

MICROSERVICES AND MARTIN FOWLER'S FIRST LAW OF DISTRIBUTION ([HTTP://WWW.SOFTWARE-PRAGMATISM.COM/2014/08/17/MICROSERVICES-AND-MARTIN-FOWLERS-FIRST-LAW-OF-DISTRIBUTION/](http://www.software-pragmatism.com/2014/08/17/microservices-and-martin-fowlers-first-law-of-distribution/))

BY MOHAN ([HTTP://WWW.SOFTWARE-PRAGMATISM.COM/AUTHOR/MOHAN-RANJANGMAIL-COM/](http://www.software-pragmatism.com/author/mohan-ranjangmail-com/)) | AUGUST 17, 2014 ([HTTP://WWW.SOFTWARE-PRAGMATISM.COM/2014/08/17/](http://www.software-pragmatism.com/2014/08/17/)) | 1 COMMENT ([HTTP://WWW.SOFTWARE-PRAGMATISM.COM/2014/08/17/MICROSERVICES-AND-MARTIN-FOWLERS-FIRST-LAW-OF-DISTRIBUTION/#COMMENTS](http://www.software-pragmatism.com/2014/08/17/microservices-and-martin-fowlers-first-law-of-distribution/#comments)) | SOFTWARE ENGINEERING ([HTTP://WWW.SOFTWARE-PRAGMATISM.COM/CATEGORY/SOFTWARE-ENGINEERING/](http://www.software-pragmatism.com/category/software-engineering/))



(<http://i1.wp.com/www.software-pragmatism.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/mfowler.jpg>)

Microservices has gained the attention of the Software Architects and Technology specialists recently.

Martin Fowler has written a detailed article couple of months back on Microservice (<http://martinfowler.com/articles/microservices.html>) . If you have not read it i may suggest, you do now.

MicroService is an evolutionary species of Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). Well some may not agree and want to call the Microservice a new bird and came out of nothing.

Some companies Like NetFlix, Amazon etc have already making use of Micoservices Architectural style and succeeded. Microservice is all about distributing the services across the process boundaries.

Fowler made an attempt to define it as “The microservice architectural style is an approach to developing a single application as a suite of small services, each running in its own process and communicating with lightweight mechanisms, often an HTTP resource API.”

You can note the phrase “each running in its own process and communicating through HTTP”, which implies the distributed object design. This grabs the attention of some of the folks and asked Martin Fowler about his First Law Of Distribution (<http://www.drdoobs.com/errant-architectures/184414966>) whether he is violating the law by supporting the MicroService. You can find the article about this here (<http://martinfowler.com/articles/distributed-objects-microservices.html>).

Martin Fowler argues his point that “*The microservice-advocates I’ve talked to are very aware of this distinction, and I’ve not heard any of them talk about in-process/remote transparency. So they aren’t trying to do what distributed objects were trying to do, and thus don’t violate the first law. Instead they advocated coarse-grained interactions with documents over HTTP or lightweight messaging.*”

I think he makes the right argument. His first Law of Distribution which states “Don’t distribute your object” is well structured for the Objects and not for the services. His initial argument is about Object distribution and not about the Services Distribution which is the case about Microservice. So in either way he did not violates his Law. And i think Fine grained calls for the Distributed objects is always an pitfall in terms of performance and Latency it associates. So, Martin Fowler’s Law of Distribution still holds.

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ONE THOUGHT ON "MICROSERVICES AND MARTIN FOWLER'S FIRST LAW OF DISTRIBUTION"



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