

Pattern: Domain event

From Domain-Driven Design (DDD).

Context

A service often needs to publish events when it updates its data. These events might be needed, for example, to update a CQRS view ([cqrs.html](#)). Alternatively, the service might participate in an choreography-based saga ([saga.html](#)), which uses events for coordination.

Problem

How does a service publish an event when it updates its data?

Solution

Organize the business logic of a service as a collection of DDD aggregates ([aggregate.html](#)) that emit domain events when they created or updated. The service publishes these domain events so that they can be consumed by other services.

Related patterns

- The Saga ([saga.html](#)) and CQRS ([cqrs.html](#)) patterns create the need for this pattern
- The Aggregate pattern ([aggregate.html](#)) is used to structure the business logic
- The Transactional outbox pattern ([transactional-outbox.html](#)) is used to publish events as part of a database transaction
- Event sourcing ([event-sourcing.html](#)) is sometimes used to publish domain events

See also

- My book [Microservices patterns \(/book\)](#) describes this pattern in a lot more detail.

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