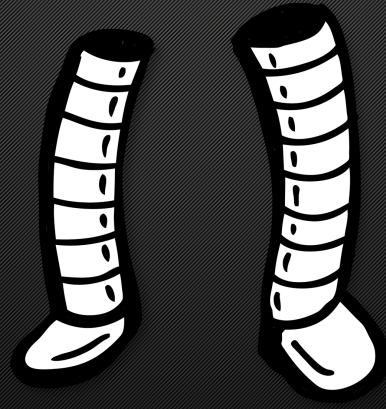


[robotlegs]



for Actionscript 3

## About Me



Paul Robertson

Robotlegs Enthusiast

on the web

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@probertson

email

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## Who Started Robotlegs?



Shaun Smith  
Robotlegs Inventor

[find him](#)

<http://shaun.boyblack.co.za>

@darscan





Not to mention...



Till Schneidereit  
SwiftSuspenders Maestro

[find him](#)

<http://tillschneidereit.de/>

@tschneidereit



And...



Joel Hooks

Robotlegs Enthusiast

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## Contributors



Robert Penner @robPenner

Jonnie Hallman @DestroyToday

Sean Hess @seanhess

Craig Wickesser @codecraig

and so many others have contributed to the community  
through support, ideas, and examples...



What is Robotlegs?



a pure Actionscript 3 micro-architecture

## What is Robotlegs?



a **pure** Actionscript 3 micro-architecture

robotlegs has no Flex framework dependencies.

## Why Robotlegs?



flash, flex, and air



## What is Robotlegs?



a mechanism for wiring objects together

## What is Robotlegs?



a mechanism for wiring objects together

focused solely on this limited scope

## Why Robotlegs?



lightweight





equipped with **MVCS** reference implementation



equipped with **MVCS** reference implementation  
but...



whatever you need it to be





**whatever you need it to be**

highly extensible to support YOUR workflow and style



full modular support

## Why Robotlegs?



supports **your** workflow





peer reviewed

## Why Robotlegs?



well documented



transparent development



## Why Robotlegs?



stable



welcoming community

## Why Robotlegs?



[knowledge.robotlegs.org](http://knowledge.robotlegs.org)



supported through Tender



What does Robotlegs do for you?



removes framework pain

What does Robotlegs do for you?



allows you to focus on your app

What does Robotlegs do for you?



allows you to focus on your app

not the framework



What does Robotlegs do for you?



fight's carpel tunnel

What does Robotlegs do for you?



lets you move fast

What does Robotlegs do for you?



automated dependency injection





what is “automated dependency injection”?



what is “dependency injection”?



## what is “dependency injection”?

Give an object something that it needs

```
myList.dataProvider = myArray;
```





## what is “dependency injection”?

Give an object something that it needs

```
var url:URLRequest = new URLRequest("http://robotlegs.org/");
```



## what is “dependency injection”?

Give an object something that it needs

```
var url:URLRequest = new URLRequest("http://robotlegs.org/");  
  
var loader:URLLoader = new URLLoader();  
loader.load(url);
```

What does Robotlegs do for you?



automated dependency injection

[Inject]





### automated dependency injection

Have you ever written code like this\*?

```
// in Main.as:
private var _widgetData:WidgetData = new WidgetData();
component1.widgetData = _widgetData;

// in Component1.as
public function set widgetData(value:WidgetData):void
{
    _widgetData = value;
    component2.widgetData = _widgetData;
    component3.widgetData = _widgetData;
}

// in Component2.as, Component3.as
// etc.
```

\*adapted from <http://probertson.com/projects/run-air-sqlite-query-testing-tool/>



### automated dependency injection

Wouldn't you rather write this?

```
// in MainMediator.as:  
[Inject]  
public var widgetData:WidgetData;  
  
// in Component1.as:  
[Inject]  
public var widgetData:WidgetData;  
  
// in Component2.as, Component3.as, etc.:  
[Inject]  
public var widgetData:WidgetData;
```



What does Robotlegs do for you?



automated dependency injection  
promotes clean code



What does Robotlegs do for you?



automated dependency injection  
promotes clean code

clean code is easier to test

What does Robotlegs do for you?



automated dependency injection  
promotes clean code

clean code is easier to refactor

What does Robotlegs do for you?



automated dependency injection  
promotes clean code

clean code is easier to understand



What does Robotlegs do for you?



even if you don't test your code,  
you should **WRITE** testable code

What does Robotlegs do for you?



even if you don't test your code,  
you should **WRITE** testable code

Robotlegs wants to help

What does Robotlegs do for you?



objects communicate via native events



What does Robotlegs do for you?



**objects communicate via native events**

custom events with strongly typed properties

github makes it easy!



[github.com/robotlegs](https://github.com/robotlegs)



comments, criticism, and ideas welcome



fork the framework



create examples and utilities

create an alternative implementation



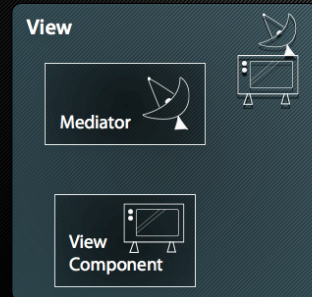
Where to Start?



## MVCS reference implementation

inspired by PureMVC

# Robotlegs MVCS Implementation





**MVCS** is not the framework





what does that mean?



it is an implementation of Robotlegs



it is an implementation of Robotlegs

a place to start





it is an implementation of Robotlegs

a place to start  
get a feel for the possibilities



it is an implementation of Robotlegs

a place to start  
get a feel for the possibilities  
don't let it wall you in

Choose file

File reader



Context **initializes** the framework



## Context



```
package simple
{
    import org.robotlegs.mvcs.Context;

    public class SimpleContext extends Context
    {
        override public function startup():void
        {
        }
    }
}

<fx:Declarations>
    <simple:SimpleContext contextView="{this}"/>
</fx:Declarations>
```

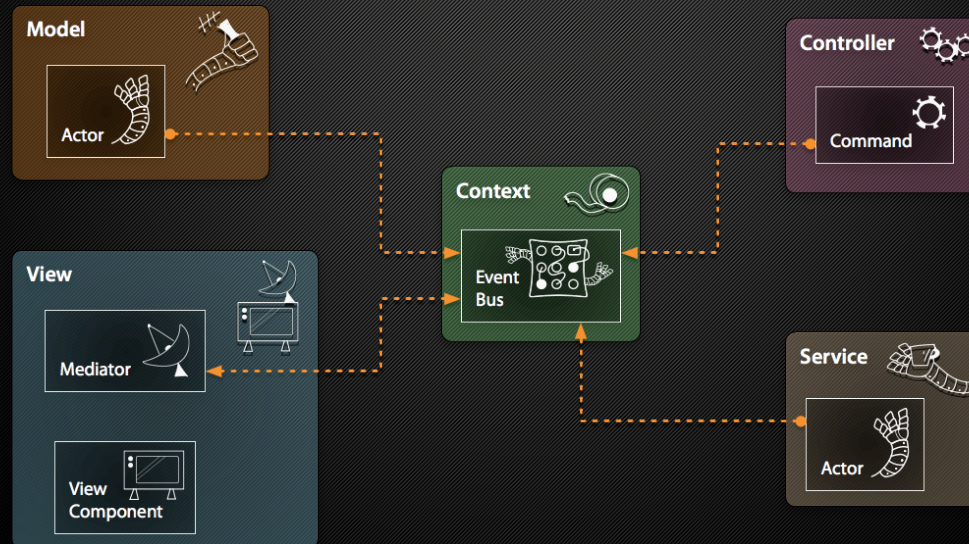


Context provides an event bus

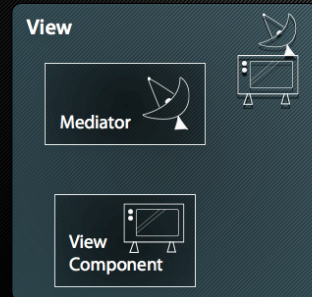




# Context Event Dispatcher Routes Events



# Typical Flow of Events in Robotlegs





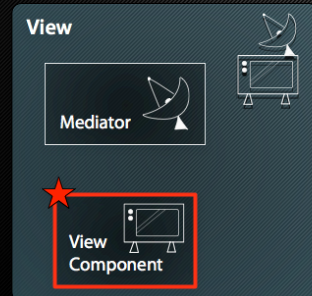
## User Performs an Action (button click)



1. Create event class

2. Add to button:

```
click="dispatchEvent(new SimpleAppEvent(SimpleAppEvent.CHOOSE_FILE));"
```

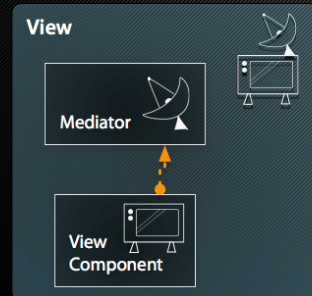




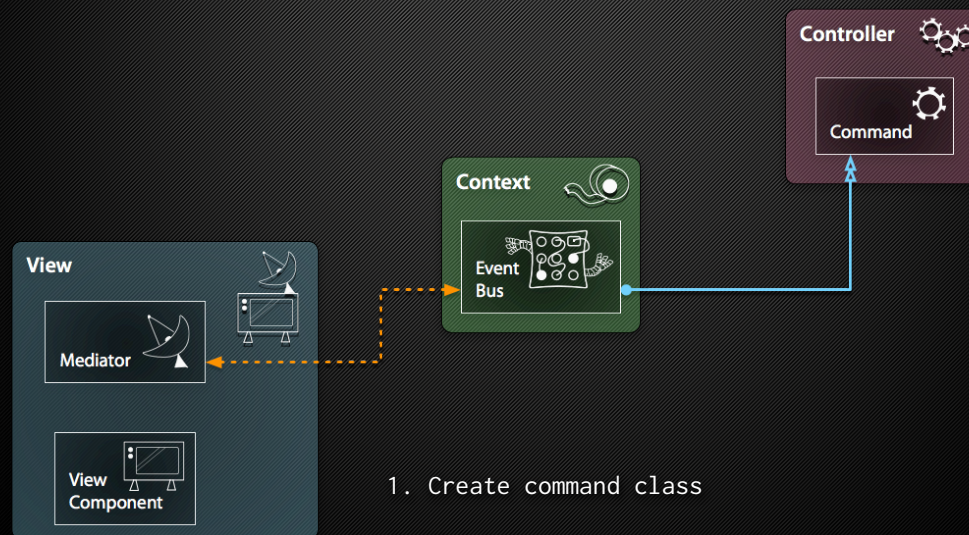
## View Component Dispatches Event to Mediator



1. Create mediator
2. Create view <-> mediator mapping in context  
`mediatorMap.mapView(ButtonContainer, ButtonContainerMediator);`
3. Register for view event in mediator  
`addViewListener(SimpleAppEvent.CHOOSE_FILE, chooseFileHandler, SimpleAppEvent);`



## Mediator Dispatches Event that Triggers Command



1. Create command class

2. Create event <-> command mapping in context

```
commandMap.mapEvent(SimpleAppEvent.CHOOSE_FILE, ChooseFileCommand, SimpleAppEvent);
```



## Command calls a Method on a Service



1. Create service interface  
`function promptToChooseFile():void;`

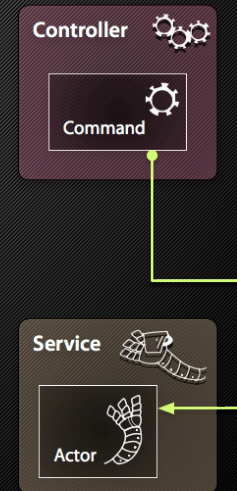
2. Inject service into command  
`[Inject]`  
`public var fileService:IFileService;`

3. Call service in execute() method  
`fileService.promptToChooseFile();`

Oh yeah:

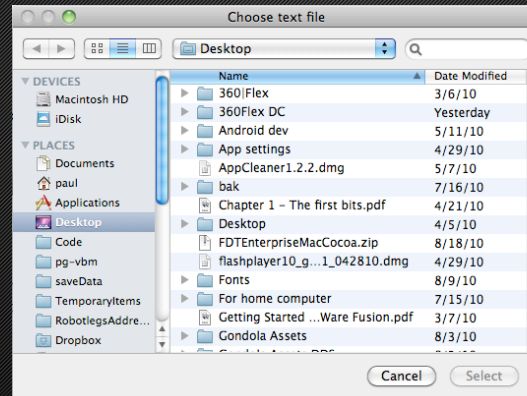
4. Create service implementation

5. Create interface <-> service mapping in context  
`injector.mapSingletonOf(IFileService, FileService);`

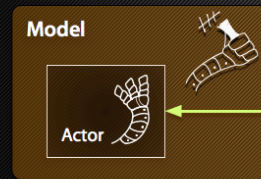




## Service Makes External call and Parses Data



## Service Updates the Model (directly or via Command)



1. Create event class with service result payload

2. Dispatch event from service

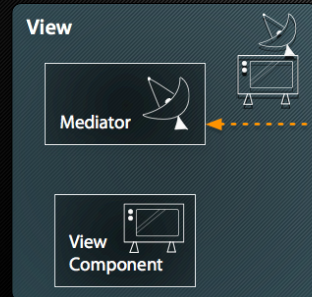
```
dispatch(new FileResultEvent(FileResultEvent.FILE_RESULT, _file.name, _file.nativePath));
```

3. Repeat steps for creating a command

## Model dispatches Event that Mediator listens for



1. Model dispatches change event  
`dispatch(new SimpleModelEvent  
    (SimpleModelEvent.FILE_NAME_CHANGE, _fileName));`



2. Mediator registers listener for event

- Create Mediator
- Define listeners in mediator
- Map view to mediator in context

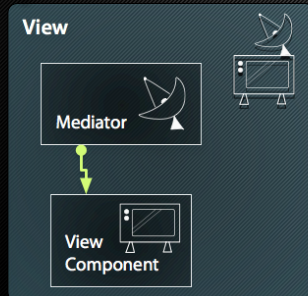




## Mediator Updates View with Current Data

```
1. Create public api on view
public function setFileName(name:String):void
{
    fileName.text = name;
}
```

```
public function setFilePath(path:String):void
{
    filePath.text = path;
}
```



2. Inject view into mediator

```
[Inject]
public var view:TextContainer;
```

3. Call api from mediator

```
view.setFileName(event.value);
view.setFilePath(event.value);
```

the View is represented by your  
view components and their Mediators





Mediators provide API for view components



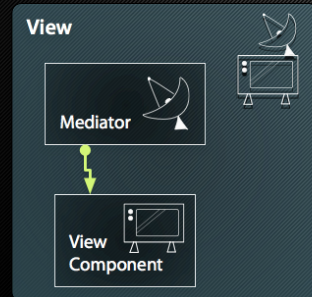
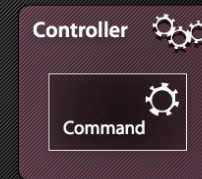


Mediators **provide API for view components**

to keep the framework out



# Mediators Access View Component APIs



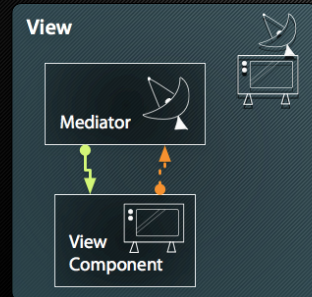
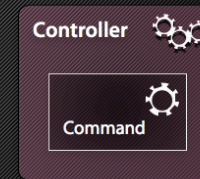


Mediators **listen for view component events**





# Mediators Listen to View Components

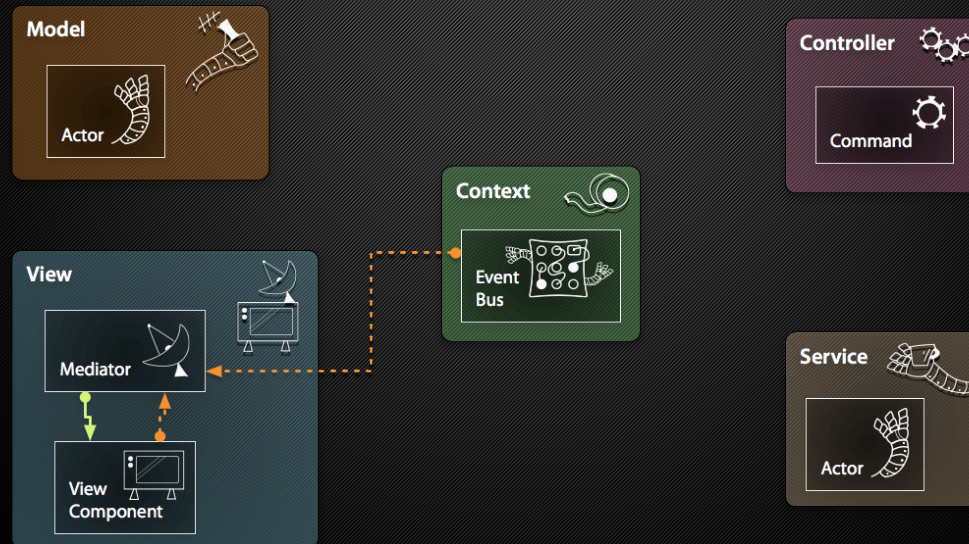


Mediators **listen for framework events**





# Mediators Listen for Events

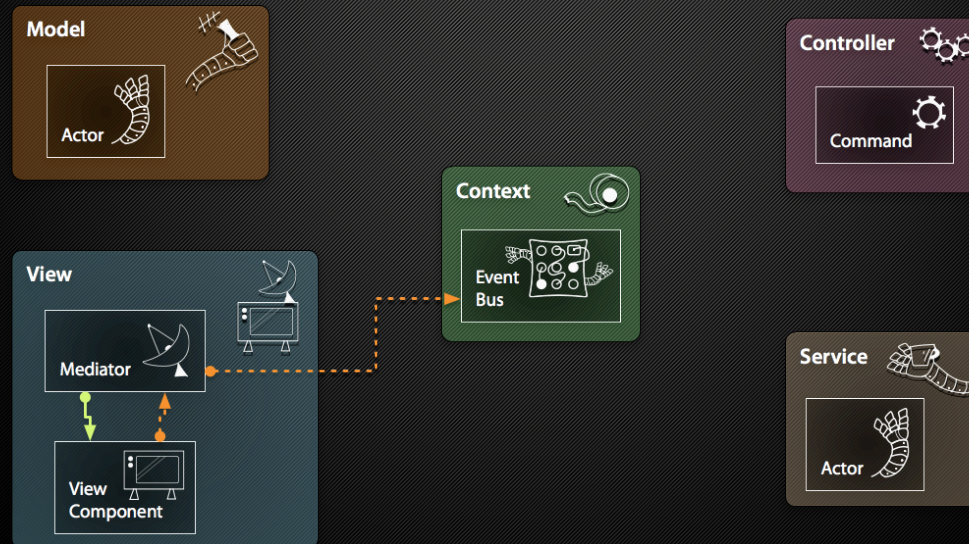




Mediators **dispatch** framework events



# Mediators Dispatch Events





view components are **not** coupled to  
their Mediators





view components are **not** coupled to  
**their** Mediators  
or any other framework class



view components are **not** coupled to  
**their** Mediators

or any other framework class  
period.



Mediators **are** coupled to their  
view components





Mediators **can access**  
Service **and** Model **classes directly**



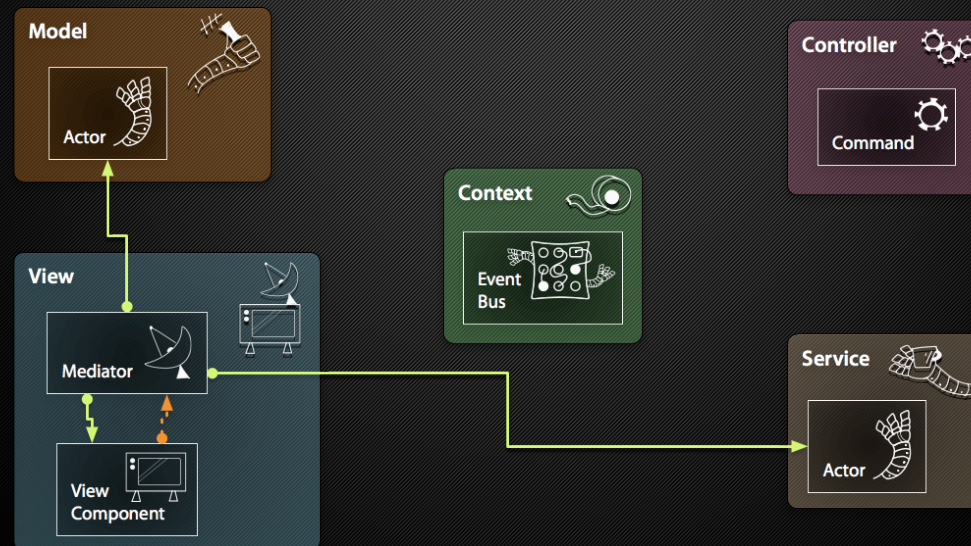
Mediators **can access**  
Service **and** Model **classes directly**

but this will couple the Mediator to the Actor





# Accessing Models and Services from Mediators



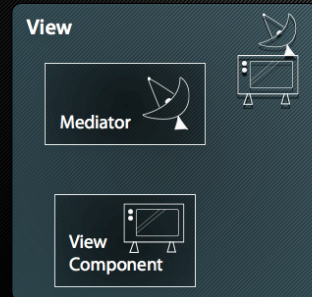
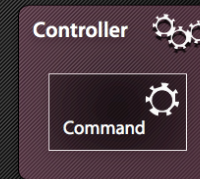
(tread carefully)



Actor is the base class for  
Model and Service classes



# Models and Services Extend Actor





*eventDispatcher* is injected  
into Actor





Actor provides a *dispatch(event)* method



Actor



Actor **is** for your convenience



Models **extend** Actor





Models **provide an API for data**



Models sit between application data  
and other actors



Models **should not**  
listen for framework events

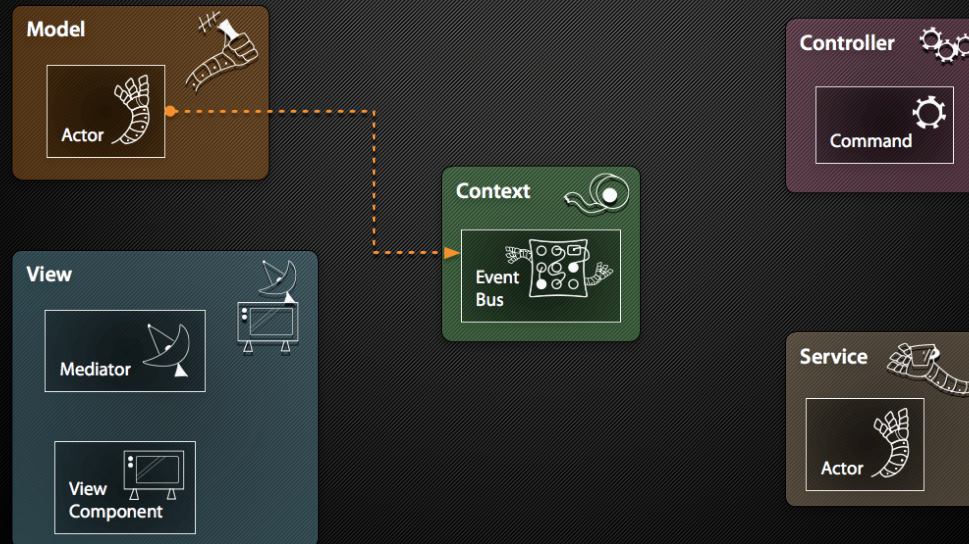




Models **dispatch** framework events



# Models Dispatch Events





## Services **extend** Actor





Services **usually implement an interface**



Services **communicate with the outside world**  
and **provide an API to external services**



Services can parse results  
from *external* services





### Services can parse results from *external* services

foreign data should be converted at the first opportunity



Services **do not store data**



Services **do not store data**

data is stored on a Model





Services **do not**  
receive framework events

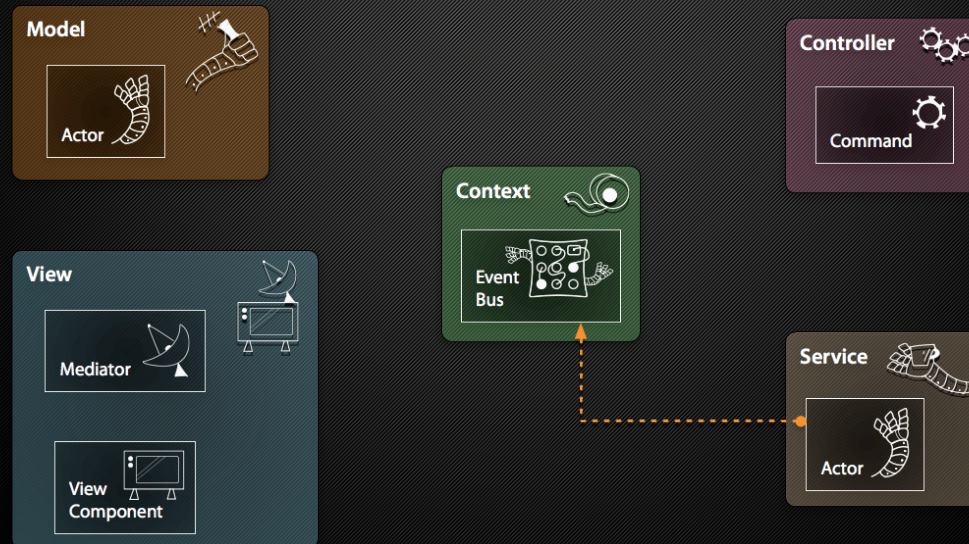


Services **dispatch framework events**





# Services Dispatch Events





represented by the Command class

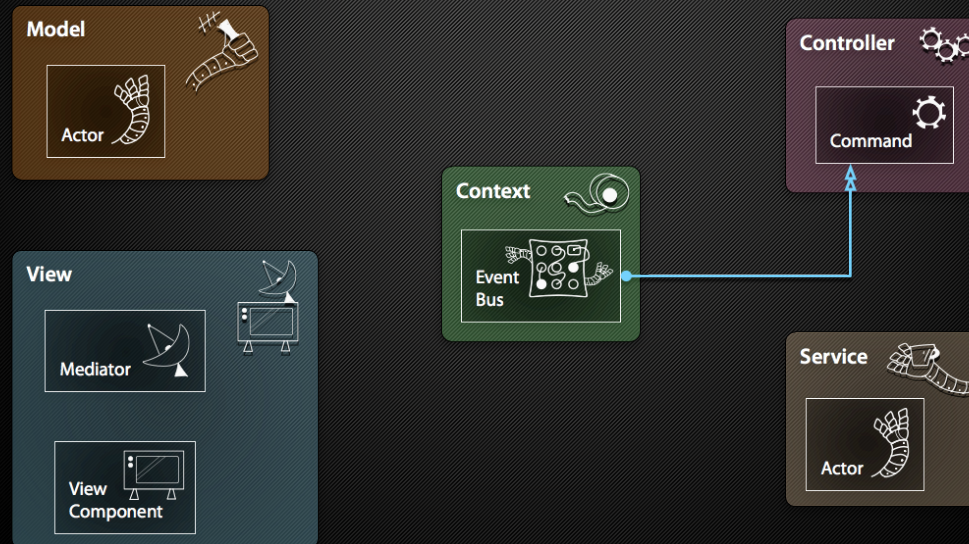


Commands are executed in response  
to framework events





# Controllers Executed by Events





Commands **are stateless**



## Commands **are stateless**

they execute and die



# Commands **are stateless**

they execute and die  
performing a single unit of work





Commands perform work on  
Service and Model classes  
and dispatch events (call other commands)



Commands **perform work on**  
Service **and** Model **classes**  
**and dispatch events (call other commands)**

sometimes they manage mappings (context commands)



Commands **receive data from the events that trigger them**

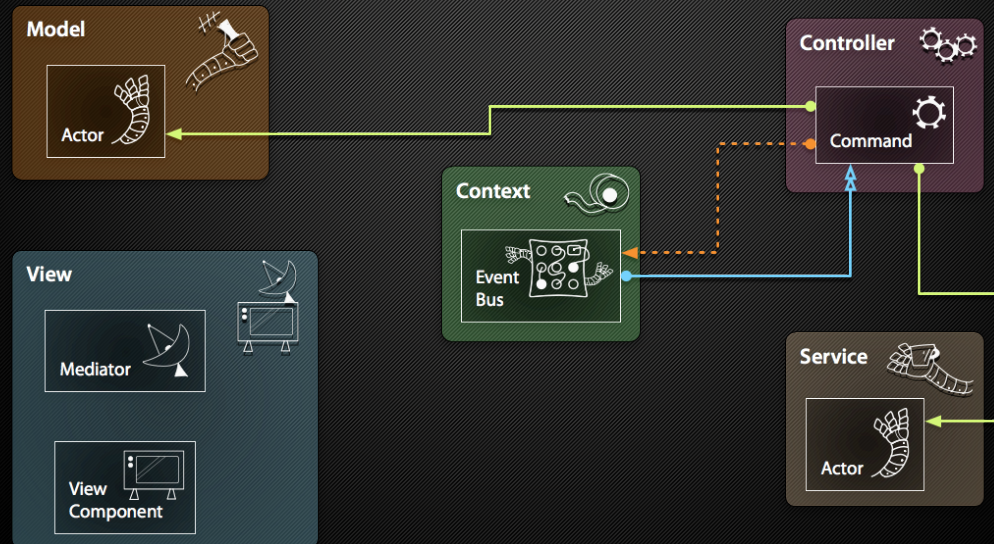




Commands **dispatch** framework events



# Controller Dispatches Events





Commands **do not** receive framework events





Commands **do not receive framework events**

outside of the event that triggers them



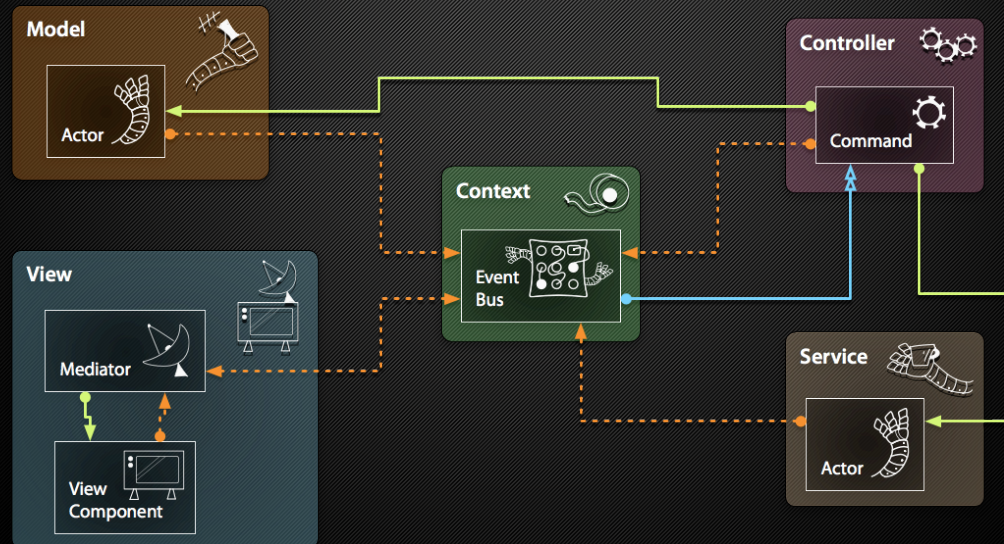
Commands **do not receive framework events**

outside of the event that triggers them  
which is available for injection





# Robotlegs MVCS







[www.robotlegs.org](http://www.robotlegs.org)

download the framework  
best practices documentation  
project on github  
FAQ and Knowledge Base  
live examples



Questions?