Open APIs for Open Minds

NGSIv2 Overview for Developers That Already Know NGSIv1

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Outline

- Introduction to NGSIv2
- RESTful-ness
- URL & payload simplification
- Native JSON datatypes
- Text-based attribute value set/get
- Geolocation capabilities
- Datetime support
- Filtering
- Subscription improvements
- Batch operations
- Working with IDs
- Pagination
- Next things to come



Two "flavors" of NGSI API

- NGSIv1 (the one you already know ☺)
 - Original NGSI RESTful binding of OMA-NGSI
 - Implemented in 2013
 - Uses the /v1 prefix in resource URL
- NGSIv2
 - A revamped, simplified binding of OMA-NGSI
 - Simple things must be easy
 - Complex things should be possible
 - Agile, implementation-driven approach
 - Make it as developer-friendly as possible (RESTful, JSON, ...)
 - Enhanced functionality compared to NGSIv1 (e.g. filtering)
 - Stable, ready for production, version already available
 - Current NGSIv2 version is **Release Candidate 2016.10** <u>http://telefonicaid.github.io/fiware-orion/api/v2/stable</u>
 - New features coming (see last part of this presentation)
 - Uses the /v2 prefix in resource URL
- Introduction to NGSIv2
 - <u>https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_fv9dB5joCsOCHlb4Ld6A-</u>
 <u>QmeIYhDzHgFHUWreGmvKU/edit#slide=id.g53c31d7074fd7bc7_0</u>



The NGSI model is kept as it is in NGSIv2





NGSIv2 status (AKA the "NGSIv2 disclaimer")

• NGSIv2 is in "release candidate" status

- By "release candidate" we mean that the specification is quite stable, but changes may occur with regard to new release candidates or the final version. In particular, changes may be of two types:
 - Extensions to the functionality currently specified by this document. Note that in this case there isn't any risk of breaking backward compatibility on existing software implementations.
 - Slight modifications in the functionality currently specified by this document, as a consequence of ongoing discussions. Backward compatibility will be taken into account in this case, trying to minimize the impact on existing software implementations. In particular, only completely justified changes impacting backward compatibility will be allowed and "matter of taste" changes will not be allowed.



So... when should I use NGSIv1 or NGSIv2?

- In general, it is always preferable to use NGSIv2
- However, you would need to use NGSIv1 if
 - You need register/discovery operations (context management availability functionality)
 - Not yet implemented in NGSIv2 (in roadmap)
 - Zero tolerance to changes in software interacting with Orion
- Even if you use NGSIv1, you can still use NGSIv2 functionality and requests
 - See "Considerations on NGSIv1 and NGSIv2 coexistence" section in the Orion manual



RESTful-ness

- In NGSIv1
 - Originally based on OMA-NGSI standard operations, not really RESTful
 - The URL doesn't identify a resource, but an operation type
 - The verb is always POST
 - Actually, NGSIv1 is closer to HTTP-based RPC than to RESTful
 - An extended set of operations (convenience operations) were added in a later stage but with "legacy" from standard operations that make it hard to apply full RESTful principles
 - E.g. dual response code
- NGSIv2 has been designed from scratch with RESTful principles in mind
 - Batch operations (similar to standard operations in NGSIv1) are also provided, but without impacting the RESTful operations in the API



RESTful-ness

NGSIv1

GET /v1/contextEntities/Car1



both status codes have to be taken into account by the client in order to detect error conditions, which increases complexity

Example: get Car1 entity

NGSIv2

GET /v2/entities/Car1





URL & payload simplification

- In NGSIv1 the strict alignment with OMA NGSI involves complexity and ineffectiveness
 - Message payloads include a lot of structural overhead elements not actually needed
 - Response payload in methods that don't really need a payload from a semantic point of view (e.g. update operation)
 - Unnecessarily long structural elements in URLs
- NGSIv2 simplifies URLs and payload, leading to a much more lean and less verbose API





URL & payload simplification





URL & payload simplification

• Moreover, NGSIv2 provides simplified data representations

- keyValues: exclude attribute type and metadata
- values: only attribute values (attrs is used to order the values in the resulting vector)
- unique: like values which in addition removes duplicate values



- Not only for retrieval operations, also for creation/update operations
 - Default attribute types are used in that case



Native JSON datatypes

- In NGSIv1
 - All attribute values are string based to align with XML encoding
 - At the end, XML support was removed (in Orion 1.0.0), but it left an awful legacy ☺
 - Although creation/update operations can use numbers, bool, etc. at the end they are transformed to strings and stored in that way internally
 - Retrieve operation always provides string encoded values (*)
- NGSIv2 fully supports all the types described in the JSON specification (string, number, boolean, object, array and null)

(*) Exception: entities created/updated with NGSIv2 (which support native types) and retrieved

with NGSIv1 will render without stringification.



Native JSON datatypes

NGSIv1

POST /v1/contextEntities

Example: create Car1 entity (type Car) with attribute *speed* set to 98

NGSIv2





Text-based attribute value set/get

- In NGSIv1
 - There is no similar functionality
- NGSIv2 offers set/get attribute access directly without anything else than the attribute value itself in the request/response payload
 - In the set operation, attribute type and metadata are kept as they are

Example: set *speed* attribute value at Car1 entity

PUT

/v2/entities/Car1/attrs/speed/value Content-Type: text/plain

. . .

86

200 OK

Examp	le: ge	t speed	attri	bute
value a	t Car1	entity		

/v2/ontitioe/Car1/attre/enood/value

200 OK	
Content-Type: text/plain	

. . .

86



Geolocation capabilities

- In NGSIv1
 - Entity location must be a point
 - Queries are based on an area specification (circle or polygon, inner or outer area)
 - Query as part of queryContext payload scope
- In NGSIv2
 - In addition to point, entity location can be a line, box, polygon or arbitrary GeoJSON
 - Queries are based on a spatial relationship and a geometry
 - Spatial relationships: near (max and min distance), coveredBy, intersect, equal and disjoint
 - Geometries: point, line, box, polygon
 - Query as part of URL (more user-friendly than payload-based approach)



Geolocation capabilities

NGSIv1

```
POST /v1/queryContext
 "entities": [
  "type": "City",
  "isPattern": "true",
  "id": ".*"
 "restriction": {
  "scopes": [
    "type": "FIWARE::Location",
    "value" : {
     "circle": {
      "centerLatitude": "40.418889".
      "centerLongitude": "-3.691944",
      "radius": "13500"
```

Example: retrieve all entities of type "City" (no matter the id) whose distance to Madrid city center (GPS coordinates 40.418889,-3691944) is less than 13.5 km

NGSIv2





```
Geolocation capabilities
```



POST /v2/entities "id": "E". "type": "T", "location": { "type": "geo:line", "value": ["2, 2", "8, 7"



Point location Lin² location (e.g. a stree**B**ox location (e.g. a squared building the only one supported by NGSIv1)

```
POST /v2/entities
{
    "id": "E",
    "type": "T",
    "location": {
        "type": "geo:polygon",
        "value": [ "2, 2", "8, 7", "-1, 4", "2,
2"]
    }
```

Polygon location (e.g. a city district)



GeoJSON geometry (full flexibility)



Datetime support

- In NGSIv1
 - There is no support for attributes meaning dates, they are treated as conventional strings
- NGSIv2 implements date support
 - Based on ISO ISO8601 format, including partial representations and timezones
 - See <u>https://fiware-</u> orion.readthedocs.io/en/master/user/ngsiv2 implementati on notes/index.html#datetime-support for syntax details
 - Use reserved attribute type **DateTime** to express a date
 - Date-based filters are supported



Datetime support

```
POST /v2/entities

...

{

"id": "John",

"birthDate": {

"type": "DateTime",

"value": "1979-10-14T07:21:24.238Z"

}
```

Example: create entity John, with *birthDate* attribute using type DateTime

 Attribute value arithmetic filters can be used with dates as if they were numbers

GET /v2/entities?q=birthDate<1985-01-01T00:00:00

- Entity dateModified and dateCreated special <u>attributes</u>, to get <u>entity</u> creation and last modification timestamps
 - They are shown in query responses using attrs=dateModified,dateCreated
- Entity dateModified and dateCreated special <u>metadata</u>, to get <u>attribute</u> creation and last modification timestamps
 - They are shown in query responses using metadata=dateModified,dateCreated



Filtering

- In NGSIv1
 - Limited filtering functionality, much of it based on queryContext complex scopes
 - Filters are not supported in subscriptions



Example: filtering entities which *temperature* is less than 24

This is the only interesting part, all the rest is structural overhead

- In NGSIv2 the mechanism
 - Is simpler (see next slide)
 - Can be applied to both queries and subscriptions (described in a later topic of this presentation)



Filtering

- For the **GET /v2/entities** operation, retrieve all entities...
 - ... of a given entity type



• Filters can be used simultaneously (i.e. like **AND** condition)



Filtering

- For the **GET /v2/entities** operation, retrieve all entities...
 - ... whose entity type match a regex pattern



metadata sub-key (for compound metadata values only)



Attributes filtering and special attributes

- By default all attribute are included in query responses or notifications
- The attrs field (as parameter in GET operations and as notification sub-field in subscriptions) can be used to specify a filtering list
- The **attrs** field can be also used to explicitly include some special attributes (not included by default)
 - dateCreated: entity creation date
 - **dateModified**: entity last modification date
- The "*" can be used as an alias of "all the (regular) attributes"



Attributes filtering and special attributes

Examples

- Include only attributes temp and lum
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?attrs=temp,lum
 - In subscriptions: "attrs": ["temp", "lum"]
- Include dateCreated and not any other attribute
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?attrs=dateCreated
 - In subscriptions: "attrs": ["dateCreated"]
- Include dateModified and all the other (regular) attributes
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?attrs=dateModified,*
 - In subscriptions: "attrs": ["dateModified", "*"]
- Include all attributes (same effect that not using attrs, not very interesting)
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?attrs=*
 - In subscriptions: "attrs": ["*"]



Metadata filtering and special metadata

- By default all attribute metadata are included in query responses and notifications
- The metadata field (as parameter in GET operations and as notification sub-field in subscriptions) can be used to specify a filtering list
- The **metadata** field can be also used to explicitly include some special metadata (not included by default)
 - dateCreated, dateModified: attribute creation or last modification date
 - actionType: which value is the action type corresponding to the update triggering the notification: "update", "append" or "delete"
 - previousValue: which provides the value of the attribute previous to processing the update that triggers the notification
- The "*" can be used as an alias of "all the (regular) metadata"



Metadata filtering and special metadata

Examples

- Include only metadata MD1 and MD2
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?metadata=MD1,MD2
 - In subscriptions: "metadata": ["MD1", "MD2"]
- Include previousValue and not any other metadata
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?metadata=previousValue
 - In subscriptions: "attrs": ["previousValue"]
- Include actionType and all the other (regular) metadata
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?metadata=actionType,*
 - In subscriptions: "attrs": ["actionType", "*"]
- Include all metadatata (same effect that not using metadata, not very interesting)
 - In queries: GET /v2/entities?metadata=*
 - In subscriptions: "metadata": ["*"]



Subscription improvements

- NGSIv1 context subscription API is very limited
 - There is no operation to list existing subscriptions
 - If a client loses the ID of created subscriptions, there is no way to retrieve them through the API
 - No support for permanent subscriptions
 - Creating absurdly long subscriptions (e.g. 100 years) is a dirty workaround
 - Fix notification structure
 - Difficult to integrate to arbitrary endpoints (e.g. public REST services)
 - No support for filters
- NGSIv2 subscription API solves all these limitations and introduces some additional enhancements
 - Notification attributes based on "blacklist" (in addition to the "whitelist" approach in NGSIv1)
 - Ability to pause/resume subscriptions
 - Extra fields: times sent, last notification and description



Anatomy of a NGSIv2 subscription



List subscriptions and special fields in NGSIv2

- List operations (not available in NGSIv1)
 - **GET /v2/subscriptions** lists all subscriptions
 - GET /v2/subscriptions/<id> retrieves information of a particular subscription
- Whitelist vs. blacklist (in the **notification** field)
 - Use "attrs": ["A", "B"] to "include A and B in the notification" (whitelist)
 - Use "exceptAttrs": ["A", "B"] to "include all the attributes except A and B" (blacklist)
 - Use "attrs": [] to include "all the attributes" (special case)
- Other informative fields (in the **notification** field)
 - timesSent: the number of times that the subscription has been triggered and a notification has been sent
 - **lastNotification**: datetime corresponding to the last notification
- Other informative fields (at root level)
 - **description**, free text descriptive text for user convenience



Permanent and paused subscriptions in NGSIv2

The status attribute can be used to pause/resume subscriptions



- In GET operations, the **status** field can be
 - active: subscription is active (notifications will be sent)
 - inactive: subscription is inactive (notifications will not be sent)
 - expired: subscription is expired (notifications will not be sent)



Notification formats in NGSIv2

• The optional **attrsFormat** field can be used to choose between different notification flavors, aligned with the representation modes



- Notifications include the NGSIv2-AttrsFormat header to help the receiver identify the format
- legacy can be used as value for attrsFormat in order to send notifications in NGSIv1 format
 - Very useful when integrating legacy notification endpoints



Custom notifications in NGSIv2

- Apart from the standard formats defined in the previous slide, NGSIv2 allows to re-define **all** the notification aspects
- httpCustom is used (instead of http) with the following subfields
 - URL query parameters
 - HTTP method
 - HTTP headers
 - Payload (not necessarily JSON!)
- A simple macro substitution language based on \${..} syntax can be used to "fill the gaps" with entity data (id, type or attribute values)



Custom notifications in NGSIv2





Example: send a text





Subscription filters in NGSIv2

Example: subscribe to *speed* changes in any entities of any type ending with Vehicle (such as RoadVehicle, AirVehicle, etc.) whenever *speed* is greater than 90 its *average* metadata is between 80 and 90 and the vehicle distance to Madrid city center is less than 100 km

 They can be used also in subscriptions

- type pattern --
- metadata value ---

POST /v2/subscriptions "subject": { "entities": ["idPattern": ".*". "typePattern": ".*Vehicle" -> }, "condition": { "attrs": ["speed"], "expression": { "q": "speed>90", "mq": "speed.average==80..100", "georel": "near;maxDistance:100000", "geometry": "point", "coords": "40.418889,-3.691944" λ,



Batch operations

- In NGSIv1 we have standard operations
 - POST /v1/updateContext
 - POST /v1/queryContext
- Similar but more user-friendly operations have been included in NGSIv2
 - POST /v2/op/update
 - POST /v2/op/query



Batch operations



Batch operations

NGSIv2



Pagination

- In NGSIv1
 - based on limit, offset and details
 - Dirty workaround to fit count into NGSIv1 payloads, using an errorCode for something that actually is not an error and forcing to text based processing of the details field
 - Fixed order: always by creation date
- In NGSIv2
 - based on limit, offset and options=count
 - This part doesn't change too much
 - Cleaner and easier way of returning count, with the **Fiware-Total-Count** HTTP header in the response
 - Configurable ordering based on **orderBy** parameter
 - See details in the NGSIv2 specification

```
"errorCode": {
    "code": "200",
    "details": "Count: 322",
    "reasonPhrase": "OK"
    }
```

Fiware-Total-Count: 322



Working with IDs

- In NGSIv1
 - Fields such as entity id, attribute name, etc. may have any value (*)
 - This could cause a lot of problems as these fields use to act as IDs in many places when propagated through notifications
 - E.g. Cygnus MySQL sink may have problems when these fields are mapped to tables names, whose allowed charset is very strict
 - In addition, NGSIv1 allows ids or attribute names as "" (empty string) which is weird and typically an error condition in the client
- NGSIv2 establishes a set of restrictions to ensure sanity in the usage of ID fields. In particular:
 - Allowed characters are those in the plain ASCII set, except the following ones: control characters, whitespace, &, ?, / and #.
 - Maximum field length is 256 characters.
 - Minimum field length is 1 character.
 - The rules above apply to the following six fields (identified as ID fields): entity id, entity type, attribute name, attribute type, metadata name, metadata type

(*) Excluding the forbidden characters described in the Orion manual, which are general for all the fields in both NGSIv1 and NGSIv2 APIs



Next things to come

- Up to now, all the slides have described the stable version of the API corresponding to Release Candidate 2016.10 (<u>http://fiware.github.io/specifications/ngsiv2/stable</u>)
- There is also a *work in progress* (WIP) version, describing future functionally (<u>http://fiware.github.io/specifications/ngsiv2/latest</u>)
- <u>Warning</u>: the future functionality of the WIP version is subject to change and it may change before to be consolidated in a next Release Candidate stable version



Notification status

- Status **failed** means that last attempt to notify failed
 - E.g. the endpoint is not reachable
- Detailed information in the notifications element
 - timesSent: total number of notifications attempts (both successful and failed)
 - lastSuccess: last time that notification was successfully sent
 - lastFailure: last time that notification was tried and failed
 - lastNotification: last time the notification was sent (either success or failure)
 - Corollary: lastNotification value is the same than either lastFailure or lastSuccess

```
200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
. . .
[{
  "id": " 51c0ac9ed714fb3b37d7d5a8 ",
  "expires": "2026-04-05T14:00:00.00Z",
  "status": "failed".
  "subject": { ... },
  "notification": {
     "timesSent": 3,
     "lastNotification": "2016-05-
31T11:19:32.00Z",
     "lastSuccess": "2016-05-31T10:07:32.00Z",
     "lastFailure": "2016-05-31T11:19:32.00Z",
     . . .
```



Useful references

- Introduction to NGSI and Orion
 - <u>http://bit.ly/fiware-orion</u>
- Orion Manual
 - <u>https://fiware-orion.readthedocs.io</u>
- Orion page at FIWARE Catalogue
 - <u>http://catalogue.fiware.org/enablers/publishsubscribe-</u> <u>context-broker-orion-context-broker</u>
- NGSIv2 specs
 - <u>http://fiware.github.io/specifications/ngsiv2/stable</u>
 - <u>http://fiware.github.io/specifications/ngsiv2/latest</u>
- Orion support at StackOverflow
 - Look for existing questions at http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/fiware-orion
 - Ask your questions using the "fiware-orion" tag
- FIWARE Tour Guide Application
 - <u>https://github.com/fiware/tutorials.TourGuide-App</u>



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