

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

**Douglas C. Schmidt**

**[d.schmidt@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:d.schmidt@vanderbilt.edu)**

**[www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt](http://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt)**

**Professor of Computer Science**

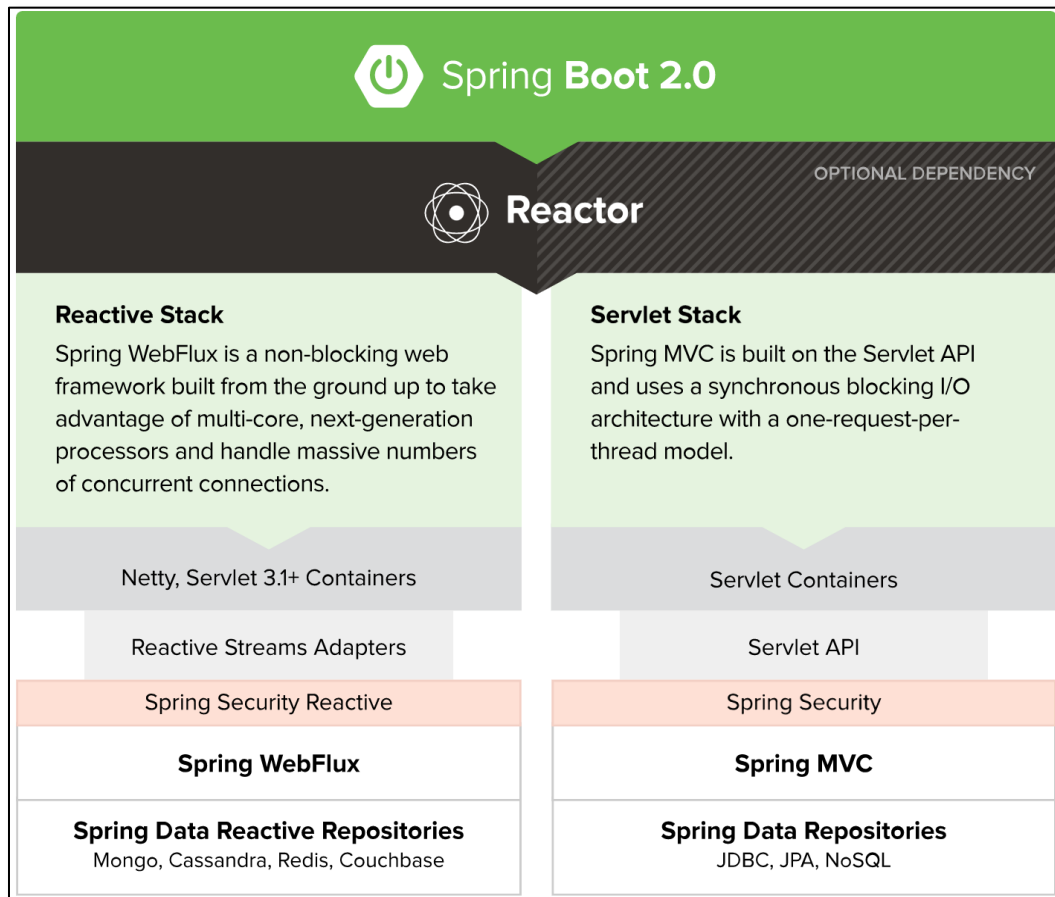
**Institute for Software  
Integrated Systems**

**Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, Tennessee, USA**



# Learning Objectives in this Lesson

- Recognize the similarities & differences between Spring WebMVC & WebFlux frameworks supported by Spring Boot 2.0

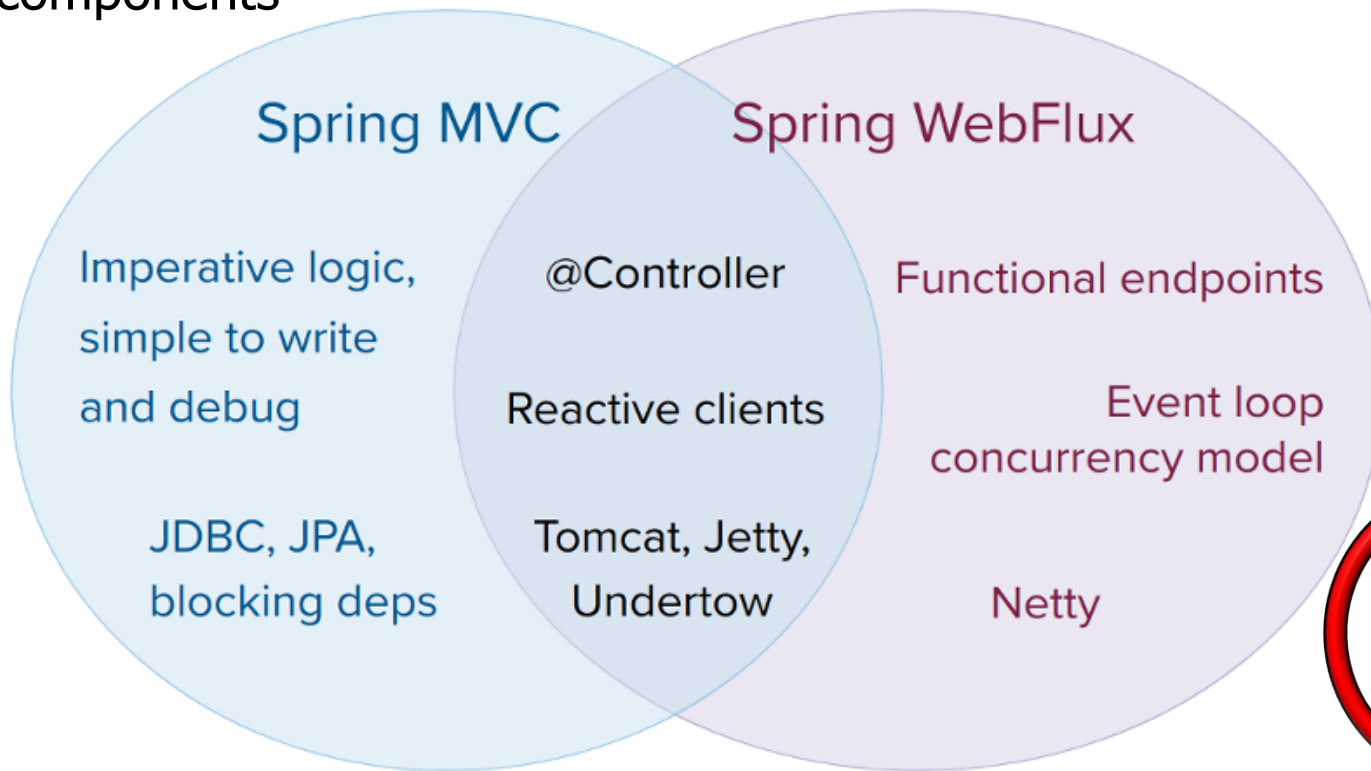


---

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

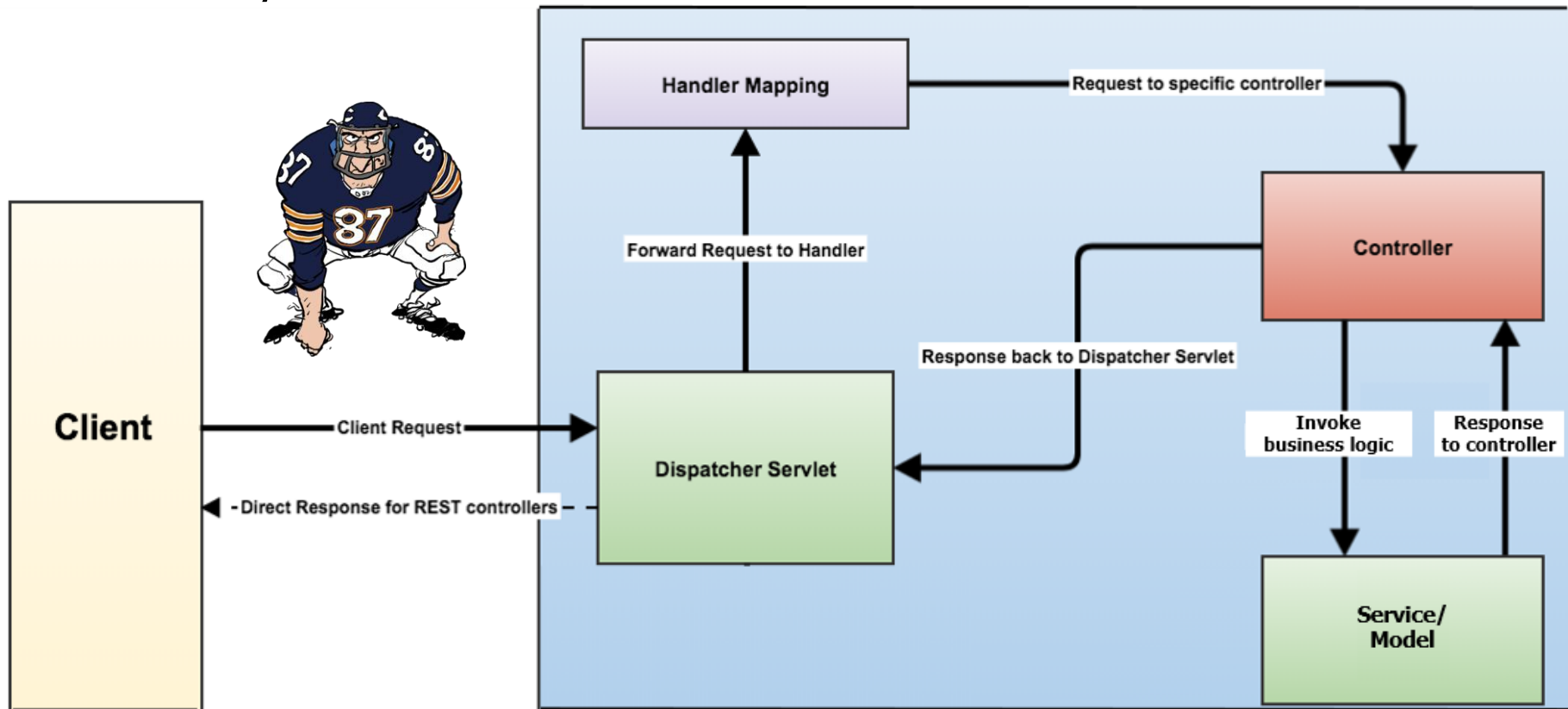
- Spring WebMVC & WebFlux have similarities & differences wrt functionality & internal components



See [maddy4java.blogspot.com/2019/11/spring-boot-spring-webflux-vs-spring-mvc.html](https://maddy4java.blogspot.com/2019/11/spring-boot-spring-webflux-vs-spring-mvc.html)

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

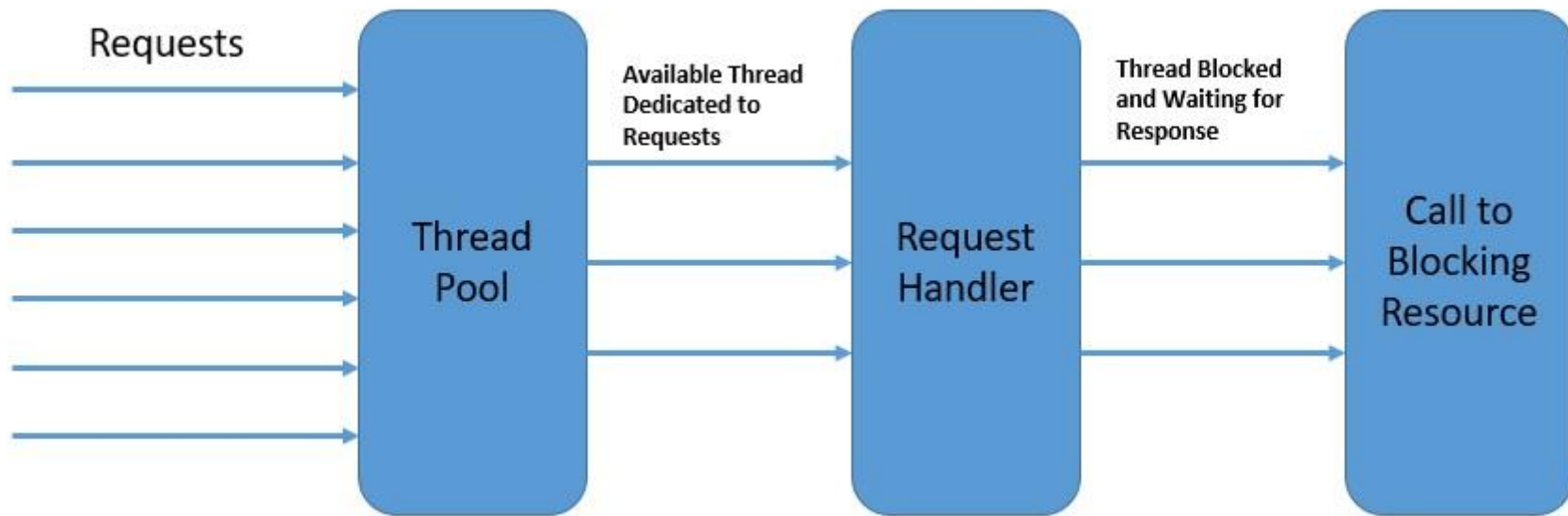
- WebMVC is sync



Built on Servlet API & uses a synchronous I/O w/one-thread-per-request model

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

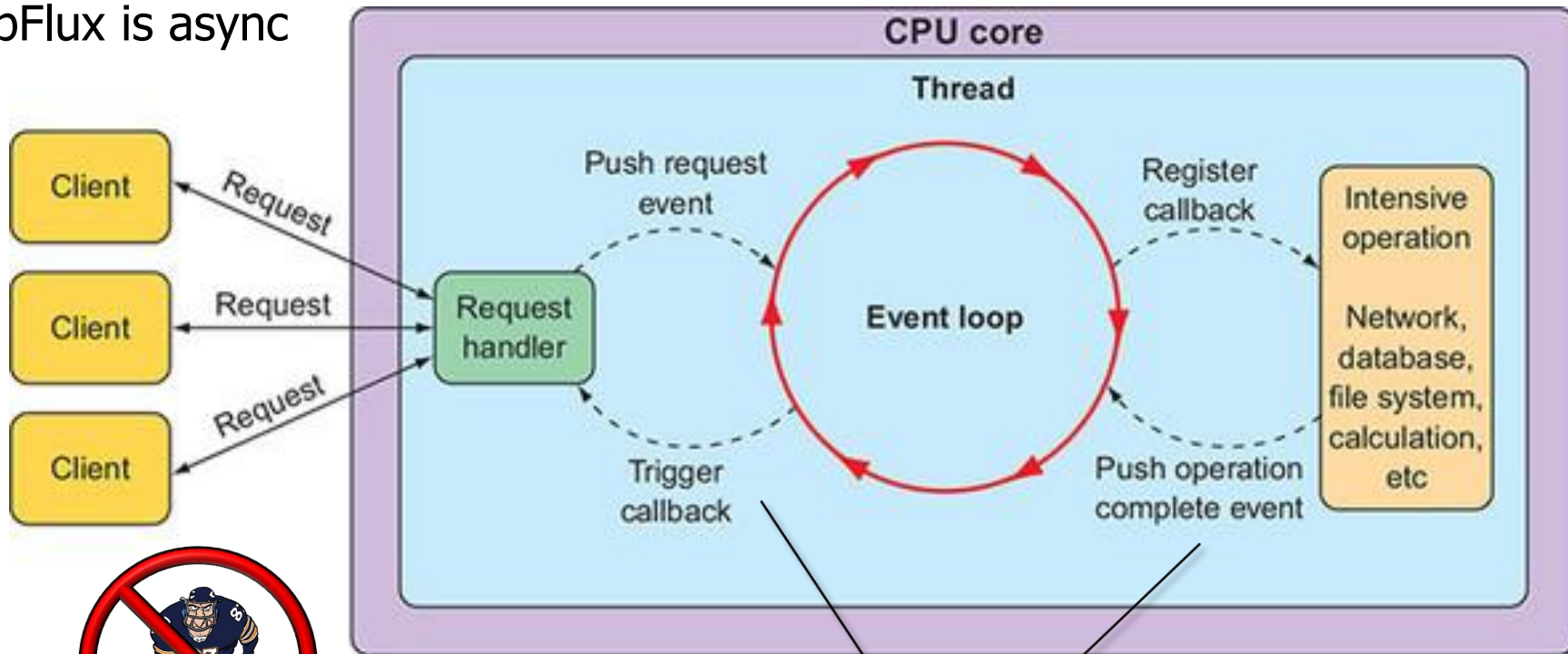
- WebMVC is sync
- The server uses a thread-per-request, where each thread handles a single request at a time



See [www.baeldung.com/spring-webflux-concurrency](http://www.baeldung.com/spring-webflux-concurrency)

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

- WebFlux is async

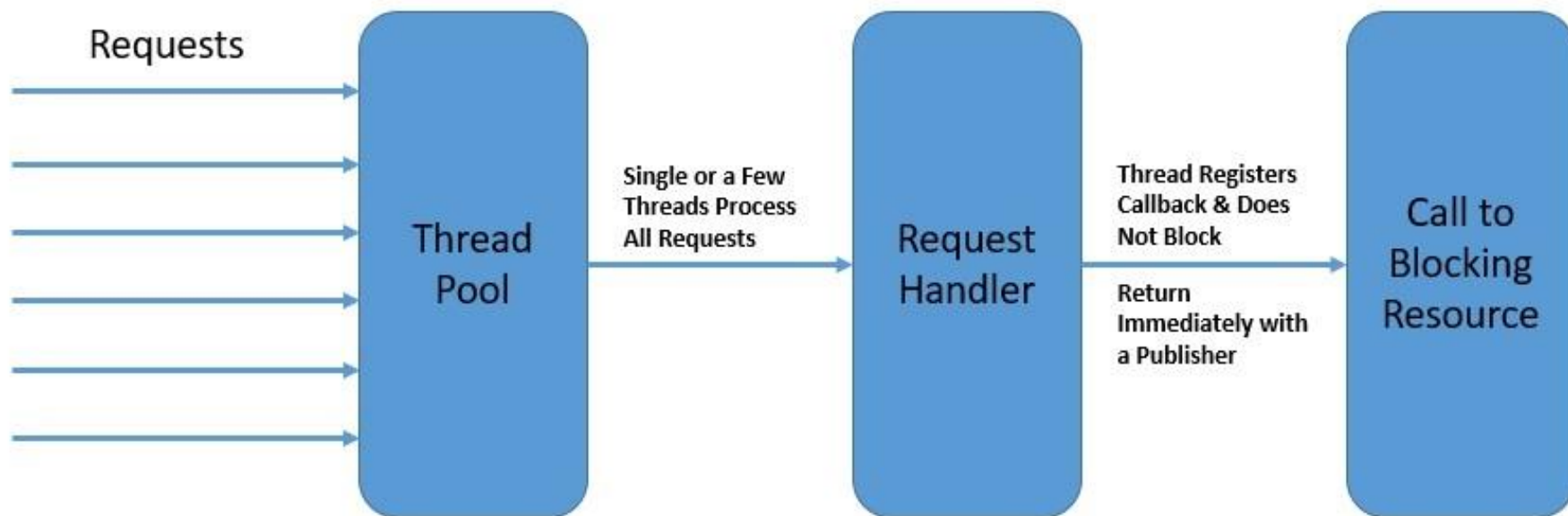


*Callbacks are transparent to server code that uses Mono & Flux reactive types*

Non-blocking I/O that leverages multiple cores & handles large # of connections

# Comparing & Contrasting Spring WebMVC & WebFlux

- WebFlux is async
  - It uses a completely non-blocking environment that can achieve higher concurrency with better resource utilization



See [www.baeldung.com/spring-webflux-concurrency](http://www.baeldung.com/spring-webflux-concurrency)

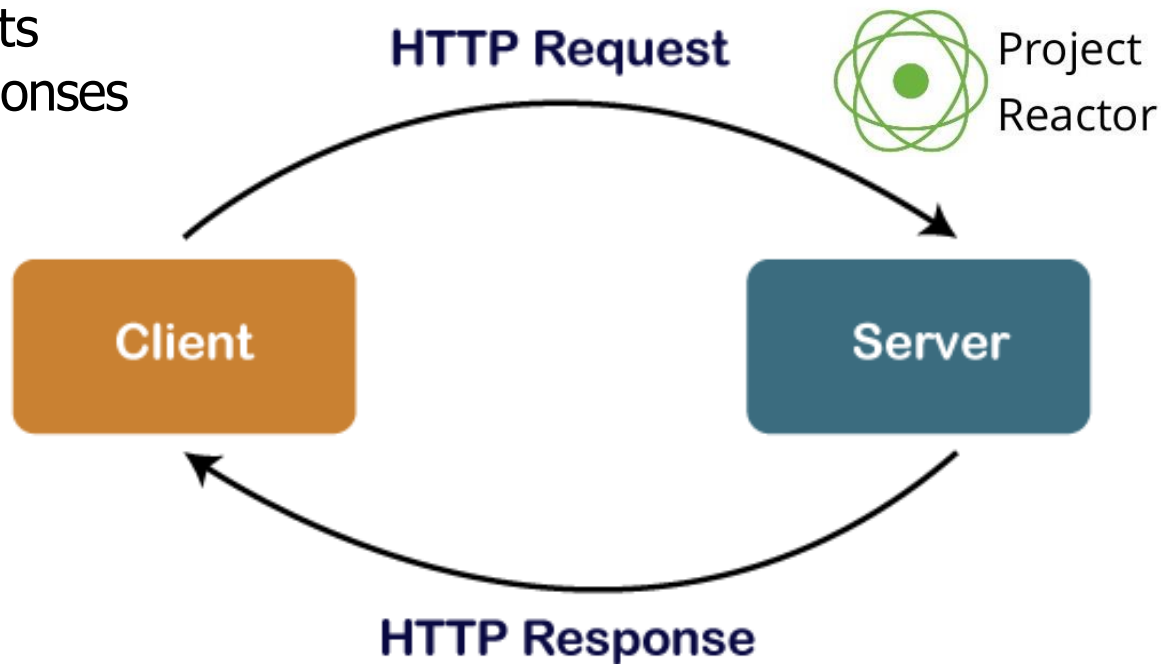


---

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses



See [docs.spring.io/spring-framework/docs/current/reference/html/web-reactive.html](https://docs.spring.io/spring-framework/docs/current/reference/html/web-reactive.html)

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
- WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints

```
Flux<Airport> airports = webClient
    .get()
    .uri(baseUrl + AIRPORT
        + "/" + AIRPORTS)
    .retrieve()
    .bodyToFlux(Airport.class);
```

```
Airport[] airports = restTemplate
    .getForEntity(baseUrl + AIRPORT + "/" + AIRPORTS,
        Airport[].class)
    .getBody();
```

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
- WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints

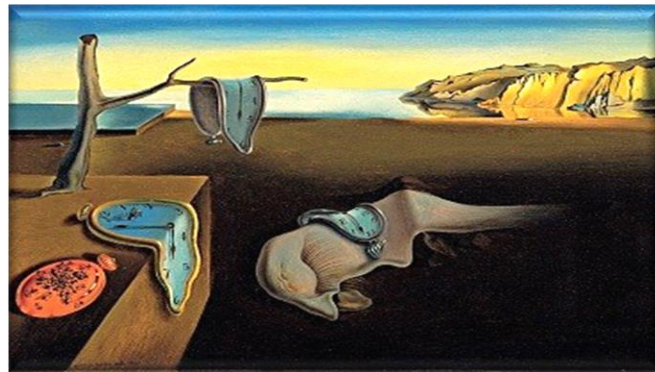
```
Flux<Airport> airports = webClient
    .get()
    .uri(baseUrl + AIRPORT
        + "/" + AIRPORTS)
    .retrieve()
    .bodyToFlux(Airport.class);
```

*Use auto-wired fields here!*

```
Airport[] airports = restTemplate
    .getForEntity(baseUrl + AIRPORT + "/" + AIRPORTS,
        Airport[].class)
    .getBody();
```

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
- WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints



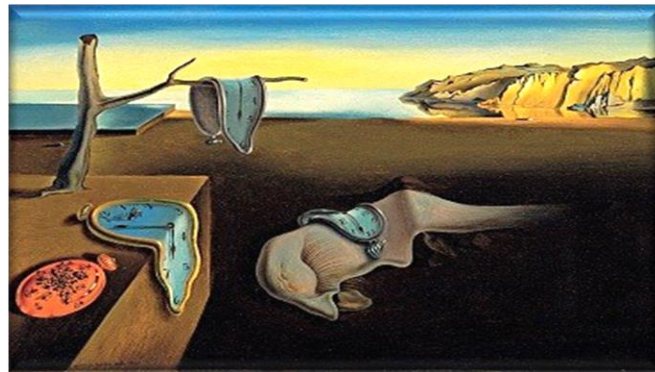
```
Airport[] airports = restTemplate
    .getForEntity(baseUrl + AIRPORT + "/" + AIRPORTS,
                  Airport[].class)
    .getBody();
```

*RestTemplate treats reactive types synchronously from the perspective of a client*

However, no changes are required on the (reactive) server side

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
- WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints



```
Airport[] airports = restTemplate
    .getForEntity(baseUrl + AIRPORT + "/" + AIRPORTS,
                  Airport[].class)
    .getBody();
```

```
Flux<Airports> Flux.fromIterable
    (airports != null ? List.of(airports) : Collections.emptyList());
```

*Easy to convert back  
to reactive types*

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
- WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints

```
Flux<Airport> airports = webClient
    .get()
    .uri(baseUrl + AIRPORT
        + "/" + AIRPORTS)
    .retrieve()
    .bodyToFlux(Airport.class);
```

*WebClient leverages reactive types more effectively since responses are emitted as soon as they are available*



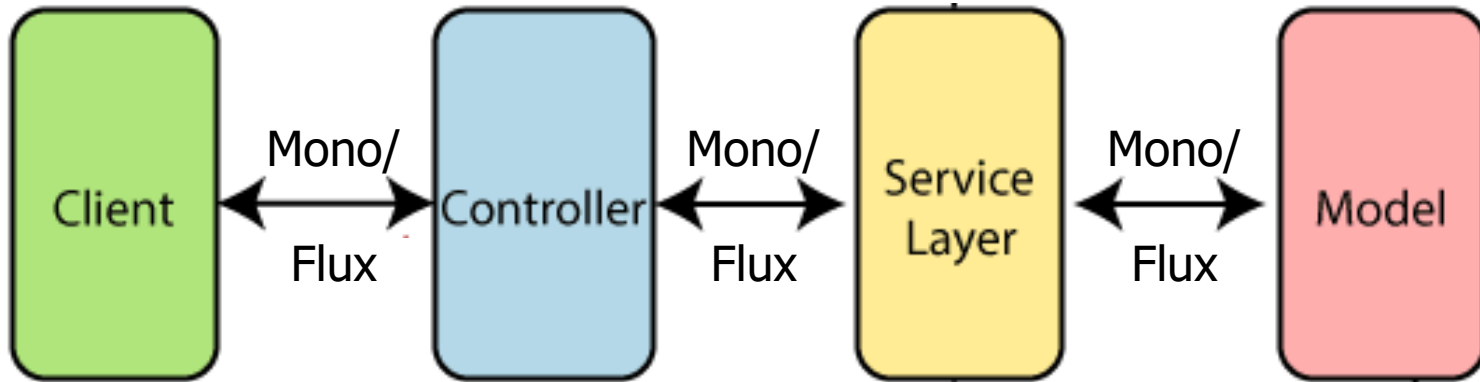
See [www.baeldung.com/spring-webflux-concurrency](http://www.baeldung.com/spring-webflux-concurrency)

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
- WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints

```
Flux<Airport> airports = webClient
    .get()
    .uri(baseUrl + AIRPORT
        + "/" + AIRPORTS)
    .retrieve()
    .bodyToFlux(Airport.class);
```

*WebClient also enables end-to-end asynchrony*



An HTTP request is not sent until `subscribe()` is called (& runs in thread pool)



# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
  - WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints
- JSon encoding/decoding is identical for reactive WebFlux Mono/Flux types or traditional WebMVC RefTypes/List types

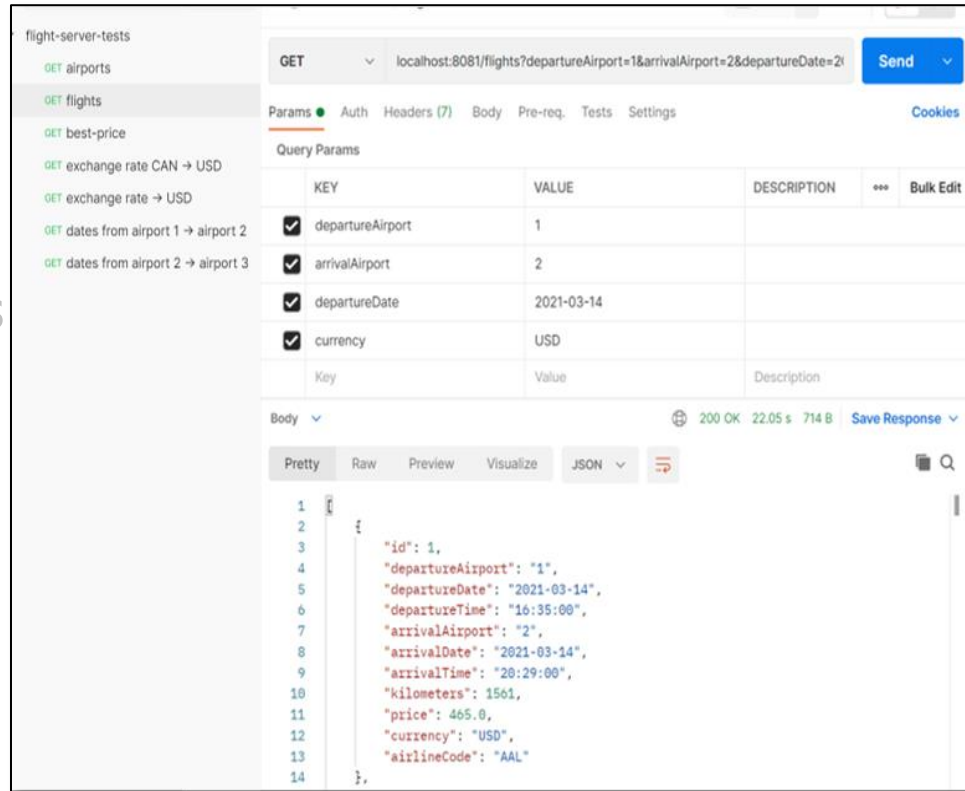


```
GET flighthost:8081/airports
```

```
[  
  {  
    "airportCode": "ALB",  
    "airportName": "Albany, NY"  
  },  
  {  
    "airportCode": "AMA",  
    "airportName": "Amarillo, TX"  
  },  
  {  
    "airportCode": "ATL",  
    "airportName": "Atlanta, GA"  
  }, ...  
]
```

# Accessing Mono & Flux Endpoints Seamlessly

- WebFlux Mono/Flux endpoints exchange HTTP requests/responses
  - WebClient or RestTemplate can send/receive HTTP requests/responses to/from reactive endpoints
- Json encoding/decoding is identical for reactive WebFlux Mono/Flux types or traditional WebMVC RefTypes/List types
  - Tools like Postman can thus work seamlessly with either



See [www.postman.com](https://www.postman.com)

---

# End of Overview of Spring WebMVC & WebFlux