Real World Clojure

Tom Marble

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1 Overview

Real World Clojure

file:/src/software-passion/Clojure-glyph.svg

My journey in using Clojure for a client that is developing a multiplayer game server hosting service.

1.1 Overview: Topics to cover

Press f9 to see the list of topics

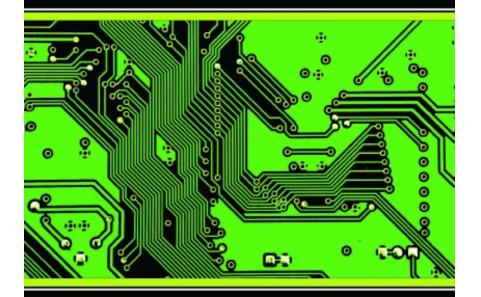
1.2 What is that presentation tool?

Emacs!

This is **org-tree-slide** from https://github.com/takaxp/org-tree-slide For more on org mode see http://orgmode.org/org.html Yes I will share my "slides" on my website http://tmarble.info9.net A GNU MANUAL

The Org Mode 7 Reference Manual

Organize your life with GNU Emacs



Carsten Dominik and others

PUBLISHED BY NETWORK THEORY LTD

1.3 Tack!

My great grandmother immigrated to the USA from Sweden around $1900\,$



2 Background

2.1 About Tom



tmarble

2.1.1 Sun: technical presales during the dot.com era

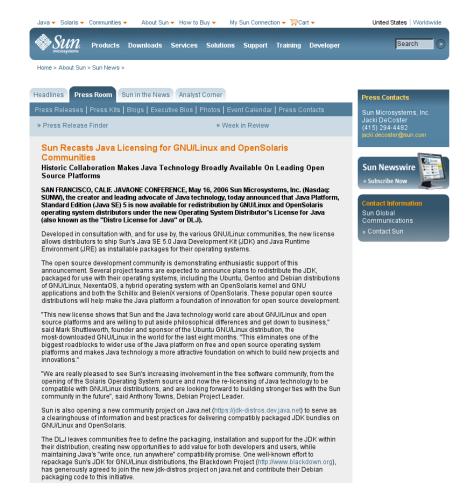


2.1.2 Sun: Java Performance



2.1.3 Sun: DLJ

Early 2006: DLJ with Debian and Canonical (Ubuntu)



2.1.4 Sun: OpenJDK

JavaOne 2006: Rich Green announces that Sun will open source Java Core Strategy Team

- How organize community governance
- Copyright, Patent and Trademark licensing
- Infrastructure tools
- Pick license

First OpenJDK Ambassador (I went to a lot of conferences)

• FOSDEM

- \bullet FISL
- OSCON



ApacheCon 2006: Sun unBOF/Party Copyright 2006 Ted Leung: https://secure.flickr.com/photos/twleung/268116213/

2.1.5 Left Sun to do a startup



2.1.6 But

The global financial meltdown of 2008 happened (etc.)
Didn't work out :(
And so I... got into consulting!

2.1.7 Consulting

Cybersecurity

Probabilistic Model Verification (Electrical Engineering) Software for Smart Grid + Renewable Energy Clojure

2.1.8 Tom and Debian

Using Linux since 1996
Using Debian since 2003
Helped Debian Java Packaging Team since DLJ in 2006
World with Debian and Oracle on meshing Jigsaw with apt



2.1.9 **FOSDEM**

Java track

- Oracle
- Distros
- Developers
- Users

Legal Issues Track

- Organized by Karen Sandler, Bradley Kuhn, Richard Fontana and myself
- Check out the Wiki http://info9.net/wiki/fosdem/LegalIssuesDevRoom/
- Check out the oggcast http://faif.us/

2.2 About my client

The client

• Developing a multiplayer game server hosting service

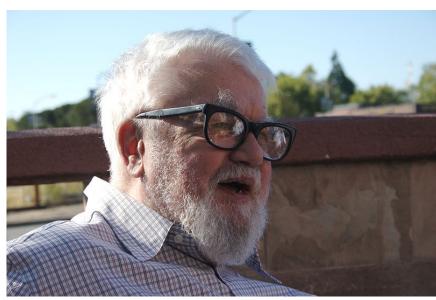
- Comprised of very young developers
- Is in stealth mode (sorry!)

I have been given the authority to

- Make significant choices about architecture
- Green light to open source generic bits

(this is why i like consulting:)
I'm not the only one (especially in Nordic countries)!

3 Why Lisp?



John McCarthy is old school:

3.1 homoiconic

code is data

List

(def mylist '(1 2 3))

Function

(defn myadd [a b] (+ a b))

Clojure is defined in terms of the evaluation of data structures and not in terms of the syntax of character streams/files.

3.2 macros: code transformations at compile time

Macros offer hooks for syntactic abstraction and there is very little syntax. (defmacro and ([] true) ([x] x) ([x & rest] '(let [and# ~x] (if and# (and ~@rest) and#))))

Allows code transformation **before** the reader does evaluation defn is a macro that makes defining functions a little simpler.

3.2.1 defining functions uses the defin macro

Clojure supports arity overloading in a single function object, self-reference, and variable-arity functions using &:

-> #'user/argcount (argcount) -> 0 (argcount 1) -> 1 (argcount 1 2) -> 2 (argcount 1 2 3 4 5) -> 5

3.3 Very easy to work with code (because it's data)

LISP is the language of choice when writing Domain Specific Languages (DSL's).

• Mentioned by Theo (JRuby) and Morton (APL) today!

Example from ILC '09 at MIT

- Alex Fukunaga (Tokyo University) spoke on The Satisfyability Problem
- A DSL for SAT algorithms
- Used a biological evolution inspired algorithm

3.4 REPL

The Read Eval Print Loop

Interactive code development

Instead of just dump a stack trace and die on an error... you can edit data and functions (they look the same) and continue your program!

3.5 Lisp successes

Artificial Intelligence

Scientific Computing Lisp

SciCL augments Common Lisp with an extensive library of aggregatewise ("AG-wise") operations on arrays, providing the essential functionality of languages such as APL, Fortran 90, IDL and Matlab.

http://www.siginf.com/

4 Why Clojure?

4.1 Many enterprise deployments already use Java

Clojure adds a jar to the CLASSPATH (lowers the barrier to customer approval)

Embraces the power of the JVM

 $(\text{defn} \ \#^P roperties as-properties "Convertany seq of pairs to a java.utils. Properties instance. Uses as strtoconvert both keys and values into strings." \{: tagProperties\}[m](let[p(Properties.)](doseq[[kv]m](.setrk)(as-strv)))p))$

Leverages the wealth of existing Java libraries

4.2 Need the benefits of LISP and

Need to deal with concurrency using native threads and locking. Without the downsides of Java

- Skip the boilerplate (to not fetishize complexity)
- Multi-methods instead of the "Kingdom of Nouns (OOP)"
- Unmoderated mutation simply "has to go" (makes concurrency very difficult)

4.3 Functional Programming

Immutable data + first-class functions, supporting recursion

Dynamic polymorphism

Emphasizes recursive iteration instead of side-effect based looping user> (let [my-vector [1 2 3 4] my-map {:fred "ethel"} my-list (list 4 3 2 1)] (list (conj my-vector 5) (assoc my-map :ricky "lucy") (conj my-list 5) my-vector my-map my-list)) -> ([1 2 3 4 5] {:ricky "lucy", :fred "ethel"} (5 4 3 2 1) [1 2 3 4] {:fred "ethel"} (4 3 2 1))

4.4 Software Transactional Memory

Core data structures are immutable and can easily be shared between threads Mutation is possible using locks to avoid conflicts

- dosync, ref, set, alter, et al, supports sharing changing state between threads in a synchronous and coordinated manner.
- The agent system supports sharing changing state between threads in an asynchronous and independent manner.
- The atoms system supports sharing changing state between threads in a synchronous and independent manner.
- The dynamic var system supports isolating changing state within threads.

4.5 No spec, one implementation

Disadvantages: All eggs in one basket

Advantages: Clojure works **everywhere** Innovation happens quickly Core data structures are extensible abstractions



4.6 Java

Embraces the power of the JVM

- \bullet Multiplatform
- Performance

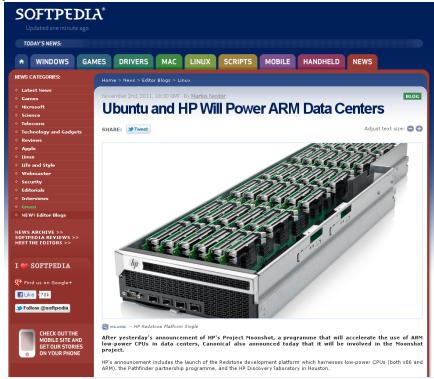
Note: also runs on the CLR and on JavaScript (*)

4.6.1 Java - multiplatform

Sun originally wanted Java to enable customers to use SPARC Today many Enterprises run on Intel architectures But what about tomorrow?

4.6.2 ARM looks very good for size, cost, heat

Maybe we will see ARM in the data center?



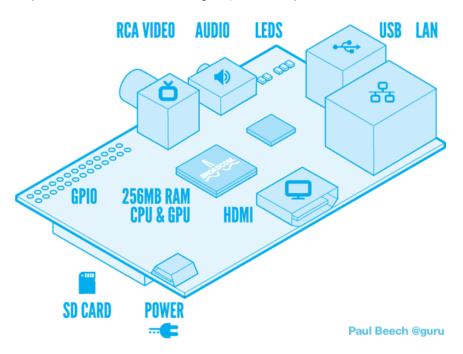
http://news.softpedia.com/news/Ubuntu-and-HP-Will-Power-ARM-Data-Centers-231827.shtml

4.6.3 We are seeing ARM everywhere in embedded devices

Raspberry Pi = \$25

- SoC is a Broadcom BCM2835. This contains an ARM1176JZFS, with floating point, running at 700Mhz
- Videocore 4 GPU. The GPU is capable of BluRay quality playback, using H.264 at 40MBits/s.
- It has a fast 3D core accessed using the supplied OpenGL ES2.0 and OpenVG libraries.
- 256 MB RAM
- One USB port

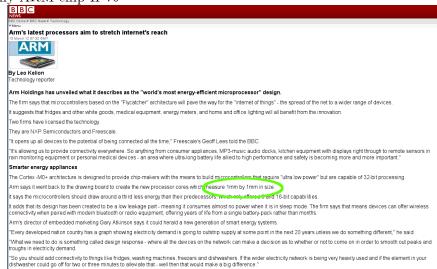
• (Model B adds a 2nd USB port, Ethernet)



 ${\rm http://www.raspberrypi.org/}$

4.6.4 Java for the "Internet of Things"

Tiny ARM chip IPv6



4.6.5 Java as assembly language

For these reasons Clojure is one of many vibrant, alternative languages on the JVM which include:

- JRuby
- Scala
- Jython
- IKVM.NET
- Gosu
- Smalltalk
- JavaScript

4.7 Bleeding Edge OpenJDK features

NOT yet truly being used by Clojure

4.7.1 Fork/Join

Bring Doug Lea's Fork/Join framework into Clojure Primary example **pmap**

- using the shortest map/reduce tutorial ever
- WAIT, Morton did this in one line in APL:)
 user> (def mylist '(1 2 3 4 5 6)) #'user/mylist user> (map even? mylist) (false true false true false true) user> (reduce 'or (map even? mylist)) true

David Liebke: "From Concurrency to Parallelism" http://incanter.org/downloads/fjclj.pdf

4.7.2 Tail Call Optimization

Save space on the stack:

call factorial (3) call fact $(3\ 1)$ call fact $(2\ 3)$ call fact $(1\ 6)$ call fact $(0\ 6)$ return 6 return 6 return 6 return 6

call factorial (3) call fact (3 1) replace arguments with (2 3), jump to "fact" replace arguments with (1 6), jump to "fact" replace arguments with (0 6), jump to "fact" return 6 return 6

NOTE: Clojure does have **recur** and **trampoline** but the JVM itself lacks a generic optimization for TCO (but there is an older patch in the MVLM repo).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tail call

4.7.3 Invoke Dynamic

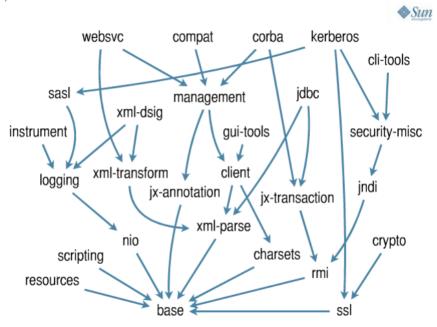
JSR 292

Enables the HotSpot VM to **see** into your "JVM Language" code and optimize it!

Why Clojure Doesn't Need Invokedynamic (Unless You Want It to be More Awesome) http://blog.headius.com/2011/10/why-clojure-doesnt-need-invokedynamic.html

4.7.4 Modularization (Jigsaw)

Better startup time Finer grained dependencies Smaller footprint (embedded)



5 The Tools I am using

5.1 Maven

```
Finding dependencies: mvn dependency:tree -DoutputFile=dependency.txt
my-website:my-website:jar:0.1.0-SNAPSHOT +- org.clojure:clojure:jar:1.3.0:compile
noir:noir:jar:1.2.2-SNAPSHOT:compile +- compojure:compojure:jar:1.0.0-
RC2:compile
+- org.clojure:core.incubator:jar:0.1.0:compile
+- org.clojure:tools.macro:jar:0.1.0:compile
+- clout:clout:jar:1.0.0:compile
ring:ring-core:jar:1.0.1:compile
+- commons-io:commons-io:jar:1.4:compile
```

- javax.servlet:servlet-api:jar:2.5:compile +- org.clojure:tools.namespace:jar:0.1.0:compile
 - org.clojure:java.classpath:jar:0.1.0:compile

+- commons-fileupload:commons-fileupload:jar:1.2.1:compile

- +- clj-json:clj-json:jar:0.4.3:compile org.codehaus.jackson:jackson-core-asl:jar:1.5.0:compile
- +- ring:ring:jar:1.0.1:compile
- +- ring:ring-devel:jar:1.0.1:compile

ns-tracker:ns-tracker:jar:0.1.1:compile

+- ring:ring-jetty-adapter:jar:1.0.1:compile

+- org.mortbay.jetty:jetty:jar:6.1.25:compile

•1

org.mo:

org.mortbay.jetty:jetty-util:jar: 6.1.25: compile

ring:ring-servlet:jar:1.0.1:compile

- +- hiccup:hiccup:jar:0.3.7:compile +- clj-stacktrace:clj-stacktrace:jar:0.2.3:compile +- ring-reload-modified:ring-reload-modified:jar:0.1.1:compile +- net.java.dev.jets3t:jets3t:jar:0.8.1:compile +- net.java.dev.jets3t:jets3
 - +- commons-codec:commons-codec:jar:1.3:compile
 - +- commons-logging:commons-logging:jar:1.1.1:compile
 - +- commons-httpclient:commons-httpclient:jar:3.1:compile com.jamesmurty.utils:java-xmlbuilder:jar:0.4:compile

org.mindrot:jbcrypt:jar:0.3m:compile

5.2 Leiningen

Leiningen is awesome https://github.com/technomancy/leiningen

Use the REPL $\mathbf{swank\text{-}clojure}$ https://github.com/technomancy/swank-clojure

Get... \$ lein plugin install swank-clojure 1.4.0 \$ lein plugin install lein-localrepo 0.3 \$ lein plugin install lein-noir 1.2.1

lein localrepo help

Public Repos: http://clojars.org/

Private Repos: https://github.com/technomancy/s3-wagon-private Lein directly from git: https://github.com/tobyhede/lein-git-deps

5.3 Redis

Amazing NoSQL Database: http://redis.io

With a Clojure binding! https://github.com/mmcgrana/clj-redis Redis utterly killed it in 2010 – check out the growth in share of developer conversation http://www.redmonk.com/jgovernor/2012/03/15/redisutterly-killed-it-in-2010-check-out-the-growth-in-share-of-developer-conversation/

5.4 Jenkins

 $Continuous\ Integration\ Server:\ http://jenkins-ci.org/$

Amazing Plugins: https://wiki.jenkins-ci.org/display/JENKINS/Plugins The ones that I use:

- Trac Publisher
- Dependency Graph Viewer
- IM
- Pathignore (essential for big git repo)
- SSH Slaves
- Thin Backup
- Build Result Trigger

Fun ones

- Gravatar
- Emotional Jenkins

KK slides from February at MonkiGras in London http://www.slideshare.net/kohsuke/building-developer-community

5.5 Using Jenkins

Git push triggers Jenkins Updates the one (master) workspace Projects started based on updated paths

Java Client

- Builds on Linux
- Triggers native Mac OS X build on Mac slave
- Triggers native Windows build on Windows slave

Deploying Noir application

- shuts down dev website
- updates code
- restarts website

5.6 Trac

http://trac.edgewall.org/

- Tickets (bugs, tasks), Reports, Browse code, Timeline, Wiki
- Can now use git (yeah!)
- Integration with Jenkins http://trac-hacks.org/wiki/XmlRpcPlugin

5.7 Noir

Let's talk about Noir http://webnoir.org

6 Why Open Source Matters

Free as in Free Beer

Free as in Free Speech

Knowing the shape of the solutions: Ease of integration

No marketing: just code (extra credit: build in tests and Jenkins)

Fewer bugs (recent Coverity study)

Education, credentials and employment

- Employers will google you
- Many directly ask for pointers to FLOSS contributions

6.1 Where are you going to deploy that code?

The "cloud".

Are you really going to deploy to Windows?

- you have to name your machines #FAIL
- you have to Remote Desktop in and click-to-admin #FAIL
- no anticipated downtime until 2016:)

You can't deploy to Mac OS X

• X Serve died a long time ago

You want to deploy to Linux

- Cost effective
- Legal
- More reliable
- More automatable

6.2 permissive vs. restrictive licensing

BSD (MIT AL2) vs. GPL (MPL)

Permissive is necessary, but sometimes not enough to hold a community together.

Jeremy Allison: Why Samba Switched to GPLv3 2011 Linux Collaboration Summit http://faif.us/cast/2011/may/10/0x0F/

NOTE: proprietary (dual) licensing with contributor license agreements is now considered harmful

6.3 Open Source and Web Services

What if you want to build a strong community around a web service? In the "cloud" the GPL is just like BSD.

The answer? The AGPL (Affero General Public License)

From the FSF The GNU Affero General Public License is a modified version of the ordinary GNU GPL version 3. It has one added requirement: if you run the program on a server and let other users communicate with it there, your server must also allow them to download the source code corresponding to the program that it's running.

What? I'm going to build a business on AGPL? Is that CRAZY?

It is being done now: http://status.net "Enterprise Social Software is OPEN for business."

6.4 Where is the value?

Productivity!

Right Now

- Hardware is effectively free
- The best software in life is Free
- Savoir Faire (brainpower) is expensive
- Data are like diamonds: they vary in clarity, quality and value

New business models need to maximize productivity around managing and improving quality of data.

(NOTE: China doesn't care about intellectual property anyway)

6.5 Why Debian

Commitment to quality and building everything from source Package inter-dependencies are core to the system

- Windows needs Maven, Gems, cygwin, etc.
- Mac needs MacPorts, etc.

Very predictable, easy to administer & automate, secure, stable One of the two major Linux families (.deb and .rpm) and the foundation of many derivatives (e.g. Ubuntu)



http://wiki.debconf.org/wiki/DebConf11/Pictures/GroupPhoto

7 Challenges and Next Steps

7.1 The state of Clojure Contrib (is a challenge)

"Modularization of Contrib"

http://dev.clojure.org/display/doc/Clojure+Contrib Wait, why isn't there a project.clj (for lein)?

• officially must use mvn (!) (lein originally could not deploy to remote mvn repos)

The idea is that everything that hasn't been modularized yet is supposedly either low quality or in low demand

Using clojars: change groupID to highlight it's non-canonical

Also it's tricky to find out what the **real** disposition of stuff is.. I wanted java-utils (moved to clojure.java.io)

7.2 My client will expand capacity from private to public cloud

Expand service from customer hosted into EC2 With auto provisioning of resources (up/down)

7.3 Websockets

jQuery Atmosphere Jetty Noir Fully bi-directional pipes (no more AJAX polling)!

7.4 Redis binding change

clj-redis / Jedis / Apache connection library

- missing functionality
- times out

My be replaced with redis-clojure

7.5 Keeping an eye on Datomic



About Datomic

As a long-time consumer of ISAM, relational, object and other databases, Rich Hickey has shared the pain points of developers in dealing with databases. With a new perspective, informed by the principles of functional programming, and hardware advances that have happened since relational, client-server databases were invented, he decided to design a new kind of database. Looking around the landscape, he saw that modern database and key-store developers were making tradeoffs they might not have to; sacrificing queries, joins and ACID transactions in pursuit of flexibility, scalability and speed. He thought there was a better way: Datomic is that way. In 2010, Rich and Relevance partnered to bring his wision to life. Stuart Halloway, already a committer on Clojure and a colleague of Rich's, led the charge on the Relevance side, not only coming on as a programmer to the project but managing a team of other contributors from within Relevance to help Rich get from design to product.

7.6 Keeping an eye on ClojureScript One

ClojureScript ClojureScript One ClojureScript One + the remote REPL + browser testing + no CSS reloads

 $Connect\ With\ Your\ Creation\ Through\ a\ Real-Time\ Editor\ http://www.webmonkey.com/2012/03/cowith-your-creation-through-a-real-time-editor/\ http://www.chris-granger.com/2012/02/20/overtone-and-clojurescript/$

7.7 Experiment with exposing bleeding edge JVM features in the Clojure

It only takes about 30 min to build the JDK on an 8 core machine Tighter Debian Clojure packaging (Jigsaw)

8 Conclusion

LISP is incredibly powerful (don't be afraid of the parens)

Clojure is the best LISP now (because of the JVM)

Java means future proof for platforms in the cloud and the "Internet of Things".

Open Source isn't just free, it's key to a strong business model (and probably saving the planet).

Software "best practice" tools are available for Clojure now

There are still many optimizations waiting to be made

The #1 reason to use Clojure: productivity.

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Clojure: Copyright 2008-2012 Rich Hickey http://clojure.org

NOTE: Tom will code in Clojure / Jigsaw / Debian / ARM for food! http://tmarble.info9.net

$9 ext{ Q/A} + \text{Live Hacking}$

file: /src/software-passion

9.1 Command line processing and configuration files

tools.cli https://github.com/clojure/tools.cli awesome, right? connected to SSH agent (has at least one identity) tmarble@noir 102\$ lein search tools.cli == Results from central - Showing page 1 / 1 total [org.clojure/tools.cli "0.1.0"] [org.clojure/tools.cli "0.1.0"] tmarble@noir 103\$

9.2 Pretty Print HTML and XML

I created a future-contrib package: file: /src/maas/clojure/future-contrib/project.clj See file: /src/maas/clojure/future-contrib/src/future_contrib/core.clj Demonstrate example with file: /src/clojuremn/example.xml

9.3 redis2xml

Demonstrates command line processing and configuration files see file:/src/maas/clojure/redis2xml/project.clj see: file:/.redis2xml also try command line:
redis-cli -a NoOneWillEverGuess -n 3
./bin/redis2xml -v -n 3 -f -i ~/src/clojuremn/example.xml

9.4 Example Noir site

See file: $\tilde{/}\mathrm{src/noir\text{-}examples/my\text{-}website}$