Building Resilient Asynchronous Commerce Systems

- Observability Lessons from Event-Driven Architectures
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- Conf42 Observability 2025

Opening Statement

- "In a world where milliseconds define conversion rates, observability is no longer optional—it's foundational."
- Quick overview of digital commerce shift

Problem Statement

- Legacy synchronous systems struggle with scale and resilience.
- Event-driven systems introduce new visibility challenges.

Rise of Asynchronous Commerce

- Shift from synchronous to async due to:
- Scale
- - Personalization
- Omnichannel
- Powered by:
- - Microservices
- - Headless commerce
- Event-driven design

Use Case Overview

- Real-world implementation at T-Mobile USA.
- Architecture built for BOPIS and async payments.

What Makes Async Hard to Observe?

- - Invisible workflows
- - Delayed or decoupled failures
- Limited tooling for event tracing

Observability Framework

- Four pillars:
- 1. Distributed Tracing
- 2. Event Audits & Replay
- 3. Consistency Monitoring
- 4. Domain Event Dashboards

BOPIS Workflow

- Event flow of BOPIS order:
- - Inventory
- - Fulfillment
- - Pickup coordination

Asynchronous Payment Processing

- Benefits:
- Instant order creation
- Async validation
- Retry logic
- Strategies:
- Status pipelines
- - Failure queues
- - Fallback tracing

Tools & Techniques

- - OpenTelemetry for tracing
- - Kafka metrics for queue health
- Custom event replay dashboards

Measuring Success

- Metrics observed:
- - 75% faster checkouts
- - 15–20% lower abandonment
- - 97% availability during peak

Handling Eventual Consistency

- CAP theorem tradeoff:
- - Compensating transactions
- Version vectors
- Idempotency

Testing & Monitoring

- Focus on:
- Testing event-driven chains
- - Monitoring queue depth, latency, causality

Lessons Learned

- - Design for traceability from day one
- Embrace eventual consistency
- - Establish domain-aligned observability

Closing Thoughts

- Async commerce is the future.
- Observability bridges complexity and clarity.

Thank You

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- Questions?