

<epam>

MCP: Deep dive

JUNE 2025

Before we start:

- **Raise your hand and ask questions if you have any**
- **It is better to ask questions when you have**
- **Also, type them in chat**
- **We will need DIAL API key for this session**

Agenda:

- **Presentation:**
 - **About workflow**
 - **JSON-RPC protocol overview**
 - **Request/response flow**
- **Workshop:**
 - **Provide Web Search tool JSON Schema**
 - **Finish MCPServer creation**
 - **Finish endpoint for MCP Server flow**
 - **Run MCP Server**
 - **Test it with Postman**
 - **Test it with MCPClient**
 - **Write Custom MCP Client**

Workflow

Workflow, Key details:

Base Protocol

- JSON-RPC (Remote Procedure Call) message format
- Exchange and negotiate capabilities
- Share implementation details

Tools

Functions for the AI model to execute

Resources

Context and data, for the user or the AI model to use (not covered in this practice)

Prompts

Templated messages and workflows for users (not covered in this practice)

Auth

The Model Context Protocol provides authorization capabilities at the transport level, enabling MCP clients to make requests to restricted MCP servers on behalf of resource owners. (not covered in this practice)

<https://modelcontextprotocol.io/specification/2025-06-18/basic>

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Workflow:

1. Initialization

The initialization phase **MUST** be the first interaction between client and server. During this phase, the client and server:

- Establish protocol version compatibility
- Exchange and negotiate capabilities
- Share implementation details

2. Notification

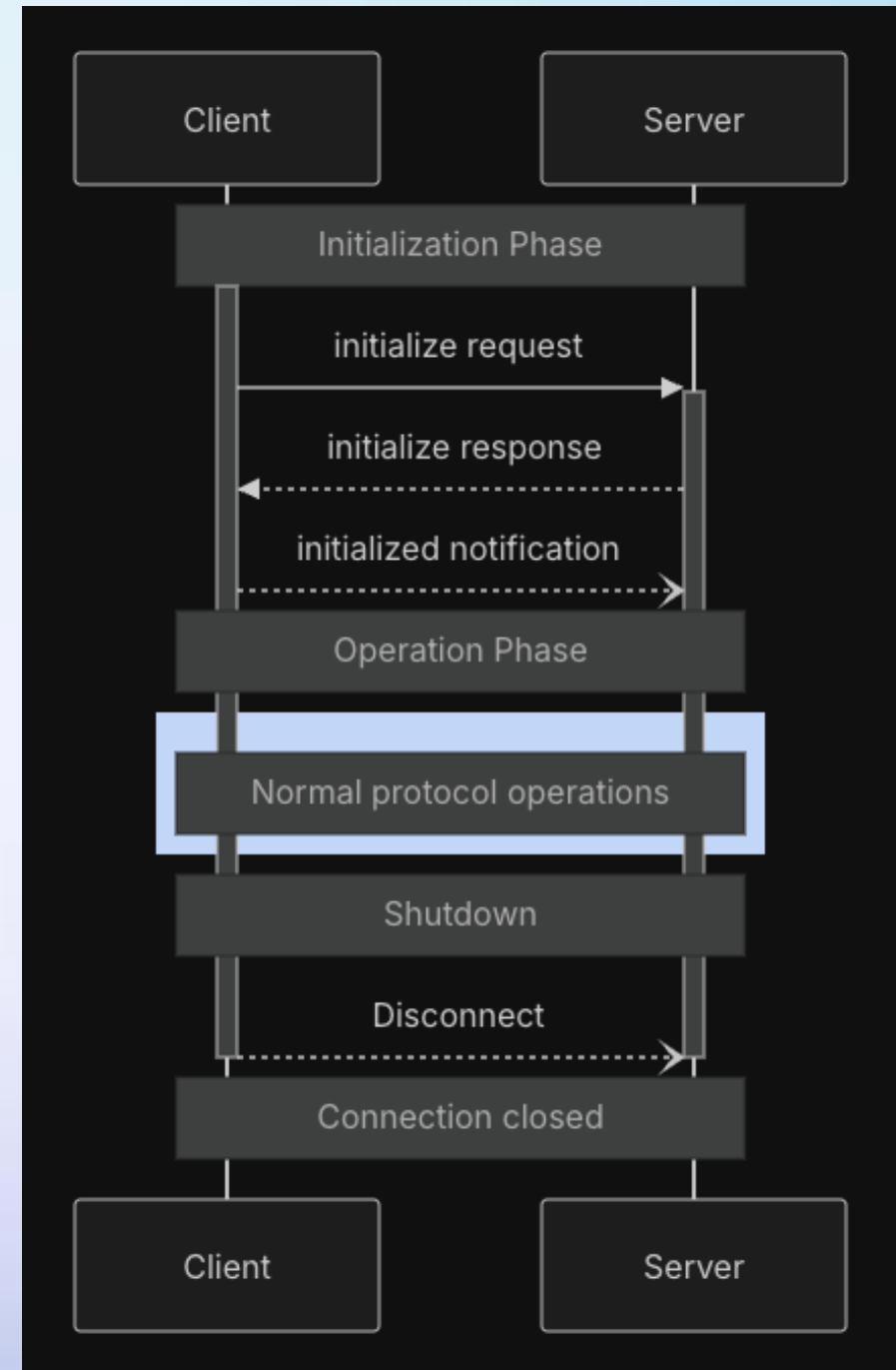
After successful initialization, the client **MUST** send an initialized notification to indicate it is ready to begin normal operations:

3. Operation

During the operation phase, the client and server exchange messages according to the negotiated capabilities.

4. Shutdown

During the shutdown phase, one side (usually the client) cleanly terminates the protocol connection. No specific shutdown messages are defined—instead, the underlying transport mechanism should be used to signal connection termination.



JSON-RPC protocol

What is JSON-RPC protocol

JSON-RPC is a stateless, light-weight remote procedure call (RPC) protocol, that uses JSON (RFC 4627) as data format.

Reason?

- **Remote method calls:** Allows clients to call methods on remote servers
- **API communication:** Enables communication between different applications/services
- **Cross-platform integration:** Works across different programming languages and platforms

Request

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "method": "methodName",
  "params": [parameters] or {parameters},
  "id": 1
}
```

Response

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "result": {
    [key: string]: unknown
  }
}
```

Error

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "error": {
    "code": -32600,
    "message": "invalid request",
    "data": "additional info",
  }
}
```


Request/ response flow

Initialize:

What happens during initialization:

The initialization phase is the first interaction between client and server, establishing protocol version and capabilities

Request Required Parameters:

- **header:** Accept with json and event-stream
- **protocolVersion:** Client MUST send protocol version it supports (latest preferred)
- **capabilities:** Declares what features client supports
- **clientInfo:** Name and version identification

Accept: application/json, text/event-stream

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "method": "initialize",
  "params": {
    "protocolVersion": "2024-11-05",
    "capabilities": {
      // client capabilities
    },
    "clientInfo": {
      "name": "client-name",
      "version": "1.0.0"
    }
  }
}
```

Response Required Parameters:

- **header:** Mcp-Session-Id with session ID
- **protocolVersion:** Client MUST send protocol version it supports (latest preferred)
- **capabilities:** Declares what features server supports
- **serverInfo:** Name and version identification

Mcp-Session-Id: session_id

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "result": {
    "protocolVersion": "2024-11-05",
    "capabilities": {
      // server capabilities
    },
    "serverInfo": {
      "name": "server-name",
      "version": "1.0.0"
    }
  }
}
```

Notification:

Purpose:

This handshake requires one last message from the client to the server acknowledging the server initialization message

It's a mandatory acknowledgment that completes the 3-step initialization handshake and enables all subsequent MCP operations.

Request

Accept: application/json, text/event-stream

Mcp-Session-Id: Session ID

```
{  
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",  
  "method": "notifications/initialized"  
}
```

Response

Mcp-Session-Id: Session ID

Status: 204 Created

Discovery:

Clients requests what capabilities (Tools, Resources, Prompts) the server offers. The Server responds with a list and descriptions

With this request a Client will get list with tools, prompts, or resources.

Today we will practice only with *tools*.

Accept: application/json, text/event-stream

Mcp-Session-Id: Session ID

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "method": "[tools|prompts|resources]/list",
  "params": {}
}
```

Pay attention that *tools/list* returns JSON Schema with anthropic tools configuration. For DIAL you need to map it properly.

Mcp-Session-Id: Session ID

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "result": {
    "tools": [
      {
        "name": "tool_name",
        "description": "Tool description",
        "inputSchema": {
          "type": "object",
          "properties": {
            "param1": {
              "type": "string",
              "description": "Parameter description"
            }
          }
        },
        "required": ["param1"]
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

Tools/call:

If the LLM determines it needs to use a Tool, the Host directs the Client to send an invocation request to the appropriate Server

- **What happens:**
- **Tool invocation:** The Client invokes capabilities based on the Host's needs
- **Execution:** The Server receives the request, executes the underlying logic (calls the API), and gets the result
- **Response:** The Server sends the result back to the Client

Tools/call:

Request

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "method": "tools/call",
  "params": {
    "name": "tool_name",
    "arguments": {
      "param1": "value1",
      "param2": "value2"
    }
  }
}
```

Success response

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "result": {
    "content": [
      {
        "type": "text",
        "text": " Result"
      }
    ]
  },
  "isError": false
}
```

Error response

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "result": {
    "content": [
      {
        "type": "text",
        "text": "Error message
describing what went
wrong"
      }
    ]
  },
  "isError": true
}
```

Error response

```
{
  "jsonrpc": "2.0",
  "id": 1,
  "error": {
    "code": -32602,
    "message": "Invalid parameters",
    "data": {
      "details": "Missing required
argument 'param1'"
    }
  }
}
```



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