Java Remote Method Invocation
Java RMI

61FIT3NPR -Network Programming

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Java Remote Method Invocation

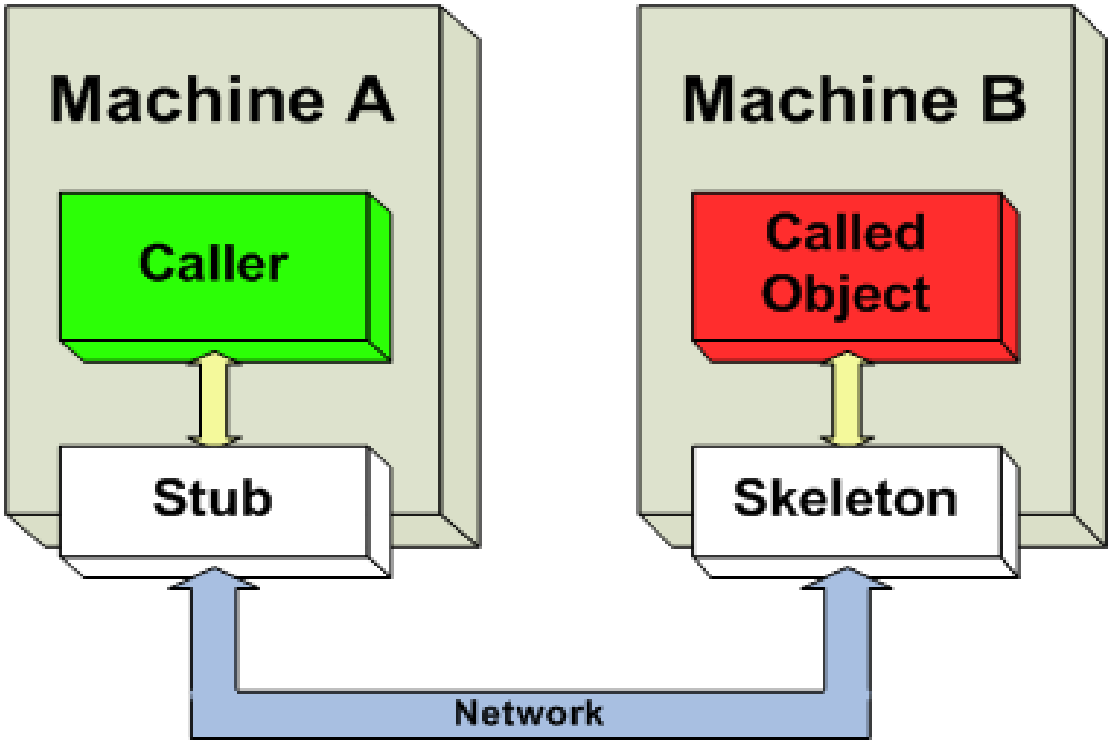
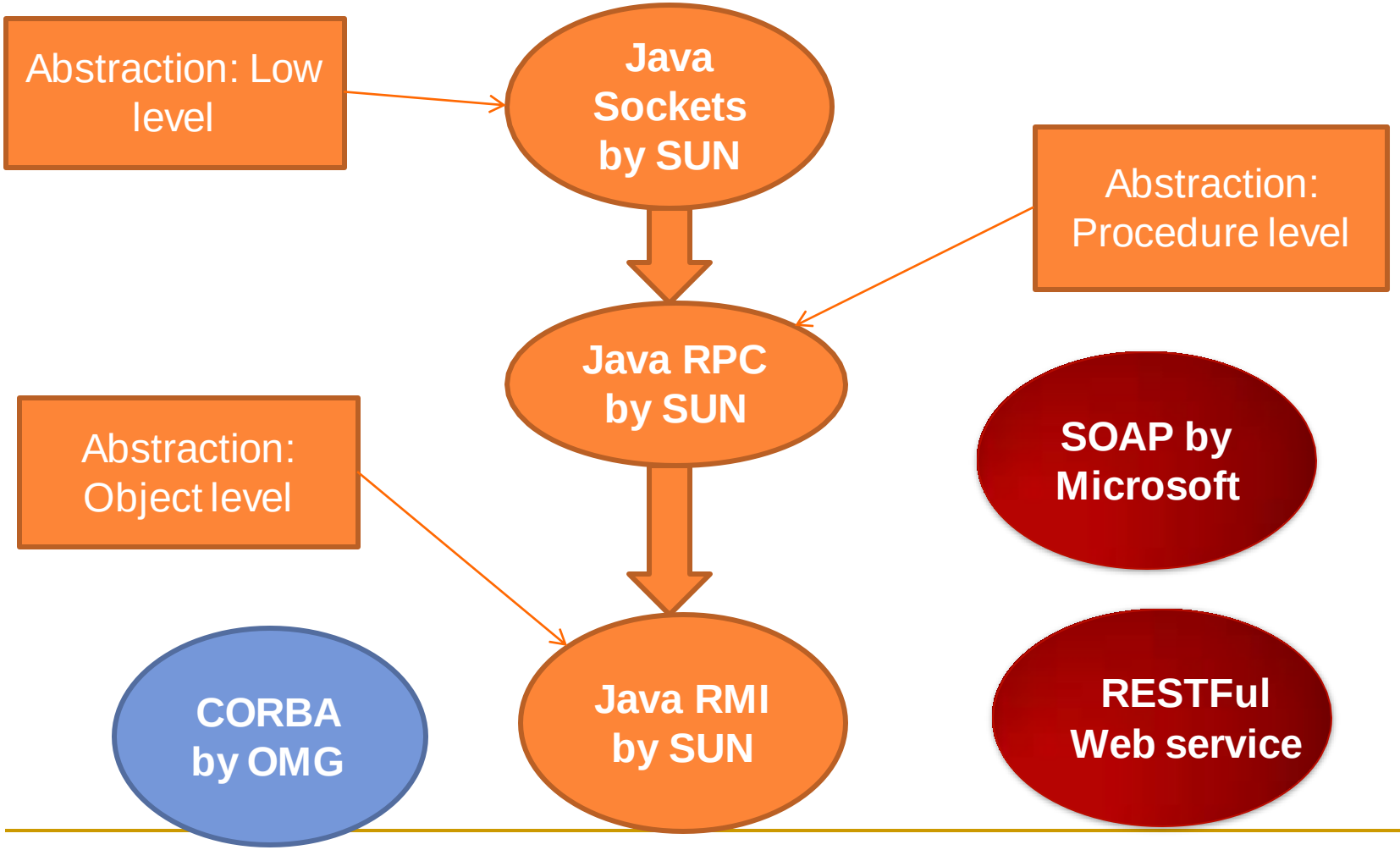


Fig: Distributed Object Technology

Java Remote Method Invocation

- RMI Server, client, interface, stubs, skeletons
- RMI Registry
- Object version of RPC
- Method Invocation between JVMs
- Java RMI API
- JRMP (Java Remote Method Protocol)
- Java object serialization
- Parameter Marshalling

Historical Background



Related Terminologies

- RPC (Remote Procedure Call)
- XDR (External Data Representation)
- C**ORB**A (Common **Object Request Broker** Architecture)
- IIOP (Internet Inter-ORB Protocol)
- Java IDL (Interface Definition Language)
- RMI-IIOP
- SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)

RMI System Architecture

Lets divide into two perspectives:

- Layered Structure
- Working Principles

RMI Layered Structure

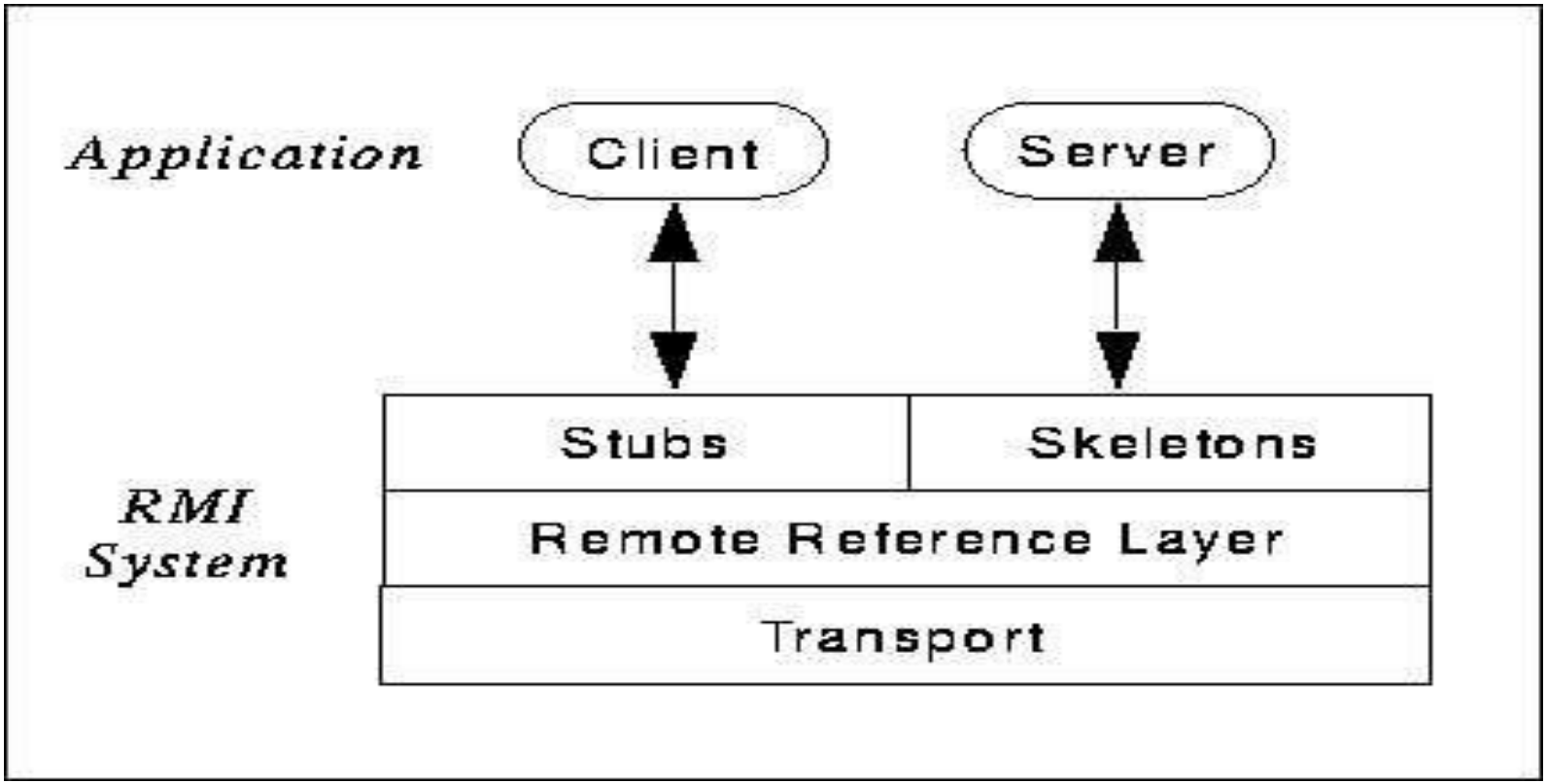


Fig: RMI Layered Structure

RMI Layered Structure

- Application layer: Server, Client
- Interface: Client stub, Server skeleton
- Remote Reference layer: RMI registry
- Transport layer: TCP

RMI Working Principles

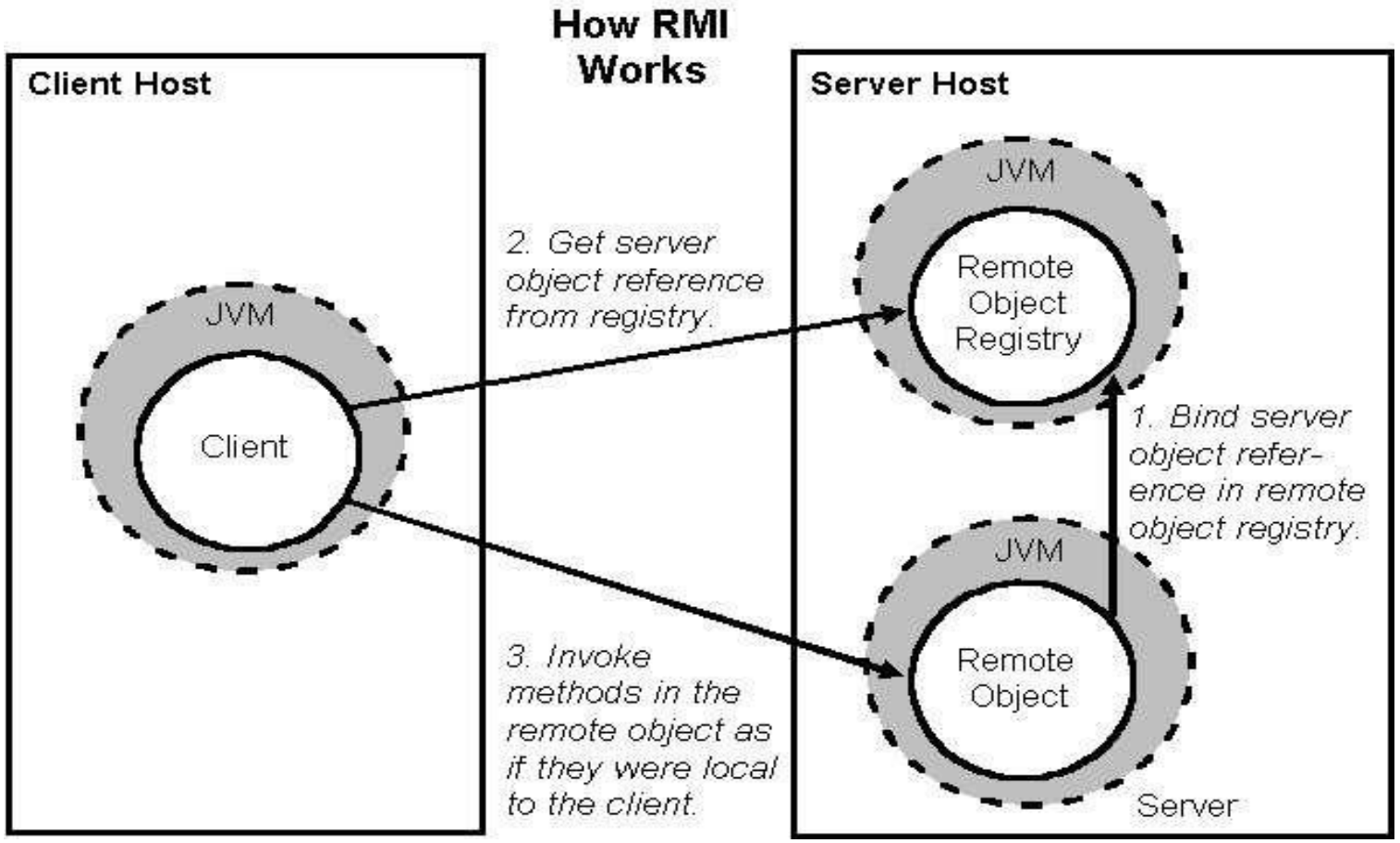
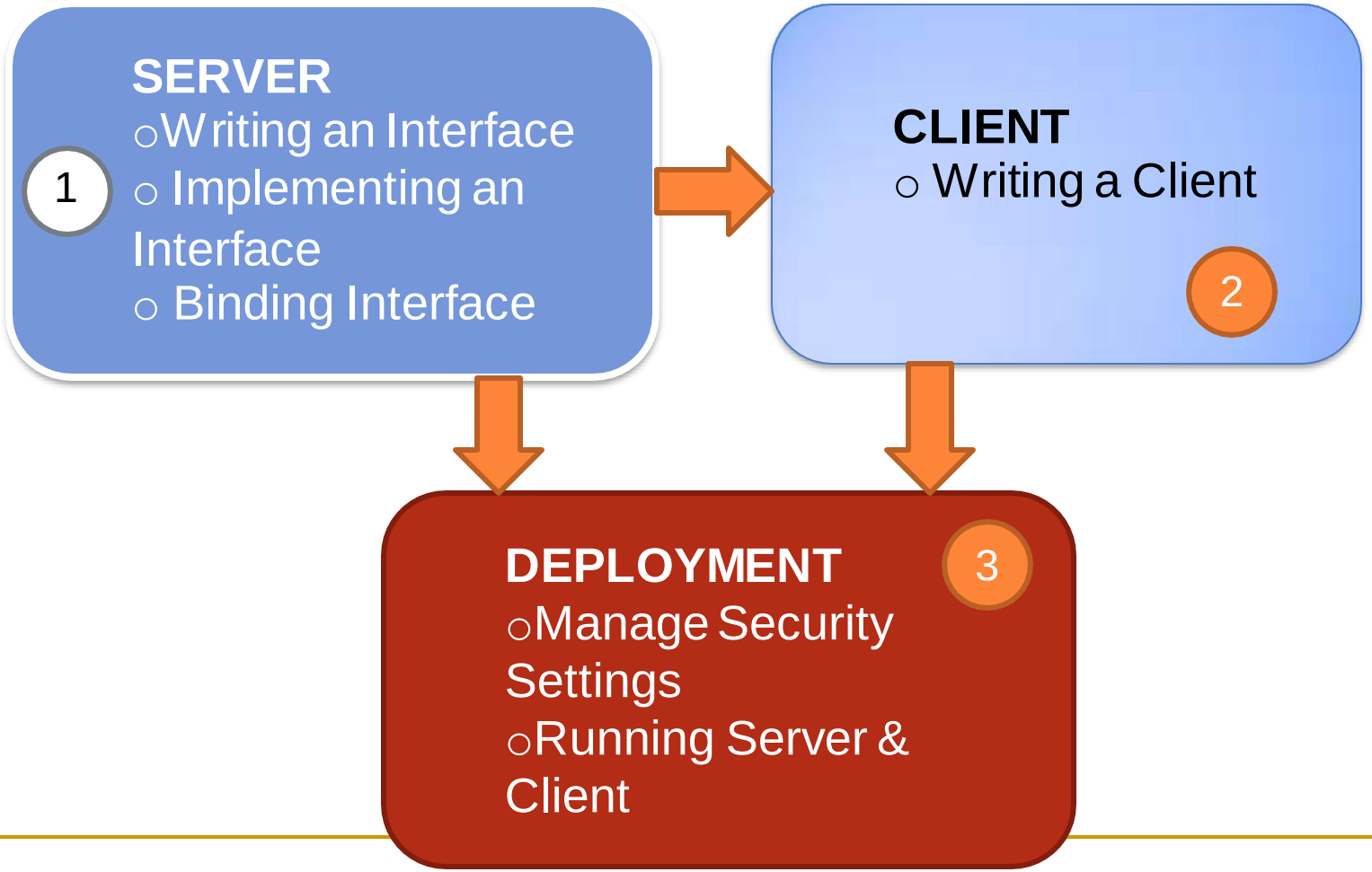


Fig: RMI Working principles

Ready to Develop One?

A Simple RMI Application



Service Interface: An Agreement Between Server & Client

- Factorial Operation

```
public long factorial(int number) throws
    RemoteException;
```

- Check Prime Operation

```
public boolean checkPrime(int number) throws
    RemoteException;
```

- Square Operation

```
public BigInteger square(int number) throws
    RemoteException;
```

Server Application: Writing a Service Interface

```
//interface between RMI client and server

import java.math.BigInteger;
import java.rmi.*;

public interface MathService extends Remote {

  // every method associated with RemoteException
  // calculates factorial of a number
  public long factorial(int number) throws
       RemoteException;

  // check if a number is prime or not
  public boolean checkPrime(int number) throws
       RemoteException;

  //calculate the square of a number and returns
       BigInteger
  public BigInteger square(int number) throws
       RemoteException;


};
```

Fig: *MathService* Interface

Server Application: Implementing the Service Interface

```
//MathService Server or Provider

import java.awt.font.NumericShaper;
import java.math.BigInteger;
import java.rmi.*;
import java.rmi.registry.LocateRegistry;
import java.rmi.server.UnicastRemoteObject;

public class MathServiceProvider extends UnicastRemoteObject implements
    MathService {

  // MathServiceProvider implements all the methods of MathService interface
  // service constructor
  public MathServiceProvider() throws RemoteException {
    super();
  }

  // implementation of factorial
  public long factorial(int number) {
    // returning factorial
    if (number == 1)
      return 1;
    return number * factorial(number - 1);
  }
```

Fig: *MathServiceProvider* implements *MathService* Interface

Server Application: Instantiating & Binding the Service

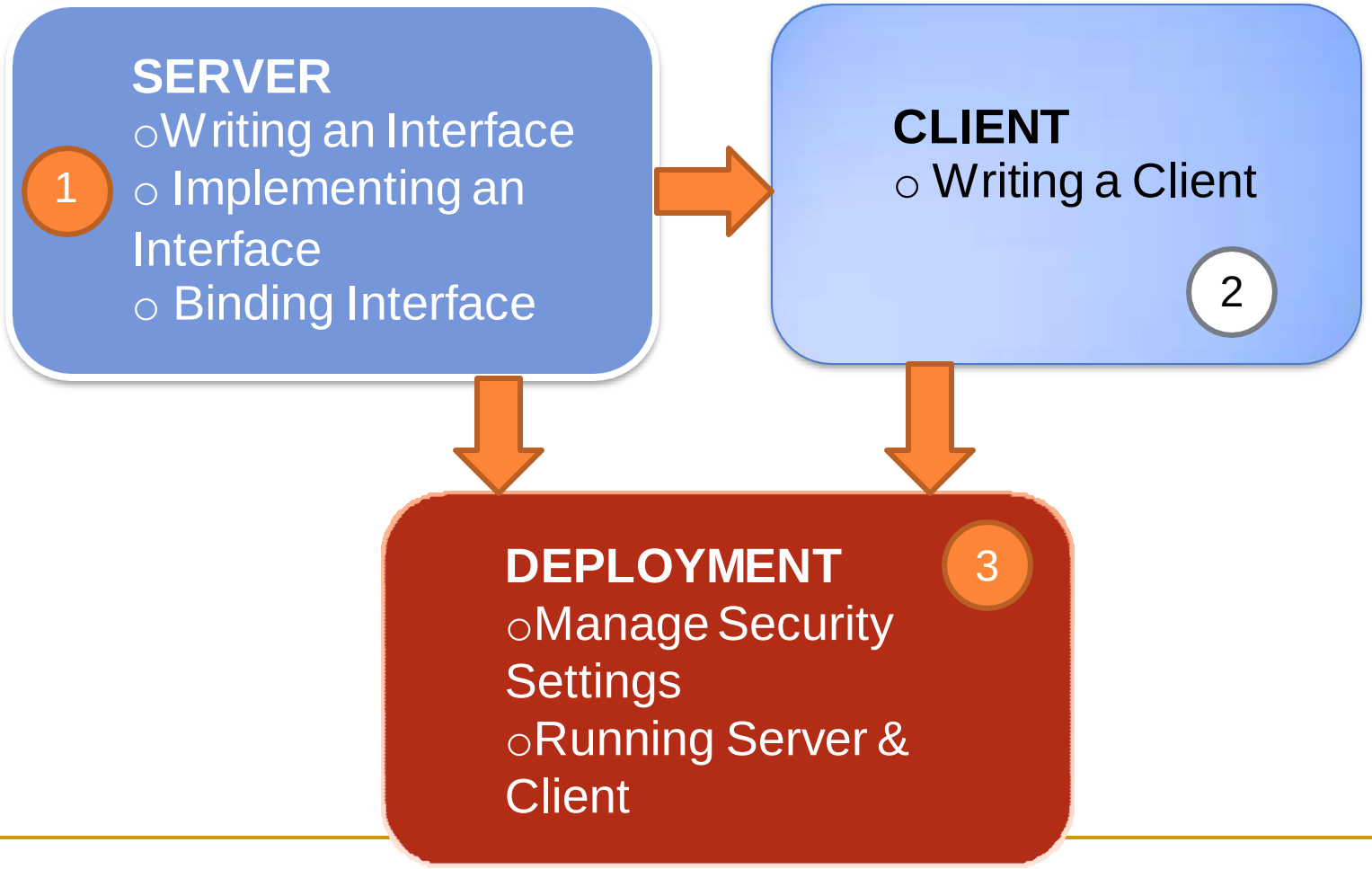
```
public static void main(String args[]) {
   try {
      // setting RMI security manager
      if (System.getSecurityManager() == null) {
         System.setSecurityManager(new
             RMISecurityManager());
      }

      // creating server instance
      MathServiceProvider provider = new
          MathServiceProvider();
      // binding the service with the registry
      LocateRegistry.getRegistry().bind("
          MathService", provider);
      System.out.println("Service is bound to RMI
           registry");
   } catch (Exception exc) {
      // showing exception
      System.out.println("Cant bind the service:
          " + exc.getMessage());
      exc.printStackTrace();

   }
}
```

Fig: Instantiating and Binding *MathService* Interface

A Simple RMI Application



CLIENT APPLICATION: SERVICE LOOKUP

```
    // Call to factorial method
System.out.println("The factorial of " + number +
     "=" + service.factorial(number));

    // Call to checkPrime method
boolean isprime=service.checkPrime(number);

    //Call to square method
BigInteger squareObj=service.square(number);
```

Fig: Client locating *MathService* service

CLIENT APPLICATION: ACCESSING SERVICE

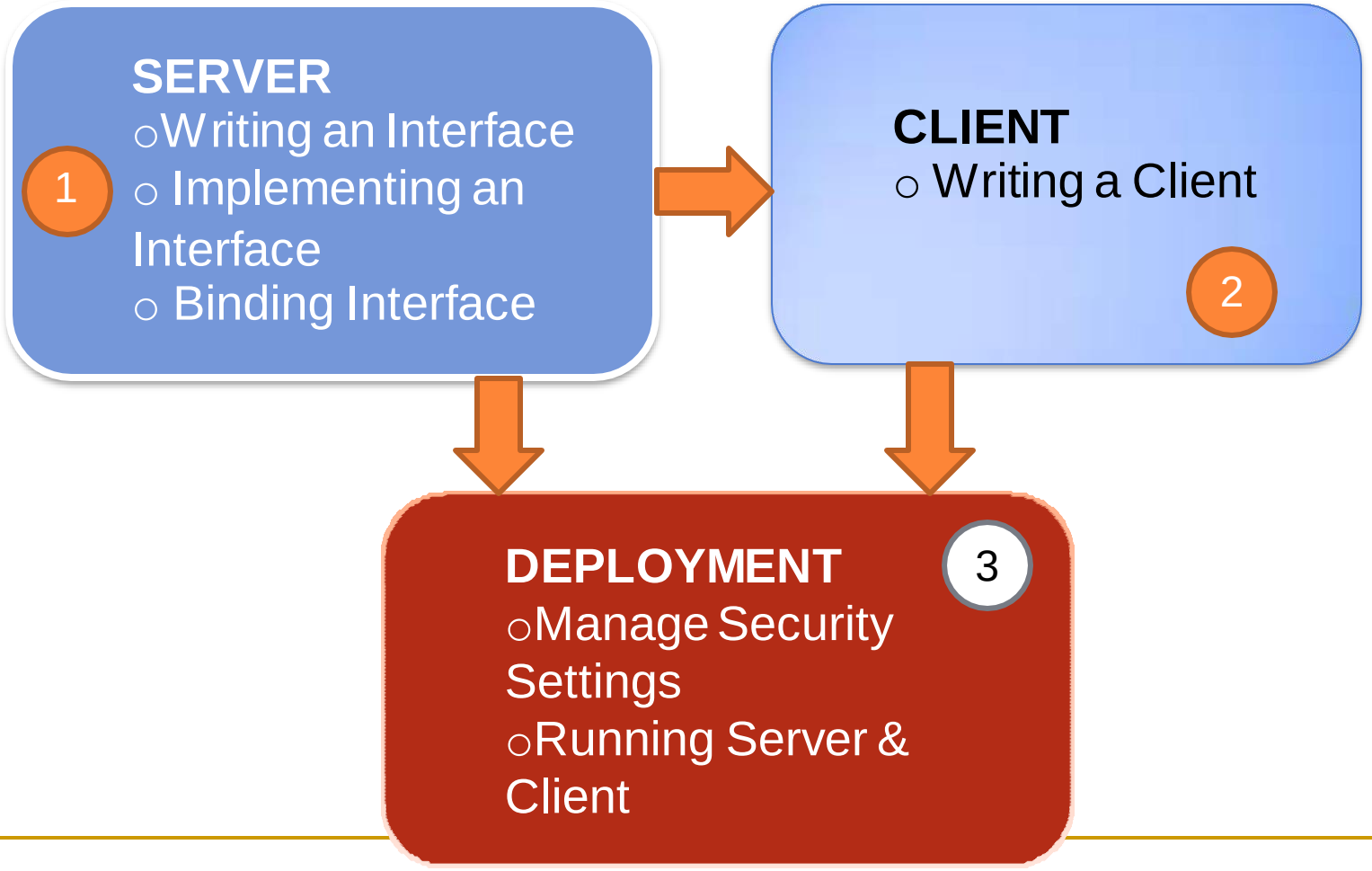
```
    // Call to factorial method
System.out.println("The factorial of " + number +
     "=" + service.factorial(number));

    // Call to checkPrime method
boolean isprime=service.checkPrime(number);

    //Call to square method
BigInteger squareObj=service.square(number);
```

Fig: Client accessing *MathService* service

A Simple RMI Application



Server Deployment: Start RMI Registry

- To start RMI registry on windows

```
$ start rmiregistry
```

- To start RMI registry on Unix

```
$ rmiregistry \&
```

Server Deployment: Compile the Server

- Compile both MathService interface and MathServiceProvider class

```
$ javac MathService.java MathServiceProvider.
    java
```

Server Deployment: Create Server Stub

- Create the server stub that will handle client call

```
$ rmic MathServiceProvider
```

SECURITY DEPLOYMENT: CREATE SECURITY POLICY FILE (BOTH CLIENT & SERVER)

- Create a security policy file called *no.policy* with the following content and add it to CLASSPATH
- This step implies for both server and client

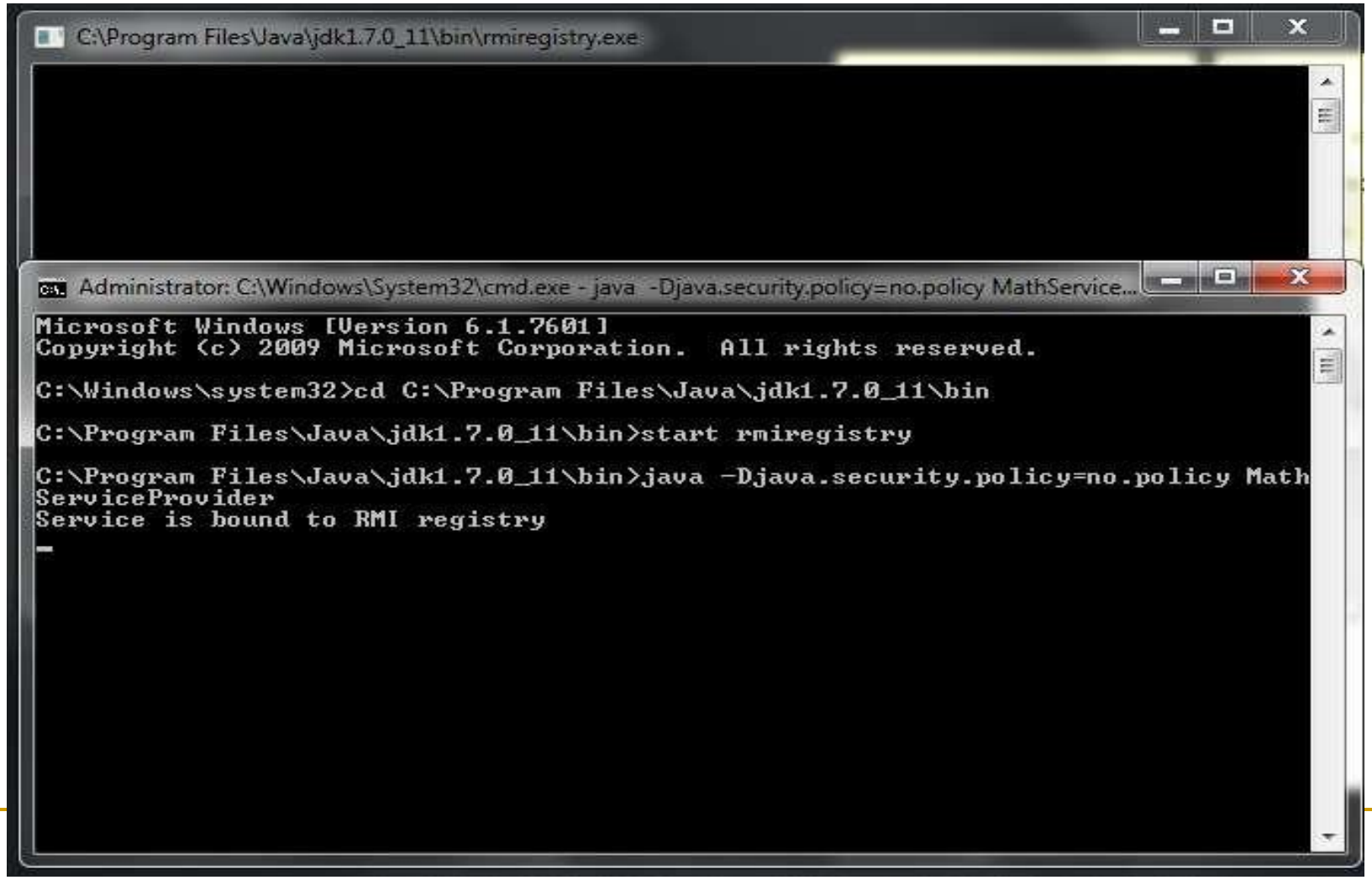
```
grant {
permission java.security.AllPermission;
};
```

Start the Server

- Execute the command to run server

```
$ java -Djava.security.policy=no.policy
    MathServiceProvider
```

Server Running

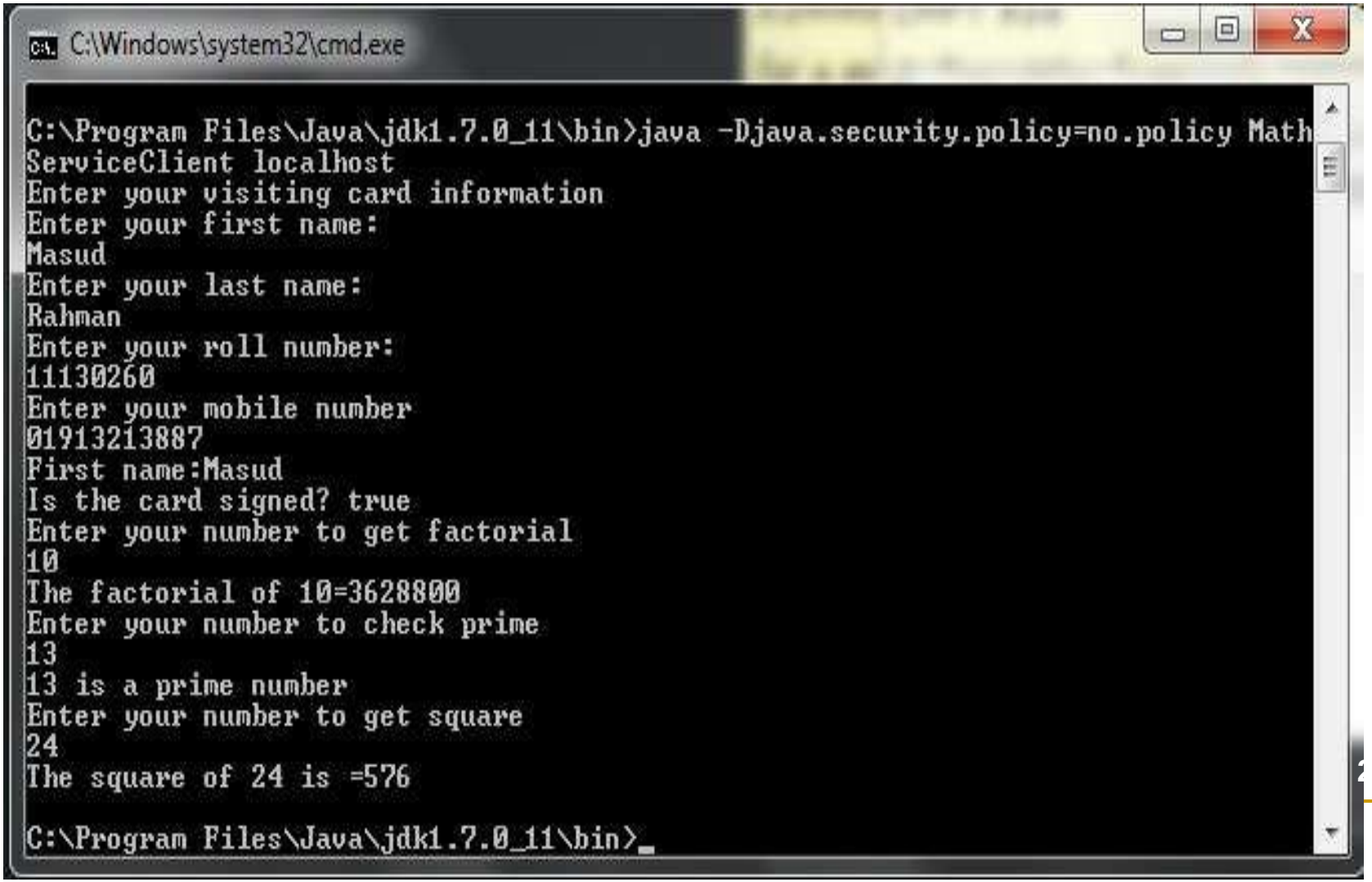


Start the Client

- Execute the command to run client

```
$ java -Djava.security.policy=no.policy
    MathServiceClient localhost
```

Client Interface



Advanced Concepts

- Java Object Serialization
- Parameter Marshalling & Demarshalling
- Object Activation

Strength Of Java RMI

- *Object Oriented*: Can pass complex object rather than only primitive types
- *Mobile Behavior*: Change of roles between client and server easily
- *Design Patterns*: Encourages OO design patterns as objects are transferred
- *Safe & Secure*: The security settings of Java framework used
- *Easy to Write /Easy to Use*: Requires very little coding to access service

Strength Of Java RMI

- *Connects to Legacy Systems*: JNI & JDBC facilitate access.
- *Write Once, Run Anywhere*: 100% portable, run on any machine having JVM
- *Distributed Garbage Collection*: Same principle like memory garbage collection
- *Parallel Computing*: Through multi-threading RMI server can serve numerous clients
- *Distributed Computing Solutions*: Available from JDK 1.1, can communicate between all versions of JDKs

Weakness of Java RMI

- *Tied to Java System*: Purely Java-centric technology, does not have good support for legacy system written in C, C++, Ada etc.
- *Performance Issue* : Only good for large-grain computation
- *Security Restrictions & Complexities*: Threats during downloading objects from server, malicious client request, added security complexity in policy file.
- *Overhead*: Extra usage of *rmic* tool.

Case Study: Java RMI vs. Web service (SOAP/RESTFul)

Case Study: Java RMI vs. WS

Language Dependence:
✓ RMI service interface is in Java
✓WS service interface is platform independent

Mobile Behavior
✓ Server and client can change roles in RMI
✓ Not feasible in WS

Performance Issue:
✓RMI needs extra overhead for conversion from byte code to machine code
✓WS performs better for massive computation like fluid mechanics

CASE STUDY: JAVA RMI VS. WS

Ease of Use:
✓ RMI is easy to master for experienced programmers.
✓WS is a rich, extensive family of standards, hard to master

Maturity of Technology
✓ RMI is less matured
✓WS is more matured and already has many implementations running

Case Study: Java RMI vs. WS

Results of case study:

- No one is better than other necessarily
- Applicability of one on another depends on
  - Purpose of the application
  - Experience of the designer and developer
  - Necessity of interoperability with non-java systems.

Conclusion

- Distributed Object Technology
- Object level abstraction
- Object version of Java RPC
- Java centric Technology
- Comparable to CORBA/SOAP/RESTFul
- Provides non-java support with the help IDL, IIOP and CORBA/SOAP/RESTFul
- Lightweight and Easy to use
- Object serialization
- Concurrent support for clients

Thank You !!! Questions Please?

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