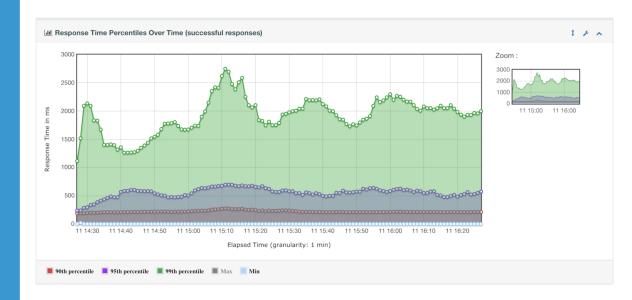
Master Apache JMeter

From load testing to DevOps



Antonio Gomes Rodrigues Bruno Demion (Milamber) Philippe Mouawad



Master Apache JMeter From load testing to DevOps.

Prefaced by Alexander Podelko

Antonio Gomes Rodrigues, Philippe Mouawad, and Milamber

This book is available at https://leanpub.com/master-jmeter-from-load-test-to-devops

This version was published on 2025-02-28

ISBN 978-2-9555036-2-1



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In no particular order.

Thanks to Vladimir Sitnikov for his feedback.

Thanks to Mark Tomlinson for his feedback.

Thanks to Felix Schumacher for his review.

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Preface by Alexander Podelko

An important event, directly related to this book, happened recently and probably went unnoticed. It appears that Apache JMeter became the most popular load testing tool. In 2014, I was preparing a presentation about load testing tools and criteria for their selection. One criterion was the existence of ecosystem (documents, expertise, people, services, etc). It may be not the defining factor, but it is an important factor to consider. To evaluate such ecosystems, in absence of more sophisticated data, I used the number of documents Google finds and the number of jobs Monster finds mentioning each product.

LoadRunner (then an HP product) clearly had first place in both categories with JMeter following not too far. SilkPerformer (then Borland) trailed third far behind. But now, in 2018, JMeter appears to be well ahead of LoadRunner (now MicroFocus) in both the number of documents and the number of jobs mentioning it, apparently becoming the most popular load testing tool. Of course, it doesn't mean that JMeter became the best tool for every task, but its popularity, in addition to being an open source tool, definitely gets it high in the list of options to consider. It is also very important for an open source project to attract people who will work to improve it, thus ensuring the future of the product.

Another interesting trend is that JMeter scripts become a de facto standard, and many SaaS tools are built on the top of JMeter or at least support JMeter scripts. These tools complement JMeter in many important ways and bring its functionality and services to a new level, allowing to compete with commercial products in more sophisticated environments.

Several books about JMeter were published before, but this one is the first one from JMeter contributors who know its internals and are renowned experts in the area. JMeter is not a trivial product. It has a lot functionality, but it may be implemented by many different ways and it is not always easy to figure out the best way to do it. While, as it was already mentioned, there is an enormous number of posts on the Internet discussing some aspects of JMeter, the problem is that most of them are for beginners. And while there is more advanced stuff too, you better exactly know what

you are looking for, it may be hard to find it looking for generic terms. This is where the book is invaluable setting a framework of knowledge and notions, so you at least would understand what you should be looking for.

The book, with all that valuable information in one place, is a must for everybody who is seriously working with JMeter. It may be a little too condensed for absolute beginners (although, as already mentioned, there is a lot of introductory materials on the Internet that can help here), but it is the best you can find if you already have some performance testing experience and need to get further. In particular, it would be invaluable to people who want to expand their JMeter knowledge into advanced topics or switch to JMeter from other load testing tools.

In particular, JMeter has many integrations with other popular tools and a large number of plugins. It quite could be that somebody already solved the problem you are confronting, so you may save a lot of efforts re-using the solution. It is great that the book is not limited by the core JMeter functionality and discusses available components and integrations when appropriate. While it is impossible to cover everything that is available in detail, the advantage of the book is that it puts everything into a system, allowing the reader to understand relations between different parts and technologies.

Load testing is an important part of the performance engineering process. However, the industry is changing and load testing should adjust to these changes. A stereotypical, last-moment performance check is not enough anymore. Performance testing should be interwoven into development process, starting early and continuing through the whole lifecycle. The importance of the transformation is stressed in the subtitle of the book, From load testing to DevOps, moving from standalone load testing, a mere step at the end of software development cycle, to performance testing fully integrated into DevOps. And while we are not fully there yet, the Integration of JMeter in the DevOps tool chain chapter directly dives into what can be done right now.

DevOps, putting together the development and operations sides, is supposed to drastically improve feedback from production to development and free flow of performance information both ways. So a holistic approach to performance should be one of its main advantages. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like such a holistic approach happens often. Rather it looks like "DevOps" teams just drop more sophisticated parts of performance engineering (and performance testing usually gets into that category)

and rely more on reactive approach to performance issues, concentrating more on quick fixing of issues than on their prevention. Still, load testing is a very important way of risk mitigation and it can't be fully replaced by other performance engineering activities.

First, there are always risks of crashing a system or experiencing performance issues under heavy load, the only way to mitigate them is to actually test the system. Even stellar performance in production and a highly scalable architecture don't guarantee that it won't crash under a slightly higher load.

It is important to notice load testing doesn't completely guarantee that the system won't crash: for example, if the real-life workload is different from what was tested. So you need to monitor the production system to verify that your test workload is close enough. But load tests considerably reduce the risk if they are carried out correctly (and, of course, can be completely useless and misleading if they are not).

Another important benefit of load testing is to verify how changes affect multi-user performance. The impact on multi-user performance is generally not proportional to what is observed with single-user performance and can often be counter-intuitive. Sometimes, improving single-user performance can lead to a degradation of multi-user performance. The more complex the system, the more exotic multi-user performance problems can occur.

Another value of load testing is to provide a reliable and reproducible way to apply a multi-user load necessary for performance optimization and troubleshooting. You apply exactly the same workload and see if the change makes a difference. In most cases, you cannot do this in production when the workload changes - so you never know if the result is a change in code or a change in workload (except, perhaps, a rather rare case of very homogeneous and manageable workloads when you can apply a very precisely measured portion of the actual workload). And, of course, a reproducible workload greatly simplifies debugging and checking multi-user problems.

In addition, given current trends in system self-regulation (such as auto-scaling or load-dependent service level changes), load tests are required to verify this functionality. You must apply a heavy load to see how auto-scaling will work. Load testing thus becomes a means of testing the functionality of the system, blurring the traditional division between functional and non-functional testing.

You will find further examples of different types of performance tests and their links to different aspects of DevOps in the book. Although the book does not focus on the theoretical aspects of performance testing, it provides sufficient theoretical information to understand the concepts discussed and their practical applications in JMeter. Practical examples of integrating performance testing with DevOps are all the more important as this is a rather new field of expertise. and is probably the main challenge of performance testing at the moment. Thus, the book leads the reader through the basics of working with today's most popular load testing tool JMeter, through more advanced aspects of the tool and performance testing in general until its complete integration into DevOps.

The authors decided to publish the book on LeanPub, in order to keep it up to date and enrich it. There have already been some updates and others are in progress. Although I would like to have a printed copy, I must admit that it is probably a better choice for readers, as many improvements are made to JMeter with each version, not to mention the growing ecosystem of plug-ins, extensions, tools and products. Any paper version would be outdated soon enough - but with LeanPub, authors have the opportunity to keep the book up to date, which is a great service to the community.

Alexander Podelko bio

Over the last twenty years Alex Podelko supported major performance initiatives for Oracle, Hyperion, Aetna, and Intel in different roles including performance tester, performance analyst, performance architect, and performance engineer. Currently he is Consulting Member of Technical Staff at Oracle, responsible for performance testing and tuning of Hyperion (a.k.a. Enterprise Performance Management and Business Intelligence) products. Before specializing in performance, Alex led software development for Rodnik Software. Having more than thirty years of overall experience in the software industry, he holds a PhD in Computer Science from Gubkin University and an MBA from Bellevue University.

Alex periodically talks and writes about performance-related topics, advocating tearing down silo walls between different groups of performance professionals. He currently serves as a board director for the Computer Measurement Group (CMG), a worldwide organization of performance and capacity management professionals.

Presentation of the authors

Antonio Gomes Rodrigues

Antonio Gomes Rodrigues is an expert in the field of application performance. His missions led him to work:

- On the performance of high traffic websites
- On the performance of an application for brokers
- On the performance of rich clients, cloud applications, WEB applications, etc.
- With various profilers: *JProfiler*, *Yourkit*, *PerfView*, etc.
- With various APM: Dynatrace, AppDynamics, NewRelic, etc.
- With various load testing tools: *JMeter*, *LoadRunner*, *Neoload*, etc.
- In various missions: load tests, implementation of performance strategies, training, performance audits, troubleshooting, etc.

He is currently a committer and a PMC member of the JMeter project¹ within the Apache Software Foundation².

Bruno Demion (Milamber)

Bruno Demion, better known in the JMeter community under the pseudonym **Milamber** is a French computer scientist living in Morocco since 2002, currently living in Temara (near Rabat).

He works in a technology consulting company, as a partner, architect and senior technical expert on web and cloud technologies.

¹http://jmeter.apache.org/

²http://www.apache.org/foundation/how-it-works.html#what

Thanks to his work and passion, IT, Milamber has strong skills in the field of performance, troubleshooting, IT security as well as technical architectures for web and cloud solutions.

Since December 2003, he has been working with JMeter to perform load tests in various performance missions and also gives training on this topic. He contributes as much as possible to the JMeter project on his free time, especially on the French translation of the graphical interface, bug fixes and some changes (proxy https, new results tree, icon bar, etc.).

He is currently a committer and a PMC member of the JMeter project³ within the Apache Software Foundation⁴. It is also official ASF member⁵. Its Apache ID is milamber⁶.

Milamber also has a personal blog⁷ with many articles and tutorials about JMeter, some of which inspired this book.

Philippe Mouawad (Philippe M.)

Philippe Mouawad is a technical expert and architect in JEE and Web environments within the company Ubik-Ingenierie. He has been using JMeter since 2009 as part of performance improvements missions, load testing of intranet or e-commerce websites and trainings on JMeter.

He has been contributing to JMeter since 2009 first through patches and then as a 'committer' and member of Project Management Committee at Apache. Among his main contributions are the **CSS selector Extractor**, the **Boundary Extractor**, the **Backend Listener** (allowing to interface among others *Graphite*, *InfluxDB* or *ElasticSearch*), part of the Web reporting feature and the optimization of the performances of the core and its stabilization and various ergonomic improvements, to his credit more than 400 bugs/improvements.

He also contributes to the JMeter-Plugins⁸ project, among his contributions are **Redis DataSet**, **Graphs Generator Listener** and various patches to different plugins.

³http://jmeter.apache.org/

⁴http://www.apache.org/foundation/how-it-works.html#what

⁵http://www.apache.org/foundation/how-it-works.html#roles

⁶http://people.apache.org/~milamber/

⁷http://blog.milamberspace.net/

⁸https://jmeter-plugins.org/

Presentation of the authors 8

He also manages the JMeter Maven Plugin⁹ project, he has been managing it since version 2.3.0 ensuring its compatibility with last JMeter releases and improving its dependencies management and reporting mechanism.

He is currently a committer and a PMC member of the JMeter project¹⁰ within the Apache Software Foundation¹¹. His Apache ID is pmouawad¹².

He is also a lead developer of the Ubik Load Pack¹³ solution, a set of Enterprise Plugins which provides support for protocols that are not natively supported by JMeter. Finally, he contributes to the Ubik-Ingenierie blog¹⁴.

⁹https://github.com/jmeter-maven-plugin/jmeter-maven-plugin

¹⁰https://jmeter.apache.org/

¹¹http://www.apache.org/foundation/how-it-works.html#what

¹²http://people.apache.org/~pmouawad/

¹³https://ubikloadpack.com

¹⁴https://www.ubik-ingenierie.com/blog/

About the reviewers

Felix Schumacher

Felix is a committer in JMeter project since October 2014 and PMC member since February 2015. He is also a committer on Apache Tomcat. He has a diploma in mathematics, but found working in IT more appealing. Since he became a developer on JMeter, he has been active in all fields, from bug fixing, to multiple enhancements, tests, documentation and quality improvements.

Load Testing Message Oriented Middleware (MOM) via JMS

What we will learn

In this chapter we will learn:

- How a MOM works
- Different patterns of MOM
- Load test a point-to-point MOM
- Load test a Publish/Subscribe MOM
- Use JSR223 Sampler to extend our test

A bit of theory

It is important to understand the technology you are testing to have realistic tests and relevant analyses.

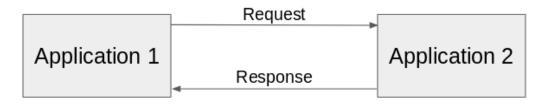
As the architectures become more and more distributed (microservices, Cloud, etc.), it is common to have a Message-Oriented Middleware service (or *MOM*) allowing exchange of messages/events.

Such architectures have numerous advantages, here are some of them.

Asynchronous messages

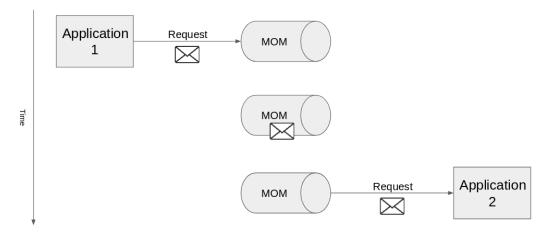
The first is the ability to have asynchronous messages.

In a synchronous system, the sender (producer) of the message must wait for the response before continuing.



Synchronous architecture

In an asynchronous system, the producer of the message can continue his processing after sending the message without waiting for a response from receiver.



Asynchronous architecture

In this mode, the MOM will act as an intermediate and store the message until it is delivered to the application 2.

Decoupling

This proxy role allows a weak coupling between the different entities of the application.

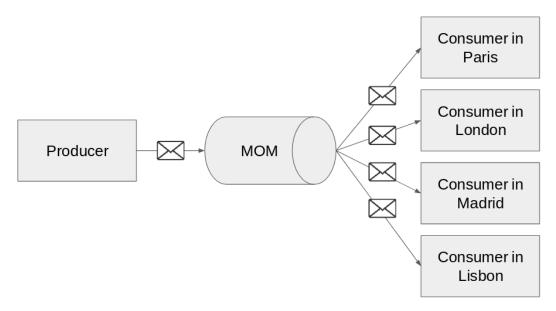
Technology decoupling

For example, we can have a producer in Java and a consumer in C++.



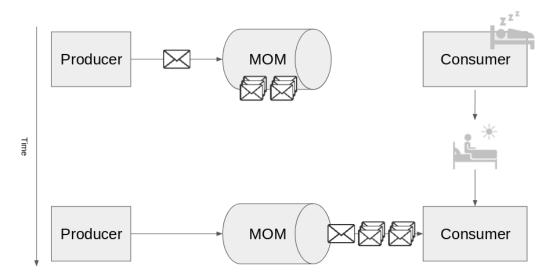
Technology decoupling

Geographical Decoupling (Location transparency)



Producer doesn't know about consumers location

Time decoupling



Producer can send data while consumer is unavailable

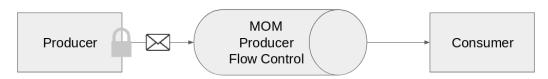
Back pressure

Producer Flow Control feature allows us to implement the *back pressure* pattern.

This pattern slows down the producer when the consumer(s) do not follow the rate of message delivery in the MOM.

To do it, the MOM will use a locking mechanism to block the producer.

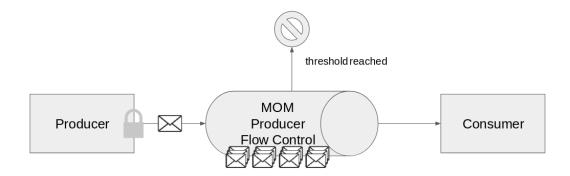
When a message is sent to the MOM by the producer, it waits (this is configurable) for an *ACK* (acknowledgement of receipt) from the MOM before proceeding to the next step (by removing the lock).



Producer Flow Control: Lock Installation

Usually, this lock disappears quickly.

When a threshold on the MOM (number of messages, memory usage, etc.) is reached, the MOM keeps the lock to block the producer.



Producer Flow Control: triggering mechanism

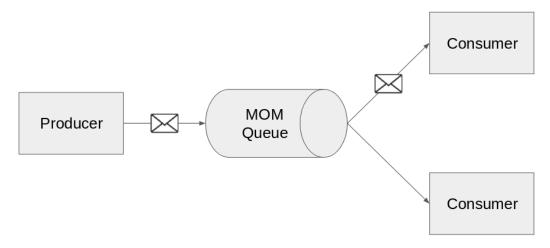
This will give consumers time to consume messages in the MOM which can then send the ACK to the producer to remove the lock.

Communication models

There are three main models of communication:

• Point-to-point communication (*direct exchange*)

Here, the producer sends his message in a queue that is dedicated to him. The consumer (who is unique) of this message consumes it in the FIFO order (First In, Frist Out).

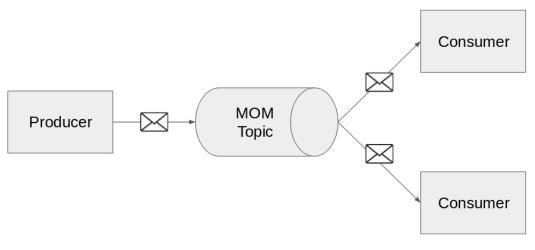


Point-to-point communication

• Publication/Subscription communication (*Publish/subscribe* or *Topic exchange*)

As its name suggests, the producer sends his messages about a subject in a Topic, they are then retrieved by the subscribers to this subject (the message disappears from the topic once all consumers have retrieved it).

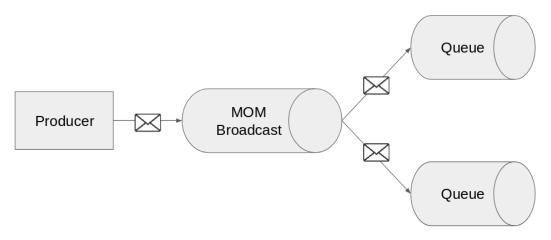
Several consumers can subscribe to the same topic.



Communication Publish/subscribe

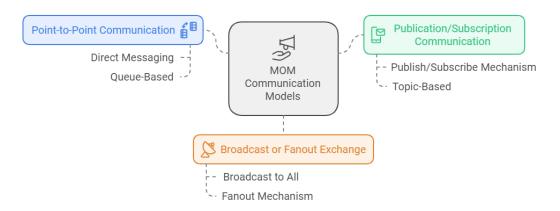
• Broadcast or Fanout exchange

In this mode, several MOMs follow each other. The first being in charge of distributing the message to all others.



Broadcast Communication

• Summary



Types of delivery semantics

To have a robust and reliable messaging system and answer the question: "How to guarantee that a message has been correctly delivered to its destination?" we need

to understand the three types of delivery semantics.

At Most Once

In "At Most Once", a message is delivered to the consumer zero or once only. This means that the message can be lost during transmission, but will never be delivered more than once.

At Least Once

In " $At\ Least\ Once$ ", a message is delivered to the consumer one or more times. This means that the message can be delivered several times, resulting in potential duplicates.

Exactly Once

In "Exactly Once", a message is delivered to the consumer exactly once.

Summary



Messaging System Delivery Semantics

What is a message composed of?

In order to make the best use of JMeter's extractors and assertions, let's look at the structure of a message.

A message is divided into three parts:

- *Header* contains metadata about the message. The keys of the headers are part of JMS standard. The main fields in the header are *JMSMessageID* (unique identifier of the message), *JMSDestination* (identification of the queue/topic of the message) and *JMSCorrelationID* (links the current message to other messages).
- *Properties* also contain metadata about the message. But properties can be specific to the MOM provider or the application.
- Message Body (text, binary, etc.) is contained in the last part.

JMS Message Headers JMSMessageId JMSDestination JMSCorrelationID Etc. Properties Custom Body

Composition of a message

Now that you understand how MOM work, let's study how to load test them using JMeter.

Set up with JMeter

JMeter is a Java program, as such it accesses MOM through Java Messaging Service (JMS) API.

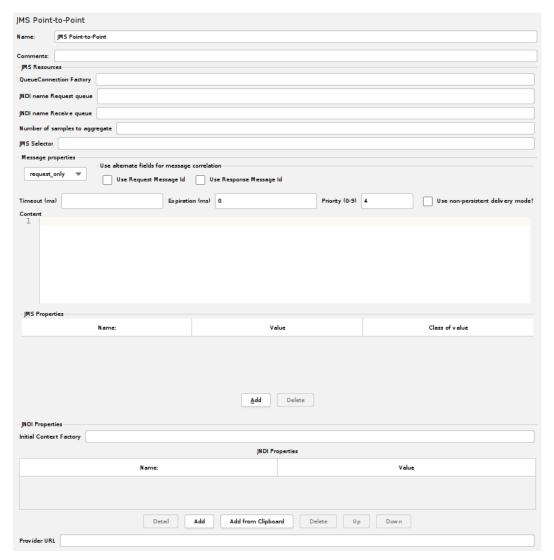
Installation of MOM libraries

The first thing to do is to install the JMS client implementation of the MOM provider (usually a .jar file) in the JMETER HOME/lib directory.

For example, for Apache ActiveMQ Classic, take the file *activemq-all-X.X.X.jar* (*X.X.X* depending on the version).

JMS Point-to-Point

To simulate point-to-point communication, JMeter offers the **JMS Point-to-Point** element.



JMS Point-to-Point Request

Let's look in more detail at some of the parameters.

JMS Resources and JNDI Properties

Let's start with the JMS Resources and JNDI Properties settings.

JNDI is a Java programming interface (API) for Java object naming inside the Java virtual machine, so in summary it is a directory.

In the case of JMS, JNDI is used to retrieve the instances of the destination objects (*Topic* or *Queue*) and *Connection Factory* (*Connection Factory* which allows you to create a connection to the JMS provider).

In order to fill the fields of these two parts, it will be necessary to look at the configuration of the MOM and/or to ask the architect or the developers. If we want to use automatically created temporary queues, we will have to follow a naming convention for the values $\hat{a} \in \hat{a} \in \mathcal{A}$ and \mathcal{A} Properties and \mathcal{A} Properties.

For example, if the value of the JNDI Name Request queue field is Q.SEND, then a field named queue.Q.SEND will be required in JNDI Properties.

JMS Resource	s								
QueueConnec	tion Factory	ConnectionFactory							
JNDI name Red	quest queue	Q.SEND							
JNDI name Red	ceive queue								
Number of sa	mples to agg	gregate							
JMS Selector									
-Message pro									
request_on		se alternate fields fo —		_					
_		Use Request Mes	sage Id	Use Respon	nse Mes	sage Id			
Timeout (ms)	1000	Expirati	on (ms)	0		Priority (0-9)	4	Use no	
Content 1 G0									
-JMS Propertie	es								
Name:			Value					Cl	
-JNDI Propertie	es			Add	Delete				
Initial Context	Factory org	. apache. activemq. jn	di.Active	MQInitialContext	Factory				
				JNDI Pro	perties				
		Name:						Value	
queue.Q.SEN	ND.				example	e.send			
		Detail A	dd	Add from Clipbo	ard	Delete	Up	Down	
Provider URL	tcp://MyServ	/er:61616							

JNDI name of the Request queue

For Apache ActiveMQ Classic¹⁵:

- *QueueConnection Factory* will be *ConnectionFactory*
- $\bullet \ \textit{Initial Context Factory} \ (\text{the class used to create a connection}) \ will \ be \ \textit{org.apache.activemq.jn}$
- *Provider URL* (the address and access port for ActiveMQ) will be *tcp://MyServer:61616* for the default configuration.

For Apache ActiveMQ Artemis¹⁶:

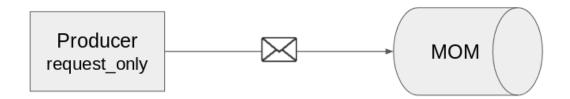
- *QueueConnection Factory* will be *ConnectionFactory*
- Initial Context Factory (the class used to create a connection) will be org.apache.activemq.ar
- *Provider URL* (the address and access port for Artemis ActiveMQ) will be *tcp://MyServer:61616* for the default configuration.

Communication style

Another important field is *Communication style* in the *Message properties* section.

It can have several values, but let's look at the most useful ones.

request_only, as its name indicates, corresponds to the sending of a request.



Communication type: Request only

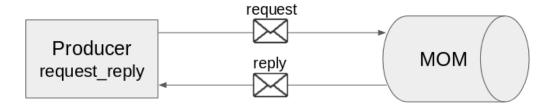
Be aware that in this configuration, messages present in the *Queue* are not consumed, so remember to purge and/or consume them.

The second possible value is *request_reply*. Here we send (*request*) and we wait for the answer (*reply*) synchronously.

¹⁵http://activemq.apache.org/

¹⁶https://activemq.apache.org/artemis/index.html

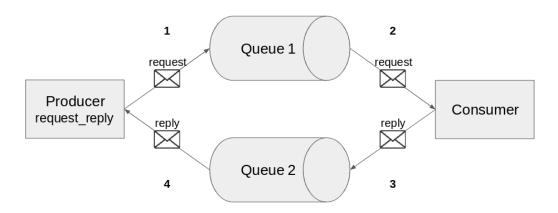
If the value of the JNDI name Request queue field and the JNDI name Receive queue field are the same, JMeter will take care of the two steps (sending and retrieving the response).



Communication type: Request reply

However, if the two queues have different values, the message sent must be consumed to receive the ACK.

If the message is not consumed, we will have an error after the delay defined in *Timeout (ms)*.



Communication steps for: Request reply

- 1: JMeter is the producer of the message in Queue 1
- 2: The consumer listening on Queue 1 receives it
- 3: The consumer sends the answer to Queue 2
- 4: JMeter which listens to the answer in Queue 2 receives it

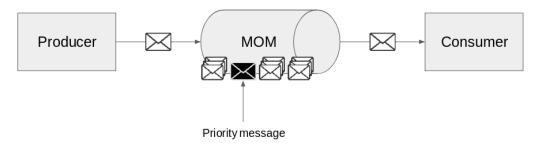
Priority

We can manage the priority of a message using the *Priority* parameter.



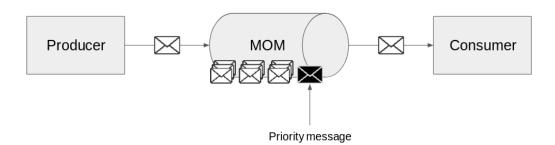
Choosing the priority of a message

Without priority set, the behavior will be as follows.



All messages are sent with the same priority

If we give a higher priority to our message, it will be processed before others.



All messages are sent with different priorities

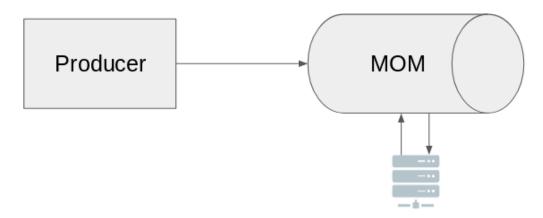
Use non-persistent delivery mode?

The parameter *Use non-persistent delivery mode?* allows us to avoid persisting the message on disk/database/etc.

Persisting a message ensures that the MOM will not lose it if a crash happens.

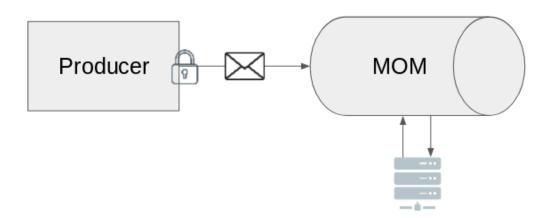
The persistence mechanism is as follows.

The MOM is configured to persist messages on the disk.



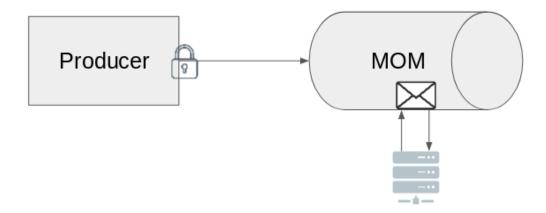
Persistence of messages: beginning

When sending a message, a lock is put on the producer side.



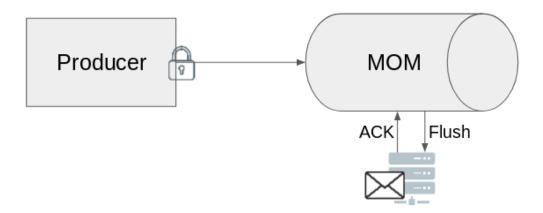
Persistence of messages: setting the lock when sending

The MOM receives the message and prepares to persist.



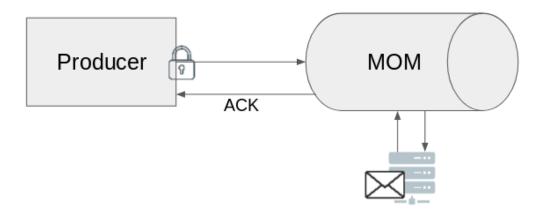
Persistence of messages: reception of the message

The MOM writes the file to disk in a safe way (it waits for an acknowledgment).



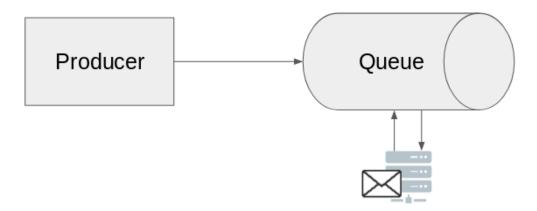
Persistence of messages: write to disk

The MOM sends an acknowledgment to the producer.



Persistence of messages: acknowledgment of receipt

The lock on the producer is removed.

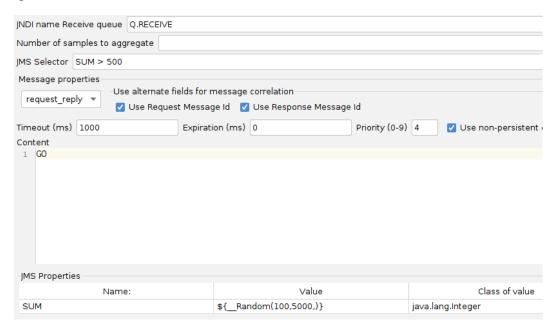


Persistence of messages: end

JMS Selector

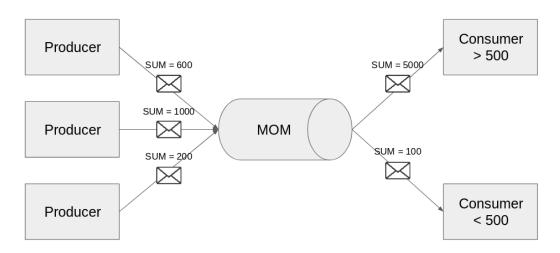
Another parameter is the ${\it JMS \, Selector}$ that allows a consumer to read only a certain type of message.

The consumer will only process messages that match the selector expression and ignore others.



JMS Selector

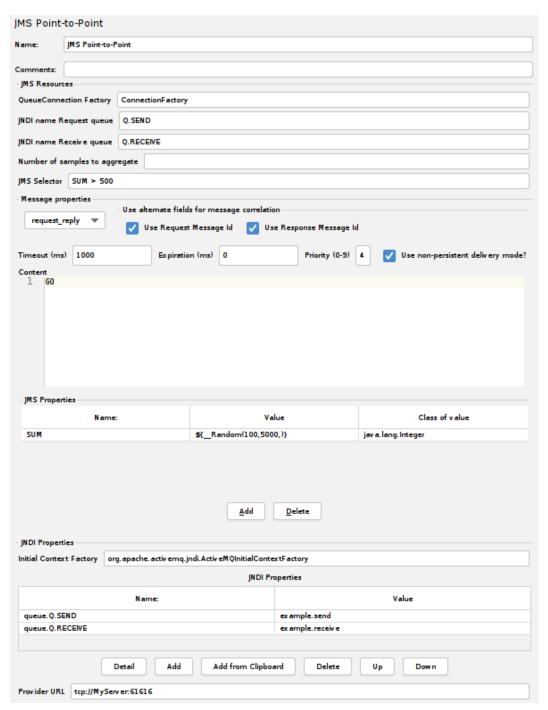
Which will give us the following architecture with a property SUM.



JMS Selector: different processing based on SUM property's value

Example with Apache ActiveMQ Classic

With a default installation of Apache ActiveMQ Classic, we end up with:



Point-to-Point JMS Request for ActiveMQ Classic

Publish/Subscribe

Finally, *Publish/Subscribe* communication is implemented with **JMS Publisher** and **JMS Subscribe**.

JMS Publisher

JMS Publisher						
Name: JMS Publisher						
Comments:						
Use jndi. properties file						
Initial Context Factory						
Provider URL						
Use Authorization?	User	Password				
Connection Factory						
Destination		Setup				
Use non-persistent delivery mode?	Expiration (ms) 0	Priority (0-9) 4				
- JMS Properties						
Name:	Value	Class of value				
Content encoding:	<raw></raw>	¥				
Message source	From file Random File from folder specified below					
Text Message or Object Message serialized	to XML by XStream					
- File						
File Filename		Browse				

JMS Publication Request

As we can see, most parameters are the same as before.

JMS Subscriber

JMS Subscriber				
Name:	JMS Subscriber			
Comments:				
Use jnd	i.properties file			
Initial Contex	t Factory			
Provider URL				
Use Aut	horization?	User Password		
Connection F	actory			
Destination		Setup • At startup • Each sample		
Durable Sub	scription ID			
Client ID				
JMS Selector		▼ Store Response		
Timeout (ms	:)			
Client Use MessageConsumer.receive() Use MessageListener.onMessage() Stop between samples?				
Reconnect of	n error codes (regex)			
Pause betwe	een errors (ms)			
Number of s	amples to aggregate	1		
Separator				

Subscription JMS Request

Two new parameters appear:

- Durable Subscription ID
- Client ID

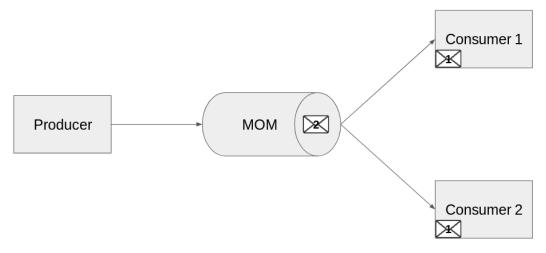
They allow the use of a *Durable Subscriber*.

A *Durable Subscriber* is a subscriber that has established a durable subscription. In such configuration, messages published while the subscriber is not connected will be redistributed whenever it reconnects.

Let's see what is a Durable Subscriber.

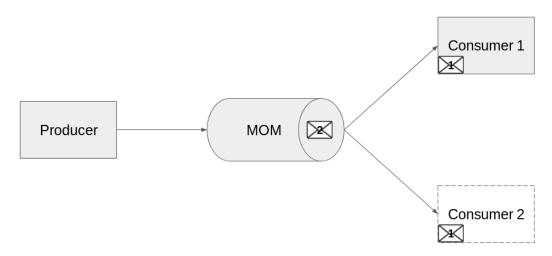
Without Durable Subscriber:

Both consumers are active and read the message 1.



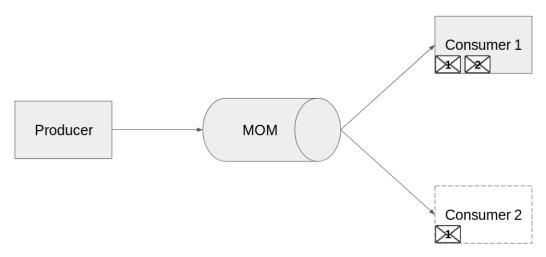
Without Durable Subscriber: 2 active consumers

The consumer 2 becomes inactive before reading the message 2.



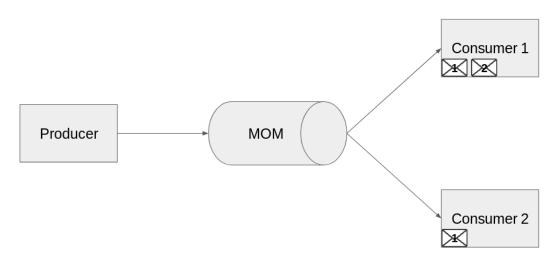
Without Durable Subscriber: consumer 2 inactive

The consumer 1 reads the message 2.



Without Durable Subscriber: message 2 consumed by the consumer 1

The consumer 2 is active again, unfortunately the message 2 is no longer present in the MOM. It will never be processed by consumer 2, since it is a nondurable receiver, it can only retrieve messages published after its subscription and must remain active to receive them.

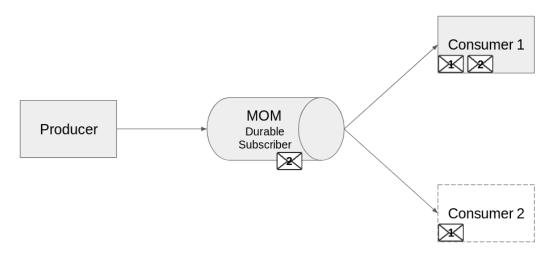


Without Durable Subscriber: message 2 is active again

With *Durable Subscriber*, the message 2 would have been processed by the consumer 2. Indeed, in this case, the receiver receives all the messages sent while it was down,

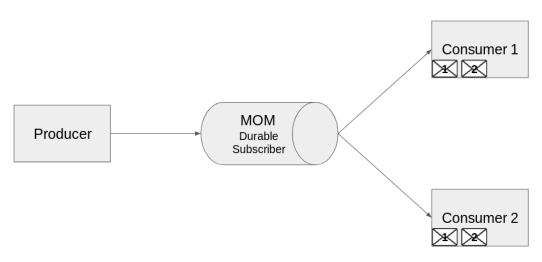
this happens as soon as it reconnects.

The MOM will take care of storing message 2 until all *Durable Subscriber* have processed it.



With Durable Subscriber: message 2 is stored

When the consumer 2 is active again, he processes the message 2. Then the message 2 is removed on the MOM.



With Durable Subscriber: message 2 is processed

Note that we can choose how the message will be consumed.



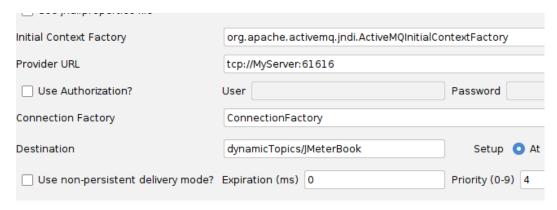
How the message will be consumed for Subscription JMS Request

The choice is between *MessageConsumer.receive()* and *MessageListener.onMessage()*:

- With the first choice (*MessageConsumer.receive(*)), the message is consumed synchronously by the application (the method *receive(*) blocks until a message is consumed or the waiting time is exceeded (see parameters *Timeout(ms)*).
- With the second choice, the consumption of the message by the application is asynchronous (an object of type *MessageListener* is registered and its method *onMessage()* will be called on each message reception).

Let's go back to our default installation of Apache ActiveMQ Classic.

We will use the Apache ActiveMQ Classic feature that allows us to dynamically create topics. This will consist of naming our destination with prefix *dynamicTopic/*



JMS Query Posting and dynamically creating topics

Methodology

As with all tests, testing a MOM and/or servers should be as realistic as possible.

Before to start the load test we need:

- A Workload Model
- Check if the API calls a third party API (pay-per-use or not)
- A working environment for your test (infrastructure and data)
- How MOM is used (pattern, communication)

For example, if the messages exchanged are persistent, the same thing must be done with JMeter.

Likewise with the other parameters (delay, authentication, etc.).



My advice is to discuss with developers and/or architects to configure the test to be as representative as possible.

Some tips to design Workload Model:

- If you can, use the production monitoring to analyse real-world usage patterns
- List of all the consumers/producers (include background processes like batch jobs)
- Take account of retry mechanisms (which can increase the number of requests with a "retry storm" where multiple users hit a failure point and initiate retries simultaneously)
- Include all types of messages (deprecated messages too) if applicable
- Simulate user security processes (token...), but not necessarily at each iteration

Some tips to design test data:

- Test with different user roles and permission levels
- Test with different request size

See chapter "Designing a test case" for more advice.

Some tips to monitor/analyse load test:

- Monitor the volume of data transferred can be very important. Indeed, messages can be quite verbose, so they can be the cause of performance problems
- Monitor the activation of design for failure patterns like retry
- Monitor DLQ
- Be careful with SLAs, MOM allow asynchronous message and in JMeter in some case (if we simulate the producer we will measure the response time of *ack* and not necessarily the response time of the process)

See chapter "Visualising, analysing and reporting the load testing results" for more advice.

Let's take a look at what we need to test (non-exhaustive list):

• The configuration of the MOM

For that, JMeter must play the role of producer and consumer.



Test the configuration of the MOM

• The performances of our consumer

Here we will only use JMeter as producer.



Test the performance of the consumer

• The resilience of our MOM configuration

In this case, JMeter plays the role of producer, consumer and injects errors (*Failure injection*).

• End to end performance (producer - queue - consumer)

Here we will send requests to producer and monitor all the part. To do this test, go to chapter "Load Testing web services".

Let's move on to practice.

Put into practice with JMeter

To simplify the examples, we will not implement all the good practices of the chapters "Preparing the test environment (injectors and tested system)" and "Design a test case".

In particular, the tests will be performed locally (JMeter and MOM), avoid this in real life!



The examples in this book are not necessarily realistic, but they allow you to learn lots of recipes that you can use in your projects.

Example 1: Test the configuration of a MOM server with point-to-point

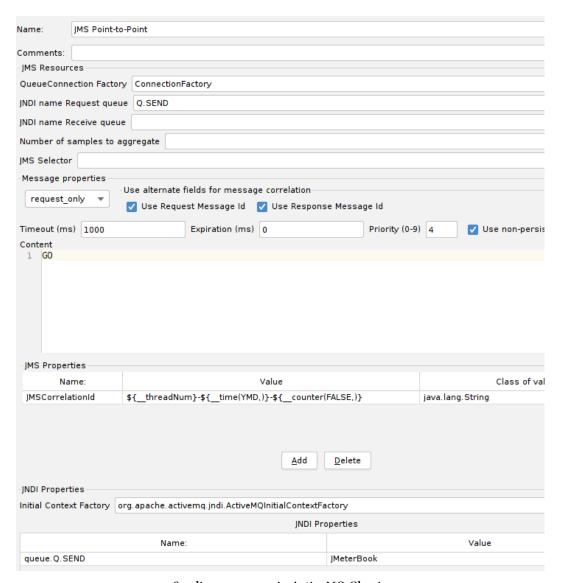
Our first test will be to test a MOM server with point-to-point messaging.

We will use ActiveMQ Classic as MOM.

Before starting with our JMeter test plan, let's create a queue named JMeterBook.

At first we will send a message in a queue.

In JMeter we will configure JMS Point-to-Point as follows.



Sending a message in ActiveMQ Classic

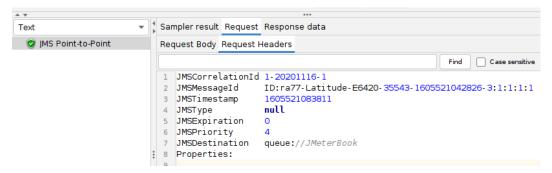
In this example, we generate a unique *JMSCorrelationId* identifier using the following JMeter functions:

- *\${ time(YMD,)}*: return the current date
- *\${__threadNum}*: return the number of the current thread

• \${__counter(FALSE,)}: return a unique number for each call

Validate our script by sending a message.

In JMeter we can see our message using a View Results Tree.



Result of sending in JMeter

In the ActiveMQ Classic Administration Console we can see that the message has arrived, but not yet consumed.

Browse JMeterBook



Result of sending in ActiveMQ Classic console

Now we want to consume the messages sent. For this we will configure **JMS Point-to-Point** to read the message.

Let's change the value of the parameter:

- *Communication style* in *request_reply*
- JNDI name Receive queue value equal to JNDI name Request queue value

Queues:



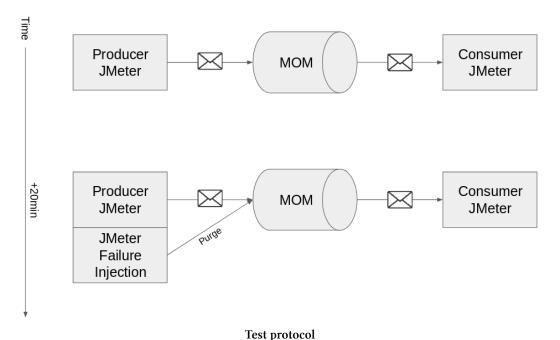
Result of sending/receiving in ActiveMQ Classic console

Now that our script is ready, we only have to test all the parameters and their combination in order to find the most appropriate ones for our project.

At this point, the configuration of the server (memory, processor, etc.) and *ActiveMQ Classic* (size of JMS queues, etc.) is validated.

We are now required to test the following scenario: "What happens if the queue is purged while serving application?"

Our test protocol will be the following.



We can purge a queue in many ways:

• Use the Rest API

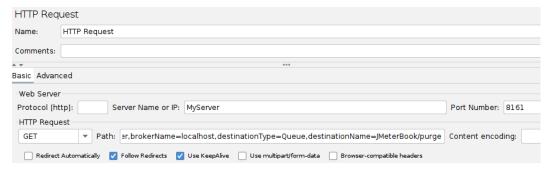
- Use JMX
- Use the CLI

In our example, we will use the first solution: the REST API.

Our call will be:

 $\label{lem:matter} $$ $$ $ http://MyServer:8161/api/jolokia/exec/org.apache.activemq:type=Broker,b\ rokerName=localhost,destinationType=Queue,destinationName=JMeterBook/pu\ rge $$ $$ $$$

And in JMeter.



Purging a queue with JMeter

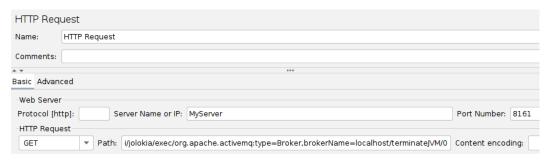
A new real-life scenario we need to check: "With our current configuration, can we lose messages if the MOM crashes?"

For this we will continue to use the ActiveMQ Classic Rest API.

The call to kill the JVM that runs ActiveMQ Classic will be.

 $\label{local-matter-state} $$ http://MyServer:8161/api/jolokia/exec/org.apache.activemq:type=Broker,b\ rokerName=localhost/terminateJVM/0$

In JMeter.



Crash the MOM using JMeter

The tests were successful.

Example 2: Test the performance of our consumer with JMS Publish/Subscribe

In this example we will use Apache ActiveMQ Artemis. To do this, install the *artemis-jms-client-all-X.X.X.jar* file from ActiveMQ Artemis into the *lib* directory of JMeter.

To reproduce this example, perform the following steps.

To create the necessary, run:

```
artemis create {\sf JMeterBookBrokerExamples} --name {\sf JMeterBookBroker} --user {\sf vser} --password password --allow-anonymous
```

We will add our topic JMeterBookTopic. In the configuration file of the MOM *
broker-instance>/etc/broker.xml* add the following lines in the *addresses* section.

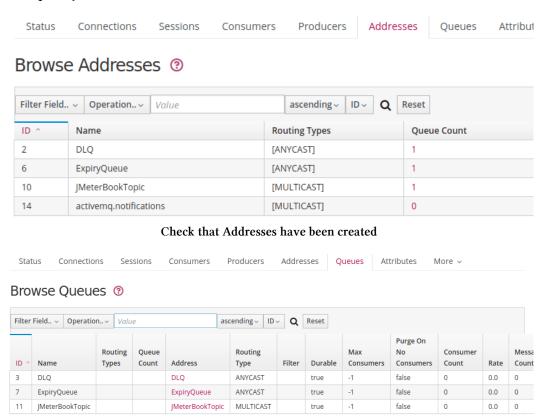
Let's run our MOM with:

artemis run

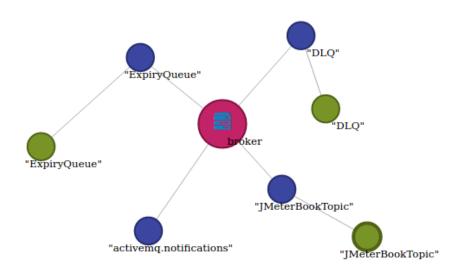
or

artemis-service start

Let's make sure everything works by using the Artemis ActiveMQ console available at *http://MyServer:8161/console/*.



Check that our topic has been created



Our ActiveMQ Artemis configuration

Let's create a *jndi.properties* file.

java.naming.factory.initial=org.apache.activemq.artemis.jndi.ActiveMQIn\
itialContextFactory
connectionFactory.ConnectionFactory=tcp://MyServer:61616
topic.topic/JMeterBookTopic=JMeterBookTopic



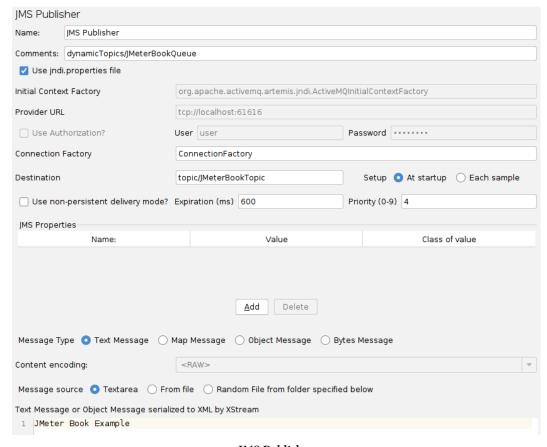
With the default configuration, ActiveMQ Artemis blocks the producer if the disk is filled by more than 90%. Modify it if necessary.

The first thing to do is to add our *jndi.properties* file in the *classpath* of JMeter. The chosen solution is to use the *Add directory or jar to classpath* function in **Test Plan**.

Test Plan					
Name:	Test Plan				
Comments:					
	User Defined Variables				
	Name:			Value	
Detail	Add Add fro	om Clipboard	Delete	Up	
Run Thre	ead Groups consecut	ively (i.e. one a	at a time)		
Run tea	rDown Thread Groups	after shutdow	n of main th	reads	
Function	nal Test Mode (i.e. sav	ve Response D	ata and Sam	pler Data)	
Selecting Fu	nctional Test Mode m	ay adversely at	ffect perform	ance.	
Add director	y or jar to classpath	Browse	Delete	Clear	
		Library			
/home/ra77	//Utils/0_JMX/Chap7				

Let's add a JMS Publisher to our script and configure it as below:

- Use jndi.properties file checked
- Connection Factory = ConnectionFactory
- Destination = topic/JMeterBookTopic



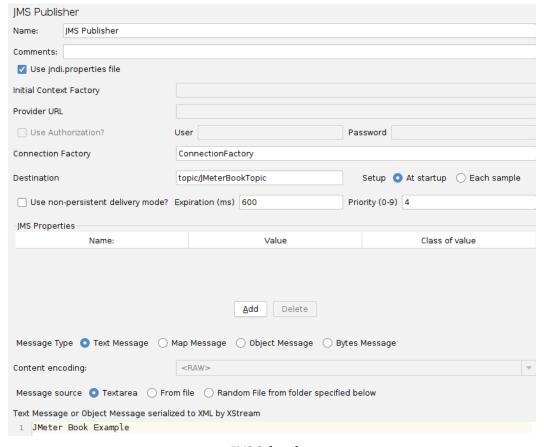
JMS Publisher

Finally, we execute our script to produce messages and validate the correct behaviour of our consumer.

Example 3: Testing the configuration of a MOM server with Publish/Subscribe

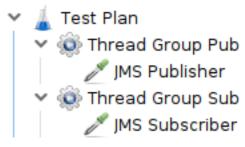
For the part *JMS Publish*, we will take the example above and complete it. In a new **Thread Group**, add a **JMS Subscriber** with the following options:

- Use jndi.properties file checked
- Connection Factory = ConnectionFactory
- Destination = topic/JMeterBookTopic



JMS Subscriber

Our script looks like this:



JMS Pub/Sub Script

Let's execute it;

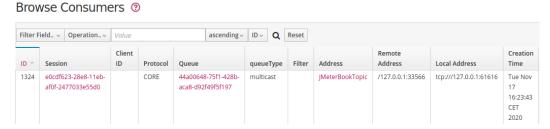
During the validation phase of the script, we can use a **View Results Tree** for this purpose.



Validation of the receipt of the message with a View Results Tree

During the load test, the ActiveMQ Administration Console Artemis will come to the rescue.

Validation that the consumer is present.



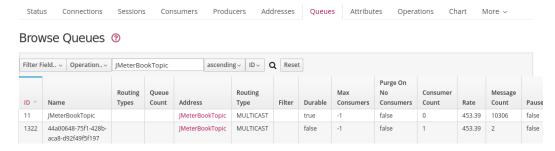
Consumer validation

Validation that the producer is present.



Validation of the producer

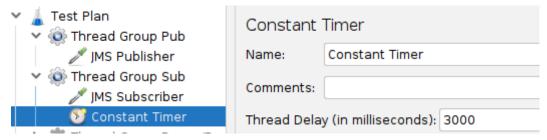
Validation that the topic works.



Topic validation

Now, our customer asks: "What happens if consumers take more time to consume the messages?".

To do this, we only need to add a **Constant Timer** to our **Thread Group** containing **JMS Subscriber**.



Slow consumer with a Constant Timer

Our customer asks: "What happens if the Topic is paused for five minutes?".

To simulate this, we will use the ActiveMQ Artemis management capabilities with its API¹⁷ to pause the topic.

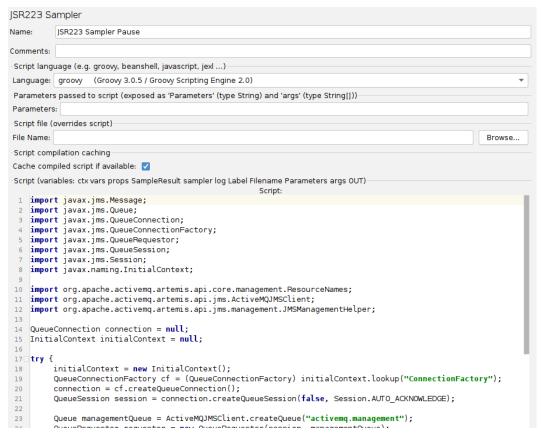
The script to pause the topic is as follows.

```
import javax.jms.Message;
import javax.jms.Queue;
import javax.jms.QueueConnection;
import javax.jms.QueueConnectionFactory;
import javax.jms.QueueRequestor;
import javax.jms.QueueSession;
import javax.jms.Session;
import javax.naming.InitialContext;
import org.apache.activemq.artemis.api.core.management.ResourceNames;
import org.apache.activemq.artemis.api.jms.ActiveMQJMSClient;
import org.apache.activemq.artemis.api.jms.management.JMSManagementHelp\
er;
QueueConnection connection = null;
InitialContext initialContext = null;
try {
        initialContext = new InitialContext();
        QueueConnectionFactory cf = (QueueConnectionFactory) initialContext.lo\
```

¹⁷https://activemq.apache.org/components/artemis/documentation/latest/management.html

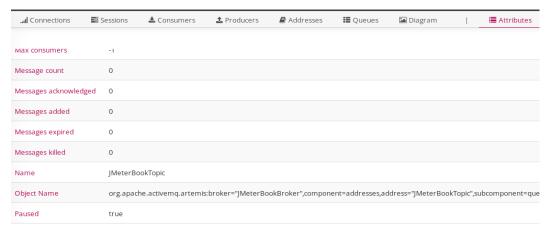
```
okup("ConnectionFactory");
        connection = cf.createQueueConnection();
        QueueSession session = connection.createQueueSession(false, Session.AU\
TO_ACKNOWLEDGE);
        Queue managementQueue = ActiveMQJMSClient.createQueue("activemq.manage\
ment");
        QueueRequestor requestor = new QueueRequestor(session, managementQueue\
);
        connection.start();
        Message m = session.createMessage();
        JMSManagementHelper.putOperationInvocation(m, ResourceNames.QUEUE + "J\
MeterBookTopic", "pause");
        Message reply = requestor.request(m);
        return "OK";
} finally {
        if (initialContext != null) {
                initialContext.close();
        if (connection != null) {
                connection.close();
        }
}
```

Let's add this script in a JSR223 Sampler.



The pause step

Validate that it works well using the Artemis ActiveMQ management interface.



Confirm topic pause

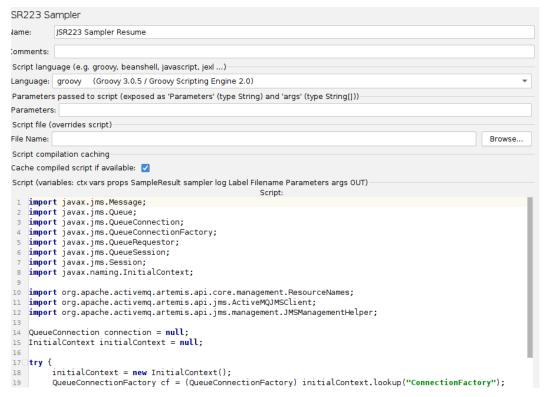
Now let's add the resume step.

The script is almost the same, we just call "resume" instead of "pause"

```
import javax.jms.Message;
import javax.jms.Queue;
import javax.jms.QueueConnection;
import javax.jms.QueueConnectionFactory;
import javax.jms.QueueRequestor;
import javax.jms.QueueSession;
import javax.jms.Session;
import javax.naming.InitialContext;
import org.apache.activemq.artemis.api.core.management.ResourceNames;
import org.apache.activemq.artemis.api.jms.ActiveMQJMSClient;
import org.apache.activemq.artemis.api.jms.management.JMSManagementHelp\
er;
QueueConnection connection = null;
InitialContext initialContext = null;
try {
        initialContext = new InitialContext();
```

```
QueueConnectionFactory cf = (QueueConnectionFactory) initialContext.lo\
okup("ConnectionFactory");
        connection = cf.createQueueConnection();
        QueueSession session = connection.createQueueSession(false, Session.AU\
TO_ACKNOWLEDGE);
        Queue managementQueue = ActiveMQJMSClient.createQueue("activemq.manage\
ment");
        QueueRequestor requestor = new QueueRequestor(session, managementQueue\
);
        connection.start();
        Message m = session.createMessage();
        JMSManagementHelper.putOperationInvocation(m, ResourceNames.QUEUE + "J\
MeterBookTopic", "resume");
        Message reply = requestor.request(m);
        return "OK";
} finally {
        if (initialContext != null) {
                initialContext.close();
        }
        if (connection != null) {
                connection.close();
        }
}
```

Let's add this script in a JSR223 Sampler.



The resume step

Validate that it works well using the Artemis ActiveMQ management interface.



Check status of topic

Let's put these two JSR223 Samplers in a Thread Group.

Then add a **Flow Control Action** to pause for five minutes (300,000 ms) between the two.

Let's add a **Response Assertion** to check that the script returns the word *OK*.

Do not forget to configure our **Thread Groups** to stop the test if an error occurs during the manipulation (*pause* and *resume*) of our topic.

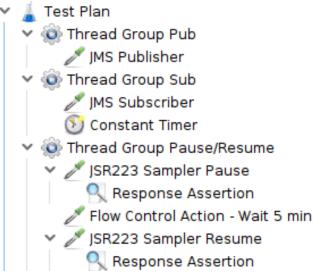


Configuration of our Thread Groups



Another thing to remember, run this **Thread Groups** at the right time depending on the test case (at the beginning of the test, wait for peak load, etc.).

Our final test plan looks like:



Our final test plan

Example 4: Test any MOM

It may happen that testing our MOM with JMeter's standard JMS elements is impossible.

For example, in the following cases:

- In-house framework that encapsulates JMS calls
- MOM functionality not supported by JMS
- Etc.

We will be able to work around this problem thanks to JSR223 Sampler.

The Java development of the consumer and the producer JMS is finished, let's go to the tests.

The producer and the consumer are distributed as a jar file.

To test them, let's add this jar file to JMeter's Classpath so that we can use these new JMS consumer and producer.



Do not forget to restart JMeter to take into account the new jar files.

All we need to do is change the JMS elements with **JSR223 Sampler** elements and use a Groovy script.

A simple import of the package into the Groovy script will be enough (here, it will be *import jmeter.book.example_p2p.JMeterTestJMS*).

JSR2	23 Sampler		
Name	: JSR223 Sampler - Send message		
Comm	nents:		
Scrip	ot language (e.g. groovy, beanshell, javascript, jexl)		
Lang	uage: groovy (Groovy 3.0.5 / Groovy Scripting Engine 2.0)		
Para	meters passed to script (exposed as 'Parameters' (type String) and 'args' (type String[]))		
Para	meters:		
Scrip	ot file (overrides script)		
File N	Name: Browse		
Scrip	ot compilation caching		
Cach	ne compiled script if available: 🔽		
Scrip	ot (variables: ctx vars props SampleResult sampler log Label Filename Parameters args OUT) Script:		
	import Jmeter.book.example_p2p.JMeterTestJMS		
	<pre>def JMeterTestJMS JMSExample = new JMeterTestJMS();</pre>		
4	4 JMSExample.getInitialContext();		
7	oristample.produceressage (Example Sent by Smeler /,		
8	return "OK";		

Using the JMS transmitter with Groovy

And now, to have a more realist script, it's possible to change the message sent using a **CSV Data Set Config** or from a table in the database.

Conclusion

In this chapter we have seen the main features of a MOM:

- Asynchronicity
- Decoupling
- · Back pressure
- Point-to-point communication
- Communication Publication/Subscription
- Broadcast
- Priority of messages
- Persistence of messages
- JMS Selector
- Durable Subscriber
- Etc.

We have tested those features in our JMeter scripts using *Apache ActiveMQ Classic* and *Apache ActiveMQ Artemis*.

Then we saw how to take advantage of the management features of the MOM using JMeter (JSR223 Sampler and API Rest).

When the core JMS elements of JMeter are not sufficient, it is still possible to do our tests using the integration between JMeter and Groovy via a **JSR223 Sampler**. Once again, you see the endless possibilities that JMeter offers.

