INTRODUCTION TO ROS2

Building the Future of Robotics software

By Victoria Rotich

What's in store?

- 1. What is ROS 2?
- 2. Why ROS 2 (and not ROS 1)?
- 3. Why ROS 2 Humble Hawksbill?
- 4. Core Concepts of ROS2
- 5. Example Workflow
- 6. ROS 2 Distributions
- 7. Tools with ROS2 Humble
- 8. Why start with Humble as a Beginner?
- 9. Closing & Next Steps



ROS 2 is:

- ROS = Robot Operating System (middleware, not a real OS)
- Provides tools, libraries and conventions for robotics development

ROS 2:

- Supports building complex robotics systems that can:
- 1. Sense (perceive the environment)
- 2. Plan (decide what to do)
- 3. Act (control motors, arms, wheels, etc)
- Successor to ROS1 → designed for modern robotics needs



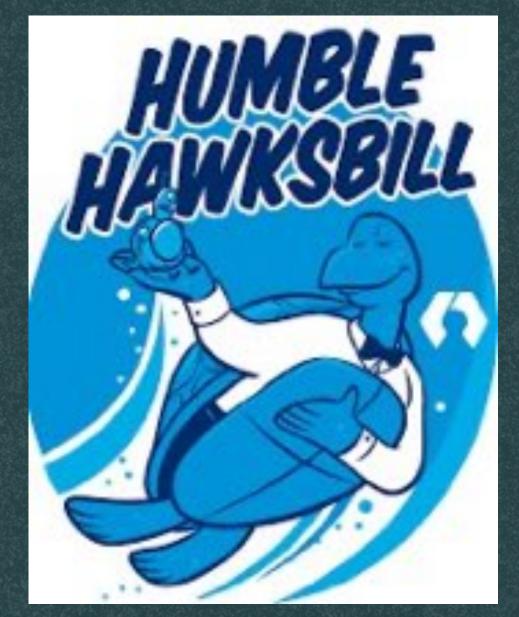
Why ROS2?

- ROS 1 limitations:
- X No real-time support (Reached EOL in May 2025)
- X Weak multi-robot support
- X Security issues

Why ROS2?

- ROS 2 improvements:
- **✓** Real-time & distributed communication
- **✓** DDS-based → scalable, reliable messaging
- Cross-platform (Linux, Windows, macOS)
- **✓** Industry-ready

Why ROS 2 Humble Hawksbill?



ROS 2 Humble Hawksbill

- Released May 23, 2022 (World Turtle Day 🐪)
- Long-Term Support (LTS) until May 2027
- Compatible with Ubuntu 22.04 LTS

Q: Why do you think compatibility matters?

OS & ROS2 Distro Pairing

Each ROS 2 release is built and tested against a specific Ubuntu LTS.

Example:

- ROS 2 Humble (2022) → Ubuntu 22.04 LTS
- ROS 2 Jazzy (2024) → Ubuntu 24.04 LTS

Dependency Management

- ROS relies on thousands of system libraries (Python, C++, DDS).
- These evolve between Ubuntu versions.
- Using mismatched versions breaks builds, causes missing APIs, or runtime crashes.

Long-Term Maintenance

- Humble + Ubuntu 22.04 = both supported until 2027.
- Jazzy + Ubuntu 24.04 = supported until 2029, but ONLY if you upgrade your OS.

Community & Packages

- Most third-party packages target the official Ubuntu pairing.
- Straying from this pairing → you're mostly on your own.

Bottom line:

Use the ROS 2 distribution that matches your Ubuntu LTS.

That's why Humble is the right choice for Ubuntu 22.04 users.

ROS 2 Humble Hawksbill

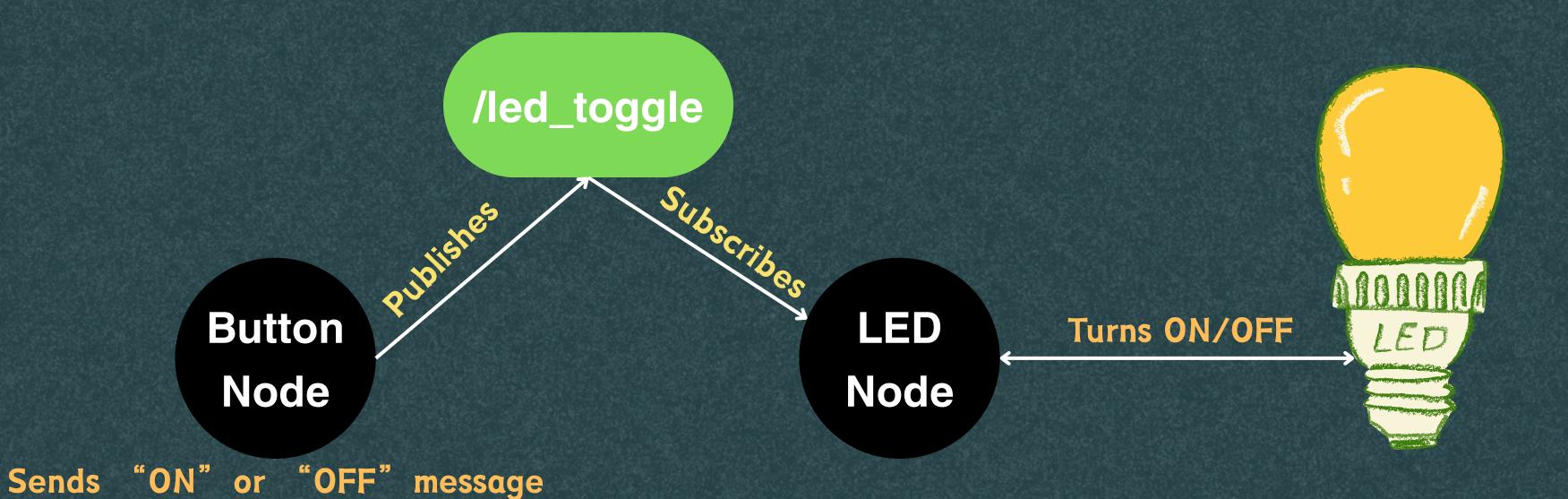
- **✓** Stable & reliable for long-term projects
- **✓** Widely adopted in research & industry
- ✓ Large community + extensive tutorials
- ✓ Modern features: real-time communication, better security, improved simulation tools

Core Concepts of ROS2

- Node → Program that does one task
- Topic → Channel for communication
- Message → Data exchanged between nodes
- Service → Request/Response
- Action → Long tasks with feedback
- Parameter → Node configuration values
- Launch File → Start multiple nodes easily

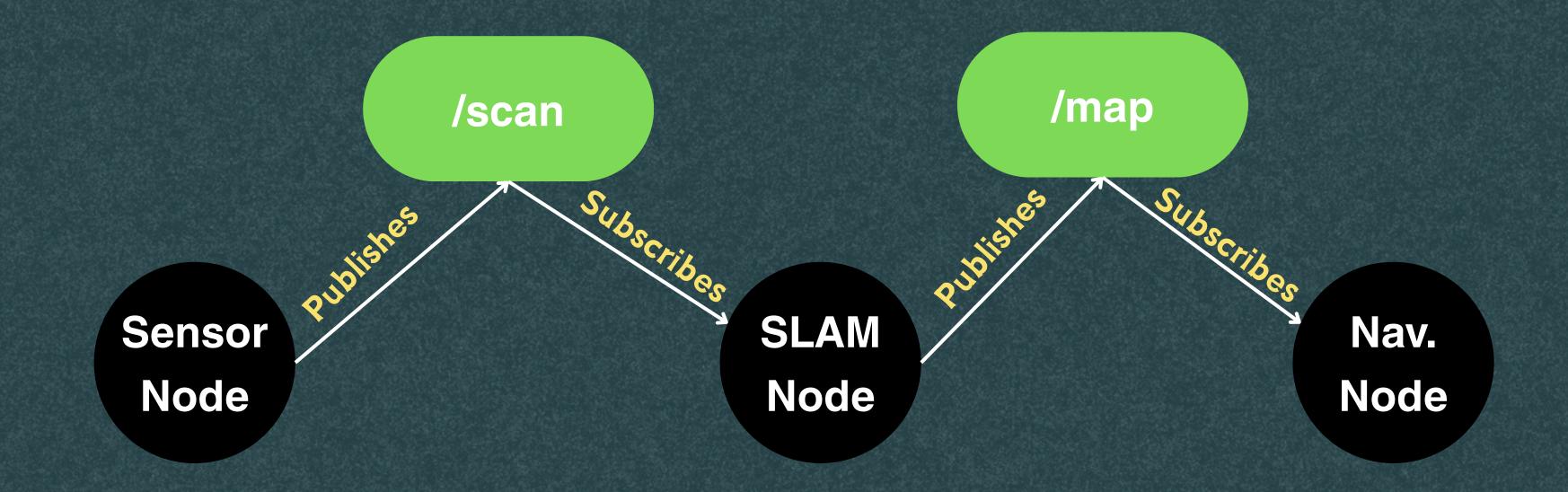
Example Workflow

Button controlled LED



Example Workflow

Robot with LiDAR



Other ROS 2 Distributions



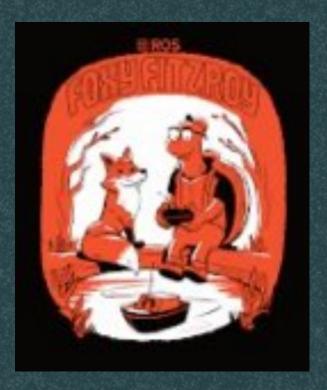
23/5/2025 → **12/2026**



23/5/2024 → **5/2029**

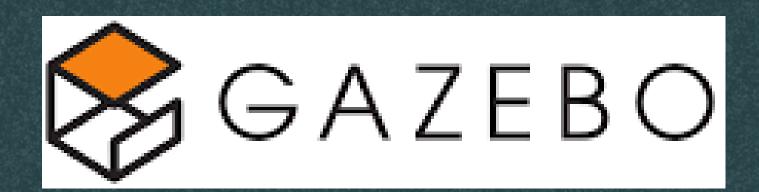


23/5/2023 → 4/12/2024 5/6/2020 → 20/6/2023



More Distributions...

Tools with ROS2



Simulation

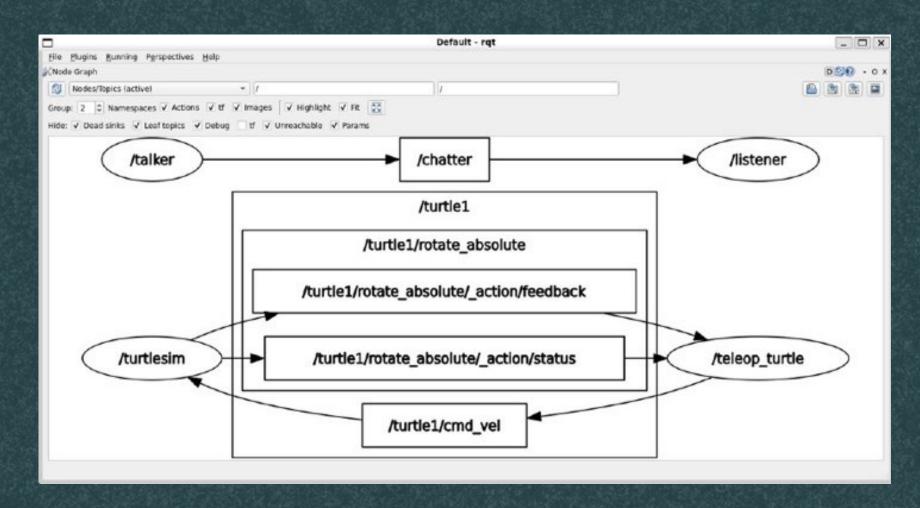


Visualization

Tools with ROS2



Navigation & Path Planning



Visualization, monitoring and Interaction

Why start with Humble?

- Long support window = reliable foundation
- Large community = easier learning
- Most tutorials, packages, and examples use Humble
- Balanced: stability + modern features

Closing

- ROS 2 = modern robotics framework
- Humble = best starting point (stable, LTS, widely supported)
- Learn the core concepts first
- Experiment with simulations (Gazebo, RViz)
- Start building your own robotics applications

Resources

- 1. Introduction to ROS2 Blog post
- 2. ROS 2 Humble Installation Guide
- 3. Raspberry Pi Setup

So, what's next?

- 1. Install ROS 2 on your laptop
- Start with ROS 2 Humble (Ubuntu 22.04 recommended).
- Follow the official installation guide.

2. Install ROS 2 on Raspberry Pi

- Great for hands-on robotics projects.
- Use Ubuntu Server (22.04 LTS) on Raspberry Pi.
- Keep it lightweight for sensors/actuators.



THANK YOU