



# Knative

Kubernetes-based platform to manage modern serverless workloads.

**Roland Huß** @ro14nd

Principal Software Engineer, Red Hat



---

# What is serverless again ?

“Serverless computing refers to the concept of building and running **applications** that **do not require server management**. It describes a finer-grained **deployment model** where applications, bundled as one or more functions are uploaded to a platform and then **executed, scaled, and billed** in response to the exact **demand** needed at the moment”

-- CNCF Definition, <https://www.cncf.io/blog/2018/02/14/cncf-takes-first-step-towards-serverless-computing/>

# Wait... wat ?





A photograph of a wooden boat, likely a traditional Thai longtail boat, viewed from the stern looking forward. The boat is made of weathered wood and has a high, pointed prow. A red cloth and a green cloth are tied to the top of the prow. A coiled rope is visible on the deck. The boat is on a deep blue sea with white-capped waves. In the background, there are several large, rocky islands under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# Knative

---

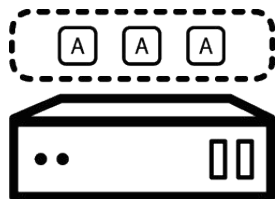
Kubernetes-based platform to  
**deploy** and **manage** modern  
serverless workloads.

<https://knative.dev>

# Knative Components

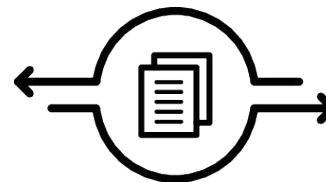
## Serving

A request-driven model that serves the container with your application and can "scale to zero".



## Eventing

Common infrastructure for consuming and producing events that will stimulate applications.



# Background Information

- Started as Open Source Project mid-2018 by Google
- Community + Company Driven
  - <https://github.com/knative>
  - <https://knative.dev>
  - Support by Google, Red Hat, IBM, VMware, Pivotal, Triggermesh..
  - Organized in 8 Working Groups with weekly meetings
- Releases
  - Current: Serving v0.10.0, Eventing v0.10.0, Client v0.10.0
  - GA:
    - Serving: ETA this year
    - Eventing: A “bit” later
    - Client: TBD



# Try Knative

- Install from resource descriptors on Kubernetes Cluster
  - <https://knative.dev/docs/install/>
- Google Cloud Run (managed and on GKE)
  - <https://cloud.google.com/run/>
  - Free tier: (180k CPU-s, 360k GB-s, 2M Requests) per month
- Red Hat OpenShift Serverless - Technical Preview
  - <https://www.openshift.com/learn/topics/serverless>





Serving

---

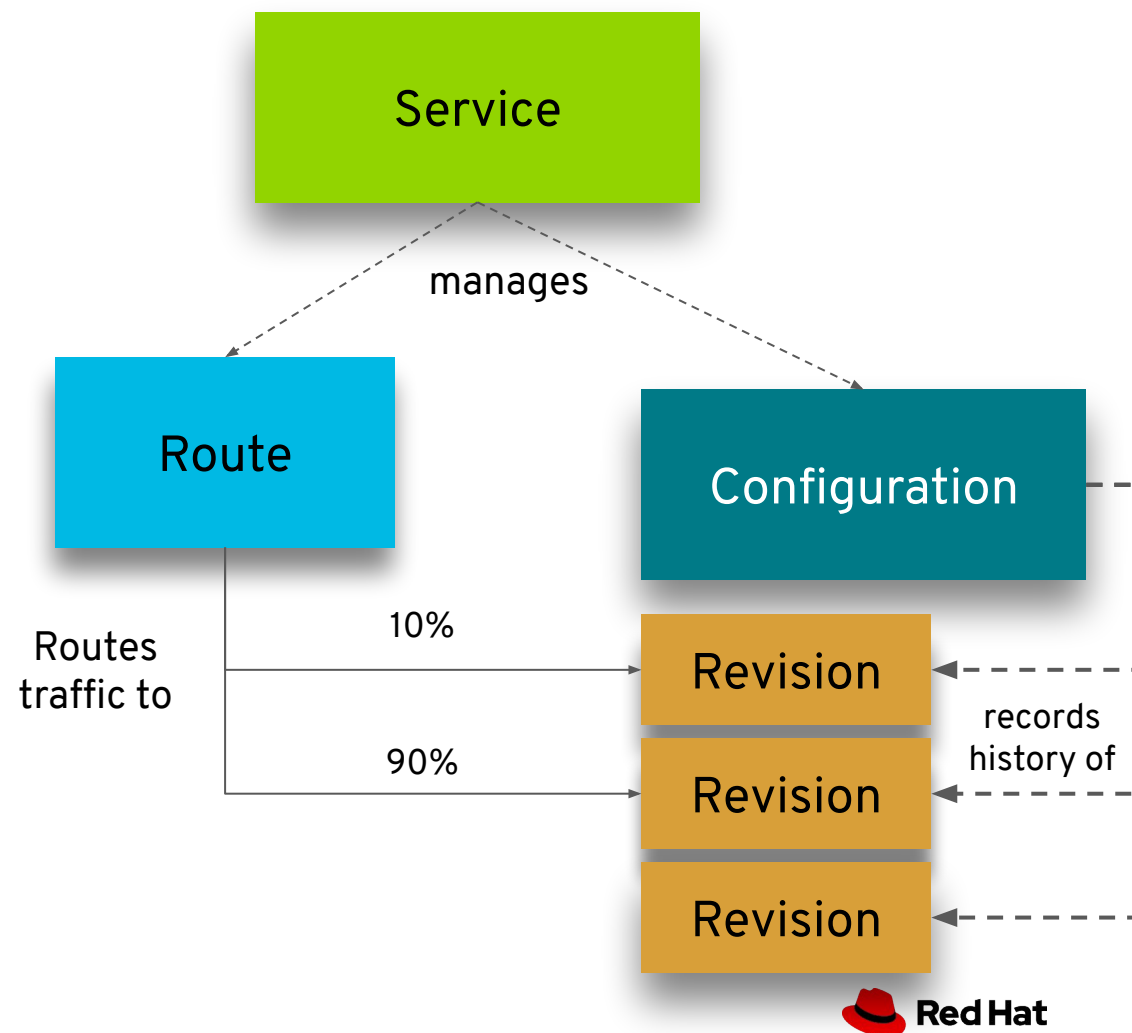
Route, scale-to-zero and  
track application revisions  
with ease.

# Knative Serving Concepts

- Separation of code and configuration
- Immutable Revisions
- Autoscaling including scale-to-zero
- Traffic Splitting
- Simplified and opinionated deployment model
  - Single Port
  - No PersistentVolumes
  - Single Container
- Callable by Knative eventing

# Knative Serving Resources

- **Configuration** represent the ‘floating HEAD’ of a history of **Revisions**
- **Revision** represents an immutable snapshot of code and configuration
- **Route** configure ingress over a collection of **Revisions**
- **Services** (not K8s services !) are top-level entities that manage a set of **Routes** and **Configurations**



# Service Peeling

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: lotto
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: lotto
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: lotto
    spec:
      containers:
        - image: cds19/lotto
          name: lotto
          ports:
            - containerPort: 8080
```

```
apiVersion: serving.knative.dev/v1alpha1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: lotto
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: lotto
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: lotto
    spec:
      containers:
        - image: cds19/lotto
          name: lotto
          ports:
            - containerPort: 8080
```

No more K8s  
Service or  
Ingress/Route  
required!



# Demo





# Eventing



---

Universal subscription, delivery,  
and management of events.

# Knative Eventing Key Features

## Benefits

- Event orchestration
  - Declaratively API to distribute events
- Scales from just few events to live data-streaming pipelines
- Powered by



cloudevents

## Extendable

- Multitude of Eventing Sources
- Pluggable internal transport (channel)
  - In-Memory(default)
  - Apache Kafka
  - Google Pub-Sub

# Knative Event Sources

- Integrating 3rd party systems with Knative
- More often “Adapter” than an original event source
- Declared with a Custom Resource
- Evaluated by an Operator
- Push or Pull based
- Converting custom event formats to CloudEvents



# Knative Eventing Sources

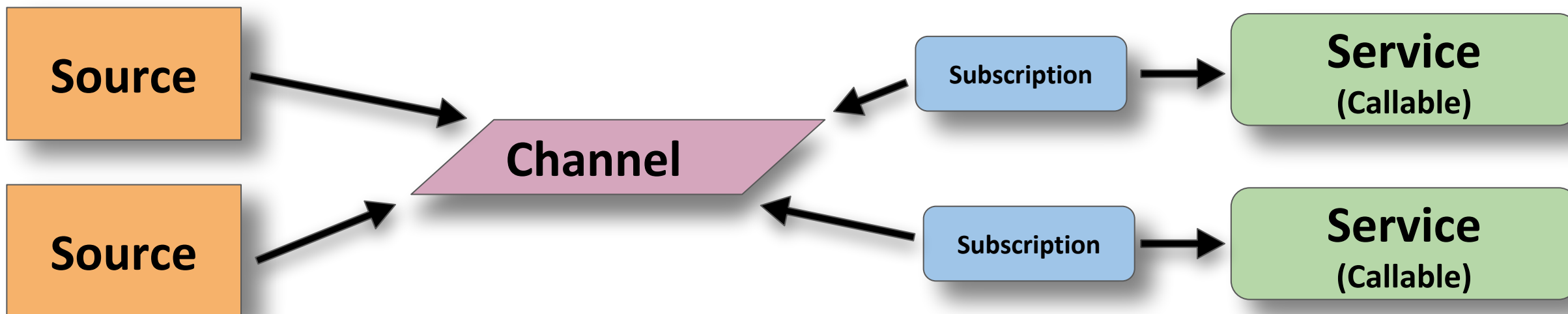
- Existing
  - **CronJob:** Constant events created at a fixed schedule
  - **Apiserver:** Watching for Kubernetes resource lifecycle events
  - **Container:** Arbitrary container instantiated
  - **GitHub:** Listen on GitHub API calls
  - **Kafka:** Connect to Kafka topics of a given Kafka Cluster
  - **Camel-K:** Camel components for connecting to external systems
  - and more: <https://knative.dev/docs/eventing/sources/>
- Custom
  - Write your own Source (CRD + Operator)
  - Use ContainerSource with custom image
  - Talk to Broker directly via HTTP

## Source → Service : Direct Connection



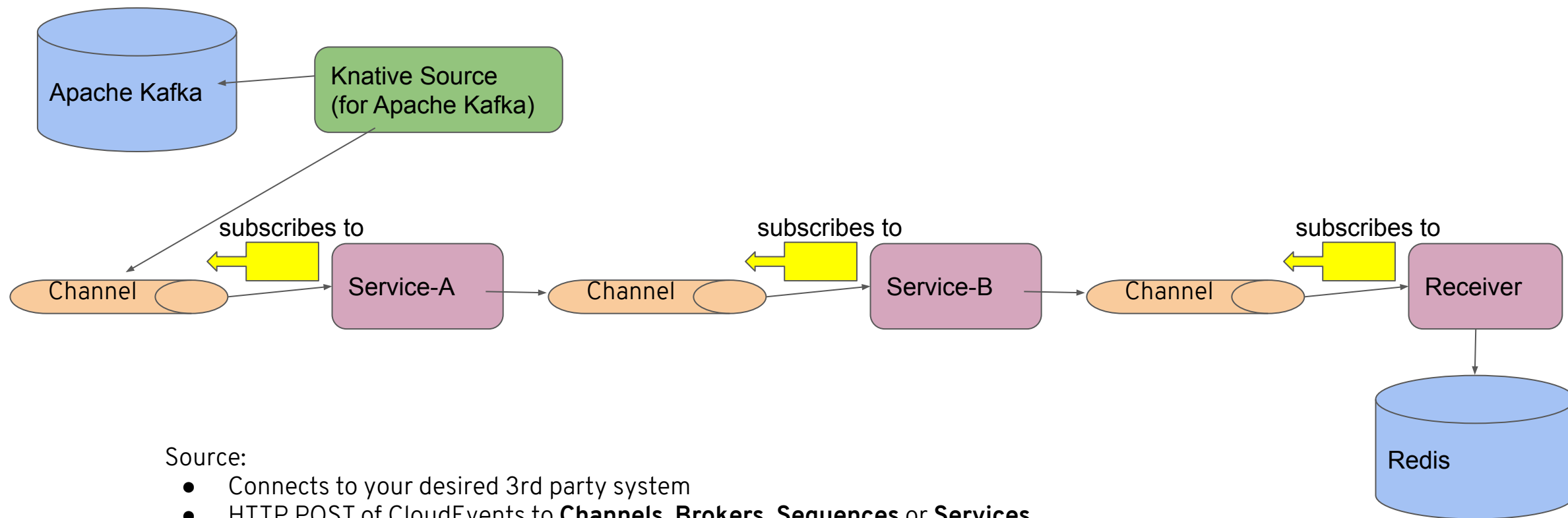
- Simplest way to get CloudEvents to a service
- Drawbacks:
  - No queuing support when service is unavailable
  - No back pressure support
  - Only one Service can consume
  - No filtering, Service gets always all events

## Source → Service : Channel & Subscription



- Multiple Services can consume the same event
- Subscription can point to a reply channel (not shown here)
- Various Channel Backends available
  - In-Memory, Kafka, GCP PubSub, (write your own)
- Drawbacks:
  - Channel Infrastructure needs to be set up manually
  - No filtering, Service gets always all events

# Event Driven Flow



## Source:

- Connects to your desired 3rd party system
- HTTP POST of CloudEvents to **Channels, Brokers, Sequences** or **Services**

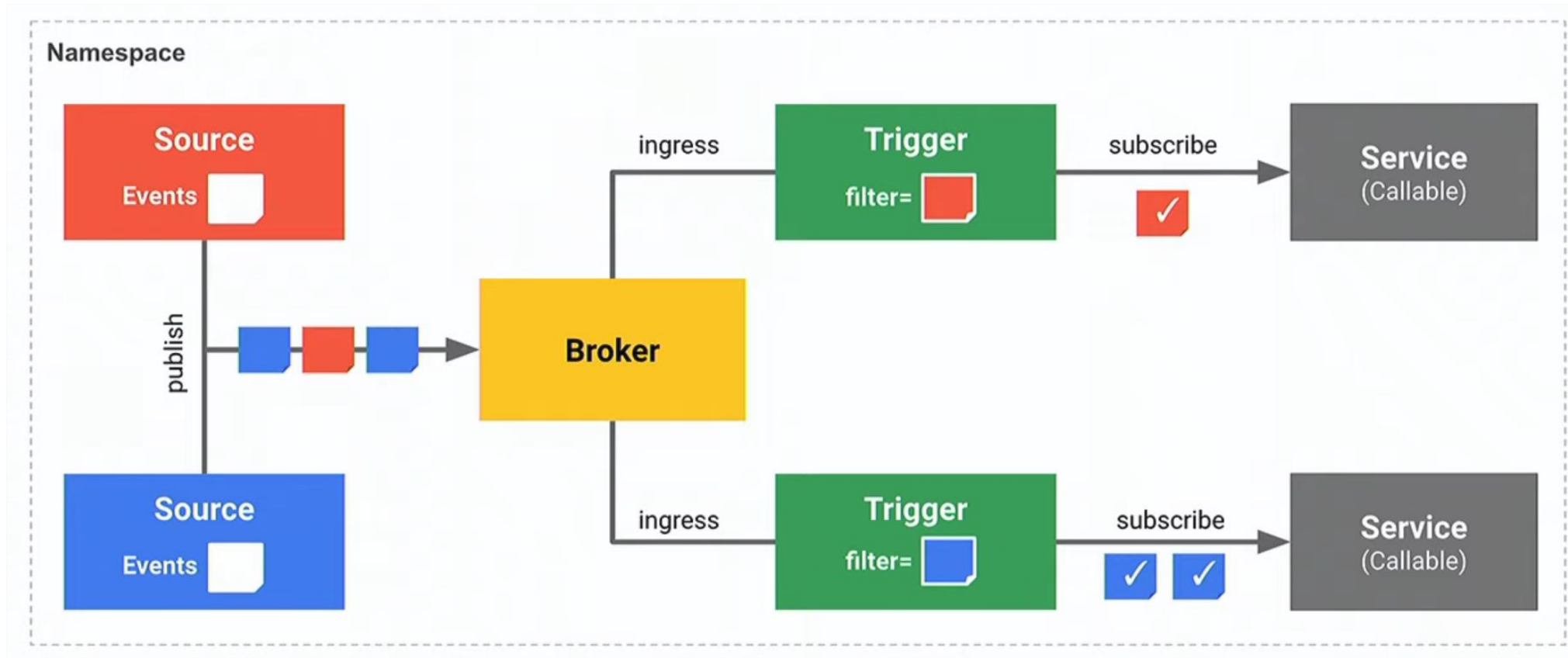
## Channel:

- Has n subscribers (of Knative Services)
- “Persisting” messages for consumption by Subscribers

## Service:

- Receives the HTTP POST of the (CloudEvent) message
  - Optionally returns processed data (replyChannel)

# Source → Service: Broker & Trigger





# Source → Service: Broker & Trigger

- **Broker**
  - Eventing Mesh (or Event Delivery System)
  - Connects Sources
  - Uses Channels internally
- **Trigger**
  - Filter events (e.g. type and/or source)
  - Can produce new events (returned to “Broker”)
  - Delivered as CloudEvents

# Demo

# More Knative Eventing

- **EventRegistry**
  - EventType CRD
  - Discoverability of Events
- **Sequence**
  - Chaining multiple Services
  - Sinking to an “Addressable” (Service, Channel, Sequence, Broker ...)
- **Parallel**
  - Branching of events with filters
  - Allows to implement conditional processing

# Summary

A photograph of a wooden boat's interior, viewed from the stern looking forward. The boat is made of weathered wood and has several coils of rope on the deck. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Several small, rocky islands are visible in the distance. The word "Summary" is overlaid in large white text on a semi-transparent dark band across the middle of the image.

# Summary

- Knative Serving
  - Simplified Deployment for stateless workloads
  - Traffic based autoscaling including Scale-to-Zero
  - Traffic splitting for custom rollout / rollback scenarios
- Knative Eventing
  - External Triggers for feeding Knative Services
  - Based on CloudEvents
  - Backed by proven messaging systems
  - Flexible messaging setup





O'REILLY®

# Kubernetes Patterns

Reusable Elements for Designing  
Cloud-Native Applications



Bilgin Ibryam &  
Roland Huß

<https://k8spatterns.io>

O'REILLY®

# Kubernetes Patterns

Reusable Elements for Designing  
Cloud-Native Applications



Bilgin Ibryam &  
Roland Huß

# Thank you



<https://k8spatterns.io>



<https://twitter.com/ro14nd>



<https://twitter.com/mwessendorf>



<https://twitter.com/k8spatterns>

# Picture Credits

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/boat-island-ocean-sea-218999/>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/t6t2-gXKxXM>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/UGMf30W28qc>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/hamburg-speicherstadt-channel-2976711/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/beer-machine-alcohol-brewery-1513436/>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/9SWHlgu8A8k>

<https://me.me/i/aws-lambda-is-just-glorified-cgi-bin-imgflip-com-change-my-mind-d0b715592ba34b08b79452ad02783ca2>

[https://unsplash.com/photos/dodn\\_0TESN0](https://unsplash.com/photos/dodn_0TESN0)