

# Introduction of Binary API at OTE markets

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**Introducing the interface change**

Business area

**Timeline and trends**

**What is protobuf**

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# Introducing the interface change

## Changing the Automatic Communication Interface to the Binary API

- **Within the framework of the SIDC (Single Intraday Coupling) project to ensure adequate performance and stability of the central XBID system (change of the OTE-COM – XBID interface)**
- **The XML message format will be replaced by binary content, the Protocol Buffers data format.**
- The concept of communication (existing communication scenarios and the AMQP communication protocol) does not change with the transition to new communication scenarios.
- **To ensure the benefits of more efficient and faster communication for OTE market participants, it is necessary to adapt the automatic communication interface to the intended binary format Protocol Buffers also on the side of CS OTE (AMQP communication)**

## Information on the transition to the Binary API for automatic communication on the intraday electricity and gas market

### Modifying AMQP automatic communication to:

- Intraday continuous electricity market
- Intraday gas market

→ The XML message format will be replaced by the binary Protocol Buffers data format.

### The modification does not affect:

- users of the OTE-COM application for the intraday continuous electricity market
- users of the OTE-COM application for the intraday gas market
- Mobile applications
- CS Portal - short-term markets (DAM and IDA) and Registration of Realization Diagrams

## The change in the communication format will take place as part of the automatic communication of Intraday Continuous Electricity and Gas Market towards market participants

### The documentation provided includes:

- Updated version of the Electricity Message Formats Document
- Updated version of the gas message format manual

### XLSX mapping tables that mapping of the existing XML attribute names to their corresponding Binary API attribute names

- XLSX Mapping Tables Electricity
- XLSX Gas Mapping Table

### Protobuf definition (.proto files):

- For electricity (IM)
- For Gas (IMP)

### Dokumentace

#### Informace k přechodu na rozhraní Binary API pro automatickou komunikaci na Vnitrodenním trhu s elektřinou a plynem

Informace k přechodu na rozhraní Binary API pro automatickou komunikaci na Vnitrodenním trhu s elektřinou a plynem

V rámci automatické komunikace AMQP na Vnitrodenním kontinuálním trhu s elektřinou a Vnitrodenním trhu s plynem se plánuje úprava rozhraní, kdy XML formát zpráv bude nahrazen binárním datovým formátem Protocol Buffers. Při používání aplikací Vnitrodenního trhu s elektřinou a plynem a mobilních aplikací nedochází k žádným změnám na straně uživatele.

**Rozhraní automatické komunikace Vnitrodenního trhu kontinuálního s elektřinou (VDT) a Vnitrodenního trhu s plynem (VDP) vůči účastníkům trhu** je v současnosti realizováno prostřednictvím AMQP protokolu s přenosem zpráv v XML formátu. Projekt SIDC (Single Intraday Coupling – Jednotný propojený vnitrodenní trh) bude z důvodu nutnosti zajištění odpovídajícího výkonu a stability centrálního systému XBID, i s ohledem na budoucí rozvoj vnitrodenního kontinuálního obchodování a legislativní požadavek pro přechod alokace vnitrodenních přeshraničních kapacit na mechanismus Flow-based, zavádět změnu komunikačního formátu zpráv pro datové výměny mezi centrálním řešením XBID a lokálními systémy na straně NEMO<sub>s</sub> (Nominated Electricity Market Operator – Nominovaný organizátor trhu s elektřinou). **XML formát zpráv bude nahrazen binárním obsahem, datovým formátem Protocol Buffers.** Koncept komunikace (stávající portfolio komunikačních scénářů a komunikační protokol AMQP) se z pohledu přechodu na nové komunikační scénáře na straně XBID nemění. Ve světle této chystané změny bude nutné provést adaptaci komunikačního rozhraní na zamýšlený binární formát Protocol Buffers i na straně CS OTE, aby mohli být nárůst výkonnosti a rychlosti komunikace přenesen i na rozhraní mezi OTE a účastníky trhu.

Ke změně komunikačního formátu dojde v rámci automatické komunikace VDT i VDP vůči účastníkům trhu. Poskytnutá dokumentace zahrnuje následující:

- **Aktualizovaná verze manuálu formátů zpráv elektřina a plyn** zohledňující nový komunikační formát zpráv, dále jsou k dispozici XLSX mapovací tabulky elektřina a plyn, které poskytují mapování stávajících názvů XML atributů na nové názvy BIN API ekvivalentů těchto atributů – viz materiály ke stažení níže.
- **Protobuf definice (.proto soubory):**
  - Za elektřinu (VDT) ke stažení níže
  - Za plyn (VDP) ke stažení níže

Webinář pro účastníky trhu k detailnímu představení změn souvisejících se zavedením Binary API je naplánován na úterý 2. 6. 2026 od 14:00 do 16:30. Pozvánky byly distribuovány účastníkům trhu prostřednictvím emailové komunikace.

#### Následně očekáváme:

- Zahájení testování s ÚT v září/říjen 2026
- Uvedení změny do provozu v Q1 2027

Bližší informace a detaily k plánovanému testování budou pravidelně poskytovány prostřednictvím webových stránek OTE a emailové komunikace.

POPIS	SOUBOJY KE STAŽENÍ
Formáty zpráv elektřina	<a href="#">D1.4.X Formátů zpráv Binary API OTE-ODM ELE verzeC</a> <a href="#">D1.4.X Formátů zpráv Binary API OTE-ODM ELE verzeC revize</a> (revize oproti předchozí verzi B)
XLSX mapovací tabulky elektřina, ze kterých lze vyčíst mapování stávajících názvů XML atributů na nové názvy BIN API ekvivalentů těchto atributů	<a href="#">Změna formátu zpráv OTE-ODM ele protobuf vs XML verzeB</a> (zůstává kompatibilní s verzí C Formátů zpráv elektřina)
Protobuf definice (.proto soubor) elektřina	<a href="#">OTE-ODM ele protobuf</a>
Formáty zpráv plyn	<a href="#">D1.5.1 Formátů zpráv Binary API OTE-ODM GAS verzeB</a> <a href="#">D1.5.1 Formátů zpráv Binary API OTE-ODM GAS verzeB revize</a> (revize oproti předchozí verzi A)
XLSX mapovací tabulky plyn ze kterých lze vyčíst mapování stávajících názvů XML atributů na nové názvy BIN API ekvivalentů těchto atributů	<a href="#">Změna formátu zpráv OTE-ODM gas protobuf vs XML verzeB</a>
Protobuf definice (.proto soubor) plyn	<a href="#">OTE-ODM gas protobuf</a>

→ You can download the documents at the dedicated page for the Binary API on the OTE website [here](#)

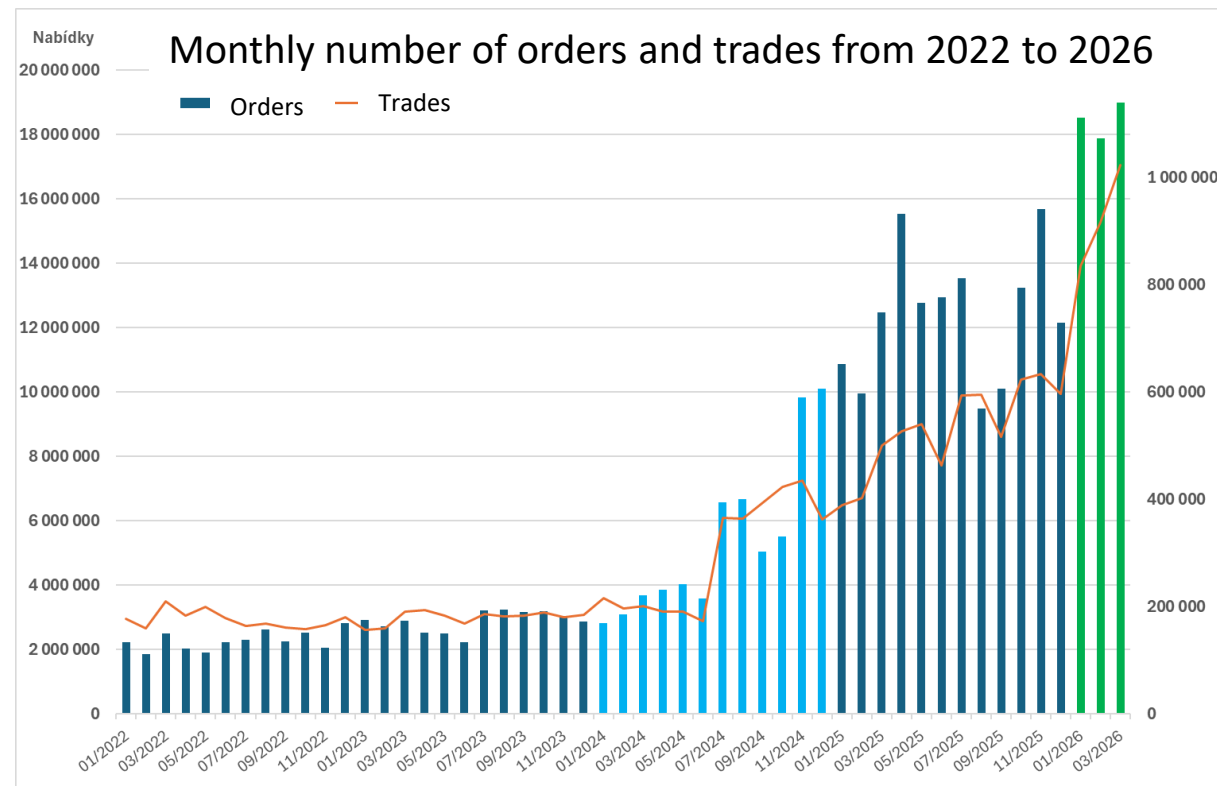
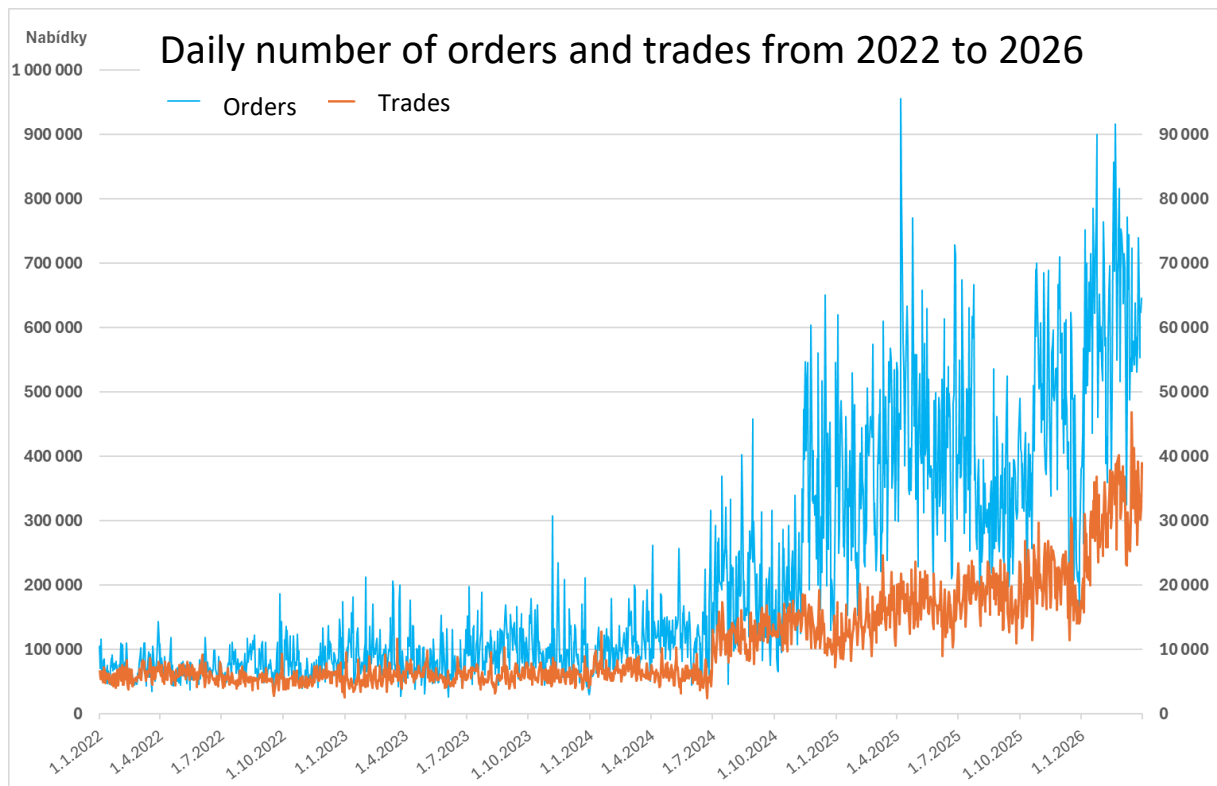
# Timeline and trends

## Timeline in Binary API implementation:

- Initial information on market participants (17.12.2025)
- Published Protobuf definitions (.proto files):
  - For electricity (VDT) (21.04.2026)
  - For gas (VDP) (25.05.2026)
- **Webinar on Binary API (02.06.2026 at 14:00)**
  - Send any questions to [market@ote-cr.cz](mailto:market@ote-cr.cz)
  - The presentation will be published on the OTE website
  - We will continuously publish a document with any questions and answers
- **Start of testing with Market Participants (September/October 2026)**
  - You will be informed in advance about the details of the start of testing
- **Launch of Binary API under SIDC and OTE (Q1 2027)**

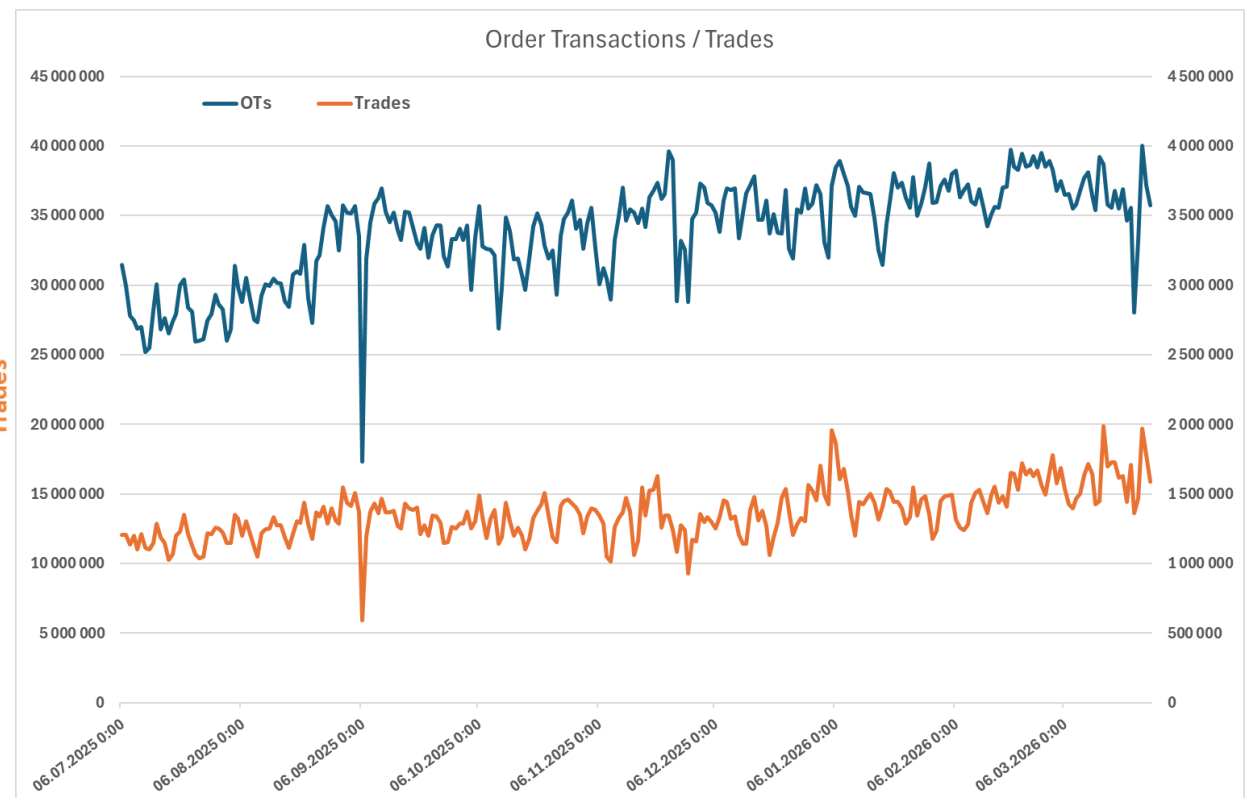
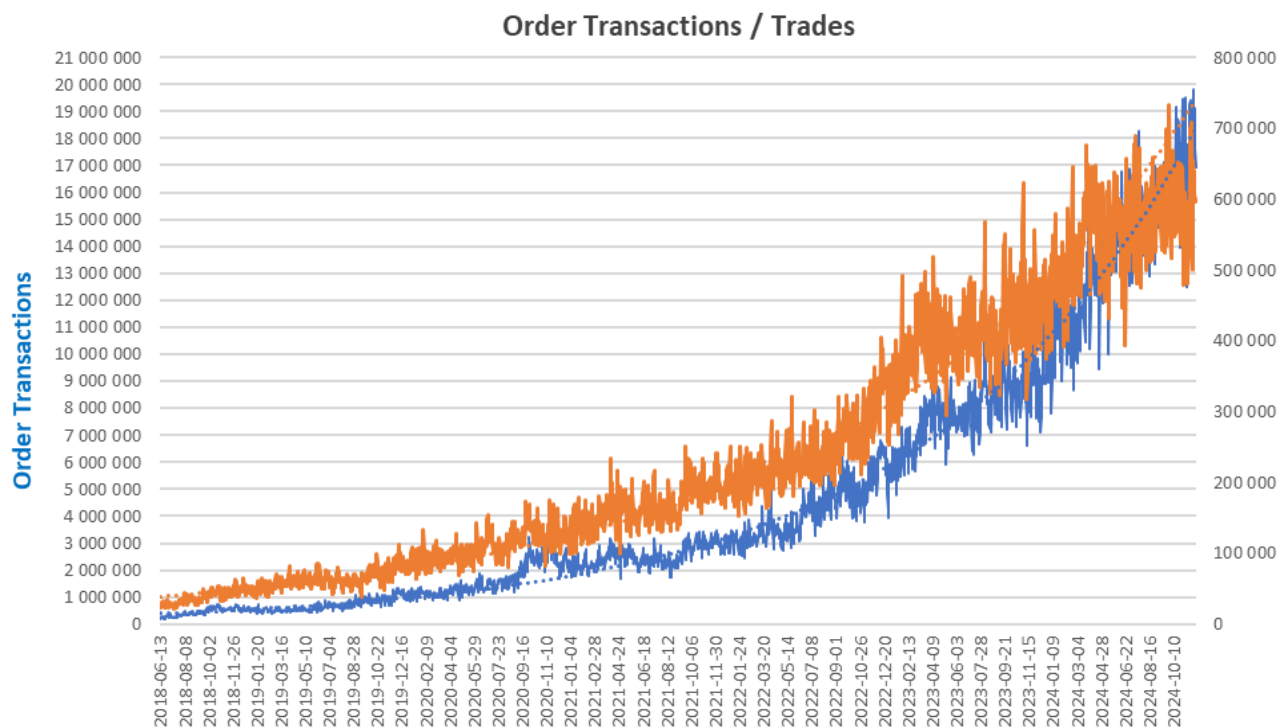
# OTE.COM

- The Trend of Algorithmic Trading Across Europe – Engaging Robots
- Steep increase in orders vs trades
- More trading close to real-time



## Developments in SIDC

- Daily numbers of orders and trades within the SIDC since the first trading day (June 13, 2018)



SIDC – Single Intraday Coupling – Jednotný vnitrodenní trh s elektřinou

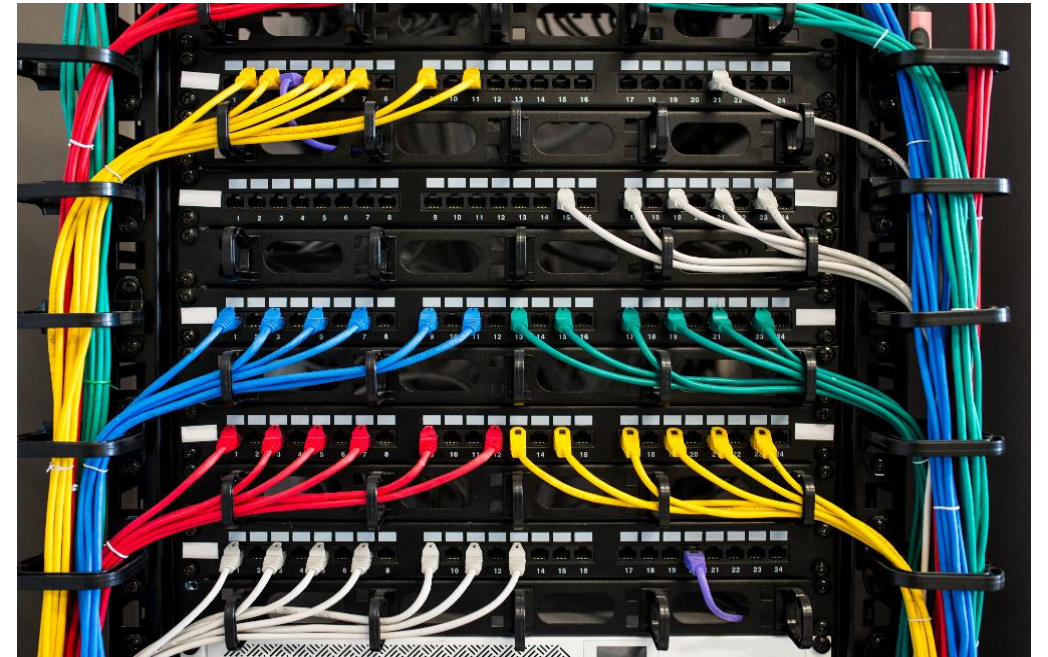
# What is protobuf

## Why this change?

- Transaction load within SIDC has been growing significantly in recent years
  - This is driven by a general increase in trading activity
  - Additionally, the introduction of 15-minute products has led to a substantial increase in the number of contracts
    - As a result, the number of distributed updates (not only of the public order book) has increased proportionally
- The current message transmission approach is reaching its limits
  - XML (de)serialization and validation are time-consuming
  - XML itself is a relatively verbose data format
    - Messages are larger than strictly necessary
- XBID addresses this issue by migrating to the Protobuf format

## What is protobuf

- A data format developed by Google for serializing structured data into a binary representation
- Designed with an emphasis on simplicity and performance
- Compared to other formats such as JSON and XML, it offers messages that are 2–4× smaller
- Project website: <https://protobuf.dev/>



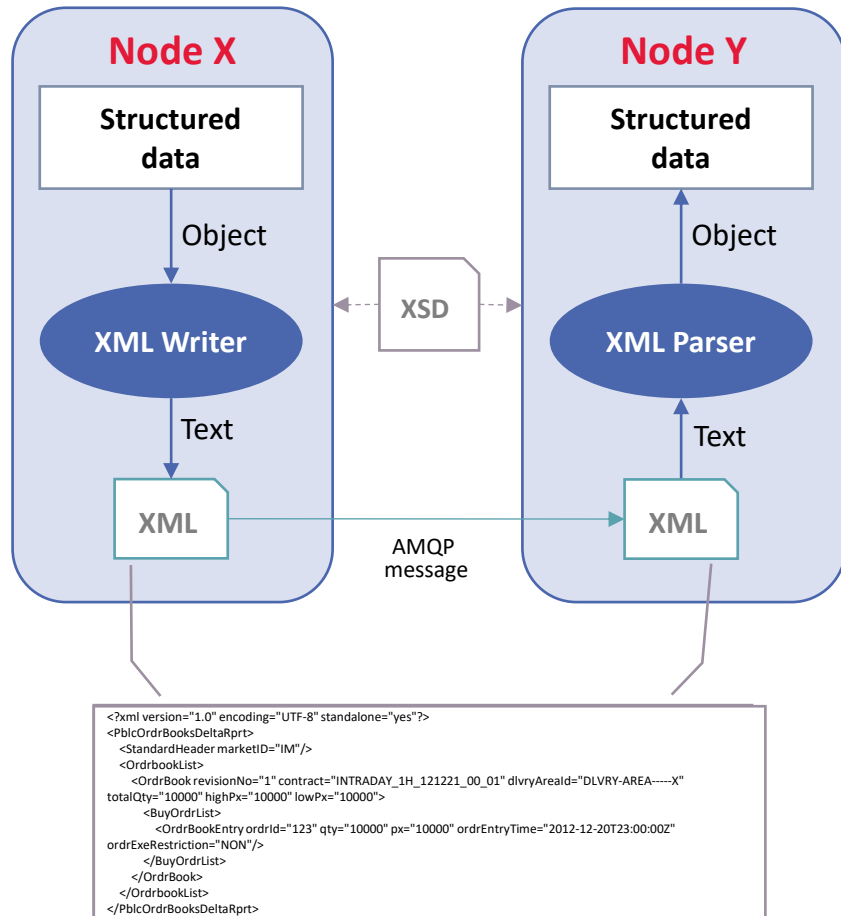
## What is protobuf

- Message structure is defined in a textual .proto schema
  - Similar to XSD, it defines messages and their structure
  - By default, it does not support validation rules
  - The schema is compiled using the protoc tool into source code
    - Messages are designed purely as data structure
    - To add logic, it is recommended to use wrap classes
- The resulting binary message format is not self-describing
  - Unlike XML, descriptive elements (attribute / element names) are not transmitted
  - The meaning of individual fields can only be determined using the schema
  - The advantage is a significant reduction in message size

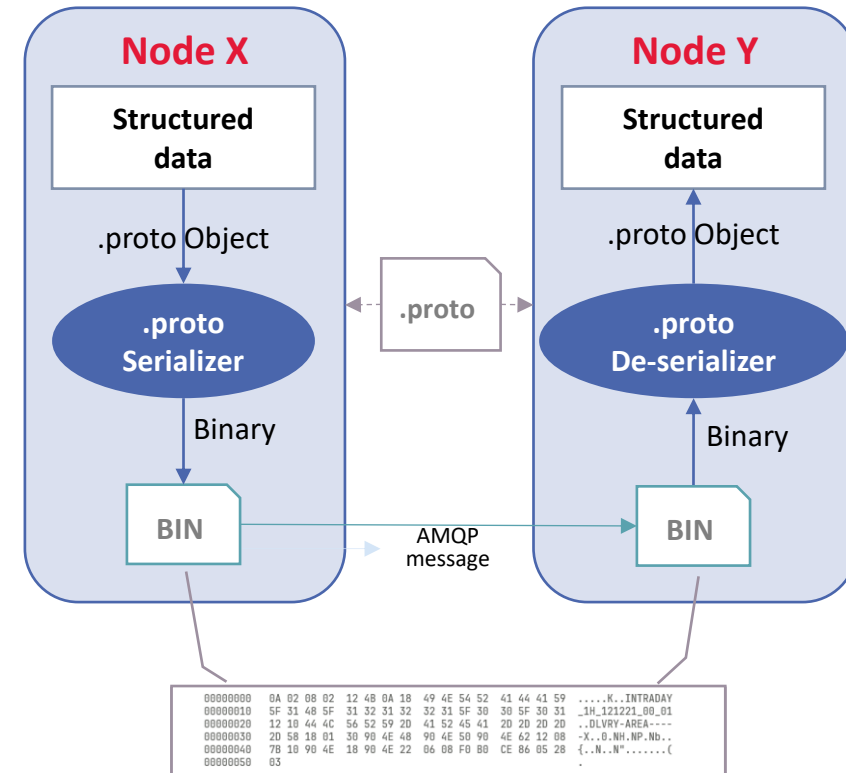
## What is protobuf

- Designed to be compatible with changes in the data structure
  - Enables easy adaptation to evolving application requirements
  - Requires following recommended best practices when modifying the schema
    - Under these conditions, the format is both backward and forward compatible
- Recommended approach to schema changes
  - Adding a new value to an enum
  - Adding a new (optional) attribute to a message definition
  - Removing an attribute from a message definition (has certain impacts)

## Existing xml schema



## Future protobuf schema



## Protobuf 3 Definition

### Data Types

- Scalar data types

- bool, int32, int64, float, double, string, bytes, ...

- Enumerations

- A predefined set of values
- Names must be unique
  - Name prefixing
- The first value must always represent “unspecified”
  - prefix + UNSPECIFIED/UNKNOWN
  - The numeric value must be 0

```
enum MessageType {  
    MESSAGE_TYPE_UNSPECIFIED = 0;  
    MESSAGE_TYPE_PUBLIC = 1;  
    MESSAGE_TYPE_PRIVATE = 2;  
}
```

## Protobuf 3 Definition

### Data Types

- Composite data types
  - Structured definition of a data message
  - Specifies a list of fields along with:
    - cardinality
    - data type
    - attribute name
    - attribute order within the message
      - Attribute order corresponds to the identifier used in binary data

```
message MessageEntry {  
    int64 message_id = 1;  
    MessageType type = 2;  
    optional string contract = 3;  
    ...  
}
```

## Protobuf 3 Definition

Field cardinality

- Explicit (`optional`)
  - An explicitly set value is always transmitted
  - An unset value is not transmitted
  - Reintroduced in proto3 to allow detection of whether a default value was explicitly set
- Implicit
  - Object types behave as explicitly `optional`
  - Primitive data types have a default value (`int: 0, ...`)
    - Default values are not transmitted
    - During deserialization, it is not possible to determine whether the default value was explicitly set

## Protobuf 3 Definition

### Field cardinality

- List / repeated field (repeated)
  - Used when a field can have zero or any number of occurrences
- Value map (map)
  - Allows defining a typed key/value structure
  - Can contain zero or any number of entries

```
message RepeatedTest {  
    repeated string product_names = 1;  
}
```

```
message MapTest {  
    map<string, int32> = 1;  
}
```

## Comparison of Transmitted Data

### Current XML interface

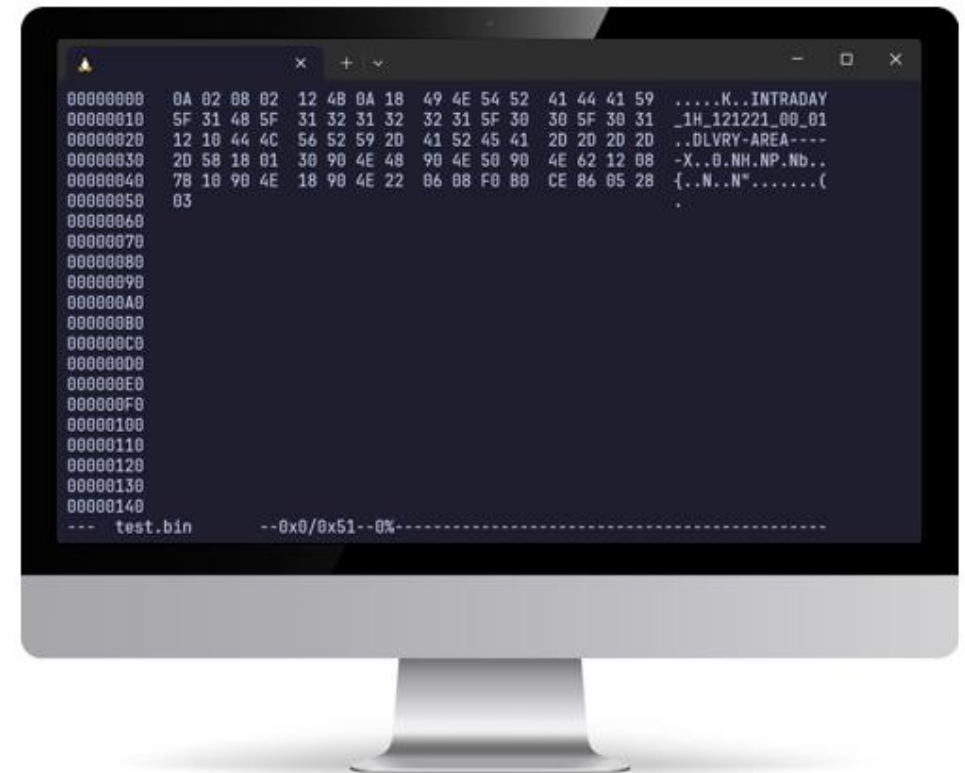
- Message content is structured and easily readable
- A simple Public order book update with a single order has a size of 533 bytes
  - With gzip compression, the size is reduced to 320 bytes

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<PblcOrdrBooksDeltaRprt>
  <StandardHeader marketID="IM"/>
  <OrdrbookList>
    <OrdrBook revisionNo="1" contract="INTRADAY_1H_121221_00_01" dlrvyAreaId="DLVRY-AREA-----X" totalQty="10000" highPx="10000" lowPx="10000">
      <BuyOrdrList>
        <OrdrBookEntry ordId="123" qty="10000" px="10000" ordEntryTime="2012-12-20T23:00:00Z" ordExeRestriction="NON"/>
      </BuyOrdrList>
    </OrdrBook>
  </OrdrbookList>
</PblcOrdrBooksDeltaRprt>
```

## Comparison of Transmitted Data

### Future Protobuf interface

- The message is not human-readable at first glance
  - It lacks information about the semantic meaning of individual values
  - Values can only be interpreted with knowledge of the schema
- The same data now has a size of only 81 bytes
  - 15% of the original XML size
  - 25% of the original XML + gzip size
- The transition also includes renaming of values
  - Original names were abbreviations
  - This change does not affect the resulting message size
  - The advantage is improved clarity of the interface



## Comparison of Transmitted Data

### Specification for the current XML schema

OTECOM (elektrina) - ÚT						
XML Tag name	Tag type	Parent	Data Type	Description	m/o	mult.
MsgRprt	SE		Structure		m	[1..1]
StandardHeader	SE	MsgRprt	Structure		m	[1..1]
MsgList	SE	MsgRprt	Structure	List of Orders	o	[0..1]
Msg	SE	OrdrList	Structure		o	[0..n]
msgld	A		Long	The message ID as assigned by the CS OTE system.	m	[1..1]
type	A		String	Defines the message type. Valid Values: "PUBLIC": The message is a public message. "PRIVATE": The message is a private message.	m	[1..1]
contract	A		String	Underlying contract.	o	[0..1]
messageCode	A		Integer	Message code of the message	m	[1..1]
timestamp	A		DateTime	Timestamp of the message as assigned by the CS OTE system.	m	[1..1]
svrty	A		String	Severity of the message: "URG": Urgent message. "ERR": Error. "HIG": High prioritized message. "MED": Medium prioritized message. "LOW": Low priority message.	m	[1..1]
mktSupervisionMsg	A		Boolean	Determines if the message has been send by market supervision	m	[1..1]
txtEn	A		String	Message text. – English version.	m	[1..1]
txtCz	A		String	Message text. – Czech version.	m	[1..1]
sellDlrvyAreald	A		String	In case of an order execution, this field contains the delivery area of the sell side.	o	[0..1]
buyDlrvyAreald	A		String	In case of an order execution, this field contains the delivery area of the buy side.	o	[0..1]

### Specification for the protobuf content

OTECOM (elektrina) - ÚT						
Message/Field	Type	Parent	Data Type	Description	m/o	mult.
MessageRprt	MSG		Structure		m	[1..1]
standard_header	FIELD	MessageRprt	Structure		m	[1..1]
MsgList	SE	MsgRprt	Structure	List of Orders	o	[0..1]
messages	FIELD	MessageRprt	Structure		o	[0..n]
message_id	FIELD		Integer(64)	The message ID as assigned by the CS OTE system.	m	[1..1]
type	FIELD		Enum	Defines the message type. Valid Values: "MESSAGE_TYPE_PUBLIC": The message is a public message. "MESSAGE_TYPE_PRIVATE": The message is a private message.	m	[1..1]
contract	FIELD		String	Related underlying contract (if any).	o	[0..1]
message_code	FIELD		Integer	Message code of the message	m	[1..1]
timestamp	FIELD		Timestamp	Timestamp of the message as assigned by the CS OTE system.	m	[1..1]
severity	FIELD		Enum	Severity of the message: "MESSAGE_SEVERITY_TYPE_URG": Urgent message. "MESSAGE_SEVERITY_TYPE_ERR": Error. "MESSAGE_SEVERITY_TYPE_HIG": High prioritized message. "MESSAGE_SEVERITY_TYPE_MED": Medium prioritized message. "MESSAGE_SEVERITY_TYPE_LOW": Low priority message.	m	[1..1]
market_supervision_message	FIELD		Boolean	Determines if the message has been send by market supervision	m	[1..1]
text_en	FIELD		String	Message text. – English version.	m	[1..1]
text_cz	FIELD		String	Message text. – Czech version.	m	[1..1]
sell_delivery_area_id	FIELD		String	In case of an order execution, this field contains the delivery area of the sell side.	o	[0..1]
buy_delivery_area_id	FIELD		String	In case of an order execution, this field contains the delivery area of the buy side.	o	[0..1]

## Protobuf – specification vs. .proto Definition

### Protobuf content specification

### .proto definition

OTECOM (elektrina) - ÚT						
Message/Field	Type	Parent	Data Type	Description	m/o	mult.
ErrResp	MSG		Structure		m	[1..1]
<u>standard_header</u>	FIELD	ErrResp	Structure		m	[1..1]
<u>errors</u>	FIELD	ErrResp	Structure		m	[1..n]
<u>error_code</u>	FIELD		Integer	Predefined error codes. Some error messages do not have a specific error code. In this case the value is 0.	m	[1..1]
<u>error_en</u>	FIELD		String	The error message for this error – English version.	m	[1..1]
<u>error_cz</u>	FIELD		String	The error message for this error – Czech version.	m	[1..1]
<u>client_order_id</u>	FIELD		String	Client order ID.	o	[0..1]

```

syntax = "proto3";
package cz.ote_cr.otecom.api.ele.v5;

import "google/protobuf/timestamp.proto";
import "google/protobuf/duration.proto";
option java_multiple_files = true;
option java_package = "cz.ote_cr.otecom.api.ele.v5";
import "validate/validate.proto";

message ErrResp {
  StandardHeader standard_header = 1 [(validate.rules).message.required = true];
  repeated ErrorEntry errors = 2;
}

message StandardHeader {
  MarketIdType market_id = 1 [(validate.rules).enum = {not_in: [0], defined_only: true}];
  optional string client_correlation_id = 2;
  optional string client_data_string = 3;
}

message ErrorEntry {
  int32 error_code = 1;
  string error_en = 2;
  string error_cz = 3;
  optional string client_order_id = 4 [(validate.rules).string.max_len = 40];
}
    
```

OTECOM (elektrina) - protobuf						
Message/Field	Type	Parent	Data Type	Description	m/o	mult.
<u>standard_header</u>	FIELD		Structure		m	[1..1]
<u>market_id</u>	FIELD		Enum	Market Identification Code (MIC) of the market to which the request is sent or from which the request originates. The following values are allowed: "MARKET_ID_TYPE_XBID": XBID Intraday market "MARKET_ID_TYPE_IM": OTE secondary Intraday market (fallback to XBID).	m	[1..1]
<u>client_correlation_id</u>	FIELD		String	The client data field in this section can be used by the client to store information about the client.	o	[0..1]

# Data validation

## Data validation

- Protobuf itself does not provide built-in support for validation
  - However, it allows extensibility through plugins
- Validation is implemented using protoc-gen-validate (PGV)
  - Validation rules are defined via attribute annotations
    - Support for individual rules varies depending on the target programming language
  - Compiling the schema with protoc and PGV additionally generates validation code
    - The implementation approach may differ across programming languages
    - For Java, for example, dedicated `*Validator` classes are generated

## Data validation

- Mandatory field

```
message AckResp {  
    StandardHeader standard_header = 1 [  
        (validate.rules).message.required = true  
    ];  
}
```

- Maximum length

```
message ErrorEntry {  
    ...  
    optional string client_order_id = 4 [  
        (validate.rules).string.max_len = 40  
    ];  
}
```

- Enum values

```
message StandardHeader {  
    MarketIdType market_id = 1 [(validate.rules).enum = {  
        not_in: [0], defined_only: true  
    }];  
    ...  
}
```

# Changes in the AMQP Interface

## RabbitMQ Message Attributes

- The transition to the new interface requires distinguishing the new type of transmitted messages
- This is achieved by
  - Increasing the version in the *content type* attribute
  - Newly using the *type* attribute, which contains the name of the transmitted message
    - The reason is that the protobuf format itself does not carry information about the message type

Attribute	Current Value	Value for Protobuf
content type	market/{type}; version=4	market/{type}; version=5
content encoding	-/gzip	-/gzip
type	-	<i>Name of proto message</i>

# Sequence of Broadcast Messages

## Sequence of Broadcast Messages

- Broadcasted messages include additional information about their order
  - This numeric sequence starts at 1 after the server starts
  - Each routing key maintains its own independent sequence
  - In case of an issue, the sequence allows identification of which data became inconsistent
    - The client tracks the last received sequence number for each unique routing key
    - Receiving a message that does not follow the previous sequence number indicates inconsistency
      - The recovery mechanism is left to the needs of the individual client application
- Limitations of the current approach
  - A missing message can only be identified after successfully receiving a subsequent message
    - The delay depends on the frequency of message broadcast for the given routing key
  - A missing queue binding cannot be distinguished from a general broadcasting error

## SequenceNumbersRprt

- The solution is to broadcast a special “synchronization” message
  - Automatically broadcasted to all trading participants every 5 seconds
  - Contains a list of all public routing keys broadcasted up to that moment
  - For each routing key, it records the last sent sequence number
- Provides a faster and more reliable way to detect broadcasting issues
  - Reduces uncertainty about missing messages to a short time window
  - Ideally, both approaches should be combined
    - Gap in sequence monotonicity in each received message identifies sporadic outage
    - Validation using SequenceNumbersRprt identifies longer-lasting outage

# Digital Signature

## Digital signature

- Electronic signature security remains preserved for the same messages as in the original interface
  - `ModifyOrderReq`
  - `AddOrderReq`
  - `ModifyAllOrdersReq`
- However, the approach of embedding the digital signature directly into the XML message content is no longer possible in the protobuf interface



## Digital Signature

### Current XML interface

- The digital signature is embedded as a new element inside the transmitted message
  - This simplifies distribution, as the message does not need to be „additionally wrapped“ for further distribution

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<OrderEntry>
  <StandardHeader marketID="IM"/>
  <OrderList>
    <Order contract="INTRADAY_1H_150701_15_16" px="10000" qty="10000" side="BUY" ... />
  </OrderList>
  <ds:Signature xmlns:ds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#">
    ...
  </ds:Signature></OrderEntry>
```

## Digital Signature

Future proto interface

- The digital signature is not part of the protobuf specification
- Protobuf itself does not have a canonical message form
  - The same message can be serialized in multiple ways
  - With XML, the message could be reformatted and the signature would remain valid
- Messages must therefore be signed using a different standardized approach
  - The new format is based on the CMS standard defined in RFC 5652
  - The result of signing is a SignedData ASN.1 structure containing
    - Original message, signature, information about the used certificate

## Digital Signature

- AddOrderReq is converted into the Protobuf format
- It is signed and converted into the CMS format
- These data are placed into a SignedMessage together with:
  - Information about the type of the signed message
  - The original content encoding
- The resulting message is converted back into the Protobuf format
- RabbitMQ message attributes are set:
  - Message type is SignedMessage
  - Content encoding of the signed message
  - Content type with the new interface version



## The next steps in Binary API implementation:

- **Webinar on Binary API (02.06.2026 at 14:00)**
  - Send any questions to [market@ote-cr.cz](mailto:market@ote-cr.cz)
  - The presentation will be published on the OTE website
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**Thank you for your  
attention**

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