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WebSocket in Enterprise apps

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Oracle
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Program Agenda

- 1 Evolution – REST, Polling, SSE, WebSocket
- 2 Does HTTP/2 make WebSocket obsolete?
- 3 When to use WebSocket
- 4 Java EE – WebSocket API
- 5 Advanced architectures/usecases

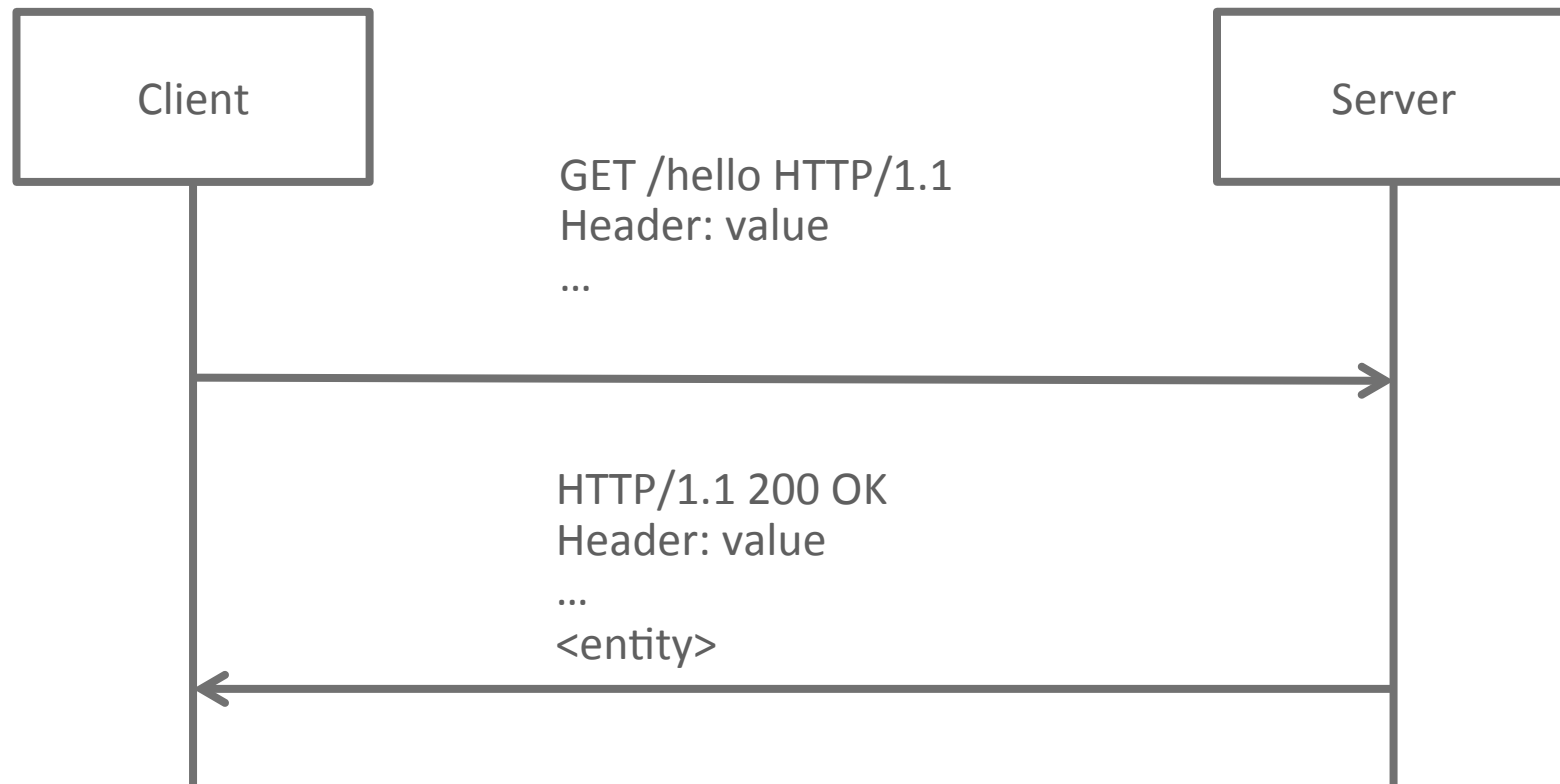
Evolution – REST

Representational State Transfer

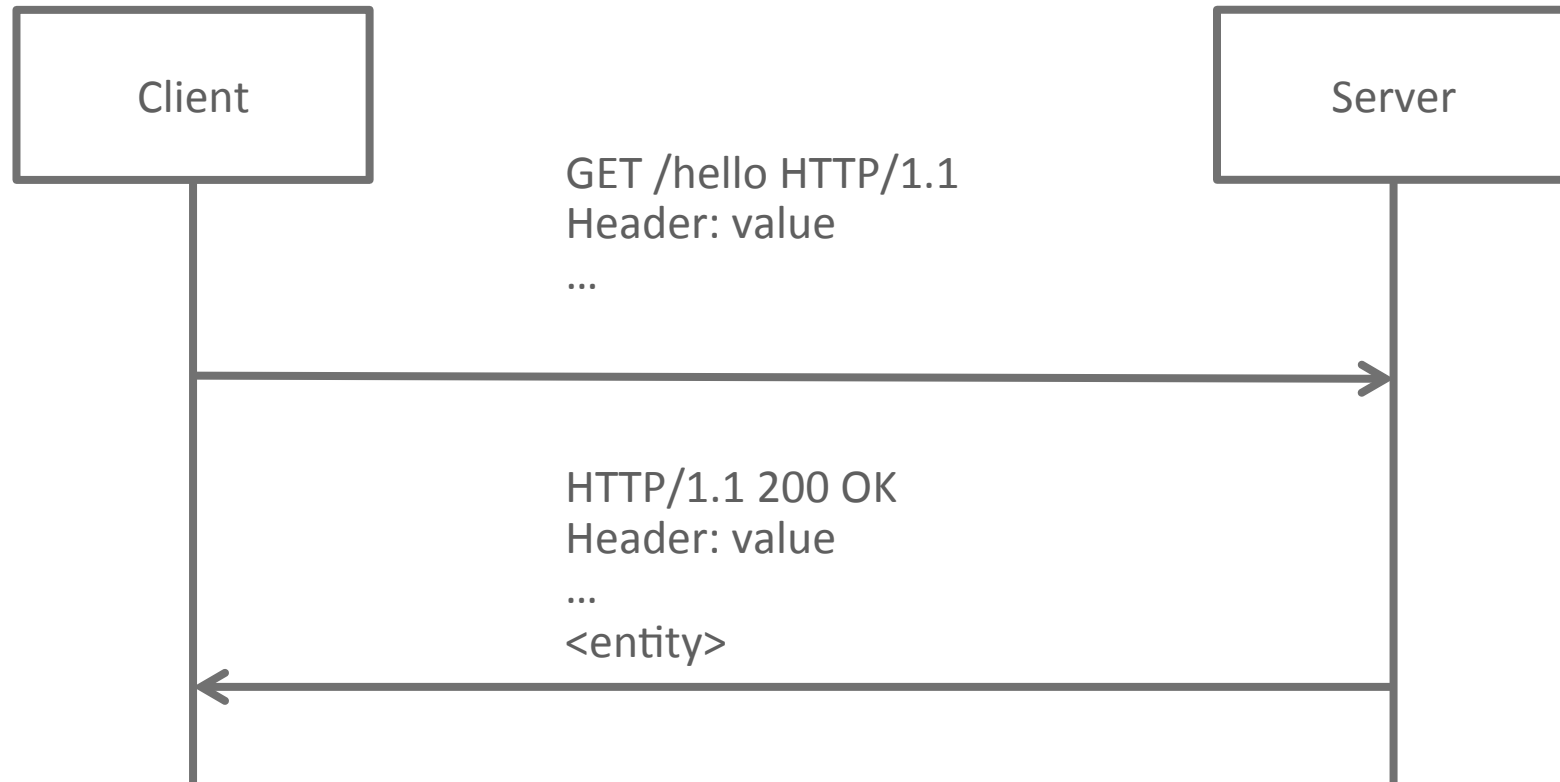
- Basic software architecture / scheme
- Exposes Resources (URIs), which handle METHODS
 - GET/PUT/POST/DELETE/HEAD/OPTIONS/TRACE/PATCH/...
- MediaType (Accept/Content-Type)
 - text/plain, text/html, application/json, ...
- Caching (GET, HEAD), Hyperlinking, ...
- REST effectively replaces SOAP
 - Simple Object Access Protocol

Evolution – REST

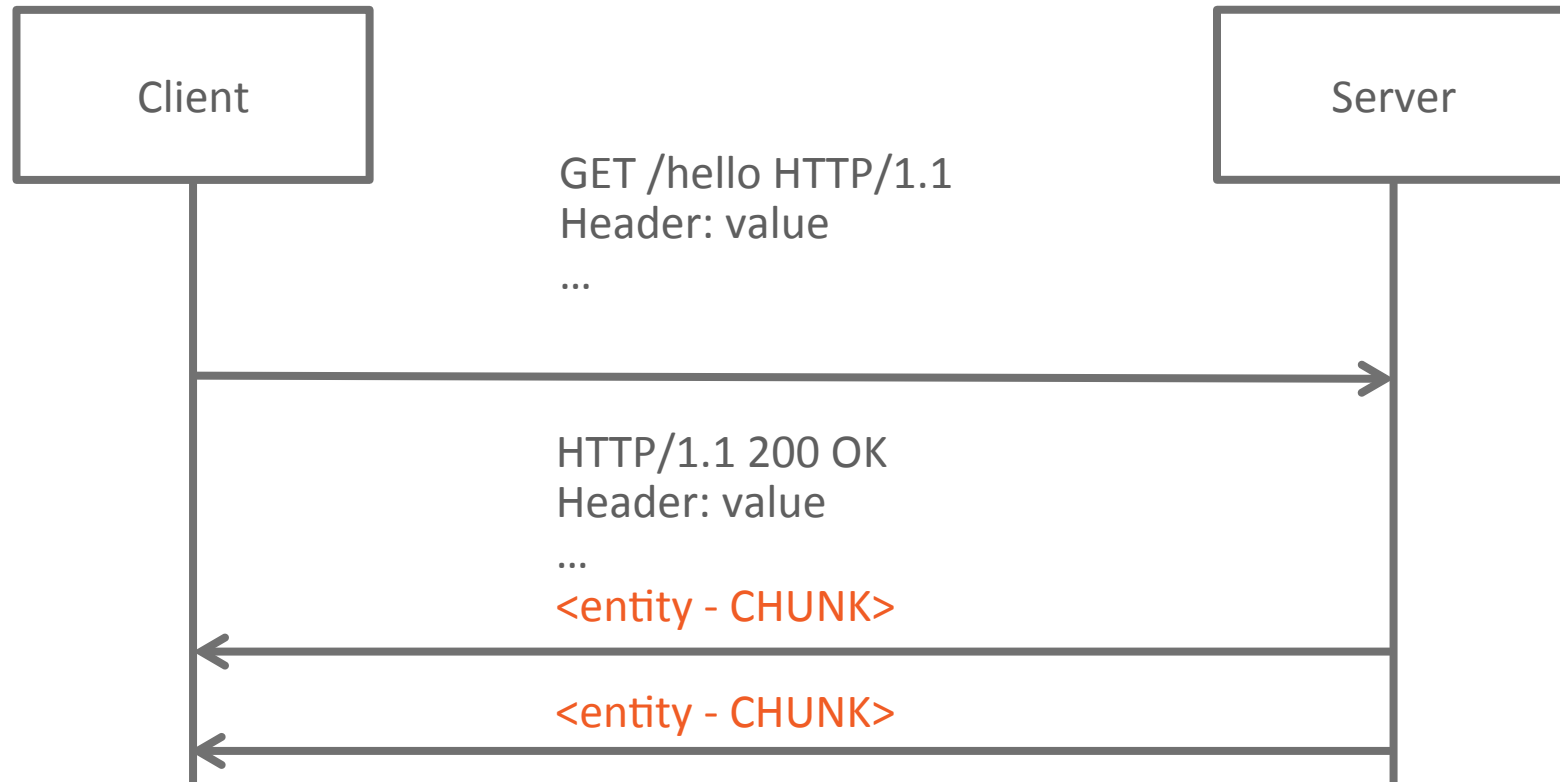
Representational State Transfer



Evolution – Polling



Evolution – Long-Polling



Evolution – SSE

Server Sent Events

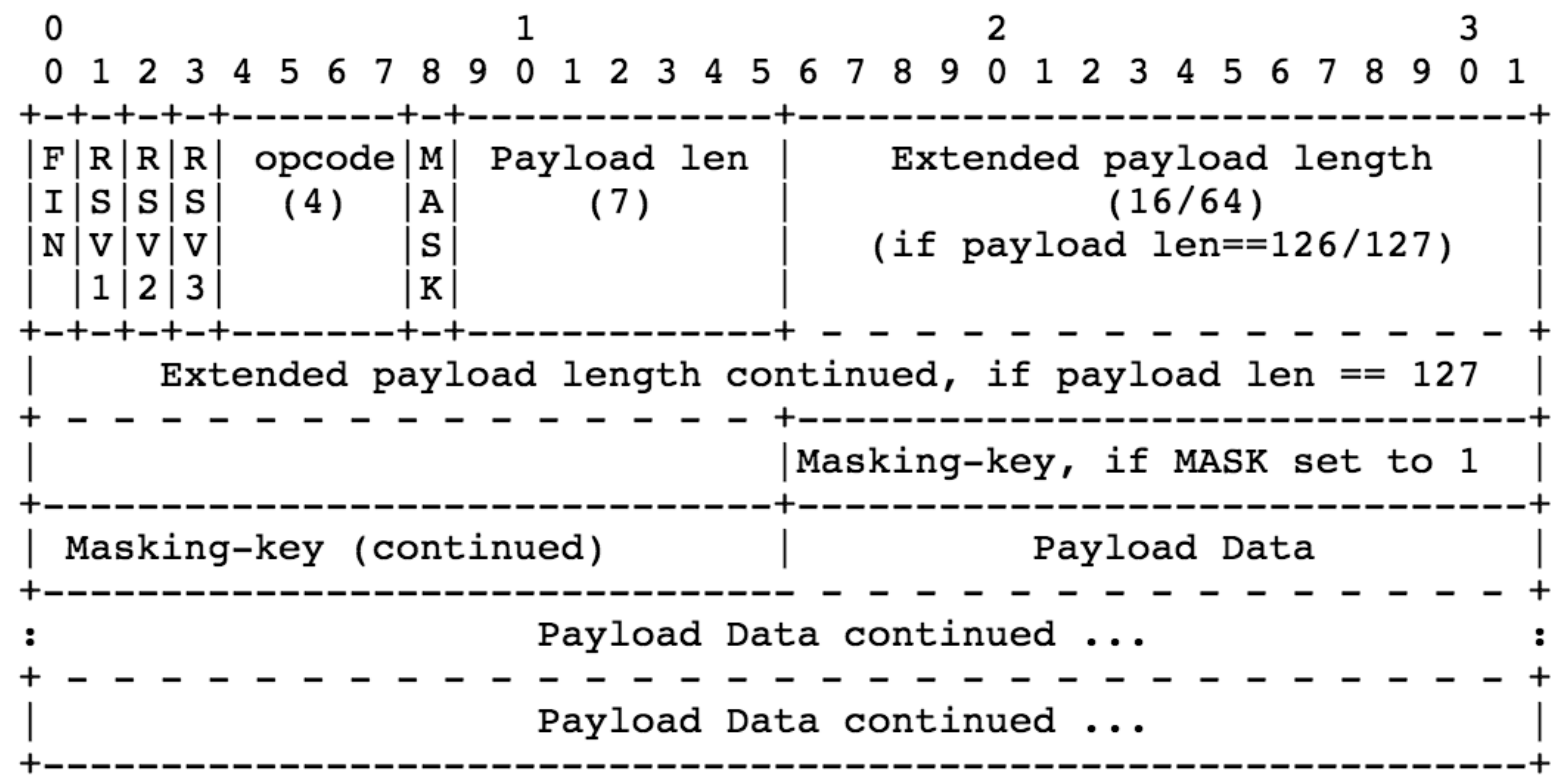
- Channel for sending events from server to the client
- One-way, text protocol
- Very similar to long polling
 - (actually, it's exactly same, but this time it has own RFC)
- Accept: text/event-stream
- Semi-permanent connection
 - Clients are required to reconnect when the connection is lost
- Limited browser support (no IE, no Android)

Evolution – WebSocket

- RFC 6455 (December 2011)
- Bi-directional communication
- Uses HTTP/1.1 for initial handshake
 - Completely different protocol afterwards
- “Server” and “client” endpoints are equal after handshake
- Text or **binary** payload
- Supported in all modern browsers

Evolution – WebSocket

WebSocket Frame



WebSocket vs REST

- Might seem to be similar and some people even think about WebSocket as about another “Revolution” – like SOAP --> REST
- In reality, these are two different concepts which **COMPLEMENT** each other.
- REST can be still used for most of the implementation part – web, forms, ...
- WebSocket provides bi-directional channel, suitable for exchanging “short” messages with the browser.
 - (the scope is not limited, you can re-implement all your communication with server, but there is no point in doing that..)

WebSocket vs HTTP/2

HTTP/2 Key Features

- Same semantics as HTTP/1.1
- Binary protocol
- Multiplexed protocol
 - Single TCP connection to single origin, shared for consequent/parallel requests
- Compressed headers
 - HTTP/2 introduces HPACK (compression algorithm)
- Server Push
 - Server can push (cacheable) content to the client before client asks

WebSocket vs HTTP/2

WebSocket vs Server push

- Pushed resources are cached on client side
- When client decides it needs something (image, ..), it looks into the cache
 - Doesn't need to be image, but all cool demos are using that (remember SPDY)
- Server push has its own issues
 - What if client does not need pushed resource? (there might be other caches, ...)
- Push is not “interactive” message exchange

WebSocket and HTTP/2

Standards..

- Currently, WebSocket is not defined in HTTP/2 world
- WebSocket uses UPGRADE header, which gives complete control over TCP connection
- HTTP/2 Streams could support WS multiplex



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-hirano-httpbis-websocket-over-http2-01>. Below the address bar, there are links: [\[Docs\]](#), [\[txt|pdf\]](#), [\[Tracker\]](#), [\[Email\]](#), [\[Diff1\]](#), [\[Diff2\]](#), and [\[Nits\]](#). Below these links, it says "Versions: [00](#) [01](#)". At the bottom of the page, there is a table with the following information:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| HTTPbis Working Group | Y. Hirano |
| Internet-Draft | Google, Inc. |
| Intended status: Standards Track | August 12, 2014 |
| Expires: February 13, 2015 | |

WebSocket over HTTP/2
draft-hirano-httpbis-websocket-over-http2-01

When to use WebSocket

- Bi-directional communication
 - “messaging”
- Interactive applications
 - Any time, you need fast data exchange with the backend
- Time-critical data delivery
 - Stock quotes

WebSocket usecases

- Chat-like applications
 - Various implementations options
 - XMPP (Jabber) over WebSocket
- Trading and transactions
 - Fast feedback/execution
- Real-time monitoring
 - Depends on the data source
 - Interaction with monitored object
 - (SSE?)
- Remote control
 - Input with “real-time” feedback
 - From industry application to fun apps
- Games
 - HTML5 “native” transport
 - Supported by improvements in browsers 2D/3D canvas support
- General collaboration
 - Customer service, Social apps, ...

WebSocket usecases

Subprotocols

- RFC 7118 – SIP over WebSocket
- RFC 7355 – SIP & CLF (Common Log Format) over WebSocket
- RFC 7395 – XMPP over WebSocket
- Drafts
 - MSRP (Message Session Relay Protocol) over WebSocket
 - SDP (Session Description Protocol) over WebSocket
 - Remote Framebuffer Protocol over WebSocket
 - <anything> over WebSocket

Java API for WebSocket

- JSR 356 – Part of Java EE 7
 - 1.0 (May 2013)
 - 1.1 (August 2014)
- Annotated and programmatic way how to deploy and access WebSocket endpoints
- Event-driven model - `@OnOpen`, `@OnMessage`, `@OnError`, `@OnClose`
- Encoders/Decoders, Path/Query parameter handling, Handshake headers interceptors, CDI integration, ...

Java API for WebSocket – Annotated Endpoint

```
@ServerEndpoint("/echo")
public class EchoEndpoint {

    @OnOpen
    public void onOpen(Session session) throws IOException {
        session.getBasicRemote().sendText("onOpen");
    }

    @OnMessage
    public void echo(Session session, String message) throws IOException {
        session.getBasicRemote().sendText(message + " (from your server)");
        session.close();
    }

    @OnError
    public void onError(Throwable t) {
        t.printStackTrace();
    }
}
```

Java API for WebSocket – Programmatic Endpoint

```
public class EchoProgrammaticEndpoint extends Endpoint {  
    @Override  
    public void onOpen(final Session session, EndpointConfig config) {  
        session.addMessageHandler(String.class, new MessageHandler.Whole<String>() {  
            @Override  
            public void onMessage(String message) {  
                try {  
                    session.getBasicRemote().sendText(message + " (from your server)");  
                    session.close();  
                } catch (IOException e) {  
                    e.printStackTrace();  
                }  
            }  
        });  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public void onError(Session session, Throwable thr) {  
        thr.printStackTrace();  
    }  
}
```


WebSocket vs Java 9 / JDK 1.9

Lambdas, WebSocket client

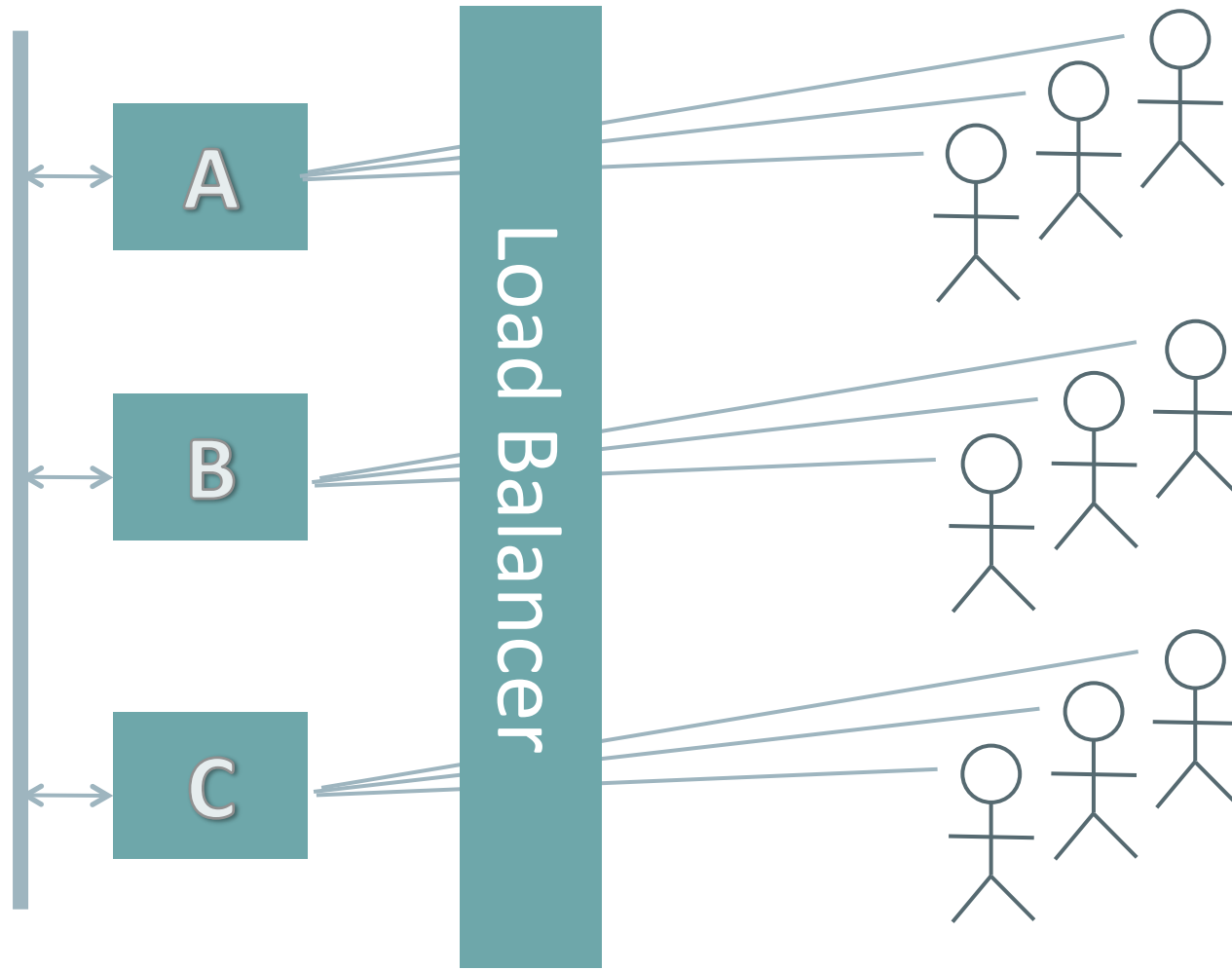
- Some classes in the WebSocket API could be replaced / disassembled to separate Java 8 Consumer<T>s
 - MessageHandlers already can be written as lambda functions
- Default Methods, CompletionStage<T>, Method Parameter Reflection, Streams, ...
- JDK 9 – JEP 110: HTTP/2 Client: <http://openjdk.java.net/jeps/110>
 - *Define a new HTTP client API that implements HTTP/2 and WebSocket, ...*

WebSocket and Clustering

- Different to “classic” cluster
 - We’d like to talk to other sessions (clients) directly
- Clustered environment present different challenges
 - “Finding a WebSocket Session” might not be as trivial as it seem
- Broadcast (mass-notification) is common usecase
- Clustering can help
 - Broadcasting to “all sessions” can be faster in clustered environment

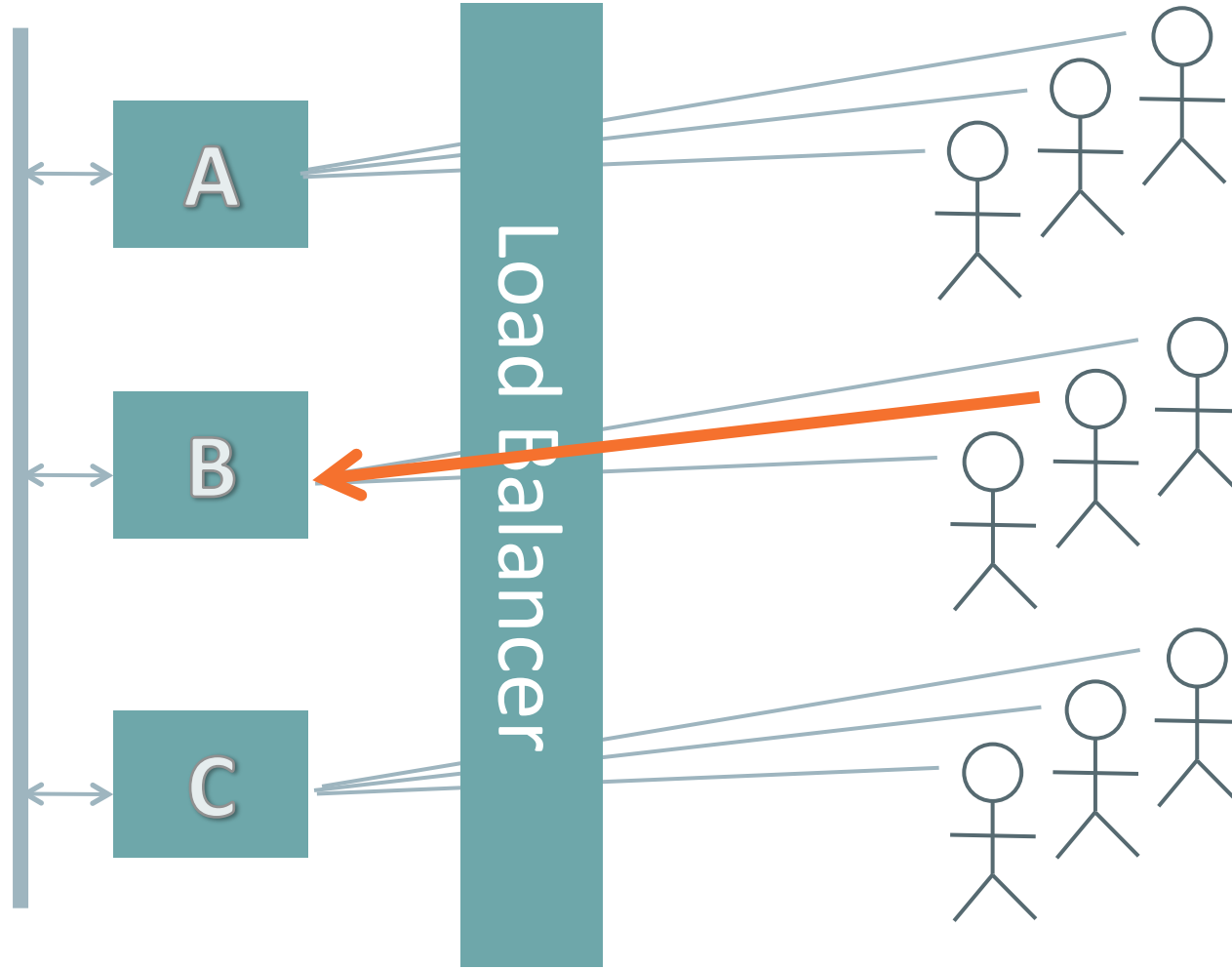
WebSocket and Clustering

JMS,
JCache,
Coherence,
...



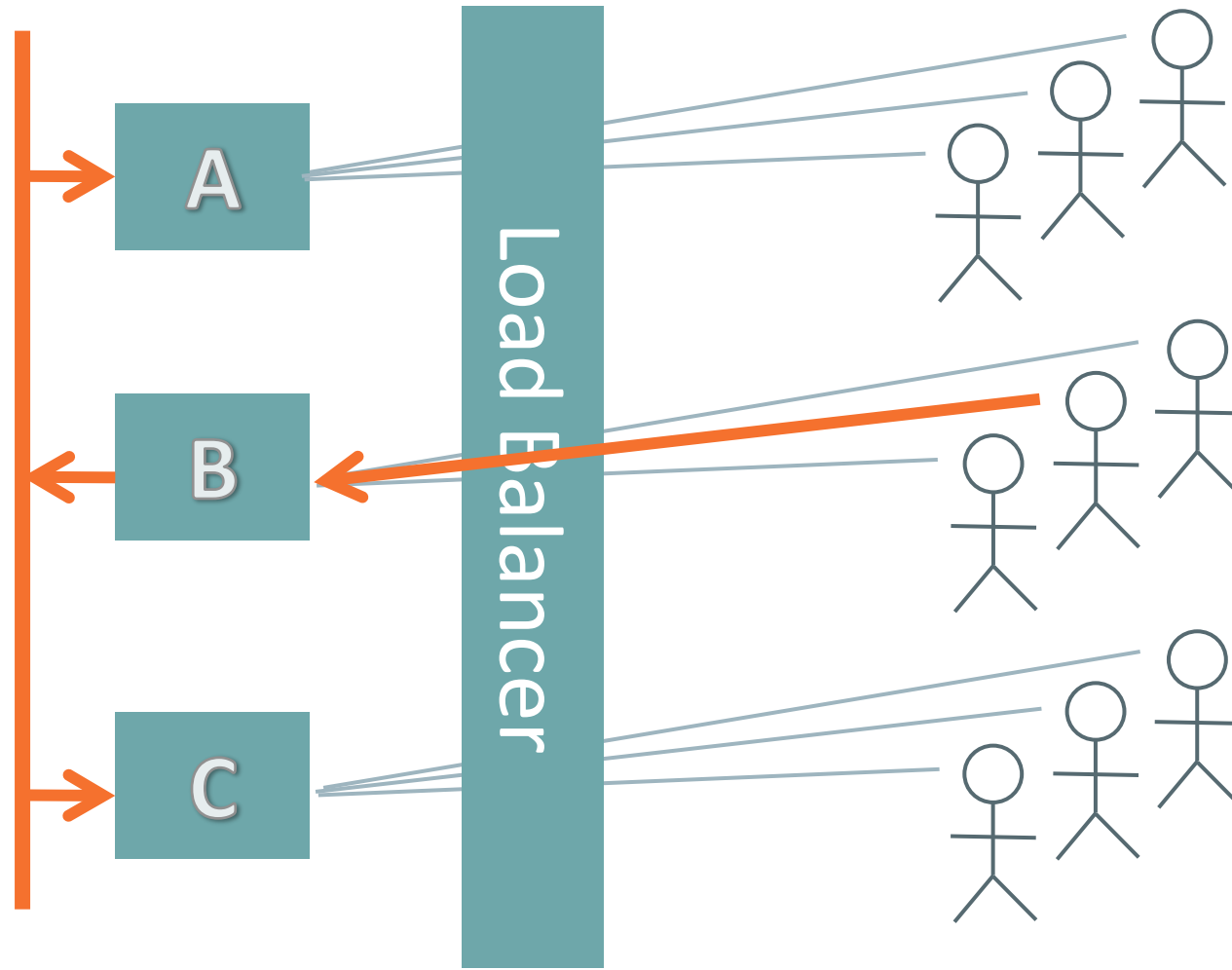
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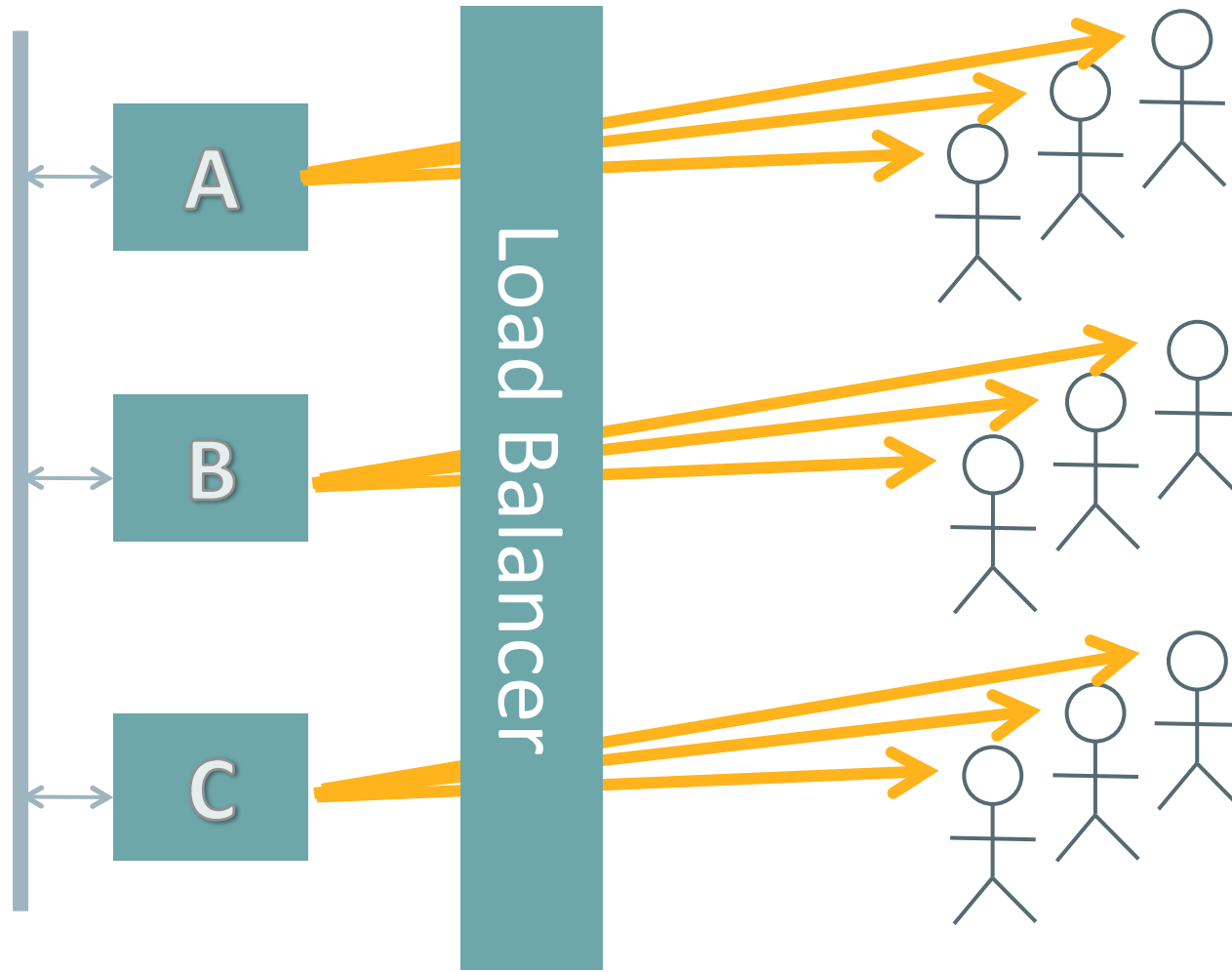
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WebSocket and Clustering

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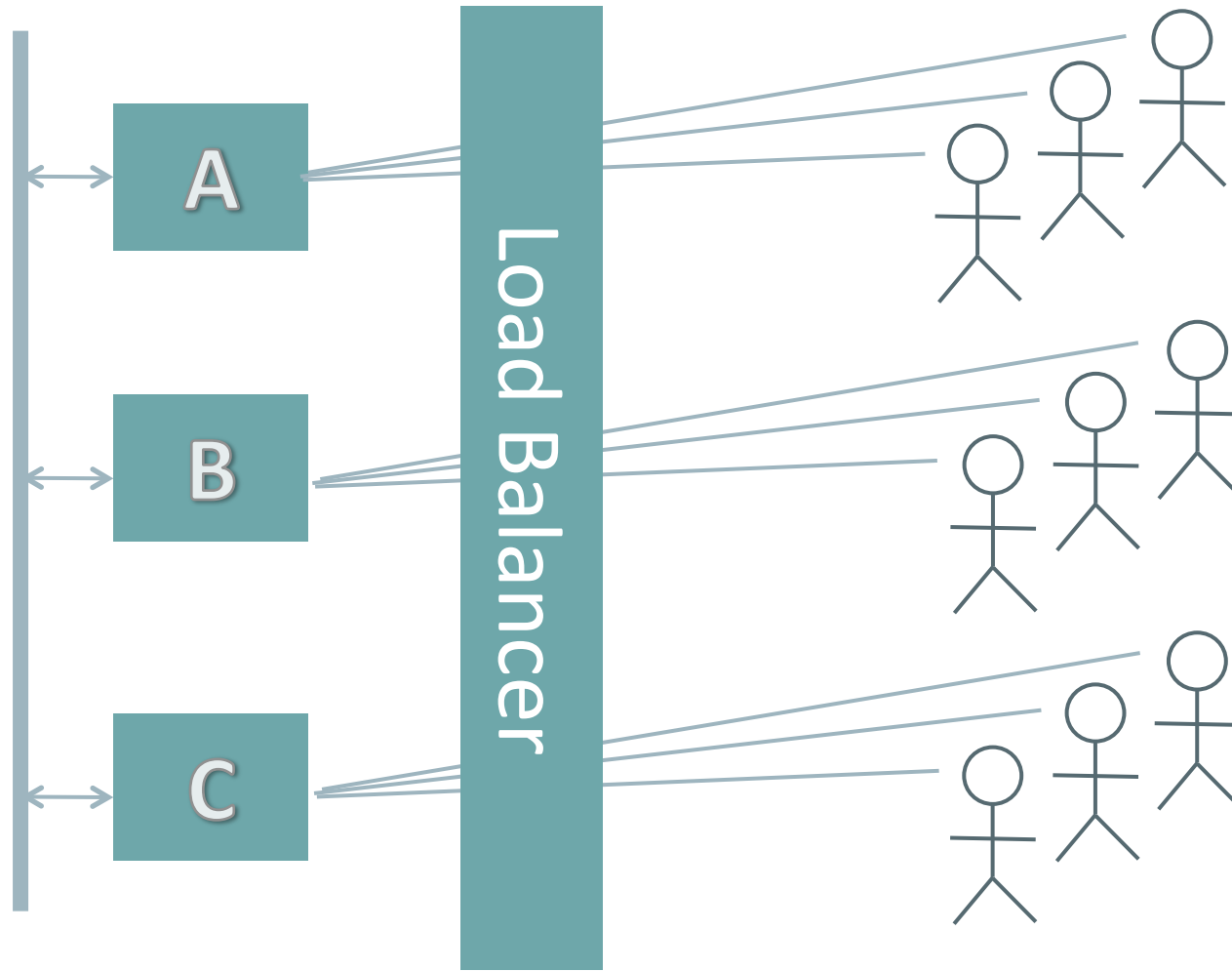


WebSocket and Clustering

- Different requirements
- Load balancers will need to manage more open connections
- Cannot re-balance when session is already created
 - Node is added – ok, but I cannot easily decrease load on other nodes, I can use the new node only for new connections
- Node going down is not transparent to client
 - Robust clients can hide this, but for now, this requires custom solution
 - WLS 12.2.1 offers a solution for this..

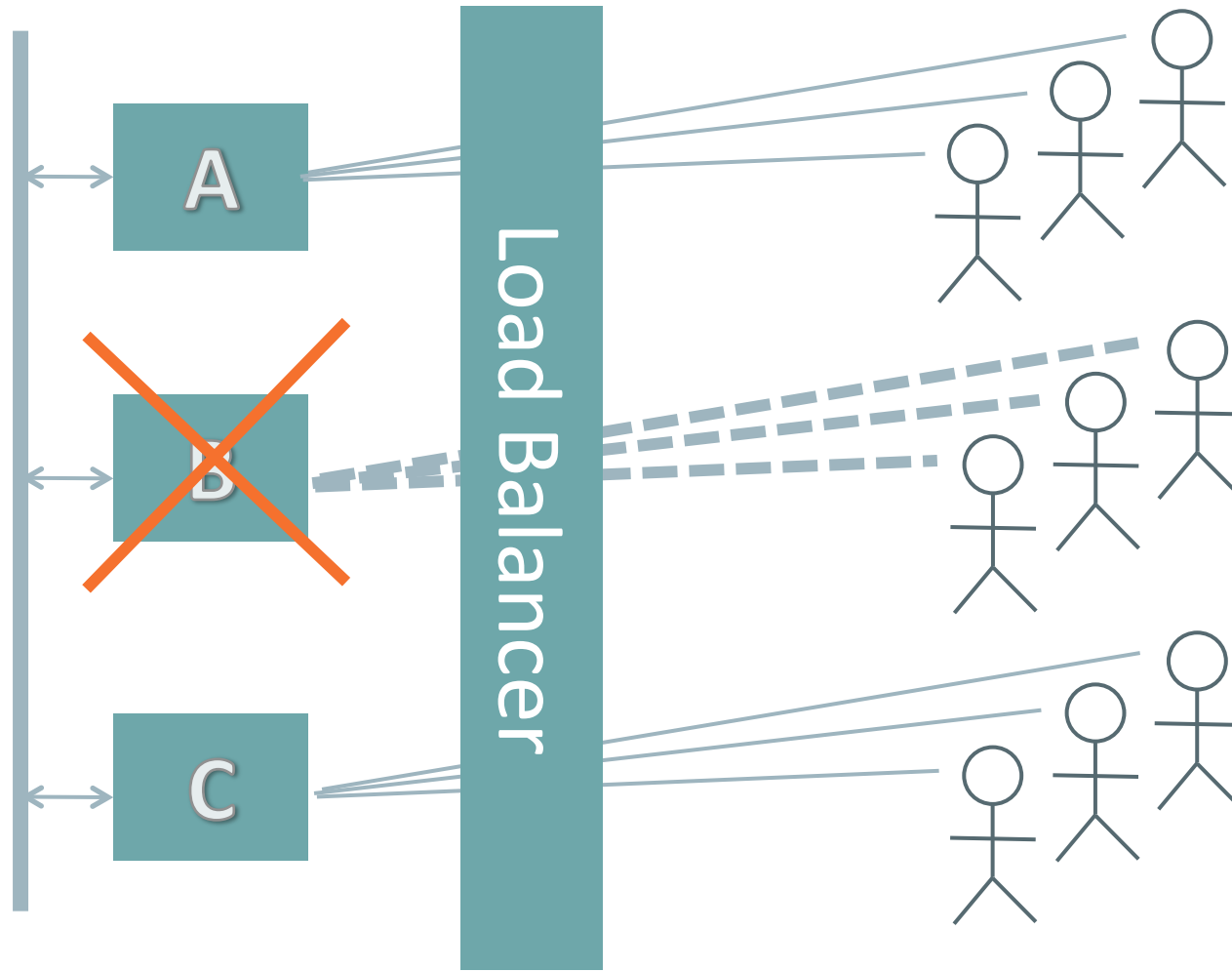
WebSocket and Clustering

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WebSocket and Clustering

JMS,
JCache,
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...



WebSocket and Clustering

- Might require more application code
 - Proper handling on client side
 - Even more code when you want to have something like auto reconnect + “session recovery”
- Infrastructure requirements
 - Similar to SSL (persistent connection, ...)
- Much more effective when compared to the same app implemented using long-polling

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