



# gRPC in Rust

~ Alejandro Gonzalez

“Hack & Learn - Oxidar.org”  
~ Hernán Gonzalez

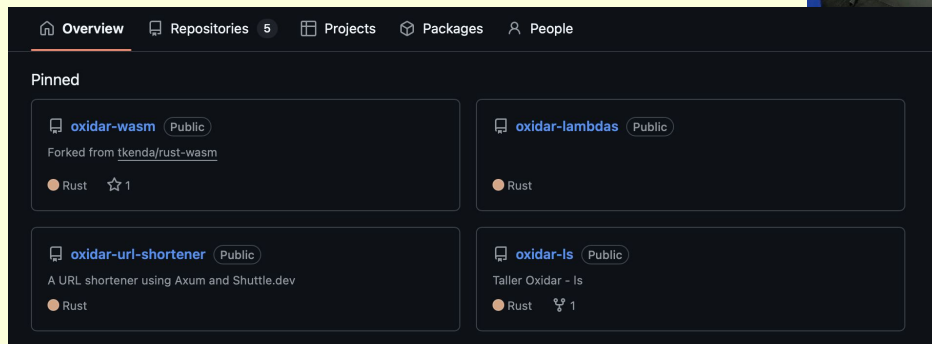
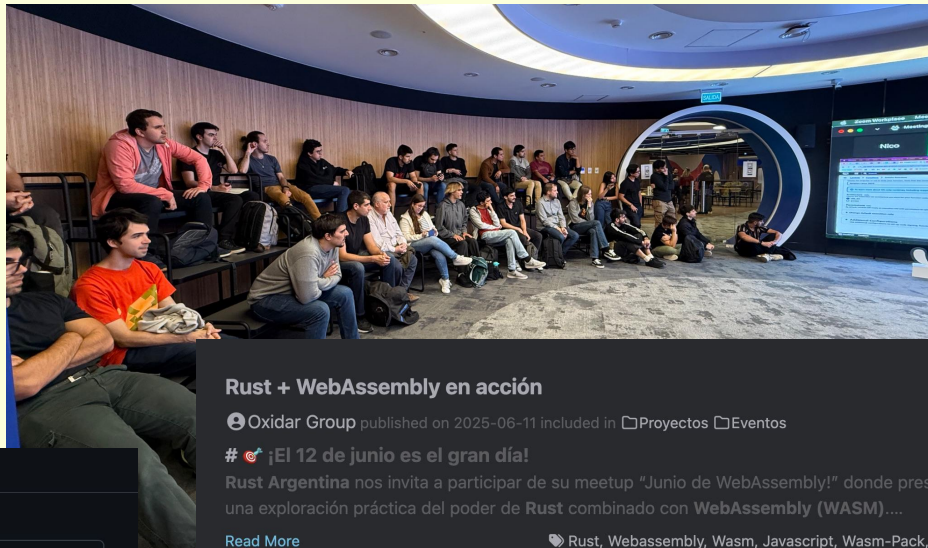
<https://oxidar.org> - 21/Aug/2025

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*Espacio Latinoamericano para la divulgación del lenguaje de programación Rust.* 🦀

## # Rustaceans

- Talleres auto-guiados
- Materiales de divulgación
- Repositorios públicos (MIT)
- Grupos de Colaboración



### Rust + WebAssembly en acción

📅 Oxidar Group published on 2025-06-11 included in ☐ Proyectos ☐ Eventos

#### # 🦀 ¡El 12 de junio es el gran día!

Rust Argentina nos invita a participar de su meetup "Junio de WebAssembly!" donde presentaremos una exploración práctica del poder de Rust combinado con WebAssembly (WASM)....

[Read More](#)

🔗 Rust, Webassembly, Wasm, Javascript, Wasm-Pack, Presentacion

### Rust en AWS Lambda con Cargo Lambda

📅 Oxidar Group published on 2025-04-03 included in ☐ Proyectos ☐ Tutoriales

#### # 🦀 Una nueva colaboración de la comunidad

En Oxidar creemos en el poder del aprendizaje colaborativo. Por eso, nos complace compartir uno de nuestros proyectos más recientes: **oxidar-lambdas**, una exploración práctica sobre cómo desplegar...

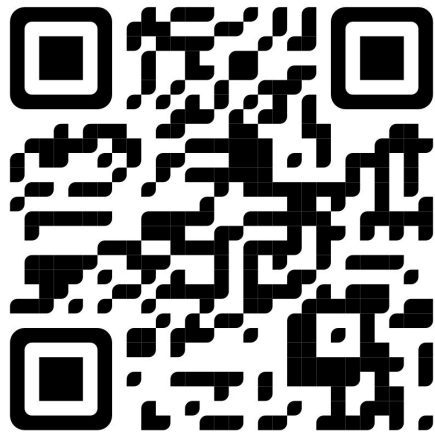
[Read More](#)

🔗 Rust, Aws, Lambda, Cargo-Lambda, Serverless, Colaboracion

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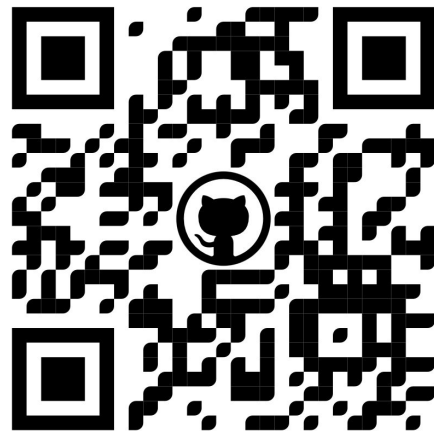
*Sumate a la comunidad!*



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*¿Cuánto sabés de Rust?*

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# About me ...

*Alejandro Gonzalez*

[www.linkedin.com/in/aagonzalez](https://www.linkedin.com/in/aagonzalez)



[github.com/mrgonza78](https://github.com/mrgonza78)

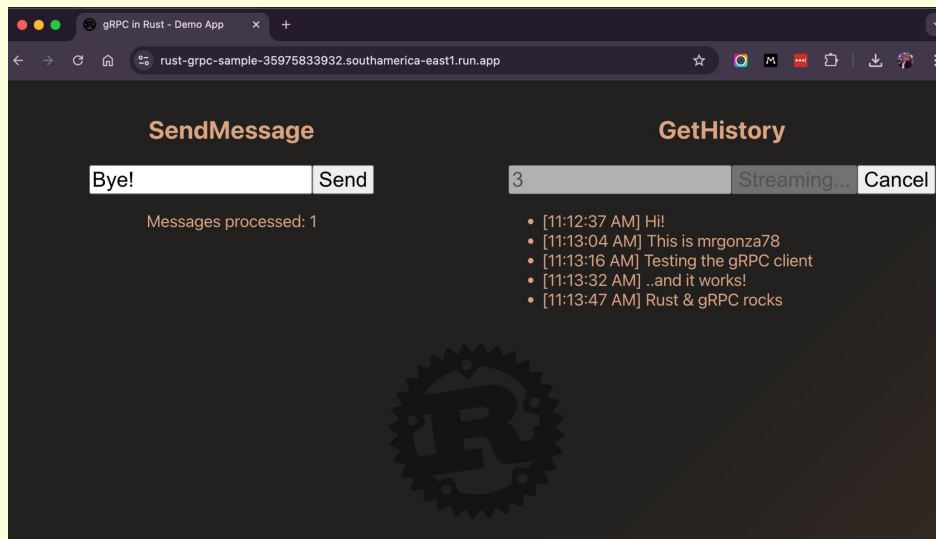




# Leave your questions here

gRPC Chat demo app

<https://rust-grpc-sample-35975833932.southamerica-east1.run.app>



# Agenda



## 1. Protocol buffers

- What
- Why / Use cases
- Comparison
- Protoc
- Prost
- Cons / Alternatives / Tools



## 2. gRPC

- What / Pros / Cons
- Comparison
- Tonic
- Example
- Use cases





# Protocol Buffers

<https://protobuf.dev>

## What?

- Formats used for data interchange
- Language & platform agnostic
- Strongly typed schema

```
syntax = "proto3";

package my_package;

enum UserRole {
    GUEST = 0;
    MEMBER = 2;
    MODERATOR = 4;
    ADMIN = 6;
}

message User {
    int32 id = 1;
    string name = 2;
    optional string email = 3;
    bool verified = 4;
    repeated string interest = 5;
    map<string, string> links = 6;
    UserRole role = 7;
}
```





# Protocol Buffers

## Why ?

- Compact (faster to transmit)
- Fast to serialize/deserialize
- Schema evolution
  - you can add / deprecate fields without breaking existing clients or services
    - Decoder skips unknown fields
    - Missing field are decoded with a default value
    - Reserve tag # of deleted fields
    - Don't re-use a tag #
    - Don't change type of a field
    - Check <https://protobuf.dev/best-practices/dos-donts>

## Use Cases

- Efficient data storage & transmission
- gRPC (communication between microservices)



# Encoding / decoding

- Field name is not encoded
- Fields type and # is encoded
- Field ordering does not matter
- Variable-Length number encoding

```
syntax = "proto3";

package my_package;

enum UserRole {
    GUEST = 0;
    MEMBER = 2;
    MODERATOR = 4;
    ADMIN = 6;
}

message User {
    int32 id = 1;
    string name = 2;
    optional string email = 3;
    bool verified = 4;
    repeated string interest = 5;
    map<string, string> links = 6;
    UserRole role = 7;
}
```

Struct: User { id: 78, name: "Ale", email: Some("mrgonza78@gmail.com"), verified: true, interest: ["rust", "grpc"], links: {"linkedin": "www.linkedin.com/in/aagonzalez", "github": "github.com/mrgonza78"}, role: Member }

Encoded bytes: 08 4e 12 03 41 6c 65 1a 13 6d 72 67 6f 6e 7a 61 37 38 40 67 6d 61 69 6c 2e 63 6f 6d 20 01 2a 04 72 75 73 74 2a 04 67 72 70 63 32 2a 0a 08 6c 69 6e 6b 65 64 69 6e 12 1e 77 77 77 2e 6c 69 6e 6b 65 64 69 6e 2e 63 6f 6d 2f 69 6e 2f 61 61 67 6f 6e 7a 61 6c 65 7a 32 1e 0a 06 67 69 74 68 75 62 12 14 67 69 74 68 75 62 2e 63 6f 6d 2f 6d 72 67 6f 6e 7a 61 37 38 38 02

Decoded: User { id: 78, name: "Ale", email: Some("mrgonza78@gmail.com"), verified: true, interest: ["rust", "grpc"], links: {"linkedin": "www.linkedin.com/in/aagonzalez", "github": "github.com/mrgonza78"}, role: Member }



# Comparison vs JSON

## Encoding

- String: ~2.7 times faster
- Numbers: ~34 times faster

## Decoding

- String: ~23 times faster
- Number: ~38 times faster

## Payload size

- Between 30% and 70% smaller

## Source

- [Json vs protocol buffers](#)
- [A comparison of serialization formats](#)

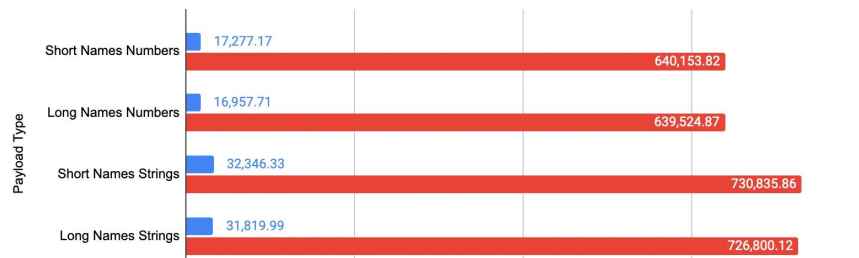
### Json vs Proto Encoding Throughput

ops/sec - by payload type



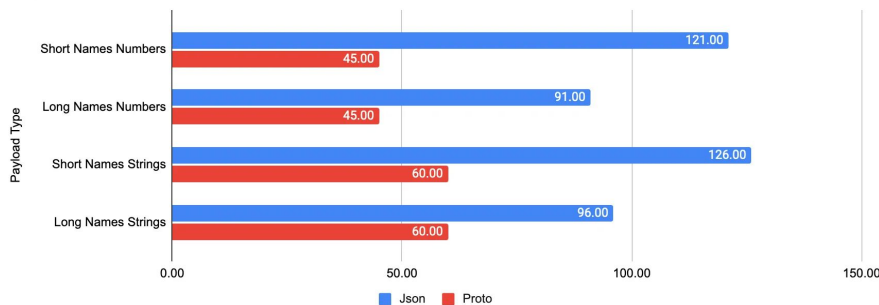
### Json vs Proto Decoding Throughput

ops/sec - by payload type



### Payload Size Json vs Proto by Payload Type

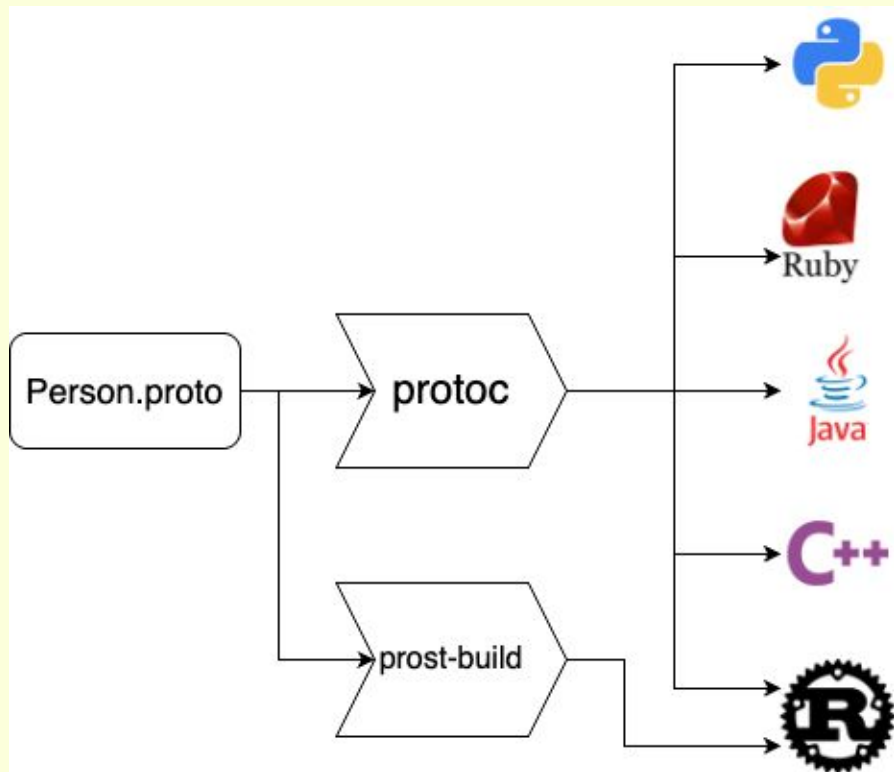
in bytes



# Protoc compiler

the official command-line tool that transforms .proto files into source code

- Supports many languages out of the box
- Can be extended to support new languages via plugins (eg go)





# Rust: Prost

<https://github.com/tokio-rs/prost>

Protocol Buffers implementation for Rust. It generates simple, idiomatic Rust code from .proto files

```

syntax = "proto3";

package my_package;

enum UserRole {
    GUEST = 0;
    MEMBER = 2;
    MODERATOR = 4;
    ADMIN = 6;
}

message User {
    int32 id = 1;
    string name = 2;
    optional string email = 3;
    bool verified = 4;
    repeated string interest = 5;
    map<string, string> links = 6;
    UserRole role = 7;
}

```

```

// This file is @generated by prost-build.
#[derive(Clone, PartialEq, ::prost::Message)]
6 implementations
pub struct User {
    #[prost(int32, tag = "1")]
    pub id: i32,
    #[prost(string, tag = "2")]
    pub name: ::prost::alloc::string::String,
    #[prost(string, optional, tag = "3")]
    pub email: ::core::option::Option<::prost::alloc::string::String>,
    #[prost(bool, tag = "4")]
    pub verified: bool,
    #[prost(string, repeated, tag = "5")]
    pub interest: ::prost::alloc::vec::Vec<::prost::alloc::string::String>,
    #[prost(map = "string, string", tag = "6")]
    pub links: ::std::collections::HashMap<
        ::prost::alloc::string::String,
        ::prost::alloc::string::String,
    >,
    #[prost(enumeration = "UserRole", tag = "7")]
    pub role: i32,
}
#[derive(Clone, Copy, Debug, PartialEq, Eq, Hash, PartialOrd, Ord, ::prost::
#[repr(i32)]
12 implementations
pub enum UserRole {
    Guest = 0,
    Member = 2,
    Moderator = 4,
    Admin = 6,
}

```

```

let p = my_package::User {
    id: 78,
    name: "Ale".to_string(),
    email: Some("mrgonza78@gmail.com".to_string()),
    verified: true,
    interest: vec!["rust".to_string(), "grpc".to_string()],
    links: vec![
        ("github".to_string(), "github.com/mrgonza78".to_string()),
        ("linkedin".to_string(), "www.linkedin.com/in/aagor
    ].into_iter().collect(),
    role: my_package::UserRole::Member.into(),
};

```



[github.com/oxidar-org/rust-proto-sample](https://github.com/oxidar-org/rust-proto-sample)



# Protocol Buffers

## Cons

- No human-readable
- Less flexible for ad-hoc data
- Limited built-in data types (eg dates/timestamps)

## Alternatives

- [Thrift](#). From Facebook, supports code generation, schemas, multiple protocols (binary, compact, JSON), and built-in RPC
- [Flatbuffers](#). Designed by Google; supports zero-copy deserialization (very fast), good for game dev and mobile. Schema-based

## Tools

- [Protobufpal](#). online tool used for serialization, deserialization, converting to json, and validation of Protocol Buffers messages



# gRPC

<https://grpc.io/>

## What?

high performance, open source RPC framework

- Based on **HTTP/2**
- Uses **Protocol Buffers**
- **Strongly-typed APIs** with automatic client/server stub **code generation** for multiple languages
- Offers **bi-directional streaming** and **asynchronous** communication.
- Supports **authentication**, **load balancing**, **pluggable retries**, etc

## Pros

- High performance and low latency.
- Contract-first API design (Protobuf).
- Language and platform agnostic

## Cons

- No human-readable (b/c Protobuf)
- More complex to debug than REST/JSON
- Requires tooling support (for code generation and protocol decoding)



# Service Definition

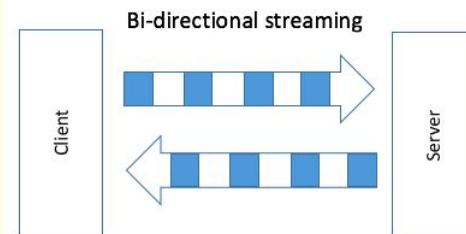
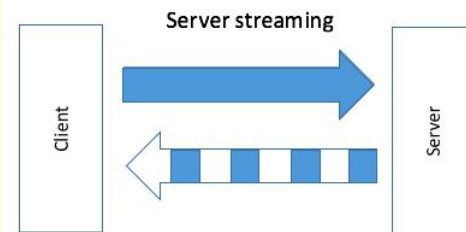
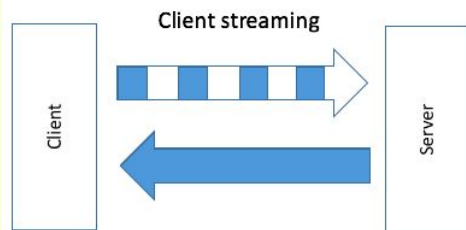
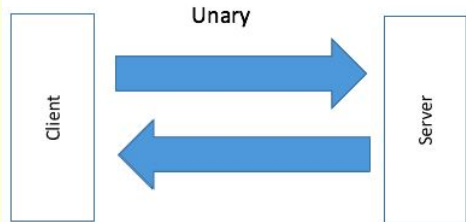
```
package chat_package;

service ChatService {
  // Unary function
  rpc SendMessage (Message) returns (SendMessageResponse);
  // Client streaming
  rpc SendBulkMessages (stream Message) returns (SendMessageResponse);
  // Server streaming
  rpc GetHistory(HistoryRequest) returns (stream Message);
  // Bidirectional streaming
  rpc LiveChat(stream Message) returns (stream Message);
}

message Message {
  string content = 1;
}

message SendMessageResponse {
  int32 messages_processed = 1;
}

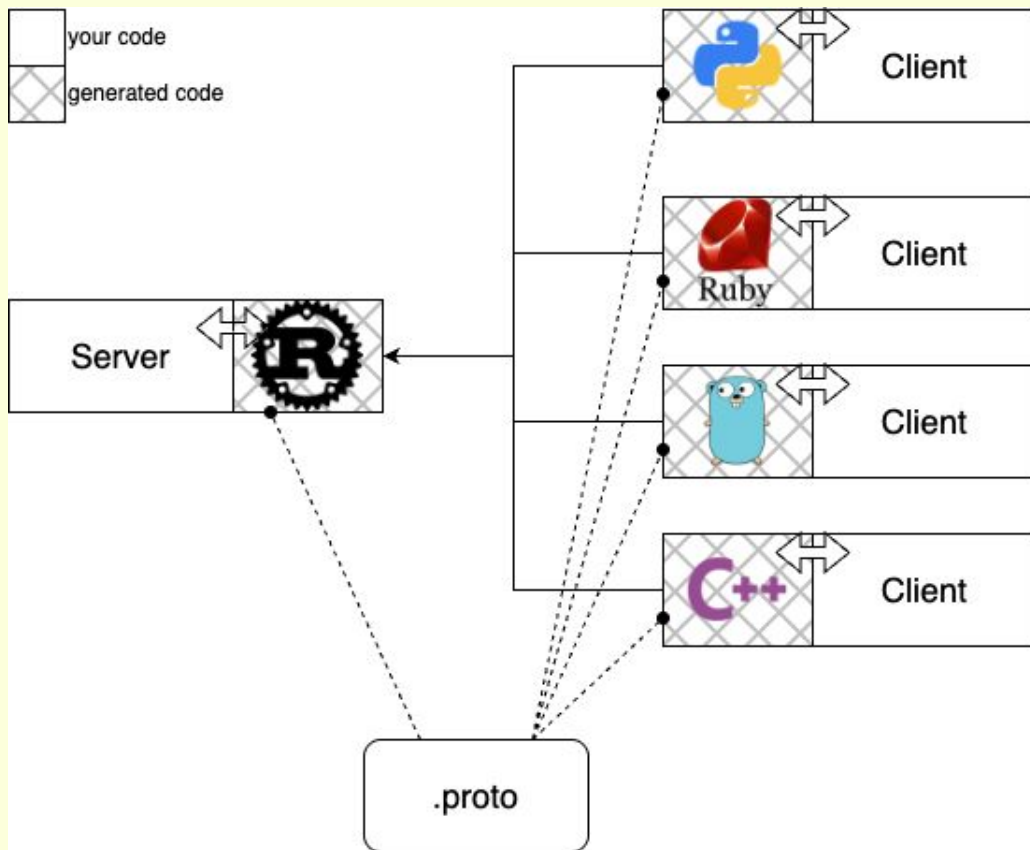
message HistoryRequest {
  int32 starting_at = 1;
}
```







# gRPC





# rust: T<sup>o</sup>NIC

<https://github.com/hyperium/tonic>

- generic gRPC implementation
- HTTP/2 based on hyper
- codegen powered by prost

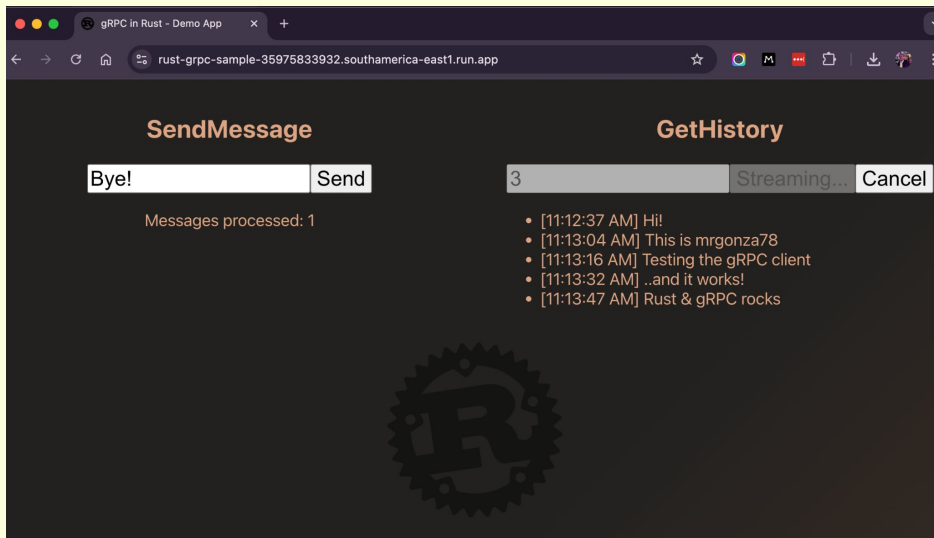
# Tonic Generated code

👉 see in [github.com/oxidar-org/rust-grpc-sample](https://github.com/oxidar-org/rust-grpc-sample)



# T<sup>o</sup>NIC Chat Demo App

<https://rust-grpc-sample-35975833932.southamerica-east1.run.app>





# Use cases

## Microservices

Backend composed of multiple microservices needs to talk to each other

## IoT

IoT device communicates with a backend that requires low latency and low bandwidth

## Envoy

HTTP/network proxy. Extensible/customizable via gRPC services.

Eg: [ext\\_authz](#) gRPC API for external authorization.

## Google Cloud

gRPC is the default protocol for many GCP APIs.

Eg: BigQuery for streaming query results

## Etcd

The backing store for Kubernetes uses gRPC for its API.

Eg: KV.Put, KV.Get .. see [docs](#)

## CockroachDB

SQL and admin over gRPC

## Tools

[grpcurl](#): Like cURL, but for gRPC

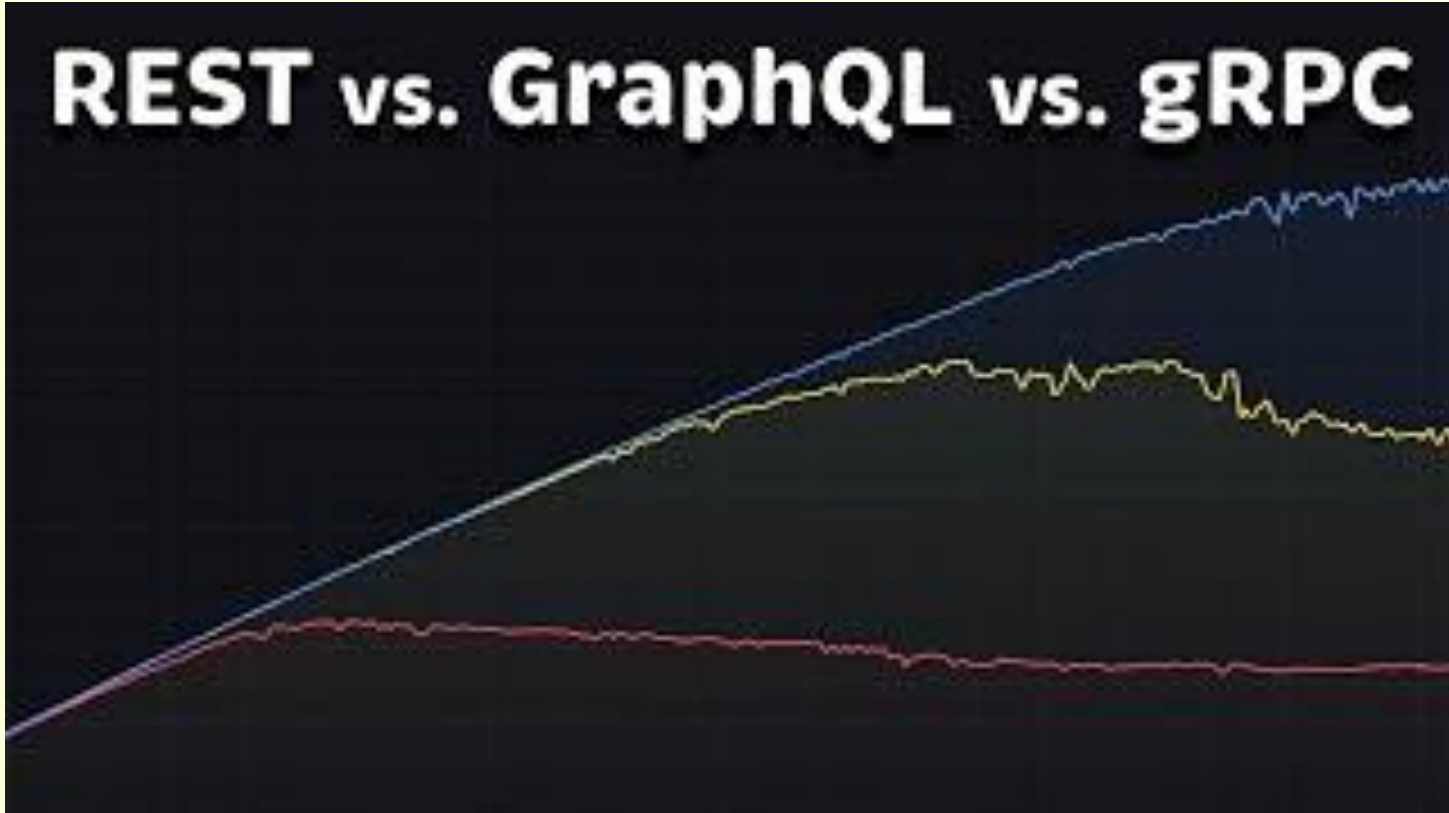
[postman](#): platform/tool for testing APIs (supports gRPC)

[Awesome-gRPC](#): A curated list of useful resources for gRPC



# Comparison

vs REST & GraphQL



MUCHAS GRACIAS!

Déjanos tus PRs y  
comentarios.

[github.com/oxidar-org](https://github.com/oxidar-org)

