Reactive Play and Scala

From one System to a System of Systems Tobias Neef | tobias.neef@innoq.com







User

System

Elastic

- > The system stays responsive under varying workload
- > ... reacts to changes in the input rate by increasing or decreasing the resources
- ... no contention points or central bottlenecks

Resilient

- > The system stays responsive in the face of failure
- Resilience is achieved by replication,
 containment, isolation and delegation

Message Driven

- Reactive Systems rely on asynchronous message-passing
- > Establish a boundary between components
- Ensure loose coupling, isolation, location transparency, and provides the means to delegate errors as messages



The story of a Play App Wunderban

Wunderlist



kanbanfor1





https://github.com/tobnee/wunderban

C-O-d-e

12 months later

Breaking the Monolith

https://www.innoq.com/blog/st/2013/10/on-monoliths/



"Large systems are composed of smaller ones and therefore depend on the Reactive properties of their constituents. "

- reactivemanifesto.org

Revolution vs. Evolution

The Play Stack



HTTP-Stack | Asset-Mgmt | Templates | DB-Integration | ...

Play's-App-Engine | Fault-Tolerance | Location-Transparent

akka

Akka Actors

- > Actors are message driven and async
- > Support resilience
- Support scale up and scale out mechanisms in one model

Migrate Logic to Akka

A basic actor model



// actor protocol case class GetTasks(id: Long) case class TaskNotFound(id: Long) case class TaskResult(id: Long,

tasks: List[Task])

// controller def tasks(id: Long) = Action.async { val wunderlist : ActorRef = ... (wunderlist ? GetTasks(id)).map { case TaskNotFound(id) => NotFound case TaskResult(id, tasks) => Ok }

// simplified actor class ListsActor extends Actor {

```
def receive = {
  case GetTasks(id) =>
    val tasks = lookupTasks(id)
    val result =
        if(tasks.isEmpty) TaskNotFound(id)
        else TaskResult(id, tasks)
        sender() ! result
}
```

"Location Transparency is often mistaken for 'transparent distributed computing', while it is actually the opposite"

- reactivemanifesto.org

Distribute App

See the App crashing ;)

Make resilient

Apply stability patterns

- > Bulkheads
- > Circuit Breakers
- > Handshaking

Building Bulkheads with Actor Supervision

A wunderban actor model



Building Bulkheads with Actor Dispatchers

Resource Management



Building Circuit Breakers with Akka

System Isolation



stability patterns —> resilience

Scale up with Routers





Further Scaling Options

- > Scale out on a system level HTTP/LB
- > Scale out using Akka (Remoting, Cluster)

Lessons Learned

- The path from a simple, monolithic Play App to a distributed, reactive app often involves Akka features
- Akka gives you powers to apply stability patters with its standard tools
- Akka gives you ways to scale but its not a silver bullet

Further Topics

- > Reactive Streams / Akka Streams
- > Akka Persistence
- > Akka Cluster





Comments?

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Code Samples



val defaultDecider: Decider = {

- case _: ActorInitializationException ⇒ Stop
- case _: ActorKilledException ⇒ Stop
- case _: DeathPactException ⇒ Stop
- case _: Exception ⇒ Restart

val defaultStrategy: SupervisorStrategy = {
 OneForOneStrategy()(defaultDecider)

Resource Allocation by Configuration

```
fix-thread-pool-dispatcher {
  type = Dispatcher
  executor = "thread-pool-executor"
  thread-pool-executor {
   core-pool-size-min = 2
   core-pool-size-max = 10
  }
}
akka.actor.deployment {
  /approot/tasks/udpdatetask {
    dispatcher = my-dispatcher
  }
}
val myActor = context.actorOf(Props[DbActor],
"udpdatetask")
```

val breaker =

new CircuitBreaker(actorSystem.scheduler, maxFailures = config.maxFailures, callTimeout = config.callTimeout, resetTimeout = config.resetTimeout) .onOpen(notifyMeOnOpen()) .onClose(notifyMeOnClose()) .onHalfOpen(notifyMeOnHalfOpen())

def execute[T](call: Future[T]): Future[T] = {
 breaker.withCircuitBreaker(call)

```
akka.actor.deployment {
   /wipstats/statsbuilder {
    router = round-robin-pool
    nr-of-instances = 3
  }
}
```

val statsRouter = context.actorOf(
 FromConfig.props(Props[StatsBuilder]),
 "statsbuilder")