Typesafe

Bringing Reactive Applications to the Java Virtual Machine

FAQ: Spray in the Typesafe Reactive Platform

Q: What are the changes for Spray users & the Open Source Community?
A: The plan is to merge the Spray community with the Akka community. Primarily this means merging the spray-user user mailing list with akka-user, adding the Spray docs to the Akka docs, moving the Spray tickets to Akka's Issue Tracker at Assembla and making Spray a module (akka-http) in the Akka repository at GitHub.

We will make sure that Spray 1.0/1.1/1.2 is released as planned; the following release will be completed as part of the Akka merger. The Spray and Akka teams will pull in Spray into Akka piece by piece and as part of this improve code quality, test coverage and documentation if and where needed. As part of this merger we will also add a number of new features, such as a first class Java API.

In terms of API changes our aim is to minimize breaking changes to the current Spray APIs as much as possible and only change things where it clearly will change it for the better—either by providing more idiomatic Akka code or by supporting a richer and more powerful API.

In short, Spray will become a better, more feature rich, and supported product.

Q: What changes for Akka users?
A: In the short term nothing changes for the Akka users—if your existing project uses Spray it will still continue to do so.

Going forward the integration of Spray as the core akka-http module will ensure a seamless and well-tested http integration in Akka that has professional support provided by Typesafe.

Q: What changes for Play Framework users & the Open Source Community?
A: In the short term, nothing changes for Play users. After the Akka merger, Play will be modified to support akka-http as an underlying HTTP and IO backend. This will be completely transparent to user code. Currently we envision that developers will be able to choose either a Netty backend, or an akka-http backend, with no modifications to their code.

In the future, we plan to leverage akka-http to provide greater resilience and scalability to Play applications and allow a more fluid means to integrate actors into Play applications.

Q: What changes for Typesafe Subscription customers?
A: Typesafe Subscription customers will get commercial support for the current version of Spray today. Once the Spray/Akka merger is complete the support will cover the akka-http module.

Q: Like Akka and Play Framework, will Spray have Java APIs?
A: Creating a first class Java API for Spray is one of the highest priority when integrating it into Akka. During the coming months we will work together with the community and our users to ensure that the API will provide the best possible experience when writing [Reactive](#) applications in Java and Scala.

Q: When to use Spray and when to use Play?
A: Play is a full stack Reactive web framework, providing a high velocity development environment, support for client side technologies, backend technologies such as database connectivity, templating, internationalisation and much more out of the box. We recommend it for anyone that wants a complete solution for any web or REST application.

Spray is an HTTP integration layer for Akka. It provides a lightweight API on top of actors for serving and making HTTP requests. We recommend it for existing Akka applications that just want to provide a REST interface and don't need any of the backend or client side features that Play provides.