

TIBCO® Architecture Fundamentals



Paul C. Brown

Praise for TIBCO® *Architecture Fundamentals*

“TIBCO® *Architecture Fundamentals* is a must-read for anybody involved with the architecture and design of distributed systems, with system integration issues, or with service-based application design. In particular, solution architects responsible for TIBCO-based systems architectures should consider reading this book and its planned follow-on titles.

“The product portfolio of TIBCO today is simply too broad for anybody to have an ongoing detailed understanding of what is in there and what elements of the portfolio are best suited in a given business scenario. Paul Brown provides the required oversight in this book, helping both experienced solution architects and newcomers in the field find their way through the myriad technology options TIBCO offers today.”

—Bert Hooyman, *Chief Architect, Europe for MphasiS (an HP Company)*

“In his previous books, Dr. Brown developed the ‘total architecture concept’ in a generic setting. In this one, he presents a concrete application of it to the TIBCO product line. It will be a valuable resource to anyone developing solutions with those tools.”

—Glenn Smith, *Principal Consultant, Appian*

“This material is spot on for what is needed in enterprises today, to give a level set to all the architecture teams and project teams they interact with, to outline what is expected, and the roles that each play. In addition, it is a timely overview of the latest TIBCO product suites, and I am anxious to see the follow-ups to this (BusinessEvents- and BPM-focused materials).

“This book provides a detailed look at what happens in the creation of an integration architecture for a business problem. Paul’s attempt to capture in words the years of project experience will be a benefit for groups getting familiar with establishing an enterprise architecture standard, as well as a refresher for those performing this function today.

“I would like for all the folks on my team to read this to ensure we are all on the same page with the deliverables that are expected from architecture teams involved in global projects, and the role that the TIBCO tools play in implementing these solutions.”

—Joseph G. Meyer, *Director of Architecture Services and R&D, Citi*

“Brown’s approach to presenting the highly complex architectural issues is by far the best I have encountered. While each of the individual areas has been detailed in other texts, this is the only publication I have read that lays out each aspect of the architectural issues and describes them in an easy-to-read, comfortable style.”

—James G. Keegan Jr., *President, Intrepico, Inc.*

“I recommend the book wholeheartedly. The combination of breadth and depth is not usually found in technical books.”

—Lloyd Fischer, *Senior Software Architect, WellCare Health Plans*

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TIBCO® Architecture Fundamentals

Paul C. Brown

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*For Jessica and Philip,
my most prized creations.*

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Preface

About This Book

The subject matter for this book lies at the intersection of three very broad topics: architecture, solutions, and TIBCO products (Figure P-1). Each of these topics, individually, has been the subject of many volumes. The purpose of this book is to begin to tie these three topics together in a very pragmatic way, providing a foundation for architecting solutions with TIBCO products.

This book is not intended to provide a comprehensive introduction into any one of the three broader topic areas. Nevertheless, some coverage of these topics is a necessary prerequisite to discussing the specifics of architecting solutions with TIBCO products. Part I provides an introduction to some of the essential concepts of architecture. Part II provides a cursory overview of the TIBCO product stack and explores the architecture of some of the most broadly used products,

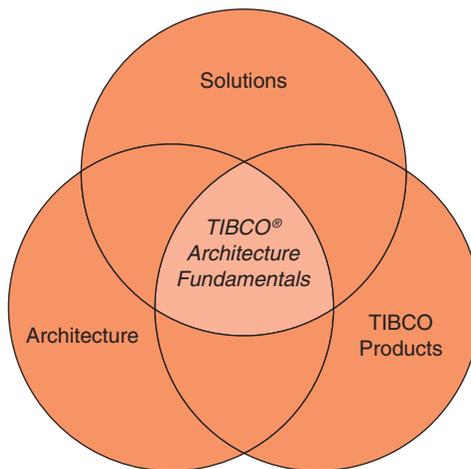


Figure P-1: *Subject Matter for TIBCO® Architecture Fundamentals*

emphasizing information not readily found in the individual product manuals. Part III takes a bottom-up approach to exploring the most basic and commonly found design patterns used in architecting solutions with TIBCO products. Part IV begins the discussion of services and solutions, emphasizing the application of the design patterns discussed earlier.

Solutions built with TIBCO products tend to be distributed solutions involving multiple systems, multiple data stores, and multiple business processes along with the people participating in those business processes. Thus, the discussion in this book covers the structure and organization of both the participants and the work being performed, with particular emphasis on the mapping of the work onto the participants.

TIBCO® Architecture Fundamentals lays the groundwork for architecting these systems. Part I provides simple working definitions for architecture and reference architecture. It discusses the roles to be played by project and enterprise architects, and the measurable reduction in project duration (up to 25%) that can be achieved by paying appropriate attention to architecture. Part II discusses the organization of the major TIBCO products and describes how solutions progress from design into production. Part III uses design patterns to explore dozens of design choices defining how people and systems can interact and coordinate their work. Part IV examines solution architecture, exploring the notion of services and discussing how reference architectures can be applied when building solutions.

TIBCO Architecture Book Series

As the first book in a series, *TIBCO® Architecture Fundamentals* only begins the discussion of architecting solutions with TIBCO products (Figure P-2). It lays the foundation for architecting TIBCO-based solutions and serves as a common foundation for the series. Each of the more advanced books explores a different style of solution, all based on TIBCO technology. Each explores the additional TIBCO products relevant to that style of solution. Each defines larger and more specialized architecture patterns relevant to the style, all built on top of the foundational set of design patterns presented in this book.

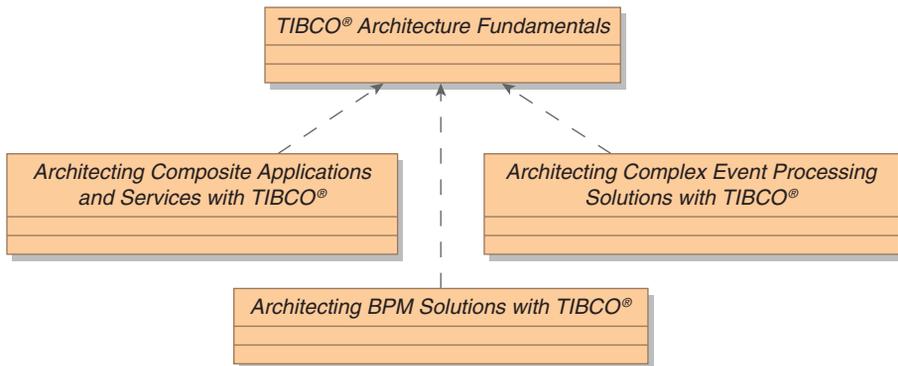


Figure P-2: Initial TIBCO Architecture Book Series

Intended Audience

TIBCO® Architecture Fundamentals is written for architects and lead engineers designing solutions in which TIBCO products play a significant role. Enterprise architects will also gain some insight as to how they can employ reference architectures to document design patterns. Such reference architectures give voice to their design intent and serve to efficiently give direction to project teams.

To derive maximum benefit from this book, it is useful for the reader to already have some familiarity with the TIBCO product set. The provided overview of the major TIBCO products and their organization is supplementary and is intended to augment the information contained in the product manuals.

Throughout this book the majority of the diagrams employ UML notations, particularly Class, Activity, and Composite Structure diagrams, with occasional use of other UML notations. For the most part, the meaning of these diagrams should be intuitively obvious, and thus a formal understanding of the UML notation is not a requirement for reading this book. On the other hand, the UML notations have a formality and precision that, when properly understood, allow the reader to extract even more information from the diagrams. The *Unified Modeling Language Reference Manual, Second Edition*,¹ is an excellent reference in this regard.

1. James Rumbaugh, Ivar Jacobson, and Grady Booch, *The Unified Modeling Language Reference Manual, Second Edition*, Boston: Addison-Wesley (2004).

Detailed Learning Objectives

After reading this book, you should be able to:

- Explain the design perspective required for modern IT projects and the concepts of total architecture, architecture, and reference architecture
- Predict the positive impact that architecture can have upon project duration, and explain the roles of project and enterprise architects in achieving this benefit
- Explain the basic SCA concepts and read an SCA diagram
- Describe the core TIBCO products: TIBCO Enterprise Message Service™, TIBCO ActiveMatrix® Service Bus, TIBCO ActiveMatrix® Service Grid, TIBCO ActiveMatrix® BPM, and TIBCO BusinessEvents™
- Select appropriate design patterns for basic system interactions and identify and select the appropriate TIBCO products to be used
- Outline the capabilities of policies in TIBCO ActiveMatrix Service Bus
- Select appropriate design patterns for mediation, external system interaction, and coordination of activities
- Explain the concept of a service and the criteria for deciding when an investment in a service is warranted
- Explain how a solution architecture should be characterized and how reference architectures can be applied to the building of solutions

Organization of the Book

The book is structured into four parts, as shown in Figure P-3. Part I covers foundational concepts: architecture, reference architecture, solution architecture, the role of architects, and Service-Component Architecture (SCA). The discussions in this portion of the book are relatively abstract (high level) and technology independent.

Part II covers the architecture of the most commonly used TIBCO products: TIBCO Enterprise Message Service (EMS), the TIBCO ActiveMatrix product suite, and TIBCO BusinessEvents. The discussions in

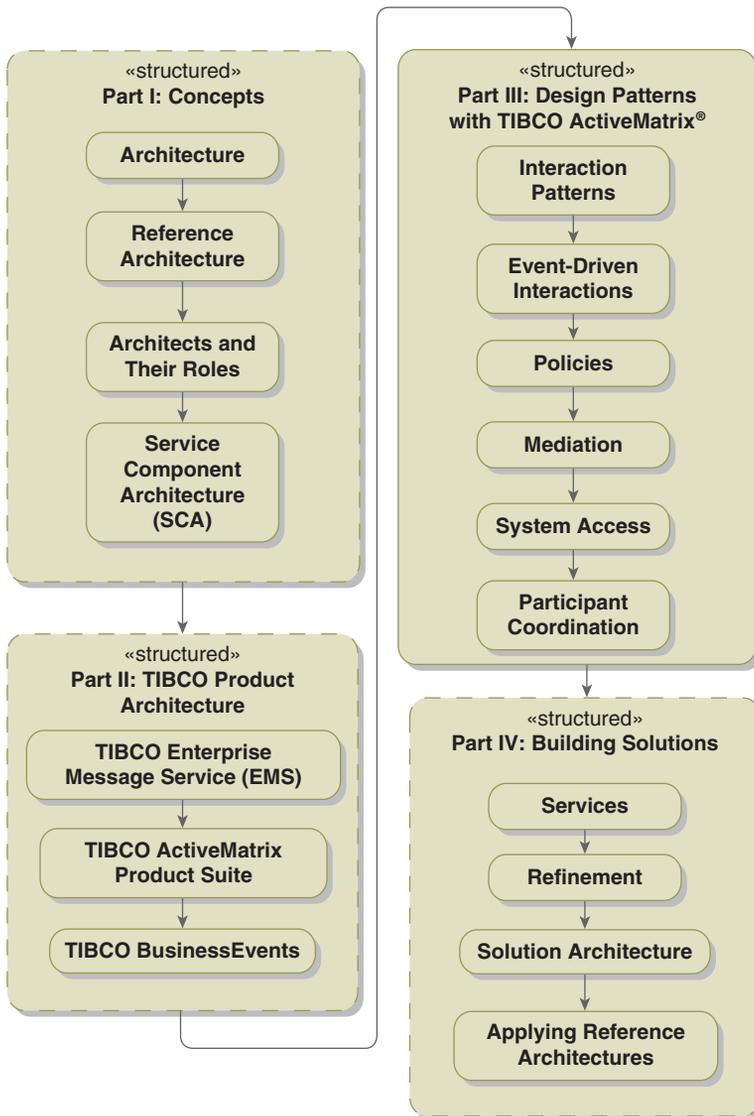


Figure P-3: *Book Structure*

this section are technology specific and detailed, getting into the product structure and architecture. Although the discussions are specific to the current version of the products (TIBCO Enterprise Message Service 6.x, TIBCO ActiveMatrix Service Bus and Service Grid 3.x, TIBCO

ActiveMatrix BusinessWorks 5.9, TIBCO ActiveMatrix BPM 1.x, and TIBCO BusinessEvents 4.x), most of the discussions will remain valid as these products evolve. Most product changes will result in augmentations rather than alterations.

Part III examines foundational design patterns: interactions between pairs of components, event-driven interactions, policies, mediation, external system access, and the coordination of activities. The discussions in this section are a mixture of technology-neutral design patterns and product-specific implementation choices for these patterns. Some discussions, particularly those surrounding policies, get quite detailed.

Part IV looks at building solutions, examining the concept of services, building solutions through the process of refinement, and applying reference architectures (design patterns). The discussions in this section are, once again, abstract (high level) and technology independent.

The book is intended to be read linearly, but there is some flexibility in this. Parts I and II can be read independently, but the discussions in Part III require an understanding of both prior parts. Part IV can be read after Part I, but the reader will find its discussion more compelling if Parts II and III have been read first.

Acknowledgments

Presenting material that touches on as many topics as this book does is, to say the least, challenging. This book series, and in fact the entire approach to presenting the material, would never have occurred without the persistent combination of challenge and encouragement provided by Michael Fallon, Madan Mashalkar, and Alan Brown over the past decade. Through them I have learned a great deal about both the challenges and techniques of knowledge transfer.

The design patterns presented in this book are a synthesis of the collective experience of the TIBCO global architects with whom I have worked over the years: Dave Ashton, Pong-Ning Ching, Richard Flather, Ben Gundry, Nochum Klein, Dave Leigh, Marco Malva, and Janet Strong. It is through their collaboration and the efforts of the other field architects that these patterns have been explored, refined, and tested.

I have received much support from TIBCO Software Inc. in the production of this book. For this I would like to thank Wen Miao, Paul Asmar, Jan Plutzer, and Murray Rode.

Many people reviewed the draft manuscript and provided valuable feedback. Comments from Bert Hooyman, Ignacio Silva-Lepe, and Lee Kleir led to significant improvements in the structure and content of the book. Feedback from Jose Carlos Estefania Aulet, Michael Blaha, Massimiliano Bonaveri, Antonio Bruno, Lloyd Fischer, Alex Garrison, Yuri Gogolitsyn, Jose Maria Lopez Higuera, Brian Hinsley, Alexandre Jeong, James Keegan, Joseph Meyer, Alexander Orsini, Mohan Sidda, Mark Shelton, and Moritz Weinrich helped to further refine the content. I thank you all for your support.

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About the Author



Dr. Paul C. Brown is a principal software architect at TIBCO Software Inc., author of *Succeeding with SOA: Realizing Business Value Through Total Architecture* (Addison-Wesley, 2007) and *Implementing SOA: Total Architecture In Practice* (Addison-Wesley, 2008), and a coauthor of the SOA Manifesto (soa-manifesto.org). His model-based tool architectures

are the foundation of a diverse family of applications that design distributed control systems, process control interfaces, internal combustion engines, and NASA satellite missions. Dr. Brown's extensive design work on enterprise-scale information systems led him to develop the total architecture concept: Business processes and information systems are so intertwined that they must be architected together. Dr. Brown received his Ph.D. in computer science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his BSEE from Union College. He is a member of IEEE and ACM.

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Chapter 11

Basic Interaction Patterns

This chapter examines the simplest possible interactions between two parties. The architecture pattern for these discussions (Figure 11-1) is, as you would expect, trivial. It consists of the two parties, here referred to as the service consumer and service provider. Despite the fact that we are referring to services, the patterns being discussed can be generalized to represent any interactions between two parties.

The examination of interactions will consider four of the most common ActiveMatrix protocol and transport options: SOAP over HTTP, SOAP over JMS, SOAP over ActiveMatrix Virtualization, and XML over JMS.

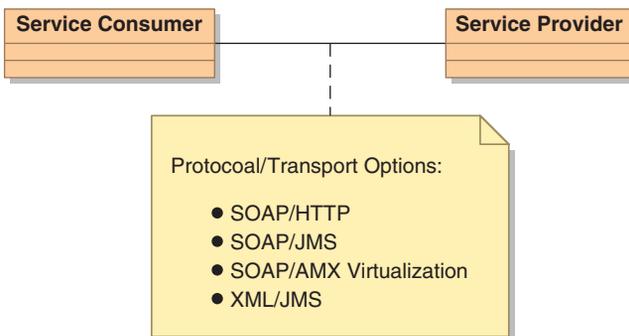


Figure 11-1: *Architecture Pattern for Two-Party Interactions*

Basic Interaction Pattern Overview

There are four basic message exchange patterns between the two parties: In-Only, In-Out, Out-Only, and Out-In. The In-Only pattern is shown in Figure 11-2. In it, the service consumer sends a single message to the service provider and expects no response. The intent is generally that the arrival of the input will trigger the service provider to do something useful. Common examples of this pattern include e-mails and text messages.

The In-Out pattern (Figure 11-3), also referred to as the request-reply pattern, is a simple extension of the In-Only pattern that adds a response (the output) from the service provider. Here the intent is a bit more explicit: The service consumer provides the input and expects the arrival of the input to trigger the service provider to do something and then send a response. This is the pattern you encounter when you execute a search online: You submit the search terms (the input) and expect a list of “hits” as a response (the output).

The Out-Only pattern (Figure 11-4) is very similar to the In-Only pattern, the distinction being that the single message is an output going from the service provider to the service consumer. Common examples of this pattern include announcements of various sorts. It is common in this pattern for there to be many service consumers for a given input (this will be discussed further in Chapter 12). When the service provider is a system of record for some information, this pattern is suitable for announcing changes to this information.

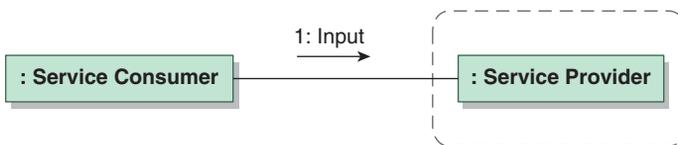


Figure 11-2: *In-Only Pattern*

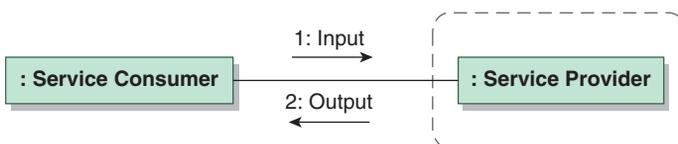


Figure 11-3: *In-Out Pattern*



Figure 11-4: *Out-Only Pattern*

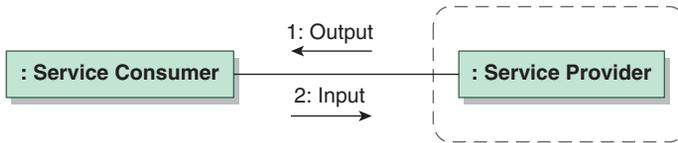


Figure 11-5: *Out-In Pattern*

The Out-In pattern (Figure 11-5) extends the Out-Only pattern to include a response back to the service provider. A common example of this is an automobile recall notice: The manufacturer sends you a notification that there is a defect in your automobile that requires correction. The manufacturer expects a response from you to schedule an appointment and get the defect corrected. Another example is an offer that requires a response.

Example Case Study: A Newspaper

To illustrate these four interaction patterns and their implementation options we will use a simple example based on a newspaper business (Figure 11-6). In this example there are three participants: the newspaper itself, a party acting as a news source, and a customer of the newspaper.

We will examine four use cases (processes) involving these participants:

- The news source delivering a news tip to the newspaper (In-Only)
- The customer subscribing to the newspaper (In-Out)
- The newspaper sending the news electronically to the customer (Out-Only)
- The newspaper sending an offer to the customer that requires a response (Out-In)



Figure 11-6: *Newspaper Example Architecture Pattern*

In-Only Example and Implementation Options

The In-Only example from the newspaper is the news source sending a news tip to the newspaper (Figure 11-7). Here the news source invokes a `receiveTip()` operation provided by the newspaper's service interface.

If you were to implement both the news source and the newspaper as ActiveMatrix components and indicate the news source's reference of the newspaper's service, the result would be a design similar to that shown in Figure 11-8.

For this design you have four transportation options in ActiveMatrix:

- SOAP over HTTP
- SOAP over JMS

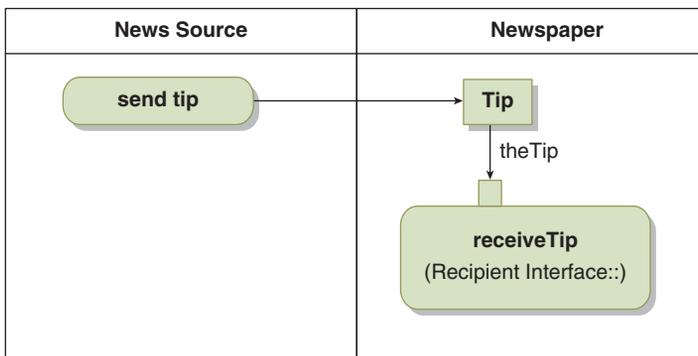


Figure 11-7: *Send Tip Process*

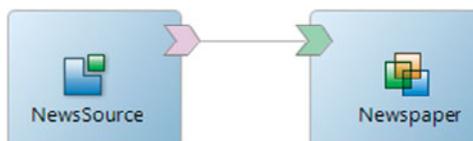


Figure 11-8: *ActiveMatrix Design for Send Tip Process*

- SOAP over ActiveMatrix Virtualization
- XML over JMS

The first of these options uses HTTP as a transport. The implication is that both parties need to be active simultaneously in order for an interaction to occur. The SOAP over JMS and XML over JMS options, because they use a JMS server as a communications intermediary, make it possible for the news source to send the tip when the newspaper is not actively receiving communications. The JMS server will forward the message when the newspaper becomes active.

Despite the fact that ActiveMatrix Virtualization also uses JMS as its underlying communications mechanism, it will not be able to forward a message if the newspaper is not active at the time it is sent. For an explanation, see the “ActiveMatrix Virtualization Transport Limitations” sidebar.

There are five implementation types that would be appropriate for the News Source: TIBCO ActiveMatrix BusinessWorks, Java, C++, Spring, and WebApp. There are four that would be appropriate for the Newspaper: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. Note that WebApp would not be appropriate since its input is just the raw HTTP protocol.

ActiveMatrix Virtualization Transport Limitations

When the ActiveMatrix Virtualization transport is used, ActiveMatrix determines the routing between the service consumer and service provider. If the two parties are on different nodes (or if directed by policy), this communication will occur via the JMS server being automatically administered by ActiveMatrix.

When both parties are active, the communications will occur as expected. However, when one or both parties are stopped or undeployed, or the node is stopped, the JMS destination being used for communications between them will be destroyed and any pending messages will be lost.

In-Out Example and Implementation Options

There are two variations on the In-Out pattern: synchronous and asynchronous. In the synchronous pattern, the service consumer (the Subscriber in the example) waits for the response from the service provider (the Newspaper). In the asynchronous variation, the service

consumer does not have to wait for the response. Since there are significant differences between these variations in both behavior and implementation options, they will be discussed separately.

Synchronous Variation

The subscribe In-Out process, implemented as a synchronous interaction, is shown in Figure 11-9. The subscriber is invoking the `subscribe()` operation on the newspaper, sending a `SubscribeRequest` and expecting a `SubscribeResponse` in return. In the synchronous variation, the subscriber is actively waiting for the response.

If both subscriber and newspaper were to be implemented as ActiveMatrix components, the result would be a design similar to Figure 11-10.

For this design you have four transportation options in ActiveMatrix:

- SOAP over HTTP
- SOAP over JMS
- SOAP over ActiveMatrix Virtualization
- XML over JMS

For this synchronous variation, the assumption is that both parties are active for the duration of the exchange. The loss of communications or

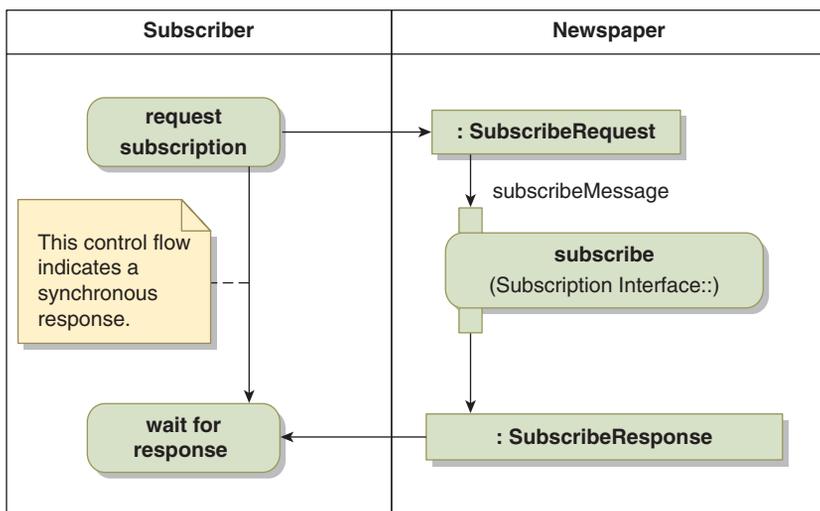


Figure 11-9: *Synchronous Subscribe Process*

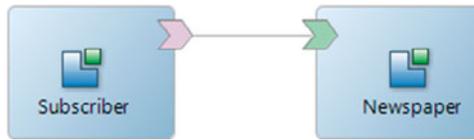


Figure 11-10: *ActiveMatrix Design for Subscribe Process*

the restart of either party may cause exceptions, and both parties should be designed to handle these exceptions gracefully.

There are five implementation types that would be appropriate for the subscriber: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, Spring, and WebApp. There are four that would be appropriate for the Newspaper: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. Note that WebApp would not be appropriate since its input is just the raw HTTP protocol.

Asynchronous Variations

There are actually two asynchronous variations for a request-reply exchange. One is the checkpoint pattern shown in Figure 11-11. In this pattern the requestor does not necessarily wait for the reply, but generally must take steps to ensure that, when the reply arrives, it is in a position to handle it. This generally means creating a *checkpoint*, a

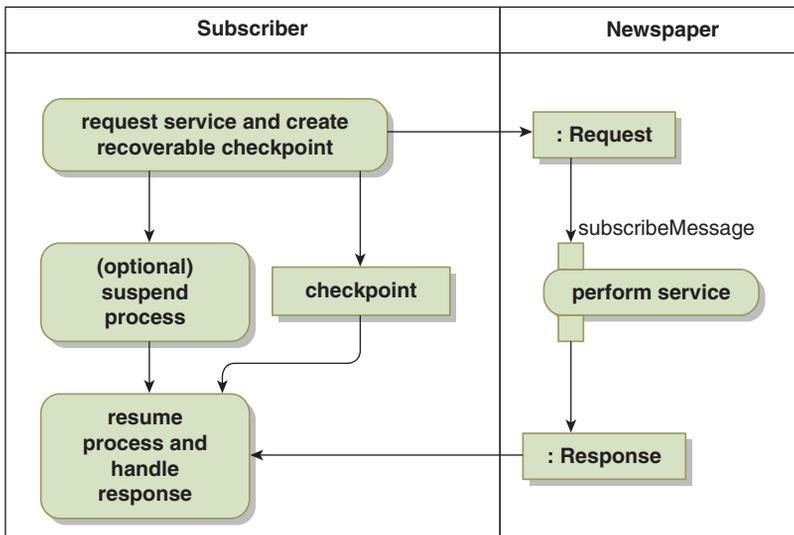


Figure 11-11: *Checkpoint Asynchronous In-Out Pattern*

recoverable snapshot of the requestor's state. In addition, the requestor (in this case the Subscriber) must be implemented in such a way that, should the requestor be halted for any reason, it is resurrected from the checkpoint and is ready to receive the response. Optionally, the process may be suspended to free up resources while waiting for the response.

The checkpoint asynchronous In-Out pattern is typically used when the performance of the requested service is expected to take significant time (minutes or longer). The idea is that, because of the long wait, there is a reasonable possibility that the requestor may be interrupted and you do not want the interruption to adversely impact the execution of the business process. Note, however, that this pattern ties up some resources for each outstanding request.

The other major variation is the third-party asynchronous In-Out pattern shown in Figure 11-12. Here the response is handled by a third party, either a different thread in the requesting process or a completely independent application. In this case there is usually a need for some additional communications between the party sending the request and the party receiving the response.

This additional communication conveys the context information required to handle the response. The content of this context varies from solution to solution, but typically includes information such as:

- Notification that there is an outstanding request. This information (in conjunction with a response-time SLA) enables the response handler to determine when responses are missing or overdue.

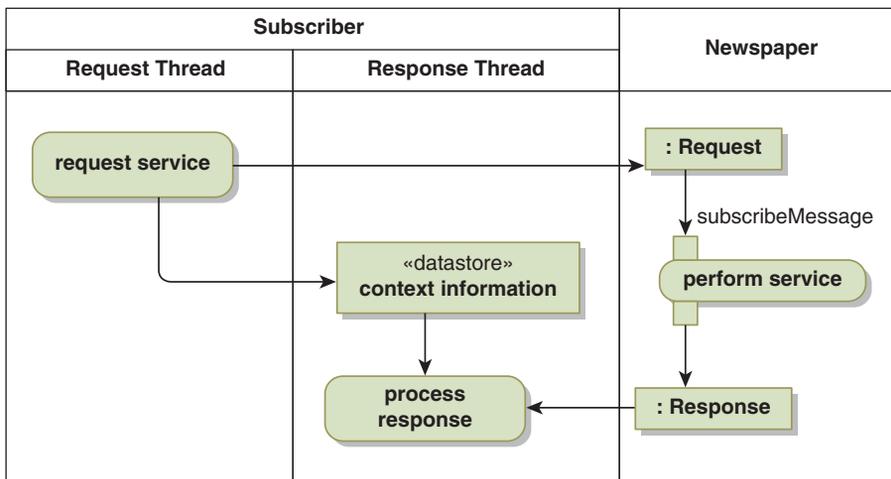


Figure 11-12: *Third-Party Asynchronous In-Out Pattern*

- An identifier for the request that will be returned as part of the response. This allows the response handler to correlate a particular request-response pair.
- Information about the nature of the request needed to properly handle the response. This can be the information itself or a reference to a location (database, file, etc.) in which this information can be found.

The communication of the context information is a design task that should not be overlooked when selecting this pattern. It always requires design and implementation work.

At present the only transport in ActiveMatrix that can support these asynchronous interaction patterns is XML over JMS. When using this transport, the `JMSCorrelationID` should be used in the request to uniquely identify the request. The value for this field is provided by the requestor and should be returned in the `JMSCorrelationID` field of the response. Also required is the `JMSReplyTo` field in the request. Its value should indicate the JMS destination to which the response should be sent.

There are four implementation types that would be appropriate for the subscriber: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. The BusinessWorks implementation type is particularly well suited to implementing the request side (e.g., the subscriber) of the checkpoint asynchronous In-Out pattern, as all the mechanisms required for checkpointing and recovery are provided as part of the product. There are four that would be appropriate for the Newspaper: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. Note that WebApp would not be appropriate for either role since its input is just the raw HTTP protocol.

Out-Only Example and Implementation Options

The process for delivering the newspaper is shown in Figure 11-13. This Out-Only interaction is inherently asynchronous—the Subscriber is not actively waiting for the paper to be delivered.

The only ActiveMatrix transport that can support this pattern today is XML over JMS.

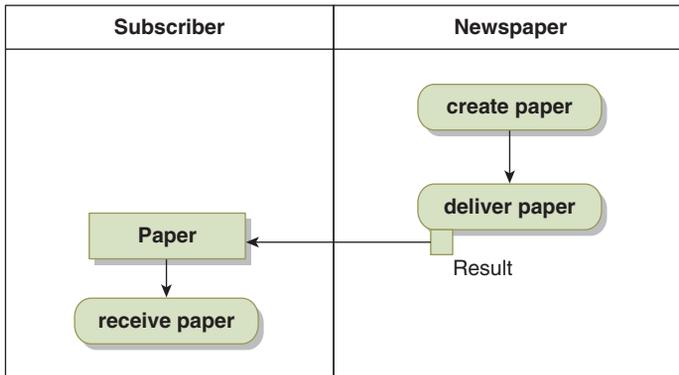


Figure 11-13: *Deliver Paper Process*

The Out-Only pattern is, unfortunately, not well represented in the current version of the SCA notation.¹ The closest you can come in the present notation is the design shown in Figure 11-14. There are two problems with this representation. One is that the diagram implies that it is the subscriber providing the service and the newspaper referencing the service, when in reality the opposite is true. The other is that, for most publications, it is unlikely that the wiring between the Out-Only service provider and service consumer would be done at design time. In other words, it is unlikely that you would ever show both the service provider and service consumer in the same SCA composite. Instead, this wiring would be done either at deployment time or at run time.

What you would create in ActiveMatrix today (until such time as the SCA Event Processing Specification is completed) is a composite containing just the service provider (Figure 11-15). Note that the

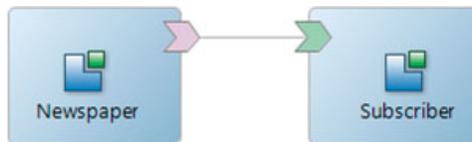


Figure 11-14: *Inappropriate Attempt to Represent Out-Only Pattern in Present SCA Notation*

1. The SCA Event Processing Specification is presently under development (see www.osoa.org).

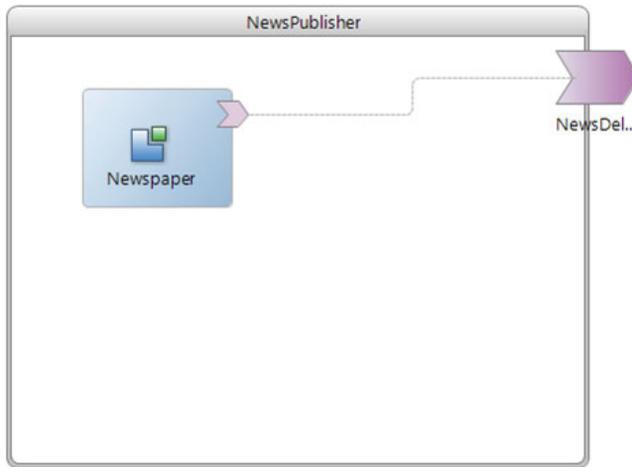


Figure 11-15: SCA Approximation of an Out-Only Service Provider

composite shows a reference to the service; the reason is that when you generate implementations, references generate outbound calls, which is consistent with the design intent. This structure (the component referencing the service) can be incorporated into any composite wishing to send Out-Only notifications.

Similarly, you would create the service consumer as a composite with a promoted service (Figure 11-16). From an implementation perspective, this is appropriate since, when you generate the implementation, the generated structure will be appropriate for an inbound call. This structure (the service and its association with a component) can be incorporated into any composite that wishes to receive Out-Only notifications from a service provider.

There is a bit of hidden JMS administrative configuration required to connect the two parties in this pattern. The JMS destination must be created (or the JMS server must be configured to auto-create destinations), and both parties must be configured to use the same destination. This is generally straightforward when the configuration is done at deployment time, but dynamic connection at runtime will require extra design work. For example, if you wanted to have a subscriber dynamically create the subscription, the `subscribe()` operation would have to return the JMS destination and the subscriber would have to have code to alter its configuration to receive messages from this destination.

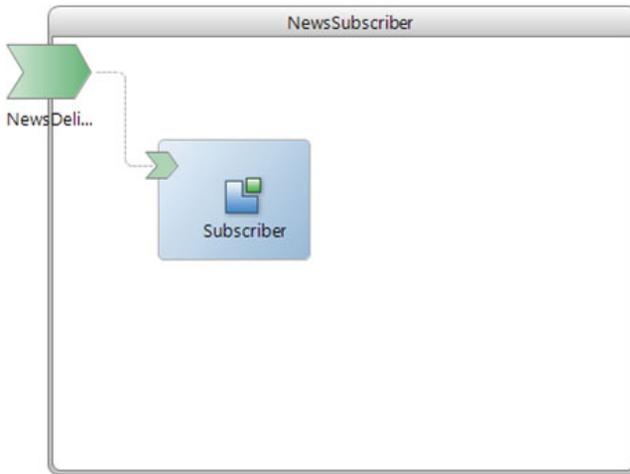


Figure 11-16: SCA Approximation of an Out-Only Service Consumer

There are five implementation types that would be appropriate for the newspaper: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, Spring, and WebApp. There are four that would be appropriate for the subscriber: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. Note that WebApp would not be appropriate for the subscriber since its input is just the raw HTTP protocol.

Out-In Example and Implementation Options

The process of the newspaper making an offer to a subscriber and then handling the response is shown in Figure 11-17. The interactions here are, by definition, asynchronous: Neither party is actively waiting for an input. Furthermore, the service provider (the newspaper) will likely have separate threads (or applications) for sending the offers and processing the responses. Consequently, there will likely be a need to communicate context information between these two threads as was discussed in the earlier asynchronous In-Out example.

As with the Out-Only pattern, the only suitable protocol and transport combination available in ActiveMatrix is XML over JMS. The SCA design would be similar to that discussed in the Out-Only example, and the JMSCorrelationID and JMSReplyTo properties would have to be used as described in the Asynchronous In-Out example.

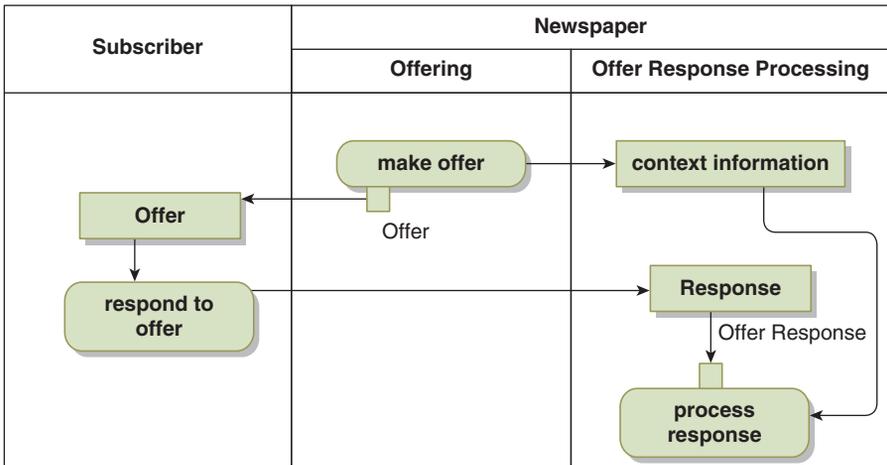


Figure 11-17: *Make Offer Process*

There are five implementation types that would be appropriate for the newspaper: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. There are four that would be appropriate for the subscriber: BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring. Note that WebApp would not be appropriate for either role since its input is just the raw HTTP protocol.

Summary

There are four basic message exchange patterns between two parties: In-Only, In-Out, Out-Only, and Out-In. The In-Only pattern and the synchronous variation of the In-Out pattern have many protocol and transport options in ActiveMatrix, including SOAP over HTTP, JMS, and ActiveMatrix Virtualization as well as XML over JMS. The BusinessWorks, Java, C++, Spring, and WebApp implementation types are all suitable for the service-consumer side of these interactions, while the BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring implementation types are appropriate for the service-provider side.

The asynchronous variation of the In-Out pattern and the Out-Only and Out-In patterns all involve asynchronous interactions. At present, the only suitable protocol and transport combination in ActiveMatrix for asynchronous interactions is XML over JMS. For the asynchronous In-Out and Out-In, the JMSCorrelationID and JMSReplyTo properties

should be used to correlate the request and reply messages and indicate the JMS destination to which the replies should be sent. For these patterns, the BusinessWorks, Java, C++, and Spring implementation types are all suitable for both parties.

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