

WPEFramework

API Reference

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History

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Author** | **Description** |
| 0.1 | 7-10-2017 | P. Wielders | Initial version |
| 0.2 | 30-05-2018 | P. Wielders | Subsystems |
| 0.3 | 04-07-2018 | C.Custers | Added Reload Configration API |
| 0.4 | 05-07-2018 | M. Fransen | Updated Controller Configuration |

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# Introduction

## Scope

This document describes the WPEFramework API interface which can be used to control/query plugins configured and build for the WPEFramework product range. This document describes the WPEFramework concepts and provides a definition of the API.

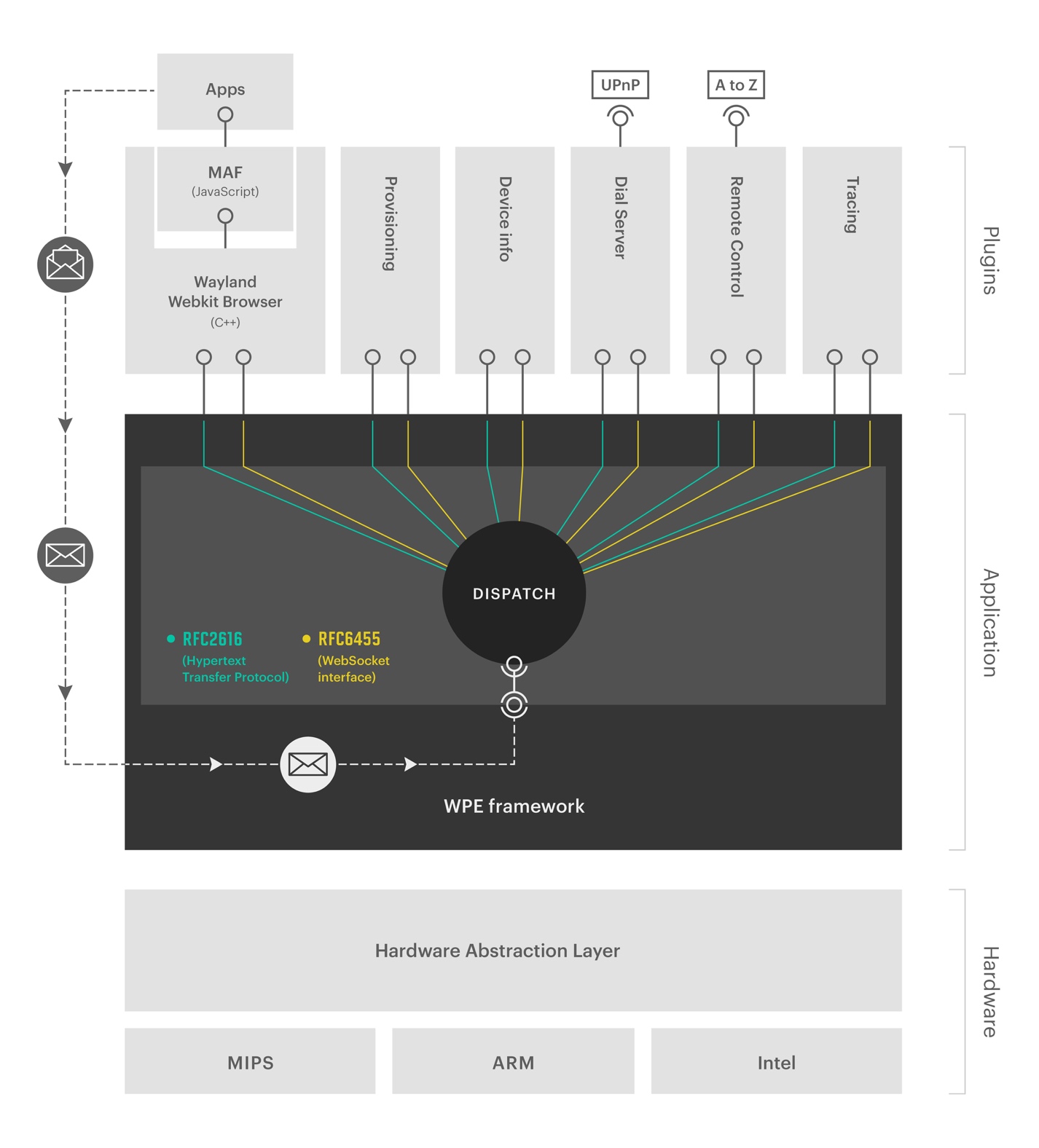


Figure 1. Global overview of the WPEFramework

## Context

WPEFramework provides a unified web-based interface with a consistent navigation model. In this model, plugins (custom or generic) are controlled and queried, through the WPEFramework application.

The main responsibilities of WPEFramework application are:

* Modular loading and unloading of plugins.
* Plugin process localization. In or out-of-process communicating with the framework over a lightweight RPC communication channel.
* Runtime enabling/disabling of tracing information within the plugins and the WPEFramework application.
* Light-weight implementation of the HTTP [RFC2616] specification.
* Light-weight implementation of the WebSocket [RFC6455] specification.

Each instance of a plugin in the WPE id identified by a name. This name is referred to as *Callsign* of the plugin. The callsign must be unique in the context of all configured plugins.

## Case sensitivity

All identifiers on the interface described here are case-sensitive. E.g. an id known in the plugin as 'C0FFEE' is not the same as 'c0ffee'.

All keywords, entities, properties, relations and actions should be treated as case-sensitive.

## Acronyms, Abbreviations and Terms

The next list provides an overview of acronyms and abbreviations used in this document and their definitions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Acronym** | **Definitions** |
| API | Application Programming Interface |
| JSON | JavaScript Object Notation |
| UTC | Coordinated Universal Time |

Below terms are listed with their definitions, as used in this document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definitions** |
| Callsign | The callsign is the name given to an instance of a plugin. One plugin can be instantiated multiple times, but each instance the instance name, callsign, must be unique. |
| Proxy | An object in one process space representing the “real” object in another process space. The Proxy takes care of marshalling the parameters. |
| Stub | An object in the process space that contains the actual object. The stub takes care of un-marshalling the request from the Proxy and executes the call, on behave of the Proxy object, on the real object |

## Standards

Date time formats between the systems shall be in UTC time and W3C (ISO 8601 profile) formatting [ISO 8601], e.g.: 2004-11-05T13:15:30Z. This way time discontinuities can be avoided due to daylight savings. Note that all interfacing systems must decode/encode the date time to the correct local time.

Languages used in the WPEFramework will be conform [ISO 639-1] using two letter language codes. If WPEFramework encounters a language code it does not recognize, it will use ‘xx’ instead. For a list of available two letter ISO language codes, please visit:  
<http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/code_list.php>

## References

This section lists the references made in this document:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [HTTP] | Hypertext Transfer Protocol  <http://www.w3.org/Protocols> |
| [ISO 8601] | Date and time format  http://www.iso.org/iso/date\_and\_time\_format |
| [ISO-3166] | Country code specification  <http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes.htm> |
| [ISO-639-1] | Language code specification (Alpha-2 code)  <http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/code_list.php> |
| [JSON] | JavaScript Object Notation  http://www.json.org |
| [URLENC] | URL Encoding  <http://www.w3schools.com/tags/ref_urlencode.asp> |

## Open Issues

This is a list of open issues that needs to be resolved:

* This document is still a work in progress.

## Limitations

The information described in this document is preliminary and subject to change in the future.

Legend:



**Be aware of:** implementation choice is needed or side-effect needs to be handled.



**Implementation advice:** Guide line for implementation mostly related to performance.

# Basic Concepts

## RESTfull API calls

This chapter discusses the basic concepts of the WPEFramework API interface.

All request and response bodies should use the JSON format for data.

**Methods:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Method** | **Function** |
| GET | Retrieve information from WPEFramework or a plugin |
| POST | Update new information or new objects at WPEFramework or a plugin |
| PUT | Create new information or new objects at WPEFramework or a plugin |
| DELETE | Delete information at WPEFramework or a plugin |

For example, the following call retrieves information from the WebKitBrowser plugin:

GET / Service/WebKitBrowser HTTP/1.1

**Web API paths:**

All WPEFramework commands start with the “Service” prefix followed by the Plugin name:

(GET|POST|PUT|DELETE) /Service/<PluginName>[/OptionalPaths] HTTP/1.1

For example, to retrieve information from the Controller plugin:

GET /Service/Controller HTTP/1.1

This returns a JSON list with plugins and their state as managed by the controller:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: application/json

Content-Length: 5036

Cache-Control: no-cache, private, no-store, must-revalidate, max-stale=0, post-check=0, pre-check=0 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: \*

{"plugins": [ ... ]}

## Web sockets

Not all actions initiated on a plugin need to be deterministic. For example, getting a time in an NTP plugin requires network access and the response of the network is not deterministic. The network server might respond in 100ms but it might also take some seconds.

The RESTfull API, using the request->response algorithm, is not suited for non-deterministic actions, as a rule of thumb, a request should return a response within a second. But what if the network connection is slow, or takes several retries and the network time is only received after 10 seconds?

A different architecture is in place for the WPEFramework to offer event based feedback to clients. This functionality is realized using web socket connections to a plugin. Over these web socket connections, the plugin will notify the client on the other side of the web socket of events specific to the plugin.

The syntax for opening a web socket to the plugin is equal to the syntax of the RESTfull API:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | ws://<IP Address and port of WPEFramework>/Service/<Callsign>  protocol: notification |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK |

In Javascript, the socket would be opened like:

socket = new WebSocket("ws://192.168.1.100:9999/Service/Controller", "notification");

Over this connection, the javascipt application, opening this socket will receive events from the controller plugin. See plugin details in the sections: 4.3 Events.

## Subsystems

A subsystem is a unit of functionality that might be required by plugins before that plugin can operate properly. As an example, a Provisioning plugin, receiving its provisioning information from the cloud, can only work properly if there is internet connectivity. The internet subsystem represents functionality in the system that allows network connectivity towards the open internet (and thus the cloud). This subsystem is only available, if the system has detected network connectivity with the internet.

Currently the WPEFramework supports the following subsystems (PluginHost::ISubSystem):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| enum subsystem { | | |
|  | PLATFORM = 0, | // platform is available. |
|  | NETWORK, | // Network connectivity has been established. |
|  | IDENTIFIER, | // System identification has been accomplished. |
|  | GRAPHICS, | // Graphics screen EGL is available. |
|  | INTERNET, | // Network connectivity to the outside world has been established. |
|  | LOCATION, | // Location of the device has been set. |
|  | TIME, | // Time has been synchronized. |
|  | PROVISIONING, | // Provisioning information is available. |
|  | DECRYPTION, | // Decryption functionality is available. |
|  | WEBSOURCE, | // Content exposed via a local web server is available. |
| } |  |  |

WPE Framework offers an event driven interface framework for subsystem availability signaling to the plugins. This framework is utilized to realize concurrent startup scenario using a conditional evaluation only in case a condition changes. This allows for startup without requiring sleeps, or resource consuming polling mechanisms.

The startup dependency can be set in the precondition field of the plugin configuration, as can termination conditions be set in the termination field. Note that the WPE Framework will by default set all subsystems to activated when starting up to prevent plugins waiting indefinitely for the conditional evaluation to be triggered. In the Controller configuration the subsystems provided by the system can be configured to disable the automatic subsystem signaling by the WPE Framework for these subsystems.

The value associated with each subsystem is depicted below the negated value is the same but than the value should be prefixed with an exclamation mark (!).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SUBSYSTEM | CONFIGNAME |
| PLATFORM | Platform |
| NETWORK | Network |
| IDENTIFIER | Identifier |
| GRAPHICS | Graphics |
| INTERNET | Internet |
| LOCATION | Location |
| TIME | Time |
| PROVISIONING | Provisioning |
| DECRYPTION | Decryption |
| WEBSOURCE | WebSource |

Table 1 Subsystem to configname

# WPEFramework Application

## Startup parameters

## Configuration

The configuration for the WPEFramework covers for a flexible deployment. Most behavior and file locations can be configured.

### Main configuration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| version | String stating the Human Readable string associated with this delivery. Default: “” |
| model | Model identification that is returned in multicast broadcasts to identify this device. Default: “” |
| port | Number identifying the port on which the TCP RESTfull server should be listening. Default: 80 |
| binding | IP address to associate the TCP RESTfull server with. This parameter is mutual exclusive with the interface parameter. Default: AnyInterface |
| interface | Interface to associate with the TCP RESTfull server with. This parameter is mutual exclusive with the binding parameter. |
| prefix | This is the prefix to indicate the default sstart path for accessing the RESTfull service. Default: “Service”. |
| persistentpath | Path to the location where information can be stored over reboots. The path is always postfixed by the callsign of the plugin.  <persistentpath>/<callsign>/  under the callsign PluginHost, a file called override.json can be found. Here the WPEFramework stores the configuration of all configured plugins together with the autostart flag. These settings “overrule” the once found in the configuration files (read only) |
| datapath | Path to the location where read-only data is stored, this path is postfixed with the plugins classname.  <datapath>/<classname>/ |
| systempath | Path to the location where the plugins will be searched, if not found on the persistent path. |
| volatilepath | Path to use in case volatile storage is required. This storage is cleared after reboot. |
| proxystubpath | Path to where the Proxy Stubs can be found. All the files found uon this path, with the extension \*.so will be loaded |
| configpath | Path to theJSON configuration files. Each JSON file is describing the configuration for a plugin instance.  If no value is given, the WPEFramework will search the directory called plugins, found next to the location where this configuration file is located. |
| ipv6 | Boolean to force IPv4 networking only, if set to false. Default: false. |
| tracing | Array of traces that should be enabled or disabled from startup. |
| redirect | If no path is given, if a RESTfull API is called, it will be redirected to the path given here.  Default: /Service/Controller |
| process | JSON object to specify process properties for the WPEFramework parent process to be started. |
| input | Enumerate specifying how inserted keys should be forwarded. |
| communicator | Default path to reach the RPC communication channel of WPEFramework. Each newly created out-of-process instance will hookup, using this identifier to rhe WPEFramework. Over this channel, RPC invokactions will take place. |
| plugins | Array of potential plugin configuration. The semantics of these JSON structs is equal to the ones found in the configpath, with the exception of the callsign. Where the name of the JSON file found in the configpath, will be the callsign, here it is the callsign keyword identifying the callsign to be used for this instance. |

### Plugin

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| callsign | Name identifying this instance of the plugin. |
| classname | Class name that should be instantiated to get the default IPlugin interface. |
| locator | Name of the SO to be loaded to find the given classname. |
| autostart | Should this plugin be activated during startup time, or will it be started later via the RESTfull API. Default: true |
| precondition | List of subsystem states to comply to before activating this plugin (AND). |
| termination | List of subsystem states that trigger the Deactivation of this plugin (OR). |
| configuration | JSON object specifying the exact configuration for this plugin. See the documentation of the specific plugin for details. |

### Process

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| priority | Relative adjustment of the niceness level of the parent process (-20 : +19) |
| policy | Scheduler policy to be applied (Batch, Idle, FIFO, RoundRobin or Other) |
| oomadjust | Relative adjustment of the OOMScore (-10 : +10) |
| stacksize | The default stack size to be pre-allocated for a new thread to be started. |

# Controller Plugin

WPEFramwork is the application that loads, initializes, de-initializes and unloads modules, by configuration. Each module realizes a specific functionality. Depending on the deployment different modules will be deployed/configured and loaded. One of the plugins that is the exception to the rule of loading/unloading, is the controller.

The controller plugin is part of the WPEFramework and cannot be activated/deactivated and thus not be unloaded. This is the plugin that Controls (Activate/Deactivate) the configured plugins. As this is an integral part of WPEFramwork, it will be described in this document. All other plugins have their own document, describing their configuration and their API.

## Activate/Deactivate state-diagram

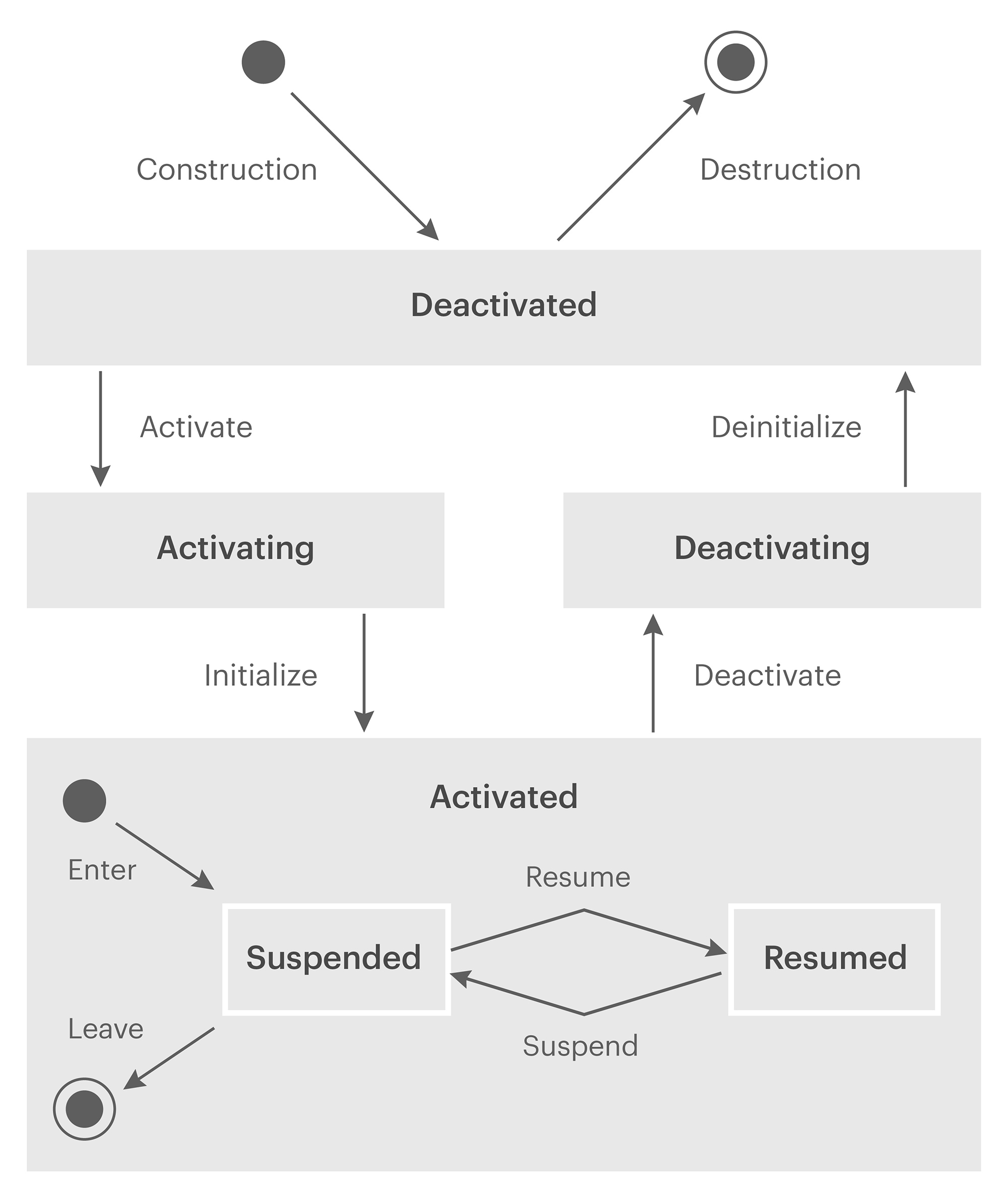
Each plugin in the WPEFramework goes through a sequence of states when it is being Activated or Deactivated. The Activation and Deactivation of a plugin can be triggered via the Controller Plugin API (see for details). The next diagram depicts the state diagram for Activation and Deactivation of a plugin.

Figure 2. Plugin state diagram

The states Deactivated, Activating, Activated and Deactivating are controlled by the Controller plugin. The sub-states, suspended and resumed are controlled by the plugin self. To change these states, the API on the plugin needs to be called. For the details, see the specific plugin that have suspend and resume behavior.

## Configuration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| callsign | [string] the instance name for the controller plugin. If no name is give, the default name will be “Controller”. |
| classname | [string] should not be available or is an empty string. |
| locator | [string] should not be available or is an empty string. |
| autostart | [bool] should not be available or true. The controller is **always** activated. |
| configuration | [JSON] JSON object specifying the exact configuration for this plugin. See the next paragraph for details. |

Configuration of the controller:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ttl | [uint8] Defines the TTL to be set on the broadcast package for WPEFramework discovery in the network. Default: 1. |
| resumes | [string] JSON Array of call signs that have an IStateControl interface (suspend/resume behavior) and need a resume at startup. By definition, if a plugin supports the IStateControl interface and the “autostart” is set to true, it means that the plugin gets activated at startup, but remains in the suspended state. If the call sign of such a plugin is in this list, during startup, it automatically gets resumed. . |
| subsystems | [string]JSON Array of Subsystems configured for this system. The WPE Framework will not automatically signal these as active when the WPE Framework is being started in case for example when this signal is already provided by an actual plugin which implements the subsystem functionality. |

## Application Programming Interface (API)

### WPEFramework status information

Using this method all information, related to a links, plugins, and running servers can be requested.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { { link\_info}, { plugin\_info }, {process\_info} } |

### Plugin Information

Using this method all information, related to a plugin can be requested.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Plugin/*<Callsign>* |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { plugin\_info } |

### All Plugins Information

Using this method information on all plugins can be requested

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Plugins |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { plugins\_info } |

### Link information

Using this method all information, related to a link can be requested.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Links |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { link\_info } |

### Environment Value

Using this method the value of an Environment variable can be requested

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Environment/*<Variable Name>* |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { variable value } |
| Failure: | HTTP/1.1 204 Environment variable does not exist |

### Configuration String

Using this method the configuration for a service can be requested

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Configuration/*<Service Name>* |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { configuration JSON string } |

### Process information

Using this method information on the process can be requested

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Process |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { process information } |

### Discovery Information

Using this method discovery information can be requested

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/Discovery |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { Discovery information } |

### Subsystems

Using this method the status of the Subsystems can be requested

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | GET /Service/Controller/SubSystems |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK  { Status of Subsystems } |

### Activate Plugin

Using this method, a plugin can be activated, move from Deactivated, via Activating to Activated state. If a plugin is in the Activated state, it can handle RESTfull requests coming in. Only if it gets activated, the plugin gets loaded into memory.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | PUT /Service/Controller/Activate/*<Callsign>* |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK |
| Failure | HTTP/1.1 304 Current state of the plugin does not allow an activate  HTTP/1.1 403 You cannot activate the controller  HTTP/1.1 500 Plugin could not be started, configuration is incorrect |

### Deactivate Plugin

Using this method, a plugin can be deactivated, move from Activated, via Deactivating to Deactivated. If a plugin is Deactivated, the actual plugin (so) is no longer loaded into the memory of the process. In a deactivated state, the plugin will not respond to any RESTfull requests.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | PUT /Service/Controller/Deactivate/*<Callsign>* |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK |
| Failure | HTTP/1.1 304 Current state of the plugin does not allow an activate  HTTP/1.1 403 You cannot activate the controller |

### Reload Configuration

Using this method to reload Configuration.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request: | PUT /Service/Controller/Configuration |
| Success: | HTTP/1.1 200 OK |
| Failure | HTTP/1.1 304 Configuration could not be reloaded, due to malformed syntax |

## Events

Events are autonomous events, triggered by the internals of the plugin. These events will be broadcasted as JSON to all the connected web socket connections that where opened to this plugin.

### Controller notification forwarder event

The Controller plugin is an aggregator of all the events triggered by the specific plugin. All notifications send by a specific plugin are forwarded over the Controller socket as an event. The event is capsulated in the following JSON:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Callsign | [string] callsign of the originator of this event. |
| data | [JSON] the JSON that was broadcasted as an event by the plugin, designated by the callsign. |

### State change event

Requesting a state change is A-synchronous. The actual state transition (2 of the outer states, see 4.1) are reported as a state change.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Callsign | [string] callsign of the plugin that changed state. |
| State | [enum] new state of the plugin:   * + Activated   + Deactivated |
| Reason | [enum] what caused the state change:   * + Requested   + Automatic   + Failure   + MemoryExceeded   + Startup   + Shutdown |

## JSON definitions

### Plugin information (plugin\_info)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| state | [enum] state of this plugin:   * + Deactivated   + Deactivation   + Activated   + Activation   + Suspended   + Resumed |
| processedrequest | [uint32] the number of RESTfull API requests that have been processed by this plugin. |
| processedobjects | [uint32] the number of objects that have been processed by this plugin. |
| observers | [uint32] the number of observers currently observing this plugin (web sockets) |
| module | [string] name of this plugin from a module perspective. Used in tracing. |
| hash | [hash] sha256 hash identifying the sources from which this plugin was build. |

### Link information(link\_info)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| state | [enum] state of this link:  WebServer, WebSocket, RawSocket, Closed, Suspended |
| Id | [uint32] a unique number identifying this connection. |
| remote | [string] the IP address (or FQDN) of the other side of the connection. |
| activity | [bool] indicates if there was activity during this timeslot. |