

Chapter 1

What is dīvidere?

Dīvidere, latin for "to divide, to seperate" seemed an appropriate package name for a distributed system framework project.

The primary goal of dīvidere is to combine three complementary technologies (Python, ZeroMQ, Protobuf) into a distributed system messaging framework. ZeroMQ will provide a variety of transport mechanisms, Protobuf providing a language-independent, strongly-typed message encoding and Python the means to combine these components into a reusable framework.

Chapter 2

ZeroMq

ZeroMq provides the core transport mechanisms used by this framework. We'd highly recommend referencing the official ZeroMq documentation ¹ for more comprehensive material, but for the purposes of this package we will attempt to document sufficient information necessary to use this package.

The communication package provides primitive ZeroMq classes which support byte-stream messaging as the foundation of other more sophisticated packages.

2.1 Publish/Subscribe

The publish-subscribe, pub-sub, sometimes referred to as the observer pattern is a software design pattern where producers of messages provide info without knowledge of the recipients. An analogy would be a radio broadcasting station, sending information to an unknown number of recipients. The messaging is one-way, from provider (publisher) to consumer (subscriber). A publisher can choose to produce one specific message, or a series of messages. The subscriber 'subscribes' to a list of messages, after which all produced messages of this 'topic' will be received by the subscriber.

2.2 Request/Response

The request-response, or request-reply, provides a synchronous form of message passing. The requester sends a message, then waits for the response. This form of communication enforces a send/receive protocol, failure to comply results in the socket throwing an exception. You may choose to connect multiple response objects to the same requester, if doing so sent messages will be routed one-by-one to each response objects in a round-robin fashion. This pattern allows a worker pool fashion architecture.

¹Official ZeroMQ documentation: <https://zeromq.org/>

Chapter 3

Protobuf

The ZeroMQ transport supports byte-stream and string payloads. Complex messages could be transmitted in JSON form using the communication package but instead we chose to utilize the protobuf encoding/decoding to allow type-safe, language specific messaging contents. Google Protobuf ¹ supports a platform-neutral extensible means to define serializing structured data. Messages are defined in a *.proto file, a message compiler converts the proto file into a language-specific (e.g. Python) message library used by the clients.

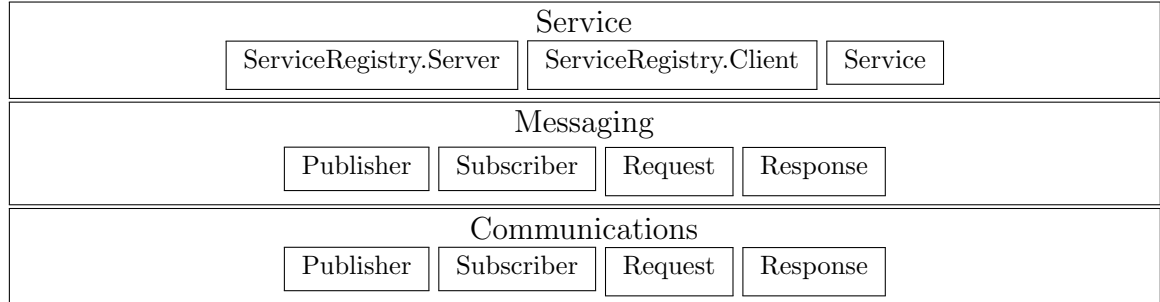
¹<https://protobuf.dev/>

Chapter 4

Architecture

Dividere is implemented as a layered architecture, the primary communication layer provided at the *Communications* package, the *Messaging* package providing aggregator classes utilizing the communications classes exchanging Protobuf messages.

These two layers are expected to expand in the future, we also intend on adding higher-level layer(s) with higher-level distributed system abstractions.



Dividere implements a layered architecture approach, more primitive abstractions located at the lower layers, with specialized abstractions atop. Upper layers utilizing lower layer components.

4.1 Communications

The communications layer focuses on providing string-based messaging components with generalized debugging visibility. Each consumer component allows blocking and time-out blocking message retrieval interfaces. Most of these components provide a light-weight facade to ZeroMQ components.

4.2 Messaging

This layer mirrors many of the components from the communications layer with a subtle difference, components in this layer utilize protobuf messaging protocol rather than string-based messages. This layer is intended to provide multi-language integration support.

4.3 Service

The service layer provides service-based abstractions, including a 'Service' abstract class that registers with the centralized, server-based, name-service.

Chapter 5

Examples

simplePubSub.py

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
import dividere
import clientMsgs_pb2 as clientMsgs
import time

Port=5555
pub=dividere.messaging.Publisher('tcp://*:%d'%(Port))
sub=dividere.messaging.Subscriber('tcp://localhost:%d'%(Port))
time.sleep(2); #—delay to address 'late joiner'

msg=clientMsgs.msg01()
msg.field1='abcd'
pub.send(msg)
got=sub.recv()
assert(got==msg)

#—destroy pub/sub objects to free resources and terminate threads
pub=None
sub=None
```


Chapter 6

Reference

Help on module connection:

NAME

connection

CLASSES

builtins.object

Connector

Publisher

Request

Response

Subscriber

```
class Connector(builtins.object)
```

```
| This abstract class defines the interfaces and structures  
| for ZMQ socket-based derived classes. This class provides  
| the ZMQ context and socket event monitoring useful for  
| debugging socket state changes.  
| The socket monitoring is conducted by an independent thread,  
| which is terminated/joined at object termination.
```

```
|
```

```
| Methods defined here:
```

```
|
```

```
| __del__(self)
```

```
|     Performs cleanup for all allocated resources;  
|     disable monitoring, wait for monitoring thread completes,  
|     close the socket and close the context
```

```
|
```

```
| __init__(self)
```

```
|     Creates resources used in base classes and defines expected  
|     structure to be used in derived classes.
```

```

| -----
| Static methods defined here:
|
| registerSocketMonitoring(sock)
|     Creates a monitoring thread for the specified socket,
|     starts the thread and returns the thread id to the caller
|     which allows joining on the thread post stopping monitoring
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| socketEventMonitor(monitorSock)
|     Background threading callback, supports monitoring the
|     specified socket via a background thread and logs state
|     changes of the socket for debugging purposes.
|     Monitors the socket until monitoring is terminated
|     via object destructor (e.g. obj = None)
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| -----
| Data descriptors defined here:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Publisher(Connector)
|     Publisher(endPoint)
|
|     This class creates a publisher socket at the specified endpoint.
|     This is the pub in the Pub/Sub pattern.
|
|     Method resolution order:
|         Publisher
|         Connector
|         builtins.object
|
|     Methods defined here:
|
|     __init__(self, endPoint)
|         Allocate base class resources, create PUB socket, start
|         socket debug monitoring and connect the socket to the
|         specified endpoint (e.g. 'tcp://*:5555')
|         Refer to ZMQ documentation for details on available transport
|         and syntax of endpoint.

```

```

|
| send(self, msg)
|     Publish the specified message (expected sequence of bytes)
|
| -----
| Methods inherited from Connector:
|
| __del__(self)
|     Performs cleanup for all allocated resources;
|     disable monitoring, wait for monitoring thread completes,
|     close the socket and close the context
|
| -----
| Static methods inherited from Connector:
|
| registerSocketMonitoring(sock)
|     Creates a monitoring thread for the specified socket,
|     starts the thread and returns the thread id to the caller
|     which allows joining on the thread post stopping monitoring
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| socketEventManager(monitorSock)
|     Background threading callback, supports monitoring the
|     specified socket via a background thread and logs state
|     changes of the socket for debugging purposes.
|     Monitors the socket until monitoring is terminated
|     via object destructor (e.g. obj = None)
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| -----
| Data descriptors inherited from Connector:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Request(Connector)
|     Request(endPointList)
|
|     First part of a Request/Response connection pair. Request object
|     initiates all messages, response object sends message response.
|     Failure to adhere to this sender protocol will result in exception
|     being thrown.
|     Note: this pairing allows for 1-N cardinality, one request connection

```

```

|         object sending to N-response objects. When configured like this
|         the recipient of any message is routed in a round-robin fashion
|         to one response object
|
| Method resolution order:
|     Request
|     Connector
|     builtins.object
|
| Methods defined here:
|
|     __init__(self, endPointList)
|         Allocate all resources to support the object;
|         create a socket, register it for monitoring, and connect
|         it to the specified endpoint
|
|     recv(self)
|         Wait for and return the incoming message.
|
|     send(self, msg)
|         Send the specified message out the socket channel.
|         Message consists of a stream of bytes.
|
|     wait(self, timeOutMs)
|         Wait for a message to arrive within the specified timeout, return
|         true/false representing whether a message is available
|
| -----
| Methods inherited from Connector:
|
|     __del__(self)
|         Performs cleanup for all allocated resources;
|         disable monitoring, wait for monitoring thread completes,
|         close the socket and close the context
|
| -----
| Static methods inherited from Connector:
|
|     registerSocketMonitoring(sock)
|         Creates a monitoring thread for the specified socket,
|         starts the thread and returns the thread id to the caller
|         which allows joining on the thread post stopping monitoring
|         Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
|     socketEventMonitor(monitorSock)
|         Background threading callback, supports monitoring the

```

```

|         specified socket via a background thread and logs state
|         changes of the socket for debugging purposes.
|         Monitors the socket until monitoring is terminated
|         via object destructor (e.g. obj = None)
|         Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| -----
| Data descriptors inherited from Connector:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Response(Connector)
|     Response(endPoint)
|
|     Second part of a Request/Response connection pair. Request object
|     initiates all messages, response object sends message response.
|     Failure to adhere to this sender protocol will result in exception
|     being thrown.
|
|     Method resolution order:
|         Response
|         Connector
|         builtins.object
|
|     Methods defined here:
|
|     __init__(self, endPoint)
|         Allocate all resources to support the object;
|         create a socket, register it for monitoring, and connect
|         it to the specified endpoint
|
|     recv(self)
|         Wait for and return the incoming message.
|
|     send(self, msg)
|         Send the specified message out the socket channel
|         Message consists of a stream of bytes.
|
|     wait(self, timeOutMs)
|         Wait for a message to arrive within the specified timeout, return
|         true/false representing whether a message is available
|

```

```

| -----
| Methods inherited from Connector:
|
| __del__(self)
|     Performs cleanup for all allocated resources;
|     disable monitoring, wait for monitoring thread completes,
|     close the socket and close the context
|
| -----
| Static methods inherited from Connector:
|
| registerSocketMonitoring(sock)
|     Creates a monitoring thread for the specified socket,
|     starts the thread and returns the thread id to the caller
|     which allows joining on the thread post stopping monitoring
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| socketEventMonitor(monitorSock)
|     Background threading callback, supports monitoring the
|     specified socket via a background thread and logs state
|     changes of the socket for debugging purposes.
|     Monitors the socket until monitoring is terminated
|     via object destructor (e.g. obj = None)
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| -----
| Data descriptors inherited from Connector:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Subscriber(Connector)
|     Subscriber(endPoint, topic='')
|
|     This class creates a subscriber socket at the specified endpoint.
|     This is the sub in the Pub/Sub pattern. By default, a subscriber
|     object will listen for all messages, but can be filtered by specifying
|     a topic(s); either by specifying a topic during the initializer or
|     calling subscribe() after object creation
|
|     Method resolution order:
|         Subscriber
|         Connector

```



```

|     builtins.object
|
| Methods defined here:
|
| __init__(self, endPoint, topic='')
|     Allocate base class resources, create SUB socket, start
|     socket debug monitoring and connect the socket to the
|     specified endpoint (e.g. 'tcp://localhost:5555')
|     Subscribes to the specified topic, by default the object
|     will receive all messages.
|     Refer to ZMQ documentation for details on available transport
|     and syntax of endpoint.
|
| recv(self)
|     Wait for next message to arrive and return it to the
|     caller.
|
| subscribe(self, topic)
|     Allows subscribing to additional topics (beyond the one
|     specified in the constructor)
|
| wait(self, timeOutMs)
|     Wait for a message to arrive within the specified timeout, return
|     true/false representing whether a message is available
|
| -----
| Methods inherited from Connector:
|
| __del__(self)
|     Performs cleanup for all allocated resources;
|     disable monitoring, wait for monitoring thread completes,
|     close the socket and close the context
|
| -----
| Static methods inherited from Connector:
|
| registerSocketMonitoring(sock)
|     Creates a monitoring thread for the specified socket,
|     starts the thread and returns the thread id to the caller
|     which allows joining on the thread post stopping monitoring
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
| socketEventMonitor(monitorSock)
|     Background threading callback, supports monitoring the
|     specified socket via a background thread and logs state
|     changes of the socket for debugging purposes.

```

```

|     Monitors the socket until monitoring is terminated
|     via object destructor (e.g. obj = None)
|     Note: Used internally to class(es), not intended for external usage
|
|     -----
| Data descriptors inherited from Connector:
|
|     __dict__
|         dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
|     __weakref__
|         list of weak references to the object (if defined)

```

FILE

Help on module messaging:

NAME

messaging

CLASSES

```

builtins.object
  ProtoBuffDecoder
  ProtoBuffEncoder
  Publisher
  Request
  Response
  Subscriber

```

```

class ProtoBuffDecoder(builtins.object)
|   This class supports taking in a user protobuf message and encode/pack
|   into a container message for transport. This is one end of a encode/decode
|   sequence used when sending a user message through a socket while allowing
|   a variety of messages to be sent thru a shared socket channel.
|   This is one end of the encode/decode sequence; encoding done at the sending
|   end, decoding at the receiving end.
|
|   Methods defined here:
|
|   __init__(self)
|       Initialize self. See help(type(self)) for accurate signature.
|
|   decode(self, msgEnv)
|       Extract the user message from the specified container message
|       and return it to the caller.
|
|   -----

```

```

| Data descriptors defined here:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class ProtoBuffEncoder(builtins.object)
| This class supports taking in a user protobuf message and encode/pack
| into a container message for transport. This is one end of a encode/decode
| sequence used when sending a user message through a socket while allowing
| a variety of messages to be sent thru a shared socket channel.
| This is one end of the encode/decode sequence; encoding done at the sending
| end, decoding at the receiving end.
|
| Methods defined here:
|
| __init__(self)
|     Initialize object resources
|
| encode(self, msg)
|     Encapsulate the specified message into a container message for
|     transport and return it to the caller
|
| -----
| Data descriptors defined here:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Publisher(builtins.object)
| Publisher(endPoint)
|
| Similar functionality to the Publish/Subscriber pairing in the connection
| module, differing in the expected user message being sent. The messaging
| module specializes in sending/receiving protobuf-based messages.
|
| Methods defined here:
|
| __del__(self)
|     Free allocated object resources
|

```

```

|  __init__(self, endPoint)
|      Create a publisher connection and encoder
|
|  send(self, msg)
|      Encode message into envelope container, convert it to
|      a byte stream and send out wire via the connector
|
|  -----
|  Data descriptors defined here:
|
|  __dict__
|      dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
|  __weakref__
|      list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Request(builtins.object)
|  Request(endPoint)
|
|  Similar functionality to the Request/Response pairing in the connection
|  module, differing in the expected user message being sent. The messaging
|  module specializes in sending/receiving protobuf-based messages.
|
|  Methods defined here:
|
|  __del__(self)
|      Free allocated object resources
|
|  __init__(self, endPoint)
|      Create a request connection and encoder
|
|  recv(self)
|      Retrieve byte stream from republisher, parse byte stream into envelope
|      message, then decode and return the contained user message
|
|  send(self, msg)
|      Encode message into envelope container, convert it to
|      a byte stream and send out wire via the connector
|
|  wait(self, timeOutMs)
|      Wait for a message to arrive within the specified timeout, return
|      true/false representing whether a message is available
|
|  -----
|  Data descriptors defined here:
|

```

```

|  __dict__
|      dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
|  __weakref__
|      list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Response(builtins.object)
|  Response(endPoint)
|
|  Similar functionality to the Request/Response pairing in the connection
|  module, differing in the expected user message being sent. The messaging
|  module specializes in sending/receiving protobuf-based messages.
|
|  Methods defined here:
|
|  __del__(self)
|      Free all allocated object resources
|
|  __init__(self, endPoint)
|      Allocate all necessary resources, rescribe to messages.
|      If message rescription list is empty, rescribe to all messages
|      otherwise rescribe to the specified messages exclusively
|      create rescriber object and decoder components
|
|  recv(self)
|      Retrieve byte stream from rescriber, parse byte stream into envelope
|      message, then decode and return the contained user message
|
|  send(self, msg)
|      Encode message into envelope container, convert it to
|      a byte stream and send out wire via the connector
|
|  wait(self, timeOutMs)
|      Wait for a message to arrive within the specified timeout, return
|      true/false representing whether a message is available
|
|  -----
|  Data descriptors defined here:
|
|  __dict__
|      dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
|  __weakref__
|      list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
class Subscriber(builtins.object)

```

```

| Subscriber(endPoint, msgSubList=[])
|
| Similar functionality to the Publish/Subscriber pairing in the connection
| module, differing in the expected user message being sent. The messaging
| module specializes in sending/receiving protobuf-based messages.
|
| Methods defined here:
|
| __del__(self)
|     Free all allocated object resources
|
| __init__(self, endPoint, msgSubList=[])
|     Allocate all necessary resources, subscribe to messages.
|     If message subscription list is empty, subscribe to all messages
|     otherwise subscribe to the specified messages exclusively
|     create subscriber object and decoder components
|
| recv(self)
|     Retrieve byte stream from subscriber, parse byte stream into envelope
|     message, then decode and return the contained user message
|
| wait(self, timeOutMs)
|     Wait for a message to arrive within the specified timeout, return
|     true/false representing whether a message is available
|
| -----
| Static methods defined here:
|
| topicId(msg)
|     Translate a protobuf message into a topic name
|     (the beginning of the string coming across the 'wire')
|     used to subscribe to specific message(s)
|     Note: expected usage is internal to the module, not
|     intended for external use
|
| -----
| Data descriptors defined here:
|
| __dict__
|     dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
| __weakref__
|     list of weak references to the object (if defined)

```

FILE

Help on module registry:

NAME

registry

CLASSES

builtins.object
ServiceRegistry

```
class ServiceRegistry(builtins.object)
|   Primarily namespace, server-side class used for instantiating a
|   nameservice, client-side for performing registration and service
|   lookup.
|
|   Data descriptors defined here:
|
|   __dict__
|       dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
|   __weakref__
|       list of weak references to the object (if defined)
|
|   -----
|   Data and other attributes defined here:
|
|   Client = <class 'registry.ServiceRegistry.Client'>
|       Instantiate new object, open port to name service
|
|   Server = <class 'registry.ServiceRegistry.Server'>
|       Server-side implementation; establish a well-defined port for
|       incoming registration and lookup requests.  Open the incoming port
|       and wait for incoming messages in an independent thread.
```

FILE

Help on module service:

NAME

service

CLASSES

builtins.object
Service

```
class Service(builtins.object)
|   Abstract base class for services, registers service name with name
|   registry and establishes a req/rep socket for incoming messaging.
```

```

| Derived classes are intended to provide 'def handleXXX(self, msg)'
| methods for expected incoming requests.
|
| Methods defined here:
|
|     __del__(self)
|
|     __init__(self)
|         Find an available port within port range [5100,6000], create
|         incoming socket with the port, register the service (e.g. derived class name)
|         and port with the name service, then begin waiting for an processing inbound
|         messages in an active thread.
|
|     recv(self)
|         Get the next message from the socket, blocks indefinitely, use wait()
|         to avoid blocking.
|
|     reregister(self)
|
|     run(self)
|         Loop waiting for message, call associated message handler (which is responsible
|         for sending response message). Periodically check for signal to terminate
|         the thread.
|
|     send(self, msg)
|         Send message through socket
|
|     setupSocket(self)
|         Loop thru the port range looking for an available port, once
|         finding one register the service and port. Throw exception
|         if you fail to find an available port
|
|     stop(self)
|         Signal thread to halt.
|
|     wait(self, timeOutMs)
|         Wait for an inbound message within the specified timeout, return bool
|         indicating message was received
|
|     -----
| Data descriptors defined here:
|
|     __dict__
|         dictionary for instance variables (if defined)
|
|     __weakref__

```


| list of weak references to the object (if defined)

FILE