vertx-effect Introduction to Vert.x

Rafael Merino García

Github: imrafaelmerino

2021



Table of Contents

- Goals
- 2 History
- Vertx
- 4 vertx-effect: where Vertx meet FP
- 6 Hands-on



Goals



How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?
 - Increasing number of machines?



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?
 - Increasing number of machines?
- Understand better functional and reactive programming



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?
 - Increasing number of machines?
- Understand better functional and reactive programming
 - FP shines dealing with effects



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?
 - Increasing number of machines?
- Understand better functional and reactive programming
 - FP shines dealing with effects
 - Is your app really reactive?



- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?
 - Increasing number of machines?
- Understand better functional and reactive programming
 - FP shines dealing with effects
 - Is your app really reactive?
 - What's your first integration test?



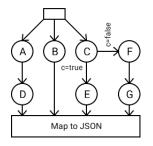
- How to use Vertx following the Erlang philosophy (message passing)
 - Why? Low coupling and
 - How do you get programs to run faster without changing a single line?
 - Increasing CPU frequency?
 - Increasing number of cores?
 - Increasing number of machines?
- Understand better functional and reactive programming
 - FP shines dealing with effects
 - Is your app really reactive?
 - What's your first integration test?
 - Failures are just data



• Develop complex services in Vertx and not die trying (async programming is still hard nowadays)

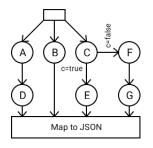


- Develop complex services in Vertx and not die trying (async programming is still hard nowadays)
- A, B and C are HTTP requests or database calls executed in parallel





- Develop complex services in Vertx and not die trying (async programming is still hard nowadays)
- A, B and C are HTTP requests or database calls executed in parallel

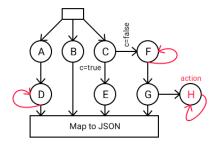


I didn't mention it, but I was thinking of just one line of code



Goals (III)

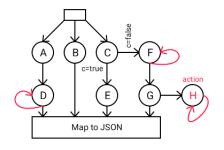
 and if you retry some ops under certain errors (connection timeouts, network partitions, etc.) or want to add some action without waiting for the response, like sending an email (H)





Goals (III)

 and if you retry some ops under certain errors (connection timeouts, network partitions, etc.) or want to add some action without waiting for the response, like sending an email (H)



I'm still thinking of just one line of code



History



Actor Model (1973)

Actor Model of Computation: Scalable Robust Information Systems

Carl Hewitt

This article is dedicated to Alonzo Church and Dana Scott.

The Actor Model is a mathematical theory that treats "Actors" as the universal primitives of digital computation.

Hypothesis: All physically possible computation can be directly implemented using Actors.

The model has been used both as a framework for a theoretical understanding of concurrency, and as the theoretical basis for several practical implementations of concurrent systems. The advent of massive concurrency through client-cloud computing and many-core computer architectures has galvanized interest in the Actor Model.

Message passing using types is the foundation of system communication:

Messages are the unit of communication¹



 Alan Kay, one of its creators, coined the term Object- Oriented Programming but...



- Alan Kay, one of its creators, coined the term Object- Oriented Programming but...
- "I'm sorry that I long ago coined the term "objects" for this topic because it gets many people to focus on the lesser idea. The big idea is messaging."



- Alan Kay, one of its creators, coined the term Object- Oriented Programming but...
- "I'm sorry that I long ago coined the term "objects" for this topic because it gets many people to focus on the lesser idea. The big idea is messaging."
- "I made up the term 'object-oriented', and I can tell you I didn't have C++ in mind."



- Alan Kay, one of its creators, coined the term Object- Oriented Programming but...
- "I'm sorry that I long ago coined the term "objects" for this topic because it gets many people to focus on the lesser idea. The big idea is messaging."
- "I made up the term 'object-oriented', and I can tell you I didn't have C++ in mind."
- Download Pharo and be blown away!



• Open Source in 1998



- Open Source in 1998
- Functional programming language created to build fault-tolerant and scalable distributed systems in Ericsson



- Open Source in 1998
- Functional programming language created to build fault-tolerant and scalable distributed systems in Ericsson
- Isolated processes that interact sending messages (10 servers handling 1 req instead of 1 server handling 10 req)



- Open Source in 1998
- Functional programming language created to build fault-tolerant and scalable distributed systems in Ericsson
- Isolated processes that interact sending messages (10 servers handling 1 req instead of 1 server handling 10 req)
- Keep calm and let it crash (avoid defensive programming and don't make things worse)



- Open Source in 1998
- Functional programming language created to build fault-tolerant and scalable distributed systems in Ericsson
- Isolated processes that interact sending messages (10 servers handling 1 req instead of 1 server handling 10 req)
- Keep calm and let it crash (avoid defensive programming and don't make things worse)
- WhatsApp and WeChat are implemented in Erlang!



Influential people



Vertx



 Understand what message passing means. Adoption of a new paradigm is a complex and slow process that has to hurt.



- Understand what message passing means. Adoption of a new paradigm is a complex and slow process that has to hurt.
- EOOP just doesn't fit (don't use Spring or try to avoid it)



- Understand what message passing means. Adoption of a new paradigm is a complex and slow process that has to hurt.
- EOOP just doesn't fit (don't use Spring or try to avoid it)
- Dependency injection == Coupling



- Understand what message passing means. Adoption of a new paradigm is a complex and slow process that has to hurt.
- EOOP just doesn't fit (don't use Spring or try to avoid it)
- Dependency injection == Coupling
- Have a plan to handle complexity.



• Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles
- Verticles are strongly isolated (share no resources)



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles
- Verticles are strongly isolated (share no resources)
- Verticles creation and destruction is a lightweight operation



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles
- Verticles are strongly isolated (share no resources)
- Verticles creation and destruction is a lightweight operation
- Verticles have unique addresses



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles
- Verticles are strongly isolated (share no resources)
- Verticles creation and destruction is a lightweight operation
- Verticles have unique addresses
- If you know the address of a verticle, you can send it a message (location transparency)



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles
- Verticles are strongly isolated (share no resources)
- Verticles creation and destruction is a lightweight operation
- Verticles have unique addresses
- If you know the address of a verticle, you can send it a message (location transparency)
- Message passing is the only way for verticles to interact



- Everything is a Verticle (minimum unit of computation)
- computation | storage | communication
- Can create and kill other verticles
- Verticles are strongly isolated (share no resources)
- Verticles creation and destruction is a lightweight operation
- Verticles have unique addresses
- If you know the address of a verticle, you can send it a message (location transparency)
- Message passing is the only way for verticles to interact
- The more verticles, the better



Don't communicate by sharing memory, share memory by communicating



- Don't communicate by sharing memory, share memory by communicating
- Message passing is assumed to be atomic which means that a message is either delivered in its entirety or not at all



- Don't communicate by sharing memory, share memory by communicating
- Message passing is assumed to be atomic which means that a message is either delivered in its entirety or not at all
- Message passing between a pair of verticles is assumed to be ordered:
 the messages will be received in the same order they were sent

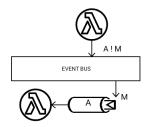


- Don't communicate by sharing memory, share memory by communicating
- Message passing is assumed to be atomic which means that a message is either delivered in its entirety or not at all
- Message passing between a pair of verticles is assumed to be ordered:
 the messages will be received in the same order they were sent
- Messages should not contain references to data structures contained within verticles—they should only contain constants and/or address



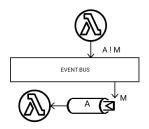
- Don't communicate by sharing memory, share memory by communicating
- Message passing is assumed to be atomic which means that a message is either delivered in its entirety or not at all
- Message passing between a pair of verticles is assumed to be ordered:
 the messages will be received in the same order they were sent
- Messages should not contain references to data structures contained within verticles—they should only contain constants and/or address
- send and pray semantics. We send the message and pray that it arrives





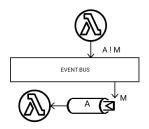
 \bullet The event bus is the nervous system of Vertx





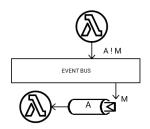
- The event bus is the nervous system of Vertx
- Distributed event bus: verticles from different machines can communicate with each other by sending messages. Scale-out





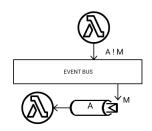
- The event bus is the nervous system of Vertx
- Distributed event bus: verticles from different machines can communicate with each other by sending messages. Scale-out
- It provides an API to:





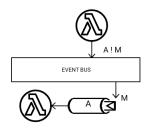
- The event bus is the nervous system of Vertx
- Distributed event bus: verticles from different machines can communicate with each other by sending messages. Scale-out
- It provides an API to:
 - deploy verticles listening on addresses



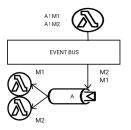


- The event bus is the nervous system of Vertx
- Distributed event bus: verticles from different machines can communicate with each other by sending messages. Scale-out
- It provides an API to:
 - deploy verticles listening on addresses
 - send and publish messages to addresses: point-to-point and pub/sub



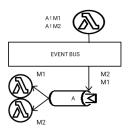


- The event bus is the nervous system of Vertx
- Distributed event bus: verticles from different machines can communicate with each other by sending messages. Scale-out
- It provides an API to:
 - deploy verticles listening on addresses
 - send and publish messages to addresses: point-to-point and pub/sub
- Verticles process ONE message at a time. Synchronization is implemented this way



 Scale-up: deploying multiple instances of a verticle listening on the same address



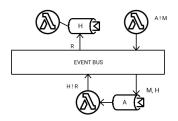


- Scale-up: deploying multiple instances of a verticle listening on the same address
- The instance that receives the message is chosen using a non-strict round-robin algorithm



Imagine that a verticle sends a message to another verticle and has to process the response

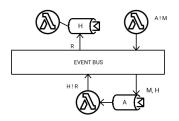
• Programmatically, it's just a handler





Imagine that a verticle sends a message to another verticle and has to process the response

- Programmatically, it's just a handler
- but in practice, it's just another verticle listening on a random address





Verticles life cycle

Verticles that are created during app bootstrap and never dye



Verticles life cycle

- Verticles that are created during app bootstrap and never dye
- Verticles that are associated with the life cycle of an entity (user login and logout)



Verticles life cycle

- Verticles that are created during app bootstrap and never dye
- Verticles that are associated with the life cycle of an entity (user login and logout)
- Verticles that are created to do computation and die after that



• String, null, bytes, Numbers, Boolean and Json (from Jackson)



- String, null, bytes, Numbers, Boolean and Json (from Jackson)
- All supported messages have a MessageCodec associated



- String, null, bytes, Numbers, Boolean and Json (from Jackson)
- All supported messages have a MessageCodec associated
- You can send your own messages if you create and register their codecs



- String, null, bytes, Numbers, Boolean and Json (from Jackson)
- All supported messages have a MessageCodec associated
- You can send your own messages if you create and register their codecs
- The Json from Jackson is mutable. ¿Why is this a problem?



- String, null, bytes, Numbers, Boolean and Json (from Jackson)
- All supported messages have a MessageCodec associated
- You can send your own messages if you create and register their codecs
- The Json from Jackson is mutable. ¿Why is this a problem?
 - Verticles have to be isolated

```
@Override
public JsonObject transform(JsonObject jsonObject) {
  return jsonObject.copy();
}
```



- String, null, bytes, Numbers, Boolean and Json (from Jackson)
- All supported messages have a MessageCodec associated
- You can send your own messages if you create and register their codecs
- The Json from Jackson is mutable. ¿Why is this a problem?
 - Verticles have to be isolated

```
@Override
public JsonObject transform(JsonObject jsonObject) {
  return jsonObject.copy();
}
```

• imrafaelmerino/json-values is a better alternative: it's persistent and provides a better api

```
@Override
public JsObj transform(final JsObj obj) {
  return obj;
}
```



Threading model

• Two types of threads: event loops and workers



Threading model

- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.



Threading model

- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- ullet computationally intensive or blocking tasks \Rightarrow worker



- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- computationally intensive or blocking tasks ⇒ worker
- never block an event loop



- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- ullet computationally intensive or blocking tasks \Rightarrow worker
- never block an event loop
- Size of pools by default



- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- ullet computationally intensive or blocking tasks \Rightarrow worker
- never block an event loop
- Size of pools by default
 - event loops: 2 x processors



- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- ullet computationally intensive or blocking tasks \Rightarrow worker
- never block an event loop
- Size of pools by default
 - event loops: 2 x processors
 - workers: 20



- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- computationally intensive or blocking tasks ⇒ worker
- never block an event loop
- Size of pools by default
 - event loops: 2 x processors
 - workers: 20
 - What's the right size?



- Two types of threads: event loops and workers
- When deploying a verticle, you have to specify if a worker or an event loop will execute it.
- computationally intensive or blocking tasks ⇒ worker
- never block an event loop
- Size of pools by default
 - event loops: 2 x processors
 - workers: 20
 - What's the right size?
- What about green threads and project Loom?



Alternatives

Erlang



Alternatives

- Erlang
- Scala Akka



Alternatives

- Erlang
- Scala Akka
- Pony (compiled programming language)



vertx-effect: where Vertx meet FP



• Vertx 4 use futures to represent asynchronous results, but



- Vertx 4 use futures to represent asynchronous results, but
- Vertx future API is not rich enough to develop complex verticles:



- Vertx 4 use futures to represent asynchronous results, but
- Vertx future API is not rich enough to develop complex verticles:
- Only three methods to coordinate: join, all and any

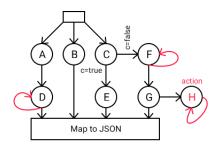


- Vertx 4 use futures to represent asynchronous results, but
- Vertx future API is not rich enough to develop complex verticles:
- Only three methods to coordinate: join, all and any
- Since it's not lazy, key reactive operations like retry, recoverWith and fallbackTo are missing



Microservices era

Impossible to address the following flow reasonably:





```
import java.util.function.Supplier;
import java.util.function.Function;
import io.vertx.core.Future;
public interface Val<0> extends Supplier<Future<0>> {...}
public interface \lambda<1,0> extends Function<1, Val<0>> {...}
```

• Val is lazy. It describes an asyncronous effect



```
import java.util.function.Supplier;
import java.util.function.Function;
import io.vertx.core.Future;

public interface Val<0> extends Supplier<Future<0>> {...}

public interface λ<I,0> extends Function<I, Val<0>> {...}
```

- Val is lazy. It describes an asyncronous effect
- ullet The types I and O represent messages sent to the Event Bus



```
import java.util.function.Supplier;
import java.util.function.Function;
import io.vertx.core.Future;
public interface Val<0> extends Supplier<Future<0>> {...}
public interface \lambda<1,0> extends Function<1, Val<0>> {...}
```

- Val is lazy. It describes an asyncronous effect
- The types I and O represent messages sent to the Event Bus
- If they are not supported by Vertx



```
import java.util.function.Supplier;
import java.util.function.Function;
import io.vertx.core.Future;
public interface Val<0> extends Supplier<Future<0>> {...}
public interface \lambda<1,0> extends Function<1, Val<0>> {...}
```

- Val is lazy. It describes an asyncronous effect
- The types I and O represent messages sent to the Event Bus
- If they are not supported by Vertx
 - Implement and register a MessageCodec for them



Hands-on



What we will do in the next session:

Playing around with values



- Playing around with values
- Expressions



- Playing around with values
- Expressions
- Lambdas



- Playing around with values
- Expressions
- Lambdas
- Deploying verticles and modules



- Playing around with values
- Expressions
- Lambdas
- Deploying verticles and modules
- Logging



- Playing around with values
- Expressions
- Lambdas
- Deploying verticles and modules
- Logging
- Reactive http client



- Playing around with values
- Expressions
- Lambdas
- Deploying verticles and modules
- Logging
- Reactive http client
- Wrapping existing libraries with lambdas: vertx-mongodb-effect



- Playing around with values
- Expressions
- Lambdas
- Deploying verticles and modules
- Logging
- Reactive http client
- Wrapping existing libraries with lambdas: vertx-mongodb-effect
- Implementing complex flows



References I

- Carl Hewitt: Actor Model of Computation https://arxiv.org/vc/arxiv/papers/1008/1008.1459v8.pdf
- Alan C. Kay: The early history of Smalltalk. http://www.metaobject.com/papers/Smallhistory.pdf
- Alan C. Kay: Email explaining that the big idea is "messages" and not objects. http://lists.squeakfoundation.org/pipermail/squeak-dev/1998-October/017019.html
- Dr. Alan Kay on the Meaning of "Object-Oriented Programming". http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~ram/pub/pub_jf47ht81Ht/doc_kay_oop_en
- Joe Armstrong explaining that they weren't interested in, or worried about, the actor model while creating Erlang.

 http://erlang.org/pipermail/erlang-questions/2014-June/\(\chi\)
 079891.html

References II

- How we program multicores Joe Armstrong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bo5WL5IQAd0&t=3099s
- Joe Armstrong Alan Kay Joe Armstrong interviews Alan Kay https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhOHn9TClXY
- Scott Lystig Fritchie The wide world of almost-actors: comparing the Pony to BEAM languages https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0m0_qtfzLs
- GOTO 2018 The Do's and Don'ts of Error Handling Joe Armstrong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTM_b7EJg5E&t=109s
- Joe Armstrong. Programming Erlang: Software for a Concurrent World

