

TorqueBox

The Ruby Application Platform

2.0.0.beta3

by The TorqueBox Project

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What is TorqueBox?

TorqueBox provides an enterprise-grade environment that not only provides complete Ruby-on-Rails and Rack compatibility, but also goes beyond the functionality offered in traditional Rails/Rack environments.

1. Built upon JBoss AS

Instead of building a Ruby Application Platform from the ground-up, TorqueBox leverages the existing ninja-grade functionality JBoss has been shipping for years in the JBoss Application Server. JBoss AS includes high-performance clustering, caching and messaging functionality. By building Ruby capabilities on top of this foundation, your Ruby applications gain more capabilities right out-of-the-box.

2. Built upon JRuby

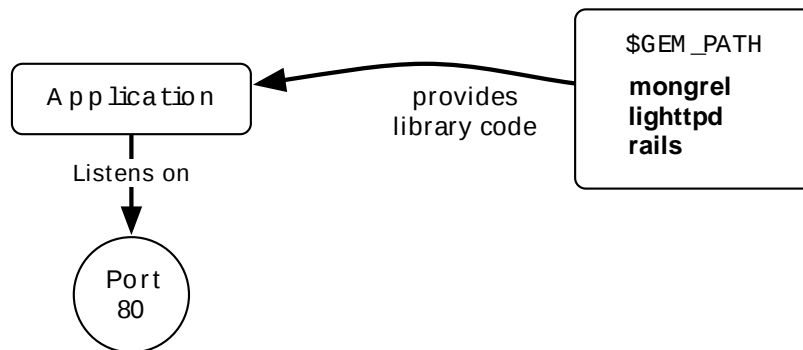
JRuby is a fast, compliant implementation of the Ruby language upon the Java Virtual Machine. Pure Ruby applications run un-modified within the JRuby interpreter. By binding JRuby to the components within JBoss, their functionality is exposed in a manner suitable to Rubyists.

3. Open-Source

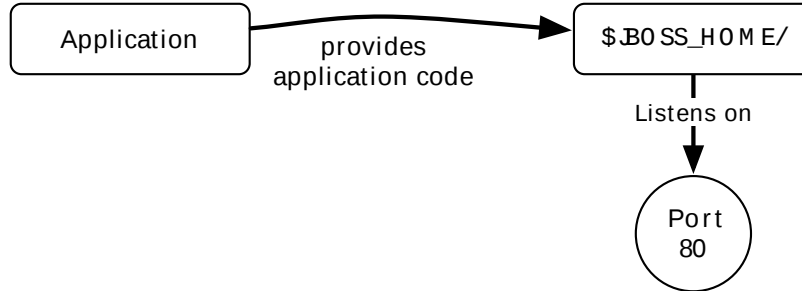
TorqueBox is a product of the JBoss Community, and is completely open-source software. TorqueBox is licensed under the LGPL. You may download the binaries or the source-code, modify it if you desire, and use it, even for profit, without any licensing costs.

4. The "application platform" concept

Traditionally, Ruby applications were responsible for their services from the ground-up. You literally ran the application. It would import support libraries to handle HTTP listening, for example.



An application platform provides the foundations for any and all application functionality. The deliverable application itself does not need to handle the networking layers, the messaging facilities or the clustering logic. This is provided to the application "for free".



TorqueBox Installation

1. Installation using RubyGems

TorqueBox 2 can be installed entirely as a RubyGem. For details, please see [Chapter 18, torquebox-server Gem](#). TorqueBox can also be installed from a binary distribution as described below.

2. Installation using Complete Binary Distribution

The latest Complete Binary Distribution contains:

- The TorqueBox server, ready-to-run
- A complete JRuby installation
- Additional RubyGems for use in other contexts

Note: these instructions assume you are running on a unix-like system. If you are using Windows, you will need to adjust the file-system paths and environment variables accordingly.

2.1. Ensure you have Java 6

TorqueBox requires Java JDK 6.

To determine which version, if any, is installed on your system, at a command-line, attempt to run the `java` command with the `-version` argument.

```
$ java -version
java version "1.6.0_07"
Java(TM) SE Runtime Environment (build 1.6.0_07-b06-153)
Java HotSpot(TM) 64-Bit Server VM (build 1.6.0_07-b06-57, mixed mode)
```

If the version is at least 1.6, your version of Java is sufficient.

If you have no Java installed, or a version less than 1.6, you'll need to install a Java Development Kit. For many systems, it is easy to install the open-source OpenJDK.

For installation on Ubuntu, Fedora, OpenSuse, or Debian, please refer to the [installation instructions provided](http://openjdk.java.net/install/) [http://openjdk.java.net/install/] by the OpenJDK project. If you find a `java` on your system, ensure that it is not actually `gcj`. The `gcj` is insufficient for running the TorqueBox server.

For Apple OSX systems, Apple provides a JDK version 6.

2.2. Get the latest version of TorqueBox binary package

You can obtain the latest version of TorqueBox from the TorqueBox repository. As of this writing, the latest version is 2.0.0.beta3.

<http://repository.torquebox.org/maven2/releases/org/torquebox/torquebox-dist/2.0.0.beta3/torquebox-dist-2.0.0.beta3-bin.zip> [<http://repository-torquebox.forge.cloudbees.com/release/org/torquebox/torquebox-dist/2.0.0.beta3/torquebox-dist-2.0.0.beta3-bin.zip>]

2.3. Unzip it somewhere handy

We'll install TorqueBox under your user's \$HOME directory.

```
$ unzip -q torquebox-dist-2.0.0.beta3-bin.zip
```

Before using the TorqueBox server, you must set up your environment. To make it easier to upgrade without having to reconfigure your environment, it is useful to create a symlink to the versioned directory produced when you unpackaged the distribution.

```
$ ln -s torquebox-2.0.0.beta3 torquebox-current
```

Next, \$TORQUEBOX_HOME, \$JBOSS_HOME and \$JRUBY_HOME need to be set, and adjusting your \$PATH will make working with the package easier. You can either run the following commands each time on the command-line, or add them to your .bash_profile.

First, the various \$X_HOME variables are set so that each subsystem can find its supporting files.

```
export TORQUEBOX_HOME=$HOME/torquebox-current
export JBOSS_HOME=$TORQUEBOX_HOME/jboss
export JRUBY_HOME=$TORQUEBOX_HOME/jruby
```

Next, we make sure that JRuby's binaries are first in our executable \$PATH, before any previously-installed Ruby packages.

```
export PATH=$JRUBY_HOME/bin:$PATH
```

By doing this, commands such as rake, gem, and rails will load from the TorqueBox-provided JRuby installation.

You can also run TorqueBox using your own install of JRuby by installing the TorqueBox gems.

```
$ jruby -S gem install torquebox torquebox-capistrano-support
```

You will also need to set \$JRUBY_HOME to point to your JRuby installation.

Note: if you are going to run a non-bundled JRuby with a prerelease build of TorqueBox, it is recommended that you either use a separate [rvm](http://rvm.beginrescueend.com) [<http://rvm.beginrescueend.com>] [gemset](#) [[---

4](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

rvm.beginrescueend.com/gemsets/] for each prerelease build, or be sure to reinstall the TorqueBox gems for the latest prerelease. There is a [blog post](http://torquebox.org/news/2011/02/25/using-rvm-with-torquebox/) [http://torquebox.org/news/2011/02/25/using-rvm-with-torquebox/] on torquebox.org describing how to set up your torquebox environment with RVM.

For prerelease builds, you will also need to ensure that your gem command can find the prerelease TorqueBox gems by adding <http://torquebox.org/2x/builds/LATEST/gem-repo/> to your `~/.gemrc` file and including the `--pre` flag to `gem install`.

```
$ cat ~/.gemrc
---
:sources:
- http://rubygems.org
- http://torquebox.org/2x/builds/LATEST/gem-repo/
```

2.4. How to run TorqueBox

Running TorqueBox essentially amounts to running JBoss:

```
$ $JBOSS_HOME/bin/standalone.sh
```

Alternatively, the top-level `$TORQUEBOX_HOME/Rakefile` provides a few rake tasks to help with deployment and installation.

```
$ cd $TORQUEBOX_HOME; jruby -S rake -T
(in /opt/torquebox)
rake torquebox:check          # Check your installation of the TorqueBox ...
rake torquebox:run            # Run TorqueBox server
rake torquebox:upstart:check  # Check if TorqueBox is installed as an ups...
rake torquebox:upstart:install # Install TorqueBox as an upstart service
rake torquebox:upstart:restart # Restart TorqueBox when running as an upst...
rake torquebox:upstart:start  # Start TorqueBox when running as an upstar...
rake torquebox:upstart:stop   # Stop TorqueBox when running as an upstart...
```

- `torquebox:check`: Check your TorqueBox installation
- `torquebox:run`: Run TorqueBox
- `torquebox:upstart:check`: Check if TorqueBox is installed as an upstart service
- `torquebox:upstart:install`: Install TorqueBox as an upstart service
- `torquebox:upstart:restart`: Restart TorqueBox when it is running as an upstart service

- `torquebox:upstart:start`: Start TorqueBox when it is installed as an upstart service
- `torquebox:upstart:stop`: Stop TorqueBox when it is installed as an upstart service

Note: The `upstart:install` task makes a couple of assumptions you need to take into account.

- You must have a 'torquebox' user on your system.
- The rake task attempts to create a symlink from `$TORQUEBOX_HOME` to `/opt/torquebox`. Run the task as a user with sufficient permissions so that this does not fail.

JBoss AS Crash Course

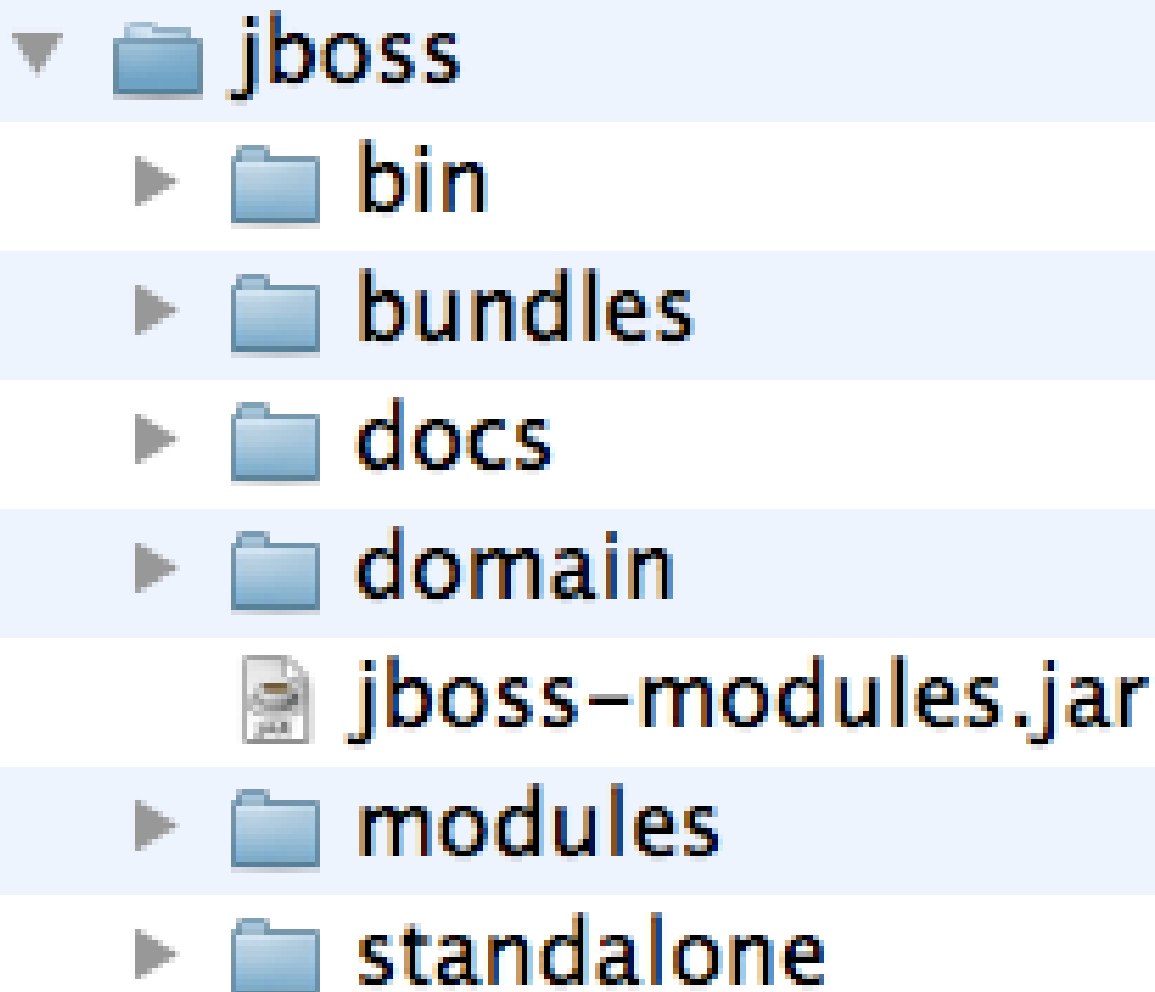
The JBoss Application Server (AS7) is the foundation upon which TorqueBox is built. You can go a long way with TorqueBox without knowing anything about the administration of JBoss AS, but for advanced applications, it's worth knowing something about how AS is configured and extended. Feel free to skip this section if you're just getting started with TorqueBox, and use it as a reference later.

For more detailed documentation, please read the [official AS7 docs](https://docs.jboss.org/author/display/AS7/Documentation) [https://docs.jboss.org/author/display/AS7/Documentation].

1. Configuring

JBoss AS7 has extensive changes since the previous releases, the most visible being folder structure and runtime modes: domain and standalone.















In AS7, all server configuration is kept in two folders for each runtime mode: `standalone` and `domain`. Administrative tasks are simplified from previous releases because all configuration is in one folder and, in standalone mode, in a single file.



TorqueBox uses standalone mode by default but can be run in domain mode as well.

JBoss AS 7 comes with a modular architecture - libraries common to all server configurations are kept under the `modules/` directory. Configuration files are stored inside `standalone/configuration/` and `domain/configuration` folders.

Both standalone and domain modes have a common folder structure, including the following directories: `configuration/`, `deployments/` and `lib/`. In general, it isn't a good idea to remove anything from these directories that you didn't put there yourself.

- ▼  jboss
 - ▶  bin
 - ▶  bundles
 - ▶  docs
 - ▶  domain
 - ▶  jboss-modules.jar
 - ▶  modules
 - ▼  standalone
 - ▶  configuration
 - ▶  data
 - ▶  deployments
 - ▶  lib
 - ▶  log
 - ▶  tmp

Some additional directories are created automatically at runtime, as needed: `tmp/`, `data/`, and `log/`. Though not typically necessary, you may safely delete these when the server is not running to clear its persistent state.

2. Running

The `$JBOSS_HOME/bin/` directory contains the main JBoss entry point, `standalone.sh` (or `standalone.bat`), along with its config file, `standalone.conf`. Running the JBoss server is simple:

```
$ $JBOSS_HOME/bin/standalone.sh
```

Use the `--server-config` option to specify a different configuration. For example, to put JBoss in "clustered" mode:

```
$ $JBOSS_HOME/bin/standalone.sh --server-config=standalone-ha.xml
```

You may set Java system properties using the `-D` option. Pass `-h` for a list of all the available options.

Permanent runtime configuration of JBoss should go in `bin/standalone.conf`. For example, your application may require more memory (RAM) than the default allocated. Edit `standalone.conf` to increase the value of `-Xmx` to something reasonable.

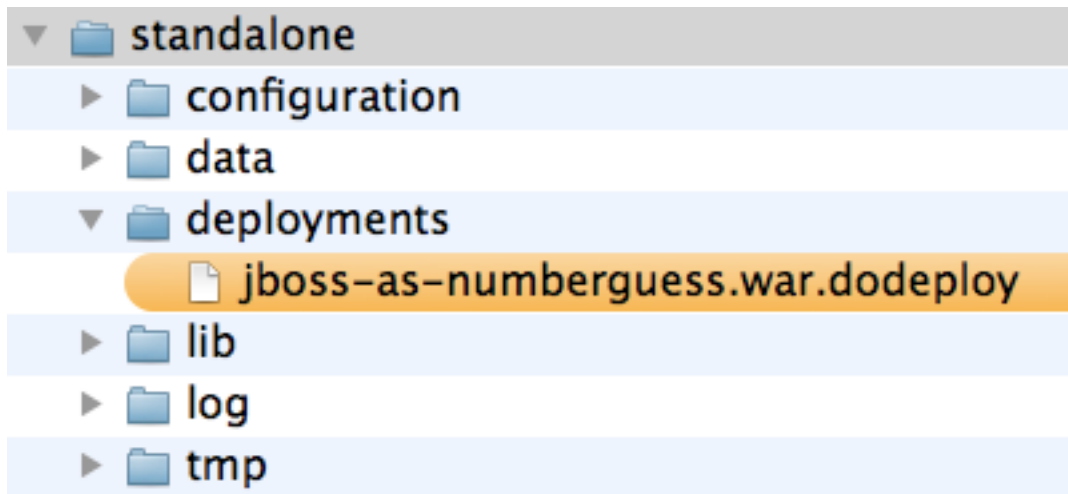
Though [Chapter 17, TorqueBox Capistrano Support](#) doesn't strictly require it, in production you may prefer to control JBoss via a Unix "init script", examples of which may be found in `bin/`. Feel free to tweak one for your particular OS.

3. Deploying

Each runtime mode has a `deployments/` subdirectory, the contents of which determine the applications and services JBoss runs. These apps and services are represented as archives, "exploded" folders, or text files called "deployment descriptors". JBoss deployment scanner comes with meaningful changes, operating in two different modes: auto-deploy and manual deploy.

Auto-deploy mode works like in previous releases of AS, at every time that timestamp changes, content will be deployed. The scanner take responsibility to place a marker file suffix with `.deployed` status, in case of content deletion, the scanner will not trigger undeployment process automatically.

In manual deploy mode the scanner will rely on addition or removal of a marker file suffix. To understand a little further about deployment method, take a look at marker files section from [administrator guide](https://docs.jboss.org/author/display/AS7/Admin+Guide#AdminGuide-DeploymentCommands). [<https://docs.jboss.org/author/display/AS7/Admin+Guide#AdminGuide-DeploymentCommands>]



With the introduction of knob files TorqueBox became more technology-agnostic. It's possible now to deploy any combination of web, messaging, job, or service components. Application source files don't have to reside in a specific directory - the JBoss deployment scanner will look at the knob files inside `/standalone/deployments` folder which point to the application's root directory.

TorqueBox provides Rake tasks to create and copy a deployment descriptor for your Ruby application to `$TORQUEBOX_HOME/standalone/deployments/`. For more details, see [???](#) and [Chapter 6, TorqueBox Deployment Descriptors](#).

4. Logging

Each runtime mode has a `log/` subdirectory (created at runtime, if necessary) that contains the log messages generated by JBoss as determined by its configuration.

JBoss provides a very sophisticated logging system that nobody completely understands. Logging configuration rules are contained in `standalone/configuration/logging.properties`, in which may be found example configs for categorized log message routing, complex file rotation, syslog integration, SMTP notifications, SNMP traps, JMS, JMX and more! It is WAY beyond the scope of this document to explain those rules, but by default you will see INFO messages on the console (the shell where you start JBoss) and persistently written to `log/server.log`.

Any messages written to `stdout` or `stderr` will also be displayed on the console and written to `log/server.log`.

4.1. The TorqueBox::Logger

Ruby Loggers work normally inside of TorqueBox, of course, and you'll find your Rails log files exactly where you expect them to be. But some users, especially those already familiar with JBoss logging, may prefer for their Ruby log messages to be passed to JBoss. This is easily achieved using the

TorqueBox::Logger, constructed with an optional "category". For example, you may configure your Rails app like so:

```
config.logger = TorqueBox::Logger.new
```

This results in all Rails-generated log messages passed to JBoss, hence written to `log/server.log` in the default configuration. The category for these messages will be the application's name. You can override this by passing the category name in the constructor:

```
TorqueBox::Logger.new( "Billing" )
```

You can also pass a class in the constructor, as is common in Java applications:

```
@logger = TorqueBox::Logger.new( self.class )
```

This allows you to be more strategic with your logging, sending some messages to the normal Rails logs and others to JBoss for more "enterprisey" processing.

TorqueBox Web Applications

TorqueBox supports any and all Rack-based web application frameworks, including Ruby On Rails and Sinatra, among others. TorqueBox aims to be unobtrusive, requiring no unusual packaging of your app (e.g. no war files), and unless it depends on obscure native gems, no modifications whatsoever.

So why deploy your Ruby web app on TorqueBox? Because you get cool enterprising features that every non-trivial app will need eventually if it's successful at all. Let's go over a few.

1. Performance

TorqueBox runs on JRuby, one of the fastest Ruby interpreters available. Because JRuby runs on the Java Virtual Machine, your app runs on real OS threads, so if your app supports multi-threaded invocations, you will make the most of your hardware resources.

Of course, running on the JVM has a drawback: "native" gems that rely upon machine-specific compiled code do not function with JRuby and TorqueBox. You must replace these gems with pure-Ruby or pure-Java implementations. Some native gems using FFI are usable within TorqueBox. Fortunately, gems that won't run on JRuby are becoming more and more rare.

2. Deployment

Most successful web apps evolve to the point that passively responding to HTTP requests is not enough. Before you know it, you may need background processes, scheduled jobs, messaging, and active daemons all in support of your web app.

With TorqueBox these things are an integral part of your app and as such, they share its life cycle. When your application is deployed under TorqueBox, so are your scheduled jobs, background tasks, services, etc. It's simply a matter of editing a single `torquebox.yml` configuration file within your app. This will make your operations staff very happy!

For more details, please see [???](#).

3. Clustering

Clustering nodes is trivially easy:

```
$ $JBOSSE_HOME/bin/standalone.sh --server-config=standalone-ha.xml
```

Or, if using the `torquebox-server` gem:

```
$ torquebox run --clustered
```

And when those nodes are behind the [JBoss mod_cluster Apache module](http://www.jboss.org/mod_cluster) [http://www.jboss.org/mod_cluster], you get automatic, dynamic configuration of workers, server-side load factor calculation, and fine-grained application lifecycle control.

But even without mod_cluster, TorqueBox clustering provides automatic web session replication and distributed caching, not to mention automatic load-balancing of message delivery, enabling smart distribution of any background processes spawned by your web app.

4. Sessions

By using the TorqueBox application-server-based session store, your application gets the benefits of clusterable sessions without having to setup and maintain a database. When clustered, session state is automatically replicated throughout an [Infinispan](http://infinispan.org) [http://infinispan.org] data grid.

Additionally, by using the TorqueBox session store, your application can communicate between both the Java and Ruby sides through the HTTP session. Where possible, elemental scalar attributes of the Ruby session are synchronized to similar attributes in the Java session, and vice-versa.

For complex objects, they are retained in a Ruby hash, and serialized as a blob into a single attribute of the Java session.

When copying between the Ruby and Java sessions, attributes will be retained under symbol keys in the ruby session, and string keys in the Java session.

The supported scalar types are numerics, strings, booleans and nil.

5. Caching

TorqueBox provides an implementation of the [Rails 3.x ActiveSupport::Cache::Store](http://guides.rubyonrails.org/caching_with_rails.html) [http://guides.rubyonrails.org/caching_with_rails.html] that exposes your application to the sexy [Infinispan](http://infinispan.org) [http://infinispan.org] data grid. Additionally, TorqueBox provides similar functionality for Sinatra sessions. See specific configuration options in the Ruby Web Frameworks sections below. To learn more about ActiveSupport::Cache::Store, the Infinispan cache, and the many other ways it is used by TorqueBox and can be used by you, please see [Chapter 5, TorqueBox Caching](#).

6. Ruby Web Frameworks

6.1. Rack

6.1.1. Rack Applications

Rack is a specification which describes how web server engines can integrate with additional logic written in Ruby. Rack is akin to CGI or the Java Servlets Spec in terms of goals and functionality.

TorqueBox currently supports general `config.ru`-based applications. In your application's directory, your Rack application can be booted from a file named `config.ru` that you provide. The Ruby runtime provided to your application is quite rudimentary. If you desire to use RubyGems or other libraries, it is up to you to require the necessary files (for instance, `require 'rubygems'`).

```
app = lambda{|env| [
  200,
  { 'Content-Type' => 'text/html' },
  'Hello World'
] }
run app
```

The directory containing the `config.ru` is considered the current working directory, and is included in the load path.

6.1.2. Rack API

TorqueBox aims to provide complete Ruby Rack compatibility. Please refer to the Rack specification at <http://rack.rubyforge.org/doc/SPEC.html> for more information.

Applications implemented by the user must simply provide an object implementing a single-argument method in the form of `call(env)`.

Table 4.1. Rack environment

Variable	Description
REQUEST_METHOD	The HTTP request method, such as “GET” or “POST”. This cannot ever be an empty string, and so is always required.
SCRIPT_NAME	The initial portion of the request URL's “path” that corresponds to the application object, so that the application knows its virtual “location”. This may be an empty string, if the application corresponds to the “root” of the server.
PATH_INFO	The remainder of the request URL's “path”, designating the virtual “location” of the request's target within the application. This may be an empty string, if the request URL targets the application root and does not have a trailing slash. This value may be percent-encoded when originating from a URL.
QUERY_STRING	The portion of the request URL that follows the <code>?</code> , if any.

Variable	Description
SERVER_NAME	
SERVER_PORT	
HTTP_ variables	Variables corresponding to the client-supplied HTTP request headers (i.e., variables whose names begin with HTTP_). The presence or absence of these variables should correspond with the presence or absence of the appropriate HTTP header in the request.
rack.version	The Array [m, n], representing this version of Rack.
rack.url_scheme	http or https, depending on the request URL.
rack.input	Input stream
rack.errors	Error output stream
rack.multithread	Always true
rack.multiprocess	Always true
rack.run_once	Always false
rack.session	
rack.logger	Not implemented
java.servlet_request	The underlying Java HttpServletRequest

6.2. Ruby on Rails

6.2.1. Ruby on Rails™ Applications

Ruby-on-Rails (also referred to as "RoR" or "Rails") is one of the most popular Model-View-Controller (MVC) frameworks for the Ruby language. It was originally created by David Heinemeier Hansson at [37signals](http://37signals.com/) [http://37signals.com/] during the course of building many actual Ruby applications for their consulting business.

Rails has straight-forward components representing models, views, and controllers. The framework as a whole values convention over configuration. It has been described as "opinionated software" in that many decisions have been taken away from the end-user.

It is exactly the opinionated nature of Rails that allows it to be considered a simple and agile framework for quickly building web-based applications. Additionally, since Ruby is an interpreted language instead of compiled, the assets of an application can be edited quickly, with the results being immediately available. In most cases, the application does not need to be restarted to see changes in models, views or controllers reflected.

6.2.2. Rails 2.3.x versus 3.x

TorqueBox supports both the 2.3.x and 3.x codelines of Rails. By default, all utilities prefer the latest version of a given gem, which in the current case is 3.0.10.

To specify a specific version of utilities such as the rails command used to create applications, simply specify the version number between underscores immediately following the command name.

```
$ rails _2.3.14_ myapp
```

6.2.3. Preparing your Rails application

While TorqueBox is 100% compatible with Ruby-on-Rails, there are a few steps that must be taken to ensure success. The biggest issues to contend with involve database access and native gems. The distribution includes a Rails application template to make the creation or adaptation of a codebase to TorqueBox easier.

6.2.3.1. Install Rails

Previous releases of TorqueBox bundled Rails but it is no longer included. You'll need to install the version needed by your application.

```
$ gem install rails
```

6.2.3.2. Using the application template

You can use the included application template to setup a new Rails application or modify an existing one to work with TorqueBox.

6.2.3.2.1. Creating a new Rails application

To create a new Rails application using the template, simply use the `-m` parameter when you execute the rails command.

Rails 2.3.x.

```
$ rails _2.3.14_ myapp -m $TORQUEBOX_HOME/share/rails/template.rb
```

Rails 3.x.

```
$ rails new myapp -m $TORQUEBOX_HOME/share/rails/template.rb
```

6.2.3.2.2. Applying template to an existing application

To apply the template to an existing application, simply use the `rails:template` rake task.

```
$ rake rails:template LOCATION=$TORQUEBOX_HOME/share/rails/template.rb
```

6.2.3.3. Manually configuring an application

6.2.3.3.1. Include the JDBC Gems for Database Connectivity

ActiveRecord applications deployed on TorqueBox benefit from using the Java-based JDBC database drivers. These drivers are provided as a handful of gems which you may include into your application through `config/environment.rb` or a `Gemfile`. For more information on database connectivity within the TorqueBox environment, please see [Chapter 13, Database Connectivity in TorqueBox](#).

Rails 2.x. You simply must reference the `activerecord-jdbc-adapter` from your `environment.rb` within the `Rails::Initializer.run` block.

```
Rails::Initializer.run do |config|  
  
  config.gem "activerecord-jdbc-adapter",  
            :require=>'jdbc_adapter'  
  
end
```

All databases will require inclusion of the `activerecord-jdbc-adapter`. No other gems need to be required or loaded, since ActiveRecord will perform further discovery on its own.

Rails 3.x. Rails 3 uses `bundler` to manage the dependencies of your application. To specify the requirement of the `activerecord-jdbc-adapter` with Rails 3, simply add it to your `Gemfile`. Additionally, any specific JDBC driver your application will require should be indicated.

```
gem 'activerecord-jdbc-adapter'  
gem 'jdbc-sqlite3'
```

6.2.3.3.2. Configure Sessions

By default, both Rails 2 and Rails 3 use the simple cookie-based session store, which requires no support from the server. TorqueBox can leverage the cluster-compatible sessions provided by the application server to keep session state on the server. The TorqueBox session store requires no specific configuration of a database or other technology. To use the TorqueBox session store, you must adjust `config/initializers/session_store.rb`. The contents vary depending on the version of Rails your application uses.

In both cases, your application should require the `torquebox` gem, which provides the implementation.

When using the TorqueBox Rails application template, described above, these modifications are made for you.

Rails 2.x. In `config/initializers/session_store.rb`

```
ActionController::Base.session_store = :torquebox_store
```

Rails 3.x. In `config/initializers/session_store.rb` (adjust for your application's name)

```
MyApp::Application.config.session_store :torquebox_store
```

6.2.4. Caching Configuration

You configure the TorqueBox cache store the same way you would any other Rails cache store, but we recommend setting it in `config/application.rb` because it will adapt to whichever environment it finds itself. Regardless of its configuration, it will always fallback to local mode when run in a non-clustered, even non-TorqueBox, environment.

In whatever context you use the cache store, you must include the `torquebox` gem, which provides the implementation.

```
module YourApp
  class Application < Rails::Application

    config.cache_store = :torque_box_store

  end
end
```

Using this symbolized form causes Rails to load the appropriate Ruby file for you. Alternatively, you may load the file yourself and then refer to the fully-qualified class name, `ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore`.

By default, the `TorqueBoxStore` will be in asynchronous invalidation mode when clustered (`JBOSS_CONF=all`), and local mode when not. But you can certainly override the defaults:

```
config.cache_store = :torque_box_store, {:mode => :distributed, :sync => true}
```

You can even create multiple cache stores in your app, each potentially in a different clustering mode. You should use the `:name` option to identify any additional caches you create, e.g.

```
COUNTERS = ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore.new(:name => 'counters',
                                                    :mode => :replicated,
                                                    :sync => true)
```

6.2.5. Logging

By default, Rails logs where you would expect, but it's possible to tap into the JBoss log system for more sophisticated logging. For more information, see [Section 4.1, “The TorqueBox : Logger”](#).

6.3. Sinatra

[Sinatra](http://www.sinatrarb.com/) [http://www.sinatrarb.com/] is a very simple DSL for creating web applications. And all the TorqueBox features available to Rails apps, e.g. clustering, session replication, and caching, will work for Sinatra app just as well.

6.3.1. Sessions

Because the TorqueBox session store is Rack compliant, you configure it the same way you would any other session store in Sinatra.

```
require 'sinatra'
require 'torquebox'

class SinatraSessions < Sinatra::Base

  use TorqueBox::Session::ServletStore

  get '/foo' do
    session[:message] = 'Hello World!'
    redirect '/bar'
  end

  get '/bar' do
    session[:message] # => 'Hello World!'
  end
end
```

```
end
```

6.3.2. Sinatra Caching Configuration

Because the TorqueBox cache store is derived from `ActiveSupport::Cache::Store`, you must include `activesupport-3.x` in your Sinatra app.

In whatever context you use the cache store, you must include the `torquebox` RubyGem, which provides the implementation.

```
require 'active_support/cache/torque_box_store'
class SinatraCache < Sinatra::Base
  set :cache, ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore.new
end
```

By default, the `TorqueBoxStore` will be in asynchronous invalidation mode when clustered (`JBOSS_CONF=all`), and local mode when not. But you can certainly override the defaults:

```
set :cache, ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore.new(:mode => :distributed, :sync
=> true)
```

You can even create multiple cache stores in your app, each potentially in a different clustering mode. You should use the `:name` option to identify any additional caches you create, e.g.

```
COUNTERS = ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore.new(:name => 'counters',
                                                    :mode => :replicated,
                                                    :sync => true)
```

6.3.3. Logging

By default, Sinatra log support is minimal, sending most errors to `stdout` or `stderr`. For more sophisticated logging, see [Section 4.1, “The TorqueBox::Logger”](#).

TorqueBox Caching

1. Overview

As a part of the JBoss AS, TorqueBox utilizes the [Infinispan](http://infinispan.org) [http://infinispan.org] data grid. Infinispan offers a noSQL key/value store that can be replicated or distributed across a cluster, or run on a single machine locally. The cache is exposed as Ruby modules and classes through TorqueBox. There are two ways that applications can take advantage of this data store.

- `TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache` Direct Ruby access to the Infinispan cache
 - `ActiveSupport::Cache::Store` Sinatra and Rails session, fragment and other framework caching
- Each of these components allows applications to configure the clustering mode and other options of the underlying Infinispan cache, and fully supports JTA and XA distributed transactions in the container.

2. Clustering Modes

Infinispan offers a number of clustering modes that determine what happens when an entry is written to the cache.

Local. This is the default mode when TorqueBox runs non-clustered, roughly equivalent to the Rails `MemoryStore` implementation, though it has some advantages over a simple memory store, e.g. write-through/write-behind persistence, JTA/XA support, MVCC-based concurrency, and JMX manageability.

Invalidation. This is the default mode when TorqueBox runs clustered. No data is actually shared among the nodes in this mode. Instead, notifications are sent to all nodes when data changes, causing them to evict their stale copies of the updated entry. This mode works very well for Rails' fragment and action caching.

Replicated. In this mode, entries added to any cache instance will be copied to all other cache instances in the cluster, and can then be retrieved locally from any instance. This mode is probably impractical for clusters of any significant size. Infinispan recommends 10 as a reasonable upper bound on the number of replicated nodes.

Distributed. This mode enables Infinispan clusters to achieve "linear scalability". Cache entries are copied to a fixed number of cluster nodes (2, by default) regardless of the cluster size. Distribution uses a consistent hashing algorithm to determine which nodes will store a given entry.

3. TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache Options and Usage

The `TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache` supports a number of options. All components that use the cache as their underlying storage, e.g. `ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore` as well as the cache class itself accept a hash of options. The common options for all cache components are:

Table 5.1. Cache options

Option	Default	Description
<code>:mode</code>	<code>:invalidation</code>	<p>Any of the following will result in replicated mode:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>:r</code> <code>:repl</code> <code>:replicated</code> <code>:replication</code> <p>Any of the following will result in distributed mode:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>:d</code> <code>:dist</code> <code>:distributed</code> <code>:distribution</code> <p>Any other value for <code>:mode</code> will result in invalidation when clustered and local otherwise.</p>
<code>:sync</code>	<code>false</code>	The coordination between nodes in a cluster can happen either synchronously (slower writes) or asynchronously (faster writes).
<code>:name</code>	{the application's name}	The <code>:name</code> option enables you to create multiple cache stores in your app, each with different options. It's also a way you can configure multiple apps to share the same cache store.
<code>:persist</code>	<code>false</code>	The <code>:persist</code> option enables file-based persistence of the cache entries. Any value for <code>:persist</code> which is a path to a writable

Option	Default	Description
		directory will be used for cache storage.
:transaction_mode	:transactional	By default, all local caches are transactional. If you don't need transactions, set this to :non_transactional.
:locking_mode	:optimistic	Starting with Infinispan 5.1 the supported transaction models are :optimistic and :pessimistic. The :optimistic option defers lock acquisition to transaction prepare time, reducing lock acquisition duration and increasing throughput. With the pessimistic model, cluster wide-locks are acquired on each write and released after the transaction completes.

TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache Usage. The Cache object may be used to store and retrieve values from Infinispan. You can store just about anything: arbitrary Ruby data types, Java class instances, strings, numbers. The gamut. To use the cache just make a new one providing it with initialization options.

```
require 'torquebox-cache'
cache = TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache.new( :name => 'treasure', :persist=>'/
data/treasure' )
```

Adding, removing and updating items in the cache is as you might expect.

```
# Put some stuff in the cache
cache.put( 'akey', "a string value" )
cache.put( "time", Time.now )
cache.put( user.id, user )

# Get it back again
time = cache.get( "time" )
user = cache.get( params[:id] )
```

```
# Remove something
cache.remove( 'akey' )
```

You also have typical hash-like methods which allow you to manipulate and query the cache for key information.

```
# Get all of the keys
keyset = cache.keys

# See if the cache contains a key
cache.contains_key? user.id

# Get everything! Caution, this could be very expensive
thewholeshebang = cache.all

# Clear it out. This happens asynchronously, so returns quickly
cache.clear

# Only put this in the cache if there isn't already something there
with the same key
cache.put_if_absent( key, session[:user] )

# And you can replace a value in the cache conditionally
# - if it hasn't changed since the last time you accessed it
t1 = Time.now
t2 = Time.now + 10
cache.put( "time", t1 )
# replaces t1 with t2
cache.replace( "time", t1, t2 )
# does NOT replace since the value is now t2
cache.replace( "time", t1, Time.now + 20 )
```

Increment, Decrement and Transactions. `TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache` also provides some convenience methods for atomically incrementing or decrementing a value in the cache. Additionally, the Cache provides transactional blocks with `Cache#transaction do ...`, and all Cache operations automatically participate in XA transactions if they are called from within a `TorqueBox.transaction` block.

```
cache.increment('mykey') # 1
```

```
cache.increment('mykey') # 2
cache.decrement('mykey') # 1

# Automatically participates in XA transactions
Torquebox.transaction do
  cache.increment('mykey')
  # ...
end

# And can scope transactions itself
cache.transaction do
  cache.decrement('mykey')
end
```

To read more about transactions see [Chapter 14, TorqueBox Distributed Transactions](#).

4. ActiveSupport::Cache::Store Options and Usage

As noted in [Chapter 4, TorqueBox Web Applications](#) the TorqueBox store can be used for all of the implicit caching within Rails and session storage within Sinatra.

In additions to the common options for `TorqueBox::Infinispan::Cache` as noted above, `ActiveSupport::Cache::TorqueBoxStore` supports all the options of the existing Rails implementations, including the advanced features of `MemCacheStore`, along with a few more to control how data replication occurs amongst the nodes in a cluster.

Rails and Sinatra configuration details can be found in [Chapter 4, TorqueBox Web Applications](#). Usage is essentially transparent to the application beyond this configuration.

TorqueBox Deployment Descriptors

TorqueBox applications contain one central, but optional deployment descriptor. A deployment descriptor is simply a configuration file that affects how your components are woven together at deployment time. The primary deployment descriptor used by TorqueBox can be either a YAML text file (known as `torquebox.yml`) or a Ruby file (known as `torquebox.rb`).

The deployment descriptor may be placed inside your application so that it is entirely self-contained. Alternatively, an additional (YAML only) descriptor may be used outside of your application, overriding portions of the descriptor contained within the application.

Each subsystem within TorqueBox may contribute one or more configurable sections to the descriptor. For more information on the various subsystem descriptor sections, please see: [???](#), [Chapter 7, TorqueBox Messaging](#), [Chapter 9, TorqueBox Scheduled Jobs](#), [Chapter 10, TorqueBox Services](#), [Chapter 12, TorqueBox Authentication](#), and [Chapter 15, TorqueBox Runtime Pooling](#).

1. External and Internal descriptors

Deployment descriptors may be "external", residing outside the application, or "internal", residing within it. The descriptors come in two flavors: YAML-formatted text files and Ruby text files using the TorqueBox configuration DSL. Internal descriptors may use either form, but external descriptors are required to be YAML files.

An external descriptor references an application somewhere on your filesystem. To deploy the application, the descriptor is placed in the `$TORQUEBOX_HOME/jboss/standalone/deployments/` directory of the TorqueBox server. The external descriptor's name should have a suffix of `-knob.yml`.

An internal descriptor should be named `torquebox.yml` or `torquebox.rb` and reside inside the application's `config/` directory, if present, otherwise at the root. Internal descriptors allow you to override the TorqueBox defaults but only for a single app. As such, they are not required. Values in the external descriptor override those in the internal descriptor which, in turn, override the TorqueBox defaults. The YAML syntax used in the external descriptor is identical to the syntax available to the internal descriptor.

2. Contents of a descriptor

There are two syntaxes available for use in an internal descriptor: YAML and a Ruby DSL.

2.1. YAML syntax layout

The YAML descriptor has several sections, grouped by subsystem, represented as top-level keys in a YAML associative array.

1. application: General application configuration
2. web: Web-specific configuration
3. ruby: Runtime version and JIT options
4. environment: Environment variables
5. jobs: Scheduled executions
6. messaging: Advanced message-handling
7. pooling: Runtime pooling control
8. services: low-level service daemons

2.2. Ruby DSL syntax layout

The DSL does not follow the strict sections of the YAML syntax, but the corresponding DSL methods can be grouped and described in the same manner.

To use the DSL, you nest your configuration inside the block passed to `TorqueBox.configure` inside `torquebox.rb`:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  # DSL calls go here
end
```

The `TorqueBox.configure` method and the DSL methods that take a block can be given a block with or without an argument. If given a block argument, the block will receive a proxy object that must be used to call the DSL methods. Without an argument, the block will use `instance_eval` to evaluate the DSL calls, which will cause issues if you refer to any variables that aren't defined within the scope of the block. Most of the documentation examples use the `instance_eval` (no argument) block syntax.

Using no-argument blocks:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  web do
    context "/"
  end
end
```

Using argument blocks:

```
TorqueBox.configure do |cfg|
  cfg.web do |web|
```

```

    web.context "/"
  end
end

```

You can also mix & match:

```

TorqueBox.configure do
  web do |web|
    web.context "/"
  end

  ruby do
    version "1.9"
  end
end

```

Some DSL methods can also take their options as a hash instead of method calls nested in a block:

```

TorqueBox.configure do
  web :context => "/", :host => "example.com"

  # is equivalent to:

  web do
    context "/"
    host "example.com"
  end
end

```

2.3. General Application Configuration

Location. The application section describes the location for the app itself. Under traditional (mongrel, lighttpd) deployments, this information is picked up through the current working directory. Since the TorqueBox Server runs from a different location, the current working directory has no meaning.

Table 6.1. application

YAML Key	DSL Method	Description	Default
root	none	Indicates the location of your application. It may refer to either an	none

YAML Key	DSL Method	Description	Default
		"exploded" application (a directory) or the path to a zipped archive. It is required for external descriptors and ignored in an internal descriptor. Rails apps will have this value set as ENV['RAILS_ROOT'], and Rack apps will have this value set to both the RACK_ROOT constant and ENV['RACK_ROOT'].	

For example, in YAML:

```
application:
  root: /path/to/myapp
```

2.4. Web-specific configuration

Ruby web apps are often deployed individually, without respect to hostnames or context-path. Running under TorqueBox, however, you may host several apps under a single host, or multiple apps under different hostnames.

In a YAML configuration, the web settings are grouped under the web key. For the DSL, they are grouped within the web block.

Table 6.2. web

YAML Key/DSL Method	Description	Default
rackup	The "rackup" script containing the complete logic for initializing your application.	config.ru
host	Virtual hosts allow one application to respond to www.host-one.com, while another running within the same JBoss AS to respond to www.host-two.com. This value can be either a single hostname or a YAML list of hostnames.	localhost

YAML Key/DSL Method	Description	Default
context	Applications within a single TorqueBox Server may be separated purely by a context path. For a given host, the context path is the prefix used to access the application, e.g. <code>http://some.host.com/context</code> . Traditional Ruby web apps respond from the top of a site, i.e. the root context. By using a context path, you can mount applications at a location beneath the root.	/
static	Any static web content provided by your app should reside beneath this directory.	none unless deploying a Rails application, then <code>public</code> .
session-timeout	Time (defaults to minutes) for idle sessions to timeout. Specified as an integer followed by a units designation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ms designates milliseconds • s designates seconds • m designates minutes (default if no units are specified) • h designates hours 	30m, specifying 30 minutes.

For example, in YAML:

```
web:
  rackup: alternative/path/to/my_config.ru
  context: /app-one
  static: public
  host: www.host-one.com
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  web do
    rackup "alternative/path/to/my_config.ru"
```

```

context "/app-one"
  static "public"
  host "www.host-one.com"
end
end

```

2.5. Ruby runtime configuration

TorqueBox exposes several of the JRuby runtime options: the ruby compatibility version, the JIT compile mode, and the debug setting. There's also a setting to enable interactive tty for the JRuby runtime for use with the Ruby debugger. All of these options are configured in the `ruby:` section of a deployment descriptor.

Note that these settings are per application, allowing you to run 1.8 and 1.9 applications in the same TorqueBox, or have one JIT'ed and another not.

In a YAML configuration, the ruby settings are grouped under the `ruby` key. For the DSL, they are grouped within the `ruby` block.

Table 6.3. ruby

YAML Key/DSL Method	Description	Default
<code>version</code>	The ruby compatibility version for JRuby. Options are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.8 - provides 1.8.7 compatibility • 1.9 - provides 1.9.2 compatibility 	1.8
<code>compile_mode</code>	The JIT compile mode for JRuby. Options are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>jit</code> - Tells JRuby to use JIT on code where it determines there will be a speed improvement • <code>force</code> - Tells JRuby to use JIT on all code • <code>off</code> - Turns off JIT completely 	<code>jit</code>
<code>debug</code>	A value of <code>true</code> enables JRuby's debug logging.	<code>false</code>
<code>interactive</code>	A value of <code>true</code> sets up the <code>stdin/stdout/stderr</code> of the JRuby runtime for interactive use instead of being redirected to the logging	<code>false</code>

YAML Key/DSL Method	Description	Default
	subsystem. Enable this when using the Ruby debugger or the pry gem.	
profile_api	<p>A value of true enables JRuby's profiler instrumentation, which allows you to obtain performance information on a given block of ruby code.</p> <p>For more information, check out How to Use the New JRuby Profiler [http://danlucraft.com/blog/2011/03/built-in-profiler-in-jruby-1.6/]</p>	false

For example, in YAML:

```
ruby:
  version: 1.9
  compile_mode: off
  debug: false
  interactive: true
  profile_api: true
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ruby do
    version "1.9"
    compile_mode "off"
    debug false
    interactive true
    profile_api true
  end
end
```

2.6. Environment variables

Each application may have its own unique set of environment variables, no matter how many different apps are deployed under a single TorqueBox instance. Variables from internal and external descriptors are merged, with the external variables overriding any internal matching keys.

In a YAML configuration, the environment settings are grouped under the `environment` key. For the DSL, they are grouped within the `environment` block.

For example, in YAML:

```
environment:
  MAIL_HOST: mail.yourhost.com
  REPLY_TO: you@yourhost.com
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  environment do
    MAIL_HOST 'mail.yourhost.com'
    REPLY_TO 'you@yourhost.com'
  end
end
```

Any variable set in the `environment` section is accessible from within the Rack app using the `ENV` hash, e.g. `ENV['MAIL_HOST']=='mail.yourhost.com'`

2.6.1. Application environment

To set the environment for the application, set either `RACK_ENV` or `RAILS_ENV` as an environment variable. They are equivalent, and will both work for a Rack or Rails application. If the application environment is not set, it will default to `'development'`. Rails apps will have this value set as `ENV['RAILS_ENV']` (which Rails itself will assign to `Rails.env`), and Rack apps will have this value set to both the `RACK_ENV` constant and `ENV['RACK_ENV']`.

For example, in YAML:

```
environment:
  RAILS_ENV: production
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  environment do
    RAILS_ENV 'production'
```

```
end  
end
```

3. Java Deployment Descriptors

In addition to Ruby, Rails and TorqueBox-specific descriptors, your application may also include any traditional JavaEE or JBoss-specific descriptors within its `config/` directory.

3.1. WEB-INF/web.xml

A JavaEE `web.xml` deployment descriptor may be included in your application's `WEB-INF/` directory. Additional Java Servlets, Filters or other configuration may be performed within this file. Its contents will be mixed with other information when your application is deployed. If desired, your `web.xml` may reference the components that TorqueBox implicitly adds.

Rack Filter. TorqueBox provides a Java Servlet™ Filter named `torquebox.rack`. This filter is responsible for delegating requests to Rack-based applications.

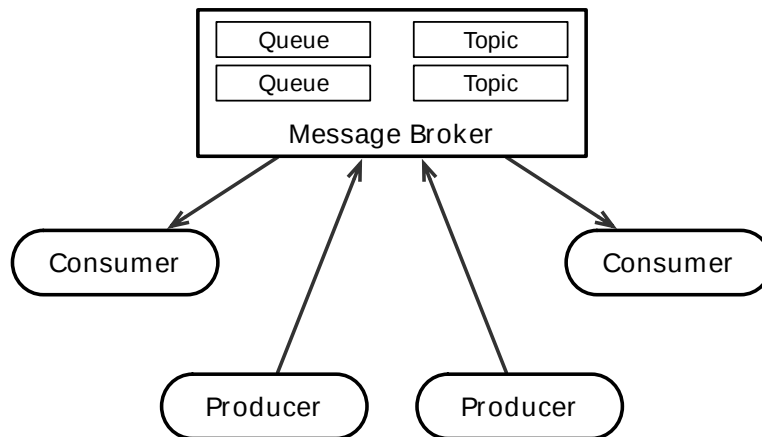
Static Resource Servlet. In order to serve files from the `public/` directory of your application, TorqueBox installs a Servlet named `torquebox.static`.

TorqueBox Messaging

1. Introduction

HornetQ. TorqueBox integrates the JBoss HornetQ message broker technology. It is automatically available to you, with no additional configuration required to start the messaging service. HornetQ supports clustered messaging, to allow for load-balancing, failover, and other advanced deployments.

The term "messaging" encompasses a large area of functionality. Messaging solutions are used to achieve loosely-coupled, asynchronous systems. The primary actors in a messaging-based system are messages, destinations, consumers, and producers. From an implementation perspective, a broker mediates the relationships between the other actors.

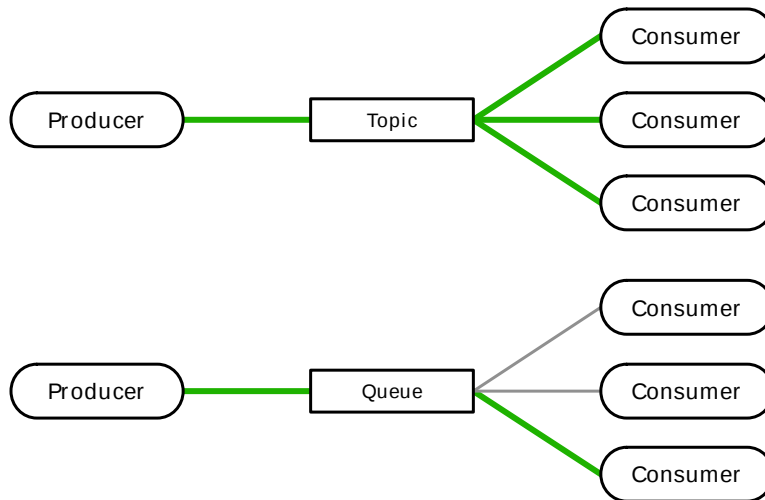


Messages. The unit of communication within a messaging system is a message. A message may either be simply a blob of octets, or it might have some higher-order, application-defined semantics. All messages include a set of headers, similar to email.

Destinations. A destination represents a rendezvous where messages are exchanged. A message may be sent to a destination by one actor, and received from the destination by another.

There are two main types of destinations: queues and topics. All destinations allow multiple actors to place messages with them. The type of destination affects what happens to the message once given to the destination. A queue delivers the message to a single recipient (possibly one of many candidate recipients). A topic delivers the message to multiple interested recipients.

In the image below, the green lines represent the flow of a single message from a producer to one-or-more consumers through a topic and a queue.



Producers. Any component or client code that creates messages and gives them to the message broker for delivery is considered a producer. Generally speaking, the producer does not know the details of the destination.

Consumers. Any component that waits for messages to be delivered to it by the message broker is considered a consumer. A consumer is unaware of the producer and any other consumers, potentially.

2. Deploying Destinations

Queues and topics (collectively known as destinations) may be deployed with your application, or separate from your application. Additionally, various parts of your application may also implicitly deploy and use some destinations.

Each method has advantages and disadvantages involving the expectations of your application and its interaction with resources outside the scope of the application.

2.1. Deployment Styles

2.1.1. Deploying destinations with your application

If you decide to deploy your queues and topics with your application, you automatically align their lifecycle to the deployment cycle of your application. If you undeploy your application, your queues and topics will also disappear, and be unable to receive messages. If the queues are used only internally to your application, and short lifespan semantics are useful to you, deploying destinations with your application reduces deployment steps and moving parts.

2.1.2. Deploying destinations apart from your application

If you deploy destinations separate and apart from your application, they become long-lived first-class component citizens in your environment. Applications may be deployed and undeployed, while the destinations continue to function, accepting and processing messages to the best of their ability.

If the consumers to a destination are offline, the destination may persist and store any unhandled messages until a consumer re-attaches.

The downside is that by making destinations first-class top-level components of your environment, you must also manage, deploy and undeploy them separate from any app, creating additional work.

2.1.3. Deploying destinations at runtime

You can also choose to deploy messaging destinations at runtime:

Example 7.1. Deploying queues and topics at runtime

```
TorqueBox::Messaging::Queue.start '/queues/foo'  
TorqueBox::Messaging::Topic.start '/topics/bar'
```

2.2. Deployment Descriptors

You have several options when deploying queues and topics, based on the lifecycle that suits your systems best.

2.2.1. Long-lived queues and topics

If your queues and topics have a lifecycle that extends beyond the deployment of any single app, you may want long-lived queues and topics. Long-lived destinations are first-order components, and may be deployed on their own. In this way, many applications can come and go over time, publishing and consuming from the same queues.

When using long-lived destinations, *-knob.yml deployment descriptors are placed directly into the `deployments/` directory of TorqueBox AS.

Queues. To deploy queues, a simple YAML file is required to name the queues and provide additional configuration parameters. The file should have the suffix of `-knob.yml`, such as `these-queues-knob.yml` or `those-queues-knob.yml`. The only configuration option available on queues is the `durable` option.

Durability is enabled by default, and involves writing each message to disk so as to be able to recover in the event of failure or server restart. Disabling durability on queues may result in better performance, but increases the risk of losing messages.

Example 7.2. queues-knob.yml

```
queues:
  /queues/my_queue:

  /queues/my_other_queue:
    durable: false
```

The name of the queue will be used when registering the queue in the naming-service, and is used to discover the queue for attaching consumers and producers.

By convention, queues are named with the prefix of `/queues`.

Topics. To deploy topics, a simple YAML file is required to name the topics and provide additional configuration parameters. The file should have the suffix of `-knob.yml`, such as `these-topics-knob.yml` or `those-topics-knob.yml`. Currently, no additional configuration parameters are allowed - topic durability is controlled via options on the attached processors (See [Section 4.3.3, “Connecting Consumers to Destinations”](#)).

Example 7.3. topics-knob.yml

```
topics:
  /topics/my_topic:

  /topics/my_other_topic:
```

The name of the topic will be used when registering the topic in the naming-service, and is used to discover the topic for attaching consumers and producers.

By convention, topics are named with the prefix of `/topics`.

2.2.2. Application-linked queues and topics

Destinations deployed with your application also undeploy when your application is undeployed. These destinations are configuration through either your application's internal descriptor, or through an external `*-knob.yml` descriptor.

Within either of these files, you may use a `queues:` section to define queues and a `topics:` section to define topics.

Example 7.4. Defining topics and queues in a deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:
  ..
queues:
  /queues/my_app_queue:

topics:
  /queues/my_app_topic:
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  queue '/queues/my_app_queue'
  topic '/queues/my_app_topic'
end
```

3. TorqueBox Ruby Classes

All classes in the `TorqueBox::Messaging` module reside in the Ruby gem, `torquebox-messaging`, so to use them in your Rails app, you'll need to configure your app to load the gem.

Rails 2.x. Add this to your `config/environment.rb`:

Example 7.5. To use `TorqueBox::Messaging` in a Rails 2.x app

```
Rails::Initializer.run do |config|
  ...
  config.gem 'torquebox-messaging'
  ...
```

Rails 3.x. Add this to your `Gemfile`:

Example 7.6. To use `TorqueBox::Messaging` in a Rails 3.x app

```
source 'http://rubygems.org'

gem 'rails', '3.0.4'
...
```

```
gem 'torquebox-messaging'
```

And to use them in any other JRuby script, it's even simpler. First, ensure that `rubygems` is loaded, then require the `torquebox-messaging` feature.

Example 7.7. To use `TorqueBox::Messaging` in a shell script

```
#!/usr/bin/env jruby

require 'rubygems'
require 'torquebox-messaging'
```

4. Messaging Abstractions

4.1. Queues and Topics

There are two main messaging destination abstractions: `TorqueBox::Messaging::Queue` and `TorqueBox::Messaging::Topic`. Each has a `publish` and a `receive` method, and each must be constructed with a name and an optional hash of options:

Table 7.1. Message destination options

Option	Default	Description
<code>:naming_host</code>	localhost	Should be the hostname or ip address of the JNDI naming server containing the destination names.
<code>:naming_port</code>	1099	The port of the JNDI naming server.
<code>:client_id</code>		A string to uniquely indentify the connecting client. Optional unless you are using the <code>:durable</code> option with <code>receive</code> on a <code>Topic</code> .

You can also set these options via the `connect_options` on the destination object.

Though sometimes convenient, these methods are fairly low-level and higher-level abstractions such as [Message Processors](#), and [Backgroundable](#) are often better-suited to the task.

4.1.1. Publishing Messages

It's trivial to publish a message to a JMS `Queue` or `Topic` with `TorqueBox`. And if all of your message consumers are Ruby clients, the contents of the messages can be any serializable Ruby

or Java object. You just need to ensure that the type of content you produce resides in the runtime environments of both the producer and the consumer.

To send a message, you will need access to a `Topic` or `Queue` instance. The preferred method for accessing the destination instance is to use `inject(...)` (see [Messaging Destinations](#) for more details). If you need to pass options to the instance, or only have access to the destination name at runtime, construct either a `Topic` or a `Queue` instance with its name and options. Once you have a destination instance, simply call its `publish` method. The API's of both `Topics` and `Queues` are identical; they each simply represent a destination for your messages.

By default, messages are encoded using Ruby's Marshal serialization mechanism, allowing you to include Ruby objects in your message. If you need to produce messages that will be consumed by non-Ruby or TorqueBox 1.x clients, you can override the encoding mechanism globally or on a per-publish basis. See [Section 4.2, "Message Encodings"](#) for more information.

Example 7.8. Publish text messages

```
queue = inject('/queues/foo')
queue.publish "A text message"

topic = inject('/topics/foo')
topic.publish "A text message"
```

Example 7.9. Publish a Ruby Hash

```
queue = inject('/queues/foo')
queue.publish {:key => 'value', :list => %w{one two three}}
```

This is enormously convenient, as any serializable object is permitted, but it only makes sense if your queue consumers are also written in Ruby.

Example 7.10. Send message using a remote JNDI server

```
queue = TorqueBox::Messaging::Queue.new('/queues/foo',
                                       :naming_host => 'jndi.jboss.org',
                                       :naming_port => 1099)

queue.publish "Some message"
```

The `publish` method takes an optional second argument containing a hash of options:

Table 7.2. Publish options

Option	Default	Description
<code>:encoding</code>	<code>:marshal</code>	<p>Specifies the serialization encoding to use for the message. TorqueBox provides the following built-in encodings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>:marshal</code> - The message is encoded/decoded via Marshal, and is transmitted as a binary message. <code>:marshal_base64</code> - The message is encoded/decoded via Marshal, and is transmitted as a base64 encoded text message. This was the encoding scheme used in TorqueBox 1.x. <code>:json</code> - The message is encoded/decoded via JSON, and is transmitted as a text message. This encoding is limited, and should only be used for simple messages. <code>:text</code> - The message isn't encoded/decoded at all, and is passed straight through as a text message. The content of the message must be a string. <p>See Section 4.2, "Message Encodings" for more information.</p>
<code>:priority</code>	<code>:normal</code>	<p>higher priority messages will be delivered before lower priority messages within the context of a queue. You can specify the priority as an integer in the range 0..9, or as one of the following convenience symbols (with the corresponding integer priorities in parentheses):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>:low (1)</code> <code>:normal (4)</code>

Option	Default	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • :high (7) • :critical (9) <p>Higher priority messages will be processed before lower priority ones for a specific message processor.</p>
:ttl		<p>The maximum time the message will wait in a destination to be consumed, in milliseconds. If the message isn't consumed within this time it will be delivered to an expiry queue. By default, messages don't have a ttl (and therefore never expire). By default, expired messages end up on the /queue/ExpiryQueue queue. If you want to do something special with those messages, you'll need to add a processor for that queue.</p>
:persistent	true	<p>By default, queued messages will survive across AS restarts. If you don't want a message to be persistent, set the persistence to false (see Section 2.2.1, "Long-lived queues and topics" for controlling message durability globally for a queue).</p>
:correlation_id	nil	<p>The string value to set for the JMSCorrelationID [http://download.oracle.com/javaee/1.3/api/javax/jms/Message.html#setJMSCorrelationID%28java.lang.String%29] message header.</p>
:reply_to	nil	<p>The <code>javax.jms.Destination</code> value to set for the JMSReplyTo [http://download.oracle.com/javaee/1.3/api/javax/jms/Message.html#setJMSReplyTo%28javax.jms.Destination%29] message header.</p>

Option	Default	Description
:type	nil	The string value to set for the JMSType [http://download.oracle.com/javaee/1.3/api/javax/jms/Message.html#setJMSType%28java.lang.String%29] message header.
:properties	nil	A hash of string key/value pairs to set as message properties. This can be used as application-specific headers and matched against in the :selector option of the receive method.
:startup_timeout	30000	The maximum time to wait for the destination to become ready on initial app startup, in milliseconds. On a very slow machine this may need to be increased from the default.

4.1.2. Receiving Messages

Receiving messages from a JMS Queue or Topic is very similar to publishing messages. To consume a message, simply construct either a Queue or Topic instance with its name, and then call its receive method. The API's of both Topics and Queues are identical.

Example 7.11. Receive messages

```
queue = TorqueBox::Messaging::Queue.new('/queues/foo')
message = queue.receive

topic = TorqueBox::Messaging::Topic.new('/topics/foo')
message = topic.receive
```

The receive takes an optional argument containing a hash of options:

Table 7.3. Receive options

Option	Default	Description
:decode	true	When :decode is set to true, receive returns the same value that was sent via publish.

Option	Default	Description
		If <code>:decode</code> is <code>false</code> , the JMS javax.jms.Message object will be returned instead. This should be <code>true</code> unless you need to access headers or properties of the JMS message.
<code>:timeout</code>	0	The amount of time to wait before giving up, in milliseconds. A value of 0 means to wait indefinitely. If receive times out it will return a <code>nil</code> value.
<code>:selector</code>	<code>nil</code>	The JMS selector string used to filter messages received by this consumer. For details see the "Message Selectors" section of the javax.jms.Message documentation. A <code>nil</code> value means all messages are received.
<code>:startup_timeout</code>	30000	The maximum time to wait for the destination to become ready on initial app startup, in milliseconds. On a very slow machine this may need to be increased from the default.
<code>:durable</code>	<code>false</code>	Specifies that the connection to a topic should be durable. This causes any messages that arrive on the topic to be queued. If <code>false</code> , messages that arrive on the topic when a <code>receive</code> is not waiting will be discarded. If <code>true</code> , you must also supply a <code>:client_id</code> in the connect options for the Topic. This option is ignored for Queues.
<code>:subscriber_name</code>	'subscriber-1'	Specifies the subscriber name to be used when creating a durable topic subscription. This option is

Option	Default	Description
		ignored for Queues and for non-durable receives on a Topic.

4.1.2.1. Unsubscribing a Durable Topic

If you create a durable topic subscriber by passing the `:durable` option to the `receive` method, that subscription will remain until the HornetQ Topic is shut down. If you no longer need the subscription, you should unsubscribe it by calling the `unsubscribe` method on the `Topic` object. If you provided a `:subscriber_name` to the `receive` call, you will need to provide that same name as an argument to `unsubscribe`.

4.1.3. Synchronous Messaging

The `publish` and `receive` methods and our higher-level messaging abstractions are designed for asynchronous communication and are recommended for most uses. However, if you do need to send a message and wait for a response, `TorqueBox` also provides a synchronous messaging abstraction.

Example 7.12. Synchronous messaging

```
queue = TorqueBox::Messaging::Queue.new('/queues/foo')
Thread.new {
  queue.receive_and_publish(:timeout => 5000) { |message| message.upcase }
}
message = queue.publish_and_receive "ping", :timeout => 5000
# message equals "PING"
```

You send a message with the `publish_and_receive` method which blocks until the `:timeout` elapses or a response is received. This method has a default `:timeout` of 10 seconds since you'll rarely want to wait indefinitely for a response. In a separate thread (likely `TorqueBox Services` - [Chapter 10, TorqueBox Services](#)), you consume messages and publish responses with the `receive_and_publish` method. The return value of the block passed to this method is the message response. The options allowed in both these methods are a union of those from `publish` and `receive`. Synchronous messaging is only available with queues, not topics.

4.2. Message Encodings

`TorqueBox` provides several different encoding serialization schemes for messaging, and allows you to override the default encoding for all of your messages, or override the encoding used on a per `publish` basis. Creating and registering your own encoding is trivial if you need an encoding scheme that is not provided out of the box.

4.2.1. Built-In Encodings

TorqueBox provides the following built-in encodings:

- `:marshal` - The message is encoded/decoded via Marshal, and is transmitted as a binary message. This is the default encoding.
- `:marshal_base64` - The message is encoded/decoded via Marshal, and is transmitted as a base64 encoded text message. This was the encoding scheme used in TorqueBox 1.x.
- `:json` - The message is encoded/decoded via JSON, and is transmitted as a text message. This encoding is limited, and should only be used for simple messages. This encoding is intended to provide interoperability with other languages. Any application that uses the `:json` encoding will need to provide the `json` gem via its Gemfile, or, if you are not using Bundler, the `json` gem must at least be installed.
- `:text` - The message isn't encoded/decoded at all, and is passed straight through as a text message. The content of the message must be a string. This is useful for passing messages you can guarantee will always be strings, or you are doing your own application level encoding/decoding.

You can specify the encoding on a per-publish basis (see [Section 4.1.1, “Publishing Messages”](#)), or set the default encoding globally (see [Section 4.2.2, “Overriding The Default Encoding”](#)).

4.2.2. Overriding The Default Encoding

You can override the default encoding (`:marshal`) in your deployment descriptor. This default will be used for any of your publish calls if no encoding is specified at call time. This change will not affect any messages used by TorqueBox internally (to implement [Backgroundable](#) for example).

Example 7.13. Overriding the default message encoding

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:
  ...
messaging:
  default_message_encoding: json
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  options_for :messaging, :default_message_encoding => :json
```

```
end
```

4.2.3. Creating Your Own Message Encoding

To create your own message encoding, you need to create a subclass of `TorqueBox::Messaging::Message` that provides `encode` and `decode` methods, along with `ENCODING` and `JMS_TYPE` constants. Below is a simple annotated example of a custom YAML encoding.

Example 7.14. Annotated custom YAML encoding example

```
require 'yaml'

module MyModule
  class YAMLMessage < TorqueBox::Messaging::Message
    # a unique name for the encoding, stored with a published
    # message so it can be properly decoded
    ENCODING = :yaml

    # can also be :bytes for a binary message
    JMS_TYPE = :text

    def encode(message)
      # @jms_message is the actual javax.jms.TextMessage
      @jms_message.text = YAML::dump(message) unless message.nil?
    end

    def decode
      YAML::load(@jms_message.text) unless @jms_message.text.nil?
    end
  end

  # this will register the class under the key given by its ENCODING
  TorqueBox::Messaging::Message.register_encoding(YAMLMessage)
end
```

Using our new encoding:

```
#you'll need to require your encoding class anywhere you publish/receive
require 'yaml_message'

data = [1, 2, 3]
some_queue.publish(data, :encoding => :yaml)
```

```
puts some_queue.receive # [1, 2, 3]
```

For additional examples, see the message classes defined in the [TorqueBox source](https://github.com/torquebox/torquebox/tree/2x-dev/gems/messaging/lib/torquebox/messaging) [https://github.com/torquebox/torquebox/tree/2x-dev/gems/messaging/lib/torquebox/messaging].

4.3. Message Processors

Message consumers may be implemented in Ruby and easily attached to destinations. A Ruby consumer may either interact at the lowest JMS-level, or take advantage of higher-level semantics.

4.3.1. Low-level message consumption

For the lowest-level implementation of a Ruby consumer, the class must simply implement `process!(msg)` which receives a `javax.jms.Message` as its parameter. Admittedly, this gets quite a lot of Java in your Ruby, but it's available if needed.

Example 7.15. Low-level message consumer

```
class MyLowConsumer
  def process!(msg)
    # manipulate the javax.jms.Message here
  end
end
```

If `process!` raises an exception, the message broker considers the message undelivered and will retry delivery up to some configurable limit (default is 10). If all of those attempts fail, the broker stores the message in a Dead Letter Queue (DLQ) that may be interrogated later.

4.3.2. Syntactic sugar for message consumers

Message consumers may extend `TorqueBox::Messaging::MessageProcessor` and implement an `on_message(body)` method which will receive the body of the JMS message.

Example 7.16. MessageProcessor subclass

```
class MyConsumer < TorqueBox::Messaging::MessageProcessor
  def on_message(body)
    # The body will be of whatever type was published by the Producer
    # the entire JMS message is available as a member variable called message()
  end
  def on_error(exception)
    # You may optionally override this to interrogate the exception. If you do,
```

```

    # you're responsible for re-raising it to force a retry.
  end
end

```

There is an accessor for the actual JMS message that is set by TorqueBox prior to invoking `on_message`, so it's there if you need it.

Just like with `process!`, if `on_message` raises an exception, the message broker considers the message undelivered. You may trap the error by overriding `on_error`, at which point you decide whether to re-raise the exception to force a retry. That is the default behavior if you do not override the method.

4.3.3. Connecting Consumers to Destinations

To connect consumers within a TorqueBox-deployed application, you need to add a `messaging:` section to your `torquebox.yml` (or external `*-knob.yml` descriptor), or add a processor directive to the destination definition if you are using the DSL (in `torquebox.rb`).

If you are using a YAML descriptor, the `messaging:` section will contain the mappings from your destinations (topics and queues) to your consumers. The section is a YAML hash, the keys of which are your destination names, which should correspond to existing queues and topics. These destinations may be deployed through the same `torquebox.yml` or as long-lived destinations.

If you are using a DSL descriptor, the consumers are not defined in a separate section, but as part of the queue/topic definition. If the destination is a long-lived destination (managed by another application), then you will need to tell TorqueBox not to try to create the destination by setting the `create` to `false`.

Example 7.17. Messaging handlers in a deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```

application:
  ..
queues:
  /queues/my_app_queue:

messaging:
  /queues/my_app_queue:   MyFooHandler
  /topics/long_lived_topic: MyBazHandler

```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  queue '/queues/my_app_queue' do
    processor MyFooHandler
  end

  topic '/topics/long_lived_topic' do
    create false
    processor MyBazHandler
  end
end
```

The classes `MyFooHandler` and `MyBazHandler` would correspond to files available on the load path: `my_foo_handler.rb` and `my_baz_handler.rb`, respectively. In a Rails app, these files would typically reside beneath `lib/` or `app/models/`.

The above example shows the simplest possible configuration, but it's possible to alter the behavior of your message processor using the following options:

Table 7.4. Message processor options

Option	Default	Description
<code>concurrency</code>	1	May be used to throttle the throughput of your processor. Processors are single-threaded, by default, but you can increase this value to match the number of concurrent messages you expect to receive. Note that this value determines the number of consumers connected to the destination and thus you'll rarely want a concurrency greater than 1 for topics since that means you'll process duplicate messages.
<code>filter</code>		May be used to filter the messages dispatched to your consumer.
<code>durable</code>	false	Turns the processor into a durable subscriber. Once a processor durably subscribes to a topic, if it disconnects any messages sent will be saved and delivered once the processor reconnects. If true, you must also supply a <code>client_id</code>

Option	Default	Description
		as well. This setting only affects processors attached to topics, and is ignored for queue processors.
client_id		A string to uniquely identify the connecting client. Optional unless you are using the durable option (above) on a Topic.
config		Should contain a hash of data which will be passed to your consumer's constructor, initialize(Hash).

Example 7.18. Messaging configuration in a deployment descriptor with options set

Using the YAML syntax:

```

application:
  ...
messaging:
  /queues/foo:
    MyFooHandler:
      filter: "cost > 30"
      concurrency: 2
      config:
        type: "premium"
        season: "fall"
  /topics/bar:
    MyBarHandler:
      durable: true
      client_id: my-awesome-client

```

And via the DSL:

```

TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  queue '/queues/foo' do
    processor MyFooHandler do
      filter "cost > 30"
      concurrency 2
      config do
        type "premium"

```

```

    season "fall"
  end
end
end

topic '/topics/bar' do
  processor MyBarHandler, :durable => true, :client_id => 'my-awesome-client'
end
end

```

The YAML and DSL syntaxes enable the configuration to get fairly sophisticated, allowing you to, for example, map a single destination to multiple processors or re-use configuration options in multiple processors. You may never have a need for this much flexibility, but it's available if you do.

Example 7.19. Advanced messaging configuration in a deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```

application:
  ...

messaging:
  /topics/simple: SimpleHandler

  /topics/popular:
    - Handler
      concurrency: 5
    - Observer: &defaults
      filter: "x > 18"
      config:
        x: ex
        y: why
    - Processor

  /queues/students:
    VerySimpleAnalyzer:
    YouthMonitor:
      filter: "y < 18"
      config:
        h: ache
        i: eye
    LookAndFeel:
      <<: *defaults

```

Here we have `/topics/simple` mapped to a single processor of type `SimpleHandler` using a YAML string, `/topics/popular` mapped to three processors (`Handler`, `Observer`, `Processor`) using a YAML list, and `/queues/students` mapped to three more processors (`VerySimpleAnalyzer`, `YouthMonitor`, `LookAndFeel`) using a YAML hash where each key in the hash corresponds to the processor type. This example also takes advantage of YAML's ability to merge hash's: the `Observer` and `LookAndFeel` processors are configured identically.

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  topic '/topics/simple' do
    processor SimpleHandler
  end

  common_config = { :filter => "x > 18", :config => { :x => 'ex', :y => 'why' } }

  topic '/topics/popular' do |topic|
    topic.processor Handler, :concurrency => 5
    topic.processor Observer, common_config
    topic.processor Processor
  end

  queue '/queues/students' do |queue|
    queue.processor VerySimpleAnalyzer
    queue.processor YouthMonitor do
      filter "y < 18"
      config do
        h 'ache'
        i 'eye'
      end
    end
    queue.processor LookAndFeel, common_config
  end
end
```

Here we have the same configuration as the YAML example above, but expressed via the DSL. Note that we have to use the block argument form for our destinations that share `common_config`. This is due to the no-argument form using `instance_eval`, which does not allow you to access any variables defined outside of the block.

4.4. Backgroundable Methods

TorqueBox also provides Backgroundable methods. Backgroundable allows you to process any method on any object asynchronously. You can mark a method to always execute in the background, or send a method to the background on an ad hoc basis. Backgrounded methods return a [Future](#) object that can be used to monitor the status of the method invocation and retrieve the final return value. When transitioning from TorqueBox 1.x to 2.x, it is advisable to replace any Task implementation with usage of Backgroundable.

4.4.1. always_background

Backgroundable provides the `always_background` class method that allows you to flag a method to always be executed in the background:

Example 7.20. Having a method always execute in the background

```
class User < ActiveRecord::Base
  always_background :send_signup_notification

  def send_signup_notification
    ...
  end
end

user = User.find(id)

# executes in the background, returning immediately
future_result = user.send_signup_notification
```

The `always_background` method can be called before or after the method being backgrounded is defined, and can take multiple method symbols: `always_background :foo, :bar`.

You can also call `always_background` from outside of the class definition if you prefer:

Example 7.21. Alternative `always_background` usage

```
class User < ActiveRecord::Base
  def send_signup_notification
    ...
  end
end
```

```
User.always_background(:send_signup_notification)
```

4.4.2. background

If you have not marked an instance method with `always_background`, you can background it at call time with the `background` instance method. A method called via `background` will also return a [Future](#) object that can be used to monitor the status of the method invocation and retrieve the final return value.

Example 7.22. Backgrounding a method ad hoc

```
class User < ActiveRecord::Base
  def process_avatar(image_data)
    ...
  end
end

user = User.find(id)

# executes in the background, returning immediately
future_result = user.background.process_avatar(the_image)

# executes in the foreground (this thread)
regular_result = user.process_avatar(the_image)
```

4.4.3. The Backgroundable module

To use `Backgroundable` methods in a class, you will need to include the `TorqueBox::Messaging::Backgroundable` module into the class:

Example 7.23. Including the `Backgroundable` module

```
class User
  include TorqueBox::Messaging::Backgroundable
  ...
end
```

Including `Backgroundable` provides both the `always_background` class method and the `background` instance method.

If your application uses Rails and you use the rails template that ships with TorqueBox (`$TORQUEBOX_HOME/share/rails/template.rb`), you should have an initializer (`RAILS_ROOT/config/initializers/active_record_backgroundable.rb`) that already includes Backgroundable into `ActiveRecord::Base`.

4.4.4. Object/argument marshalling

We serialize the receiver and arguments using Marshal and include them in the message that gets enqueued. The message processors run in a separate ruby runtime from the application, which may be on a different machine if you have a cluster. The marshaling works well for ActiveRecord objects and basic ruby objects. It may not work as well for objects that expect a lot of plumbing in place (ActionControllers, for example).

4.4.5. Backgroundable method invocation options

The priority, time-to-live (TTL), and persistence options that are available when [publishing messages](#) are available to Backgroundable methods as well:

Example 7.24. Passing options to Backgroundable methods

```
class Widget
  always_background :productize, :priority => :low
  def productize
    ...
  end

  def monetize
    ...
  end
end

widget = Widget.new

widget.background(:ttl => 1000, :persistent => false).monetize
```

The message options are passed as a Hash as the last argument to `always_background`, and as the only argument to `background`. Options passed to `always_background` affect every background invocation of the specified methods, while options passed to `background` affect only that particular invocation.

Table 7.5. Backgroundable invocation options

Option	Default	Description
<code>:priority</code>	<code>:normal</code>	Higher priority messages will be delivered before lower priority

Option	Default	Description
		<p>messages within the context of a queue. You can specify the priority as an integer in the range 0..9, or as one of the following convenience symbols (with the corresponding integer priorities in parentheses):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • :low (1) • :normal (4) • :high (7) • :critical (9) <p>Higher priority messages will be processed before lower priority ones for a specific message processor.</p>
:ttl		<p>The maximum time the message will wait in a destination to be consumed, in milliseconds. If the message isn't consumed within this time it will be delivered to an expiry queue. By default, messages don't have a ttl (and therefore never expire). By default, expired messages end up on the /queue/ExpiryQueue queue. If you want to do something special with those messages, you'll need to add a processor for that queue.</p>
:persistent	true	<p>By default, queued messages will survive across AS restarts. If you don't want a message to be persistent, set the persistence to false.</p>

4.4.6. Backgroundable message processor options

The concurrency option that is [available to message processors](#) in a deployment descriptor is available to Backgroundable message processors as well. Instead of a task class name, you specify Backgroundable:

Example 7.25. Task message processor options in a deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:
  ...
tasks:
  Backgroundable:
    concurrency: 2
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  options_for Backgroundable, :concurrency => 2
  options_for SomeTask, :concurrency => 5
end
```

By default, every application you deploy will have a queue for `Backgroundable` methods, even if you don't use it. To turn off the queue, set the concurrency to 0.

4.5. Future Objects

Methods backgrounded via `Backgroundable` return `Future` objects that allow you to monitor the progress of the asynchronous processing.

Table 7.6. Future instance methods

Method	Description
<code>started?</code>	Returns <code>true</code> if the task processing has started.
<code>complete?</code>	Returns <code>true</code> if the task processing has completed without error. If <code>true</code> , The result is available via the <code>result</code> method.
<code>error?</code>	Returns <code>true</code> if an error occurred during the task processing. If <code>true</code> , The actual error is available via the <code>error</code> method.
<code>status</code>	Returns the last status message returned from the task. This will only have meaning if you signal status information from within your task. See the status notifications section for more details.
<code>status_changed?</code>	Returns <code>true</code> if the status has changed since you last called <code>status</code> . This will only have meaning if you

Method	Description
	signal status information from within your task. See the status notifications section for more details.
<code>all_statuses</code>	Returns an array of all the statuses received by the future, which may not include all of the statuses sent if the task completes before they are all received. This will only have meaning if you signal status information from within your task. See the status notifications section for more details.
<code>result</code>	Returns the result of the remote processing. This method takes a <code>timeout</code> (in milliseconds), and will block for that amount of time if processing has started but not completed, or up to twice that time if processing has yet to start. If no result is available after timing out, a <code>TorqueBox::Messaging::TimeoutException</code> is raised. The <code>timeout</code> defaults to 30 seconds. The recommended pattern is to wait for <code>complete?</code> to return <code>true</code> before calling <code>result</code> .
<code>method_missing</code>	Delegates any missing methods to the <code>result</code> , using the default timeout.
<code>error</code>	Returns the remote error object if an error occurred during task processing.

4.5.1. Sending status notifications to the Future from within the task

From within a task or backgrounded method invocation, you can send a status notification to the Future for this call by using the `future.status=method`. The status can be any marshalable object, and its semantics are defined by your application.

Example 7.26. Sending a status message

```
class Something
  include TorqueBox::Messaging::Backgroundable

  always_background :process_some_stuff
  ...
  def process_some_stuff
    stuff.each_with_index do |thing, index|
      thing.process_it
      # report the % complete
      future.status = (index * 100)/stuff_count
    end
  end
end
```

```
end

future = Something.new.process_some_stuff
# time passes
future.started? # => true
future.status   # => 22
# time passes
future.status   # => 87
```

STOMP & WebSockets on TorqueBox

1. Overview

TorqueBox provides real-time bidirectional communication between applications and web-browsers using a combination of WebSockets and STOMP. Raw access to WebSockets is not provided. Instead, multiplexed communication is supported through the layering of messaging semantics on top. Additionally, optional integration into other messaging systems (such as JMS/HornetQ) are provided to enable advanced application architectures.

TorqueBox provides support for Stompets to allow explicit control and design of messaging endpoints, instead of simple direct bridging to some other underlying messaging technology, such as a JMS broker.



Important

Everything described in this chapter is in flux at this point in time. Community input is sought. Provide feedback!

1.1. What are WebSockets?

WebSockets is a new specification to allow synchronous bidirectional communication between a client (such as a web browser) and a server. While similar to TCP sockets, WebSockets is a protocol that operates as an upgraded HTTP connection, exchanging variable-length frames between the two parties, instead of a stream.

A browser may access a WebSockets-based service using Javascript. Once connected, the client and server must determine the meaning of any data sent across the socket. The WebSockets transport itself provides no protocol semantics beyond data frames passing each direction.

1.2. What is STOMP?

STOMP stands for Stream-Oriented Messaging Protocol. STOMP defines a protocol for clients and servers to communicate with messaging semantics. STOMP does not define any implementation details, but rather addresses an easy-to-implement wire protocol for messaging integrations.

STOMP provides higher semantics on top of the WebSockets transport. STOMP defines a handful of frame types that are mapped to WebSockets frames.

- CONNECT

- SUBSCRIBE
- UNSUBSCRIBE
- SEND (messages sent to the server)
- MESSAGE (for messages send from the server)
- BEGIN, COMMIT, ROLLBACK

1.3. What are Stomplets?

The Stomplet specification defines a controller (in the MVC sense of controllers) API for working with asynchronous messaging end-points. Stomplets are mapped to STOMP destinations (possibly using wildcards, like Rails routes), coordinating clients subscribing to receive messages and clients sending messages.

Stomplets are long-lived stateful controllers.

2. Ruby Stomplets

Ruby Stomplets have a handful of methods which must be implemented to support all messaging actions.

- `configure(config)` Configures the Stomplet with its name/value configuration and context.
- `destroy()` Destroys the Stomplet and releases resources when it is taken out of service.
- `on_subscribe(subscriber)` Called when a client wishes to receive messages.
- `on_unsubscribe(subscriber)` Called when a client no longer wishes to receive messages.
- `on_message(message)` Called when a client has sent a message.

2.1. Stomplet API

2.1.1. `configure(config)`

The `configure(config)` method is called for each instance of the Stomplet instantiated by the container. The `config` parameter includes any name/value pairs specified in the configuration of the Stomplet for a given route.

The `configure(...)` method is typically where a Stomplet would acquire any resources it needs to handle subscription requests and sent messages.

2.1.2. `destroy()`

The `destroy()` method is called for each instance of the Stomplet when the container undeploys its route. This method is typically where all resources are released and connections to underlying systems are terminated.

2.1.3. `on_subscribe(subscriber)` and `on_unsubscribe(subscriber)`

The `on_subscribe(subscriber)` method is called when a client wishes to receive messages from a destination matching the Stomplet. The same instance of the subscriber parameter is passed to `on_unsubscribe(...)` when the client wishes to cease receiving messages and cancel that subscription.

The subscriber object supports a few useful methods:

- `destination` String describing the desired destination to receive messages from.
- `send(message)` Deliver a message to the client through this subscription.
- `session` Access to the STOMP session (see below).

2.1.4. `on_message(message, session)`

The `on_message(message)` method is called with a Stomp message and session as the parameters whenever a client sends a message to a destination handled by the Stomplet. The client does not necessarily need to have previously subscribed to the destination in order to send messages to it.

2.1.5. Sessions

If the Stomplets are run as part of a larger application which involves web components (Rack, Sinatra, Rails, etc), then the user's session will pass between from the web and STOMP components. Values set on the session from a web-based controller will be visible within the scope of the Stomplet, and vice-versa.

If the Stomplets are deployed without a web component, or using different virtual-host configuration, a STOMP-specific session will be used, providing communication between all of the Stomplets but independent from any web sessions.

2.2. Example

```
require 'torquebox-stomp'

class SimpleBroadcastStomplet

  def initialize()
```

```
    super
  end

  def configure(stomplet_config)
    super
  end

  def on_message(stomp_message, session)
    @subscribers.each do |subscriber|
      subscriber.send( stomp_message )
    end
  end

  def on_subscribe(subscriber)
    @subscribers << subscriber
  end

  def on_unsubscribe(subscriber)
    @subscribers.delete( subscriber )
  end

end
```

3. JMS Integration

TorqueBox provides useful classes to build your own application's Stomplets upon. The most useful of these is `TorqueBox::Stomp::JmsStomplet`, which handles a large portion of bridging between STOMP and JMS, while allowing the flexibility to adapt the integration to match your particular needs.

The primary assistance it provides is through two methods:

- `subscribe_to(subscriber, jms_destination, jms_selector=nil)`
- `send_to(jms_destination_name, stomp_message, headers={})`

Your own Stomplet may use these methods to handle the heavy-lifting after translating between STOMP destinations and JMS destinations.

When using `send_to(...)`, the `stomp_message` parameter may be a complete `StompMessage`, or simply a string, which will be converted into a message. Any headers specified will override any headers provided through the `StompMessage`.

Example 8.1. Example JMS Stomplet Bridge

```
require 'torquebox-stomp'
```

```

class BridgeStomplet < TorqueBox::Stomp::JmsStomplet

  def initialize()
    super
  end

  def configure(stomplet_config)
    super

    @destination_type = stomplet_config['type']
    @destination_name = stomplet_config['destination']
  end

  def on_message(stomp_message, session)
    send_to( destination_for( @destination_name, @destination_type ), stomp_message )
  end

  def on_subscribe(subscriber)
    subscribe_to( subscriber, destination_for( @destination_name,
@destination_type ) )
  end

end

```

3.1. Destination and Message compatibility

When using the `JmsStomplet` to bridge STOMP destinations to JMS destination, normal message-encoding occurs. This allows your application to send a message to a JMS destination using `TorqueBox::Messaging` interfaces as normal. The `JmsStomplet` will appropriately decode the messages received from the JMS destination. Likewise, any messages sent by the `JmsStomplet` will be appropriate encoded in order to be consumable by other non-STOMP `MessageProcessors`.

4. Deployment descriptors

To deploy Stomplets with your application, a `stomp:` section is added to your application's `torquebox.yml` descriptor. The section should contain named sections for each Stomplet your application needs to deploy. Each Stomplet is bound to a route, which works similar to Rails request routing, but matches against STOMP destinations instead of web URLs. Additionally, it specifies the class of the implementation, along with optional configuration in the form of name/value pairs of strings.

STOMP supports the notion of virtuals, just as with web container. By default, if your application specifies a virtual host for the web portion of the configuration, the same value will be used for the

STOMP container. The host may be overridden, though, by specifying a `host :` parameter within the `stomp: block`.

To configure stomplets using the YAML syntax:

```
stomp:
  host: somehost.com
  stomplets:
    stomplet.one:
      route: '/queues/:queue_name'
      class: StompletOne
    foo.stomplet:
      route: '/bridge/foo'
      class: BridgeStomplet
      config:
        type: queue
        destination: /jms-queues/foo
    bar.stomplet:
      route: '/bridge/bar'
      class: BridgeStomplet
      config:
        type: topic
        destination: /jms-topics/bar
```

To configure stomplets via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  stomp do
    host 'somehost.com'
  end

  stomplet StompletOne do
    route '/queues/:queue_name'
  end

  stomplet BridgeStomplet do
    name 'foo.stomplet' # required if >1 stomplets use the same class, optional
    otherwise
    route '/bridge/foo'
    config do
      type 'queue'
      destination '/jms-queues/foo'
```

```
end
end

stomplet BridgeStomplet do
  name 'bar.stomplet' # required if >1 stomplets use the same class, optional
  otherwise
  route '/bridge/bar'
  config :type => 'topic', :destination => '/jms-topics/bar'
end
end
```

5. Javascript Client

TorqueBox makes use of the Stilts framework and to implement the WebSockets and STOMP stack. TorqueBox includes the Javascript client provided by the Stilts distribution in the `share/javascripts/` directory. The client is derived from work by Jeff Mesnil.



Important

The Javascript relies on the browser's native support for WebSockets. Many browsers have disabled WebSockets by default. Please see instructions for your particular browser regarding how to enable and verify WebSockets support. We currently test with Firefox 6.

Firefox. <https://developer.mozilla.org/en/WebSockets>

5.1. Using the Javascript client

The Javascript STOMP client isolates your application from the underlying WebSocket protocol. The Javascript client works purely in terms of STOMP semantics. The client is based around callbacks.

5.1.1. Instantiating a client

The client is created using the `client(...)` method of the Javascript `Stomp` class. This method takes one parameter, being the URL of the server to connect to. Creating the client does not connect it.

By default, the STOMP server runs on port 8675 and supports virtual hosts. To connect, a URL scheme of `ws://` should be used.

```
client = Stomp.client( "ws://localhost:8675" )
```

5.1.2. Connecting the client

To connect the client to the STOMP server, use the `connect(...)` method, which takes three arguments: `username`, `password` and a callback function which will be invoked once the connection has been established.

Currently the `username` and `password` parameters are ignored.

```
client.connect( "username", "password", function() {  
    // executed once successfully connected  
} );
```

Once connected, the callback function will be invoked. Other client methods should be used from within this method or other callbacks.

5.1.3. Sending a message

Messages may be sent to any destination supported by your Stomplets, even without prior subscription to the same destination.

The client's `send(...)` method is used to deliver a payload with headers to the destination.

```
client.send( "/some/destination", { header1: 'Header 1' }, "this is the payload" );
```

Messages sent this way will be processed by the `on_message(...)` method of the Stomplet bound to the destination.

5.1.4. Subscribing to destinations

A client can subscribe to STOMP destinations using the `subscribe(...)` method, passing the destination and a message-handling callback function as parameters. Any message delivered to the client on the destination will invoke the function with the message as the argument. The message provides access to the body and hash of headers, along with an `ack()` method to acknowledge receipt, if required.

```
client.subscribe( "/some/destination", function(message) {  
    // message.body  
    // message.headers['header1']  
} );
```

5.1.5. Working with transactions

The STOMP protocol defines transactional semantics, and several transactions may concurrently be in use at the same time.

Starting a transaction. The `begin()` method is used to start a transaction. It returns a transaction identifier which may be used to associate other activities with the transaction.

Committing a transaction. To commit the work performed within the scope of a particular transaction, the `commit(...)` method is used, passing the transaction identifier provided by `begin()` as the only parameter.

Aborting a transaction. To cancel the work performed within the scope of a particular transaction, the `abort(...)` method is used, passing the transaction identifier provided by `begin()` as the only parameter.

Sending messages within a transaction. To send a message within a transaction, a transaction header should be added, with its value being the transaction identifier returned by a previous call to `begin()`.

```
tx = client.begin();

client.send( "/some/destination", { transaction: tx }, "this is a transactional
message" );

if ( everyoneIsHappy ) {
  client.commit( tx );
} else {
  client.abort( tx );
}
```

5.2. Rack middleware to provide the Javascript client

The `torquebox-stomp` gem includes a simple Rack middleware to make it easy to serve the Javascript client with your application, without having to copy it into your application's source tree. The `TorqueBox::Stomp::StompJavascriptClientProvider` middleware matches requests to `/stilts-stomp.js` and serves the Javascript client.

```
require 'torquebox-stomp'

app = lambda { |env|
  # your app here
```

```
}  
  
use TorqueBox::Stomp::StompJavascriptClientProvider  
run app
```

5.3. Injecting the endpoint URL

In your application, it's useful to be able to know exactly the STOMP server's endpoint URL, without having to hard-code that into your application. Since JBoss AS allows changing ports for services, especially when running multiple nodes on the same machine, determining the URL at runtime is helpful.

You may inject `stomp-endpoint` into your application code, and it will provide the the URL for connections to the STOMP endpoint on that node.

```
my_url = inject( 'stomp-endpoint' )
```

The URL may be used with the middleware-provided Javascript client to conveniently and reliably connect back to the STOMP endpoint, regardless of the current port being used.

6. Other Clients (without WebSockets)

The Stilts distribution also includes JRuby-based clients and Java clients appropriate for communicating with the TorqueBox STOMP service. While STOMP is offered over WebSockets, the same service, on the same port (8675) provides bare STOMP also, for clients not requiring a WebSockets transport. The JRuby and Java clients can seamlessly communicate with the TorqueBox STOMP server using either TCP/IP, or WebSockets as the underlying transport.

7. Further information

TorqueBox uses the Stilts project to provide the WebSockets and STOMP stack. The Stilts project also defines the Stomplet API. Additional clients are available directly from the Stilts project. Rest assured, Stilts is written by the same people who write TorqueBox.

<http://stilts.projectodd.org/>

TorqueBox Scheduled Jobs

1. What Are Scheduled Jobs?

Scheduled jobs are simply components that execute on a possibly-recurring schedule instead of in response to user interaction. Scheduled jobs fire asynchronously, outside of the normal web-browser thread-of-control. Scheduled jobs have full access to the entire Ruby environment. This allows them to interact with database models and other application functionality.

2. Ruby Job Classes

Each scheduled job maps to exactly one Ruby class. The path and filename should match the class name of the job contained in the file.

File name	Class name
mail_notifier.rb	MailNotifier
mail/notifier.rb	Mail::Notifier

Example 9.1. Skeleton scheduled job class (mail/notifier.rb)

```
module Mail
  class Notifier

    # implementation goes here

  end
end
```

Each job class should implement a no-argument `run()` method to perform the work when fired.

Example 9.2. Scheduled job implementation (mail/notifier.rb)

```
module Mail
  class Notifier

    # optional, only needed if you pass config options to the job
    def initialize(options = {})
      @options = options
    end

  end
end
```

```
def run()  
  # perform work here  
  
end  
  
end  
end
```

From within the class's `run()` method, the full application environment is available.

3. Scheduling Jobs

The job schedule defines the time(s) that a job should execute. This may be defined to be single point in time, or more often, as recurring event. The job schedule is defined in your deployment descriptor.

3.1. Configuration Format

Within the internal `torquebox.yml` descriptor (or through an external `*-knob.yml` descriptor), scheduled jobs are configured using the a `jobs:` section.

Within the `jobs`, a block of information is provided for each job. The block starts with arbitrary name for the job. Each block must also define the job class and the schedule specification. Optionally a description and a `config` may be provided. If you do provide a `config`, its value will be passed to the `initialize` method of the job class.

If you are using the DSL (via `torquebox.rb`) in your internal descriptor, each job is defined using the `job` directive, with very similar options to the YAML syntax described above. The DSL does not require a name for each job, unless you intend to share a job class across multiple jobs.

Example 9.3. Example deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:  
  ..  
jobs:  
  mail.notifier:  
    job:      Mail::Notifier  
    cron:     '0 */5 * * * ?'  
    description: Deliver queued mail notifications  
    config:  
      throttle: true
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  job Mail::Notifier do
    name 'mail.notifier' # optional, unless the job class is used by multiple jobs
    cron '0 */5 * * * ?'
    description 'Deliver queued mail notifications' # optional
    config do
      throttle true
    end
  end
end
```

The cron attribute should contain a typical crontab-like entry. It is composed of 7 fields (6 are required).

Seconds	Minutes	Hours	Day of Month	Month	Day of Week	Year
0-59	0-59	0-23	1-31	1-12 or JAN-DEC	1-7 or SUN-SAT	1970-2099 (optional)

For several fields, you may denote subdivision by using the forward-slash (/) character. To execute a job every 5 minutes, */5 in the minutes field would specify this condition.

Spans may be indicated using the dash (-) character. To execute a job Monday through Friday, MON-FRI should be used in the day-of-week field.

Multiple values may be separated using the comma (,) character. The specification of 1,15 in the day-of-month field would result in the job firing on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Either day-of-month or day-of-week must be specified using the ? character, since specifying both is contradictory.

4. Clustered Jobs

4.1. Jobs Running on Every Node

By default, if a job will run on each node in a cluster where the application has been deployed.

4.2. High Availability Singleton Jobs

TorqueBox also supports high availability singleton jobs. In this scenario, the job only runs on one node in the cluster and if that node goes down it is automatically scheduled on a new node.

To use high availability singleton jobs, you must start TorqueBox with a clustered configuration. For example:

```
$ $JBOSS_HOME/bin/standalone.sh --server-config=standalone-ha.xml
```

You also need to add a special `singleton` key with a value of `true` to your job specification in your deployment descriptor. If no `singleton` key is defined or it has a value of `false` the job will run on every node in the cluster.

Example 9.4. Example deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:
  ..
jobs:
  mail.notifier:
    job:      Mail::Notifier
    cron:     '0 */5 * * * ?'
    description: Deliver queued mail notifications
    singleton: true
    config:
      throttle: true
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  job Mail::Notifier do
    name 'mail.notifier' # optional, unless the job class is used by multiple jobs
    cron '0 */5 * * * ?'
    description 'Deliver queued mail notifications' # optional
    singleton true
    config do
      throttle true
    end
  end
end
```

This is the same deployment descriptors from the example above but this time `mail.notifier` is marked as a singleton and will only run on one node in the cluster.

5. Resource Injection with Jobs

If a job requires access to other resources, such as messaging topics and queues, or Java CDI components these should be injected using the resource injection facilities provided by TorqueBox (see [Chapter 11, TorqueBox Resource Injection](#)).

In order for resource injection to function with scheduled jobs, they must reside either at the root of your application directory (typical for simple Rack applications), or underneath an `app/jobs/` directory. If you place the job anywhere else, it may still function, but resources injection will not be available.

TorqueBox Services

1. What Are Services?

Services are persistent background Ruby daemons deployed and managed by TorqueBox. Common uses for services include connecting to a remote service (IRC bot, Twitter Streaming API client) or starting a server to listen for incoming connections. A service may be deployed as part of a web application or as its own application without any web component. Services have full access to the entire Ruby environment. This means that a service deployed as part of a web application can interact with database models and other application functionality.

2. Service Classes

Each service maps to exactly one Ruby class that should optionally implement `initialize(Hash)`, `start()` and `stop()` methods which should each return quickly. Typically the `start` method will spawn a new thread to start an event loop or other long-running task.

Example 10.1. Service implementation (`my_service.rb`)

```
class MyService
  def initialize(opts={})
    @name = opts['name']
  end

  def start
    Thread.new { run }
  end

  def stop
    @done = true
  end

  def run
    until @done
      puts "Hello #{@name}"
      sleep(1)
    end
  end
end
```

This example service prints a message every second until stopped. By convention the long-running task is executed in a `run` method but could also reside inside the block passed to `Thread.new` in the `start` method.

3. Deploying Services

Services are deployed by creating a `services` section inside your application's deployment descriptor.

3.1. Configuration Format

Within the internal `torquebox.yml` descriptor (or through an external `*-knob.yml` descriptor), services reside under a `services` key of `torquebox.yml`. Each key underneath `services` is either a unique name for the service or the name of the Ruby class implementing the service. Providing a unique name allows the reuse of the same Ruby class to provide multiple services. If the Ruby class name is not used as the key, it must be provided using the `service` key in the key/value pairs nested underneath the service entry as options for the service. Any value assigned to the `config` key underneath the service entry will be passed in as the parameter to the service's `initialize` method.

If you are using the DSL (via `torquebox.rb`) in your internal descriptor, each service is defined using the `service` directive, with very similar options to the YAML syntax described above. The DSL does not require a name for each job, unless you intend to share a job class across multiple jobs.

Example 10.2. Example deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```
services:
  MyService:
    config:
      name: TorqueBox User

  AnotherService:

  ham-machine:
    service: FoodMachine
    config:
      food: ham

  biscuit-machine:
    service: FoodMachine
    config:
      food: biscuit
```

This deploys four services; the first two using the class name as the key: `MyService` which corresponds to the example above and `AnotherService` which doesn't take any initialization parameters. The latter two services reuse the same class, and use a unique name as the key.

And using the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  service MyService do
    config do
      name 'TorqueBox User'
    end
  end

  service AnotherService

  service FoodMachine do
    name 'ham-machine'
    config do
      food 'ham'
    end
  end

  service FoodMachine do
    name 'biscuit-machine'
    config do
      food 'biscuit'
    end
  end
end
```

Service classes should be available in Ruby's load path. For Rails applications, the convention is to put your service classes in `$RAILS_ROOT/app/services/` and ensure this directory is on your load path.

```
config.autoload_paths += %W(#{config.root}/app/services)
```

4. Clustered Services

4.1. Services Running on Every Node

By default, if a service is deployed to every node in a cluster it will run on each node. This is useful for stateless services.

4.2. High Availability Singleton Services

TorqueBox also supports high availability singleton services. In this scenario, the service only runs on one node in the cluster and if that node goes down it automatically starts on a new node.

To use high availability singleton services, you must start TorqueBox with a clustered configuration. For example:

```
$ $JBOSS_HOME/bin/standalone.sh --server-config=standalone-ha.xml
```

You also need to add a special `singleton` key with a value of `true` to your services section of `torquebox.yml`. If no `singleton` key is defined or it has a value of `false` the service will run on every node in the cluster.

Example 10.3. Example deployment descriptor

Using the YAML syntax:

```
services:
  MyService:
    singleton: true
    config:
      name: TorqueBox User

  AnotherService:

  ham-machine:
    service: FoodMachine
    config:
      food: ham

  biscuit-machine:
    service: FoodMachine
    config:
      food: biscuit
```

And using the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  service MyService do
    singleton true
    config do
```

```
    name 'TorqueBox User'
  end
end

service AnotherService

service FoodMachine do
  name 'ham-machine'
  config do
    food 'ham'
  end
end

service FoodMachine do
  name 'biscuit-machine'
  config do
    food 'biscuit'
  end
end
```

This is the same deployment descriptor from the example above but this time `MyService` is marked as a singleton and will only run on one node in the cluster. The remaining jobs will run on all nodes in the cluster since a `singleton` key isn't specified.

5. Resource Injection with Services

If a service requires access to other resources, such as messaging topics and queues, or Java CDI components these should be injected using the resource injection facilities provided by TorqueBox (see [Chapter 11, TorqueBox Resource Injection](#)).

In order for resource injection to function with services, they must reside either at the root of your application directory (typical for simple Rack applications), or underneath an `app/services/` directory. If you place the service anywhere else, it may still function, but resources injection will not be available.

TorqueBox Resource Injection

1. What is Resource Injection?

Resource injection is the term given a software architectural strategy that moves the responsibility of finding and connecting components to a container, allowing components to remain simple and testable. Components declare what they need, and when instantiated by the container, the container also satisfies those needs.

What's a resource? A resource may be any component within your application, ranging from instances of Java classes, to messaging destinations.

2. Basics of Resource Injection

TorqueBox supports injection within the context of jobs, services, messaging-handlers and web applications. The two key components of using the injection capabilities are:

- Include `TorqueBox::Injectors` in a source file that needs to perform injection. If injection occurs in a super-class, the super class must include `TorqueBox::Injectors`. If injection also occurs in a sub-class, the sub-class must also include `TorqueBox::Injectors`. By including this module, you indicate to the injection analyzer that a given source file should be considered. Inclusion of it does not inherit.
- To inject a value, use the `inject(...)` method (or a variant) with a literal value. Variable interpolation is not supported within the argument list of `inject(...)`. For convenience, the result of the `inject(...)` call would be assigned to an instance value, but this is not required.

TorqueBox supports injection in the following locations (relative to the root directory of your application):

- your app's root directory
- `/app`
- `/lib`
- `/helpers`
- `/models` (for Padrino apps)

For instance:

```
class MyService
```

```
include TorqueBox::Injectors

def initialize()
  @queue = inject( '/queues/new-accounts' )
end

def that_thing()
  inject( com.foo.ThatThing )
end

end
```

TorqueBox::Injectors also provides an `__inject__(...)` method that can be used in classes that override the `inject(...)` method (classes that include `Enumerable`, for example). It is interchangeable with the `inject(...)` calls in any of the injection examples.

3. Injectable Resources

A variety of resources may easily be injected with the `inject(...)` method.

CDI Resources. The Java Context and Dependency Injection (CDI) spec defines a method for managing relationships between components. CDI-enabled components may be injected by providing a fully-qualified Java class name to the `inject(...)` method. Typically CDI components should be packaged in a JAR archive, and placed in your application's `lib/` or `vendor/jars/` directory.

TorqueBox uses the JBoss Weld implementation of CDI. Please see the [Weld website](http://seamframework.org/Weld) [http://seamframework.org/Weld] for more information.

```
class MyService

  include TorqueBox::Injectors

  def initialize()
    @java_service = inject( com.mycorp.MyJavaService )
  end

end
```

JRuby explicitly supports the simple syntax for common US-centric package names starting with `com`, `org`, `net`, `java`, and `javax`, amongst others. For other top-level packages based on country codes, such as `pl`, `de`, or `za`, to perform injection you should reference your class through the Java ruby package.

```
inject( Java::pl.softwaremine.PolishingService )
```

Messaging Destinations. Message destinations, such as queues and topics, may be injected into your components. If the argument to `inject(...)` includes the string fragment `"/queue"` or `"/topic"`, TorqueBox will inject the relevant `TorqueBox::Messaging::Queue` or `TorqueBox::Messaging::Topic`.

Using injection is the preferred method for obtaining a reference to a destination, to ensure that your job, service or web application relying upon the destination does not begin operation until the destination has been completely provisioned.

```
class MyController < ApplicationController

  include TorqueBox::Injectors

  def create
    notify_topic = inject( '/topics/new-accounts' )
  end

end
```

Naming & Directory Entries. Arbitrary items within the application's naming environment may be injected if the argument to `inject(...)` begins with `"java:comp/env"`.

```
class MyController < ApplicationController

  include TorqueBox::Injectors

  def create
    jndi_item = inject( 'java:comp/env/that_thing' )
  end

end
```

JBoss MSC Services. JBoss Modular Service Container is the container that drives the entire TorqueBox AS. Many components are accessible as MSC Services. These may be injected by passing the `ServiceName` as a string to `inject(...)`.

```
class MyController < ApplicationController
```

```
include TorqueBox::Injectors

def create
  the_actual_webserver = inject( 'jboss.web' )
end

end
```

Services. TorqueBox Services may be injected into your components if the argument to `inject(...)` begins with "service:" followed by the key used to configure the service in `torquebox.yml`.

```
class MyController < ApplicationController

  include TorqueBox::Injectors

  def stop
    # Service defined with a unique name in torquebox.yml
    the_torque_service = inject( 'service:my_torque_service' )
    # Service defined with service class in torquebox.yml
    another_service = inject( 'service:AnotherService' )
  end

end
```

4. Variants of inject(...)

While the `inject(...)` method is overloaded to detect the correct type of resource, there are occasions where it may guess incorrectly. To overcome this, variants are provided that explicitly direct the injection analyzer to look for a specific type of resource. For string-based injections, the previously mentioned matching rules do not apply to the injection method variants.

`inject_cdi(...)`. Injects CDI resources by literal class name.

`inject_queue(...)`. Injects a messaging queue by literal name.

`inject_topic(...)`. Injects a messaging topic by literal name.

`inject_naming(...)`. Injects JNDI resources by literal name.

`inject_mc(...)`. Injects MBeans by literal name.

5. Internals and Testing

At runtime, each `inject(...)` method looks up the injected resource through the `TorqueBox::Registry` singleton. In test environments, you may desire to populate this registry, using the `merge!(...)` method, which accepts a key/value Hash.

The key for each entry should match either the string argument used with `inject(...)`, or the Ruby version of the Java class name, if performing CDI injection. The value should be an appropriate object.

For instance, the Java class of `java.util.Set` should be converted into a string of `"Java::JavaUtil::Set"` when used as an injection lookup key.

6. Disabling the Injection Scanner

If you're not making use of injection, you can disable the injection scanner on a per-application basis. Simply add:

```
injection:  
  enabled: false
```

to your `-knob.yml` or `torquebox.yml` file, and injection scanning will be disabled for your application.

TorqueBox Authentication

TorqueBox provides a simple Ruby interface to the underlying JAAS security framework built into the JBoss Application Server. JAAS (Java Authentication and Authorization Service) is a pluggable security framework which intends to shield application developers from the underlying security implementation. We kept with this approach for TorqueBox and have hidden most all of the implementation details so you can focus on writing your applications.

TorqueBox applications can authenticate against any security policy that you have specified in your JBoss login-config.xml configuration. To learn more about how JBoss security works and is configured, refer to [the JBoss documentation](http://www.jboss.org/jbossas/docs/6-x/Core-Documentation/security.html) [http://www.jboss.org/jbossas/docs/6-x/Core-Documentation/security.html]. The TorqueBox integration, however, makes authenticating against a corporate JAAS data store trivial. NOTE: With AS7, security configuration moves to standalone/configuration/standalone.xml. Documentation is still being written for AS7, so stay tuned for additional links.

1. Security Domains

The JBoss Application Server allows application developers to authenticate against any of the JAAS security policies configured in the AS. In addition, TorqueBox adds TorqueBox-specific security policies to the AS when your application is deployed. We refer to these JAAS policy names as "domains". TorqueBox ships with a simple authentication domain, named `torquebox`. The `torquebox` domain uses a `SimpleServerLoginModule` for authentication.

The `SimpleServerLoginModule` login algorithm is: if password is null, authenticate the user and assign an identity of "guest" and a role of "guest". else if password is equal to the user name, assign an identity equal to the username and both "user" and "guest" roles else authentication fails.

To use the `torquebox` domain, specify this in your deployment descriptor:

Example 12.1. Using the `torquebox` domain

Using the YAML syntax:

```
auth:
  default:
    domain: torquebox
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
```

```

...
  authentication :default, :domain => 'torquebox'
end

```

The torquebox domain is deployed on demand only if your application specifies it in the configuration file. However, note that JAAS security domains are available to all applications deployed within the AS.

In addition to the torquebox security domain, an application specific domain - torquebox-appname is initialized when your application is deployed. The name of the application is determined from the name of your external descriptor (your *-knob.yml file) - the -knob.yml is dropped, leaving the application name.

This domain allows you to specify username/password pairs inside your deployment descriptor. Users are authenticated against whatever usernames and passwords you have configured.

Example 12.2. Using the torquebox domain

Using the YAML syntax:

```

auth:
  default:
    domain: torquebox-myapp
    credentials:
      john: johnpassword
      alice: alicespassword

```

And via the DSL:

```

TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  authentication :default do
    domain 'torquebox'
    credential 'john', 'johnpassword'
    credential 'alice', 'alicespassword'
  end
end

```

2. Configuration

TorqueBox authentication is configured in the torquebox.yml file or in a separate auth.yml by adding an auth section. Within this, you may add one or more named authentication handles. For example,

let's say your application is a dashboard which allows users to access JMX and HornetQ data. Most of the time, you're going to be using the hornetq domain, but on occasion, you'll want to authenticate against the JMX domain. You can do this within Ruby code by configuring your auth section.

When using the DSL in `torquebox.rb`, each authentication entry is specified using the authentication directive.

Example 12.3. Using the torquebox domain

Using the YAML syntax:

```
auth:
  default:
    domain: hornetq
  jmx:
    domain: jmx-console
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  authentication :default, :domain => 'hornetq'
  authentication :jmx, :domain => 'jmx-console'
end
```

A handle to the HornetQ authentication domain is now available to you with:

```
authenticator = TorqueBox::Authentication.default
```

and the JMX authentication domain can be obtained with:

```
authenticator = TorqueBox::Authentication['jmx']
```

3. Ruby API

The Ruby API has 3 methods:

- `default`
- `[(name)]`
- `authenticate(username, password)`

The first two methods, `default` and `[]` are used to get the default authentication domain or to lookup an authenticator by name. The last is to actually authenticate a user. To use the Ruby API, include `torquebox` and `org/torquebox/auth/authentication` as shown below. This code shows a simple Ruby authentication module that authenticates against the JAAS security configuration.

```
require 'torquebox'
require 'torquebox-security'

module MyApp
  module Authentication

    def login_path
      "/login"
    end

    def authenticated?
      !session[:user].nil?
    end

    def authenticate(username, password)
      return false if username.blank? || password.blank?
      authenticator = TorqueBox::Authentication.default
      authenticator.authenticate(username, password) do
        session[:user] = username
      end
    end

    def require_authentication
      return if authenticated?
      redirect login_path
    end

    def logout
      session[:user] = nil
      redirect login_path
    end

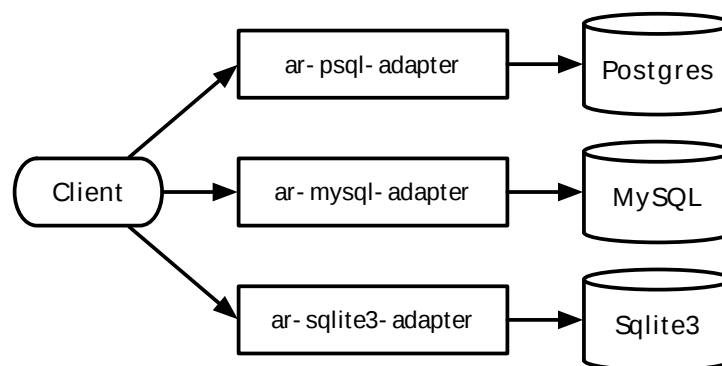
  end
end
```

The `authenticate` method accepts a block, allowing you to execute code within an authenticated context.

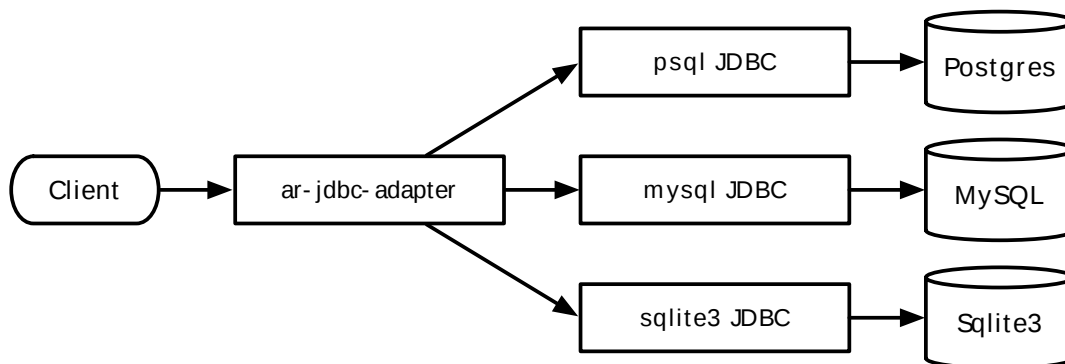
Database Connectivity in TorqueBox

1. ActiveRecord

Typical applications require the use of databases. Within the Rails community, ActiveRecord is one of the more popular database connectivity libraries. With traditional Ruby-based applications, you needed to require the correct ActiveRecord adapter for the database you were connecting to. Each adapter managed the communication between the client and the end database, directly mediating the connection.



Since TorqueBox is based on the JBoss Java environment, it has the capability to use enterprise-grade JDBC (Java Database Connectivity API) drivers. Rails applications can take advantage of these drivers by using the generic ActiveRecord JDBC adapter. The adapter will locate and activate the correct underlying Java JDBC adapter for the target database.



The most visible change required of applications using the JDBC-based ActiveRecord adapter involves the gems your application must rely on. Primarily you must rely on the `activerecord-jdbc-adapter`. This adapter adjusts ActiveRecord configuration to use the JDBC version of any specified driver.

Additional gems need to be available to your system, depending on your target database:

- jdbc-postgres
- jdbc-mysql
- jdbc-sqlite3

These gems simply embody the Java JAR holding the actual underlying JDBC driver.

No changes to your application's database configuration is required. You still specify the correct driver name for the database, such as postgresql or sqlite3.

2. DataMapper

Not everyone uses ActiveRecord to connect to a database. TorqueBox also works well with DataMapper, and you don't have to do anything special. A Gemfile for an application which uses DataMapper to connect to a PostgreSQL database looks like this.

```
gem 'data_mapper', '~>1.1'  
gem 'dm-core', '~>1.1'  
gem 'dm-postgres-adapter', '~>1.1'  
gem 'dm-migrations', '~>1.1'  
gem 'dm-timestamps', '~>1.1'  
gem 'dm-observer', '~>1.1'
```

Initializing DataMapper is unchanged.

```
DataMapper.setup(:default, 'postgres://user:pass@localhost/databasename')
```

TorqueBox Distributed Transactions

1. Overview

TorqueBox takes advantage of its host's robust transactional facilities. JBoss provides state-of-the-art distributed XA transaction support, and TorqueBox exposes this to Ruby developers in a concise, often transparent API.

It's important to understand the difference between a conventional database transaction and a distributed transaction: multiple resources may participate in a distributed transaction. The most common example of a transactional resource is a relational database, but other examples include message brokers and even NoSQL data grids. Distributed transactions allow your application to say, tie the success of a database update to the delivery of a message, i.e. the message is only sent if the database update succeeds, and vice versa. If either fails, both rollback.

2. The `TorqueBox.transaction` method

You may explicitly demarcate a transaction using `TorqueBox.transaction`. If the block of commands you pass to it runs to completion without raising an exception, the transaction is committed. Otherwise, it is rolled back. It's just that simple. It accepts the following arguments:

- An arbitrary number of resources to enlist in the current transaction (you probably won't ever use this)
- An optional hash of options; currently only `:requires_new` is supported, defaulting to `false`
- A block defining your transaction

TorqueBox message destinations, background tasks and caches are all transactionally aware. They will enlist themselves in the transaction defined by `TorqueBox.transaction` automatically, by default.

In addition, Rails ActiveRecord models are enhanced when run in TorqueBox so that connections from multiple, class-specific databases can indeed participate in a single distributed transaction. Further, the behavior of nested transaction rollbacks won't surprise you: if the child rolls back, the parent will, too, excepting when the `:requires_new=>true` option is passed to the child. Callbacks for `after_commit` and `after_rollback` work as one would expect.

3. Messaging

By default, all `MessageProcessors` are transactional, so each `on_message(msg)` invocation demarcates a transaction. If no exceptions are raised, the transaction commits. Otherwise, it rolls back. This is the default behavior and requires no additional configuration on your part.

Any messages published to any JMS destinations automatically become part of the current transaction, by default. So they won't be delivered until that transaction commits.

All `Backgroundable` tasks are transactional, so if invoked within a transaction, it will only start when the transaction commits.

Any manipulations of your Rails `ActiveRecord` models (persisted to your XA-compliant database) within `on_message(msg)` will become part of its transaction.

Occasionally, you may not want a published message to assume the active transaction. In that case, pass `:tx => false`, and the message will be delivered whether the active transaction commits or not. This option works for backgrounded tasks as well.

4. Configuration

No extra configuration of your app is required other than what you'd normally do for a database-aware Ruby application, i.e. standard configuration of the `activerecord-jdbc-adapter`. See [Chapter 13, Database Connectivity in TorqueBox](#) for more details.

Distributed transactions are restricted to those databases supported by both the `activerecord-jdbc-adapter` and JBoss XA datasources. Currently, that includes PostgreSQL, MySQL, H2, Derby, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and IBM DB2. SQLite3 doesn't support XA. Default installations of some of these databases may require additional configuration to support XA.

4.1. PostgreSQL

To enable full distributed transaction support in PostgreSQL, you'll need to set `max_prepared_transactions` to something greater than zero in `postgresql.conf`, which is the usual default in most installations. Changing it requires a server restart.

4.2. MySQL

To achieve transactional support -- even non-distributed functionality -- you must enable the InnoDB storage engine. As of MySQL 5.5, this is the default storage engine.

5. Examples

Coming soon

TorqueBox Runtime Pooling

To run Ruby code inside a Java application server, the TorqueBox platform requires a Ruby interpreter, provided by [JRuby](http://www.jruby.org) [http://www.jruby.org]. TorqueBox provides a simple but flexible means of mapping the app server's threads of execution to one or more Ruby interpreters, giving you complete concurrency control, but the defaults should be reasonable.

1. Types of Runtime Pools

TorqueBox defines two types of pools from which a Ruby interpreter may be obtained:

- Bounded
- Shared

Bounded pools. A bounded pool is a typical resource pool with minimum and maximum capacity. Each interpreter managed by the pool is given out to a single client at a time. It is unavailable for any other client until the current owner returns it to the pool. The pool will ensure that a minimum number of interpreters are kept in the pool at all times. Additionally, a maximum capacity is specified to ensure that the pool does not grow unbounded. Clients requesting an interpreter from a pool with no available interpreters will block until an interpreter becomes available. Interpreters may become available through other clients returning an existing interpreter, or by the pool spinning up additional interpreters, if it has not reached its maximum capacity.

Shared pools. A shared pool is a false pool. A shared pool contains one Ruby interpreter that is allowed to be shared, concurrently, with an unbounded number of clients. A shared pool may only be used in cases where the application is considered threadsafe. An application's threadsafety may be affected by both framework code and deployment factors. These issues are discussed below.

2. Subsystem Pools

As noted above, an advanced application may use the functionality of multiple subsystems. Each subsystem is configured to use a distinct pool in order to provide a modicum of isolation and prevent wayward interaction. The configuration of various subsystem pools are affected by how the application is deployed. Each subsystem is automatically configured using reasonable defaults, but may be completely configured manually through a deployment descriptor (see [Chapter 6, TorqueBox Deployment Descriptors](#)).

Web (Rack). The web subsystem, powering Rack applications, defaults to deploying a shared pool. Modern frameworks have mostly moved away from their assumption of single-threaded applications. By using a shared pool, resources are conserved, and a single Ruby interpreter may handle all requests from web clients.

Scheduled Jobs. The pool deployed for the scheduled jobs subsystem varies based on the deployment mode of the application. In development mode, automatic code-reloading is desirable, but multiple jobs executing and/or resetting the application within a single interpreter causes race conditions and poor interactions. For this reason, a non-shared bounded pool is configured when the application is deployed in development mode. In non-development deployments, reloading is disabled, and the race conditions do not exist. In the non-development cases, a more efficient shared pool is configured for the application.

Message Processors. As with the jobs subsystem, asynchronous message processing introduces race conditions between processors executing and processors attempted to reset the application. Likewise, the pool for the message processor subsystem uses a bounded pool when the application is deployed in development mode, otherwise it uses the more efficient shared pool strategy.

3. Configuration

If your application is not designed to be thread-safe, you can instead pool the interpreters resulting in a single-threaded model. You can do this for jobs, messaging, and/or web requests. Typically, if your application creates and uses global variables to manage state for a single web request, you may have problems with the default multi-threaded behavior.

To modify the default interpreter pool configuration, you can add `pooling:` section to either your application's internal deployment descriptor, or through an external `*-knob.yml` descriptor. This section is always optional, and only required if you wish to modify the defaults.

3.1. Syntax

Within a deployment descriptor, a block may be added for each subsystem you desire to explicitly configure. Any subsystem not mentioned will be configured with its defaults. Configuration of each type of pool is slightly different.

Subsystem	Key
Web/Rack	web
Scheduled jobs	jobs
Message Processors	messaging
Services	services
Stomplets	stomplets

Bounded pools. A bounded pool requires two parameters: `min` and `max`. The `min` parameter specifies the minimum number of managed interpreters that pool should initialize itself with. The `max` parameter specifies the largest capacity the pool should ever grow to in order to satisfy client requests.

Example 15.1. Configuring a bounded pool

Using the YAML syntax:

```
pooling:
  web:
    min: 3
    max: 10
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  pool :web do
    min 3
    max 10
  end
end
```

Shared pools. A shared pool has no configuration other than indicating a subsystem should use a shared pool.

Example 15.2. Configuring a shared pool

Using the YAML syntax:

```
pooling:
  web: shared
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  pool :web do
    type :shared
  end
end
```

3.2. Examples

Example 15.3. Default development-mode pooling

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:
  ...

pooling:
  jobs:
    min: 1
    max: 2
  messaging:
    min: 1
    max: 2
  web: shared
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  pool :jobs do
    min 1
    max 2
  end

  pool :messaging do
    min 1
    max 2
  end

  pool :web, :type => :shared
end
```

Above is the implicit default configuration for an application deployed in development mode.

Example 15.4. Default non-development-mode pooling

Using the YAML syntax:

```
application:
  ...

pooling:
  jobs: shared
  messaging: shared
```

```
web: shared
```

And via the DSL:

```
TorqueBox.configure do
  ...
  pool :jobs, :type => :shared
  pool :messaging, :type => :shared
  pool :web, :type => :shared
end
```

Above is the implicit default configuration for an application deployed in a mode other than development.

TorqueBox Rake Support

1. Overview

TorqueBox includes a support package which includes Rake tasks which assist in the deployment to and undeployment from an instance of the TorqueBox Server, in addition to the launching of the server. This rake-based support is normally intended for development-time usage, and not for production. More advanced tooling, such as Capistrano (see [Capistrano Support](#)) is advisable for production environments.

First, the `$TORQUEBOX_HOME` and `$JBOSS_HOME` variables must be set to the path of the top of your TorqueBox Installation and the JBoss installation inside of it, respectively, as described in [Chapter 2, TorqueBox Installation](#).

```
$ export TORQUEBOX_HOME=/path/to/torquebox
$ export JBOSS_HOME=$TORQUEBOX_HOME/jboss
```

To include these tasks into your Rakefile, use a single `require` statement.

```
require 'torquebox-rake-support'
```

Once these variables are set and you have adjusted your Rakefile, you may perform directory- or archive-based deployments and control the execution of the TorqueBox AS.

2. Deploying applications

2.1. Directory-based deployments

The typical usage of the rake tasks is to perform a deployment of your current application into a local TorqueBox AS during development. The simplest deployment form will deploy the application with `RACK_ENV` or `RAILS_ENV` set to `development`, no virtual host, at the root of the server.

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy
```

If you wish to deploy with a different value for `RACK_ENV` or `RAILS_ENV`, the task respects your current shell's values for those variables.

```
$ RAILS_ENV=staging rake torquebox:deploy
```

You may supply a name argument, either as a rake parameter or as an environment variable, to adjust the name of your `-knob.yml` file. If not supplied, the name of the deployment defaults to the current directory name.

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy['/my-app','foo']
```

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy NAME=foo
```

For example, running `"rake torquebox:deploy NAME=foo"` will create a deployment artifact called `"foo-knob.yml"` and deploy it accordingly.

Additionally, a custom context path may be used instead of the default to of `/`, by providing a rake argument to the `torquebox:deploy` task.

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy['/my-app']
```

2.2. Archive-based deployments

In the event you need to deploy the application as an archive, instead of as a directory of loose files, the rake support includes a task to do just that. Additionally, the rake task may also be used to simply create the archive without deploying it, if you intend to distribute it to your servers in some other fashion.

To create (but not deploy) an archive:

```
$ rake torquebox:archive
```

Additionally, you can specify a name for the archive, either on the command line or as an environment variable. For example, either of these statements:

```
$ rake torquebox:archive[baz]
```

```
$ rake torquebox:archive NAME=baz
```

will produce an archive called `"baz.knob"`.

The resulting archive will be placed at the root of the application, with a suffix of `.knob`. To inspect the contents, you may use the `jar` tool.

```
$ jar tf myapp.knob
META-INF/
META-INF/MANIFEST.MF
```

```
app/  
app/controllers/  
app/controllers/application_controller.rb  
...
```

You may also have the archive deployed immediately after creating it, in a single command. Here, as before, you may specify a name for the archive.

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy:archive
```

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy:archive[baz]
```

```
$ rake torquebox:deploy:archive NAME=baz
```

3. Undeploying applications

To undeploy an application, either a directory- or archive-based deployment, a single command may be used:

```
$ rake torquebox:undeploy
```

...but we also support `torquebox:undeploy:archive` for symmetry's sake:

```
$ rake torquebox:undeploy:archive
```

```
$ rake torquebox:undeploy:archive[baz]
```

```
$ rake torquebox:undeploy:archive NAME=baz
```

4. Server control

You may also control the server using the `torquebox:run` rake task.

```
$ rake torquebox:run
```

The server will retain control of the console while it is running. To stop the server, simply send a `SIGINT`, typically using by typing `control-C`.

TorqueBox Capistrano Support

1. What is Capistrano?

Capistrano is a deployment tool to assist in moving code from a repository to a production server. It's a set of tools used from one machine (the deployer), to get an application running on a remote machine (the server).

In many cases, the deployer is a developer working from his or her laptop. Capistrano is installed here. The deployer invokes the tooling locally on his laptop, and Capistrano reaches across the network to set up the right version of the application and activate it within TorqueBox.

2. Installing Capistrano

The TorqueBox distribution includes support for Capistrano, but does not include Capistrano itself. Capistrano requires a few other gems in order to function effectively. It is easy to install everything.

```
$ jruby -S gem install jruby-openssl ffi-ncurses capistrano
```

3. Capify your Application

You can skip this section if you're already using Capistrano with your application. Otherwise, you'll need to capify your application to set it up for use with Capistrano.

Ensure that you are in the root of your application's source tree, and run the capify command.

```
$ jruby -S capify .
```

This creates a Capfile in the root of your application, which delegates to another file it created: config/deploy.rb. The deploy.rb file is the primary location for configuring your deployment strategy.

3.1. Basic deploy.rb configuration

All applications, whether using TorqueBox or another server, require some common settings to be used with Capistrano. The default deploy.rb indicates some typical variables you should customize for your deployment.

4. TorqueBox-specific deploy.rb configuration

Within your deploy.rb, there are a few additional steps and variables you may configure in order to deploy to a remote TorqueBox server.

4.1. Include TorqueBox recipes

First, you should include the Capistrano recipes which support TorqueBox deployments. If you use Bundler, you should also include the Bundler recipes at this point.

```
require 'torquebox-capistrano-support'
require 'bundler/capistrano'
```

4.2. Set up home variable(s)

Capistrano needs to know some details about how TorqueBox is installed on the remote server. Primarily, it needs to be able to locate JBoss and JRuby.

If you've installed TorqueBox by unzipping the distribution, you only need to set `:torquebox_home` in your `deploy.rb`.

```
set :torquebox_home, '/opt/torquebox/current'
```

If you have a non-standard installation of the TorqueBox components, you may instead set `:jboss_home` and `:jruby_home` individually.

```
set :jboss_home, '/opt/jboss-as'
set :jruby_home, '/usr/local/jruby'
```

Capistrano uses these values in order to control the TorqueBox AS process, deploy applications to the correct location, and execute Bundler on the remote server if required. If required, you may also set `:jruby_opts` variable to pass to all invocations of JRuby.

4.3. Optionally configuration application variables

Typical usage of Capistrano expects production values to be embedded into your application's `torquebox.yml` file. In the event you need to override some values when deploying with Capistrano, several application variables may be set. If these are not set, they will not be emitted by Capistrano into the `*-knob.yml` it deploys.

Table 17.1. Application variables

Name	Description
<code>:app_host</code>	String to use as the web virtual host.
<code>:app_context</code>	Application web context.
<code>:app_environment</code>	Hash of name/values for environment variables.
<code>:app_ruby_version</code>	Ruby compatibility version (defaults to 1.8)

4.4. Configure server control style

The TorqueBox AS can be controlled in two different ways. By default, the `init.d` method is used, but using the `bin/` scripts that ship with JBoss is also supported.

`init.d`. Using a `/etc/init.d` script, the TorqueBox AS can be integrated into the server's normal service boot sequence and controlled using standard tools and methods enjoyed by sysadmins. By default, Capistrano support assumes the `init.d` script is located at `/etc/init.d/jbossas`. If you use a differently-named script, simply specify it using the `:jboss_init_script` variable.

```
set :jboss_init_script, '/etc/init.d/jboss-as7-custom'
```

When using an `init.d` script, it is assumed that other details, such as bind IP address, server configuration selection, and other details are set through `/etc/sysconfig` files.

`bin/` scripts. If you do not have access to modify scripts under `/etc/init.d`, you may desire to simply use the `run.sh` and `shutdown.sh` scripts under `$JBOSS_HOME/bin` to control the server process. To enable this method of server control, you must set the `:jboss_control_style` variable.

```
set :jboss_control_style, :binscripts
```

When using `bin/` scripts, you may control additional server properties through your `deploy.rb` file.

Table 17.2. Variables affecting `bin/` script server control

<code>:jboss_bind_address</code>	<code>0.0.0.0</code>	The IP address to bind when launching the AS.
----------------------------------	----------------------	---

4.5. Perform deployments

Once your application is setup and configured, and your deployment server is prepared, you can begin performing deployments as you normally would.

Disable the AS. TorqueBox AS can work behind another webserver such as Apache `httpd`. Capistrano supports placing a `maintenance.html` page to be served by Apache when you desire to take down the app server.

```
$ jruby -S cap deploy:web:disable
```

Capistrano will provide instructions for setting up Apache to stop directing requests to the AS when the maintenance page is in-place. When using TorqueBox behind Apache, these rules normally should live in the `<VirtualHost>` section of your `httpd.conf`, instead of within an `.htaccess`.

```
ErrorDocument 503 /system/maintenance.html
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !.(css|gif|jpg|png)$
RewriteCond %{DOCUMENT_ROOT}/system/maintenance.html -f
RewriteCond %{SCRIPT_FILENAME} !maintenance.html
RewriteRule ^.*$ - [redirect=503,last]
```

Deploy the application. The Capistrano deployment workflow can occur even if the TorqueBox AS is not currently running. Deployment will not automatically start the AS if it is not running. Deployment will also never restart the server, as new application deployments are automatically recognized by the running AS.

```
$ jruby -S cap deploy
```

Control the TorqueBox AS. You can start and stop the TorqueBox AS independent of deployment activities. When started, all applications that were running when last shutdown will be redeployed.

```
$ jruby -S cap deploy:stop
```

To start the TorqueBox AS and re-deploy all previously-running applications:

```
$ jruby -S cap deploy:start
```

torquebox-server Gem

One of the new features is the ability to install TorqueBox as a gem instead of the zip-based installation. The gem installation gives you access to a new `torquebox` command to deploy and undeploy applications and start Torquebox.

1. Installation

```
$ jruby -J-Xmx1024m -S gem install torquebox-server --pre \  
  --source http://torquebox.org/2x/builds/LATEST/gem-repo
```

Due to the large gem size, the maximum memory allocated to the gem installation must be increased or you'll receive an `OutOfMemory` error.

2. Deploying and Undeploying Applications

To deploy an application to TorqueBox:

```
$ torquebox deploy /path/to/my_app
```

To undeploy that same application:

```
$ torquebox undeploy /path/to/my_app
```

If you omit a path, the commands default to deploying or undeploying the application in the current directory.

Deployment Help.

```
$ torquebox help deploy  
Usage:  
  torquebox deploy ROOT  
  
Options:  
  [--context-path=CONTEXT_PATH] # Context Path (ex: /, /my_app)  
  [--env=ENV]                    # Application Environment (ex: development,  
  test, production)  
  
Description:  
  Deploy an application to TorqueBox. The ROOT argument should point to either  
  a  
  directory containing the application you want to deploy, a -knob.yml file, a
```

```
.knob archive, or any Java deployable artifact (.war, .ear, etc).
```

Undeployment Help.

```
$ torquebox help undeploy
Usage:
  torquebox undeploy ROOT

Undeploy an application from TorqueBox
```

3. Running

Running TorqueBox is as simple as:

```
$ torquebox run
```

To run TorqueBox in clustered mode, use:

```
$ torquebox run --clustered
```

Multiple instances of TorqueBox can run on the same machine by binding each one to a specific IP address:

```
$ torquebox run -b 0.0.0.0
```

Run Help.

```
$ torquebox help run
Usage:
  torquebox run

Options:
  [--clustered]                # Run TorqueBox in clustered mode
  [--max-threads=N]           # Maximum number of HTTP threads
  -b, [--bind-address=BIND-ADDRESS] # IP address to bind to

Run TorqueBox
```

4. Shortcuts For Accessing Paths Inside torquebox-server Gem

With our zip distribution, you set `$TORQUEBOX_HOME`, `$JBOSS_HOME`, and `$JRUBY_HOME`. These aren't set when installing TorqueBox as a gem but we provide an easy way to access those same paths if needed:

```
$ torquebox env torquebox_home
```

The available environment variables are `torquebox_home`, `jboss_home`, and `jruby_home`. Note that they are case-insensitive so you can use `TORQUEBOX_HOME` if you prefer.

Example 18.1. Tailing AS7 boot.log File

```
$ tail `torquebox env jboss_home`/standalone/log/boot.log
11:26:32,107 INFO [jacorb.poa] POA RootPOA destroyed
11:26:32,109 INFO [jacorb.orb] prepare ORB for shutdown...
11:26:32,110 INFO [jacorb.orb] ORB going down...
11:26:32,112 INFO [jacorb.orb] ORB shutdown complete
11:26:32,113 INFO [jacorb.orb.iiop] Listener exited
11:26:32,113 INFO [jacorb.orb] ORB run, exit
11:26:32,143 INFO [org.hornetq.core.server.impl.HornetQServerImpl] HornetQ
  Server version 2.2.7.Final (HQ_2_2_7_FINAL_AS7, 121) [612e2de5-f41d-11e0-
  b7b8-005056c00008] stopped
11:26:33,782 WARN [org.torquebox.core.runtime] No initializer set for runtime
11:26:33,801 INFO [org.torquebox.core.runtime] Created ruby runtime
  (ruby_version: RUBY1_8, compile_mode: JIT, context: global) in 9.86s
11:26:33,806 INFO [org.jboss.as] JBoss AS 7.0.2.Final "Arc" stopped in 1729ms
```

TorqueBox Production Setup

1. Sizing Number of HTTP Threads to Connection Pool

When running under load in production and against a database, you'll want to size the number of HTTP threads concurrently processing web requests based on the number of connections available in your database connection pool so you don't have too many requests waiting to grab a connection from the pool and timing out. The specific ratio of HTTP threads to database connection pool size will depend on your application, but a good starting point is 1 to 1.

1.1. Setting Database Connection Pool Size

Example 19.1. Database Connection Pool (config/database.yml)

```
production:
  adapter: mysql
  database: my_database
  host: my_host
  username: my_username
  password: my_password
  encoding: utf8
  pool: 100
```

This example sets the database connection pool size to 100.

1.2. Setting Max Number of HTTP Threads

If using the `torquebox-server` gem, you can pass the `--max-threads` parameter to set the maximum number of HTTP threads.

```
$ torquebox-server run --max-threads=25
```

If not using the `torquebox-server` gem, you can control the maximum number of HTTP threads by setting a system property.

Table 19.1. Number of HTTP Threads System Property

System Property	Description
<code>org.torquebox.web.http.maxThreads</code>	The maximum number of threads to use for the default HTTP connector. If you've changed the connector's name from <code>http</code> in <code>standalone.xml</code> then substitute <code>http</code> for the new connector name in the property key.

System Property	Description
	The default value is inherited from AS7 and is 512 * the number of CPUs.

Example 19.2. Number of HTTP Threads (\$JBOSS_HOME/standalone/configuration/standalone.xml)

```
<extensions>
  ...
</extensions>
<system-properties>
  <property name='org.torquebox.web.http.maxThreads' value='100' />
</system-properties>
```

This example sets the maximum of HTTP threads to 100.

2. Clustering TorqueBox Without Multicast

By default when you start TorqueBox in clustered mode other members of the cluster are discovered using multicast. Sometimes this isn't the desired behavior, either because the environment doesn't support multicast or the administrator wants direct control over the members of a cluster. In these cases, it's possible to configure TorqueBox to use a predefined set of cluster members.

2.1. Clustering Infinispan

Infinispan is used for web session replication and can be used for clustered caching if your application is setup appropriately. See [Chapter 5, TorqueBox Caching](#) for more details on this setup. Under the hood Infinispan uses a library called JGroups to handle the cluster discovery and transports. An example of configuring Infinispan to cluster without multicast is below.

Example 19.3. JGroups Configuration (\$JBOSS_HOME/standalone/configuration/standalone-ha.xml)

```
<server name="xyz" xmlns="urn:jboss:domain:1.1">
  <profile>
    ...
    <subsystem xmlns="urn:jboss:domain:jgroups:1.0" default-stack="tcp">
      <stack name="tcp">
        <transport type="TCP" socket-binding="jgroups-tcp" diagnostics-socket-binding="jgroups-diagnostics"/>
        <protocol type="TCPPING">
          <property name="initial_hosts">
            10.100.10.2[7600],10.100.10.3[7600]
          </property>
        </protocol>
      </stack>
    </subsystem>
  </profile>
</server>
```

```

    </protocol>
    <protocol type="MERGE2"/>
    <protocol type="FD_SOCK" socket-binding="jgroups-tcp-fd"/>
    <protocol type="FD"/>
    <protocol type="VERIFY_SUSPECT"/>
    <protocol type="BARRIER"/>
    <protocol type="pbcast.NAKACK"/>
    <protocol type="UNICAST2"/>
    <protocol type="pbcast.STABLE"/>
    <protocol type="pbcast.GMS"/>
    <protocol type="UFC"/>
    <protocol type="MFC"/>
    <protocol type="FRAG2"/>
    <protocol type="pbcast.STATE_TRANSFER"/>
    <protocol type="pbcast.FLUSH"/>
  </stack>
</subsystem>
...
</profile>
<socket-binding-group name="standard-sockets" default-interface="public">
  ...
  <socket-binding name="jgroups-tcp" port="7600"/>
  <socket-binding name="jgroups-tcp-fd" port="57600"/>
  ...
</socket-binding-group>
</server>

```

The most important bit here is the `initial_hosts` property. Be sure to replace the IP addresses with the correct values for your environment and change the ports from 7600 if you've changed the `jgroups-tcp` socket binding to a different port on those hosts.

2.2. Clustering HornetQ

HornetQ is used for all messaging. Right now HornetQ doesn't use JGroups for its cluster configuration so we must configure it separately from Infinispan. An example of configuring HornetQ to cluster without multicast is below.

Example 19.4. HornetQ Configuration (`$JBOSS_HOME/standalone/configuration/standalone-ha.xml`)

```

<server name="xyz" xmlns="urn:jboss:domain:1.1">
  <profile>
    ...
    <subsystem xmlns="urn:jboss:domain:messaging:1.1">

```

```
<hornetq-server>
  ...
  <connectors>
    <netty-connector name="netty" socket-binding="messaging"/>
    ...
    <netty-connector name="server2-connector" socket-binding="messaging-
server2"/>
    <netty-connector name="server3-connector" socket-binding="messaging-
server3"/>
  </connectors>
  ...
  <cluster-connections>
    <cluster-connection name="default-cluster-connection">
      <address>
        jms
      </address>
      <connector-ref>
        netty
      </connector-ref>
      <retry-interval>
        500
      </retry-interval>
      <forward-when-no-consumers>
        true
      </forward-when-no-consumers>
      <static-connectors>
        <connector-ref>
          server2-connector
        </connector-ref>
        <connector-ref>
          server3-connector
        </connector-ref>
      </static-connectors>
    </cluster-connection>
  </cluster-connections>
  ...
</hornetq-server>
</subsystem>
...
</profile>
<socket-binding-group name="standard-sockets" default-interface="public">
  ...
  <socket-binding name="messaging" port="5445"/>
  ...
  <outbound-socket-binding name="messaging-server2">
    <remote-destination host="10.100.10.2" port="5445"/>
  </outbound-socket-binding>
</socket-binding-group>
```

```
</outbound-socket-binding>
<outbound-socket-binding name="messaging-server3">
  <remote-destination host="10.100.10.3" port="5445"/>
</outbound-socket-binding>
</socket-binding-group>
</server>
```

Change the outbound socket binding hosts and ports to match your environment. The port should match the value of the messaging socket binding configured on each host. Each additional host needs the `netty-connector`, `connector-ref` under `static-connectors`, and `outbound-socket-binding` elements.

3. SSL JBoss Web

4. Including singleton jobs/services

TorqueBox Additional Resources

1. BackStage

BackStage is a Sinatra app that you may deploy within TorqueBox to get additional views and control into your application's components.

The screenshot shows the TorqueBox Backstage interface. At the top, there is a dark green header with the text "TorqueBox::Backstage". Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs for "Apps", "Queues", "Topics", "Msg. Processors", "Jobs", "Services", and "Runtime Pools". The "Queues" tab is selected. The main content area displays a table with the following columns: Name, App, Status, Messages, Delivering, Scheduled, Added, Consumers, View Messages, and Pause. The table contains three rows of data:

Name	App	Status	Messages	Delivering	Scheduled	Added	Consumers	View Messages	Pause
ExpiryQueue (durable)	n/a	Running	0	0	0	0	0	View Messages	Pause
DLQ (durable)	n/a	Running	0	0	0	0	0	View Messages	Pause
Backgroundable (durable)	rails3_bare/backgroundable	Running	0	0	0	0	1	View Messages	Pause

At the bottom of the interface, there is a footer that reads "Backstage v0.0.1 for TorqueBox v1.0.0.RC1-SNAPSHOT".

1.1. Features

Applications. View all deployed Ruby applications.

Destinations. Enumerate and interrogate messaging queues and topics. Allows browsing of messages within queues.

Message Processors. Control message processors, including pausing their execution.

Scheduled Jobs. Scheduled jobs can be paused.

Ruby Runtime Pools. View information about the runtime pools for all applications. Allows arbitrary script execution within a runtime from a pool.

1.2. More Information

More Information About Backstage May Be Found On The Torquebox Website. The Source For Backstage Is Hosted At Github.

- [Http://torquebox.org/backstage](http://torquebox.org/backstage) [http://torquebox.org/backstage]
- [Http://github.com/torquebox/backstage](http://github.com/torquebox/backstage) [http://github.com/torquebox/backstage]

2. StompBox

StompBox enables easy Git-based deployments to a TorqueBox AS.

The screenshot shows the TorqueBox StompBox dashboard. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'TorqueBox::StompBox' on the left and 'Dashboard | Repositories | GitHub Push URL | Logout' on the right. Below this is a 'Dashboard' header. The main content area is titled 'Pushes Received' and contains a table with columns: Date, Status, Commit, Repository, and Branch. There are two rows of push events. The first row shows a 'Push' at 'February 07 - 14:59' with status 'deployed' and commit 'fd6301a'. Below it, the 'Commits' section shows a commit by 'Lance Ball' with message 'Let's be more subdued in our messages'. The second row shows a 'Push' at 'February 07 - 14:57' with status 'undeployed' and commit '1e9ced8'. Below it, the 'Commits' section shows a commit by 'Lance' with message 'Add test branch'. At the bottom, there's a section for 'Untracked Pushes' with a message: 'You have some untracked pushes. Have a look →'. A footer note says 'This software brought to you by project : odd'.

	Date	Status	Commit	Repository	Branch
Push	February 07 - 14:59	deployed undeploy	fd6301a	ballast-sinatra	test
Commits	Lance Ball fd6301a4cad922a2d81e8025688b1137e97c0835 2011-02-07T11:59:19-08:00 Let's be more subdued in our messages				
Push	February 07 - 14:57	undeployed deploy	1e9ced8	ballast-sinatra	test
Commits	Lance 1e9ced88983a8aebb4d980722b46a339026e3c08 2011-02-07T11:57:45-08:00 Add test branch				

Untracked Pushes
 You have some untracked pushes. Have a look →

This software brought to you by project : odd

By using a post-commit POST-back hook, StompBox is able to check your application code out of the repository and deploy it into the running server.

2.1. Features

Deploy via Git. Using POST-back hooks, deploy code using `git push`.

Multiple Revisions. Roll forward or backward through revisions of your application code.

2.2. More Information

More Information About StompBox May Be Found On The [TorqueBox Website](http://torquebox.org/stompbox). [http://torquebox.org/stompbox] The Source For StompBox Is Hosted At Github.

- [Http://torquebox.org/stompbox](http://torquebox.org/stompbox) [http://torquebox.org/stompbox]
- [Http://github.com/torquebox/stompbox](http://github.com/torquebox/stompbox) [http://github.com/torquebox/stompbox]

Appendix A. Licensing

A variety of third-party components are used in the construction of TorqueBox.

JBoss AS & TorqueBox.

JBoss AS and TorqueBox are licensed under the LGPL (see [Appendix B, GNU Lesser General Public License version 3](#)). The TorqueBox documentation is licensed under a Creative-Commons license (see [Appendix N, Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0](#)).

JRuby and JRuby-Rack.

Portions of code have been borrowed from JRuby (see [Appendix C, JRuby Licenses](#)) and JRuby-Rack (see [Appendix D, JRuby-Rack License](#)).

Appendix B. GNU Lesser General Public License version 3

JBoss AS and TorqueBox License

Version 3, 29 June 2007

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0. Additional Definitions.

As used herein, "this License" refers to version 3 of the GNU Lesser General Public License, and the "GNU GPL" refers to version 3 of the GNU General Public License.

"The Library" refers to a covered work governed by this License, other than an Application or a Combined Work as defined below.

An "Application" is any work that makes use of an interface provided by the Library, but which is not otherwise based on the Library. Defining a subclass of a class defined by the Library is deemed a mode of using an interface provided by the Library.

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Version 2.1, February 1999

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(For example, a function in a library to compute square roots has a purpose that is entirely well-defined independent of the application. Therefore, [Subsection 2d](#) requires that any application-supplied function or table used by this function must be optional: if the application does not supply it, the square root function must still compute square roots.)

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If distribution of object code is made by offering access to copy from a designated place, then offering equivalent access to copy the source code from the same place satisfies the requirement to distribute the source code, even though third parties are not compelled to copy the source along with the object code.

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- c. Accompany the work with a written offer, valid for at least three years, to give the same user the materials specified in [Subsection 6a](#), above, for a charge no more than the cost of performing this distribution.
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Apache License

Version 2.0, January

2004

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Version 1.0 (CPL)

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