

Adding a Twitter Timeline to elixirmontreal.ca, the Elixir way

Montreal Elixir • 2017-10-11

Goals

- See Elixir and OTP in action
- Consume external API
- Deal with a Stream
- Some tips along the way

Assumptions

You are familiar with:

- Elixir
- GenServers
- Supervisors
- Streams
- Web sockets

Plan

- Part I: OTP only
- Break
- Part 2: Web integration

Requirements

About Montreal Elixir

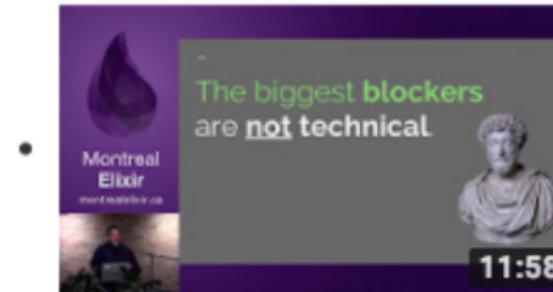
Montreal's community for Elixir, a dynamic, functional language designed for building scalable and maintainable applications.

Recent updates (via Twitter)

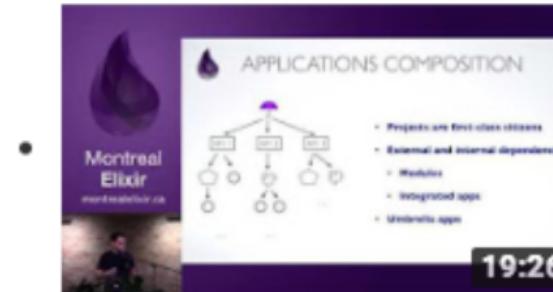
- Would you like to share something you have recently learned about #elixirlang? Present at our next meetup, June 14
May 24
- All the recordings from May's meetup have been posted. Enjoy!
May 23
- The recording for "Learning Elixir by Contributing" by @joshnuss has been posted <https://youtu.be/BoSkq43WLck>
May 19

[View more on Twitter](#)

New Videos



Learning Elixir by Contributing
44 views - 1 week ago



Elixir and OTP for Node.js Developers
61 views - 2 weeks ago

Option 1: embedded timeline

- [https://dev.twitter.com/web/embedded-timelines/
user](https://dev.twitter.com/web/embedded-timelines/user)
- Very easy to integrate

```
<a class="twitter-timeline" data-height="500"  
    href="https://twitter.com/montrealelixir?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw">  
    Tweets by montrealelixir  
</a>  
<script async src="//platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8">  
</script>
```

Tweets by @montrealelixir



Montreal Elixir @montrealelixir



Tomorrow's presentations have been posted. Sorry for the delay goo.gl/96jBU5 See you tomorrow!



Montreal Elixir

We're looking for presenters for the October meetup. Do you have a side project using Phoenix or OTP? Have you built something cool lately? Please share meetup.com



4h



Montreal Elixir @montrealelixir



Thx to [@kpolitowicz](#) for upgrading our website

Option 2: Twitter API

- Search API
 - tweets
 - 1.1/search/tweets.json
 - user timeline
 - 1.1/statuses/user_timeline.json
- <https://developer.twitter.com>



Search all documentation...

Search Tweets

Basics

[Overview](#) [Guides](#) [API Reference](#)

Accounts and users

Tweets

Post, retrieve and engage with Tweets

Get Tweet timelines

Curate a collection of Tweets

Optimize Tweets with Cards

[Search Tweets](#)

Filter realtime Tweets

Sample realtime Tweets

Get batch historical Tweets

Tweet compliance

Tweet data dictionaries

Rules and filtering

Premium enrichments

Tweet updates

Direct Messages

Media

API Reference contents ▾

[30-Day Search API](#)

[Full-Archive Search API](#)

[GET search/tweets](#)

[GET saved_searches/list](#)

[GET saved_searches/show/:id](#)

[POST saved_searches/create](#)

[POST saved_searches/destroy/:id](#)

GET search/tweets

Returns a collection of relevant [Tweets](#) matching a specified query.

Please note that Twitter's search service and, by extension, the Search API is not meant to be an exhaustive source of Tweets. Not all Tweets will be indexed or made available via the search interface.

In API v1.1, the response format of the Search API has been improved to return [Tweet objects](#) more similar to the objects you'll find across the REST API and platform. However, perspectival attributes (fields that pertain to the perspective of the authenticating user) are not currently supported on this endpoint.

To learn how to use [Twitter Search](#) effectively, consult our guide to [Using the Twitter Search API](#). See [Working with Timelines](#) to learn best practices for navigating results by `since_id` and `max_id`.

Any existing package?

Packages

6 Results Found

(Sorted by recent downloads)

Sort By ▾

extwitter 0.8.6

Twitter client library for elixir.

6371

recent downloads

ueberauth_twitter 0.2.4

An Uberauth strategy for Twitter authentication.

2793

recent downloads

bh 0.0.14

Twitter Bootstrap 4 and Bootstrap 3 helpers for Phoenix.

563

recent downloads

twittext 0.3.4

Twitter client library for Elixir

353

recent downloads

furlex 0.2.0

Furlex is a structured data extraction tool written in Elixir. It currently supports unfurling oEmbed, Twitter Card, Facebook Open Graph...

79

recent downloads

twittertex 0.2.0

Formats a tweet as HTML, using the entities from its JSON structure.

71

recent downloads

Twitter client library for elixir. It uses [oauther](#) to call Twitter's REST API.

It only supports very limited set of functions yet. Refer to [lib/extwitter.ex](#) and [test/extwitter_test.exs](#) for available functions and examples.

Documentation

- <http://hexdocs.pm/extwitter>

Usage

1. Add `extwitter` to deps section in the `mix.exs`.
2. Use `ExTwitter.configure` to setup Twitter's OAuth authentication parameters. Refer to <https://dev.twitter.com/docs> for the detail.
3. Call functions in ExTwitter module (ex. `ExTwitter.search("test")`).

Configuration

The default behaviour is to configure using the application environment:

In `config/config.exs`, add:

```
config :extwitter, :oauth, [  
  consumer_key: "",  
  consumer_secret: "",  
  access_token: "",  
  access_token_secret: ""  
]
```

Or manually at runtime:

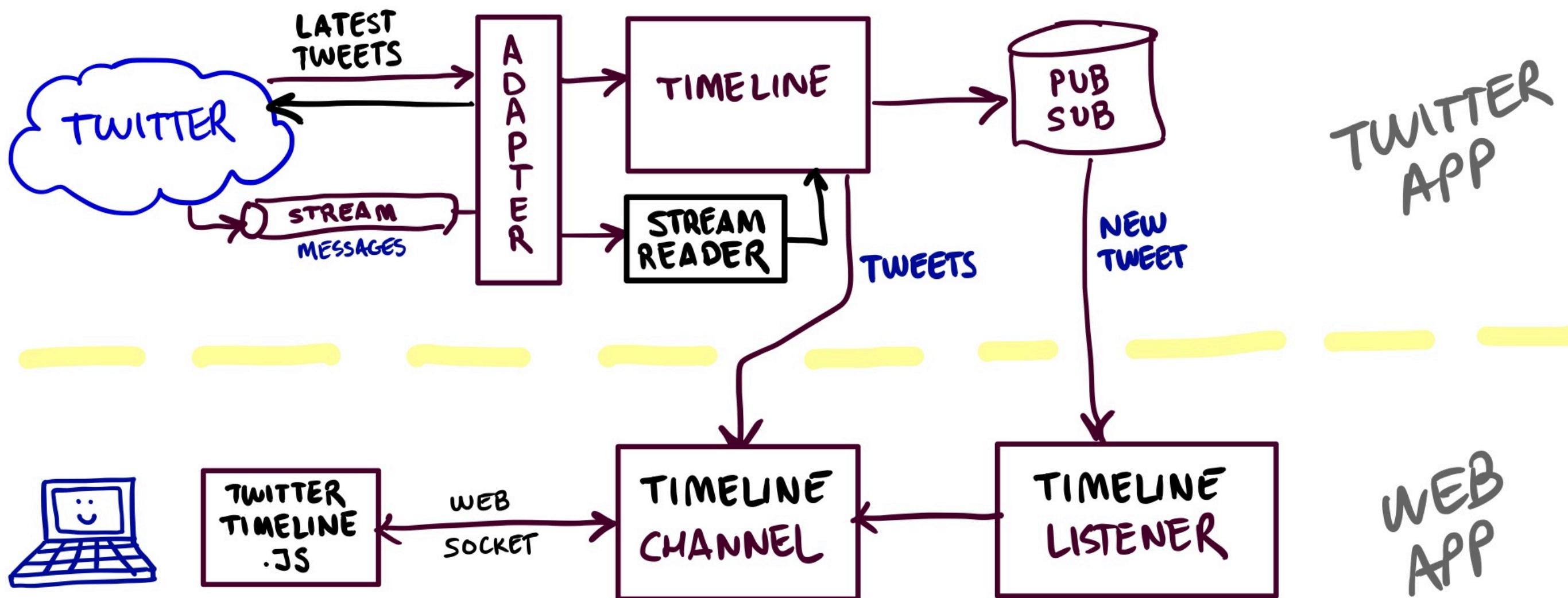
```
ExTwitter.configure([consumer_key: "", ...])
```

You can also configure the current process only:

```
ExTwitter.configure(:process, [consumer_key: "", ...])
```

Let's do it!

Architecture



Twitter umbrella app

- Standalone OTP application
- Publishes events to the Pub/Sub Application
- Needs configuration for using the Twitter API

Add new application in umbrella

```
> cd apps  
> mix new twitter --sup  
* creating README.md  
* creating .gitignore  
* creating mix.exs  
* creating config  
* creating config/config.exs  
* creating lib  
* creating lib/twitter.ex  
* creating lib/twitter/application.ex  
* creating test  
* creating test/test_helper.exs  
* creating test/twitter_test.exs  
>
```

Add new application in umbrella

```
defmodule Twitter.Application do
  # See https://hexdocs.pm/elixir/Application.html
  # for more information on OTP Applications
  @moduledoc false

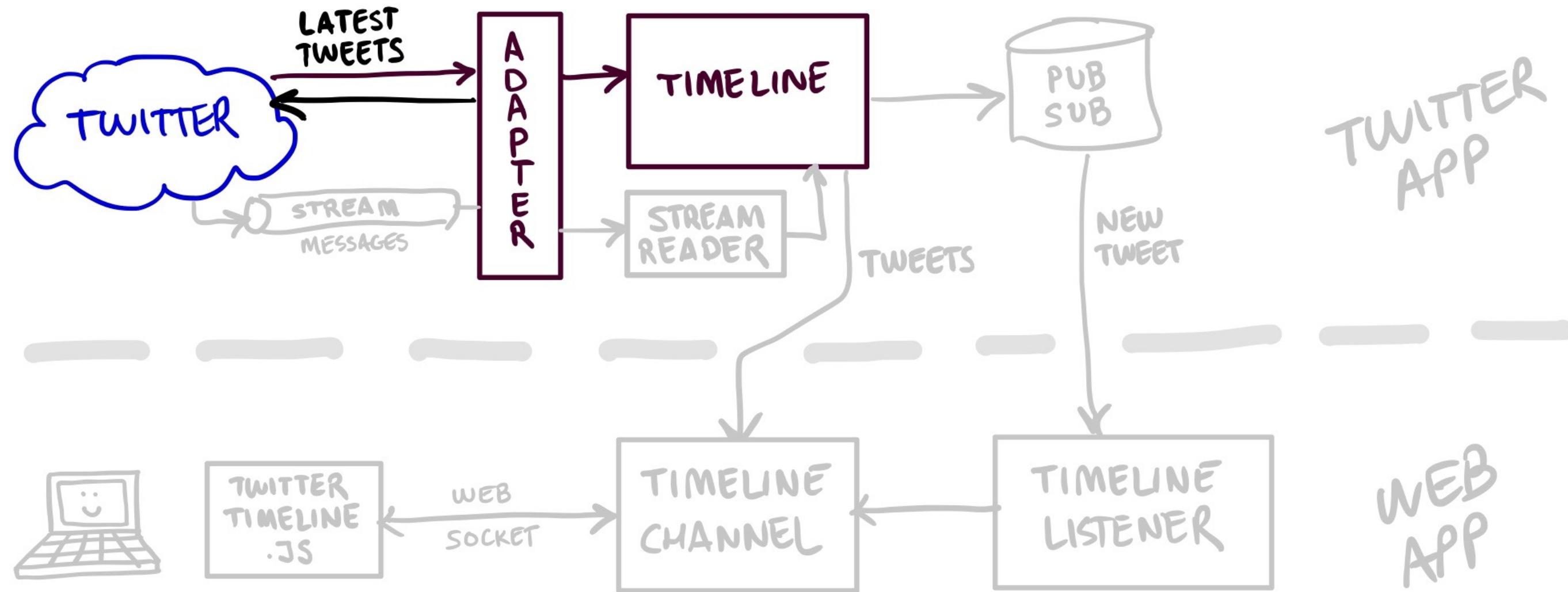
  use Application

  def start(_type, _args) do
    # List all child processes to be supervised
    children = [
      # Starts a worker by calling: Twitter.Worker.start_link(arg)
      # {Twitter.Worker, arg},
    ]

    # See https://hexdocs.pm/elixir/Supervisor.html
    # for other strategies and supported options
    opts = [strategy: :one_for_one, name: Twitter.Supervisor]
    Supervisor.start_link(children, opts)
  end
end
```

Timeline Features

- Get a list of most recent tweets (on-demand)
- Publish a new tweet received from Twitter
- Handle deleted tweets



Adapter pattern

- Avoid coupling with ExTwitter
- Domain uses its own data structs (instead of ExTwitter ones)
- Adapters implement a Behavior

Structs

```
defmodule Twitter.Tweet do
  defstruct [id: nil, text: nil, timestamp: nil]
```

```
  @type t :: %__MODULE__{}
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.TweetDeletion do
  defstruct [tweet_id: nil]
```

```
  @type t :: %__MODULE__{}
end
```

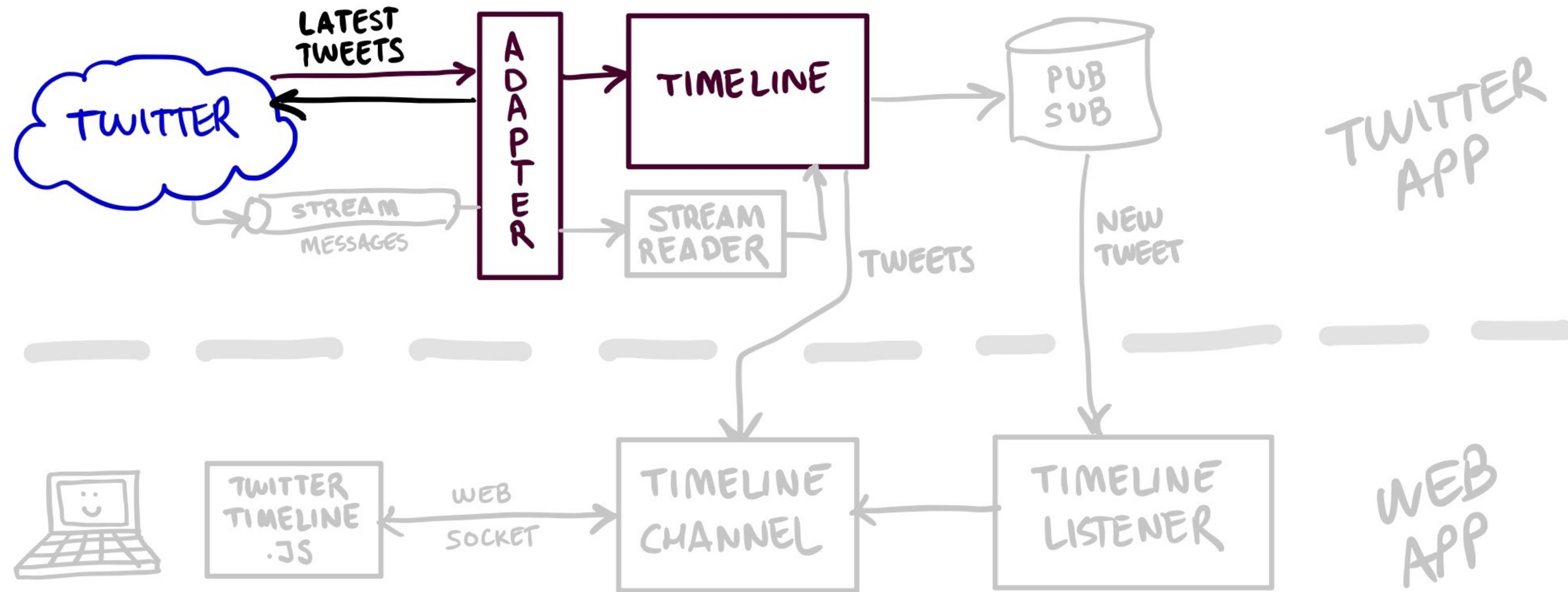
Adapter behavior

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter do
  alias Twitter.Tweet

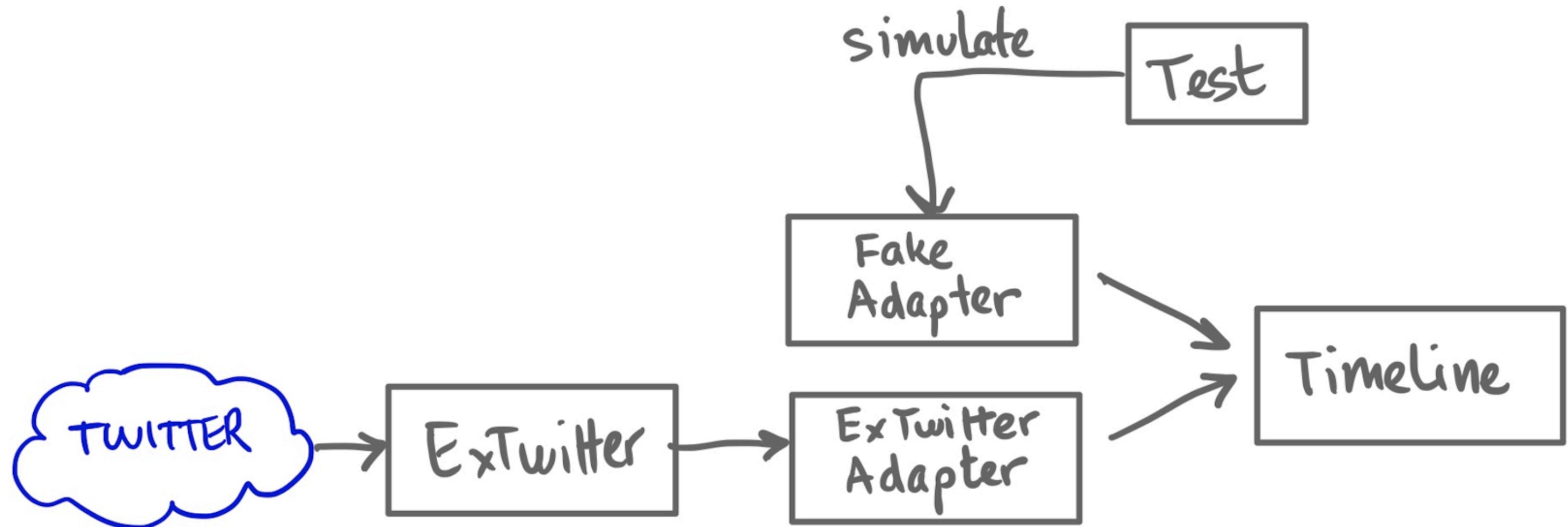
  @doc """
  Returns a list of existing tweets in reverse order (most recent one first).
  """
  @callback fetch_user_timeline() :: [Tweet.t]

  @doc """
  Returns a stream of timeline events (new tweets, deleted tweets, ...).
  """
  @callback get_user_stream() :: Stream.t
end
```

Test-drive the Timeline



Adapters



```
defmodule Twitter.TimelineTest do
  use ExUnit.Case, async: false

  alias Twitter.{Timeline, Tweet}

  setup do
    adapter = Twitter.Adapter.Fake
    {:ok, pid} = adapter.start_link()

    on_exit fn -> assert_down(pid) end

    [adapter: adapter]
  end

  describe "initializing the timeline" do
    end

    # As suggested here:
    # https://elixirforum.com/t/how-to-stop-otp-processes-started-in-exunit-setup-callback/3794/5
    defp assert_down(pid) do
      ref = Process.monitor(pid)
      assert_receive {:DOWN, ^ref, _, _, _}
    end
  end
```

```
describe "initializing the timeline" do
  test "initializes the state with existing user's tweets", %{adapter: adapter} do
    adapter.put_tweets([
      %Tweet{text: ":tweet-2:"},
      %Tweet{text: ":tweet-1:"}
    ])
    {:ok, timeline} = Timeline.start_link(adapter: adapter)

    tweets = Timeline.tweets

    assert length(tweets) == 2
    first_tweet = List.first(tweets)
    assert %Tweet{text: ":tweet-2:"} = first_tweet

    on_exit fn -> assert_down(timeline) end
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Timeline do
  use GenServer
  alias Twitter.Tweet

  # Public interface

  def start_link(opts \\ []) do
    adapter = Application.get_env(:twitter, :adapter, opts[:adapter])
    GenServer.start_link(__MODULE__, [adapter], name: __MODULE__)
  end

  def init([adapter]) do
    # Defer initialization to prevent timeout
    GenServer.cast(self(), :init)

    {:ok, %{adapter: adapter, tweets: []}}
  end

  # Server Callbacks

  def handle_cast(:init, %{adapter: adapter} = state) do
    latest_tweets = adapter.fetch_user_timeline()
    new_state = %{state | tweets: latest_tweets}

    {:noreply, new_state}
  end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Timeline do
  ...
  @doc """
  Returns the tweets, the first one being the most recent one.
  """
  @spec tweets :: [Tweet.t]
  def tweets do
    GenServer.call(__MODULE__, :list)
  end

  # Server Callbacks
  ...
  def handle_call(:list, _from, %{tweets: tweets} = state) do
    {:reply, tweets, state}
  end
end
```

```
> mix test
```

```
Compiling 1 file (.ex)
```

```
.
```

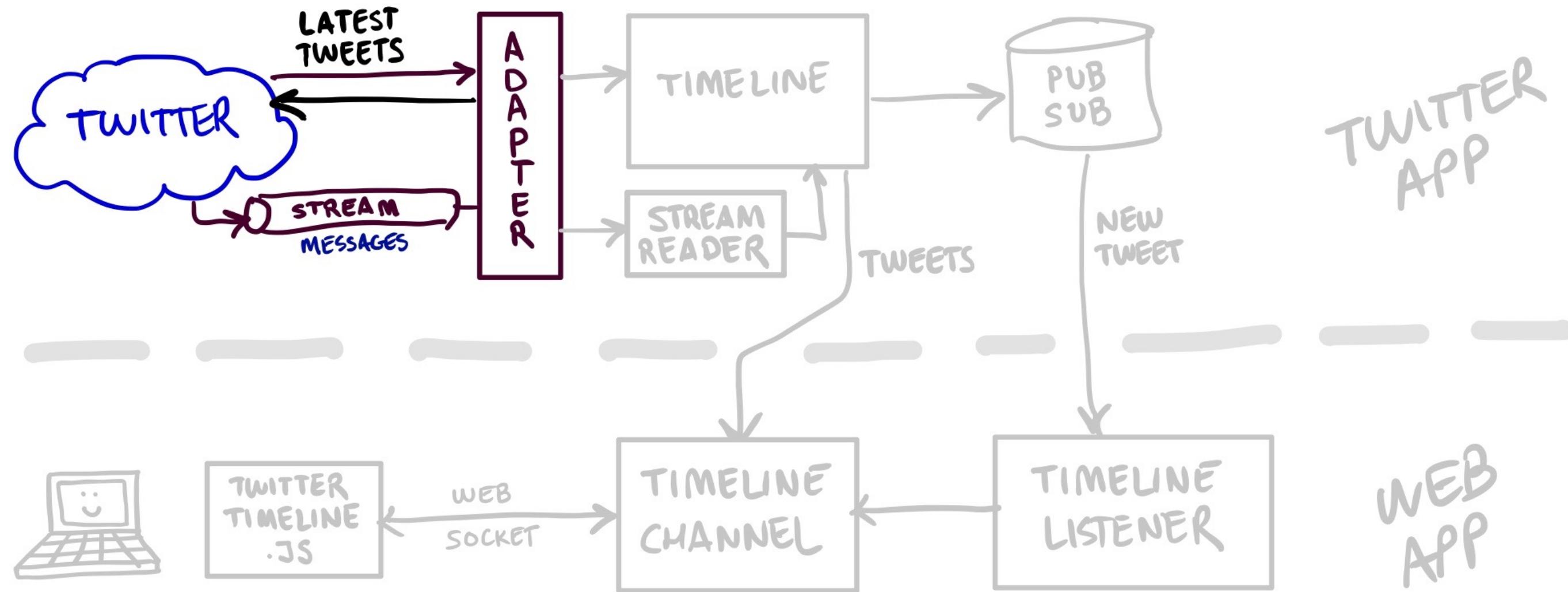
```
Finished in 0.04 seconds
```

```
1 test, 0 failures
```

```
Randomized with seed 79869
```

```
>
```

ExTwitter Adapter



Responsabilities

- Implement Twitter.Adapter behavior
 - Get user's timeline (latest tweets)
 - Provide a stream of incoming Twitter messages
- Convert ExTwitter structs to our own structs

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter do
  @behaviour Twitter.Adapter

  @spec fetch_user_timeline() :: [Twitter.Tweet.t]
  def fetch_user_timeline do
    end

  @spec get_user_stream() :: Stream.t
  def get_user_stream do
    end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter.StateTest do
  use ExUnit.Case, async: false

  alias Twitter.{Adapter, Tweet}

  test "converts a ExTwitter.Model.Tweet to Tweet" do
    ex_twitter_tweet = %ExTwitter.Model.Tweet{id: ":id:", text: ":text:", created_at: ":time:"}

    tweet = Adapter.ExTwitter.State.convert(ex_twitter_tweet)

    assert tweet == %Tweet{id: ":id:", text: ":text:", timestamp: ":time:"}
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Mixfile do
  ...
  # Run "mix help deps" to learn about dependencies.
  defp deps do
    [
      # {:dep_from_hexpm, "~> 0.3.0"},
      # {:dep_from_git, git: "https://github.com/elixir-lang/my_dep.git", tag: "0.1.0"},
      # {: sibling_app_in_umbrella, in_umbrella: true},
      {:mix_test_watch, "~> 0.3", only: :dev, runtime: false},
      {:blocking_queue, "~> 1.0"},
      {:extwitter, "~> 0.8"}
    ]
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter do
  @behaviour Twitter.Adapter

  defmodule State do
    def convert(%ExTwitter.Model.Tweet{id: id, text: text, created_at: timestamp}) do
      %Twitter.Tweet{id: id, text: text, timestamp: timestamp}
    end
  end

  @spec fetch_user_timeline() :: [Twitter.Tweet.t]
  def fetch_user_timeline do
  end

  @spec get_user_stream() :: Stream.t
  def get_user_stream do
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter do
  @behaviour Twitter.Adapter

  defmodule State do
    def convert(%ExTwitter.Model.Tweet{id: id, text: text, created_at: timestamp}) do
      %Twitter.Tweet{id: id, text: text, timestamp: timestamp}
    end
  end

  @spec fetch_user_timeline() :: [Twitter.Tweet.t]
  def fetch_user_timeline do
    ExTwitter.user_timeline
    |> Enum.map(&State.convert/1)
  end

  @spec get_user_stream() :: Stream.t
  def get_user_stream do
  end
end
```

Let's try it!

But first...

Configuration

config/config.exs

```
use Mix.Config
import_config "../apps/*/config/config.exs"

# Configures Elixir's Logger
config :logger, :console,
  format: "$time $metadata[$level] $message\n",
  metadata: [:request_id]

config :twitter,
  adapter: Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter

import_config "#{Mix.env}.exs"
```

Configuration

config/dev.exs

```
use Mix.Config
```

```
# Do not include metadata nor timestamps in development logs
config :logger, :console, format: "[\$level] \$message\n"
```

```
# Set a higher stacktrace during development. Avoid configuring such
# in production as building large stacktraces may be expensive.
config :phoenix, :stacktrace_depth, 20
```

```
import_config "dev.secret.exs"
```

Configuration

`config/dev.secret.exs`

```
use Mix.Config
```

```
config :extwitter, :oauth, [
  consumer_key: "something",
  consumer_secret: "here",
  access_token: "and-here",
  access_token_secret: "and-here-also"]
```

Twitter Set-up

- Go to <https://apps.twitter.com/>
- Create New App
- Create access tokens



Create an application

Application Details

Name *

Your application name. This is used to attribute the source of a tweet and in user-facing authorization screens. 32 characters max.

Description *

Your application description, which will be shown in user-facing authorization screens. Between 10 and 200 characters max.

Website *

Your application's publicly accessible home page, where users can go to download, make use of, or find out more information about your application. This fully-qualified URL is used in the source attribution for tweets created by your application and will be shown in user-facing authorization screens.

(If you don't have a URL yet, just put a placeholder here but remember to change it later.)

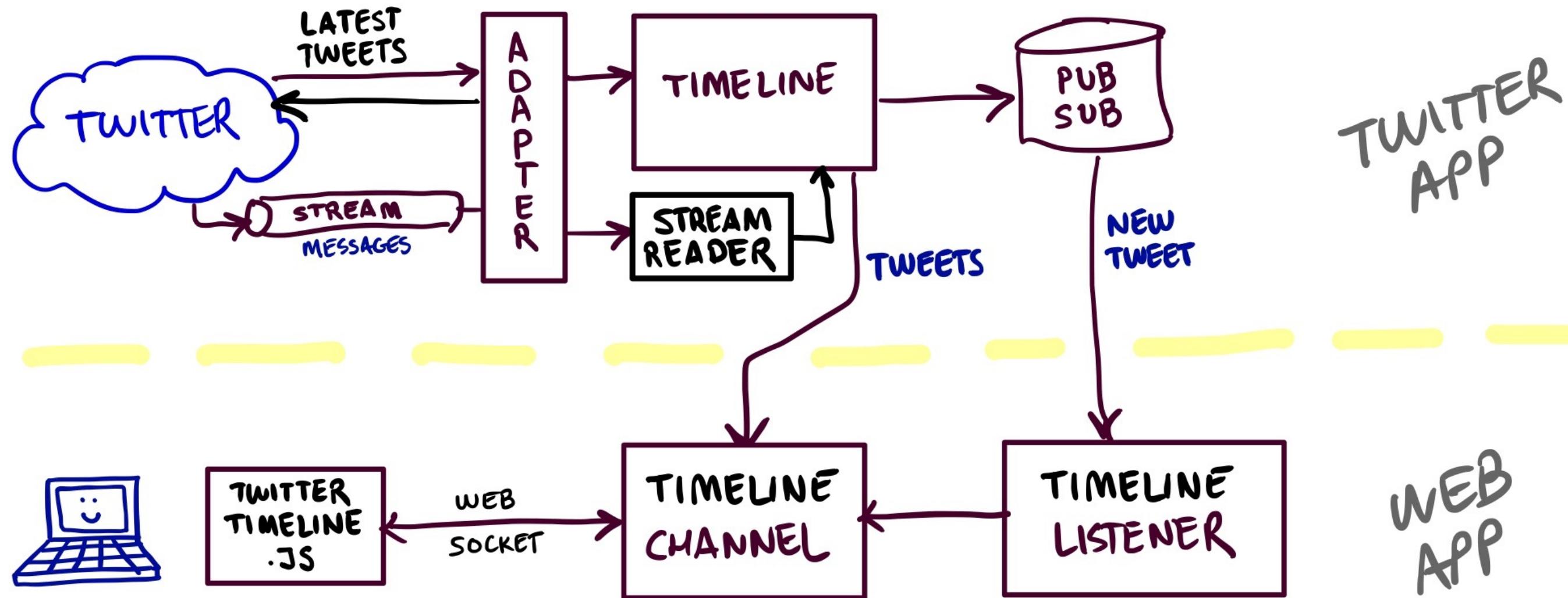
Callback URL

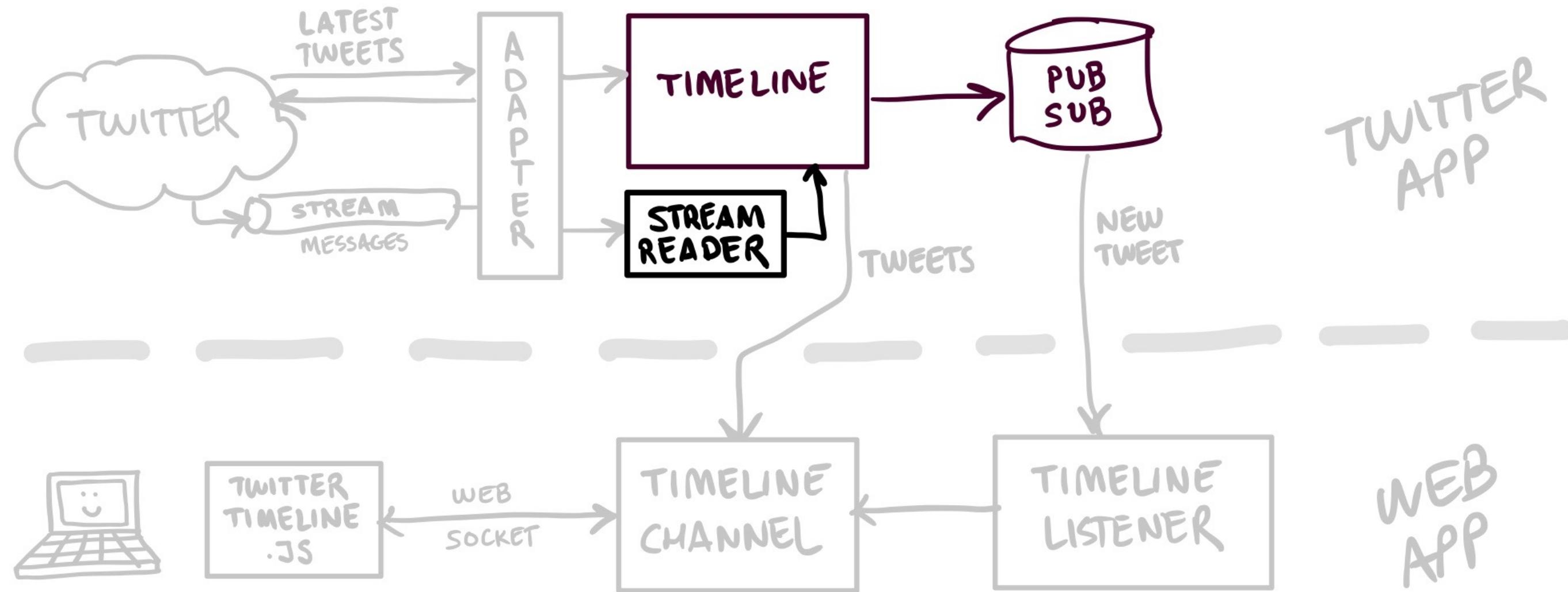
Where should we return after successfully authenticating? OAuth 1.0a applications should explicitly specify their oauth_callback URL on the request token step, regardless of the value given here. To restrict your application from using callbacks, leave this field blank.

Demo 1

```
> cd ../../  
> iex -S mix  
> Twitter.Timeline.start_link  
> Twitter.Timeline.tweets  
>
```

Listen to user's stream





```
defmodule Twitter.TimelineTest do
  ...
  describe "publishing tweets" do
    setup %{adapter: adapter} do
      topic = "test:timeline"
      PubSub.start_link()
      PubSub.subscribe(self(), topic)

      {:ok, timeline} = Timeline.start_link(adapter: adapter, topic: topic)
      on_exit fn -> assert_down(timeline) end
    end

    :ok
  end

  test "publishes a new tweet", %{adapter: adapter} do
    tweet = %Tweet{text: ":text:"}
    adapter.stream_tweet(tweet)
    assert_receive {:new_tweet, ^tweet}
  end
end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Mixfile do
  ...
  # Run "mix help deps" to learn about dependencies.
  defp deps do
    [
      # {:dep_from_hexpm, "~> 0.3.0"},
      # {:dep_from_git, git: "https://github.com/elixir-lang/my_dep.git", tag: "0.1.0"},
      # {: sibling_app_in_umbrella, in_umbrella: true},
      {:mix_test_watch, "~> 0.3", only: :dev, runtime: false},
      {:blocking_queue, "~> 1.0"},
      {:extwitter, "~> 0.8"},
      {:pubsub, "~> 1.0"}
    ]
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Timeline do
  ...
  # Public interface

  def start_link(opts \\ []) do
    adapter = Application.get_env(:twitter, :adapter, opts[:adapter])
    topic = Keyword.get(opts, :topic, "twitter:timeline")
    GenServer.start_link(__MODULE__, [adapter, topic], name: __MODULE__)
  end

  def init([adapter, topic]) do
    # Defer initialization to prevent timeout
    GenServer.cast(self(), :init)

    {:ok, %{adapter: adapter, tweets: [], topic: topic}}
  end

  ...
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Timeline do
  ...
  def handle_cast(:init, %{adapter: adapter} = state) do
    latest_tweets = adapter.fetch_user_timeline()
    new_state = %{state | tweets: latest_tweets}
    listen_to_user_stream(adapter)

    {:noreply, new_state}
  end

  defp listen_to_user_stream(adapter) do
    stream = adapter.get_user_stream()
    timeline = self()

    Task.start_link(fn -> read_stream(stream, timeline) end)
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Timeline do
  ...
  defp read_stream(stream, timeline) do
    for message <- stream do
      case determine_call(message) do
        :noop -> :ok
        action -> GenServer.call(timeline, action)
      end
    end
  end

  defp determine_call(%Tweet{} = tweet), do: { :push, tweet }
  defp determine_call(_), do: :noop
  ...
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Timeline do
  ...
  def handle_call({:push, tweet}, _from, %{tweets: tweets, topic: topic} = state) do
    PubSub.publish(topic, {:new_tweet, tweet})
    {:reply, :ok, %{state | tweets: [tweet | tweets]}}
  end
  ...
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter do
  @behaviour Twitter.Adapter

  ...

  @spec get_user_stream() :: Stream.t
  def get_user_stream do
    ExTwitter.stream_user(with: :user, receive_messages: true, timeout: :infinity)
    |> State.filter_stream
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Adapter.ExTwitter do
  @behaviour Twitter.Adapter

  defmodule State do
    ...

    def filter_stream(stream) do
      stream
      |> Stream.filter(&valid_message/1)
      |> Stream.map(&convert/1)
    end

    defp valid_message(%ExTwitter.Model.Tweet{}), do: true
    defp valid_message(_), do: false
  end
end
```

```
defmodule Twitter.Application do
  # See https://hexdocs.pm/elixir/Application.html
  # for more information on OTP Applications
  @moduledoc false

  use Application

  def start(_type, _args) do
    PubSub.start_link()

    # List all child processes to be supervised
    children = workers(Mix.env)

    # See https://hexdocs.pm/elixir/Supervisor.html
    # for other strategies and supported options
    opts = [strategy: :one_for_one, name: Twitter.Supervisor]
    Supervisor.start_link(children, opts)
  end

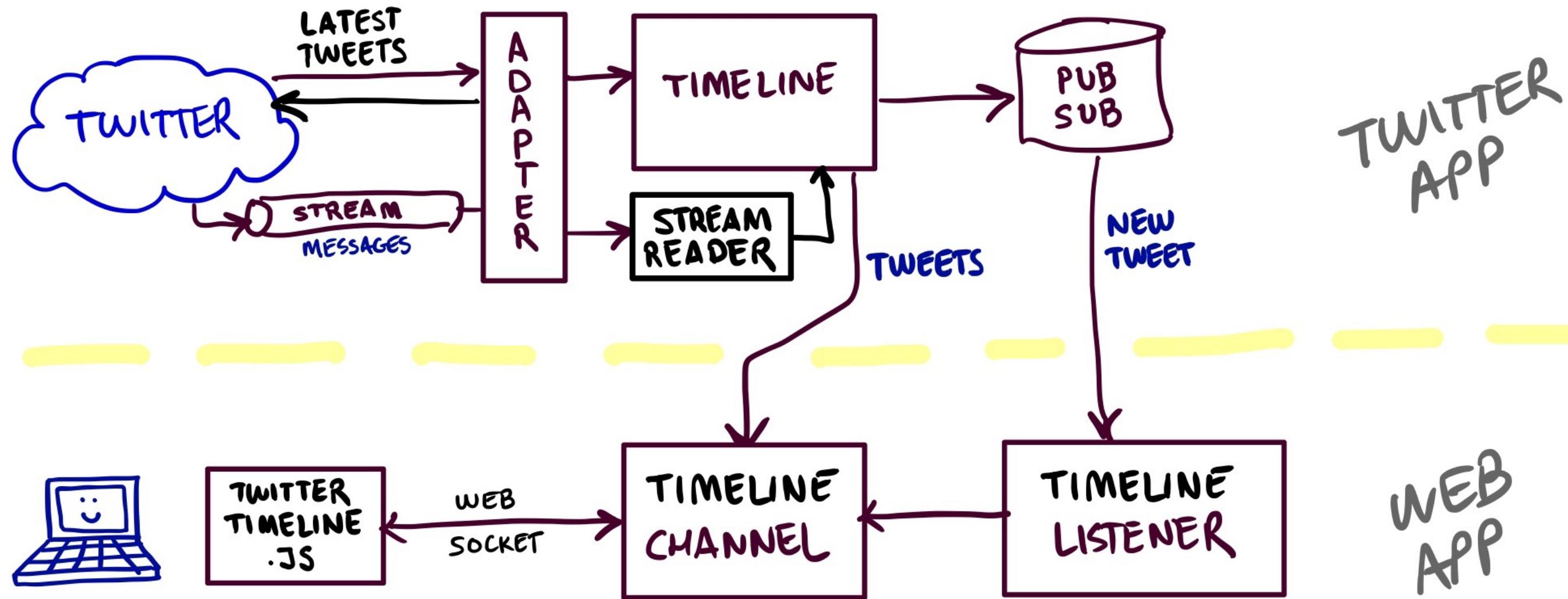
  defp workers(:test), do: []
  defp workers(_) do
    [
      {Twitter.Timeline, []}
    ]
  end
end
```

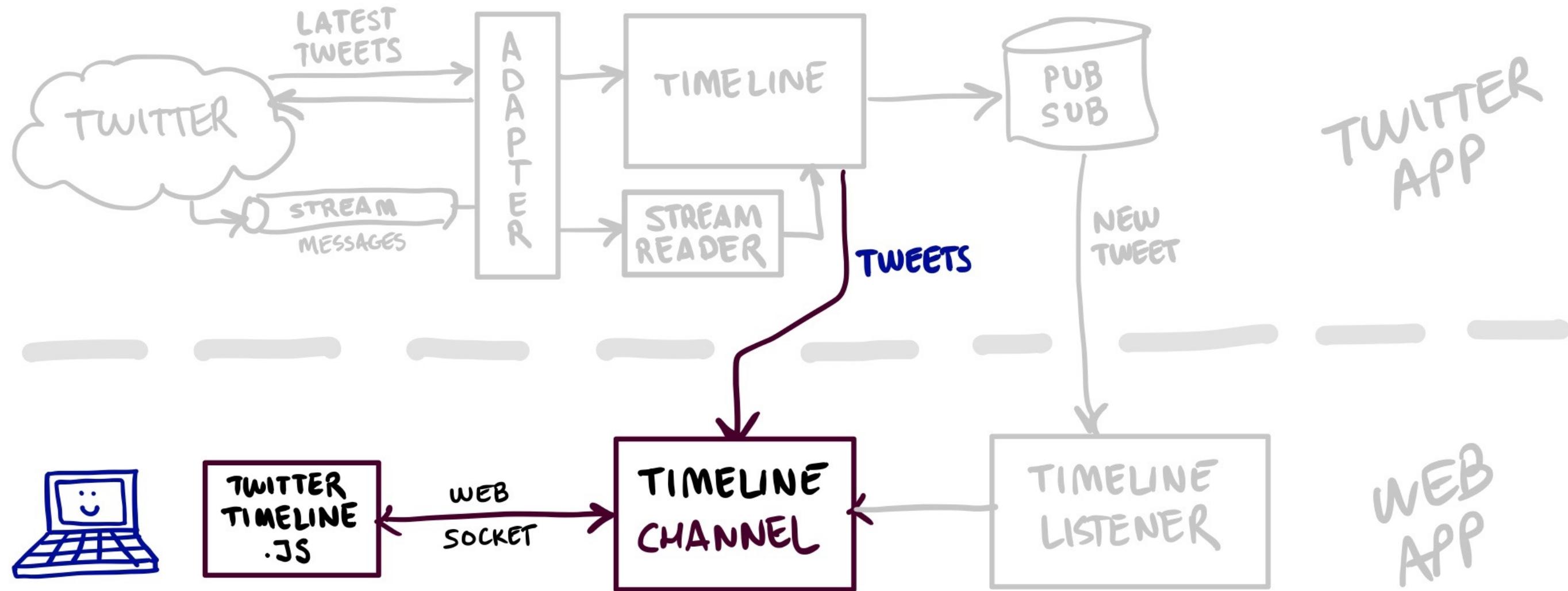
Demo 2

```
> iex -S mix
> PubSub.subscribe(self(), "twitter:timeline")
> flush
:ok
> flush
{:new_tweet, %Twitter.Tweet{id: 917487557969108992, text: "test", timestamp: ...}}
> :observer.start
>
```

Break

Let's hook it up with the
web site





Web integration

- HTML container
- Client-side javascript code
- Timeline listener
- Channel logic

lib/templates/page/index.html.eex

...

```
<div class="col-sm-6">
  <h4>Recent updates (via Twitter)</h4>
  <div id="tweets-container">
    <ul class="tweets"></ul>
  </div>
  <p>View more on <a href="https://twitter.com/montrealelixir">Twitter</a></p>
</div>
```

assets/js/apps.js

```
import socket from "./socket"  
  
import TwitterTimeline from "./twitter_timeline"  
  
TwitterTimeline.init(socket, "#tweets-container")
```

```
let TwitterTimeline = {
  init(socket, tweets_container) {
    // Now that you are connected, you can join channels with a topic:
    this.channel = socket.channel("twitter_timeline", {})
    this.container = $(tweets_container)
    this.tweets = $(tweets_container).find(".tweets")

    this.channel.join()

    this.channel.on("updated_list", msg => {
      this._refreshAll(msg.tweets)
    })
  },
  _refreshAll(tweetsList) {
    this.tweets.empty()
    for(var tweet of tweetsList) {
      this.tweets.append(`<li>${tweet.text}<br><i>${tweet.timestamp}</i></li>`)
    }
    this.container.scrollTop(this.container[0].scrollHeight)
  }
}
export default TwitterTimeline
```

```
defmodule MontrealElixirWeb.UserSocket do
  use Phoenix.Socket

  ## Channels
  channel "twitter_timeline", MontrealElixirWeb.TweetsChannel

  ## Transports
  transport :websocket, Phoenix.Transports.WebSocket, timeout: 45_000
  # transport :longpoll, Phoenix.Transports.LongPoll

  ...

```

```
defmodule MontrealElixirWeb.TwitterTimelineChannel do
  use Phoenix.Channel

  def join("twitter_timeline", message, socket) do
    send(self(), {:after_join, message})

    {:ok, socket}
  end

  def handle_info({:after_join, _msg}, socket) do
    latest_tweets = Twitter.Timeline.tweets
    push(socket, "updated_list", %{tweets: latest_tweets})

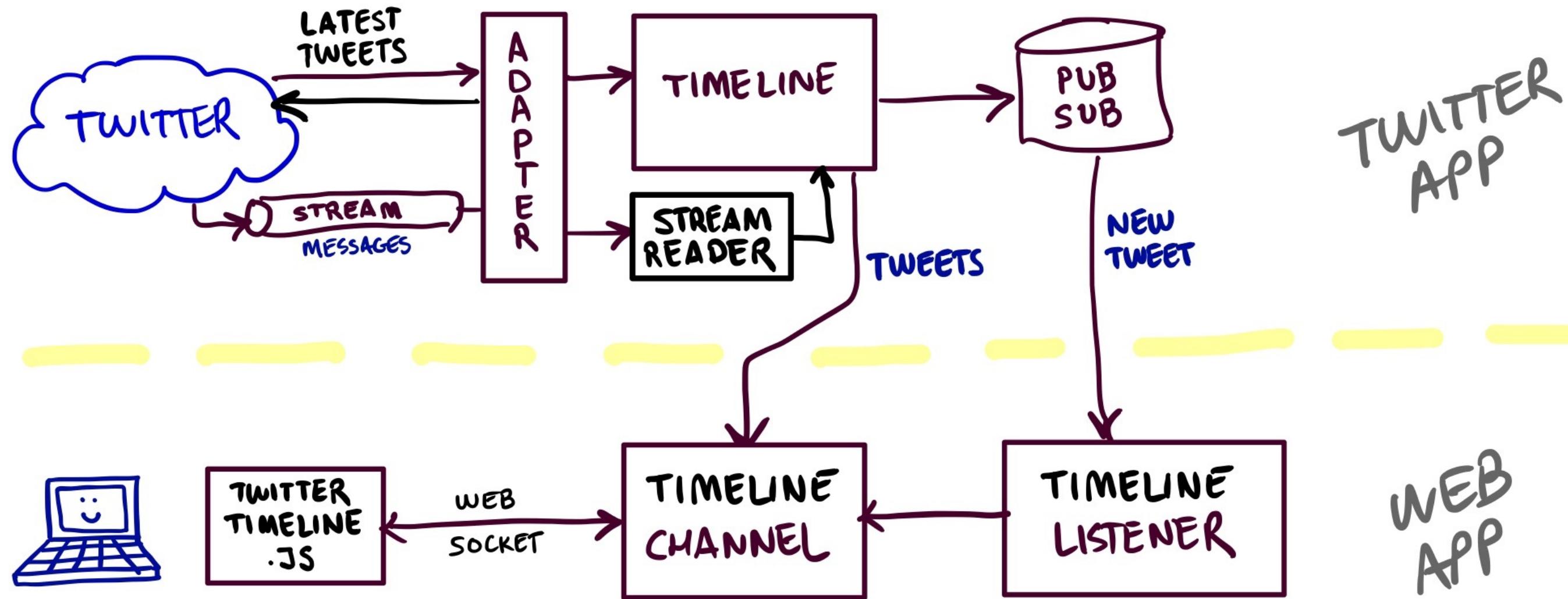
    {:noreply, socket}
  end

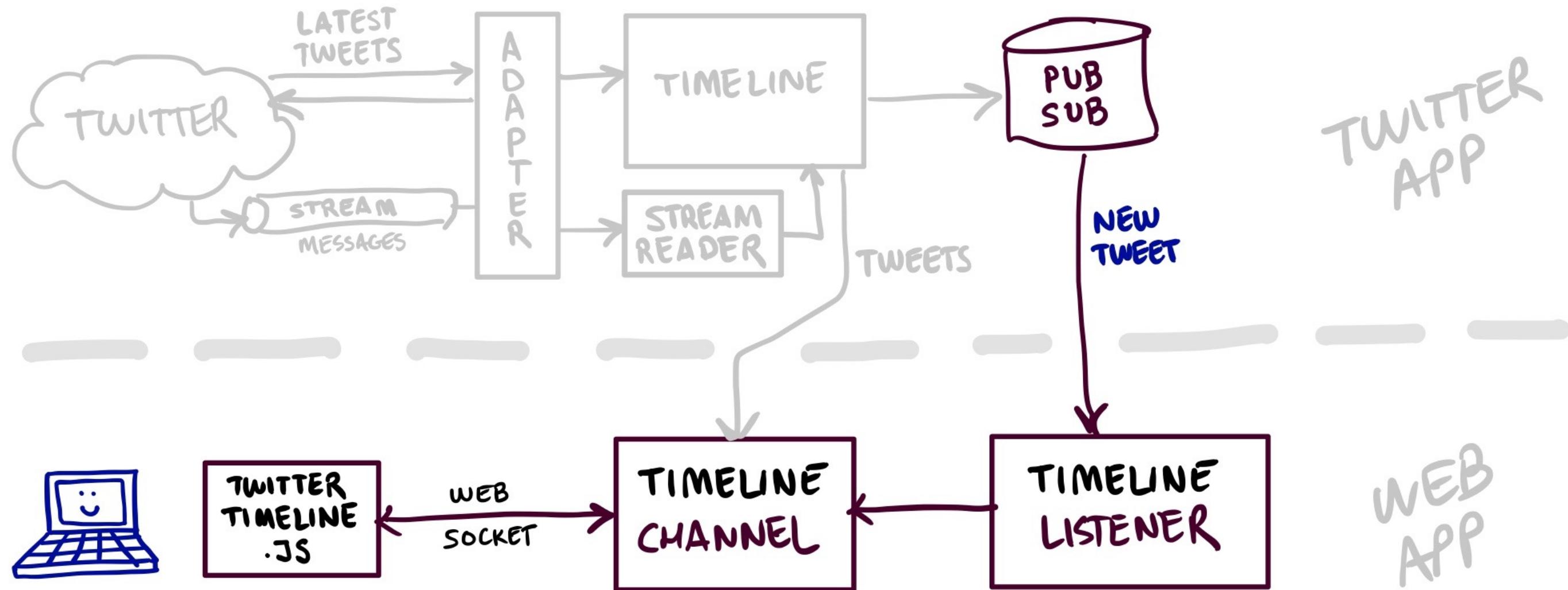
  def terminate(_reason, _socket) do
    :ok
  end
end
```

Demo 3

```
> iex -S mix phx.server  
> open http://localhost:4000  
>
```

Stream handling





Timeline Listener

- Subscribe to PubSub topic
- Broadcast events on channel

```
defmodule MontrealElixirWeb.TwitterTimelineListener do
  use GenServer
  alias MontrealElixirWeb.Endpoint

  def start_link(_opts \\ []) do
    GenServer.start_link(__MODULE__, :ok, name: __MODULE__)
  end

  def init(:ok) do
    PubSub.subscribe(self(), "twitter:timeline")
    {:ok, []}
  end

  def handle_info({:new_tweet, tweet}, state) do
    Endpoint.broadcast!("twitter_timeline", "new_tweet", tweet)
    {:noreply, state}
  end
end
```

```
defmodule MontrealElixirWeb.Application do
  @moduledoc false

  use Application

  def start(_type, _args) do
    import Supervisor.Spec

    # Define workers and child supervisors to be supervised
    children = [
      # Start the endpoint when the application starts
      supervisor(MontrealElixirWeb.Endpoint, []),
      worker(MontrealElixirWeb.TwitterTimelineListener, []),
    ]

    # See http://elixir-lang.org/docs/stable/elixir/Supervisor.html
    # for other strategies and supported options
    opts = [strategy: :one_for_one, name: MontrealElixirWeb.Supervisor]
    Supervisor.start_link(children, opts)
  end

  ...
end
```

```
let TwitterTimeline = {
  init(socket, tweets_container) {
    ...
    this.channel.on("new_tweet", tweet => {
      this._newTweet(tweet)
    })
  },
  _newTweet(tweet) {
    this.tweets.prepend(`<li>${tweet.text}<br><i>${tweet.timestamp}</i></li>`)
    this.container.scrollTop(this.container[0].scrollHeight)
  }
  ...
}
export default TwitterTimeline
```

One last thing

- Need to add dependency to twitter app so it gets started before the web app
- PubSub process is started by the twitter app
- Otherwise, the call to PubSub.subscribe will silently fail

```
defmodule MontrealElixirWeb.Mixfile do
  ...
  defp deps do
    [
      {:phoenix, "~> 1.3.0"},  

      {:phoenix_pubsub, "~> 1.0"},  

      {:phoenix_ecto, "~> 3.2"},  

      {:phoenix_html, "~> 2.10"},  

      {:phoenix_live_reload, "~> 1.0", only: :dev},  

      {:gettext, "~> 0.11"},  

      {:cowboy, "~> 1.0"},  

      {:montreal_elixir, in_umbrella: true},  

      {:twitter, in_umbrella: true}
    ]
  end
end
```

Demo 4

```
> mix phx.server  
> open http://localhost:4000
```

Nicholas to tweet something new.

What's Next

- Format timestamps
- Get full tweet text (currently truncated)
 - option in API request?
 - or ExTwitter needs some love?
- Use ExVCR to better test the ExTwitter adapter?

Thank You

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Questions?