

Module 6: Refactoring Mule Applications

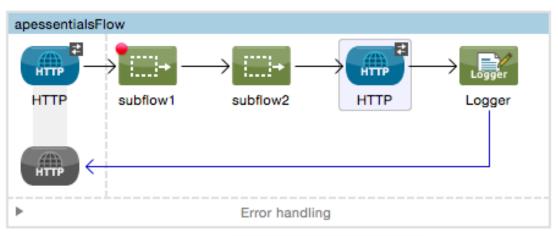
Objectives

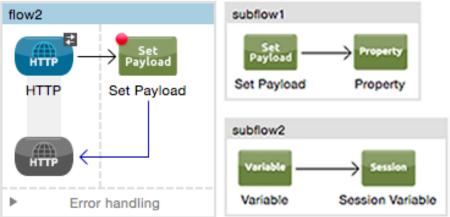
- In this module, you will learn:
 - To separate applications into multiple configuration files
 - To encapsulate global elements in a separate config file
 - To create and run multiple applications
 - To create and reference flows and subflows
 - About variable persistence through subflows and flows and across transport barriers



Goal









Organizing projects and applications

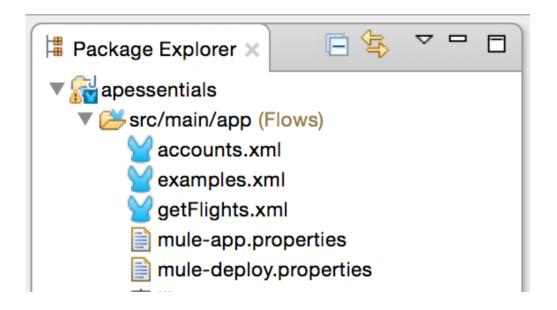
Separating applications into multiple configuration files

- Monolithic files are difficult to work with
- Separating an application into multiple configuration files makes code
 - Easier to read
 - Easier to work with
 - Easier to test
 - More maintainable



Walkthrough 6-1: Separate applications into multiple configuration files

- Separate the account flows into accounts.xml
- Move the rest of the example flows into examples.xml
- Rename apessentials.xml to getFlights.xml





Encapsulating global elements in a configuration file

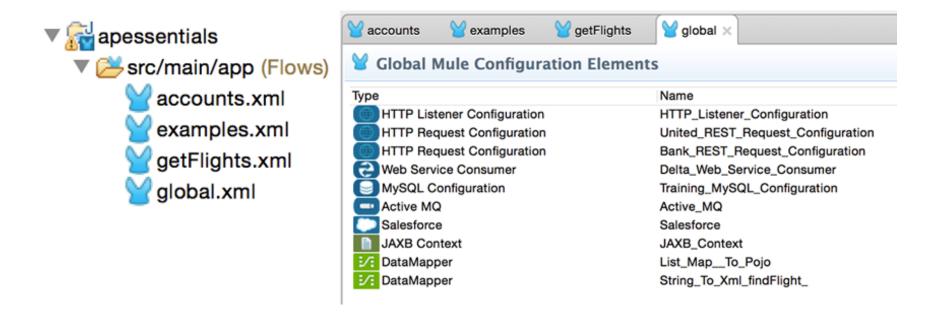
- It can be confusing if you reference global elements in one file that are defined in various, unrelated files
- It also makes it hard to find them
- A good solution is to put most global elements in one configuration file
 - All the rest of the files reference them
 - If a global element is specific to and only used in one file, it makes sense to keep it in that file
 - DataMapper configurations





Walkthrough 6-2: Encapsulate global elements in a separate configuration file

- Create a configuration file for just global elements
- Move all the existing global elements to this file





Creating multiple applications

- Separate functionality into multiple applications to
 - Allow managing and monitoring of them as separate entities
 - Use different, incompatible JAR files
- Run more than one application at a time in Studio by creating a run configuration



Walkthrough 6-3: Create and run multiple applications

- Create a new project and application called apessentials2
- Move the examples config file into the apessentials2 application
- Create new global connector configurations in the new project
- Create a new run configuration to run multiple applications simultaneously



Sharing resources between applications

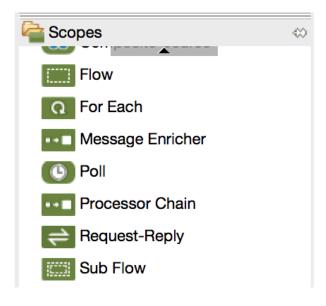
- Use domains and shared resources
 - Create a Mule Domain Project and associate Mule applications with a domain
 - Define a set of resources (and the libraries required by those resources) for a domain to share between the applications that belong to the domain
 - Only available on-prem, not on CloudHub

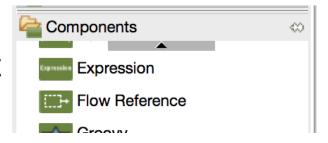


Encapsulating processors into separate flows

Flows and subflows

- Flows can be broken into multiple flows and subflows
 - Makes the graphical view more intuitive and the XML code easier to read
 - Promotes code reuse
- All flows are identified by name and can be called via Flow Reference components in other flows
- Flow variables persist through all flows unless the message crosses a transport boundary

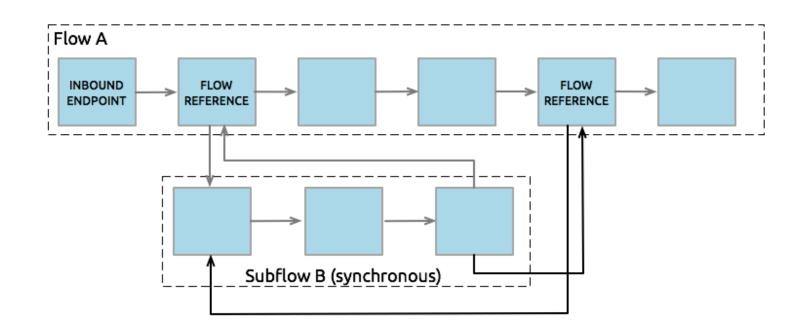






Subflows

- Subflows are executed exactly as if the processors were still in the calling flow
 - Always run synchronously
 - Inherit the processing and exception strategies of the flow that triggered its execution





Flows

- Flows, on the other hand, have much more flexibility in how they are used
- Can have their own processing and exception strategies
- Can be synchronous or asynchronous
- Flows without message sources are sometimes called private flows



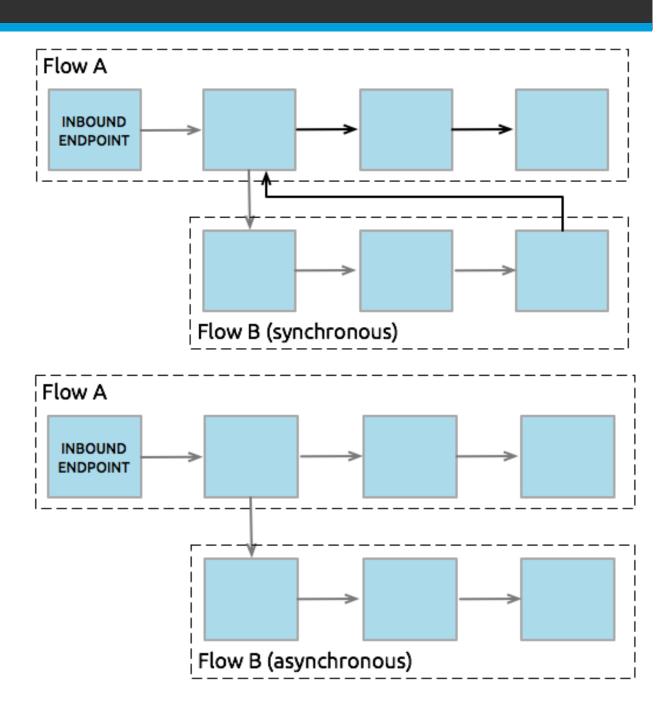
Synchronous and asynchronous flows

Synchronous

 Triggering flow pauses, then resumes only after the synchronous flow completes its processing and hands the message back to the triggering flow

Asynchronous

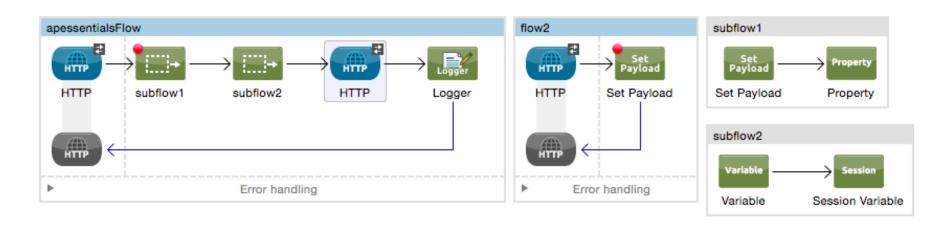
- A copy of the message is passed both to the asynchronous flow and simultaneously to the next message processor in its own flow
- The two flows execute simultaneously and independently, each finishing on its own



Walkthrough 6-4: Create and reference flows and subflows

- Extract processors into separate subflows and flows
- Use the Flow Reference component to reference other flows
- Explore variable persistence through flows, subflows, and across transport barriers

Note: Session variables are persisted across some but not all transport barriers





Summary



Summary

- In this module, you learned to refactor Mule applications
- Separate application functionality into multiple configuration files for easier development and maintenance
- Encapsulate global elements that will be used in multiple config files into their own separate config file
- Separate functionality into multiple applications to allow managing and monitoring of them as separate entities
- Run more than one application at a time in Studio by creating a run configuration
- Share resources between applications by creating a shared domain



Summary

- Separate a flow into multiple flows for easier to read files and for reusability
- All flows are identified by name and can be called via Flow Reference components in other flows
- Flow variables persist through all flows unless the message crosses a transport boundary
- Subflows are executed exactly as if in the calling flow
 - Always run synchronously and inherit processing and exception strategies of the calling flow
- Flows can have their own processing and exception strategies and be synchronous or asynchronous

