

Flow Webs: Architecture and Mechanism for Sensor Webs

***Michael M. Gorlick Samuel D. Gasster
Grace S. Peng Michael McAtee***

***The Aerospace Corporation
El Segundo, California***

gorlick@aero.org, gasster@aero.org

Why Net-centric Architectures?

- Share on demand
- Reconfigure on demand
- Compose resources on demand
- Tailor resources on demand
- Redirect to alternates
- Recovery
- Fault tolerance

Are web services the answer?

What is the Architectural Foundation of Web Services?

- REpresentational State Transfer (REST)
 - Explains web behavior and scaling
 - URLs denote abstract resources
 - Resources have multiple representations
 - Small number of basic methods (GET, HEAD, PUT, POST)
 - Web exchanges are context-free

- If SOAP is the answer what was the question?
 - RPC dressed in XML that hijacks HTTP as transport
 - Complexity (high)
 - Performance (low)
 - Encapsulation and composition (none)

Rethinking Web Services

- ❑ Make *service exchange* as natural as content exchange
- ❑ Zero complexity
- ❑ Parsing XML is a waste of resources
- ❑ Encapsulation and composition are first-order mechanisms
- ❑ Promote the presence of intermediaries (service proxies)

Computational REST (CREST)

- ❑ Exchanges of mobile code/continuations/environments is the fundamental action among CREST peers
- ❑ URLs denote computational resources
 - Scheme interpreters whose environments contain URL-specific bindings
- ❑ Requests are any Scheme program (expression) or continuation
 - Expression/continuation evaluated by URL-specific interpreter
 - Outcome of evaluation (Scheme expression, continuation or environment) is the response
- ❑ Scheme becomes the assembly language of the new web
- ❑ Justin Erenkrantz/UCI + M. Gorlick/Aerospace

CREST Web Services

- ❑ Constructed by users (not providers)
 - Users dispatch custom Scheme programs or continuations to URLs
- ❑ Custom Scheme programs are generated by higher-level tools and libraries
- ❑ Reduces web services to the common norm
- ❑ Continuations allow network:
 - iteration, recursion, mobility, generators, coroutines, exceptions, restart, replay, transactions, workflow, synchronization, ...

From CREST comes Flow Webs

- Arbitrary dynamic directed graphs of network services
 - Nodes are semi-autonomous web peers
 - Edges are flows: *streams of messages constrained in space and time*
- *Flow webs may encapsulate other flow webs*
- *Flow webs may be composed with other flow webs*
- *Flow webs may be edited and modified while executing*
 - *Flow mobility: move flows without message loss*
- *Flow webs implement systems of systems interlinked on demand to synthesize services*

Summary

- ❑ Web services are obsolete! Long live web services!
- ❑ CREST is user-directed web services
- ❑ From CREST comes flow webs for the dynamic synthesis of systems of systems
- ❑ Flow webs are the building material for future web systems

