Overview

- RAPID vs. DDS
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  - What is DDS

- DDS Components
  - DDS Comm Model
  - DDS Infrastructure

- RAPID Design
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  - RAPID Services

- Impact on RoverSw
  - DDS and RoverSw
  - RAPID and RoverSw
What is RAPID

Rover API Delegate
- Interoperability layer for ETDD robots
- Originally implemented as robot-bridge
- Open-source

Inter-center standard
- Supported by (Tri-)Athlete, K10, LER
- Interest by ESA
- Targeted as NASA standard

Addressed functionality
- Robot telemetry
- Robot geometry
- High-level commanding and sequencing
## What is DDS

**Distributed System Middleware**
- Publish/subscriber architecture
- Extended by relational data model
- Extensive QoS
- Orthogonal to CORBA
- Competitor of CORBA Notification Service

**Open Standard (OMG hosted)**
- Multiple vendors (RTI, Prismtech, Open-source)
- Push for interoperability (young standard)

**Target Domains**
- Distributed, embedded, real-time systems
- High throughput, low jitter
- Complex (non-uniform) network characteristics
DDS Communications Model

Multi-cast messaging core
- Data bus
- One-to-many communication
- Unreliable core protocol

Shared information space concept
- Data-type instances are entities of shared information
- DDS manages, how this information is shared within a domain
  - Distribution
  - Updates
  - Ownership
  - …

Fig 3 © RTI
DDS Communication Entities

Domain
- Defines a shared information space
- Participant manages membership (protocol, ports, etc)

Partition
- Defines communication sub-groups within domain
- Publisher/Subscriber manages membership
  (among other resources such as threads/msg queues etc)

Topic
- Defines name and type of a set of data instance(s)
  - Unkeyed data: topic names a single datatype instance
  - Keyed data: topic manages set of instances, differentiated by key
- Communicates samples of instance(s) of one specified data-type
- DataWriter/-Reader reads/writes & manages samples of a topic
DDS Quality of Service (QoS)

QoS at every level
- Ports, Multi-cast groups, discovery, etc
- Sometimes more than you’d want to care about

Topic level QoS
- Reliability
  - Best effort
  - Reliable (TCP-like resending)
- Durability
  - Transient
  - While writer instance is available
- History
  - How many samples to store per instance
  - On writer-side required for reliability
  - Can be used on reader-side as histogram queue
- Filtering – reader triggered
  - Message-timeout filter for rate-filtering
  - Partitions for per-robot filtering
- Flow Control – writer triggered
  - Required to protect small links
  - Token-bucket filter
DDS Infrastructure (RTI)

**DDS Core**
- (CORBA) IDL defined data types
- Communication of data samples between publishers/subscribers of a domain

**Routing Service**
- Manage message replication between DDS domains
- Used to manage/restrict traffic on thin links (satellite etc)

**RT-Connect & Recorder**
- Linking of DDS topics/instances to SQL database tables and entries
- Can be used for logging
- Possible interface to GDS services

**Analyzer and Monitor**
- Run-time analysis: Connectivity, QoS mismatches, bandwidth etc
- Very powerful, very necessary
- Too little static analysis tools so far

[Diagram of DDS Infrastructure (RTI)](fig)
RAPID Design

Config messages
- Subsystem configuration (typically static)
- Potentially verbose specification
- Reliable & durable
  ➢ Send once, subscribe and analyze on client startup

State messages
- Subsystem state changes
- Concise
- Reliable & durable
  ➢ Send on change, might be bursty

Sample messages
- Fixed (high) rate telemetry
- Mostly continuously changing parameters
- Best effort, transient
  ➢ Classic telemetry
RAPID Services

Telemetry
- Robot pose
- Robot joints
- Images & Point-clouds

FrameStore
- Classic tree of coordinate frames
- Tree-walking for coordinate transformations
- Local instance, updated from robot telemetry
- Provides location awareness between robots

Sequencer
- Synchronous command queue
- Designed for time-delayed teleop

Access Control
- Cooperative management of teleop access
### RAPID Message Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Message Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| PositionConfig, PositionSample| • Config: Coordinate frame of robot pose estimate  
                               • Sample: Pose estimate                                                   |
| JointConfig, -Sample          | • Config: Joint frames  
                               • Sample: Joint positions                                                  |
| PointCloudConfig, -Sample     | • Config: Frame, data-format details  
                               • Sample: Point cloud                                                      |
| ImageSensorState, -Sample     | • State: Imager parameters  
                               • Sample: Image                                                              |
| FrameStoreConfig              | • Coordinate frame tree with initial values                                   |
| AccessControlState, QueueState| • Current controller and control requests  
                               • Queued and executed commands                                              |
DDS and RoverSw

Replacement for EC
• Notify Pipe Svc
• LogSvc and LogPlayer
• Telemetry-types mostly stay unchanged
  (some changes to header information)

Configuration and state related parts of GRI CORBA interfaces
• Readonly attributes become Config message
• Periodic SSubsystemState become reliable/durable

Not a good replacement for commanding
• No request/reply pattern
• No object oriented method-call
• Mix of CORBA & DDS is part of the COBA Component Model (CCM)
• It’s two big libraries to carry around
RAPID and RoverSw

KN rovers support it
• knRapidSvc RAPID bridge
• Resending GRI telemetry as RAPID telemetry
• Redirecting RAPID commands to GRI interfaces
• RAPID sequencing and access control protocols honored

Core RAPID services are part of IRG core technologies
• FrameStore (C++) implementation part of VisionWorkbench/knSvcs
• FrameStore (Java) implementation part of Verve/Eclipse
• Updates of frames directly from GRI telemetry

Might replace telemetry messages where redundant
• SJoints vs JointSample
• SPose vs PositionSample