

Scaling Work Queues with Oban

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SmartAccount



Agenda

- Why Elixir?
- What is a background job?
- What is Oban?
- Using Oban and some cool use cases
- Oban Pro

Why Elixir?

Functional programming & the Erlang VM

1. **Concurrent and Scalable**

- Handles thousands of concurrent processes efficiently.
- Ideal for applications with high parallel processing needs.

2. **Fault-Tolerant**

- Designed for systems requiring high uptime.
- Processes are isolated, ensuring that failure in one doesn't affect others.

3. **Hot Code Swapping**

- Allows code updates without stopping the system.
- Critical for systems needing continuous operation.

4. **Soft Real-Time Capabilities**

- Supports applications with real-time processing needs.
- Ensures timely execution of tasks.

5. **Robust Ecosystem**

- Strong support for Erlang and Elixir, with growing libraries and tools.
- Benefits from a vibrant, supportive community.

1. **Lightweight and Efficient**

- BEAM processes are extremely lightweight, often using just a few kilobytes of memory.
- This allows the creation of millions of processes on a single machine.

2. **Isolated Execution**

- Each process runs in complete isolation with no shared memory.
- This design prevents processes from interfering with each other, enhancing fault tolerance.

3. **Garbage Collection**

- Each process has its own garbage collector, which runs independently.
- This localized garbage collection minimizes pause times and does not stop other processes.

1. **Deployment**

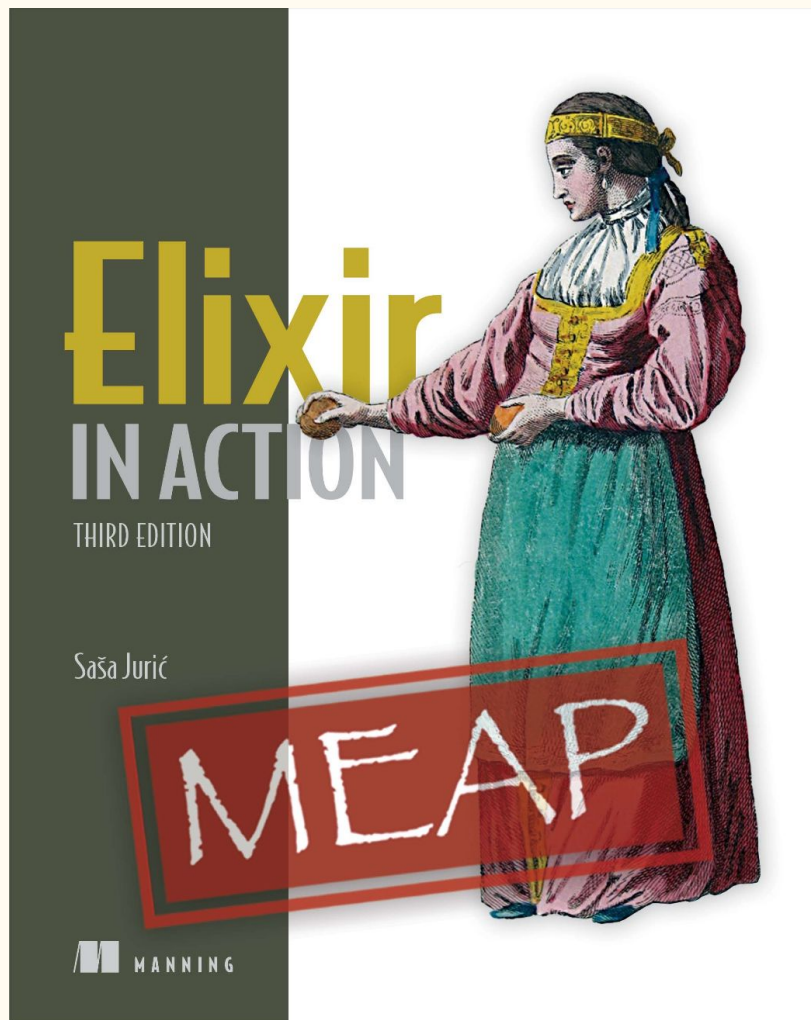
- No runtimes needed on the server
- Single file* deployment

2. **Multi-node friendly**

- Built-in support for multi-node operations
- Very easy to scale up and down

3. **Awesome library support**

- Developed with scale and ease of use in mind
- Great community support
- Open source by default



For deep dive into Elixir I recommend:

Elixir in action, 3rd
edition by Saša Jurić



<https://www.manning.com/books/elixir-in-action-third-edition>

What is a background job?

Sending emails

All transactional emails
you send to the user

Processing uploads

Long running processes
going thru user uploaded
data, e.g. resizing photos

Generating documents

Generating PDFs, esp. if
you have more than one

Scheduled jobs

Clean up jobs for sessions
or uploaded files, etc.

Stop wasting your users time...

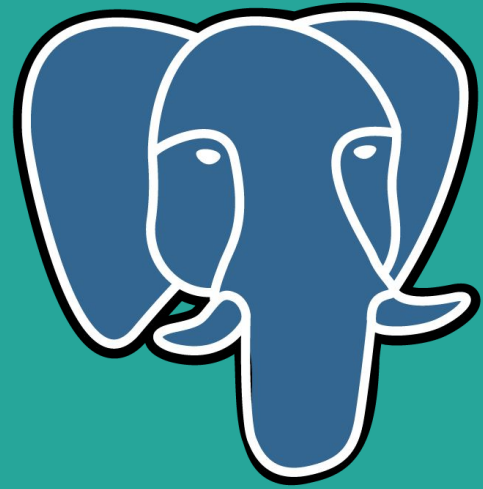
```
defmodule MyApp.Jobs.OrderConfirmationEmail do
  use Oban.Worker,
    queue: :mailers

  @impl true
  def perform(%Oban.Job{args: args}) do
    email = Map.fetch!(args, "email")
    Mailer.send(:welcome, email)
  end
end
```



```
args = %{"email" => order.customer_email}  
Oban.insert!(%OrderConfirmationEmail{args: args})
```

PostgreSQL





```
args = %{"email" => order.customer_email}
```

```
Oban.insert(%OrderConfirmationEmail{args: args})
```



```
Repo.transaction(fn ->
  User.create(order.customer_email)
  args = %{"email" => order.customer_email}
  Oban.insert(%OrderConfirmationEmail{args: args})
end)
```


Using Oban and some cool use cases

```
defmodule MyApp.Jobs.OrderConfirmationEmail do
  use Oban.Worker,
    queue: :mailers

  @impl true
  def perform(%Oban.Job{args: args}) do
    email = Map.fetch!(args, "email")
    Mailer.send(:welcome, email)
  end
end
```



```
defmodule MyApp.Jobs.OrderConfirmationEmail do
  use Oban.Worker,
    queue: :mailers,
    max_attempts: 3

  @impl true
  def perform(%Oban.Job{args: args}) do
    email = Map.fetch!(args, "email")
    Mailer.send(:welcome, email)
  end
end
```

```
defmodule MyApp.Jobs.OrderConfirmationEmail do
  use Oban.Worker,
    queue: :mailers,
    max_attempts: 3,
    unique: [period: 30]
```

```
  @impl true
  def perform(%Oban.Job{args: args}) do
    email = Map.fetch!(args, "email")
    Mailer.send(:welcome, email)
  end
end
```

Digest emails



```
defmodule MyApp.Jobs.OrderDigestEmail do
  use Oban.Worker,
    queue: :mailer,
    max_attempts: 3,
    unique: [period: :infinity, states: [:scheduled]]
end
```



```
def enqueue(order_id) do
  %{order_id: order_id}
  |> new(schedule_in: 600, replace: [scheduled: [:scheduled_at]])
  |> Oban.insert()
end
```

Oban Pro

1. **Oban Web**

- A beautiful dashboard to manage your jobs
- You can schedule jobs manually, re-try them, inspect them, ...

2. **Oban Pro**

- Plugins
- Better Job control

Use case



```
# config/config.exs
```

```
config :api, Oban,  
  repo: MyApp.Repo,  
  engine: Oban.Pro.Engines.Smart,  
  queues: [  
    mailer: 5  
  ]
```



```
# config/config.exs

config :api, Oban,
  repo: MyApp.Repo,
  engine: Oban.Pro.Engines.Smart,
  queues: [
    mailer: [
      local_limit: 5,
      rate_limit: [
        allowed: 1, period: 3
      ]
    ]
  ]
]
```



```
# config/config.exs
```

```
config :api, Oban,  
  repo: MyApp.Repo,  
  engine: Oban.Pro.Engines.Smart,  
  queues: [  
    mailer: [  
      local_limit: 5,  
      rate_limit: [  
        allowed: 1, period: 3,  
        partition: [args: [:email]]  
      ]  
    ]  
  ]  
]
```

Thank you!

Links

- <https://0x7f.dev/weblica2024>

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29. DANI OTVORENIH RAČUNARSKIH SUSTAVA / CROATIAN LINUX USERS' CONFERENCE 2024.

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Sveučilište Algebra, Gradišćanska 24, Zagreb



<https://dorscluc.org>

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