Regression Testing of DDS-based Systems

"user-driven requirements for a 'Tester' tool"

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OMG RTE workshop April 17-19 2012 Paris, France

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Introduction

- This presentation is about:
  - **Experiences of system-integrators** in the large-scale naval combat systems domain
    - Focussing on their needs w.r.t. regression testing
  - Separating **requirements** targeting:
    - Testing of individual applications
    - Integration of (3rd party) subsystems into the mission system
    - Analyzing system-wide data-flows
    - Capturing data and convert/use into repeatable test-scenario's
  - **Explaining concepts** using 'their' evolved tool-suite
    - Developed 'by testers for testers'
    - As a complementary tool to available white-box DDS-tooling (OpenSplice Tuner)
    - Based on the (open-source) Control &Monitoring API of OpenSplice DDS
    - Exploiting the Java-platform and related open-source plugins
  - Recently enhanced with a 'system browser' and now productized by PrismTech
    - Available as "**OpenSplice Tester**", part of OpenSplice V6.1

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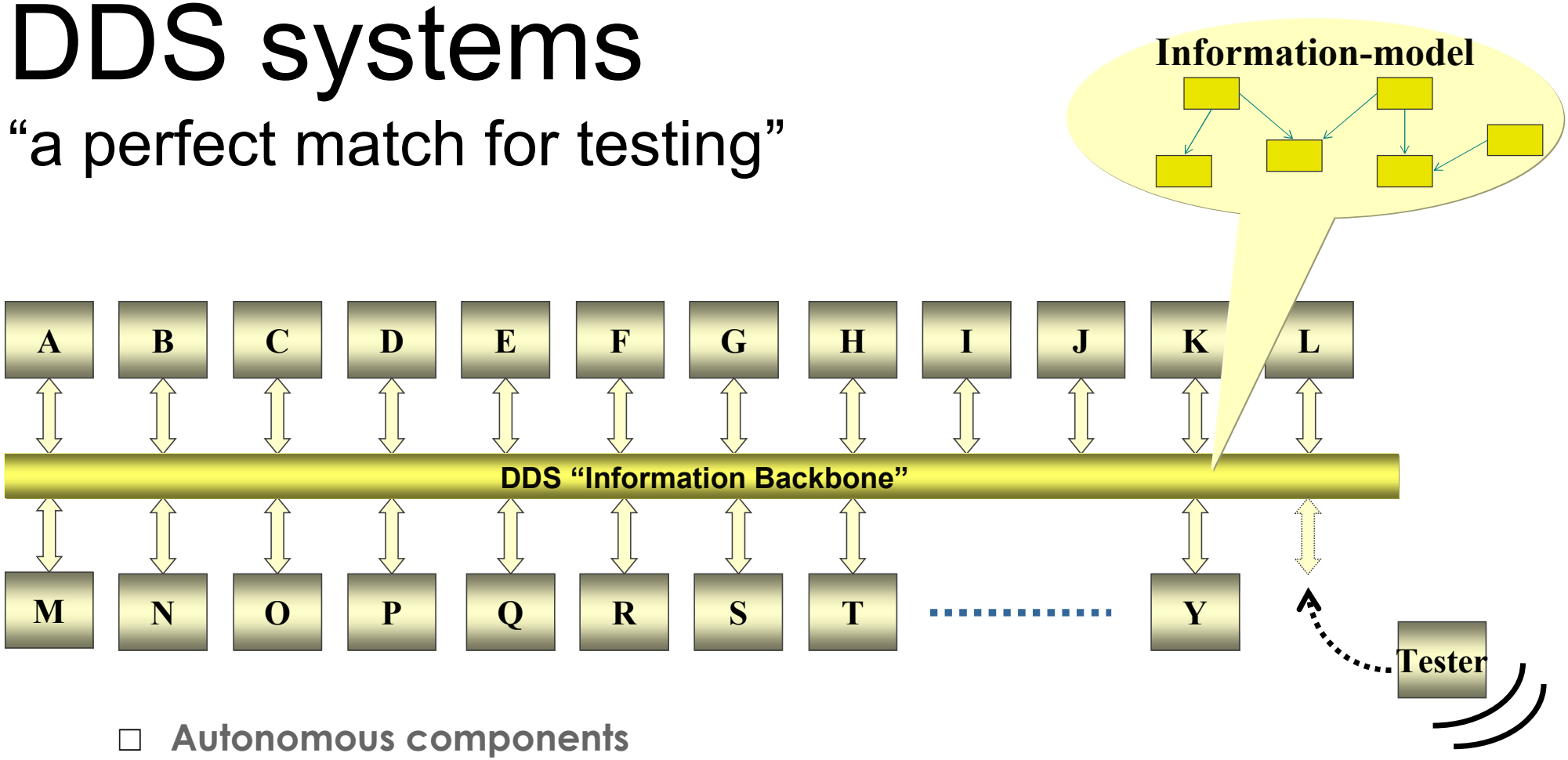
DDS systems

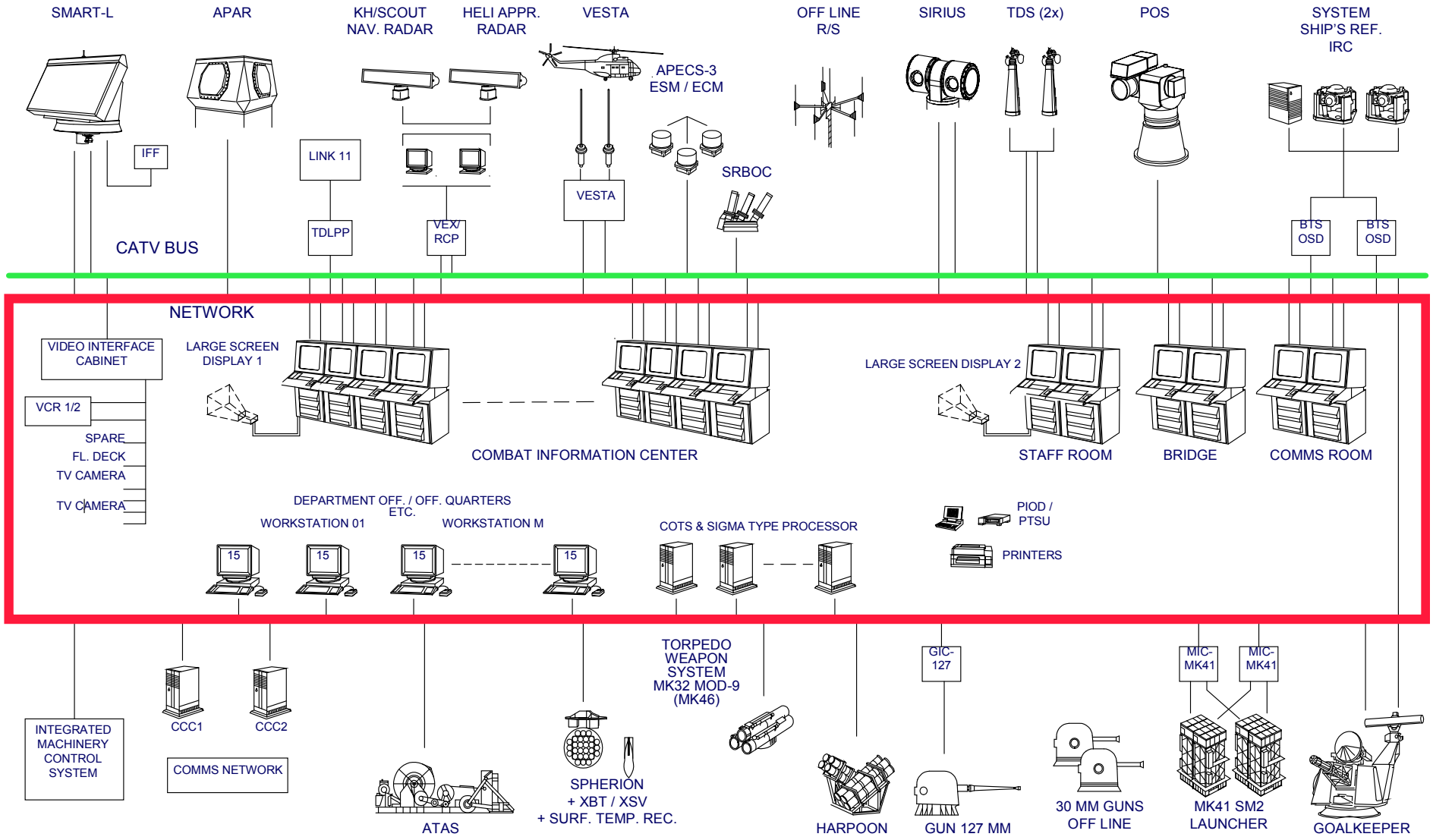
“a perfect match for testing”



- Autonomous components
- Interacting only with the information they exchange
- Dynamic discovery of (late joining) applications
- Standardized meta-data capturing discovered DDS-entities
- A ‘natural fit’ for a dynamic (regression-) test tool to ‘stimulate’ the system

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Naval CMS - example



1.2 Large-Scale Naval CMS

- **>100 Application Developers (C/Java)**
  - Developing data-centric 'autonomous' DDS applications
  - HMI, generic business-logic, embedded Sensor/Weapon interfaces
  - Need tools for **debugging, tuning and testing (individual) applications**
- **Many 3rd party Sensor/Actuator subsystems**
  - Repeatable Subsystem (interface-) testing/validation is essential
  - Both 'standalone' as well as when integrated in the total system
  - Need tools to **test & verify (validate) correct subsystem interfacing & behaviour**
- **All integrated into a single large-scale mission-critical DDS system**
  - 2.200 of applications distributed over hundreds of computers
  - Up to 150 applications on a single node (6.000 writers, 2.000 readers per node)
  - Need tools to **explore/understand, stimulate/analyze, test/re-test**

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1.3 Testing Needs

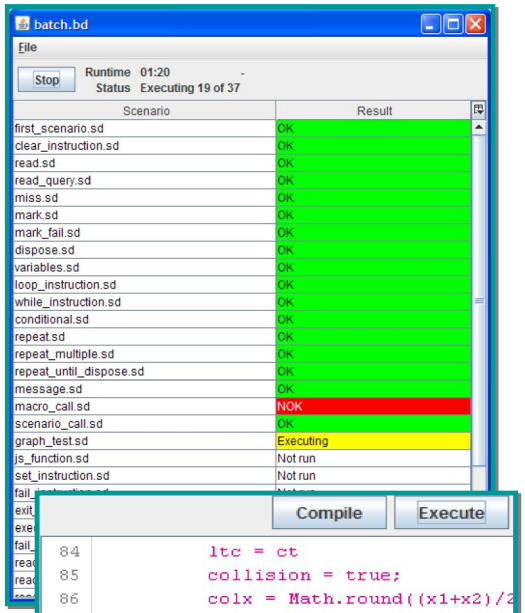
- Application **developers**
  - Want **Whitebox** debugging/tuning i.e. looking 'inside' an application, inspect data, modify QoS, ..
  - Want **Blackbox** testing i.e. stimulate inputs, monitor outputs, analyze behavior
  - Want an **integrated approach** to white-box and black-box testing
- Subsystem **integrators**
  - Want a **intuitive** / easy "language" to express DDS-based interactions with subsystems
  - Want to execute such **scripted interactions** in batch-mode to automate regression-testing
- System **testers**
  - Want to **browse** the distributed system from logical and/or physical perspective
  - Want to **observe** and **capture** DDS-based interactions between system components
  - Want aids to convert these observations in **repeatable scenario's** (**scripts**) to test the system
- … and lets not forget.. **Middleware** developers (like us)
  - Want to perform **performance regression-testing** of OpenSplice DDS itself (as part of QA process)
  - Using the regression-test tool to 'drive' the open-source DDS Touchstone **benchmarking suite**

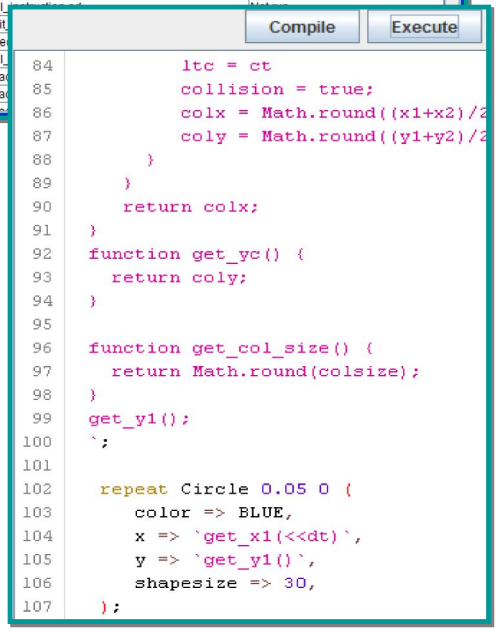
2. “Tester” Architecture

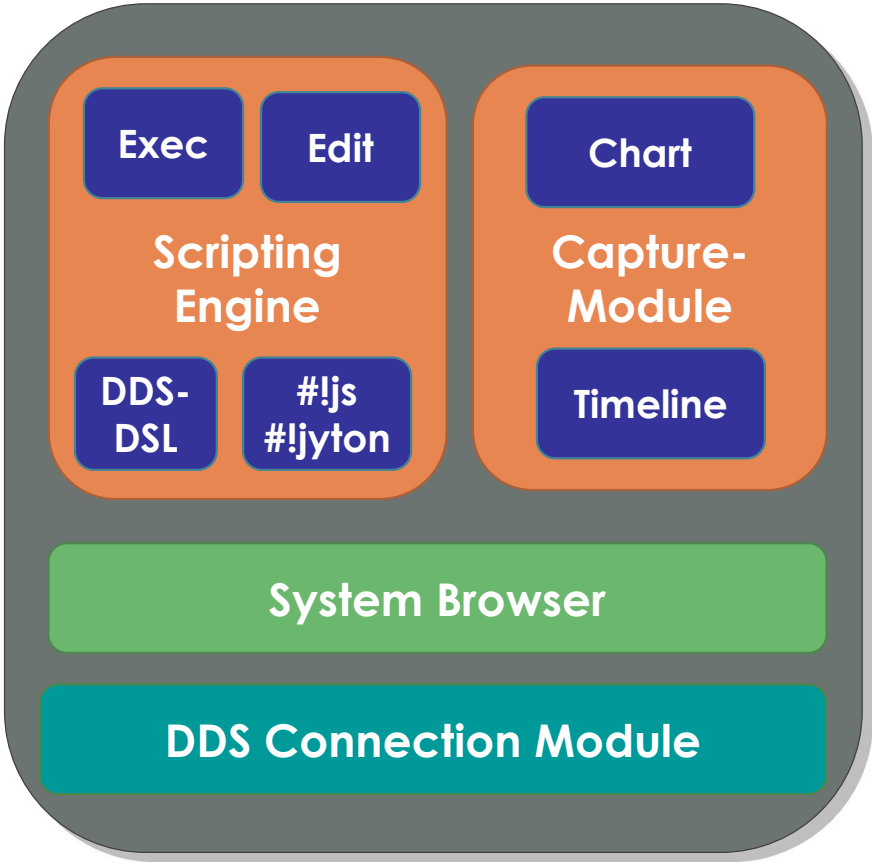
2.1 Major components

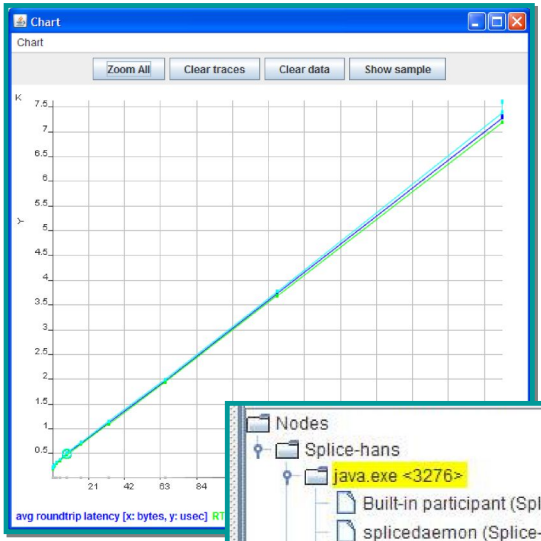
- Usage aspects concentrated in 'modules':
  - (remote) DDS **connection** module
    - Allows the tool to 'interact' with the DDS-system
  - System **browser** module
    - Allows the user to 'understand' the data-flows in the system
  - **Scripting** engine
    - Allows for creation/execution of test-scenario's
  - **Capture** module
    - Allows for the creation and visualization of a data-capturing time-line
  - **Regression-test** execution module
    - Allows for repeatable batch-execution of test-scripts
    - Allows for interactive as well as headless execution modes

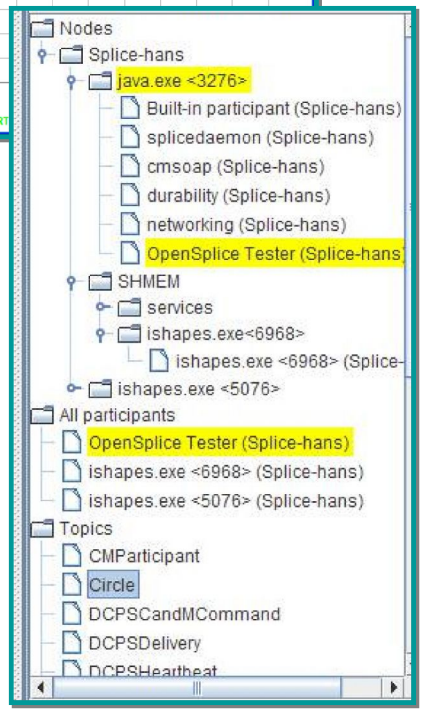
2.2 Architecture Overview











3. Requirements

3.1 Non-Intrusiveness (1)

- **Requirement:** Black-box approach:
  - The DDS-system and its applications should be left '**untouched**' w.r.t.
    - Configuration : system shall NOT require any (pre-)configuration
    - Execution : execution order/location shall not be influenced
    - Performance : test tooling shall not degrade system performance
  - The test tool shall be **dynamic** e.g. not requiring and pre-configuration (of type-descriptions, etc.)
- **Analysis:** Generic DDS context
  - DDS components are **decoupled** (in space/time) 'by nature'
  - DDS dynamically **discovers** all (logical) DDS entities
  - DDS has standardized 'built-in topics' that capture that discovered '**meta-data**'
  - Yet DDS currently lacks (standardized) **dynamic API's** and runtime topic/type creation
- **Analysis:** OpenSplice DDS context
  - OpenSplice DDS has **extended meta-data** that includes type info
    - Allowing for dynamic creation of readers/writers/topics (XML-based dynamic API similar to X-types)
  - OpenSplice DDS built-in-topics include **mapping-info** between logical and physical entities
    - Additional **`CMParticipant`** built-in topic that relates participants to processes running on particular nodes

3.2 Non Intrusiveness (2)

- **Requirement**: Target Platform Execution & Connection
  - The tool shall **NOT** be required to run on the 'target-system'
    - From platform-support perspective (*platform might not support Java/HMI*)
    - From resource-usage perspective (*tool induced CPU and/or Memory load*)
  - The tool shall therefore be able to run on a **remote** computer
    - Yet without implying that all data is routed to that computer
- **Analysis**: Generic DDS context
  - Need to **decouple** the DDS_interactions from the scripting/analysis/visualization 'engine'
  - Currently **no standardized solutions** for '*remote DDS-access*' by a tool
- **Analysis**: OpenSplice DDS context
  - OpenSplice already has a **SOAP-based agent** (used by its 'tuner')
    - That exposes the dynamic "Control & Monitoring" **(C&M) API** to a remote application over SOAP
    - Which includes the 'normal' yet **dynamic** DCPS-API's for reading/writing that are sufficient for the test-tool
    - As well as **specialized C&M functions** to 'inspect' DDS-entities and even change their QoS settings (as used by the OpenSplice Tuner whitebox testing tool)

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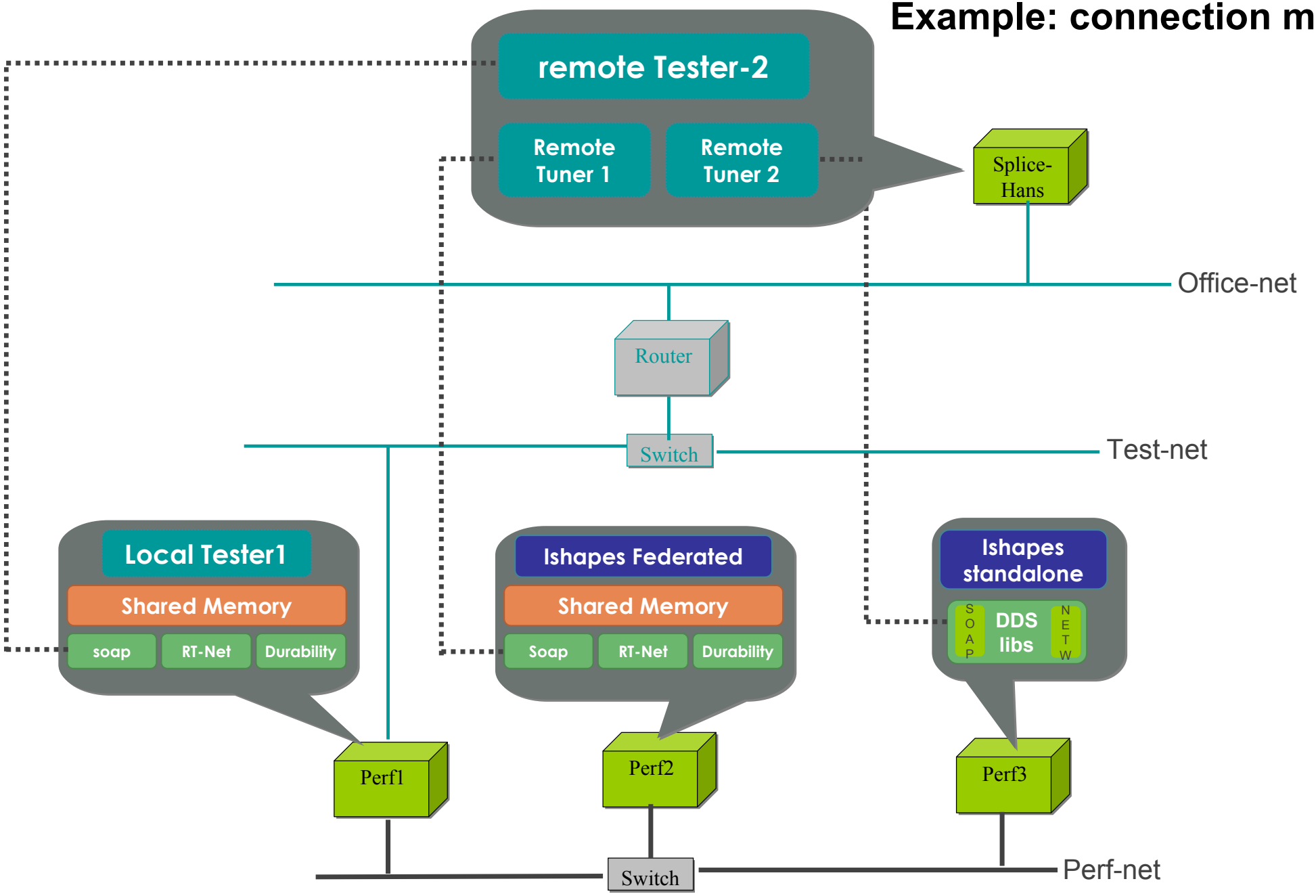
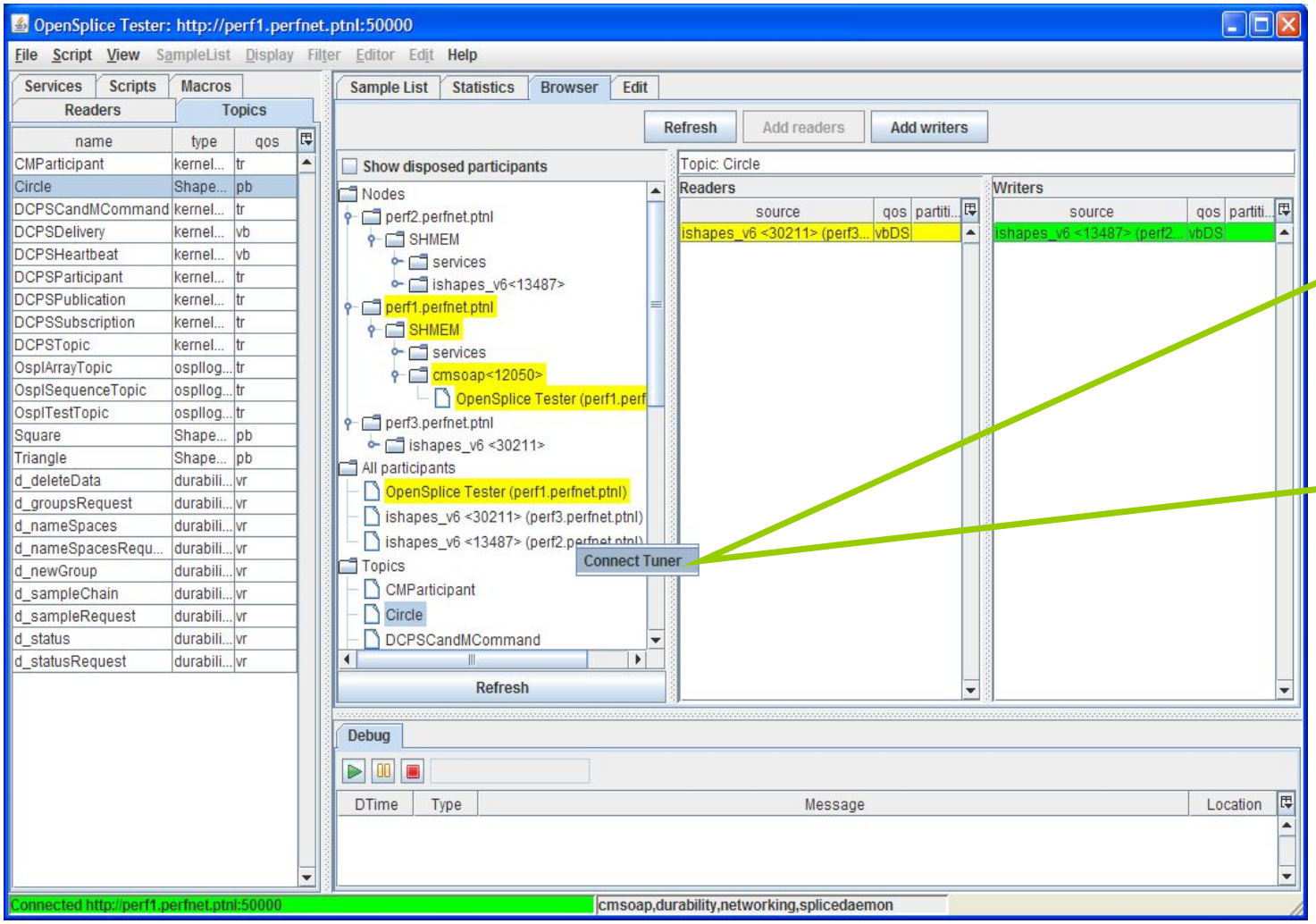
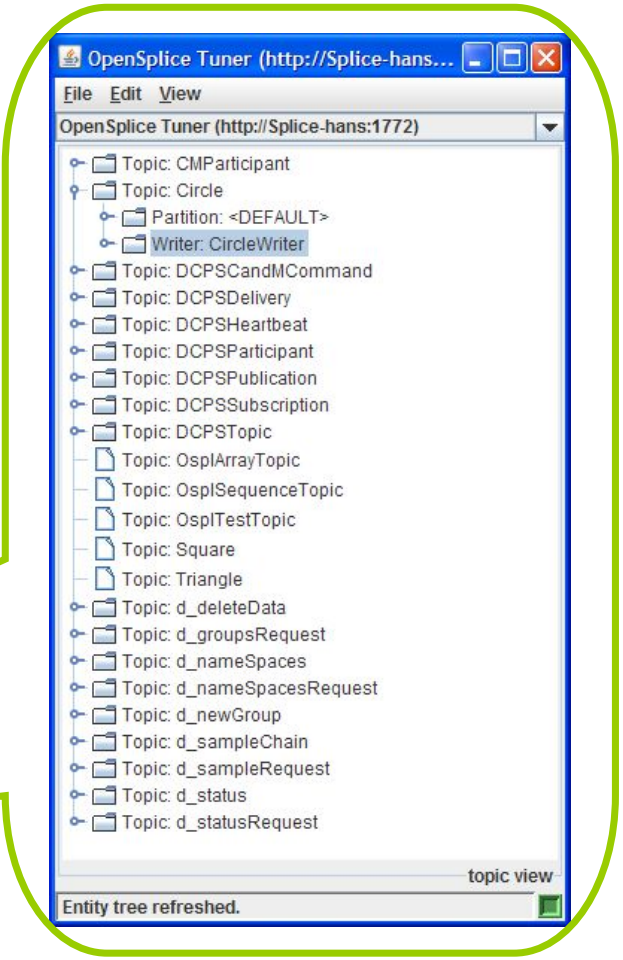
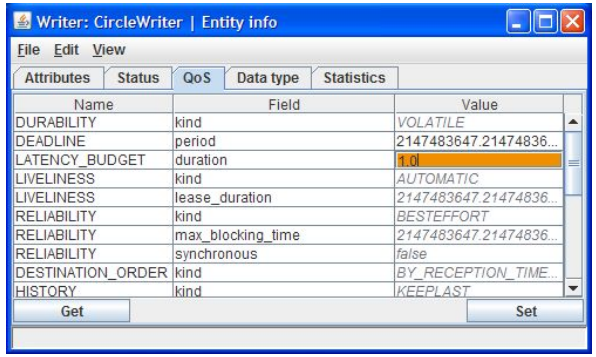
Example: connection modes



Black- & White-box







3.3 Overall Test Nature

- **Requirement**: Regression Testing
  - **Repeated** testing
    - The tool shall have the ability to create test-scripts
    - The tool shall have the ability to execute batches of scripts
    - The tool shall have the capability to capture/maintain regression results
- **Requirement**: Integrated Test environment
  - The tool shall **Integrate** browsing, capturing/manipulating, scripting
    - The tool shall have the ability to create test-scripts from interactions
    - The tool shall allow for one-clock monitoring
    - The tool shall integrate all components to an intuitive look&feel

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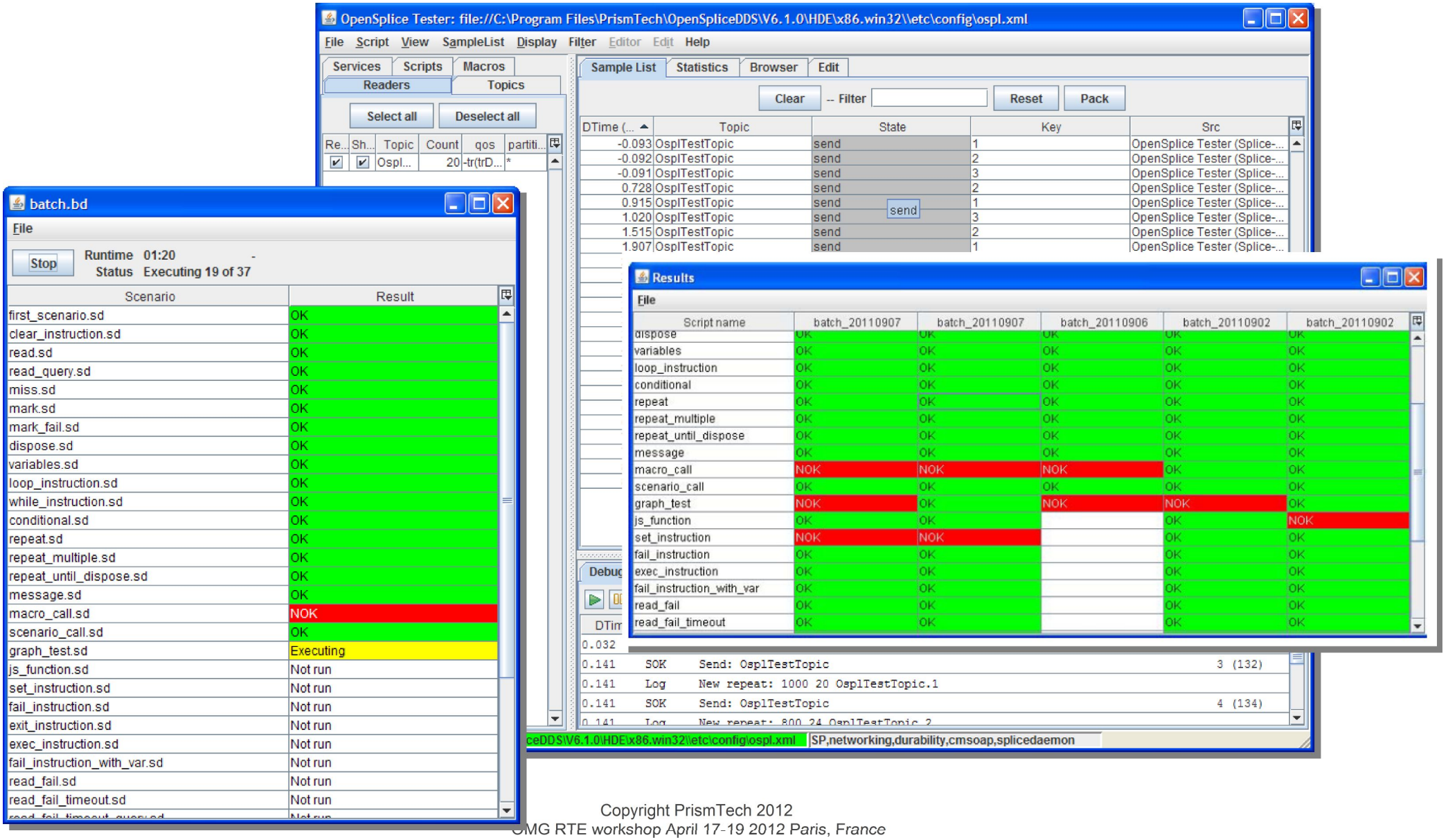
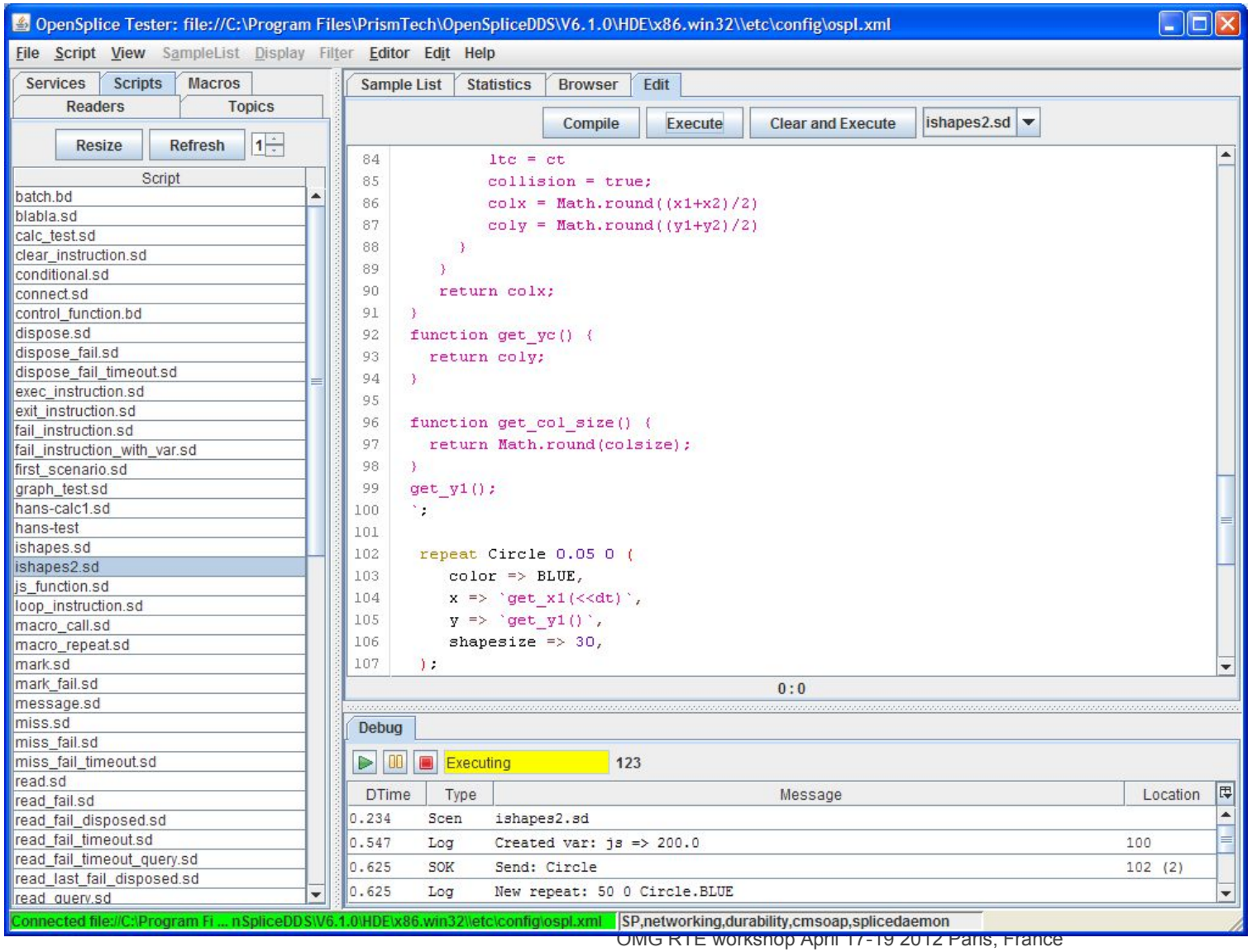
Example: Regression (batch-)testing

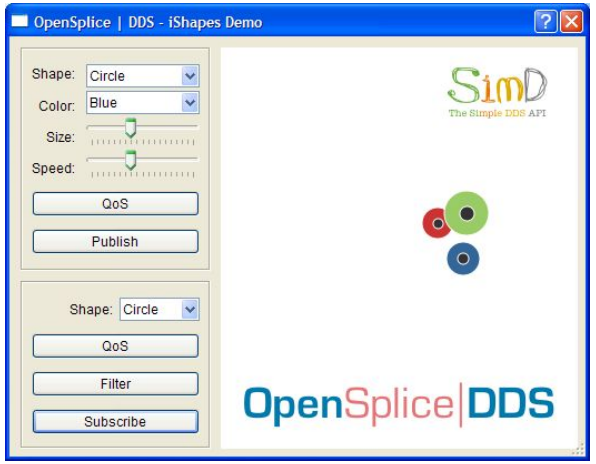


3.4 Scripting

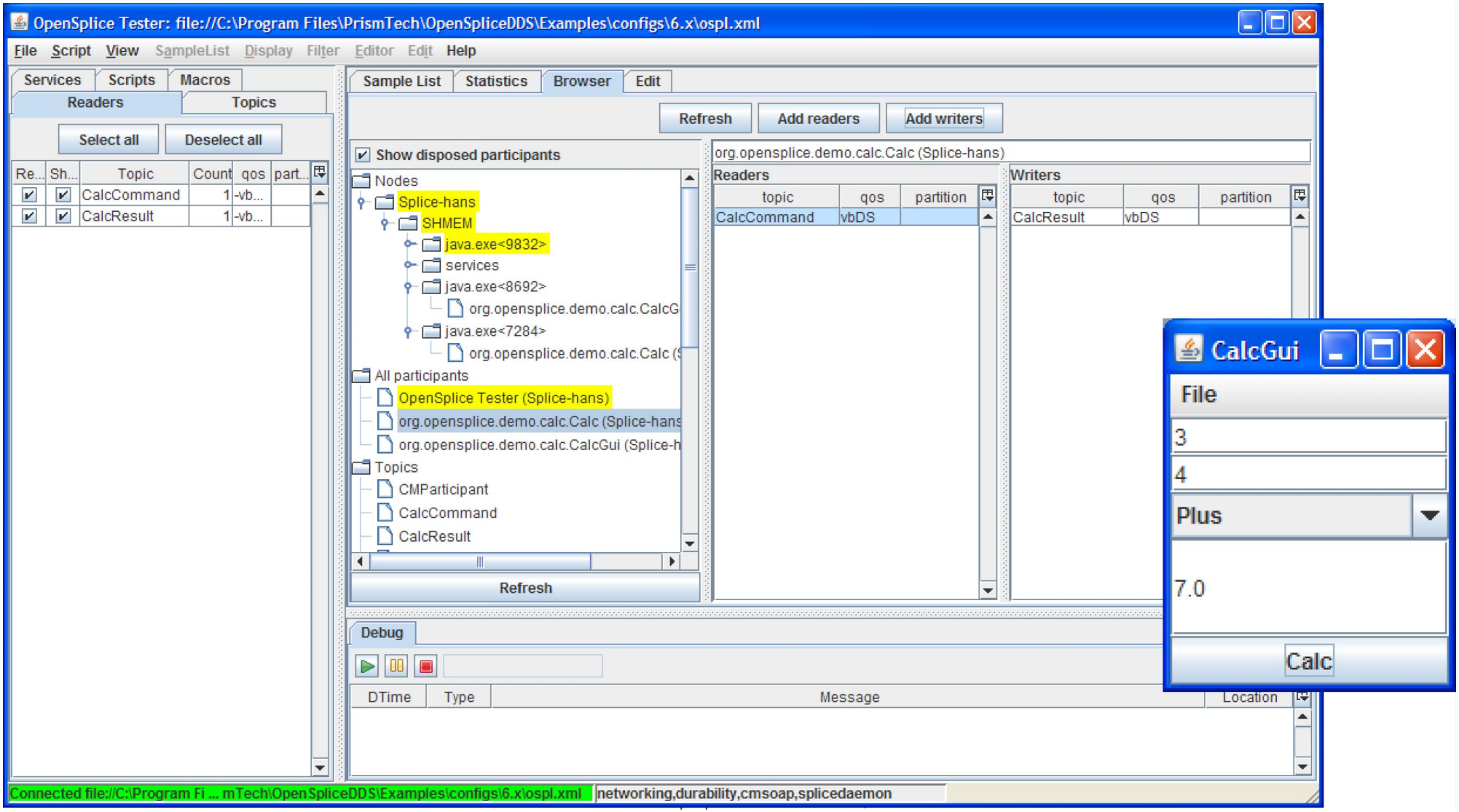
- **Requirements**: Script 'engine'
  - The tool shall contain an **intuitive** and **powerful** scripting-engine
    - To capture, monitor and inject DDS-data
    - To define 'business-logic' to process the data
- **Analysis**: DDS 'DSL'
  - There's a need for **DDS-Domain Specific Language** (DSL)
  - Yet that can be 'enhanced' by available scripting languages such as **Javascript, Python, Ruby**
  - A java-based tool-suite greatly facilitates inclusion of free interpreters (Jython, JRuby)
- **Requirement**: Script generation
  - The tool shall facilitate **easy** script generation / editing
- **Analysis**
  - The tool shall facilitate creating scripts out of observations
  - Allowing to reproduce 'live' interactions for (regression-)test purposes

Scripting: JavaScript

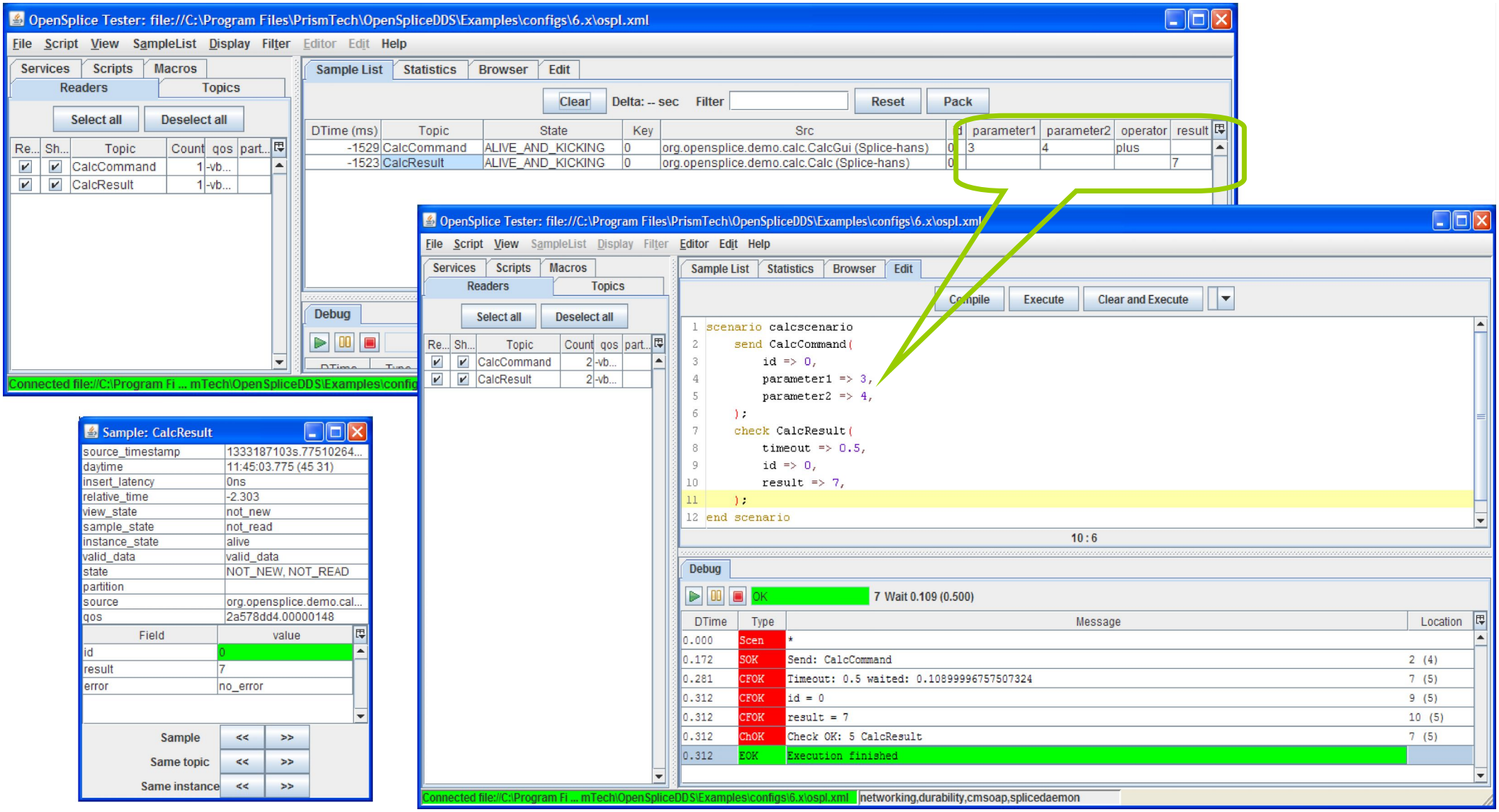




Example: auto-scripting (1)



Example: auto-scripting (2)



3.5 Browsing

- **Requirement**: system browsing
  - The tool shall allow **browsing** of the system-under test
    - From a logical perspective: "what participants publish/subscribe what"
    - From a physical perspective: "what applications are running where"
  - The tool shall allow detection of **QoS conflicts** that prevent communication
- **Analysis**: DDS context (using standard built-in topics)
  - Built-in topics provide all information for Building **logical views**
    - Topic ➔ participants ➔ publishers/writers or subscriber/readers
    - Participant ➔ publishers/writers or subscriber/readers ➔ Topics
  - Built-in topics provide all information to detection of **QoS conflicts**
- **Analysis**: OpenSplice DDS context
  - The dedicated OpenSplice `CMParticipant` built-in topic allows to create a **physical view**
  - Discovered advertised port-numbers of our SOAP-agent allow to **spawn white-box 'tuners'**
    - That 'connect' to individual and/or groups of federated applications

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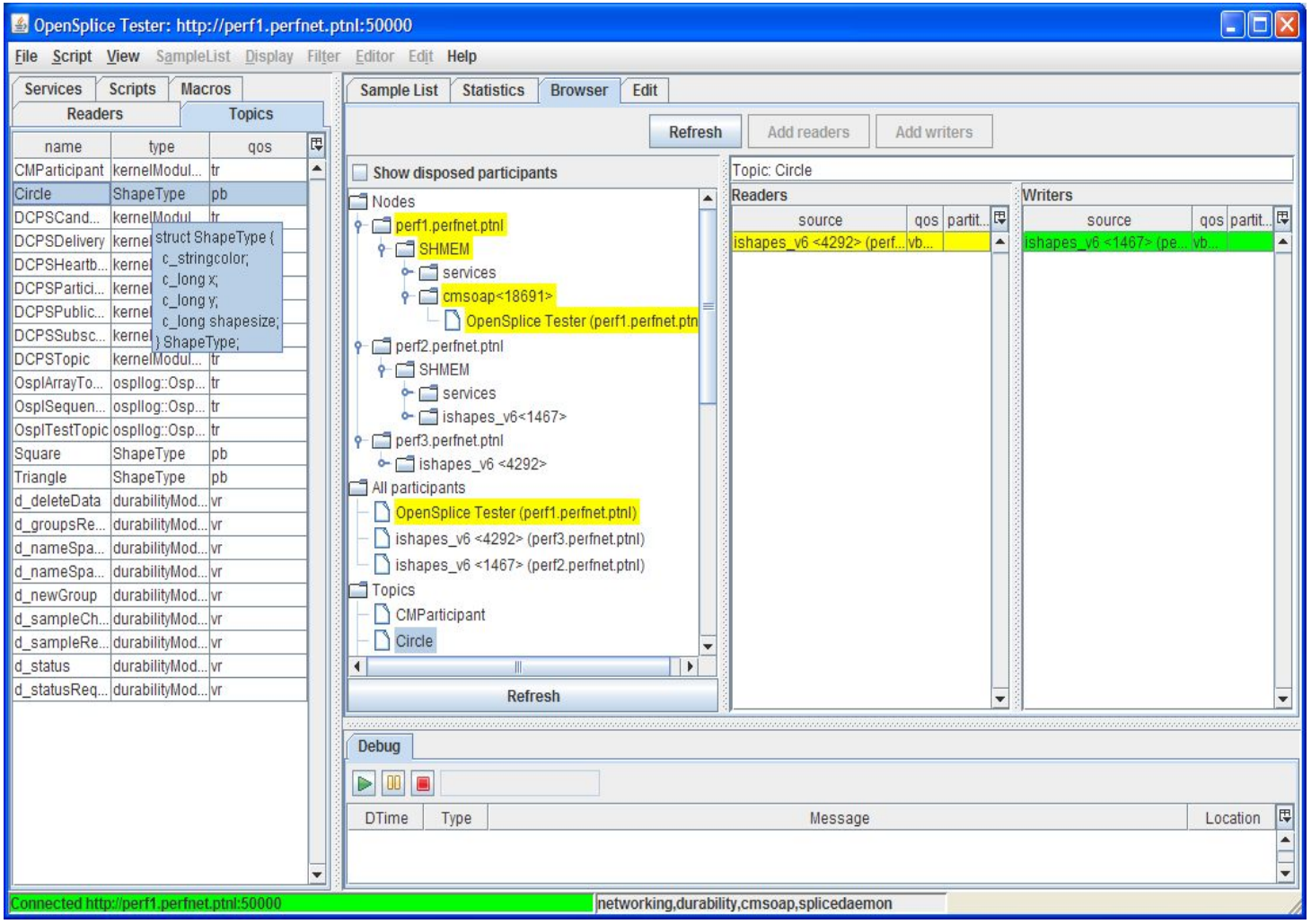
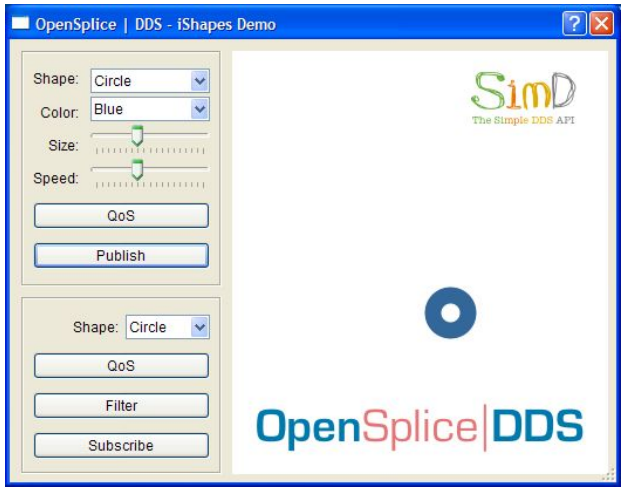
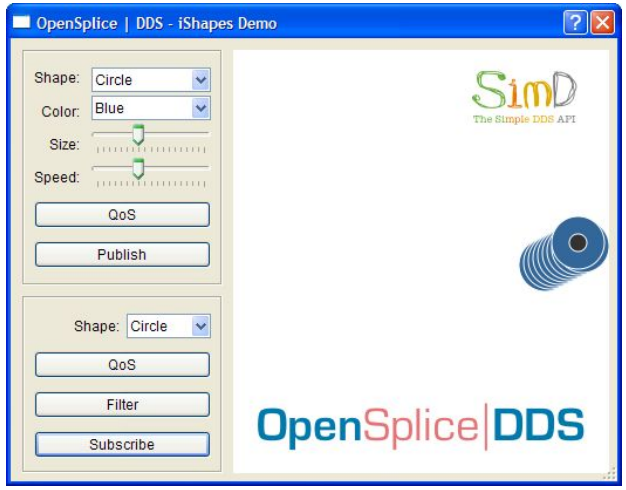
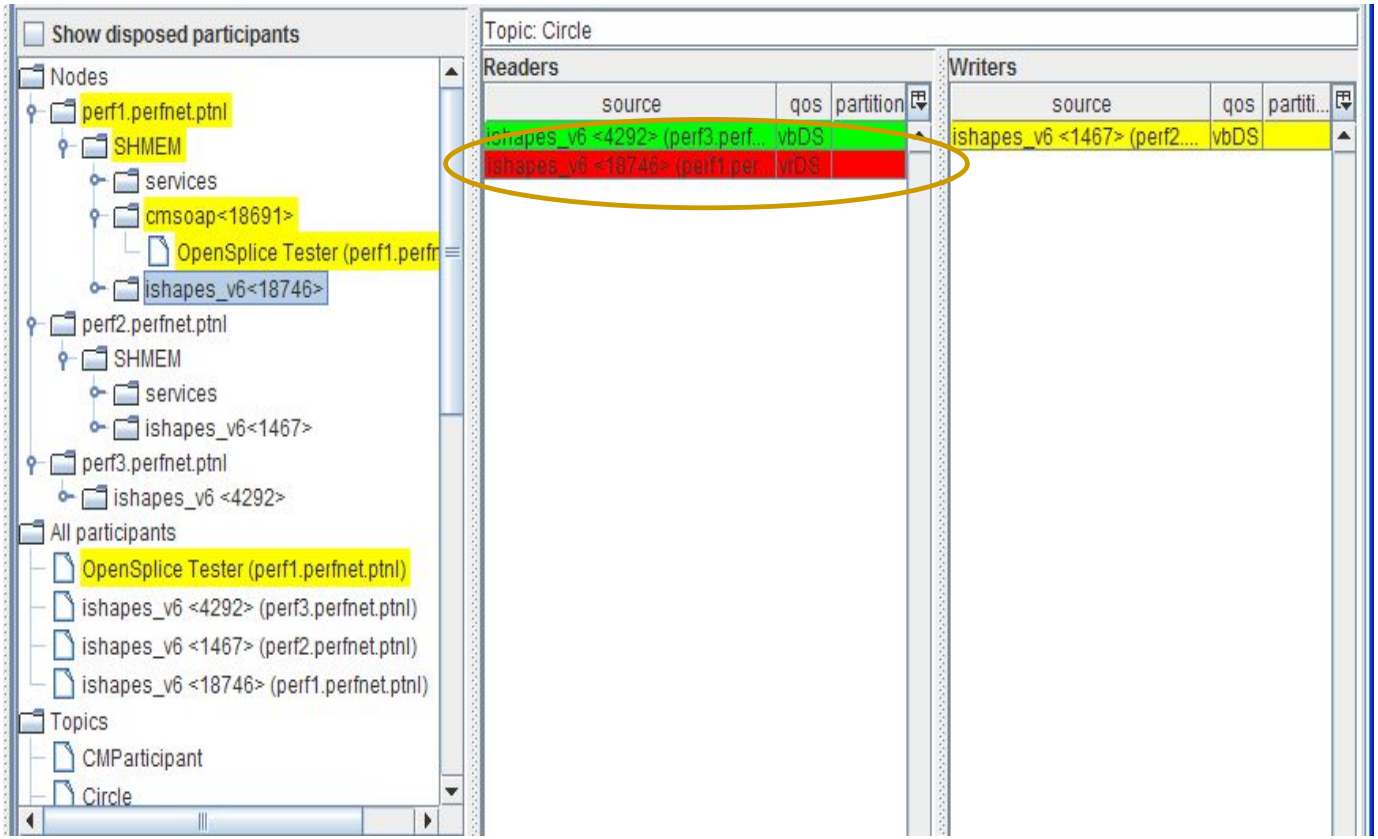
Example: Testing ishapes: browser

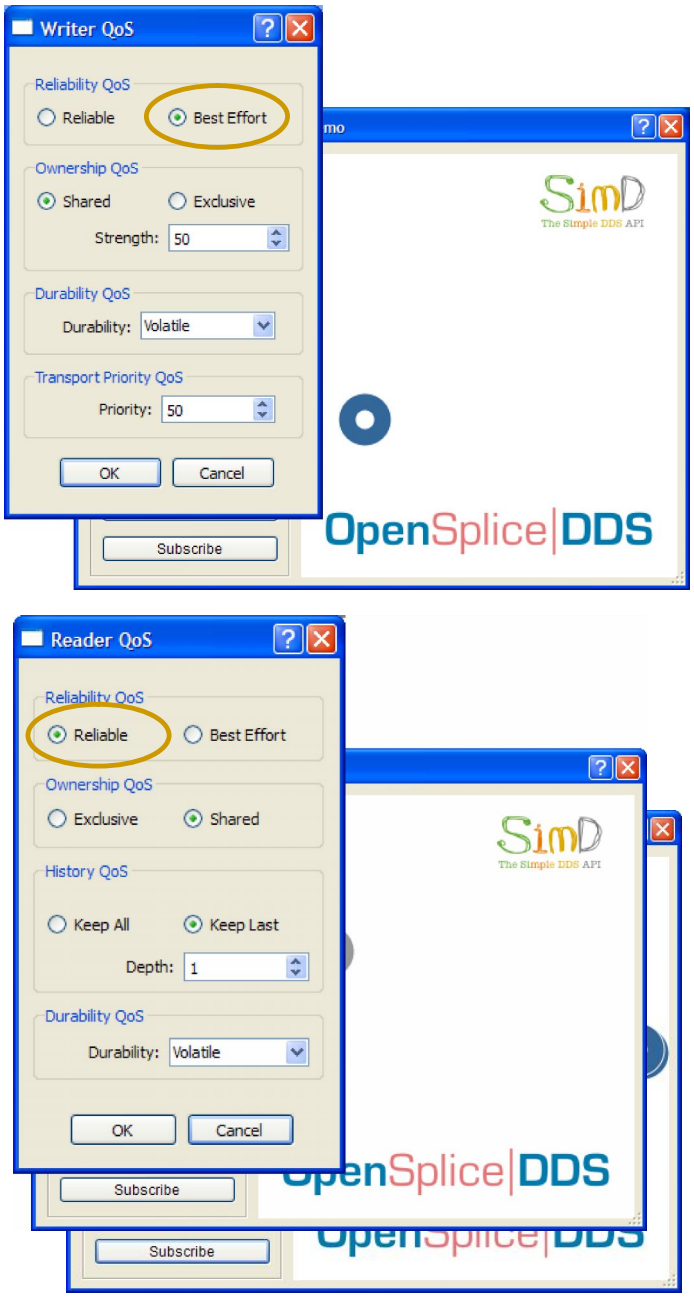






Example: QoS conflict detection





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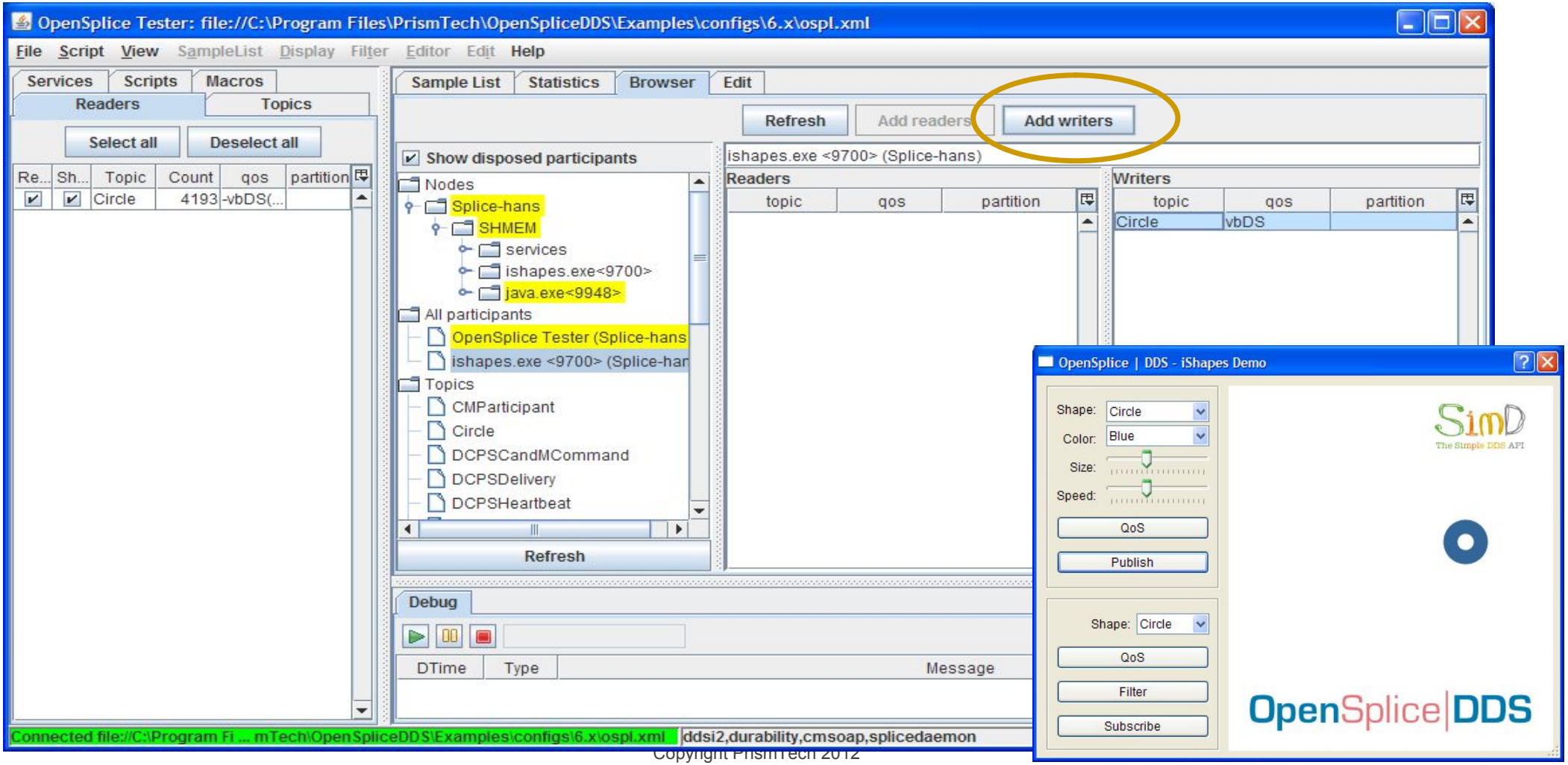
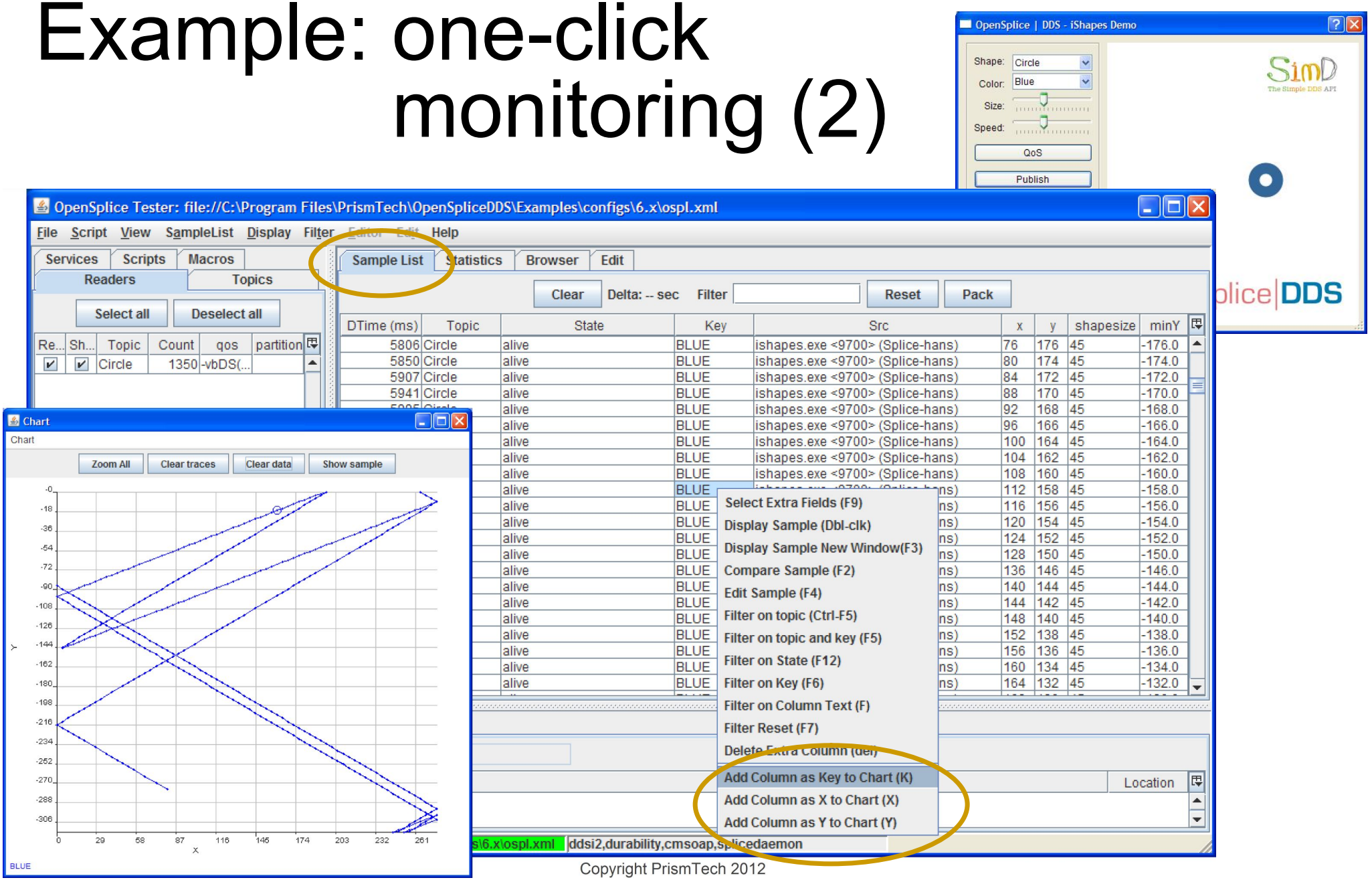
3.6 Capture & Presentation

- **Requirement**: Capturing interactions
  - The tool shall support **one-click** monitoring
  - the tool shall create a **timeline** of all monitored data
  - The tool shall provide manual or scripted **charting** of monitored data
- **Analysis**: generic DDS context
  - Built-in topics provide the basic information for one-click monitoring
    - The topics and their default topic/QoS policies
    - The readers/writers and the QoS they've applied (including `Partition` QoS)
    - The tool can then either use the topic-defaults or query for specific QoS settings
- **Analysis**: OpenSplice DDS context
  - OpenSplice C&M API allows **dynamic creation** of readers/writers
- **Analysis**: free/open-source visualization options
  - The Java environment offers libraries such as **Jchart2D** for visualization

Example: one-click monitoring (1)



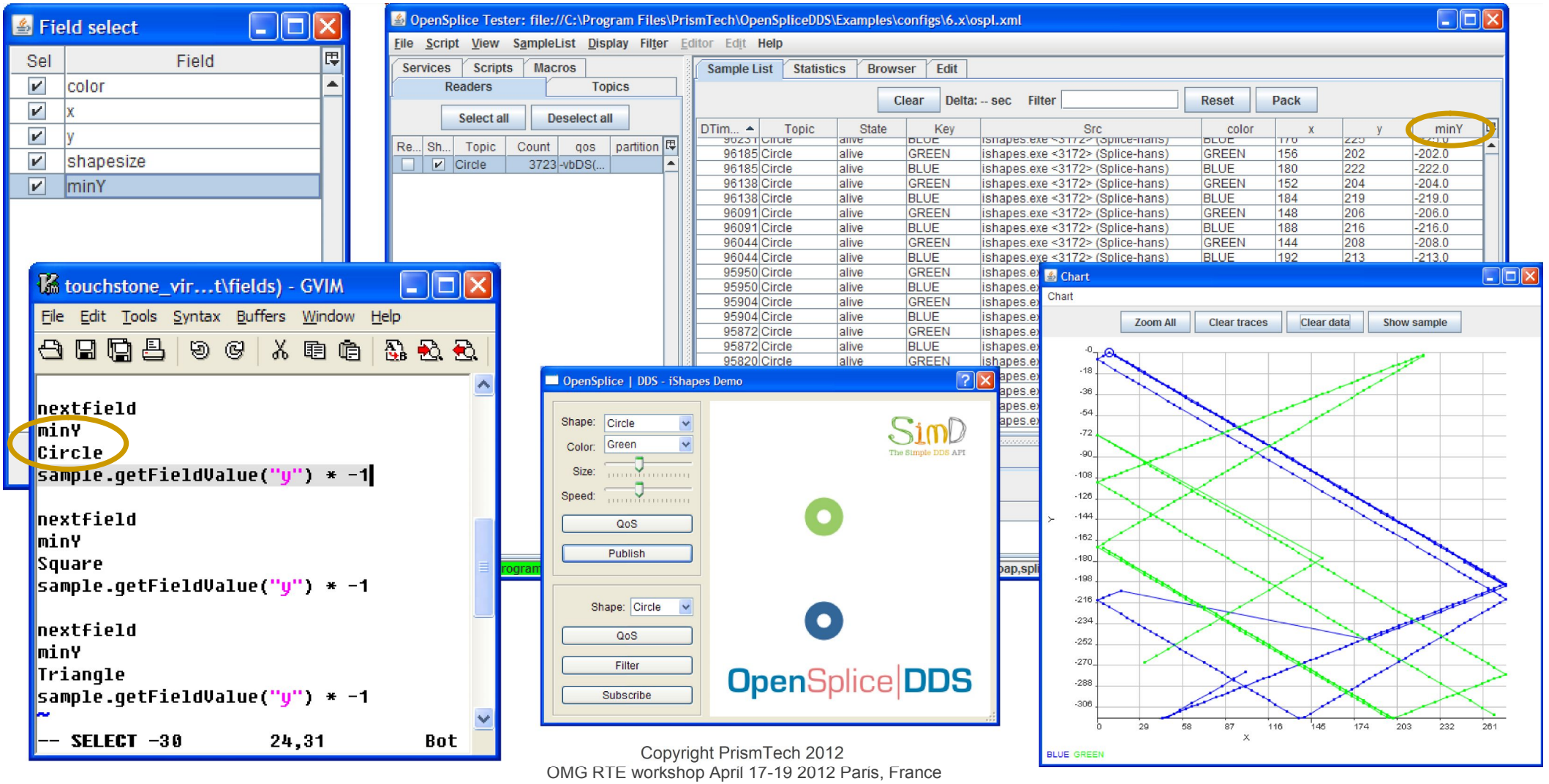
Example: one-click monitoring (2)



3.7 Analysis & Manipulation

- **Requirements**: analyze **TimeLine** of obtained data
  - The tool shall allow to analyze & manipulate individual samples
    - Display Sample Data and sample Info (meta-data)
    - Read / Modify / Write samples
  - The tool shall allow to analyze **streams** of topic samples
    - Browse the timeline of samples
  - The tool shall allow to **Chart** captured (read/written) data
    - Interactive as well as from script
    - Including 'scatter plots'
- **Analysis:**
  - Configurable **time-line**
    - Selectable fields of monitored topic exchange (inclusive time & source of publication)
    - **time**-based, **topic**-based, **key**-based browsing through timeline
  - **Virtual attributes** can greatly enhance interpretation of timeline
    - Use script-engine power to define virtual attributes (out of existing attributes)
  - **Real-time** charting
    - Using existing open-source charting-libraries such as Jchart2D

Example: virtual fields



4. Summary

- Tool developed ‘by testers for testers’
- As a complementary tool to available white-box tuning
- Based on the open-source C&M API of OpenSplice DDS
- Exploiting the Java-platform and open-source plugins
  - Javascript, jPython, jRuby script engines
  - Jchart2D, Log4J, Swingx and RSyntaxTextArea libraries
- Enhanced with a ‘browser’ and productized by PrismTech
  - Available as “OpenSplice Tester” with V6.1

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4. “Tester” Live Demo

DDSTouchStone: DDS benchmarking suite

- **One generic DDS application called 'touchstone'**
  - Configured with two parameters only:
    - Application-Id for identification of the touchstone
    - Group-Id for identification of the group the touchstone belongs to
  - Assures easy deployment
    - Interfacing done by means of DDS topics
    - Input settings ("..DefTopics" in the TouchstoneCommands partition)
    - Output results ("..ReportTopics" in the TouchstoneReports partition)
    - Assures location, platform and language independence of deployment
- **A Container for the four key players:**

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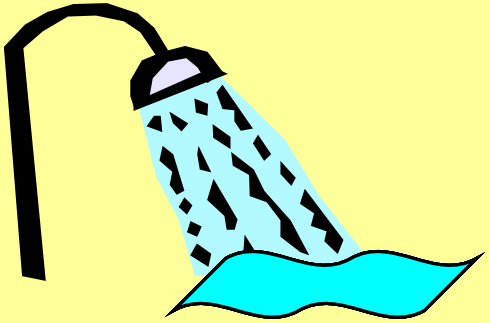
The four key players

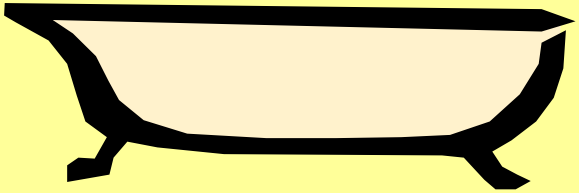
Transceiver

Transponder



Transmitter

Receiver



Inter-Nodal Roundtrip Latency

- 2006 'reference platform'
  - Dell blade-server (Opteron)
  - Dell-powerconnect 5324 Gbit LAN
- Metrics
  - X-axis = Kbytes
  - Y-axis = uSec
- Regression-test graph by Tester