

gRPC

& FlatBuffers



Demo @ Golang Melbourne - September 2017
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- Google open sourced in Feb 2015
- **Transport:** HTTP/2
- **Wire format:** Protocol Buffers v3
- **Service definition:** Protocol Buffers IDL
- Libraries in ~10 languages (native C, Go, Java)
- Microservices framework

Step 1: Define IDL

```
syntax = "proto3";
```

```
package service;
```

```
service BookmarksService {  
    rpc Add(AddRequest) returns (AddResponse) {}  
    rpc LastAdded(LastAddedRequest) returns (LastAddedResponse) {}  
}
```

```
message AddRequest {  
    string URL = 1;  
    string title = 2;  
}
```

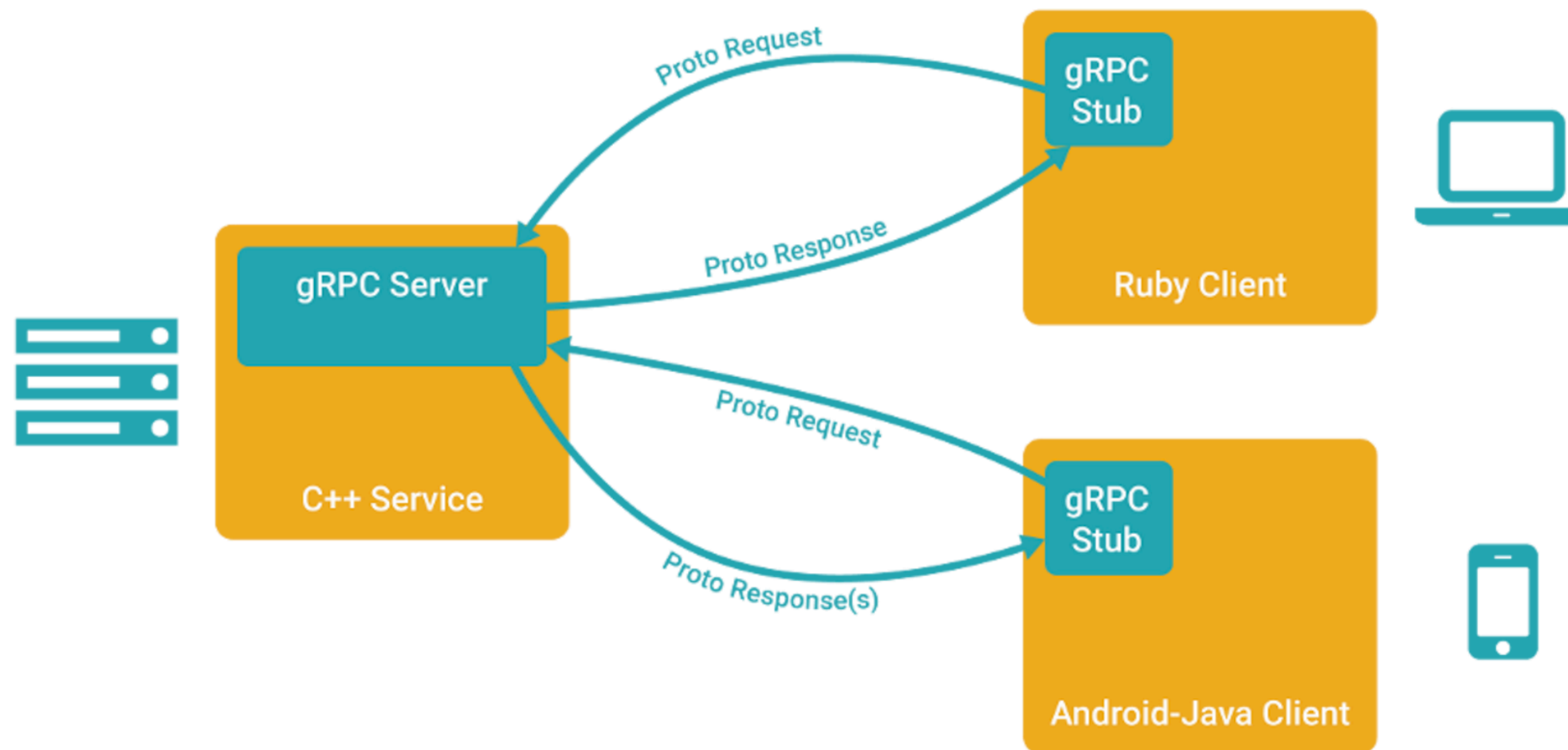
```
message AddResponse {}
```

```
message LastAddedRequest {}
```

```
message LastAddedResponse {  
    string ID = 1;  
    string URL = 2;  
    string title = 3;  
}
```

Step 2: Compile

Generate Server Interfaces and Client Stubs





FlatBuffers with gRPC

- support since December 2016
- **Wire format:** FlatBuffers
- **Service definition:** FlatBuffers IDL
- languages: C++, Go (experimental...)

Protocol Buffers vs FlatBuffers?

- **Protocol Buffers**

- entire buffer must be parsed to read data inside
- i.e. allocation and deallocation

- **FlatBuffers**

- allows random access by storing the offsets
- still allows for forwards/backwards compatibility

Demo & References

Demo

- <https://github.com/jonog/grpc-flatbuffers-example>

References

- https://github.com/google/flatbuffers/blob/master/grpc/tests/go_test.go
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