



# Getting Pushy

**Server Push in Scala and Clojure**

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**September, 2013, Strange Loop**

# Why the lab coat?



- Lost a bet to  
@fogus/@meangrape/@seriouspony
- Spreadsheet-inator



@dpp

- Lift & Scala: 7 years
- Clojure & Plugh: This year
- crazy passionate lawyer-trained dude





**BRICK ALLOY**

- My new Consultancy
- Delivering Cloud Systems  
that Drive Business Success



# Across Address Spaces

- Transport
- Marshalling
- Program Semantics



# Transport

- HTTP unless there's a good reason
- Traverses firewalls
- Understood semantics



# Marshalling

□ JSON unless...  
Your language is  
better...  
like Erlang & clojure



# Program Semantics

- Normal flow of control (RMI)?
- Hand-rolled per invocation?
- Futures/Actors |  
channels | queues?



# About HTTP

- Limited Browser/Server Connections  
(1 to 8 per server)
- Proxies unreliable
- Don't trust the wire



# Key Goals



- “Native” & Lightweight Semantics
- Mostly transparent to transport vagaries



# Respect the GUID

- Cross Address Space REF
  - Function
  - Component
  - Actor/Channel/Thingy
- Easy to serialize
- GC a challenge



# Confirm(ish) Delivery

- Client and Server have delivery queues
- Server Queue based on clock value
- Client queue based on ACK, but de-dupped by server



# HTTP Push



- used to be hard: Comet/Long Poll
- Marginally easier with Web Sockets
- Still cross address space problem



# Lift



- @dpp's Scala Libraries
- Most mature, best maintained libraries in Scala-land
- Actors, Futures, Monads, JSON, Web...
- Best Server Push!



# Lift



- Ajax: Single HTTP channel, de-dupped
- Comet: Multiplexed, versioned, POLL
- Server (mostly) cognizant of HTML



# Lift 3: Data Focus Lift

- Server knows about data
- Server cares much less about HTML
- No change to underlying transport



# Lift Data Chat



```
□ def render =  
  for (sess <- S.session) yield  
    Script(  
      JsCrVar("serverFuncs",  
        sess.buildRoundtrip(List[RoundTripInfo] (  
  
          "start" -> ((_: String) =>  
            PushyStream.stream) ,  
  
          "chat" -> ((s: String) => {  
            PushyStream.push(s)  
            Stream.empty})))) )
```



# Lift Streaming



```
□ object PushyStream {  
    private val in = new LinkedBlockingQueue[String]  
    lazy val stream = Stream.continually(in.take())  
  
    def push(s: String) = {  
        in.add(s)  
    }  
}
```



# Lift Client HTML



*Lift*

```
□ <div ng-controller="Chatter">
    <h2>Chat App</h2>

    <ul>
        <li ng-repeat="x in chats">{ {x} }</li>
    </ul>

    <input ng-model="line">
    <button ng-click="send()">Chat</button>
</div>
```



# Lift Client JS



```
□ $scope.chats = ["welcome"] ;  
  
$scope.line = "";  
  
$scope.send = function () {  
  window.serverFuncs.chat($scope.line) ;  
  $scope.line = "";  
}  
  
window.serverFuncs.start("") .  
then(function(v) {  
  $scope.$apply(function() {  
    $scope.chats.push(v) ;  
  })});
```



# Plugh



- @dpp's Clojure libraries
- AngularJS focused web stuff
- cross-address-space analytics stuff



# Clojure core.async

- Messaging between endpoints
- synchronous and async send/receive
- Substrate for Plugh



# Plugh Client

- (s-set :chats (clj->js []))  
(s-set :line "")

```
(defn scope send []
  (let [msg (:line $scope)]
    (go
      (>! server-chan {:msg msg})))
  (assoc! $scope :line ""))

(let [rc (chan)]
  (go (>! server-chan {:add rc})))

(go (while true
  (let [chats (<! rc)]
    (in-scope (doseq [m chats]
      (.push (:chats $scope) m)))))))
```



# Plugh Server

- ```
(while true
  (let [v (<! server-chan) ]
    (when-let [n (:add v)]
      (swap! listeners #(conj % n))
      (>! n @chats))

    (when-let [chat-msg (:msg v)]
      (swap! chats #(conj % chat-msg))
      (doseq [ch @listeners]
        (>! ch [chat-msg]))))))))
```



# Spreadsheet-Inator



- (:name (.toLowerCase it))  
(:age it)  
(:age5 (/ (to-num (:age it)) 5))  
(:#totals :age sum, :age5 avg)  
(:#filter -> it :name .-length (> 4))



# Questions?



# Lift Chat View



```
□ <div>
  <h2>Chat App</h2>

  <ul data-lift="comet?type=Chat">
    <li>Chat Line</li>
    <li class="clearable">Line 2</li>
    <li class="clearable">Line 3</li>
    <li class="clearable">Line 4</li>
  </ul>

  <form data-lift="form.ajax">
    <input data-lift="ChatIn" id="chat_in">
    <button>Chat</button>
  </form>
</div>
```



# Lift Chat Server



```
□ object ChatServer extends LiftActor with  
    ListenerManager {  
    private var chats = Vector("Welcome")  
  
    def createUpdate = chats  
  
    override def lowPriority = {  
        case s: String => chats ::= s  
                           updateListeners()  
    }  
}
```



# Lift Chat Pusher



```
□ class Chat extends CometActor with CometListener {  
    private var chats = Vector("")  
  
    def registerWith = ChatServer  
  
    def render = ClearClearable andThen  
        "li *" #> chats  
  
    override def lowPriority = {  
        case v: Vector[String] => chats = v; reRender()  
    }  
}
```



# Lift Chat Ajax



```
□ object ChatIn {  
    def render = SHtml.onSubmit(s => {  
        ChatServer ! s  
        SetValById("chat_in", "")  
    })  
}
```

