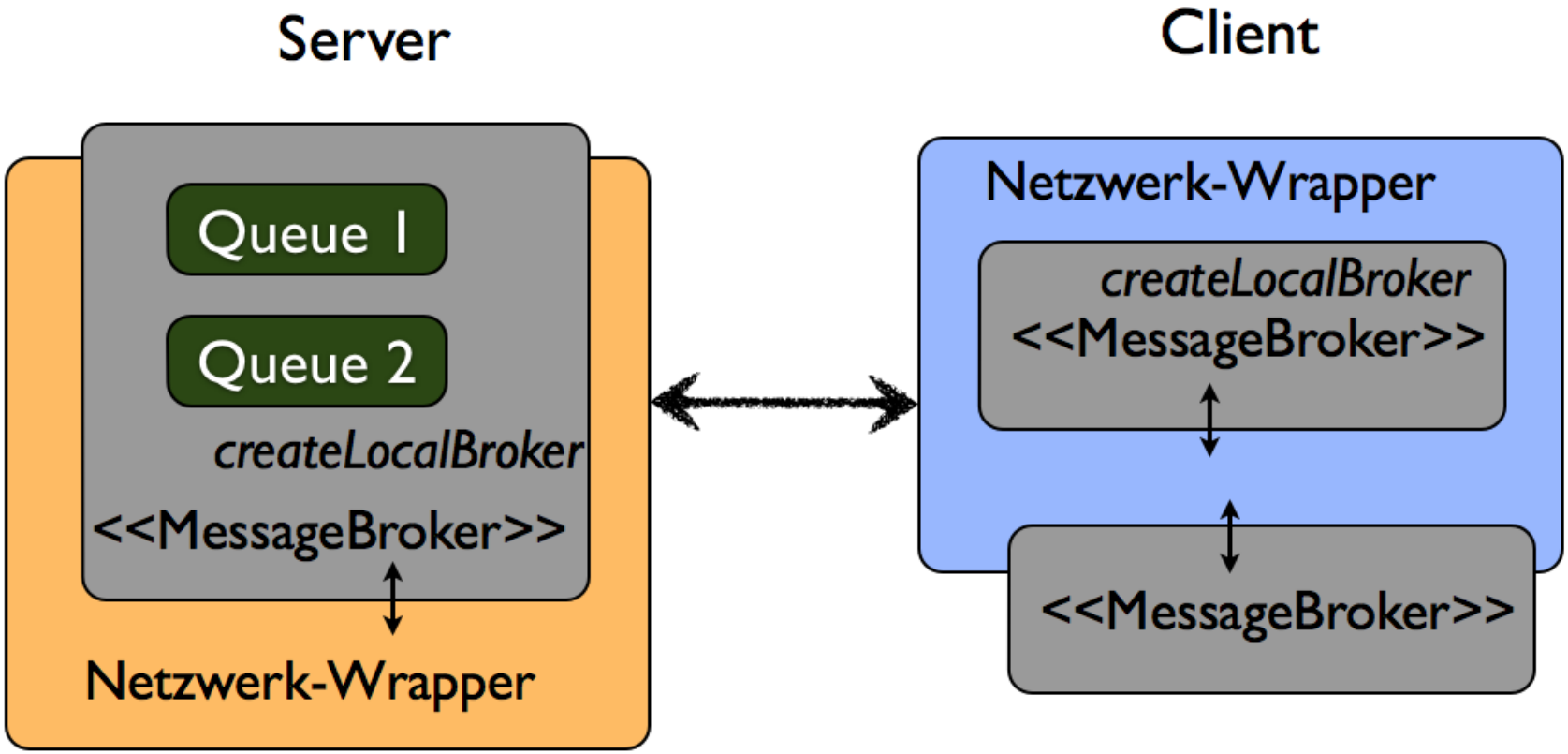



```
storeMD5 :: Key -> BS.ByteString -> Map.Map Key MD5
         -> Map.Map Key MD5
storeMD5 key bs = Map.insert key (md5 bs)
```

Our convention

- Long-living data structures must be strict (more precise: deep strict)
- Requires discipline but works quite good

Server for our MessageBroker



Messages between Client and Server

```
data ServerMessage
    = ServerQueues !(V.Vector QueueName)
    | ServerPublishMessage !QueueName !Message
    deriving (Show, Eq)

data ClientMessage
    = ClientSubscribe !QueueName
    | ClientPublishMessage !QueueName !Message
    deriving (Show, Eq)
```

Network programming with io-streams

- `InputStream c`: read-only stream of values of type `c`
  - `read :: InputStream c -> IO (Maybe c)`
  - `unRead :: c -> InputStream c -> IO ()`
- `OutputStream c`: write-only stream of values of type `c`
  - `write :: Maybe c -> OutputStream c -> IO ()`
  - Two things to note:
    - Passing `Nothing` to `write` does not close the underlying resource
    - `Just` values supplied after the first `Nothing` are usually discarded, but that's up to the implementation of the `OutputStream`
- Support for converting `Handle`, `Socket`, parse functions, ... into streams

Simple io-streams example

```
import qualified System.IO.Streams as S
import Data.Maybe

copy :: S.InputStream c -> S.OutputStream c -> IO ()
copy input output = loop
    where
      loop = do mx <- S.read input
                S.write mx output
                if isJust mx then loop else return ()

copyFile :: FilePath -> FilePath -> IO ()
copyFile inputFile outputFile =
    S.withFileAsInput inputFile $ \input ->
    S.withFileAsOutput outputFile $ \output ->
        copy input output
```

Creating output streams

```
makeOutputStream :: (Maybe c -> IO ())
                 -> IO (OutputStream c)

import qualified System.IO.Streams as S
import qualified Data.ByteString as BS
import System.IO

handleToOutputStream :: Handle
                     -> IO (S.OutputStream BS.ByteString)
handleToOutputStream h = S.makeOutputStream write
  where
    write mx = case mx of
                 Nothing -> hFlush h
                 Just x -> BS.hPut h x
```

Creating input streams

```
makeInputStream :: IO (Maybe a)
                -> IO (InputStream a)

import qualified System.IO.Streams as S
import qualified Data.ByteString as BS
import System.IO

handleToInputStream :: Handle
                    -> IO (S.InputStream BS.ByteString)
handleToInputStream h = S.makeInputStream produce
    where
      produce =
          do x <- BS.hGetSome h 32752
             return $! if BS.null x then Nothing
                                    else Just x
```

The Generator monad

```haskell
yield :: c -> Generator c () -- generates a single output
fromGenerator :: Generator c a -> IO (InputStream c)

import qualified System.IO.Streams as S
-- Already available
fromList :: [c] -> IO (S.InputStream c)
fromList l = S.fromGenerator (mapM_ S.yield l)
```

Transforming streams, utilities

```
map :: (a -> b) -> InputStream a -> IO (InputStream b)
mapM :: (a -> IO b) -> InputStream a -> IO (InputStream b)

contramap :: (a -> b) -> OutputStream b
          -> IO (OutputStream a)
contramapM :: (a -> IO b) -> OutputStream b
           -> IO (OutputStream a)

connect :: InputStream a -> OutputStream a -> IO ()
supply :: InputStream a -> OutputStream a -> IO ()

atEndOfInput :: IO b -> InputStream a
             -> IO (InputStream a)
atEndOfOutput :: IO b -> OutputStream a
              -> IO (OutputStream a)


-- and many more...
```

Server for MessageBroker: abstracting over the network

- Function handling a single client in the messaging server

```
runClientHandler ::
       LogId
    -> MessageBroker q
    -> S.InputStream ClientMessage
    -> S.OutputStream ServerMessage
    -> IO ()
```

- Code:
  `server/src/lib/Mgw/MessageQueue/BrokerServer.hs`

Client for MessageBroker

```
createBrokerStub ::
    LogId
    -> (TBMChan ServerMessage, TBMChan ClientMessage)
    -> IO (MessageBroker Queue)
```

- `TBMChan`: bounded, closable Channels
- Channels are connected to `InputStream ServerMessage` and `OutputStream ClientMessage`
- The resulting `MessageBroker` can handle connection aborts
- Code: `server/src/lib/Mgw/MessageQueue/BrokerStub.hs`

Exchanging data with ProtocolBuffers

Google ProtocolBuffers

- Efficient serialization format
- Language-neutral, platform-neutral
- Allows for forward- and backwards-compatibility
- Packages on Hackage: `hprotoc-fork`, `protocol-buffers-fork`, `protocol-buffers-descriptor-fork`

In our code

- Definitions: `protocols/protos/MessageQueue.proto`
- Conversions: `server/src/lib/Mgw/Message/Protocol.hs`
- Generated code: `server/build/gen-hs/Com/Factisresearch/Checkpad/Protos`

Building build-systems with shake

- Shake is a Haskell library for building build-systems
  - No predefined build rules
  - Rules are given as Haskell code
- Dynamic dependencies
  - All dependencies arise during a build
  - Different from (say) `make`, where all dependencies are fixed at the beginning
- More powerful but also more complex than Cabal
- See http://community.haskell.org/~ndm/downloads/paper-shake_before_building-10_sep_2012.pdf

shake in action (1)

- `Action`-Monad: tracking of dependencies
  - Example: `readFile' f` introduces a dependency on file `f`

```
cIncludes :: FilePath -> Action [FilePath]
cIncludes x =
    do s <- readFile' x
       return $ mapMaybe parseInclude (lines s)
    where
      parseInclude line =
          do rest <- List.stripPrefix "#include \"" line
             return $ takeWhile (/= '"') rest
```

shake in action (2)

- Rules-Monad: definition of build rules

```
(*>) :: FilePattern -> (FilePath -> Action ()) -> Rules ()

rules :: Rules ()
rules =
    "*.o" *> \out ->
        do let c = replaceExtension out "c"
           need (cIncludes c)
           system' "gcc" ["-o", out, "-c", c]
```

Now it's your turn!

- Timestamp for messages
  - Messages should carry a timestamp, indicating their creation time
- Deregistering subscribers from the server
  - With the code shown so for, a client never deregisters a subscriber from the server, even if there are no more local subscribers at the client. This is correct but wastes network traffic.
  - Improve the existing code so that clients send a derigistration message to the server as soon as the last local subscriber deregisters itself.

Now it's your turn!

- Proxy messsage server
  - Write a proxy message server. A proxy message server acts itself as a message server. It connects to several other message server and forwards calls from its client to those servers.
  - If a client sends a subscription for a queue `Q` to the proxy server, the proxy server forwards the subscription to all servers supporting queue `Q`.
  - Similarly, if a client sends a message for queue `Q` to the proxy server, the proxy server forwards the message to all servers support queue `Q`.

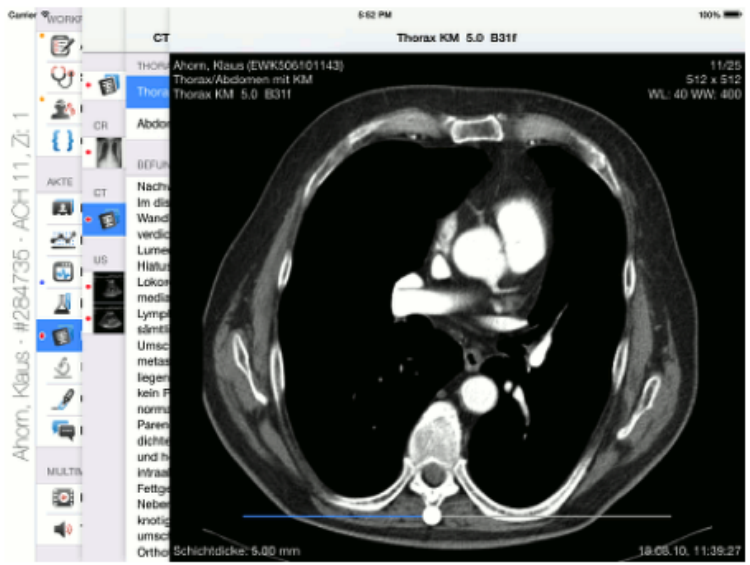
Now it's your turn!

- Synchronouos client API
  - With the code shown so for, the API for a message client is asynchronous: a call of `mb_subscribe` or `mb_publish` returns directly after the request has been sent out to the network.
  - In some situations, it's better to wait until the server has perform the corresponding action (synchronous client API). For example, with a synchronous API, we could get rid of the the calls to `sleepTimeSpan` in the tests.
  - Implement a synchronous client API.

Summary

- Haskell is a great tool for developing commercial software
  - High productivity
  - Correctness
  - Security
  - Reusability
- Haskell is the "World's finest imperative programming language"
- Haskell is efficient

Jobs



- ✓Software Engineer (Haskell)
- ✓Integration Engineer (Haskell)
- ✓Support Engineer
- ✓Software QA Engineer
- ✓Software Engineer (iOS)
- ✓Software Engineer (Android)
- ✓DevOps Engineer
- ✓Unix-Admin
- ✓Praktikum