

# Overview of the Overflow Strategies in the Project Reactor Flux Class

**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 Part of the Lesson

- Understand key classes in the Project Reactor API
- Know how Project Reactor Flux supports backpressure
- Recognize the Flux overflow strategies

```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## *Enum Constant Summary*

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

##### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

##### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

##### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

##### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

##### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

---

# Overview of Flux Over flow Strategies

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received

```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## Enum Constant Summary

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

##### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

##### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

##### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

##### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

##### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

See [projectreactor.io/docs/core/release/api/reactor/core/publisher/FluxSink.OverflowStrategy.html](https://projectreactor.io/docs/core/release/api/reactor/core/publisher/FluxSink.OverflowStrategy.html)

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received

*All values are buffered so that subscriber can receive all values*



```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## Enum Constant Summary

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

#### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

#### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

#### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

#### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

#### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

May cause some delays in processing, but won't lose values (until memory is exhausted)

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received

*Drop most recent onNext() value if down stream can't keep up because its too slow*



```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## Enum Constant Summary

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

##### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

##### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

##### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

##### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

##### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received



*Throw `OverflowException` if the downstream can't keep up due to slowness (the documentation is incorrect here)*

```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## Enum Constant Summary

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

##### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

##### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

##### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

##### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

##### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

See [chat.openai.com/share/e347ec9d-ec85-47fc-9d40-b5b7928b1b7a](https://chat.openai.com/share/e347ec9d-ec85-47fc-9d40-b5b7928b1b7a)



# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received

*There is no buffering or dropping, so Subscriber(s) must handle overflow or they will receive an error*



```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## Enum Constant Summary

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

##### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

##### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

##### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

##### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

##### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

See [chat.openai.com/share/26d464f0-2f9a-46b6-8012-ea55bebc3113](https://chat.openai.com/share/26d464f0-2f9a-46b6-8012-ea55bebc3113)



# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received

*Only keep latest onNext() value, over writing previous value if downstream can't keep up because it's too slow*



```
public static enum FluxSink.OverflowStrategy  
extends Enum<FluxSink.OverflowStrategy>
```

Enumeration for backpressure handling.

## Enum Constant Summary

### Enum Constants

#### Enum Constant and Description

##### **BUFFER**

Buffer all signals if the downstream can't keep up.

##### **DROP**

Drop the incoming signal if the downstream is not ready to receive it.

##### **ERROR**

Signal an `IllegalStateException` when the downstream can't keep up

##### **IGNORE**

Completely ignore downstream backpressure requests.

##### **LATEST**

Downstream will get only the latest signals from upstream.

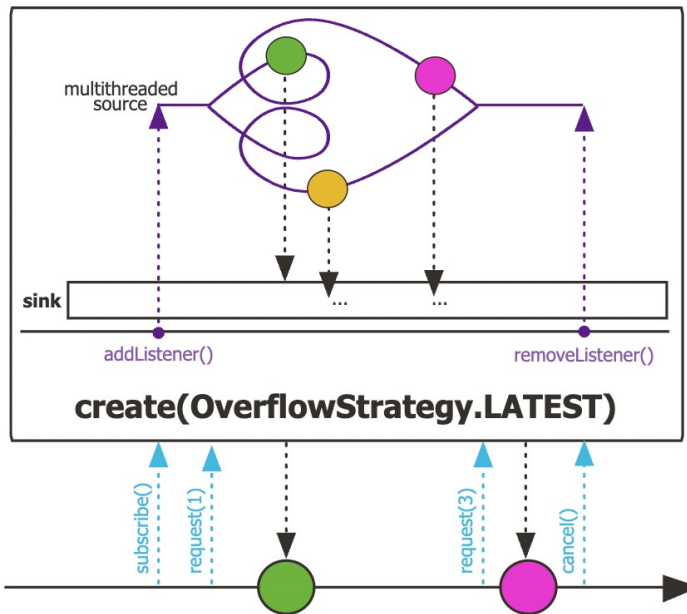
This strategy effectively has a "buffer" of size one..

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
- These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the Flux.create() operator

```
public static <T> Flux<T> create(Consumer<? super FluxSink<T>> emitter,  
                                FluxSink.OverflowStrategy backpressure)
```

Programmatically create a Flux with the capability of emitting multiple elements in a synchronous or asynchronous manner through the FluxSink API. This includes emitting elements from multiple threads.



This Flux factory is useful if one wants to adapt some other multi-valued async API and not worry about cancellation and backpressure (which is handled by buffering all signals if the downstream can't keep up).

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
- These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the Flux.create() operator
- Specify the overflow mode to apply if Subscriber can't keep up with Publisher

## Flux

```
.create (makeEmitter (count ,  
                                sb) ,
```

```
    FluxSink
```

```
    .OverflowStrategy  
    .ERROR)
```

```
.flatMap (bf1 ->  
          multiplyFraction (bf1 ,  
                            sBigReducedFraction ,  
                            Schedulers.parallel () ,  
                            sb) )
```

```
.subscribe  
  (blockingSubscriber) ;
```

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
- These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the Flux.create() operator
- Specify the overflow mode to apply if Subscriber can't keep up with Publisher

*Rapidly emit a stream of random BigFraction objects in one fell swoop*

```
Flux
    .create (makeEmitter (count ,
                        sb) ,
            FluxSink
                .OverflowStrategy
                    .ERROR)
    .flatMap (bf1 ->
        multiplyFraction (bf1 ,
            sBigReducedFraction ,
            Schedulers.parallel () ,
            sb) )
    .subscribe
        (blockingSubscriber) ;
```

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
- These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the Flux.create() operator
- Specify the overflow mode to apply if Subscriber can't keep up with Publisher

*Throw exception when events can't be processed immediately*

Flux

```
.create (makeEmitter (count ,  
sb) ,
```

**FluxSink**

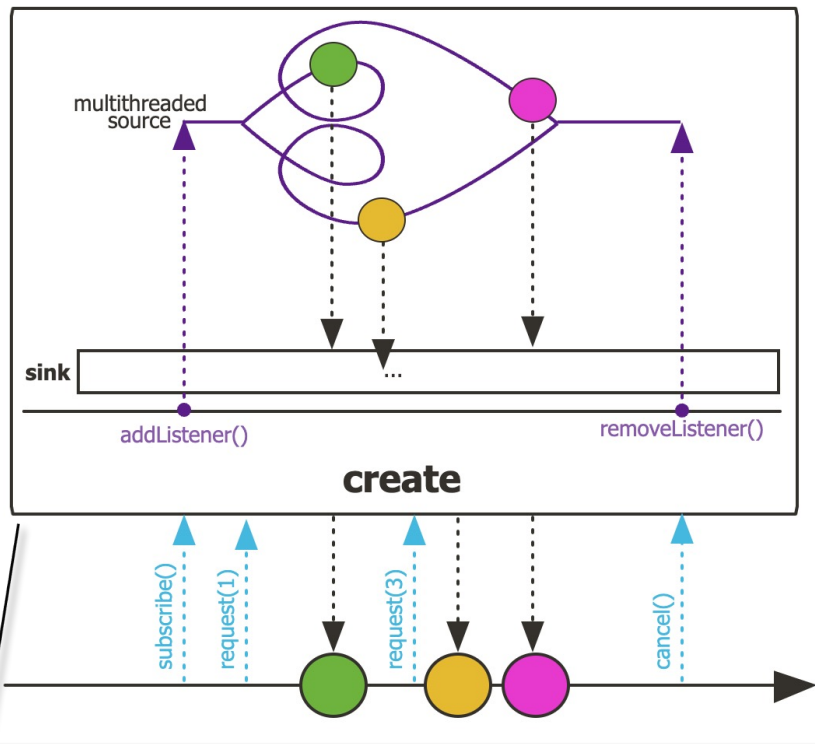
```
.OverflowStrategy  
.ERROR)
```

```
.flatMap (bf1 ->  
multiplyFraction (bf1 ,  
sBigReducedFraction ,  
Schedulers.parallel () ,  
sb) )
```

```
.subscribe  
(blockingSubscriber) ;
```

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
- These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the Flux.create() operator
  - Specify the overflow mode to apply if Subscriber can't keep up with Publisher
- This operator is different than the one param version of Flux.create()



*This Flux.create() operator just buffers all signals & does not support other backpressure strategies*

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
  - These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the `Flux.create()` operator
- They can also be provided via other Flux `onBackpressure*`() operators

- I want to deal with backpressure "errors" (request max from upstream and apply the strategy when downstream does not produce enough request)...
  - by throwing a special `IllegalStateException`:  
`Flux#onBackpressureError`
  - by dropping excess values: `Flux#onBackpressureDrop`
    - ...except the last one seen: `Flux#onBackpressureLatest`
  - by buffering excess values (bounded or unbounded):  
`Flux#onBackpressureBuffer`
    - ...and applying a strategy when bounded buffer also overflows: `Flux#onBackpressureBuffer` with a `BufferOverflowStrategy`

See [projectreactor.io/docs/core/release/reference/#which.errors](https://projectreactor.io/docs/core/release/reference/#which.errors)



# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

---

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
  - These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the `Flux.create()` operator
  - They can also be provided via other Flux `onBackpressure*`() operators
    - `onBackpressureDrop()`
      - Ignore all streamed items that can't be processed until down stream can accept more of them

`component`

```
.mouseMoves ()  
.onBackpressureDrop ()  
.publishOn  
    (Schedulers.parallel (),  
     1)  
.subscribe (event ->  
             compute (event.x,  
                     event.y) ) ;
```

---

See [Flux.html#onBackpressureDrop](https://fluxframework.org/flux/html/#onBackpressureDrop)

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

---

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
  - These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the `Flux.create()` operator
  - They can also be provided via other Flux `onBackpressure*`() operators
    - `onBackpressureLatest()`
      - Like the DROP strategy, but it keeps the last emitted item

`component`

```
.mouseClicks ()  
.onBackpressureLatest ()  
.publishOn  
    (Schedulers.parallel ())  
.subscribe (event ->  
            compute (event.x,  
                    event.y) ,  
                Throwable::  
                printStackTrace) ;
```

---

See [Flux.html#onBackpressureLatest](https://flux.html#onBackpressureLatest)

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

---

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
  - These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the `Flux.create()` operator
  - They can also be provided via other Flux `onBackpressure*`() operators
    - `onBackpressureBuffer()`
      - Creates a buffer to hold emitted items that can't be processed by downstream

## Flux

```
.range(1, 1_000_000)
.onBackpressureBuffer
  (16,
   BufferOverflowStrategy
    .DROP_OLDEST)
.publishOn
  (Schedulers.parallel())
.subscribe(e -> { },
          Throwable::
            printStackTrace);
```

---

See [Flux.html#onBackpressureBuffer](https://flux.rproject.io/html/#onBackpressureBuffer)

# Overview of Flux Overflow Strategies

- Flux overflow strategies say how to handle emitted items that can't be processed as fast as they're received
  - These strategies can be provided via the two param version of the `Flux.create()` operator
  - They can also be provided via other Flux `onBackpressure*`() operators
    - `onBackpressureBuffer()`
      - Creates a buffer to hold emitted items that can't be processed by downstream
        - Buffer can be bounded or unbounded

Flux

```
.range(1, 1_000_000)
.onBackpressureBuffer
  (16,
   BufferOverflowStrategy
    .DROP_OLDEST)
.publishOn
  (Schedulers.parallel())
.subscribe(e -> { },
          Throwable::
            printStackTrace);
```

*When buffer is full, remove oldest element from it & offer new element at end instead*

---

# End of Overview of Overflow Strategies in the Project Reactor Flux Class