

Take a Ride on the Bus

Practical Messaging and Queueing



Chris Meadows
Director of Application Development
& Developer
Terenine Technology Solutions
Email: meadoch1@gmail.com
Twitter: @meadoch1

Agenda

What's messaging?

Why would I want to use it?

Examples

Q&A

Setting the Stage

Enterprise
Patterns

Scope

Intro to using messaging

Academic background (but not a lot)

Pointers to tools

Provide actionable info to use
when you get back to work

ESB

Frameworks in
depth

Fact or Fiction?

Use of messaging can make your
applications easier to
build,
understand,
and maintain

What is Messaging?

“Message passing in computer science is a form of communication used in parallel computing, object-oriented programming, and interprocess communication. In this model, processes or objects can send and receive messages (comprising zero or more bytes, complex data structures, or even segments of code) to other processes. By waiting for messages, processes can also synchronize.” - from Wikipedia

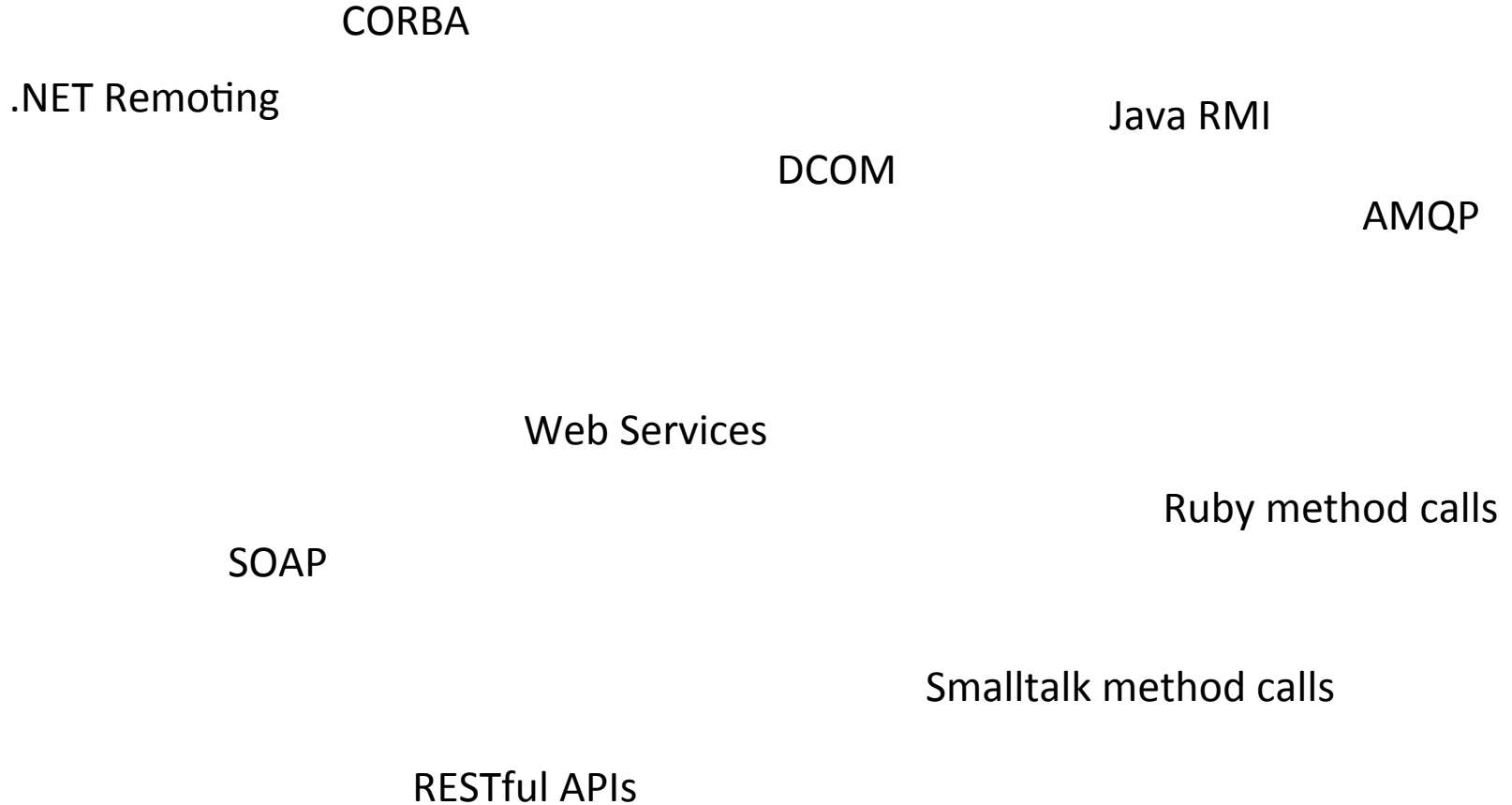
What is Messaging?

(Practically Speaking)

A means of communication between two distinct
programmatic constructs

Could be
inter-process
between simple objects
asynchronous

Sound Familiar?



What is a message?

A defined series of bytes which can be encoded and decoded with consistent meaning

What is a message system?

Characteristics

Anatomy

Patterns

Characteristics of a Messaging System

Reliable Transfer
Preservation of Order
Broadcast/Collection
Synchronous/Async

Characteristics of a Messaging System

Reliable Transfer

Do you need guarantees of delivery?

Maybe Yes

Request processing
System state change
...

Maybe No

Status update
“Tweets”
Heartbeats

Characteristics of a Messaging System

Preservation of Order

Do you need messages delivered in the same order as sent?

Maybe Yes

Status update

System state change

...

No

Voting

“Tweets”

Heartbeats

Characteristics of a Messaging System

Broadcast/Collection

How many senders are talking to how many receivers?

One – One

One – Many

Many – One

Many - Many

Characteristics of a Messaging System

Synchronous / Asynchronous

Do you need serial processing?

Synchronous

RPC

Method invocation in OOP

...

Asynchronous

Pub/Sub

Twitter

Facebook

Parallel Processing

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Message Storage
Serialization Protocols
Transport Mechanism

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Message Storage

Frequently involves a Queue

Allows delayed processing

Can preserve order

Can offer fault tolerance

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Message Storage

Database Backed

File Backed

In Memory

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Message Storage

Database Backed

Pros

- Simple to set up
- Tools are usually at hand
- Easy view into your queues

Cons

- Prone to contention at high volumes
- Dependency on additional tool

File Backed

In Memory

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Message Storage

Database Backed

File Backed

Pros

- Simple to set up
- Easy view into your queues

Cons

- Prone to contention at high volumes
- Management of files can be difficult

In Memory

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Message Storage

Database Backed

File Backed

In Memory

Pros

- Very fast
- Can use caches to eliminate custom handling of memory
- Can make distributed

Cons

- Can demand a lot of memory
- Danger of running out of memory

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Serialization Protocol

Interoperability

Size

Speed of encoding

Ease of use

There are many good standards already

Protocol Buffers, Thrift, MessagePack,...

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Transport Mechanism

What connects sender and receiver?

TCP/IP

UDP

HTTP

...

Might be dictated by other decisions

(db backed -> db client)

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Build

- Pros
 - Flexibility
 - Deep knowledge
 - Fun
- Cons
 - A lot of work
 - Tricky to get right in all cases

“Buy”

- Pros
 - Many good choices
 - More “testers”
 - Support for getting it right
- Cons
 - Can be very expensive
 - Might impose trade-offs

Anatomy of a Messaging System

Many good Open Source Systems
Exist

RabbitMQ

ActiveMQ

ZeroMQ

Resque

Delayed Job

Beanstalkd

JMS

Amazon SQS

NServiceBus

Mass Transit

...

Patterns of Usage of a Messaging System

Exclusive Pair

Request – Reply

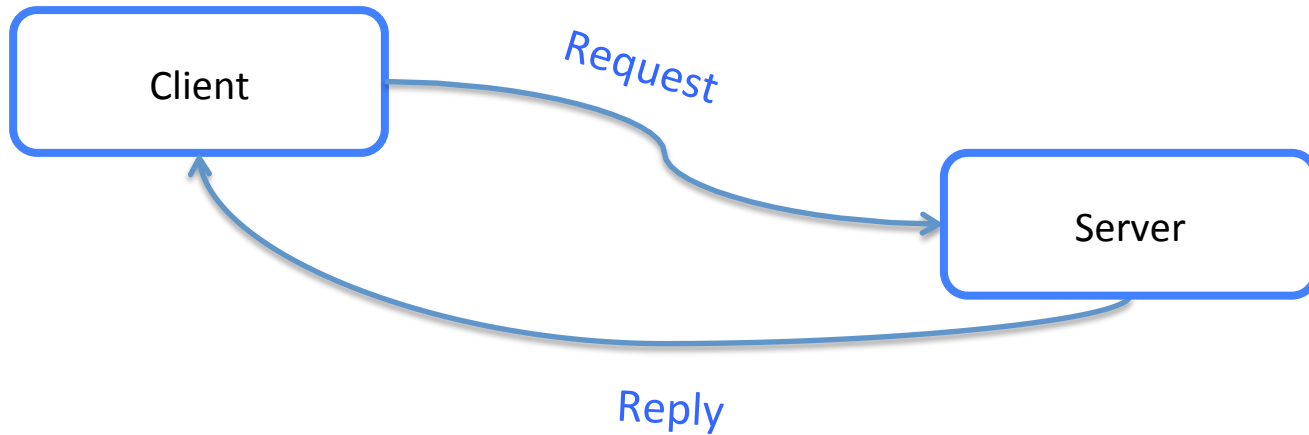
Competing Consumer

Pub / Sub

Fan-in

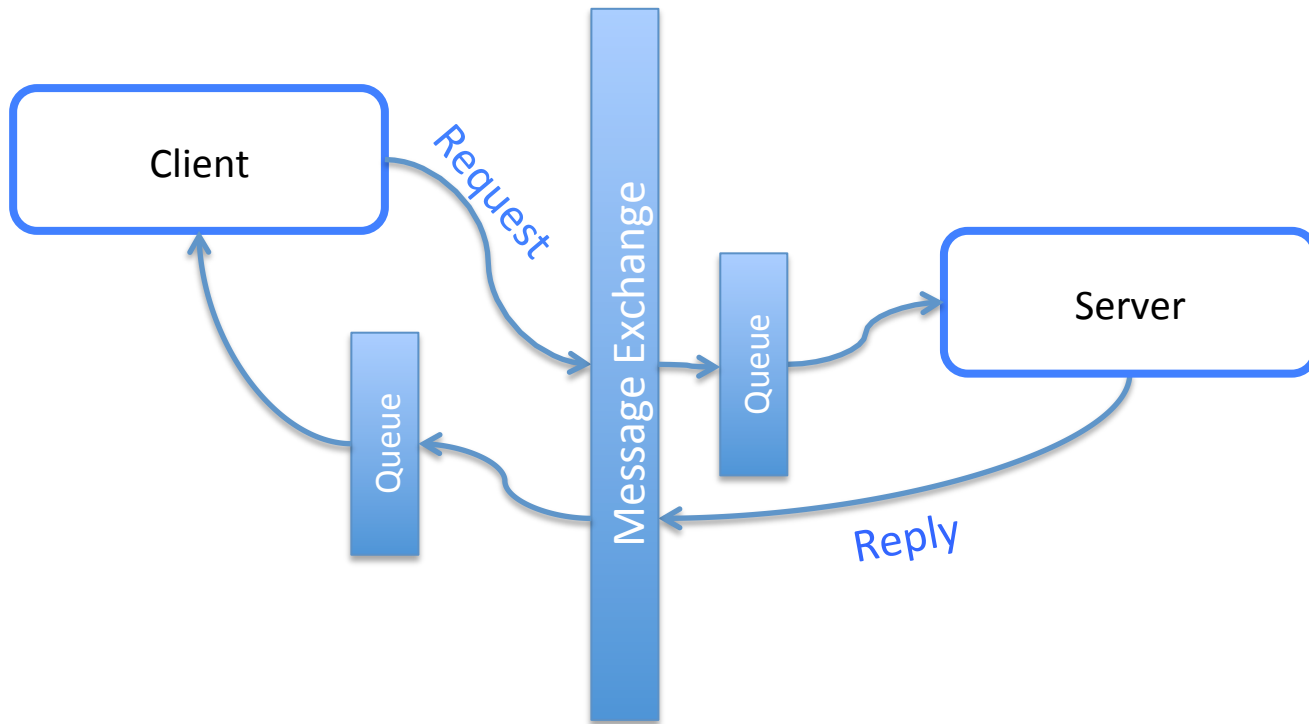
Patterns of Usage of a Messaging System

Direct Pair



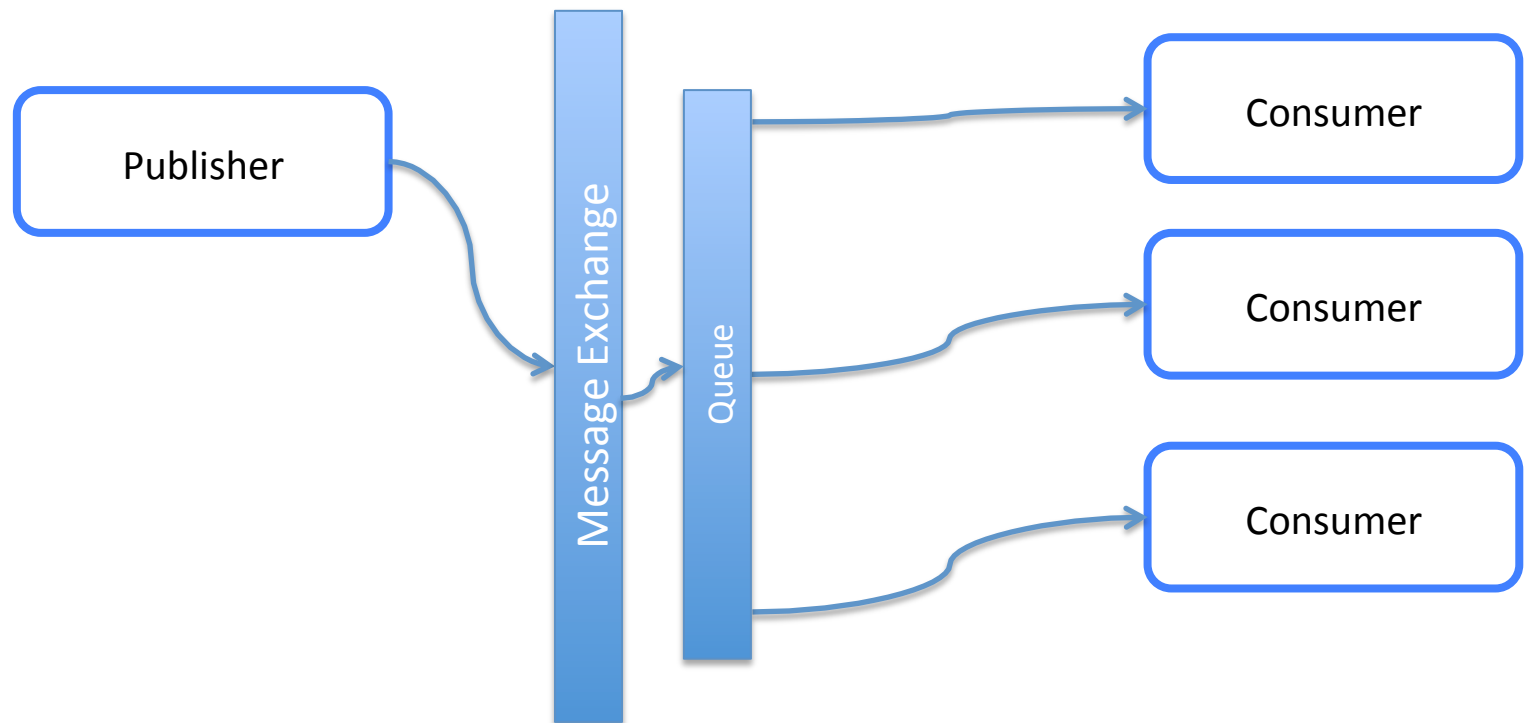
Patterns of Usage of a Messaging System

Request - Reply



Patterns of Usage of a Messaging System

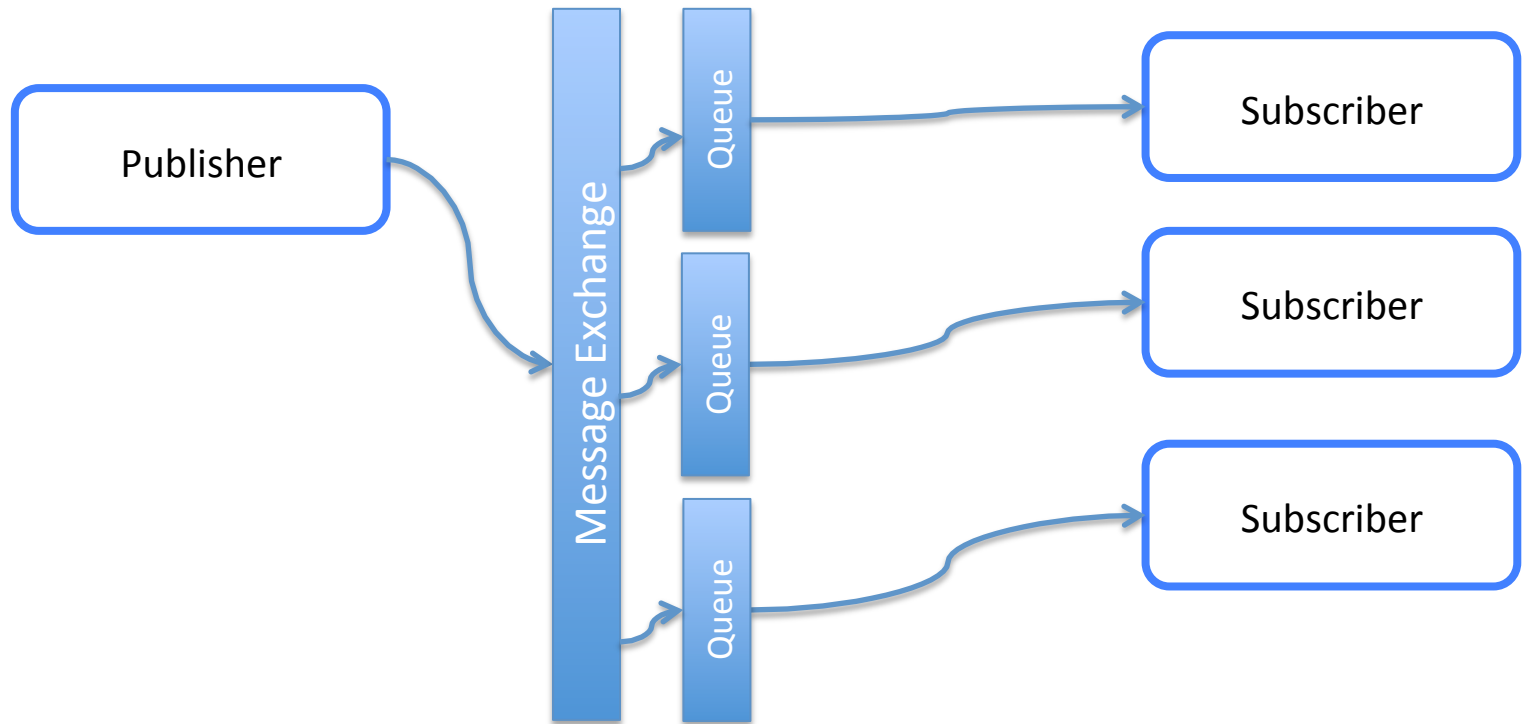
Competing Consumer



Only one consumer receives a given message
“first come, first served”

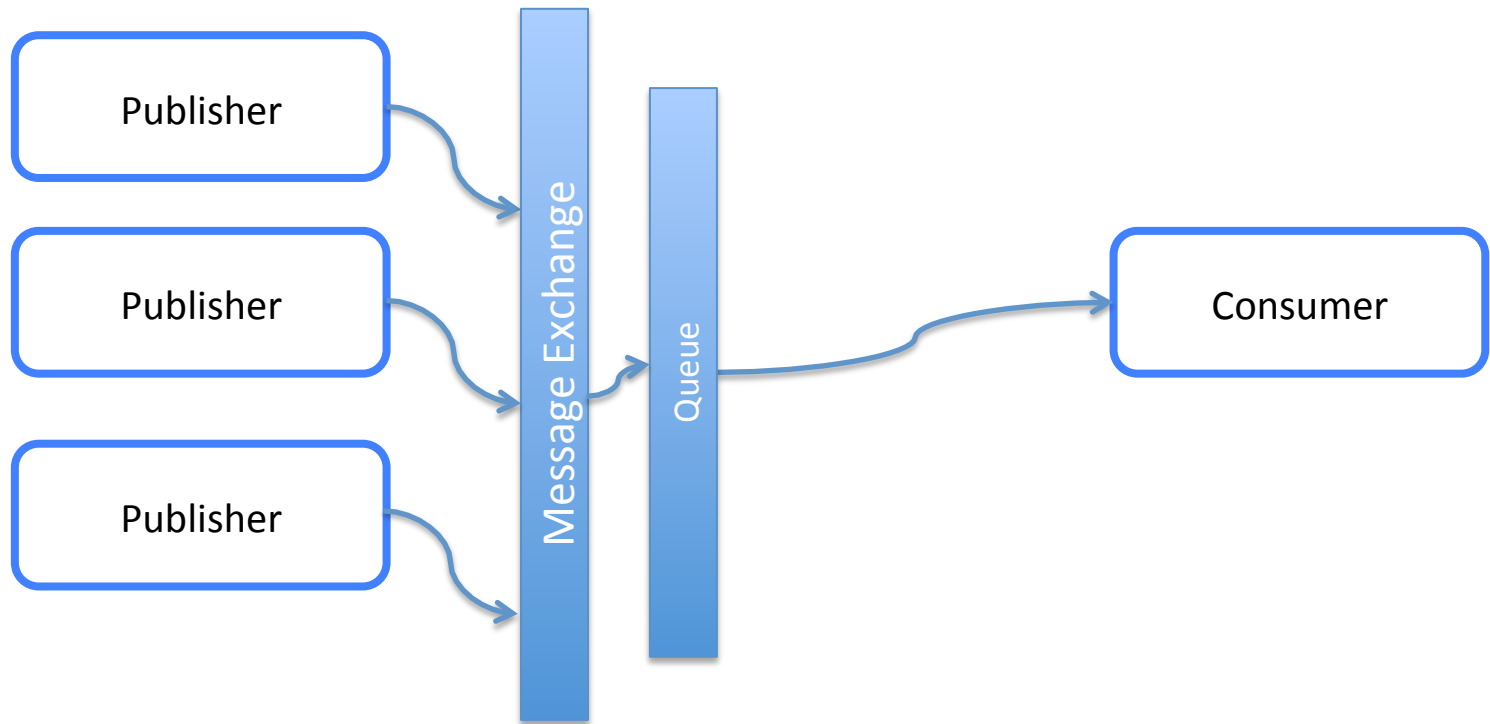
Patterns of Usage of a Messaging System

Pub / Sub



Patterns of Usage of a Messaging System

Fan-in



Why Messaging?

Why Messaging?

Offload Work

Distribute Work

SOA

Easy Expansion

Easier to Conceptualize than
Threading

Why Messaging?

“Normal” Alternatives

Threading vs. Messaging

- Pros
 - Visualization is easier
 - No shared state
 - Distribution
 - Resiliency
- Cons
 - New tools to learn
 - Not native to language
(most of the time)

Why Messaging?

“Normal” Alternatives

RPC vs. Messaging

- Pros
 - Loose coupling
 - Easier distribution
 - Resiliency
 - Can have lower overhead to set up (WCF)
- Cons
 - New tools to learn
 - Not native to language (most of the time)

Why Messaging?

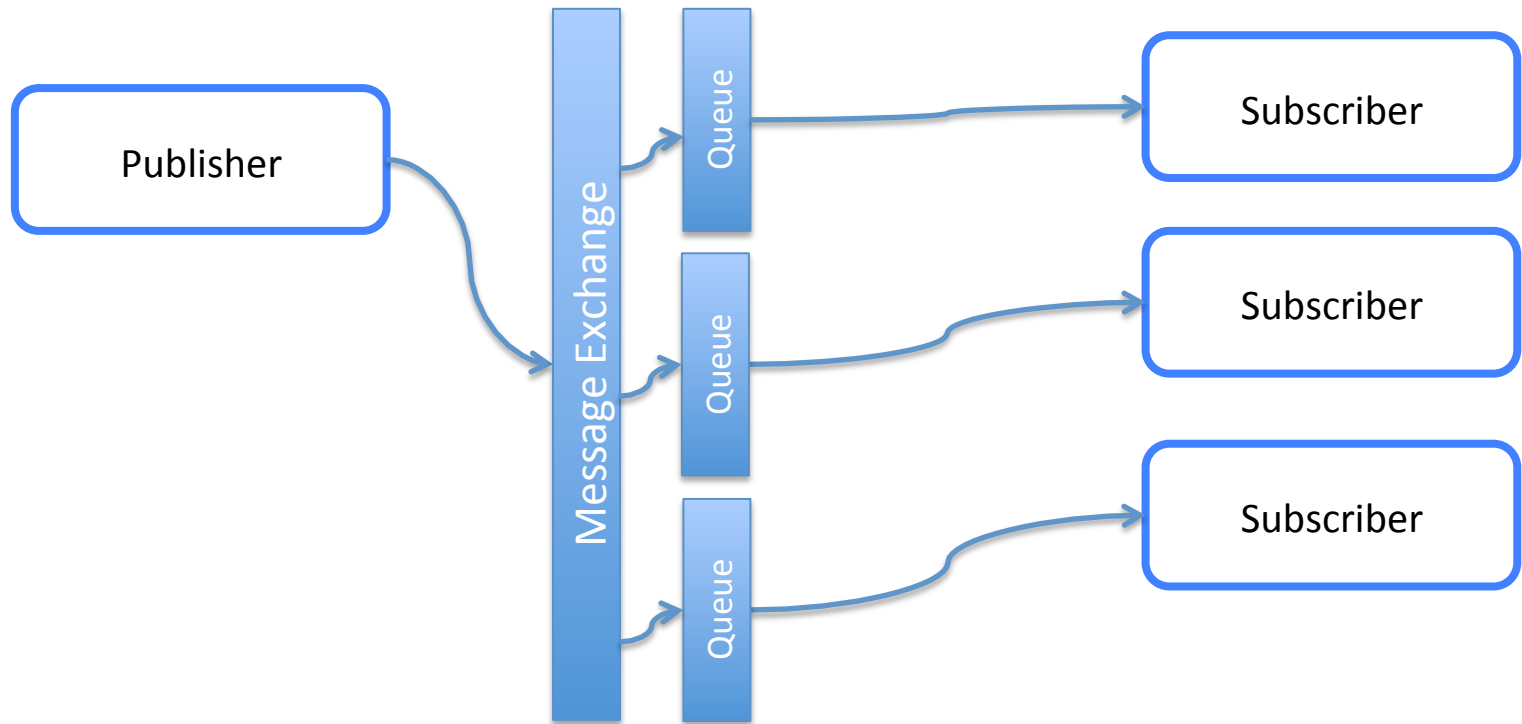
“Normal” Alternatives

Load Balancers vs. Messaging

- Pros
 - Doesn't require expensive LB hardware
 - LB & failover becomes an application concern vs. networking
 - Control and tuning
- Cons
 - Requires planning
 - Can't just “stand it up”
 - May require server(s) to do the work

Ready for some examples?

Simple Pub / Sub



Simple Pub/Sub

Publisher

```
1  require 'stomp'
2
3  cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
4  5.times do |i|
5      puts "Publishing message #{i}"
6      cli.publish("/topic/pubsub1","Pub/sub msg #{i}")
7  end
```

Subscriber

```
1  require 'stomp'
2
3  num = ARGV[0]
4  cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
5  puts "Listening for messages"
6  cli.subscribe("/topic/pubsub1", {"id" => "t#{num}"}) { |m|
7      puts "Listener #{num} Recieved a message: #{m.body}"
8  }
9
10 while true
11     sleep 5
12 end
```

Files: example1_publisher.rb & example1_subscriber.rb

Event Broadcast

Pub/Sub works great

Good for

- Logging
- Notifying system components of events as they occur
- Monitoring
- System diagnostics

Event Broadcast

Publisher

```
1  require 'stomp'
2
3  locs = ["NewYork", "Washington", "Orlando", "Phoenix", "Austin", "Chattanooga"]
4  infos = ["Weather", "Traffic", "Forecast"]
5
6  cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
7
8  #first clear the client screens
9  cli.publish("/topic/reset","Clear for new run")
10
11  5.times do |i|
12    msg = "#{locs.sample}.#{infos.sample}"
13    puts "Publishing message #{i} to #{msg}"
14    cli.publish("/topic/#{msg}","Pub/sub msg #{i}")
15  end
```

Listener

```
1  require 'stomp'
2
3  mask = ARGV[0]
4  system("clear")
5
6  cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
7
8  puts "Listening for messages related to #{mask}"
9  cli.subscribe("/topic/#{mask}", {"id" => "Listening"}) { |m|
10    puts "Listener #{mask} Recieved a message - Topic: #{m.headers['destination']} Body: #{m.body}"
11    cli.publish("/queue/resp","Done working on #{m.body}")
12  }
13
14  cli.subscribe("/topic/reset", {"id" => "reset"}) { |m|
15    system("clear")
16    puts "Listener #{mask} Recieved a clear message: #{m.body}"
17  }
18  while true
19    sleep 5
20  end
21
```

Files: example3_publisher.rb, example3_subscriber.rb, example3_subscriber.erl

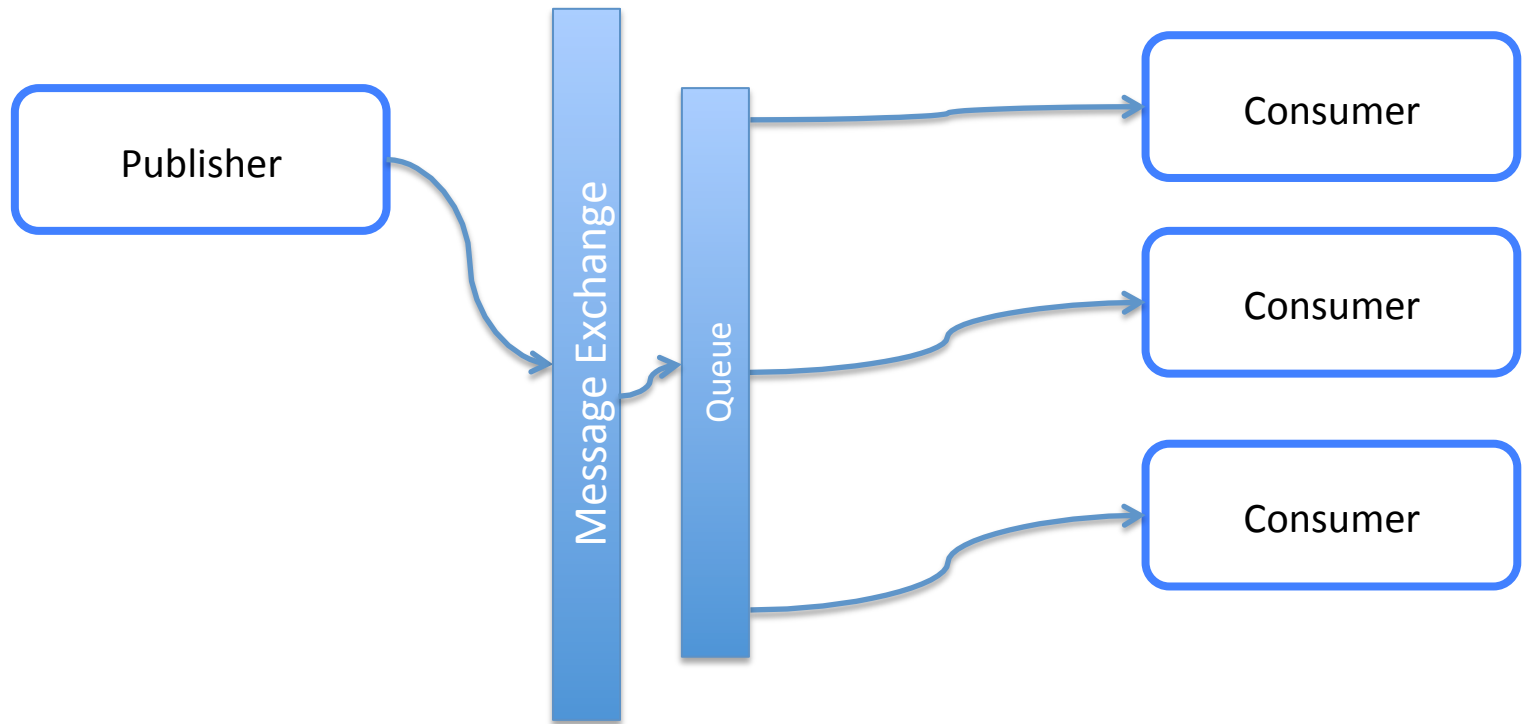
Work Distribution

Competing consumer works great

Good for

- Email sending
- Long running job tasking

Work Distribution



Only one consumer receives a given message
“first come, first served”

Work Distribution

Publisher

```
1  require 'stomp'
2
3  cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
4  5.times do |i|
5      puts "Publishing message #{i}"
6      cli.publish("/queue/cc1","Do work! msg #{i}")
7  end
8
```

Worker

```
1  require 'stomp'
2
3  num = ARGV[0]
4  cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
5  system("clear")
6  puts "Listening for messages"
7  cli.subscribe("/queue/cc1", {"id" => "t#{num}"}) { |m|
8      puts "Worker #{num} Recieved a message: #{m.body}"
9  }
10
11 while true
12     sleep 5
13 end
```

Files: example2_publisher.rb & example2_consumer.rb

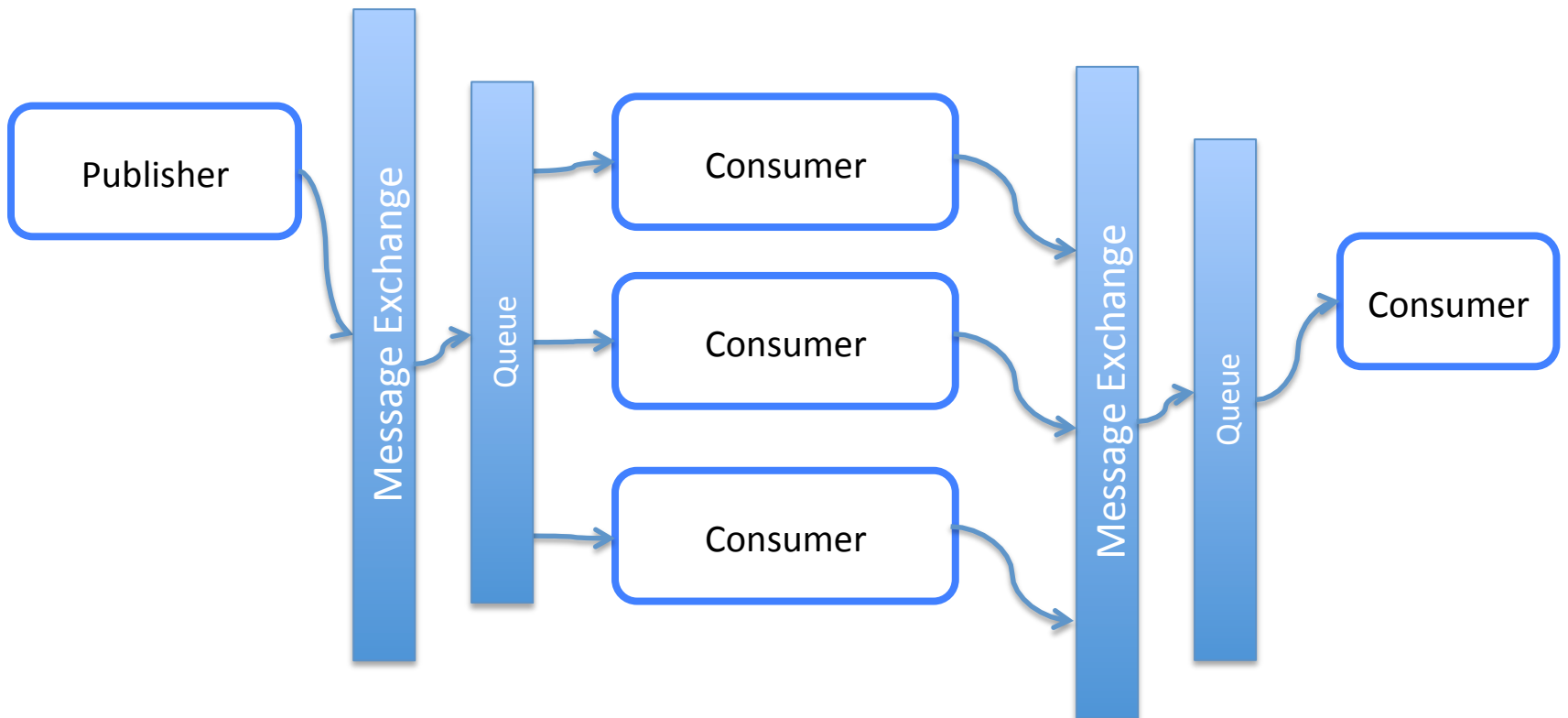
Work Distribution & Consolidation

Adds one more step of
complexity

Good for

- Distributed workflows
- Asynchronous workflows

Work Distribution



Work Distribution

Publisher

```
1 require 'stomp'
2
3 cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
4
5 #first clear the client screens
6 cli.publish("/topic/reset","Clear for new run")
7
8 5.times do |i|
9   puts "Publishing message #{i} to do work"
10  cli.publish("/queue/workdist","Do work msg #{i}")
11 end
```

Final Worker

```
1 require 'stomp'
2
3 cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
4
5 cli.subscribe("/queue/resp", {"id" => "resp"}) { |m|
6   puts "Recieved finished task #{m.body}"
7 }
8
9 while true
10  sleep 5
11 end
```

Worker

```
1 require 'stomp'
2
3 system("clear")
4
5 cli = Stomp::Client.new("admin","password","localhost",61613)
6
7 puts "Listening for messages to do work"
8 cli.subscribe("/queue/workdist", {"id" => "Listening"}) { |m|
9   load = [0,1,2,3].sample
10
11   puts "Recieved a message - Body: #{m.body}"
12   puts "Working for #{load} secs"
13   sleep load
14   cli.publish("/queue/resp","Done working on #{m.body}")
15 }
16
17 cli.subscribe("/topic/reset", {"id" => "reset"}) { |m|
18   system("clear")
19   puts "Recieved a clear message: #{m.body}"
20 }
21 while true
22   sleep 5
23 end
```

Files: example4_publisher.rb, example4_worker & example4_final.rb

Questions?

More info

We just scratched the surface

Google

I'd be glad to talk

Chris Meadows

meadoch1@gmail.com

@meadoch1 (Twitter)

<https://github.com/meadoch1/PracticalMessaging>