



.NET Enterprise Services

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About Juval Löwy

- Software architect
 - Consults and trains on .NET migration and design
- Microsoft's Regional Director for the Silicon Valley
- Authored
 - Programming .NET Components (2003, O'Reilly)
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- Participates in the .NET design reviews
- Contributing editor and columnist to the Visual Studio Magazine
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What are Enterprise Applications?

- The term Enterprise means different things for different people
 - Large number of users, scalability and throughput a must
 - Fewer users, with drastic spikes in load
 - Few users using many expensive resources
 - Mission critical, 24x7, zero down time
 - Sensitive information
 - Interoperate with a wide range of platforms
- Where quality and productivity are top priority
- Any application that is not a toy program



What are .NET Enterprise Services?

- Set of component services designed to ease considerably developing Enterprise applications
- The result of integrating COM+ into .NET
- Components using these services called [Serviced Components](#)
- .NET assemblies mapped to COM+ applications
 - A COM+ application can contain components from multiple assemblies



.NET Enterprise Services

- Instance management
 - Pooling
 - JITA
- Transactions
- Concurrency management
- Loosely coupled events
- Queued components
- Security
 - Authorization
 - Authentication
 - Identity



.NET Enterprise Services

- Remote calls and Web Services
- Combination of the services
- Services are configured:
 - Administratively
 - Declaratively (attributes)
 - Programmatically



Evolution of Enterprise Services

- MTS 1.0 1996
- MTS 2.0 1998
- COM+ 1.0 2000
- COM+ 1.5 2001
- .NET Enterprise Services 2002
- Indigo 2006 (?)
- MTS and COM+ were bad technology monikers



Serviced Components

- Serviced component must derive from **ServicedComponent**
 - **System.EnterpriseServices**
 - Cannot use static members/methods
 - Cannot have parameterized constructors
 - Should use interfaces (not have to)
 - Should use class libraries (not have to)
- Use Component Services Explorer or special attributes
 - Some with Explorer only (deployment specific)
 - Some programmatic only
 - Everything else use attributes
- .NET integration with COM+ is better than COM/VS6.0



Serviced Components

```
using System;
using System.EnterpriseServices;

public interface IMessage
{
    void ShowMessage();
}

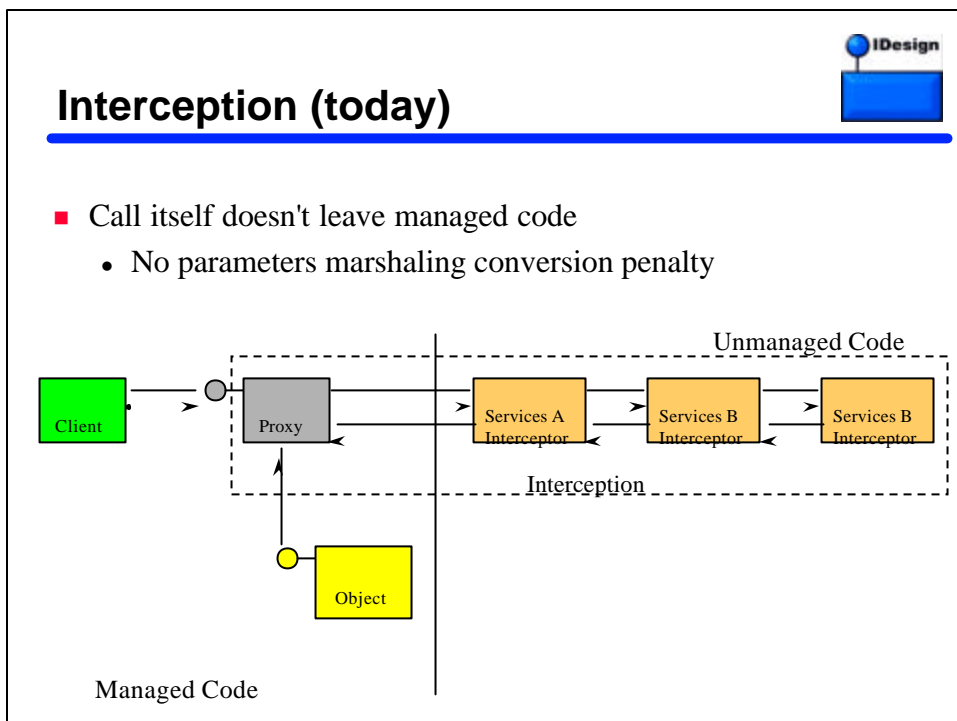
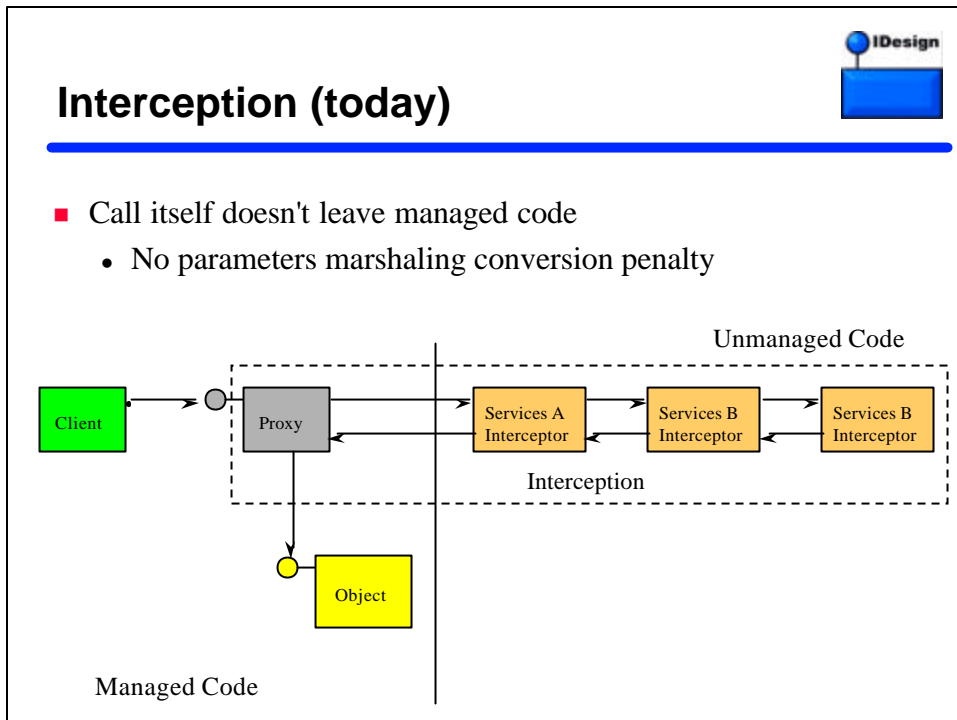
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent, IMessage
{
    public MyComponent() {} //constructor
    public void ShowMessage()
    {
        MessageBox.Show( "Hello!", "MyComponent" );
    }
}
```

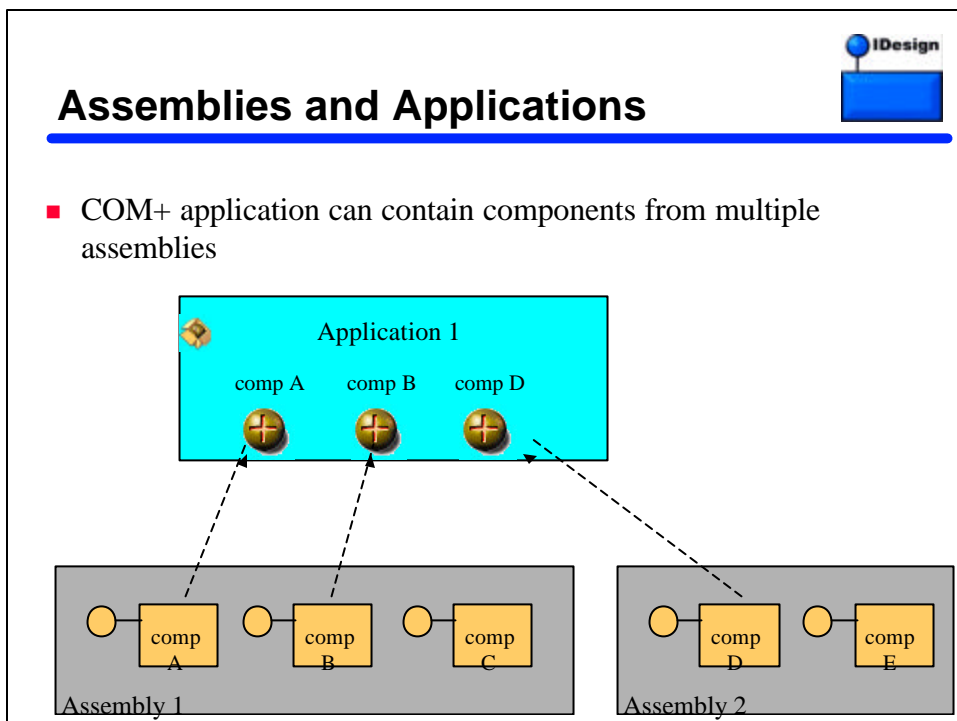
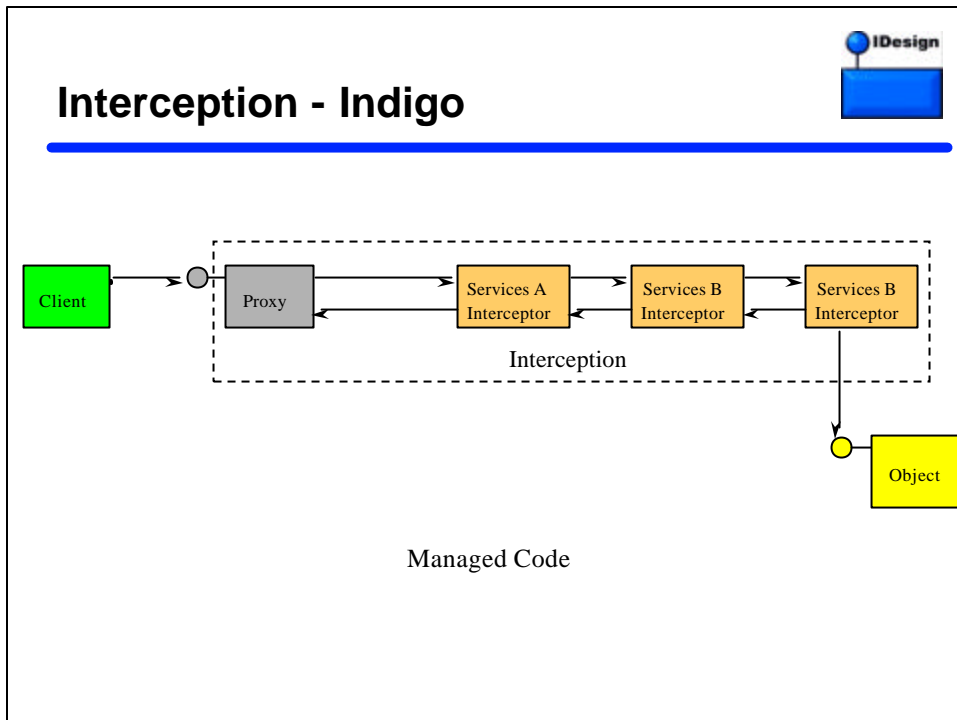
- Use the Component Services Explorer for this component



Interception

- .NET does not use COM interop for serviced components
- Special context interceptors configure services
- Call itself doesn't leave managed code
- Remote calls can use
 - DCOM
 - Remoting
 - Web services







Dynamic Registration

- When no need for deployment specific configuration
- At runtime, .NET verifies current assembly version is mapped to COM+ application
 - New version/signatures triggers dynamic registration of all components in the assembly
 - ▲ RegSvcs.exe /reconfig /fc MyAssembly.dll
- If app exists but components are not in, .NET adds them to app
- Only available for managed clients
 - Administrator rights
- COM+Application stays in the Component Services Explorer



Application Activation Type

- Can specify application activation type
 - Server or a library application
 - Default is library

```
[assembly: ApplicationActivation(ActivationOption.Server)]  
//or  
[assembly: ApplicationActivation(ActivationOption.Library)]
```

- **ActivationOption.Service** is not available



Versioning

- RegSvcs creates CLSID for components
 - Any change registers a new CLSID, to avoid versioning conflicts with existing clients
 - Clients automatically use highest compatible version
- Can specify that CLSID as a class attribute

```
using System.Runtime.InteropServices;

[Guid("260C9CC7-3B15-4155-BF9A-12CB4174A36E")]
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent, IMyInterface
{ ... }
```



Versioning

- Specifying CLSID forces RegSvcs to use it in spite of changes
 - Very handy for development
- Can also specify the component name (prog-ID)
 - **ProgIdAttribute**
 - **System.Runtime.InteropServices**

```
using System.Runtime.InteropServices;

[ProgId("My Serviced Component")]
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent, IMyInterface
{ ... }
```



Assembly Identity

- Assembly must have a strong name
 - To ensure versioning
- Assembly should be in the GAC
 - Must be in a known location otherwise
 - Server applications/remote calls



Remote Calls

- Can use .NET remoting
- Can generate ES proxy application
- Can use web services
 - Windows 2003 Server only



Accessing ES Context

- Not the same as .NET context
- **ContextUtil** access context object and its interfaces
 - Static methods and properties
- Example: tracing context ID

```
public interface IMyInterface
{
    void MyMethod();
}
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{
    public void MyMethod()
    {
        Guid contextID = ContextUtil.ContextId;
        String traceMessage = "Context ID is " + contextID.ToString();
        Trace.WriteLine(traceMessage);
    }
}
```



Activation Context Attribute

- **MustRunInClientContext** attribute controls whether object must be activated in creator's context

```
[MustRunInClientContext(true)]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{}
```

- Default is true

```
[MustRunInClientContext]
//same as
[MustRunInClientContext(true)]
```



Instance Management

- The single most important driving force behind the move to three tiers is the need for scalability
- You no longer can expect to dedicate a server object per client



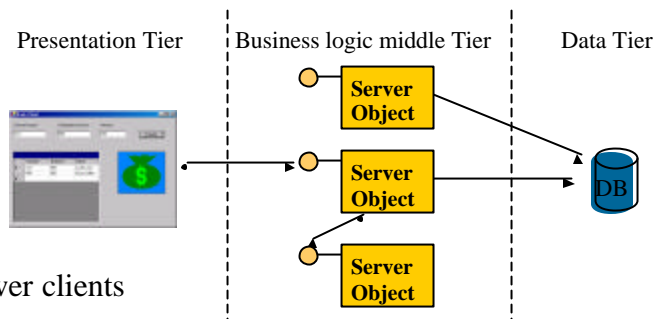
Client Types

- Needs to handle two kinds of clients
 - Intranet clients
 - Internet clients
- Differ not only in the way they connect with application, but also in the interaction pattern
- Must scale up to both kinds, and compensate for the differences



Intranet client

- Like classic client/server model
- Usually a rich UI (Window Forms or browser with ActiveX controls)
 - Richer user experience, more privileges and features
- Connects directly to server objects in middle tier

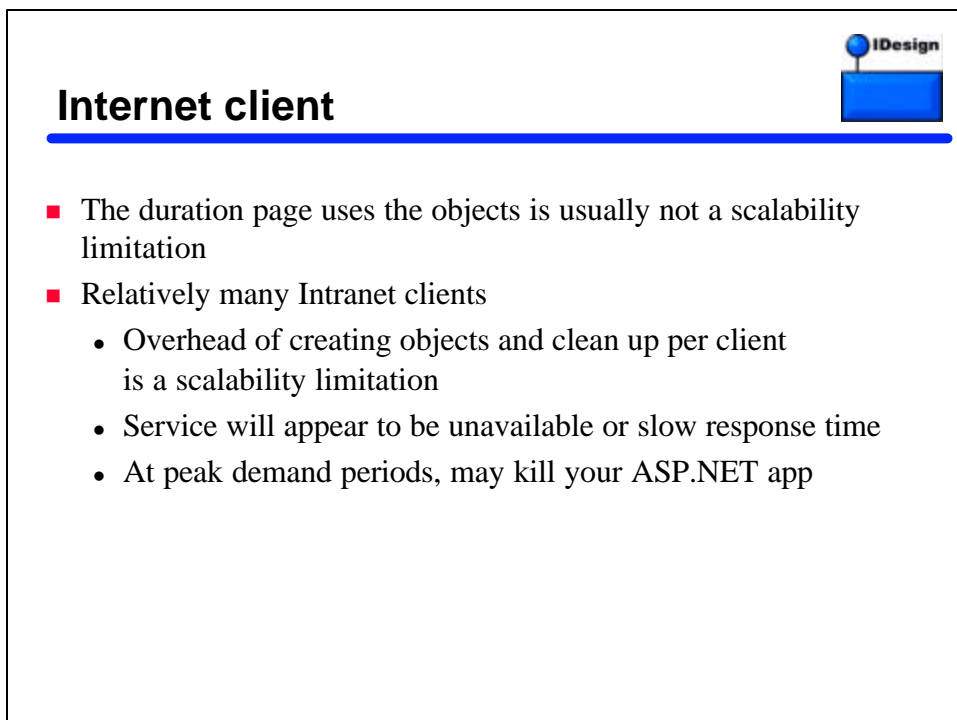
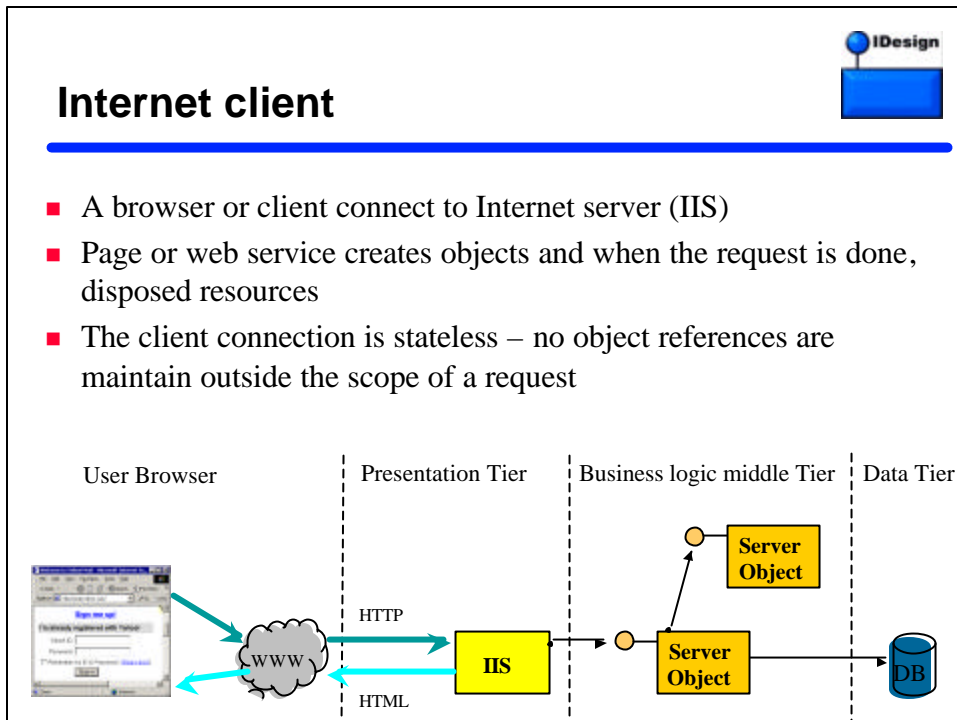


- Relatively fewer clients



Intranet client

- Calling pattern
 - Create object
 - Use it
 - Dispose
- Relatively fewer Intranet clients
 - Overhead of creating objects and clean up per client is not a scalability limitation
- What impends scalability
 - Holding objects for long time, while using objects only in a fraction of that time
 - When Intranet application starts, it gets all objects it needs (performance, responsiveness) and dispose at shutdown
 - If object per client, you tie in crucial resources for long time, and will eventually run out of resources





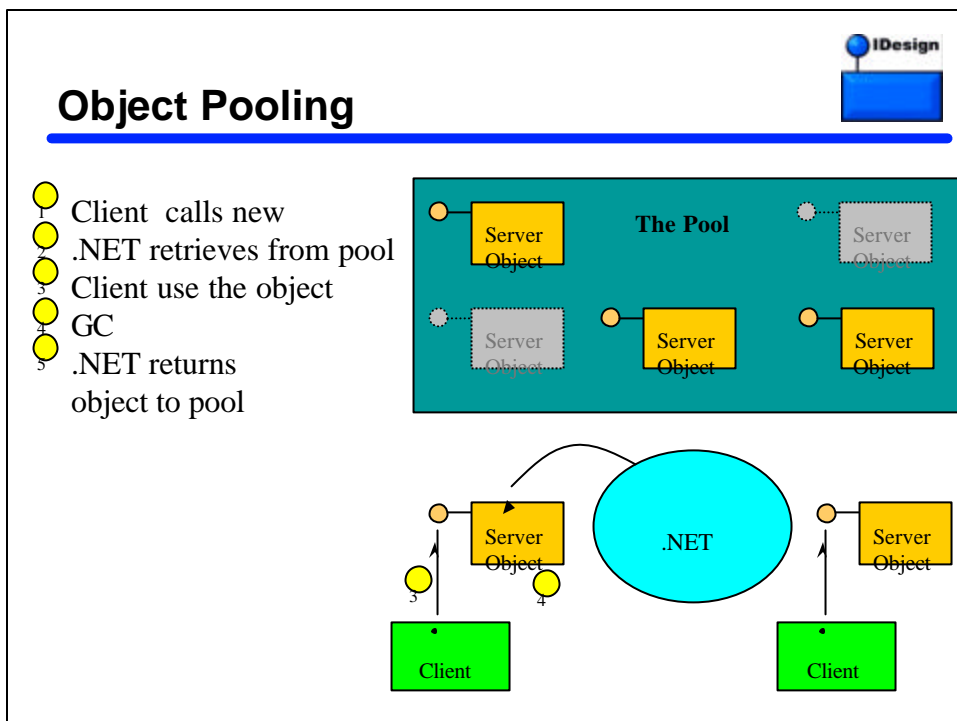
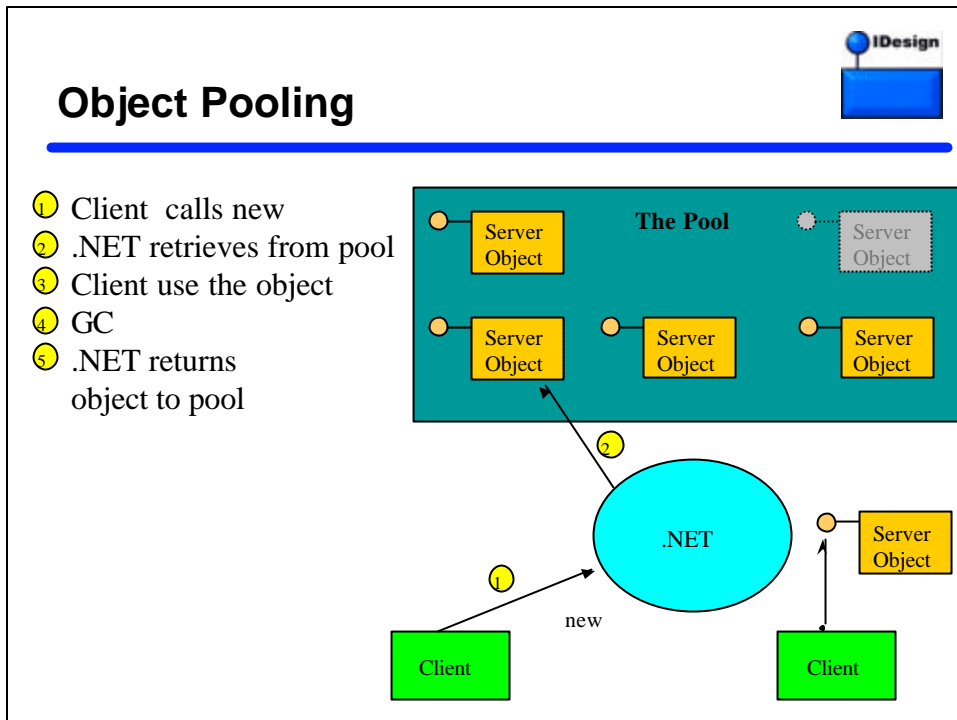
Object Pooling

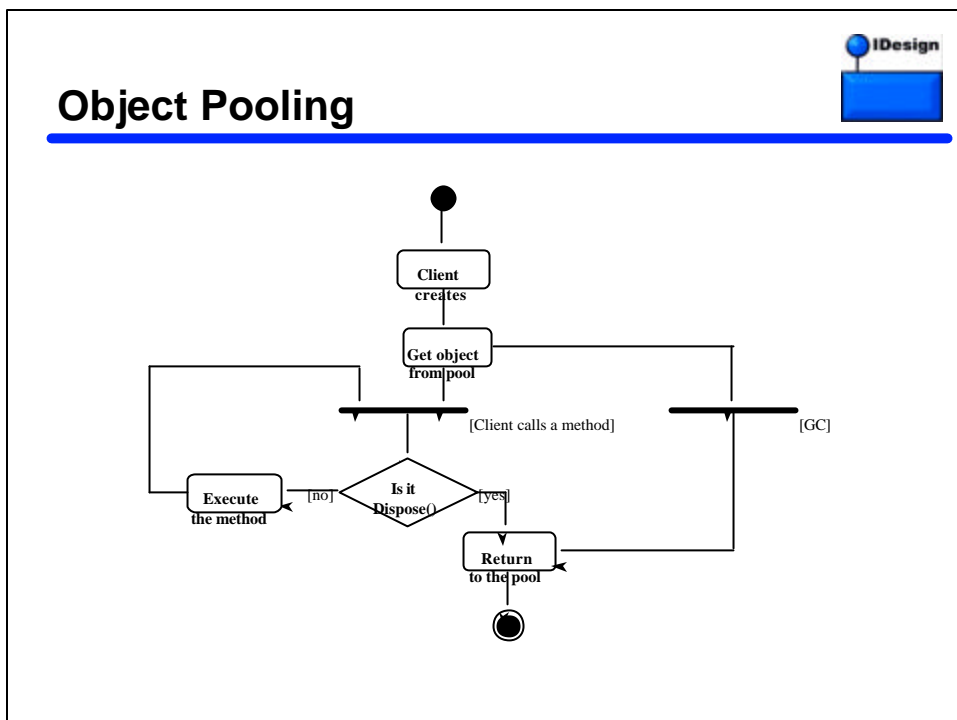
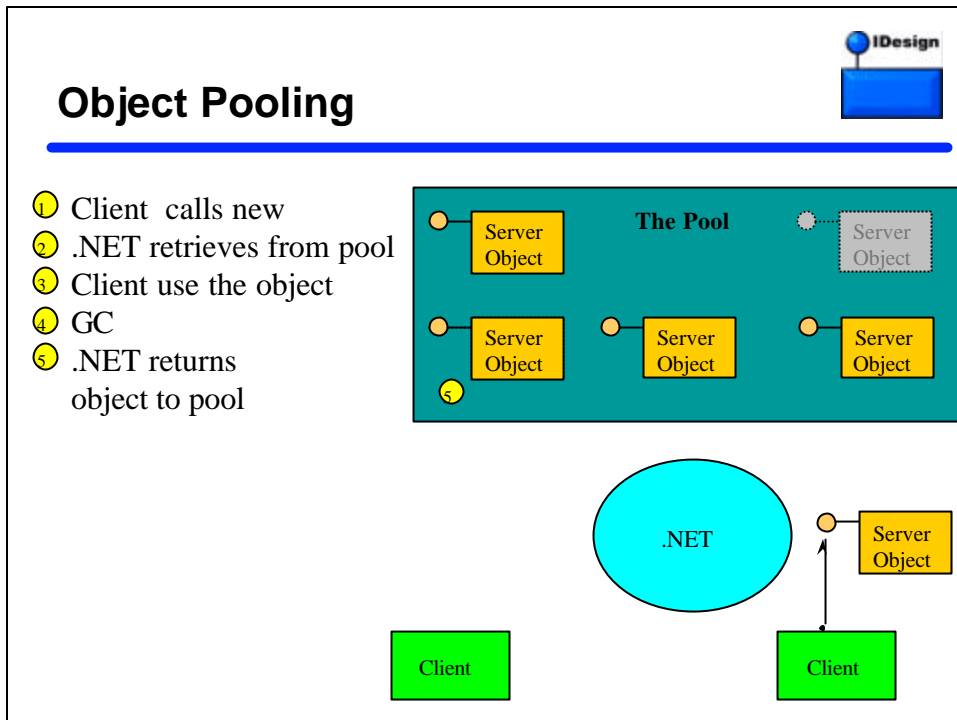
- ES maintain a pool of objects, ready to serve clients
- When asked to create new object, .NET checks if there is an object in the pool, and will return it to client
 - Else: create a new object, up to the pool limit
- Pool is per object type
 - In one application can have components with no pool, or as many pools as services components types



Object Pooling

- Internet clients
- When instantiating object is a costly generic operation
 - Or when need to pool resources
- Constructor does as much of the time-consuming work uniform for all clients
 - Acquiring connections
 - Running scripts
 - Fetching initialization data from files or across network







Object Pooling

- Min pool size
 - Start pool with that number
 - Mitigate sudden spikes in demand
- Max pool size
 - Total number of objects created
 - Once reached, further requests for objects blocked for 'Creation timeout'
 - If in timeout object returned to pool, the client gets it
 - Clients servers FIFO



Object Pooling

- If the object is in server application, pool is per machine
 - Potentially per LAN
- If the object is in library application, pool per app domain
 - Two clients in different app domain will use two distinct pools



Object Pooling

■ **ObjectPooling** attribute controls pooling aspects

```
[ObjectPooling(MinPoolSize = 3,MaxPoolSize = 10,CreationTimeout = 20)]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{}
```

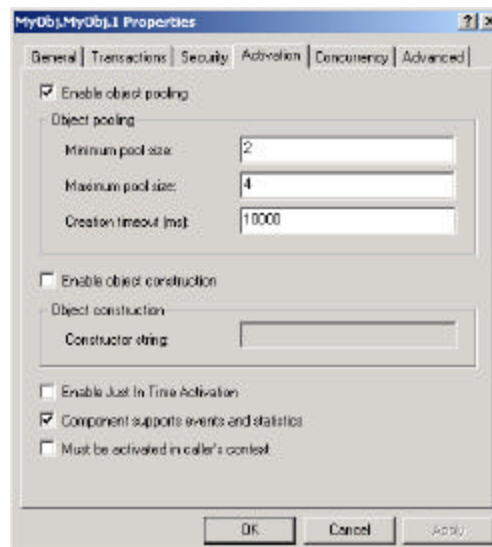
■ A few overloaded constructors:

```
//first three are equivalent
[ObjectPooling]
[ObjectPooling(true)]
[ObjectPooling(Enabled = true)]
[ObjectPooling(MinPoolSize = 2,MaxPoolSize = 10,CreationTimeout = 700)]
[ObjectPooling(MinPoolSize = 2)]
[ObjectPooling(true,MinPoolSize = 0,MaxPoolSize = 10)]
[ObjectPooling(Enabled = true,MinPoolSize = 0,MaxPoolSize = 10)]
```



Object Pooling

- Set the min pool size (low water mark) or the max pool size (high water mark)
- Set the creation timeout
 - Not the same as the time it takes to create an object





Disposing of a Pooled Object

- Object returns to pool when garbage collected
- Client can call **Dispose()** in **ServiceComponent** to expedite



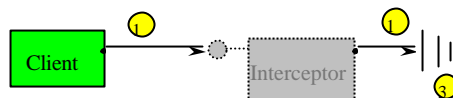
Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- .NET can dedicate object per client only while a call in progress
- When instantiating object is not costly, but object uses expensive/scarce resources and when clients can hold the object reference
 - Intranet clients
- Client would not know the difference
 - References a proxy



Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- ① Client calls a method on proxy, that delegates the call to the object
- ② When method returns, object indicates it can be deactivated
- ③ Interceptor release object, and nulls its pointer to it
- ④ Client makes another call, the interceptor creates a new object and delegates the call



Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- ① Client calls a method on proxy, that delegates the call to the object
- ② When method returns, object indicates it can be deactivated
- ③ Interceptor release object, and nulls its pointer to it
- ④ Client makes another call, the interceptor creates a new object and delegates the call





Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- .NET can not arbitrarily kill objects, that may not be ready to be shut down
 - Object has to tell ES it is willing to be destroyed
- Requires object to be state aware
 - At beginning of every method should initialize its state from a durable storage, and at the end should save its state



Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- Letting .NET object is ready to be destroyed by setting the 'Done' bit on the object context
- By default, done bit is set to false
 - JITA object created in its own context
- Can set done bit programmatically or configure a method to automatically deactivate on return



Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- **JustInTimeActivation** attribute turns JITA on or off
 - Default constructor turns on
- **ContextUtil** property **DeactivateOnReturn** sets context object done bit

```
[JustInTimeActivation]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{
    public void MyMethod(long objectIdentifier)
    {
        GetState(objectIdentifier);
        DoWork();
        SaveState(objectIdentifier);
        //inform .NET to deactivate the object upon method return
        ContextUtil.DeactivateOnReturn = true;
    }
}
```



Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- Auto-deactivation:

```
[JustInTimeActivation]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{
    [AutoComplete]
    public void MyMethod(long objectIdentifier)
    {
        GetState(objectIdentifier);
        DoWork();
        SaveState(objectIdentifier);
    }
}
```



Just In Time Activation (JITA)

- JITA object get disposed on deactivation
- Put cleanup in destructor
 - Deterministic destructor!

```
[JustInTimeActivation]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{
    ~MyComponent()
    {
        //put cleanup code here
    }
}
```



JITA with Object Pooling

- Useful when the initialization is generic and expensive (just JITA would not make sense)
- Instead of creating and release object on each method, .NET grabs it from the pool and return the object to the pool



Transactions

- Execution requires intermediate inconsistent system state
 - Money deducted but no bills yet
 - Must roll back changes in case of error
- Multiple users may access system at the same time
 - Their access and changes should be isolated from each other
 - The resource must synchronize access to information



Transactions

- It's impractical to try and write error handling code
 - Very complex scenarios – bound to miss some
 - Tons of extra code
 - Productivity hit
 - Performance hit
 - Fragile solution
 - Impossible to test or debug
- .NET simplifies using transactions
 - Administrative configuration
 - Auto-enlistment
 - Distributed transactions



What is a Transaction?

- A set of potentially complex operations, that will all succeed or fail, as one atomic operation
- Transactions have been around since the early 60's
 - Introduced by databases, but other resources such as messaging systems support them as well
 - Complex Transaction Processing Monitors (TPM) coordinate transactions across databases and resources
 - A transaction is executed on behalf of one client only
- Transaction is usually of short duration



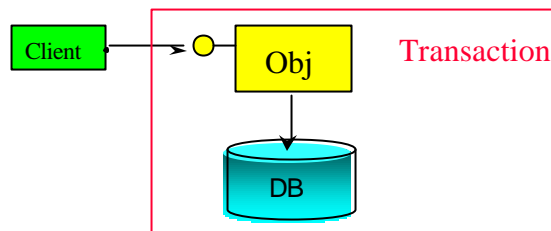
What is a Transaction?

- Transactions can spread across multiple machines and resources
 - Any resource can fail
 - All resources determine overall success or failure (**vote** on the transaction outcome)
 - Coordination challenge
- While transaction in progress, system can be in an inconsistent state
 - But the transaction must leave the system in a consistent state
- Faster transaction == scalability and throughput
- In general, whenever you update persistent storage, do it under the protection of a transaction

Single Component/Single Resource Transaction



- One component, accessing just one resource (such as a database) that should take part in a transaction
- Component informs resource a transaction has started ([enlist](#) the resource)
- Resource starts recording operations you ask it to do, but does not actually do it yet



Single Component/Single Resource Transaction

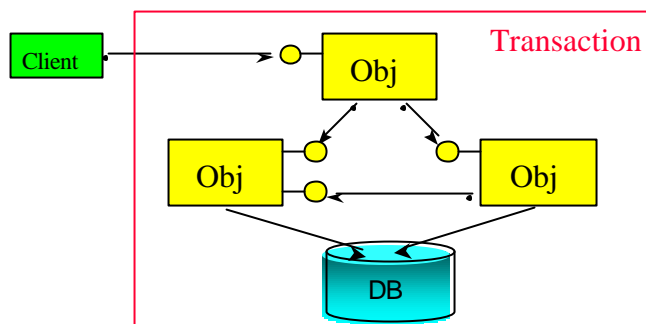


- When component is done, it informs resource to [commit](#) changes
 - If errors, it should instruct to [abort](#), or [rollback](#)
- Even if component wants to commit, the resource could have errors, and the transaction aborts
- Observation: only the application can request to commit but both application and resource can abort the transaction
- Requires explicit programming, to enlist a resource in a transaction and inform it to commit or rollback
 - **BeginTransaction()** and **EndTransaction(commit/abort)** calls
 - Most resources support this sort of interaction

Multiple Components/Single Resource Transaction



- Multiple components accessing just one resource that should take part in a transaction
- Things get a lot more complicated



Multiple Components/Single Resource Transaction



- Resource should be enlisted just once
 - By whom? first to access it? first created? How would components know all that?
- Components can be on different machines
 - Transaction has to flow across machine boundary
 - One machine can crash, while the other continue processing
- Each component can encounter error and abort
 - Only if they all succeed ask the resource to commit
 - Somebody has to collect the votes

Multiple Components/Single Resource Transaction

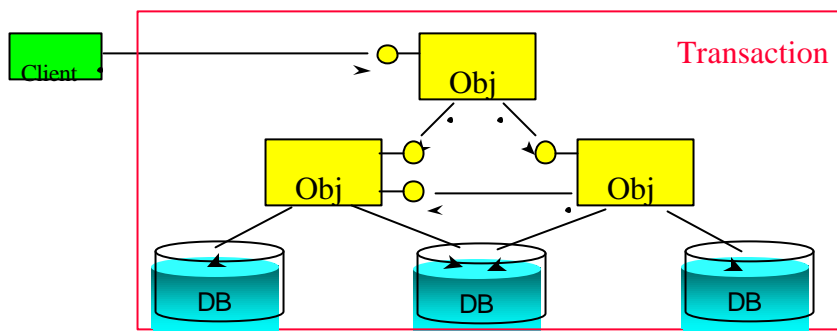


- The resource should be notified about the vote just once
 - But who knows what is the right thing to do?
- Resource can still refuse to commit changes
- .NET make this situation as easy as the previous one

Multiple Components/Multiple Resources Transaction



- Multiple components accessing multiple resources, all taking part in same transaction



Multiple Components/Multiple Resources Transaction



- Multiple points of failure
- Resources must be enlisted, and just once
 - Who keeps track of what resources are used?
 - Put that knowledge in your code ?
- Components and resources can be on different machines
 - Transaction has to flow across machine boundary
- Each resource can encounter error with the requested changes (wrong account number) and abort the transaction
- .NET make this as easy as the first one

Transactions



- **TransactionOption** enums declares COM+ transaction support

```
public enum TransactionOption
{
    Disabled,
    NotSupported,
    Supported,
    Required,
    RequiresNew
}
[Transaction(TransactionOption.Required)]
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent
{...}
```

- Default constructor is “Required”

```
[Transaction]
[Transaction(TransactionOption.Required)]
```



Voting On Transaction

- Set the static property **MyTransactionVote** of **ContextUtil**

```
ContextUtil.MyTransactionVote = TransactionVote.Commit;
```

- Can use **ContextUtil.SetComplete()** or **ContextUtil.SetAbort()**
- Be mindful of exceptions

```
[Transaction]
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent
{
    public void MyMethod(long objectIdentifier)
    {
        try
        {
            GetState(objectIdentifier);
            DoWork();
            SaveState(objectIdentifier);
            ContextUtil.MyTransactionVote = TransactionVote.Commit;
        }
        catch
        {
            ContextUtil.MyTransactionVote = TransactionVote.Abort;
        }
        //Let COM+ deactivate the object once the method returns
        ContextUtil.DeactivateOnReturn = true;
    }
    //other methods
    protected void GetState(long objectIdentifier){...}
    protected void DoWork(){...}
    protected void SaveState(long objectIdentifier){...}
}
```



Voting On Transaction

■ Voting without exception-handling

```
[Transaction]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent
{
    public void MyMethod(long objectIdentifier)
    {
        //Let COM+ deactivate the object once the method returns
        //and abort. Can use ContextUtil.SetAbort() as well
        ContextUtil.DeactivateOnReturn = true;
        ContextUtil.MyTransactionVote = TransactionVote.Abort;

        GetState(objectIdentifier);
        DoWork();
        SaveState(objectIdentifier);

        ContextUtil.MyTransactionVote = TransactionVote.Commit;
    }
}
```

■ Offers exception propagation (good for performance)



Auto Complete Attribute

- **AutoComplete** method-attribute sets done and consistency bits to true if the method did not throw an exception, and the consistency bit to false if it did

- Similar the COM+ Method auto-deactivation
- Deactivates JITA objects

```
[Transaction]
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent
{
    [AutoComplete]
    public void MyMethod(long objectIdentifier)
    {
        GetState(objectIdentifier);
        DoWork();
        SaveState(objectIdentifier);
    }
}
```




Auto Complete Attribute

- Overloaded constructor:

```
[AutoComplete]  
[AutoComplete(true)]
```

- Avoid using at interface definition:
 - Works, but confused design and contract with implementation

```
public interface IMyInterface  
{  
    //Avoid this:  
    [AutoComplete]  
    void MyMethod(long objectIdentifier);  
}
```



Enterprise Services Security

- Only way in .NET 1.1 for authentication of remote calls out of the box
 - Granular control
 - Encryption
- Rich role-based security
 - Independent of Windows groups
 - Full security call context propagation



Application Security

- **ApplicationAccessControl** attribute
 - Turning authorization on/off
 - ▲ Constructor takes a Boolean flag
 - Security level

AccessChecksLevel property set to
AccessChecksLevelOption.ApplicationComponent Or
AccessChecksLevelOption.Application
 - Authentication level

Authentication property accepts enum values of
AuthenticationOption
 - Impersonation level

ImpersonationLevel property accepts the enum values
of **ImpersonationLevelOption**



Application Security

- Server app

```
[assembly: ApplicationActivation(ActivationOption.Server)]
[assembly: ApplicationAccessControl(
    true, //Authorization
    AccessChecksLevel=AccessChecksLevelOption.ApplicationComponent,
    Authentication=AuthenticationOption.Packet,
    ImpersonationLevel=ImpersonationLevelOption.Identify)]
```



Application Security

■ Library app:

```
[assembly: ApplicationActivation(ActivationOption.Library)]
[assembly: ApplicationAccessControl(
    true, // Authorization
    AccessChecksLevel=AccessChecksLevelOption.ApplicationComponent,
    //use AuthenticationOption.None to turn off authentication,
    //and any other value to turn it on
    Authentication=AuthenticationOption.None)]
```



Component Access Checks

■ Turn component level access checks on or off using **ComponentAccessControl** attribute

```
[ComponentAccessControl(true)]
public class MyComponent : ServicedComponent, IMyInterface
{ }
```

- Default constructor turns security on
[**ComponentAccessControl**]



Adding Roles to Application

- Use **SecurityRole** attribute

```
[assembly: SecurityRole("Manager",
    Description = "Can access all components")]
[assembly: SecurityRole("Teller",
    Description = "Can access IAccountsManager only")]
```

- Description property is optional



Adding Roles to Application

- Overloaded constructors

```
[assembly: SecurityRole("Manager")]
[assembly: SecurityRole("Manager", false)]
[assembly: SecurityRole("Manager", SetEveryoneAccess = false)]
```

- Use the Marshaler role to create components

```
[assembly: SecurityRole("Marshaler", SetEveryoneAccess = true)]
```

- **SecureMethod** attribute to prevent marshaler from abusing reflection

- At class or method level



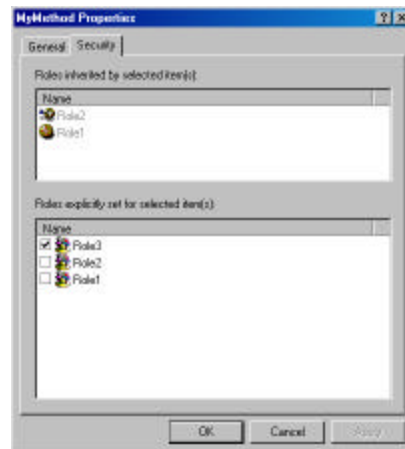
Assigning Roles

- Use **SecurityRole** attribute
 - No use for users/description properties at that level

```
[assembly: SecurityRole("Role1")]
[assembly: SecurityRole("Role2")]
[assembly: SecurityRole("Role3")]
```

```
[SecurityRole("Role2")]
interface IMyInterface
{
    [SecurityRole("Role3")]
    void MyMethod();
}
```

```
[SecurityRole("Role1")]
public class MyComponent :ServicedComponent,IMyInterface
{ }
```



Verifying Caller's Role Membership

- Done via **SecurityCallContext** object
 - Current call is a static property of same type

```
[SecurityRole("Manager")]
public class Bank : ServicedComponent
{
    [SecurityRole("Customer")]
    void TransferMoney(int sum,long accountSrc,long accountDest)
    {
        bool callerInRole = false;
        callerInRole = SecurityCallContext.CurrentCall.IsCallerInRole("Customer");
        if(callerInRole){//The caller is a customer
        {
            if(sum > 5000)
                throw(new UnauthorizedAccessException(@"Caller does not have sufficient
                                                            credentials to transfer this sum"));
        }
        DoTransfer(Sum,accountSrc,accountDest); //Helper method
    }
    //Other methods
}
```

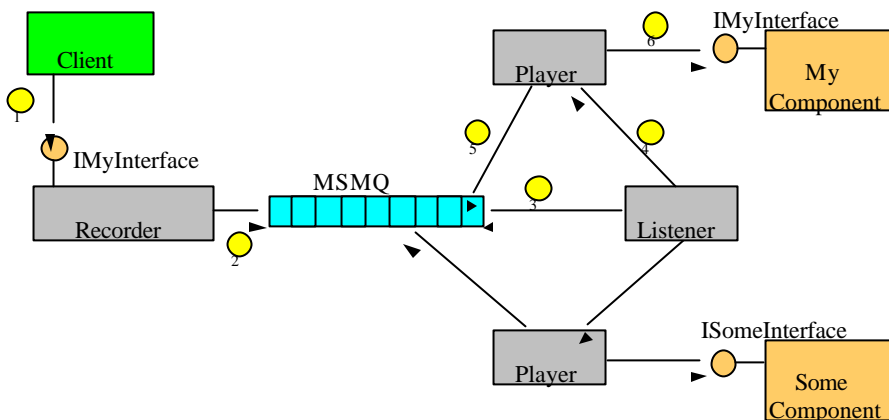


Queued Components

- Disconnected work
 - Orders submitted without access to remote resources
 - Most business communications are async by nature (email, vmail...)
 - ~40% of new computers sold are mobile
- Workload buffering
 - When workload is uneven during the day
- Transactional work



QC Architecture





Queued Components

- **ApplicationQueuingAttribute** configures application level QC support

- Accept queued calls and enable a listener:

```
[assembly: ApplicationActivation(ActivationOption.Server)]  
[assembly: ApplicationQueuing(Enabled = true, QueueListenerEnabled = true)]
```

- Default only accepts calls, no listener:

```
[assembly: ApplicationQueuing]  
//same as:  
[assembly: ApplicationQueuing(Enabled = true, QueueListenerEnabled = false)]
```



Queued Components

- **InterfaceQueuingAttribute** configures interface to support queued calls

```
[InterfaceQueuing]  
public interface IMyInterface  
{  
    void MyMethod();  
}
```

- Overloaded constructors:

```
//all are equivalent  
[InterfaceQueuing]  
[InterfaceQueuing(true)]  
[InterfaceQueuing(Enabled = true)]
```



QC-Client Side

- Client uses **Marshal.BindToMoniker()** to record calls

```
IMyInterface obj;  
obj=(IMyInterface)Marshal.BindToMoniker("queue:/new:MyAssembly.MyComponent");  
obj.MyMethod();//call is recorded
```

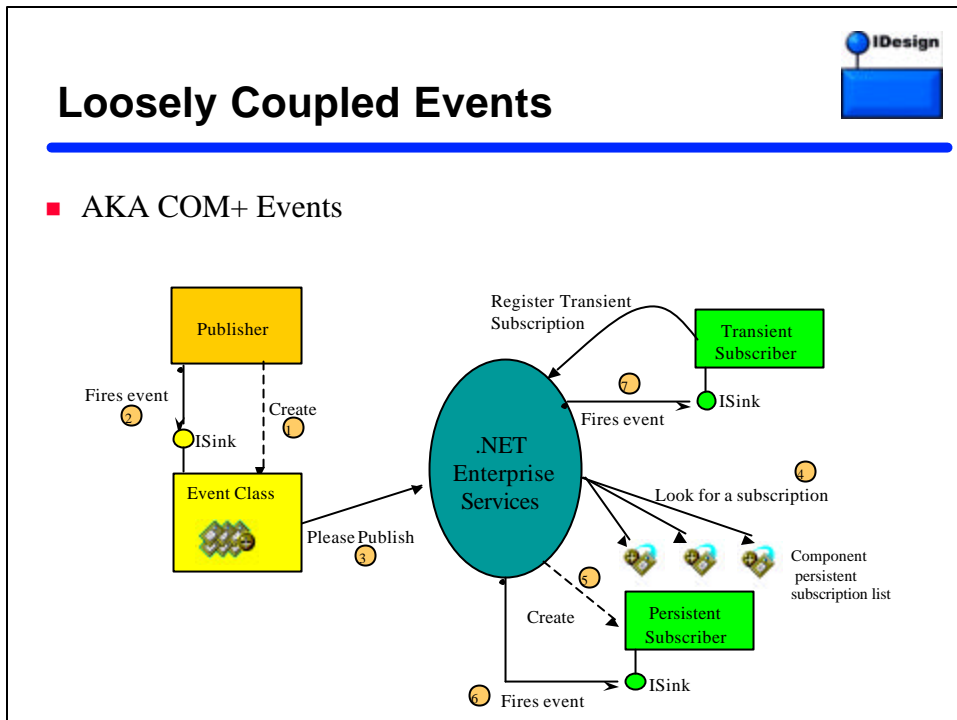
- Recorder adds message to queue when garbage collected
- Client can expedite by forcing a release:

```
IMyInterface obj;  
obj=(IMyInterface)Marshal.BindToMoniker("queue:/new:MyAssembly.MyComponent");  
obj.MyMethod();//call is recorded  
  
//Expedite dispatching the recorded calls by releasing the recorder  
Marshal.ReleaseComObject(obj);
```



Loosely Coupled Events

- Effective way of de-coupling components
- Other capabilities such as security, queuing, transactions
- With delegate-based events:
 - Client has to subscribe per event per publisher
 - Coupled life line
 - Cannot subscribe to type
 - No administrative setting of connection
- LCE lets you configure subscriptions
- LCE has separate life line
- Can subscribe existing objects as well



Loosely Coupled Events

- **EventClass** attribute denotes a managed class as an event class

```

public interface IMySink
{
    void OnEvent1();
    void OnEvent2();
}
[EventClass]
public class MyEventClass : ServicedComponent, IMySink
{
    public void OnEvent1()
    {
        throw new NotImplementedException(exception);
    }
    public void OnEvent2()
    {
        throw new NotImplementedException(exception);
    }
    const string exception = @"You should not call an event class
        directly. Register this assembly using RegSvcs /reconfig";
}

```



Loosely Coupled Events

- **EventClass** attribute constructor is overloaded

```
//These are equivalent:  
[EventClass]  
[EventClass(AllowInprocSubscribers = true,FireInParallel=false)]
```

- Publishing event

```
IMySink sink;  
sink = new MyEventClass();  
sink.OnEvent1();
```



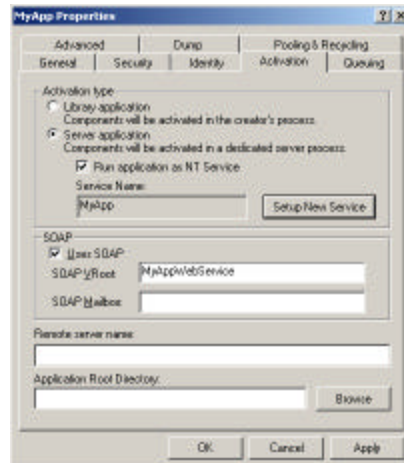
Loosely Coupled Events

- Persistent subscribers
 - Get created to handle event
 - Admin support
 - Persist machine reboot
- Transient subscribers
 - Notifying existing subscribers
 - No out-of-the-box or admin support
 - ▲ Use my helper class
 - Gone after machine reboot

Web Services Support



- When set:
 - Use WS for all invocation
 - Depending on remoting call, can maintain state
- Great for migration
- Windows Server 2003 only



Resources



- Programming .NET components
 - By Juval Lowy, O'Reilly 2003
- www.idesign.net
 - Code library
 - Coding standard
- .NET Master Class
 - Regular and advanced
 - 3-4 annually
 - Upcoming events on www.idesign.net

