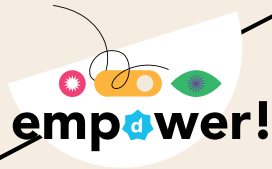


Welcome



[YOUR TRAINER THIS SESSION]

DevOps Engineer
Data Exploration



Klaas
Dewitte

klaas.dewitte@skyline.be

Creating your
own — GQL 
 Data source


Agenda



Advanced track

1. Core concepts
2. Creating your own data source
3. Harnessing the logger
4. Taking in input
5. Supporting real-time updates
6. Getting data from DataMiner



Before we start

Some new things

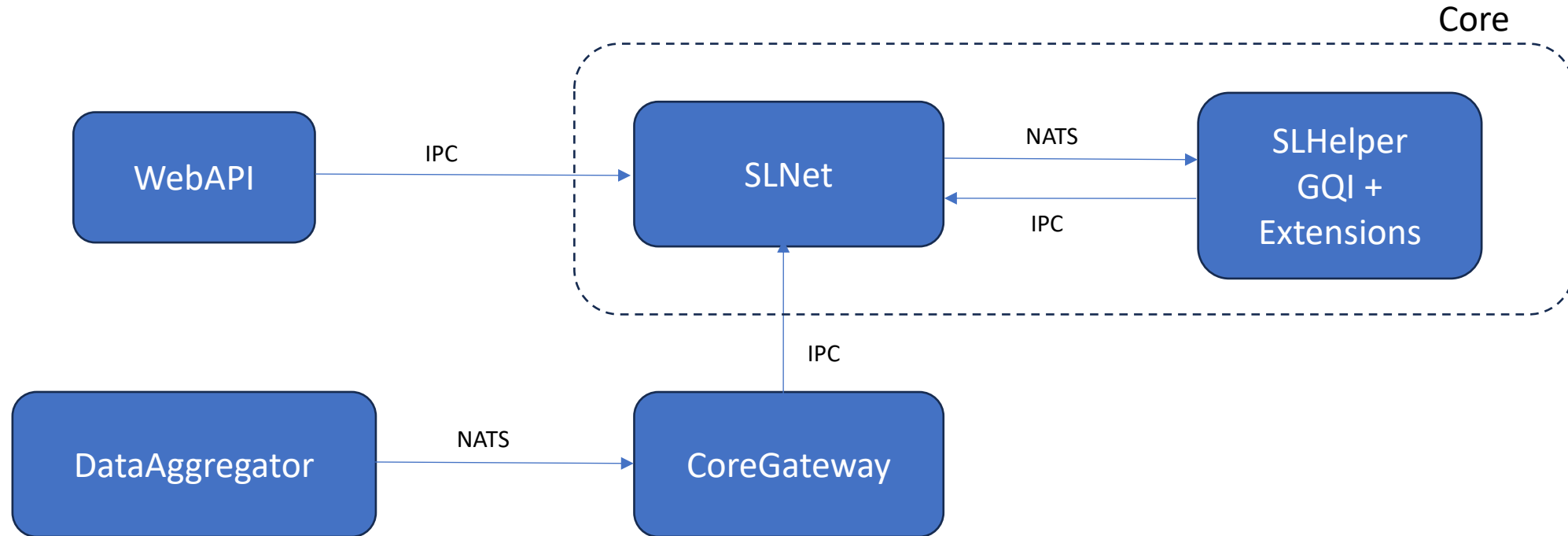
What's new?

GQI as DataMiner Extension Module (DxM)

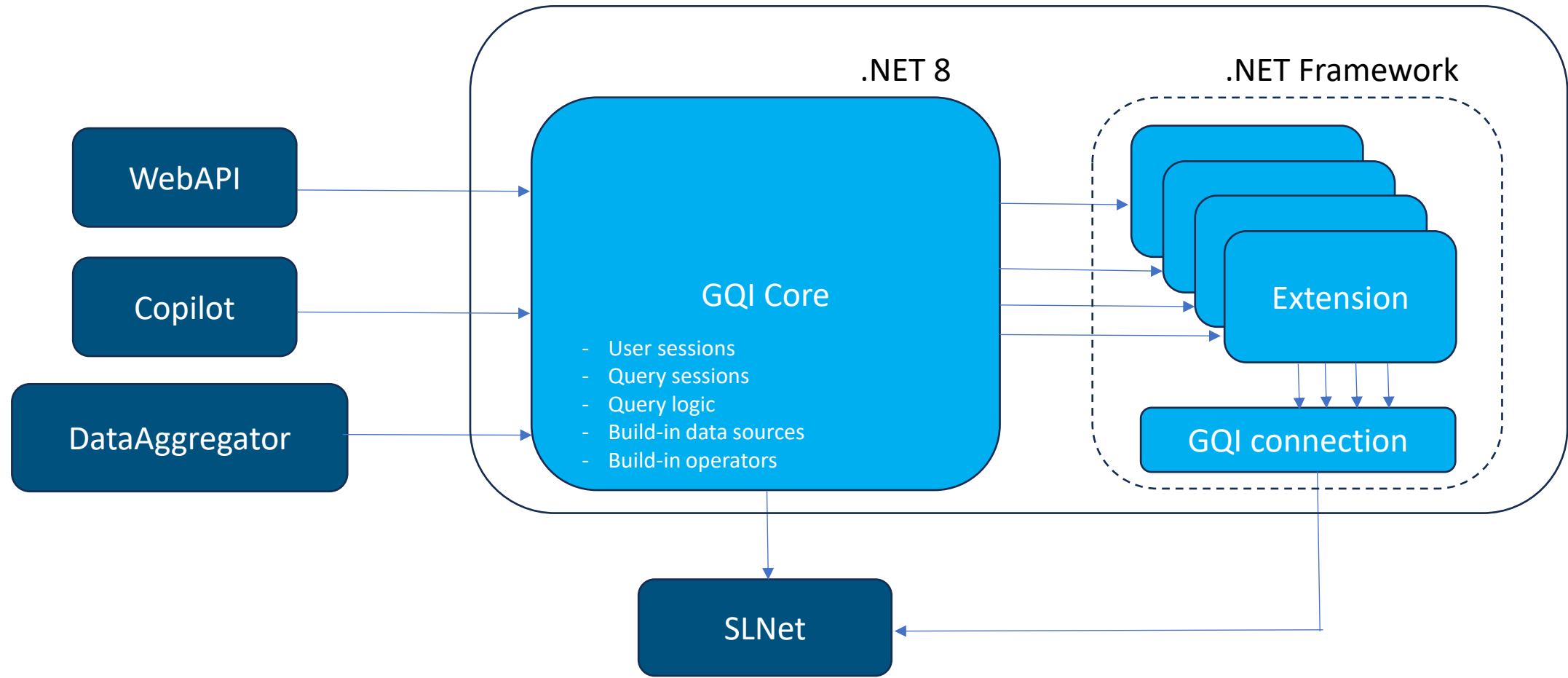
- Independently upgradeable
 - Included in web-only upgrade packages
 - No downtime for DataMiner agents
- Performance enhancements
- Extensions run inside separate processes:
 - Improved dependency resolving avoids version conflicts of NuGet/DLLs
 - Resource usage visible per extension
 - An extension can be killed separately without ending others/the core GQI process

Architectural Changes

Situation before



Ad hoc data sources in the GQI DxM



Recap on GQL extensions

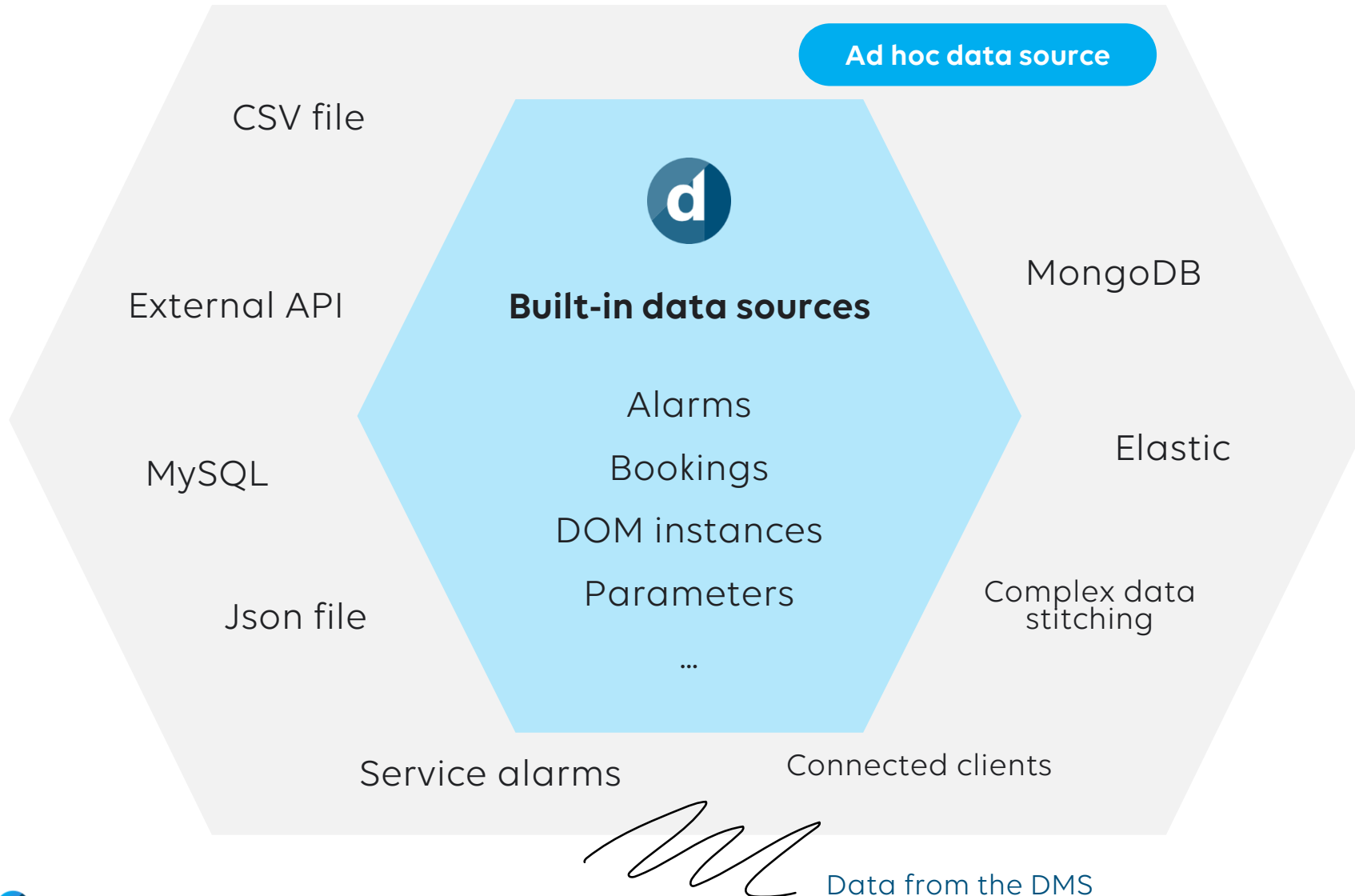
Why should I care

Ad hoc data source

Custom operator

- C# code
- Compiled as library (DLL) by Automation module
 - Source code visible in DataMiner Cube

Why extend GQL data sources?



When creating GQI data sources?

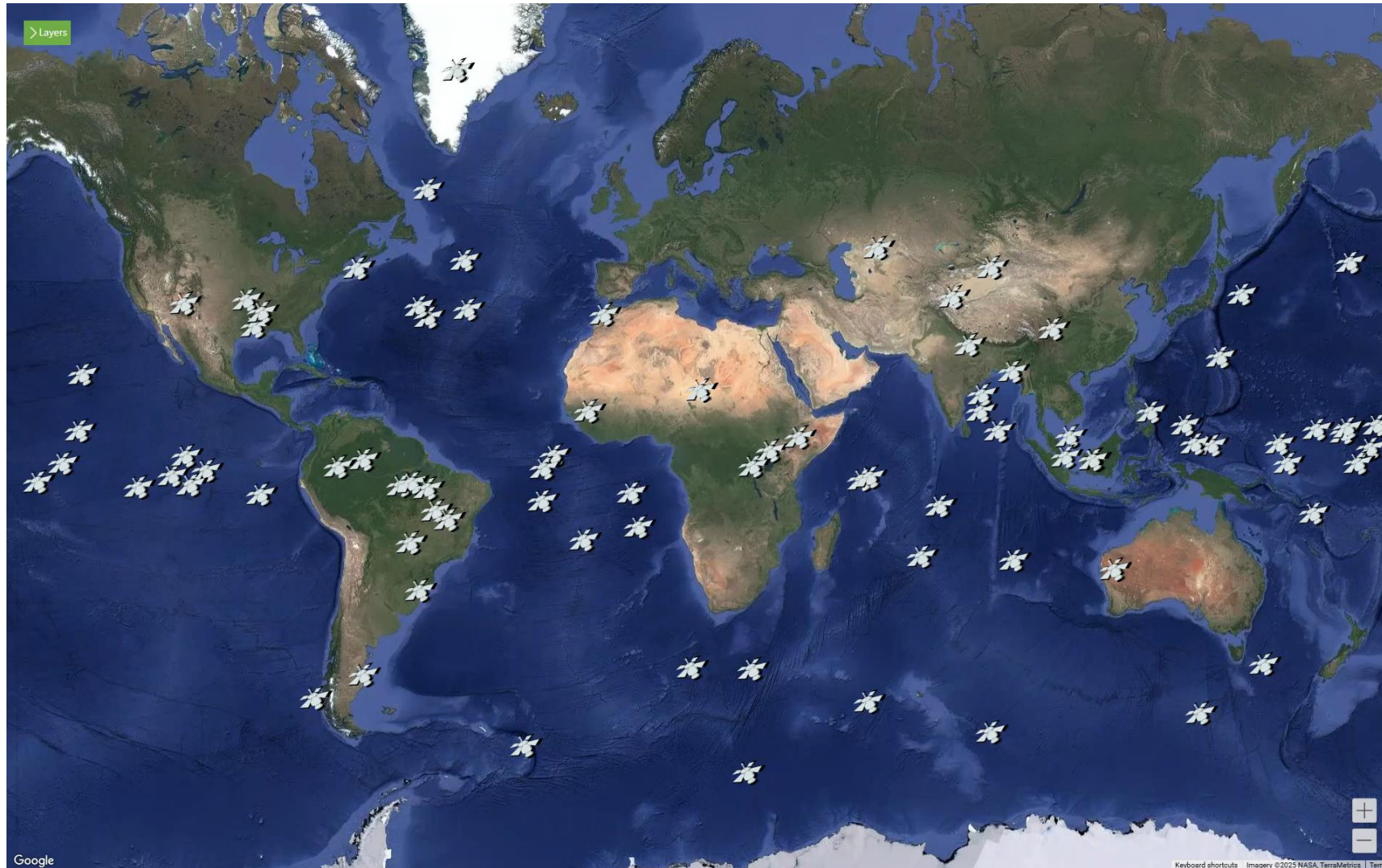
Less effort to get your data in Dashboards and Low-code apps

	DataMiner connector	GQI ad-hoc data source
Trending	Yes	No
Alarming	Yes	No
Automation	Yes	No
Correlation	Yes	No
DataMiner Cube	Yes	Requires embedding a dashboard or low-code app
Dashboards	Yes	Yes
Low-code apps	Yes	Yes
Ad hoc	No	Yes

Creating your own data source

And so it begins

What we'll be creating





Package

🔍 Empower - Create your own GQL data source

Browse catalog



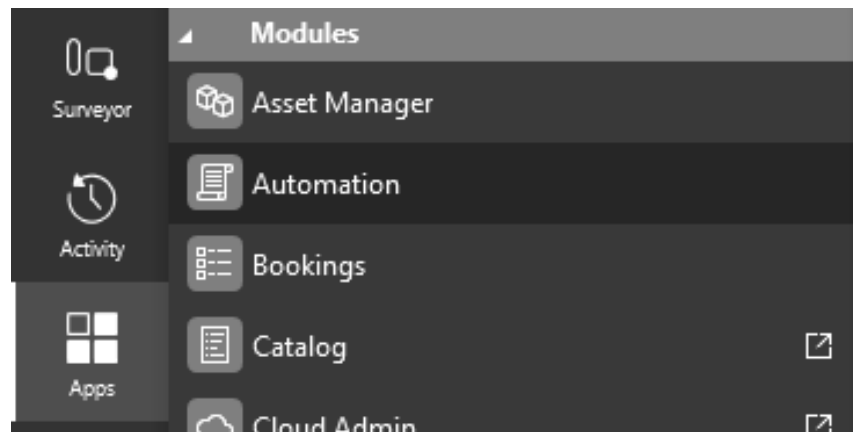
SLC-GQIDS-SatellitesDemo

Creating your own data source

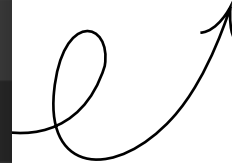
Prerequisites

- DataMiner Cube
- Recommended:
 - Visual Studio
 - DataMiner Integration Studio (DIS)
<https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=skyline-communications.DataMinerIntegrationStudio>

Where to find your data sources



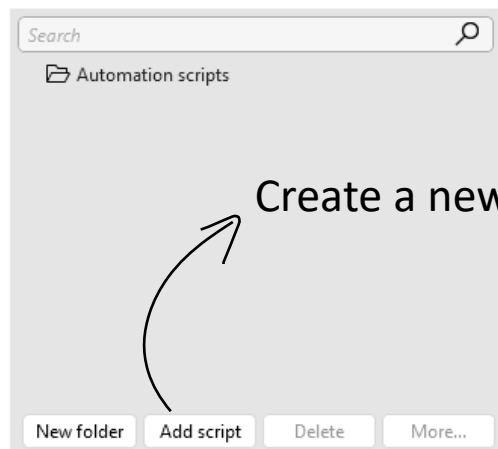
Part of the automation module in Cube



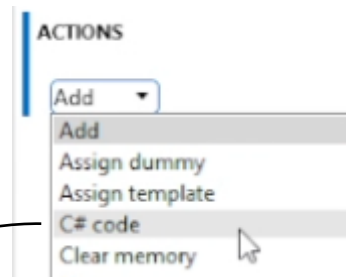
Automation

How to create

automation scripts memory files



Create a new automation script

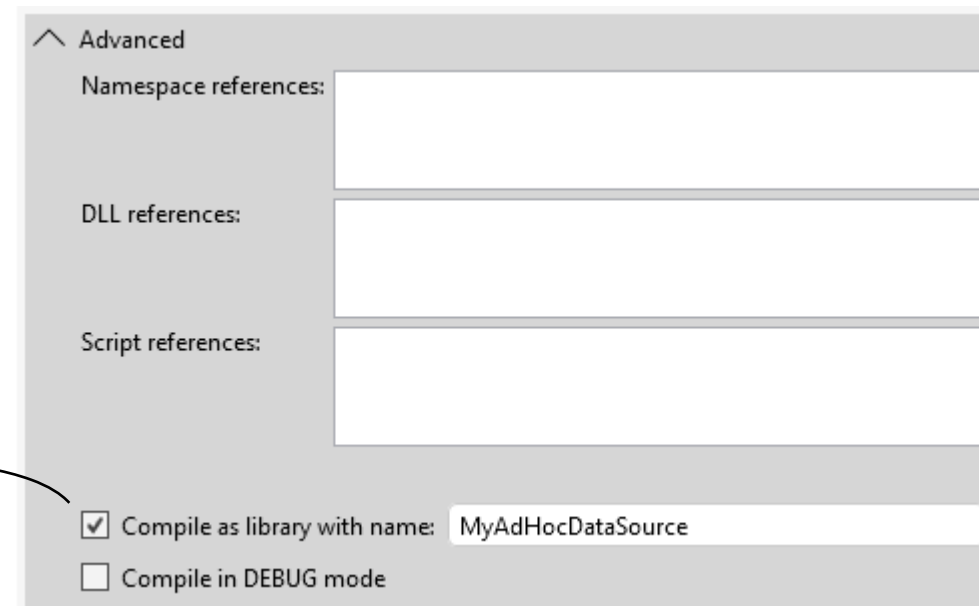


Add a C# action



Add some C# code

Compile as library



How to create

Configure API...

Execute

Save script

Discard

Save the automation script

The data source can now be found in dashboards and low code apps



Get ad hoc data



Data source

MyAdHocDataSource



dataminer



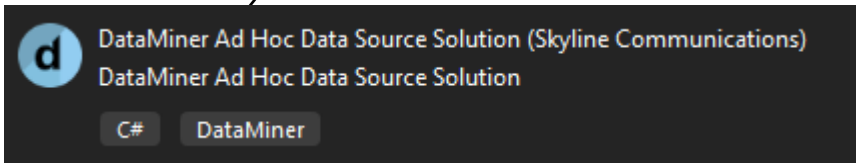
© 2025 Skyline Communications

Create your own GQL data source

23

Creating with DIS

Starting from Visual Studio package



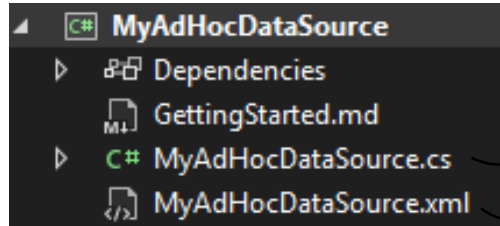
Give your data source a name

A screenshot of the 'Add New Project' dialog box in Visual Studio. The 'Project name' field is filled with 'MyAdHocDataSource'. The 'Location' field is empty with a dropdown arrow. The 'Solution name' field is also filled with 'MyAdHocDataSource'.

Add an Author

A screenshot of the 'Add New Project' dialog box in Visual Studio, showing the 'Author' field. Above the field are five unchecked checkboxes for adding interfaces: 'IGQIOnInit', 'IGQIInputArguments', 'IGQIOnPrepareFetch', 'IGQIUpdateable', and 'IGQIOnDestroy'. The 'Author' field is filled with 'KDW'.

Creating with DIS



Ad hoc data source code

Automation script definition

A basic data source is provided

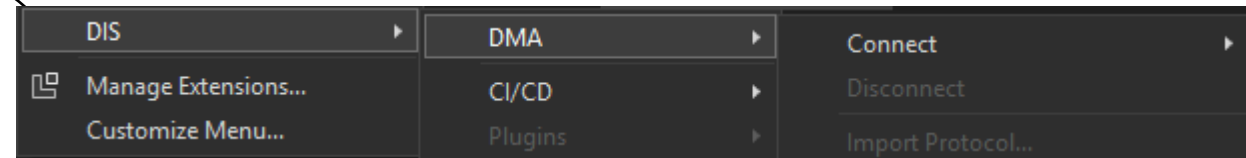
```
using System;
using Skyline.DataMiner.Analytics.GenericInterface;

namespace MyAdHocDataSource
{
    /// <summary>
    /// Represents a data source.
    /// See: https://aka.dataminer.services/gqi-external-data-source for a complete example.
    /// </summary>
    [GQIMetaData(Name = "MyAdHocDataSource")]
    0 references
    public sealed class MyAdHocDataSource : IGQIDataSource
    {
        0 references
        public GQIColumn[] GetColumns()
        {
            // Define data source columns
            // See: https://aka.dataminer.services/igqidatasource-getcolumns
            return Array.Empty<GQIColumn>();
        }

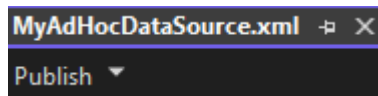
        0 references
        public GQIPage GetNextPage(GetNextPageInputArgs args)
        {
            // Define data source rows
            // See: https://aka.dataminer.services/igqidatasource-getnextpage
            return new GQIPage(Array.Empty<GQIRow>())
            {
                HasNextPage = false,
            };
        }
    }
}
```

Publishing to a DMA

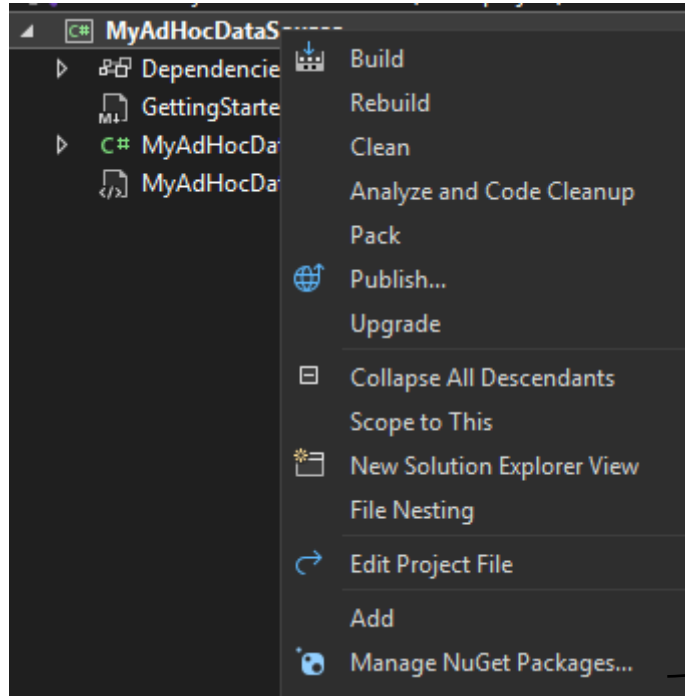
Connect to your agent



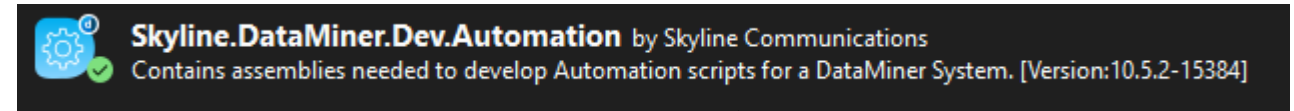
And publish with ease



(Optional) Upgrade package to latest

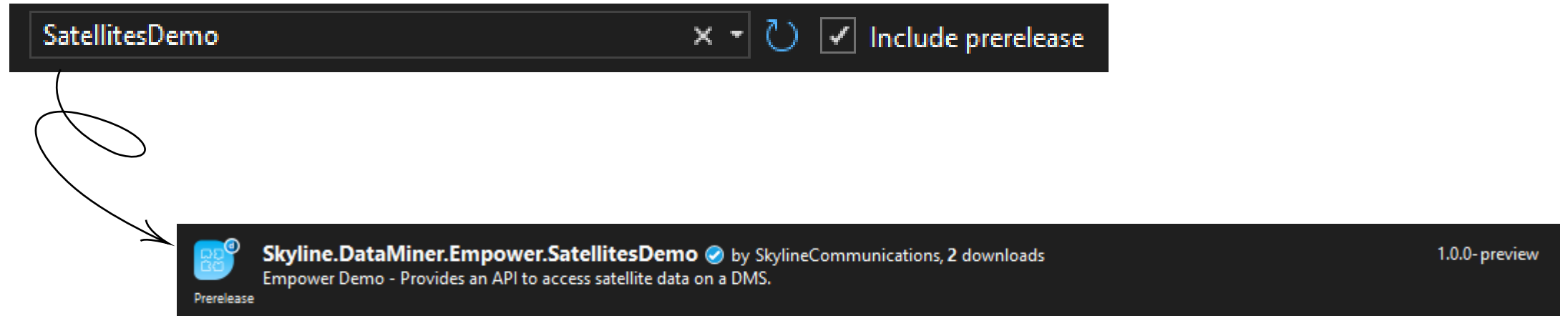


Manage NuGet Packages...



Update to newest version

Demo package



Let's create!

A very basic Ad Hoc data source

We can create a
simple Ad Hoc
data source

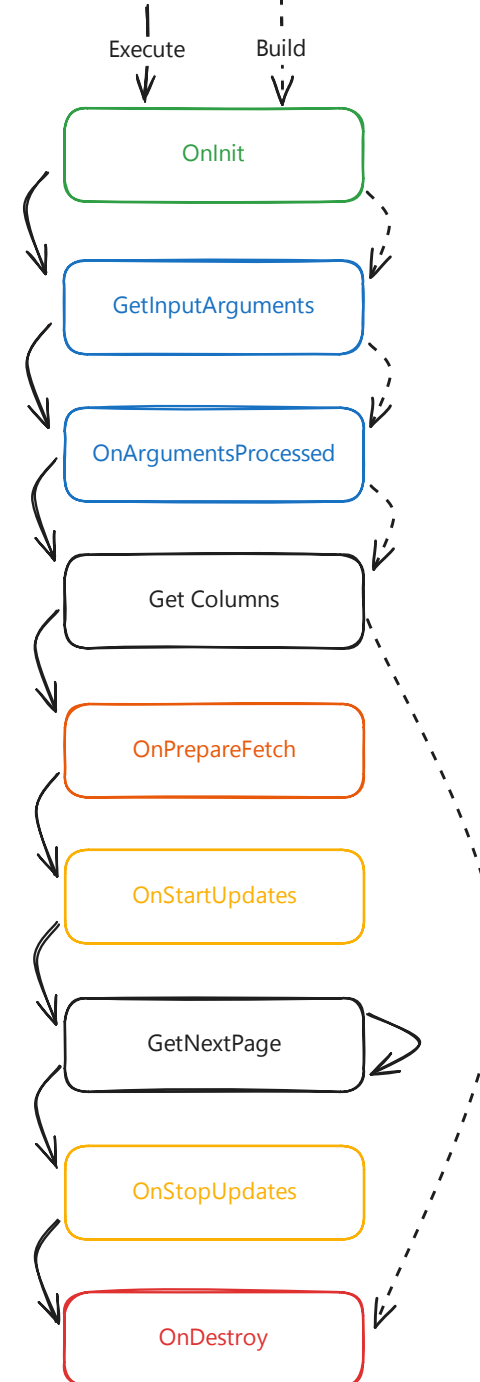
What is an Ad-hoc data source

Expose ANY data from any place, just in time

What is an Ad hoc data source

The full life cycle

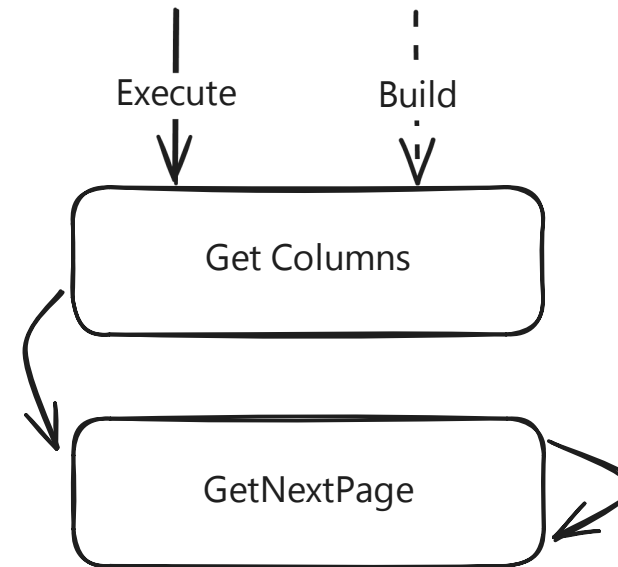
- Each step can be implemented
- Defined by a C# class
- An instance is created for every query execute
- The C# class implements interfaces



The building blocks

The lifecycle

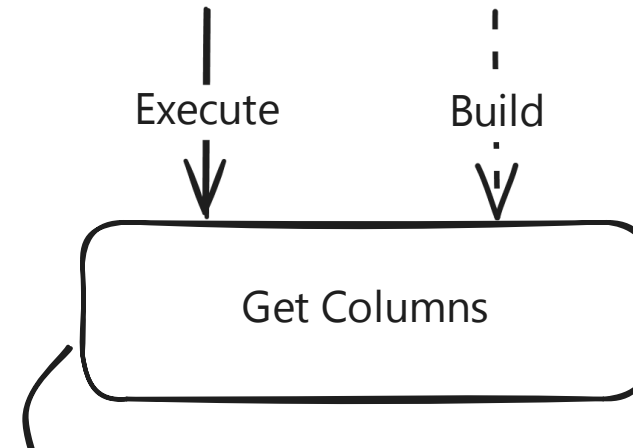
- Only required blocks to create a data source
- C# interface: IGQIDataSource



Get Columns

The lifecycle

- Provide what will be present in the data source
- In the form of an array of GQIColumns

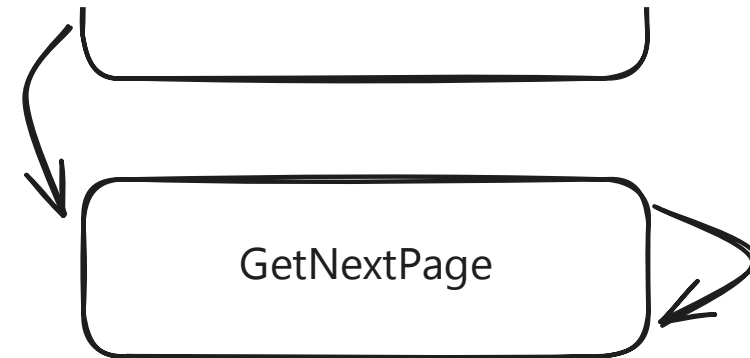


Let's define some columns!

Get Next Page

The lifecycle

- Provide the data
- In the form of a GQIPage

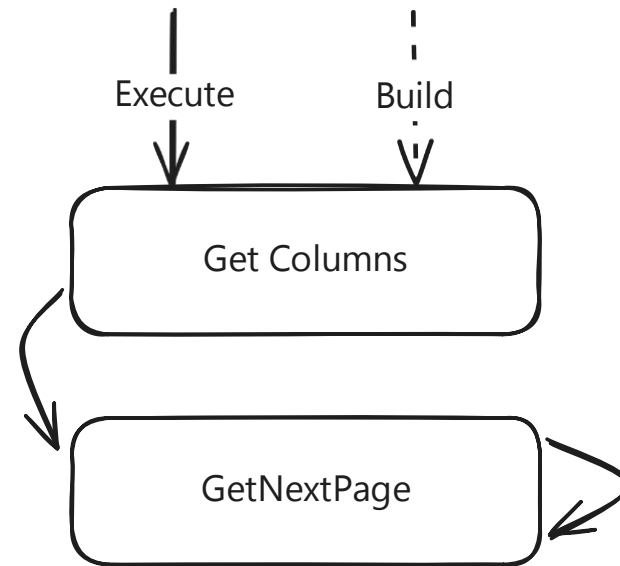


**We now have
data!**

Harnessing the logger

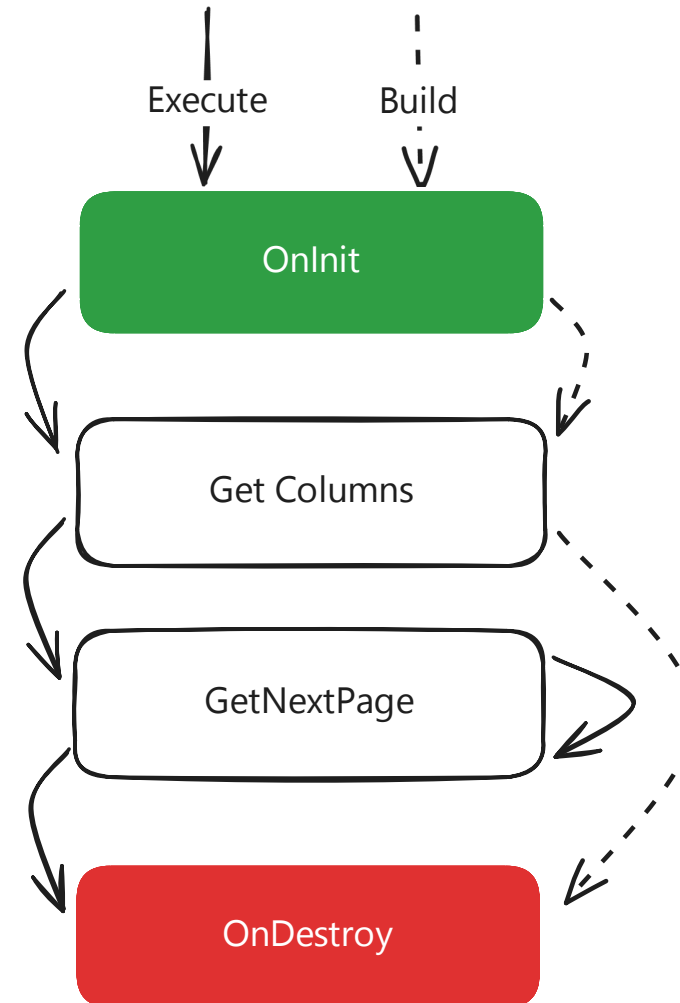
Let add some more blocks

- What we had before



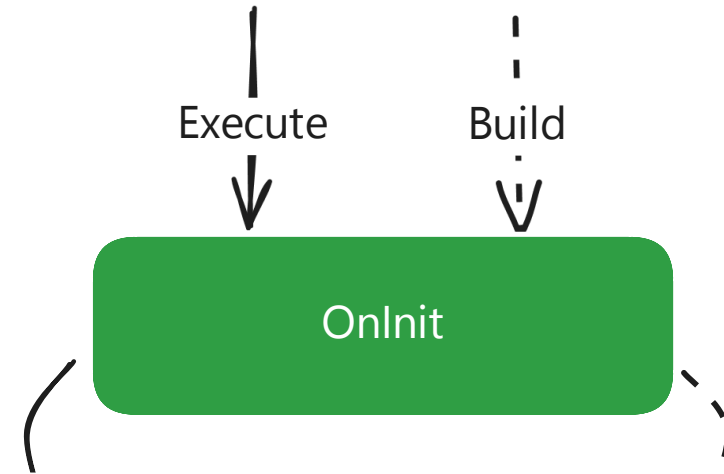
Let add some more blocks

- What we had before



OnInit

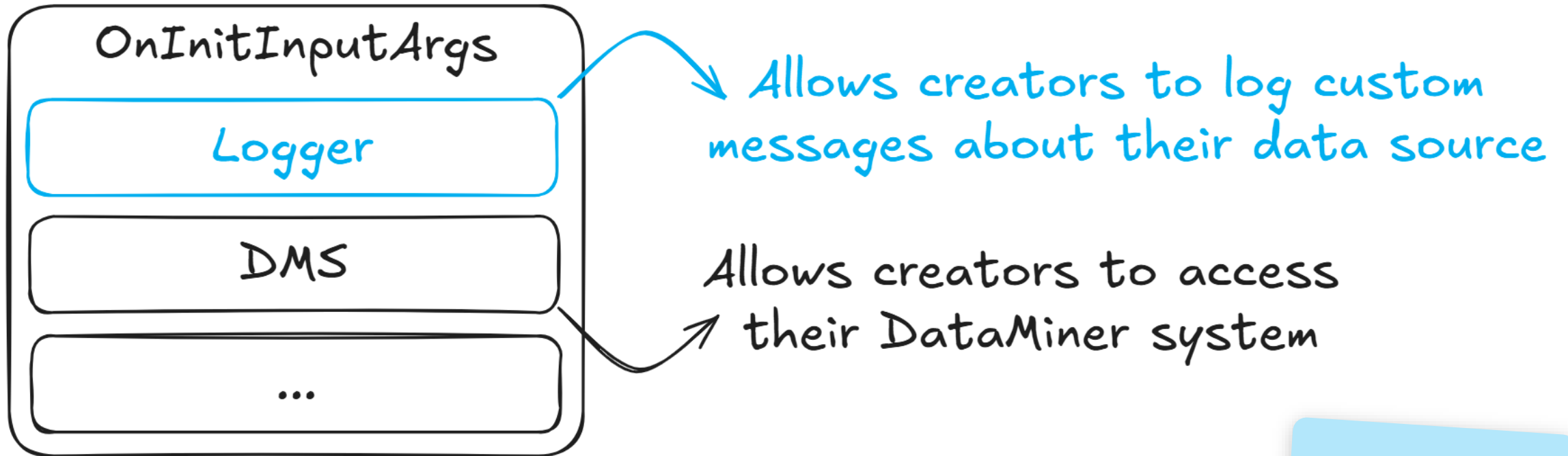
- Is invoked once for every instance of a data source
- Provided from C# interface: IGQIOnInit
- Init is the first method that is invoked
- Provides OnInitInputArgs



Let's implement
IGQIOnInit

OnInit

OnInitInputArgs



Let's log!

The logger

- Received in OnInit



```
{
  "Serilog": {
    "MinimumLevel": {
      "Default": "Error",
      "Override": {
        "Microsoft": "Information"
      }
    },
    "GQIOptions": {
      "Extensions": {
        "Logging": {
          "MinimumLogLevel": "Error"
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Fully configurable
(appsettings.custom.json)

Stored in its own location
One file per library

This PC > OS (C:) > ProgramData > Skyline Communications > DataMiner GQI > Logs > Extensions



OnDestroy

Clean up your mess

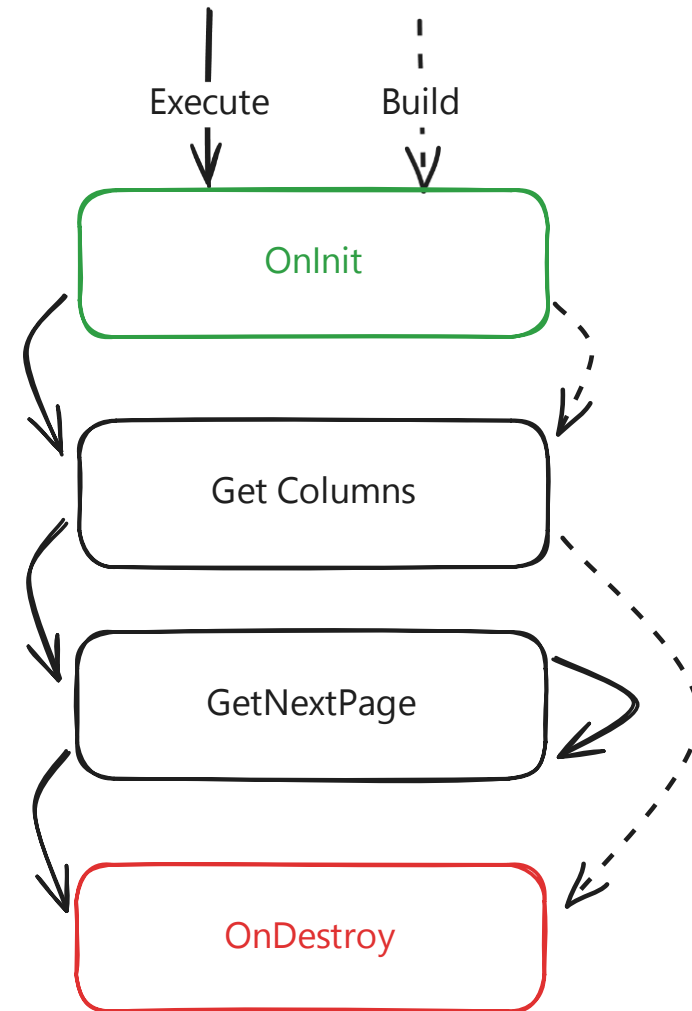
- Is invoked once for every instance of a data source
- Provided from C# interface: IGQIONDestroy
- Destroy is the last method that is invoked
- Execute when the instance will no longer be used
- Can be used to clean up resources



Let's destroy

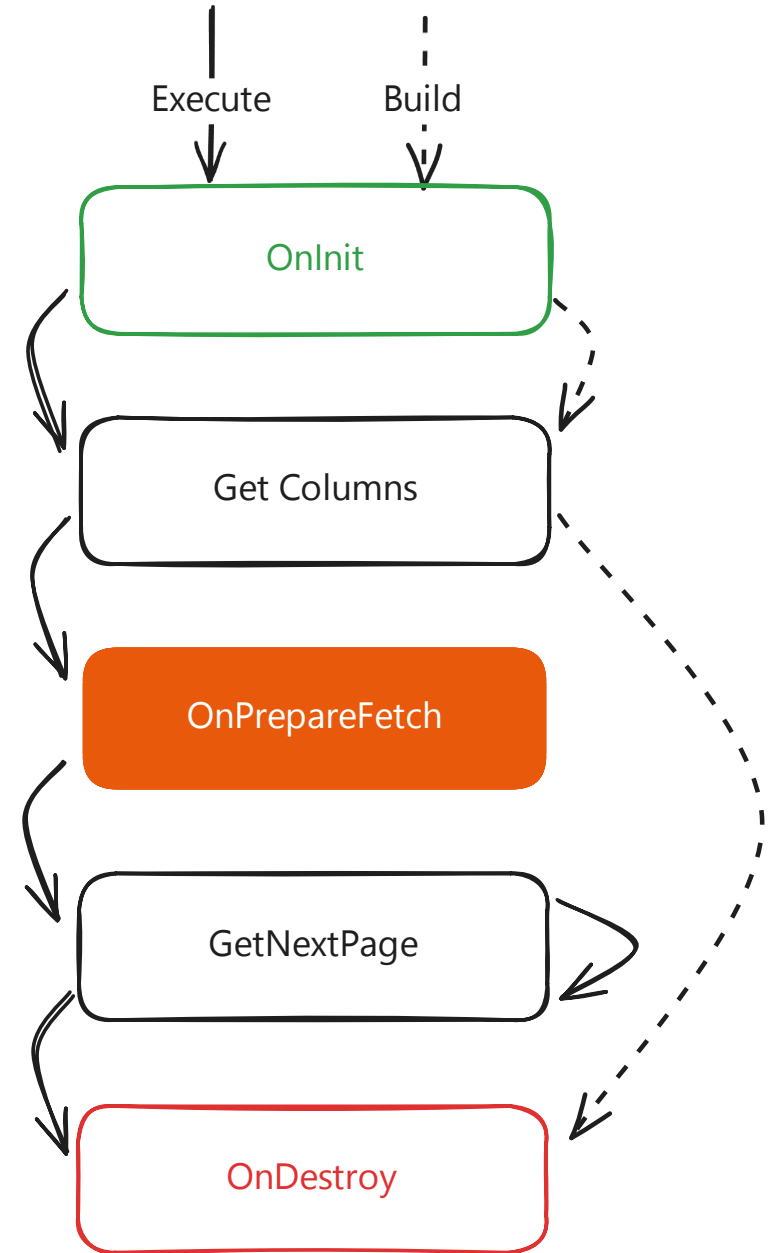
Improving remote request

- Another block is needed



OnPrepareFetch

- Another block is needed



OnPrepareFetch

Let's get ready

- Is invoked once for every instance of a data source
- Right before starting the fetch data
- Provided from C# interface: IGQIOnPrepareFetch



- Execute logic to fetch data that only needs to happen once for all pages

Let's prepare!

Taking in input

Because not all users want the same

Dynamically modifying the data source

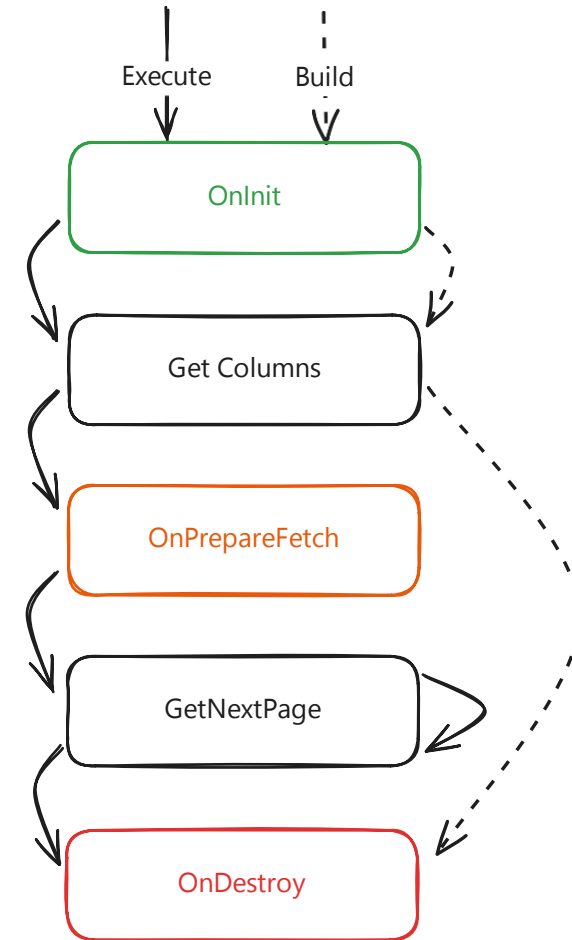
Let users interact with your data source

Link to any data



The life cycle

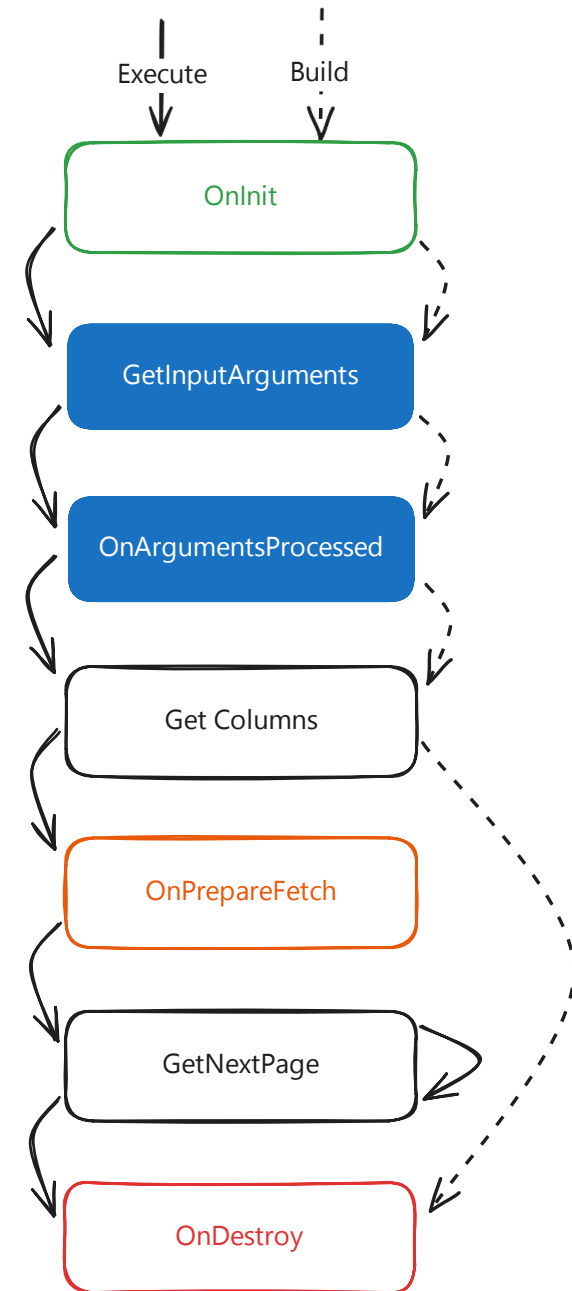
Reminder



The life cycle

More stuff

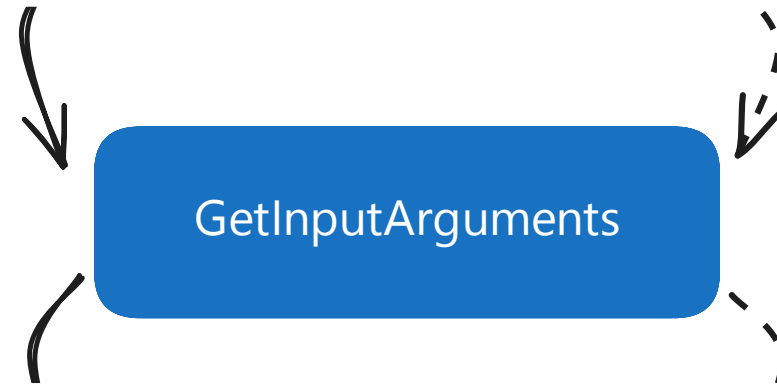
- GetInputArguments
- OnArgumentsProcessed
- Provided from C# interface: IGQIInputArguments



Define input arguments

GetInputArguments

- Possible arguments:
 - Text, numbers, dates, ...
 - Lists, dropdowns
- Arguments can be required or optional



Retrieve argument values

OnArgumentsProcessed

- Check if arguments exist
- Argument validation
- Store argument values for later use



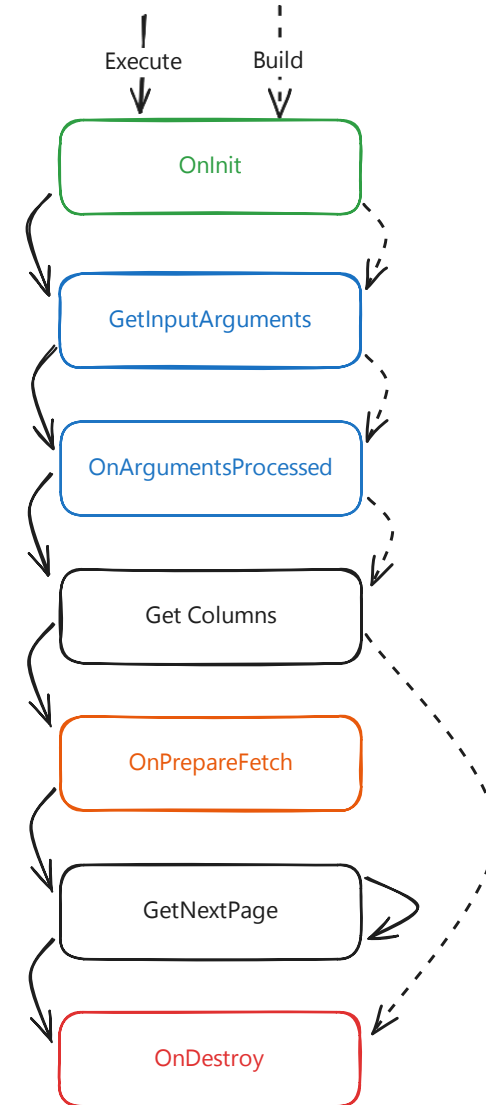
Let's add some arguments!

We can take in
user input to
modify our data
source

Supporting real-time updates

Be open to change!

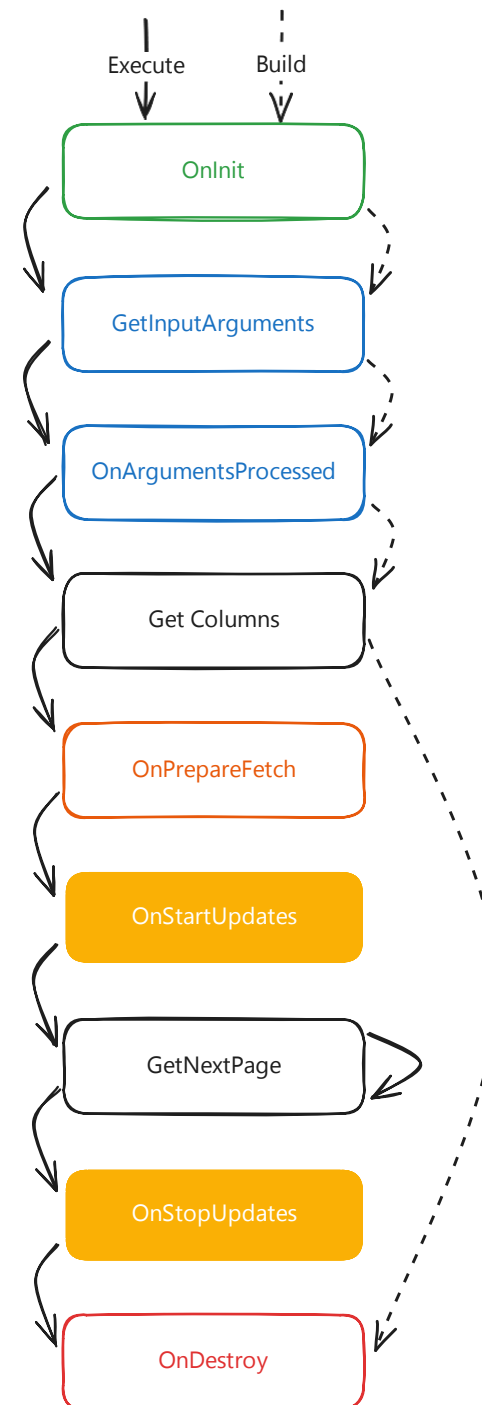
The life cycle



The life cycle

Updates!

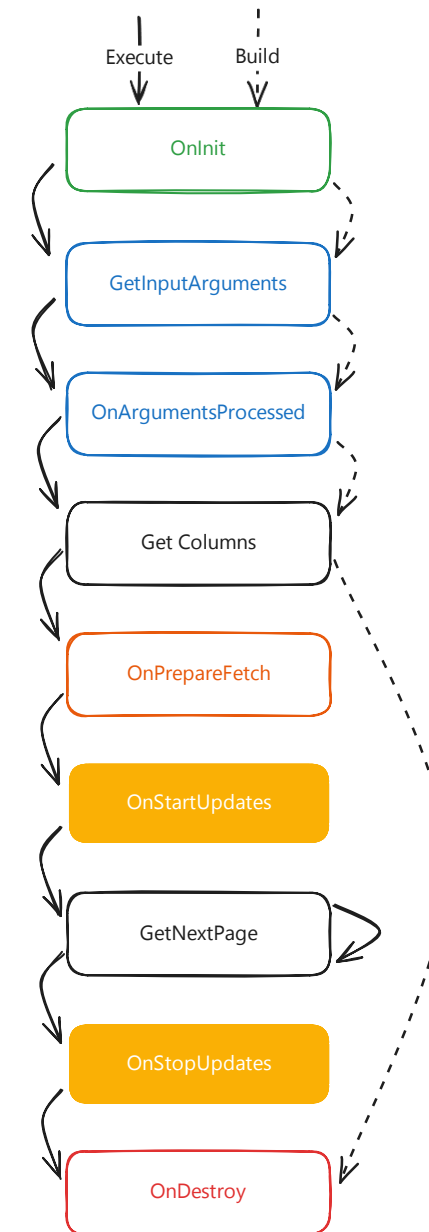
- OnStartUpdates
- OnStopUpdates
- Provided from C# interface: IGQIUpdateable



Prerequisites to support updates

Don't forget

- Enable updates on your component
- Give IDs to your rows to reference them later



Starting updates

OnStartUpdates

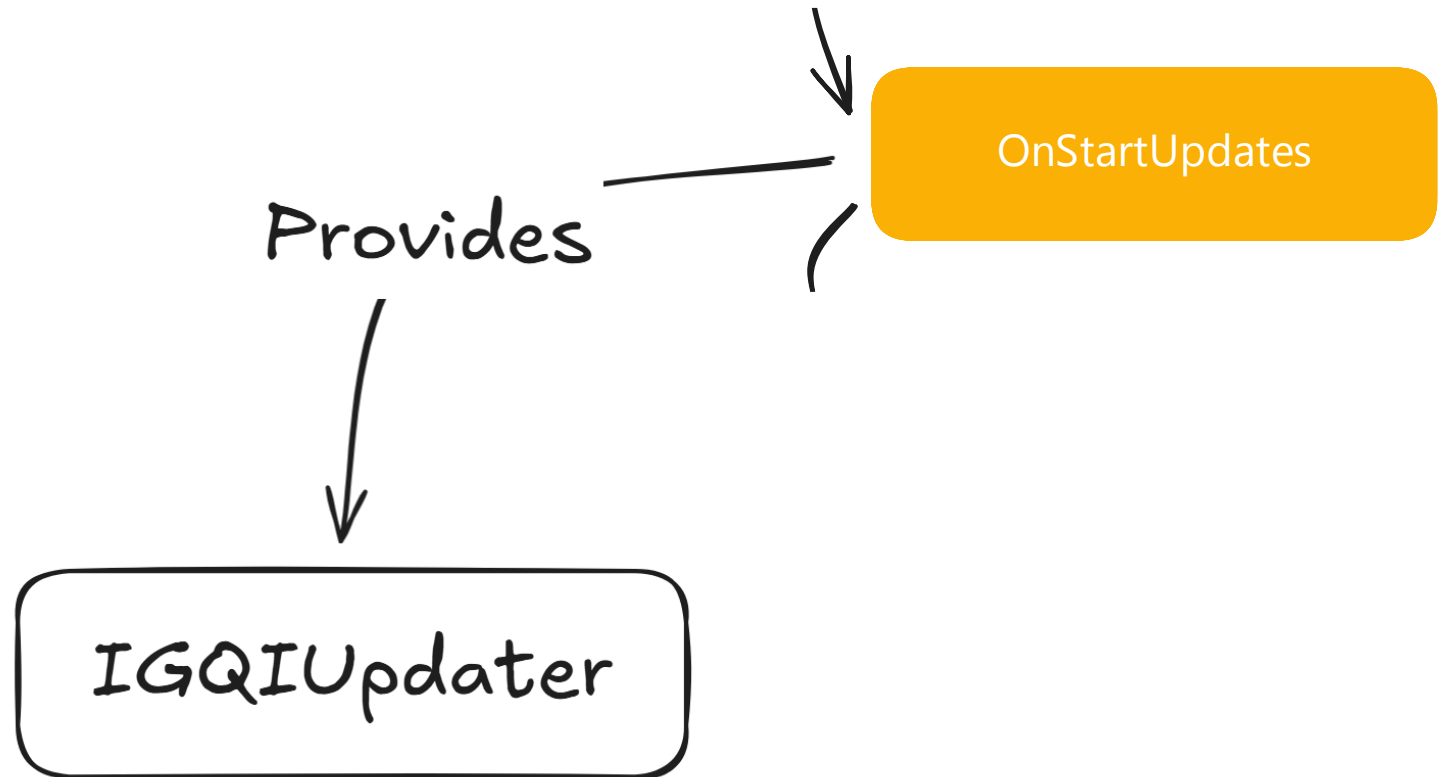
- Called once before the data is requested
- Provides an Updater object to publish updates
- Should be used to initialize anything needed to do updates



The updater

IGQIUpdater

- Update entire rows
- Update individual cells
- Remove existing rows
- Add new rows



Stopping updates

OnStopUpdates

- Called just before OnDestroy if OnStartUpdates was called
- Should be used to clean up anything that was initialized in OnStartUpdates



Let's update!

**We can update
data from our
data source**

Connecting to DataMiner

Communicating with the DataMiner system

Everything connects

- OnInit provides a GQIDMS object
- Allows sending SLNet messages to request ANY DataMiner data
- Allows creating subscriptions
- <https://www.nuget.org/packages/Skyline.DataMiner.Dev.Common/>

Best practices

- Use the DIS template
- Consider caching when performing large computations (static memory or file or ...)
- Use paging when possible (lazy loading)
- Use real time updates instead of relying on refreshes from the client
- Define related data source in the same library

[ASK AWAY]



Questions?