

JMeter integration with AppDynamics

Purpose

The business use case is to accelerate time to market by understanding quickly, with AppDynamics, the bottleneck of performance and the root cause of issues during load testing with JMeter.

The purpose of JMeter integration with AppDynamics is to:

1. Offer a correlated view between JMeter measurements (HTTP Request) and AppDynamics measurements (Business Transaction).
 - JMeter simulates end-user activity by launching thread group and by executing HTTP request. AppDynamics retrieves dynamically the name of JMeter HTTP request and stores the metrics in a AppDynamics Business Transaction (BT)
2. Create a custom time range in AppDynamics in relation with the duration of JMeter execution; and compare easily two JMeter executions or analyze specifically the result of one JMeter execution
3. Retrieve the JMeter Thread name within the AppDynamics snapshot (i.e. capture request details and give visibility to call graph which reflects the code-level view); and diagnose easily why JMeter Thread fails

Note: this integration has been done with JMeter 3.1 and AppDynamics 4.2. It should work with other versions.

1) Configure the correlated view between JMeter HTTP Request and AppDynamics BT

JMeter - Test Plan

The screenshot shows the JMeter Test Plan interface with the following structure:

- AppDynamics for Tomcat
 - View Results Tree
 - View Results in Table
 - HTTP Request Defaults
 - HTTP Cookie Manager
 - HTTP Header Manager
- setUp Thread Group
- My Thread Group A
 - Scenario1
 - Scen1 - 1 - Home Page
 - Scen1 - 2 - Hello
 - Scen1 - 3 - Repeat Task
 - Scen1 - 4 - Book
 - Scenario2
 - Scen2 - 1 - Session
 - Scen2 - 2 - Example
- tearDown Thread Group
- WorkBench

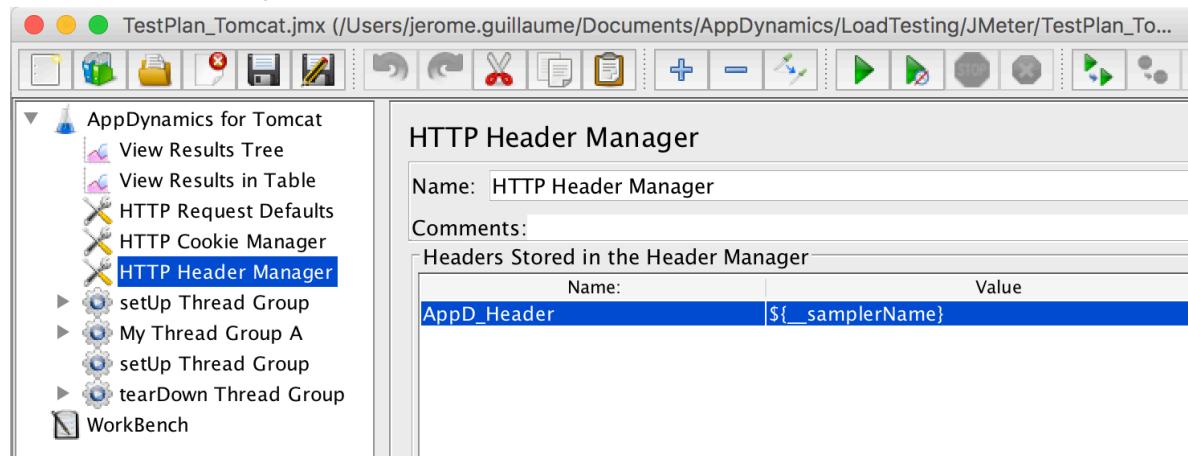
AppDynamics - Business Transactions

The screenshot shows the AppDynamics Business Transactions dashboard with the following data:

Name	Health	Response Time (ms)	Calls / min	Errors / min
JMeter.Scen1 - 1 - Home Page	Green	1	16	0
JMeter.Scen1 - 2 - Hello	Green	1	15	0
JMeter.Scen1 - 3 - Repeat Task	Green	1	15	0
JMeter.Scen1 - 4 - Book	Green	1	15	0
JMeter.Scen2 - 1 - Session	Green	1	15	0
JMeter.Scen2 - 2 - Example	Green	0	15	0

How to configure JMeter (with AppDynamics)

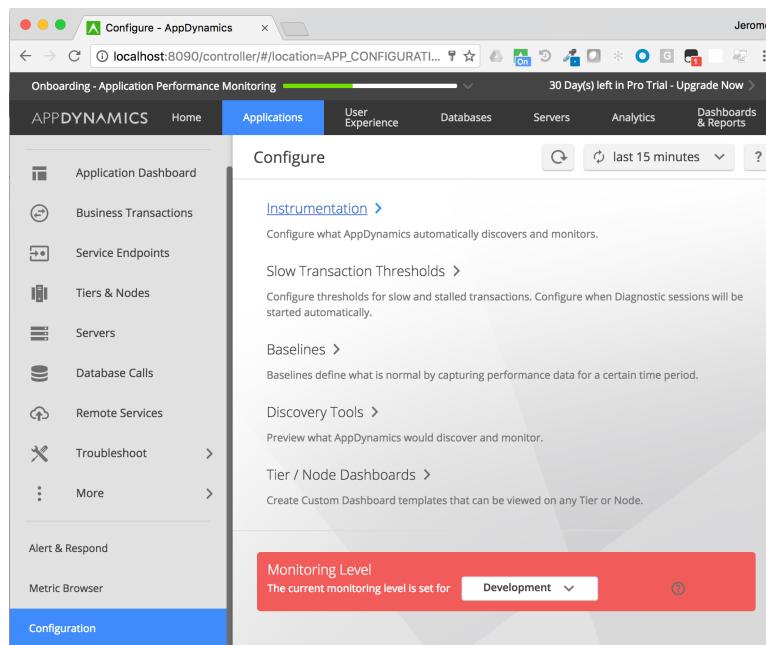
- Start JMeter and open the Test Plan
- Append a HTTP Header Manager (right click on Thread Group, select Add/Config Element/HTTP Header Manager) on Thread Group
- Add a header
 - Set name with `AppD_Header` and value with `_${__samplerName}` and click on Save
- See below the expected result



The screenshot shows the JMeter interface with the 'TestPlan_Tomcat.jmx' file open. On the left, the tree view shows a 'setUp Thread Group', 'My Thread Group A', and 'tearDown Thread Group' under the main 'AppDynamics for Tomcat' node. The 'HTTP Header Manager' node is selected. On the right, the 'HTTP Header Manager' configuration dialog is displayed, showing a table with one entry: 'Name: AppD_Header' and 'Value: \${__samplerName}'.

How to configure AppDynamics (with JMeter)

- Connect to AppDynamics Controller
- Select the application
- Click on Configuration
- Click on Instrumentation

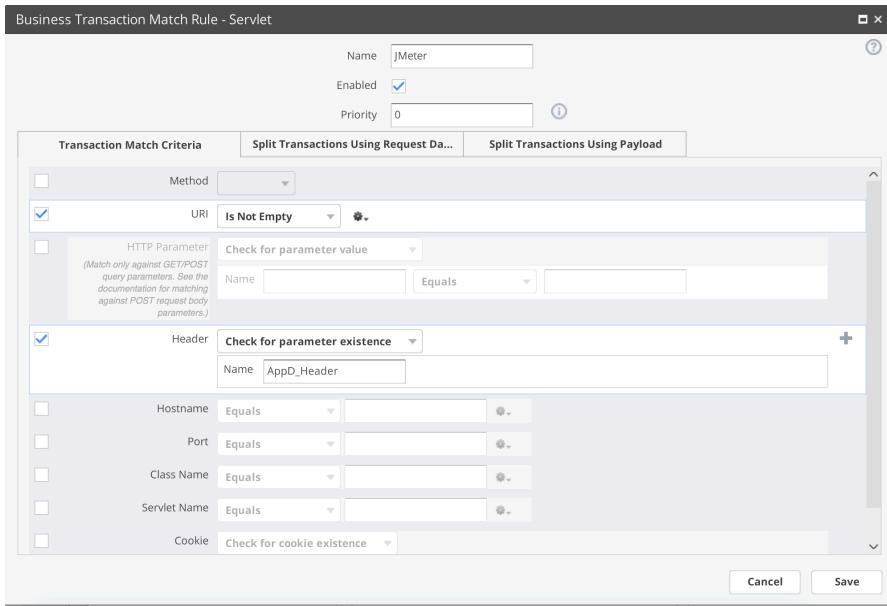


The screenshot shows the AppDynamics configuration interface. The left sidebar is titled 'Configuration' and includes 'Application Dashboard', 'Business Transactions', 'Service Endpoints', 'Tiers & Nodes', 'Servers', 'Database Calls', 'Remote Services', 'Troubleshoot', and 'More'. The 'Instrumentation' section is currently selected. It contains links for 'Slow Transaction Thresholds', 'Baselines', 'Discovery Tools', and 'Tier / Node Dashboards'. At the bottom, there is a 'Monitoring Level' dropdown set to 'Development'.

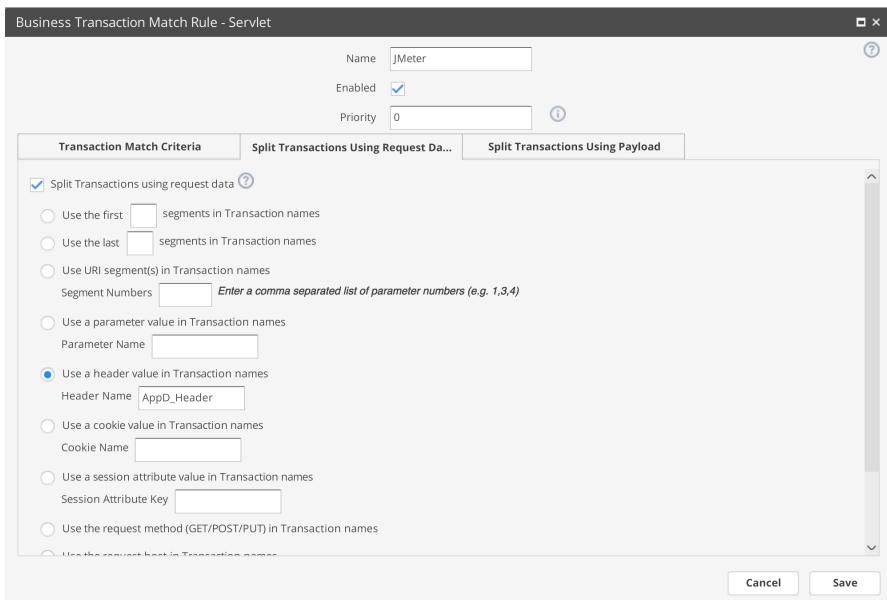
- In "Custom Match Rules" section, click on the + button

- Select servlet and click on Next

- Set following values:
 - Name = JMeter
 - URI = is Not Empty
 - Header = Check for parameter existence, name = AppD_Header



- Click on tab "Split Transactions Using Request Data" and set the following values:
 - Check "Split Transactions Using request Data"
 - Select "Use a header value" in Transaction names and set value = AppD_Header

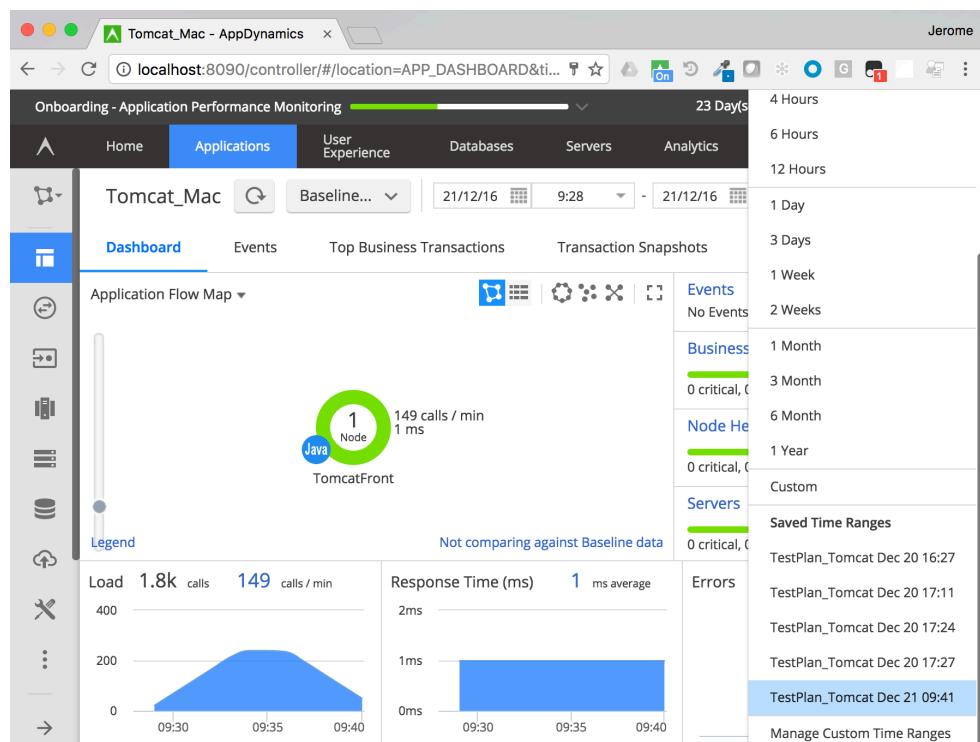


- Click on Save

2) Create a custom time range in AppDynamics in relation with duration of JMeter execution

See below examples of custom time range created by JMeter execution. The name is based on JMeter Test plan name and date & hour of end of JMeter execution.

- TestPlan_Tomcat Dec 20 16:27
- TestPlan_Tomcat Dec 20 17:11
- TestPlan_Tomcat Dec 20 17:24
- TestPlan_Tomcat Dec 20 17:27
- TestPlan_Tomcat Dec 21 09:41
- ...



How to configure JMeter (with AppDynamics)

- Prerequisite: **have a test plan name with no space**, the name will be retrieved dynamically and it will be used to setup the name of custom range. Prefer a name like `TestPlan_Tomcat.jmx` instead of `TestPlan Tomcat.jmx`
- Start JMeter and open the Test Plan
- Add a setup Thread Group
- Add a JSR223 Sampler **below** setup Thread Group and call it `AppDynamics - Start time - JSR223 Sampler`
- Configure `AppDynamics - Start time - JSR223 Sampler` with a JavaScript language and append the following code

```
log.info("setUp Thread Group - AppDynamics");
```

```

// Calculate epoch time in seconds of starting test
var startTest = Math.floor( Date.now() - 1 * 60 * 1000);

// Set the epoch time in a property
props.setProperty("AppD_Start_Time", startTest);

```

The result is as follows:

The screenshot shows the Apache JMeter interface with the file 'TestPlan_Tomcat.jmx' open. The left sidebar shows a tree structure with 'AppDynamics for Tomcat' expanded, containing 'View Results Tree', 'View Results in Table', 'HTTP Request Defaults', 'HTTP Cookie Manager', 'HTTP Header Manager', 'setUp Thread Group', 'AppDynamics - Start time - JSR223 Sampler' (which is selected and highlighted in blue), 'My Thread Group A', and 'WorkBench'. The right panel is titled 'JSR223 Sampler' and contains the following configuration:

- Name:** AppDynamics - Start time - JSR223 Sampler
- Comments:** (empty)
- Language:** javascript (ECMAScript ECMA - 262 Edition 5.1 / Oracle Nashorn 1.8.0_74)
- Parameters to be passed to script (=> String Parameters and String []args)** (empty)
- Parameters:** (empty)
- Script file (overrides script)** (empty)
- File Name:** (empty)
- Script compilation caching** (empty)
- Cache compiled script if available:**
- Script (variables: ctx vars props SampleResult sampler log Label Filename Parameters args[] OUT)** (empty)

The 'Script' text area contains the following code:

```

1 log.info("setUp Thread Group - AppDynamics");
2
3 // Calculate epoch time in seconds of starting test
4 var startTest = Math.floor( Date.now() - 1 * 60 * 1000);
5
6 // Set the epoch time in a property
7 props.setProperty("AppD_Start_Time", startTest);
8

```

- Add a tearDown Thread Group
- Add a JSR223 Sampler **below** tearDown Thread Group and call it AppDynamics - End time - JSR223 Sampler
- Configure AppDynamics - End time - JSR223 Sampler with a JavaScript language and append the following code

```

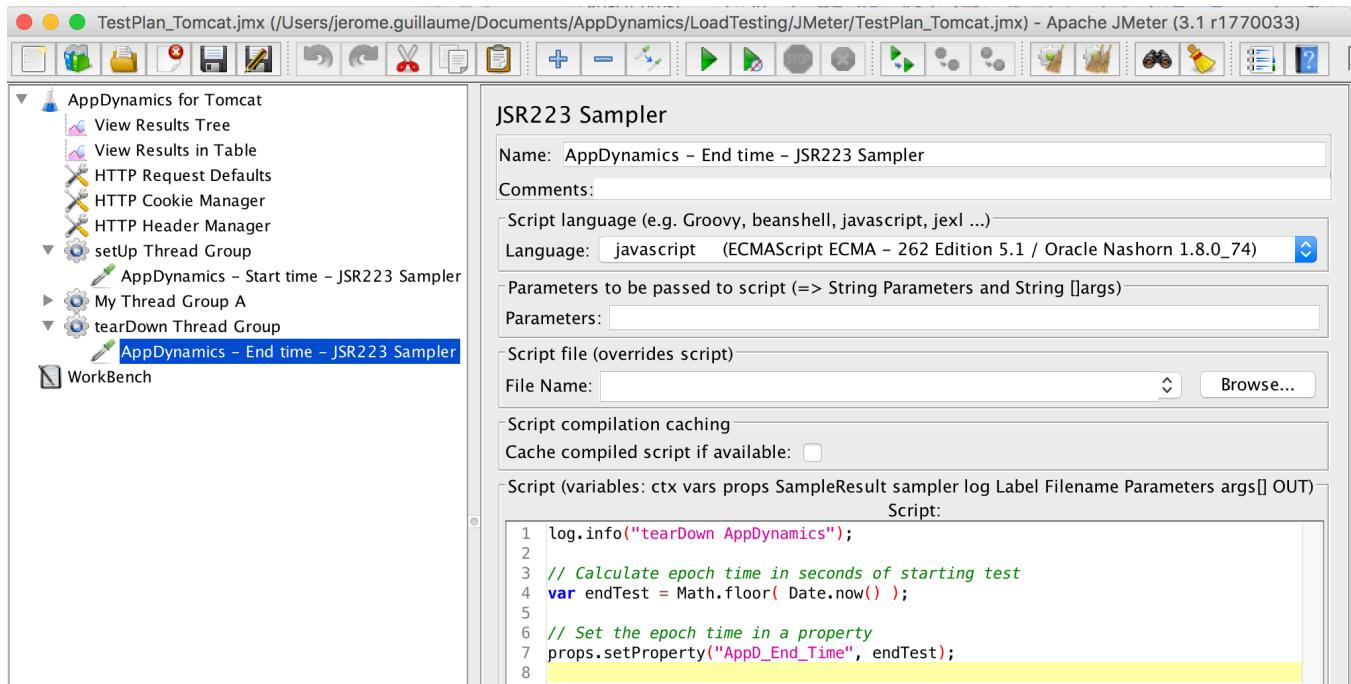
log.info("tearDown AppDynamics");

// Calculate epoch time in seconds of starting test
var endTest = Math.floor( Date.now() );

// Set the epoch time in a property
props.setProperty("AppD_End_Time", endTest);

```

The result is as follows:



- Add a JSR223 Sampler below tearDown Thread Group and call it AppDynamics - Create time range - JSR223 Sampler
- Configure AppDynamics - End time - JSR223 Sampler with a Java language (not JavaScript); set **Parameters value to \${ TestPlanName }**
- Append the following code:
 - The **values** in regards of AppDynamics Controller should be configured correctly: host, port, protocol and base64 authentication string.
 - Go to <https://www.base64encode.org/> to encode the authentication string in base64 format ; the format of authentication string is `username@customer1:password`

```

import java.io.*;
import java.net.*;
import java.nio.charset.StandardCharsets;
import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;
import java.util.Date;

String appdController      = "localhost";
String appdPort            = "8090";
String appdProtocol        = "http";
// Go to https://www.base64encode.org/ to encode the authentication string =>
username@customer1:password
String appdBase64Authent   = "YWRtaW5AY3VzdG9tZXIxOkFwcER5bmFtaWNz";

String appdEndTime = props.get("AppD_End_Time");
//System.out.println("AppDynamics - AppD_End_Time=" + appdEndTime);

String appdStartTime = props.get("AppD_Start_Time");
//System.out.println("AppDynamics - AppD_Start_Time=" + appdStartTime);

// Connect to AppDynamics Controller
StringBuilder result = new StringBuilder();
URL url = new URL(appdProtocol + "://" + appdController + ":" + appdPort + "/controller/auth?action=login");
HttpURLConnection conn = (HttpURLConnection) url.openConnection();
conn.setRequestProperty("Authorization", "Basic " + appdBase64Authent);
conn.setRequestMethod("GET");

```

```

BufferedReader brLogin = new BufferedReader(new InputStreamReader(conn.getInputStream()));

// If we are correctly connected to AppDynamics Controller
if (conn.getResponseCode() == 200)
{
    String headerName = null;
    String appdCookie = "";

    for (int i=1; (headerName = conn.getHeaderFieldKey(i))!=null; i++) {
        if (headerName.equals("Set-Cookie"))
        {
            appdCookie += conn.getHeaderField(i) + " ;";
        }
    }
}

//System.out.println("appdCookie=" + appdCookie);

URL urlCustomRange = new URL(appdProcol + "://" + appdController + ":" + appdPort + "/controller/restui/user/createCustomRange");

HttpURLConnection connCustomRange = (HttpURLConnection) urlCustomRange.openConnection();
connCustomRange.setRequestMethod("POST");
connCustomRange.setDoOutput(true);
connCustomRange.setRequestProperty("Authorization", "Basic " + appdBase64Authent);
connCustomRange.setRequestProperty("Content-Type", "application/json");
connCustomRange.setRequestProperty("charset", "utf-8");
connCustomRange.setRequestProperty("Accept-Encoding", "gzip, deflate");
connCustomRange.setRequestProperty("Accept", "application/json, text/plain");
connCustomRange.setRequestProperty("Cookie", appdCookie);

// If the Test Plan name has been setup correctly in Parameters of this script
if (args.length > 0)
{
    String appdTestPlan = args[0];
    // Remove the extenson .jmx from file name
    if (appdTestPlan.indexOf(".jmx") != -1)
    {
        appdTestPlan = appdTestPlan.substring(0, appdTestPlan.indexOf(".jmx"));
    }
    Date date = new Date();
    SimpleDateFormat sdf = new SimpleDateFormat("MMM dd HH:mm");
    appdTestPlan += " " + sdf.format(date);

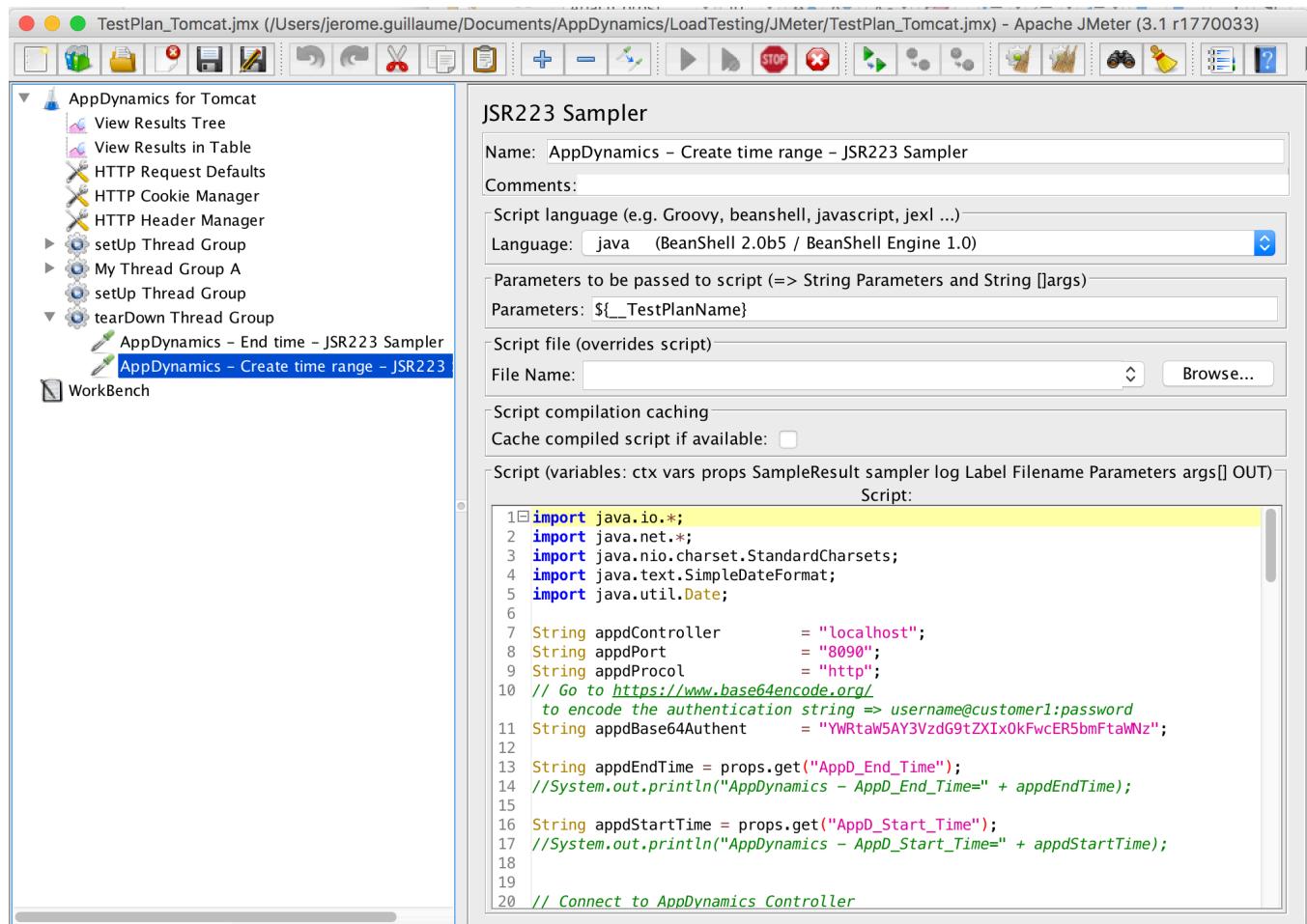
    String postJsonData = "{\"name\":\"" + appdTestPlan + "\",\"description\":\"JMeter
execution\",\"shared\":true,\"timeRange\":{\"type\":\"BETWEEN_TIMES\",\"durationInMinutes\":0,\"startTime\":\"" + appdStartTime +
"\",\"endTime\":\"" + appdEndTime + "\"}}";

    DataOutputStream wr = new DataOutputStream(connCustomRange.getOutputStream());
    wr.writeBytes(postJsonData);
    wr.flush();
    wr.close();
    if (connCustomRange.getResponseCode() != 200)
    {
        System.out.println("AppDynamics - Unable to create time range" + urlCustomRange + " HTTP Code=" +
connCustomRange.getResponseCode());
    }
}
// Else the Test Plan name has been not setup correctly in Parameters of this script
else
{
    System.out.println("AppDynamics - the test plan name has not been setup in parameters");
}
}
else
{
    System.out.println("AppDynamics - Unable to connect to Controller" + url + " HTTP Code=" + conn.getResponseCode());
}

brLogin.close();

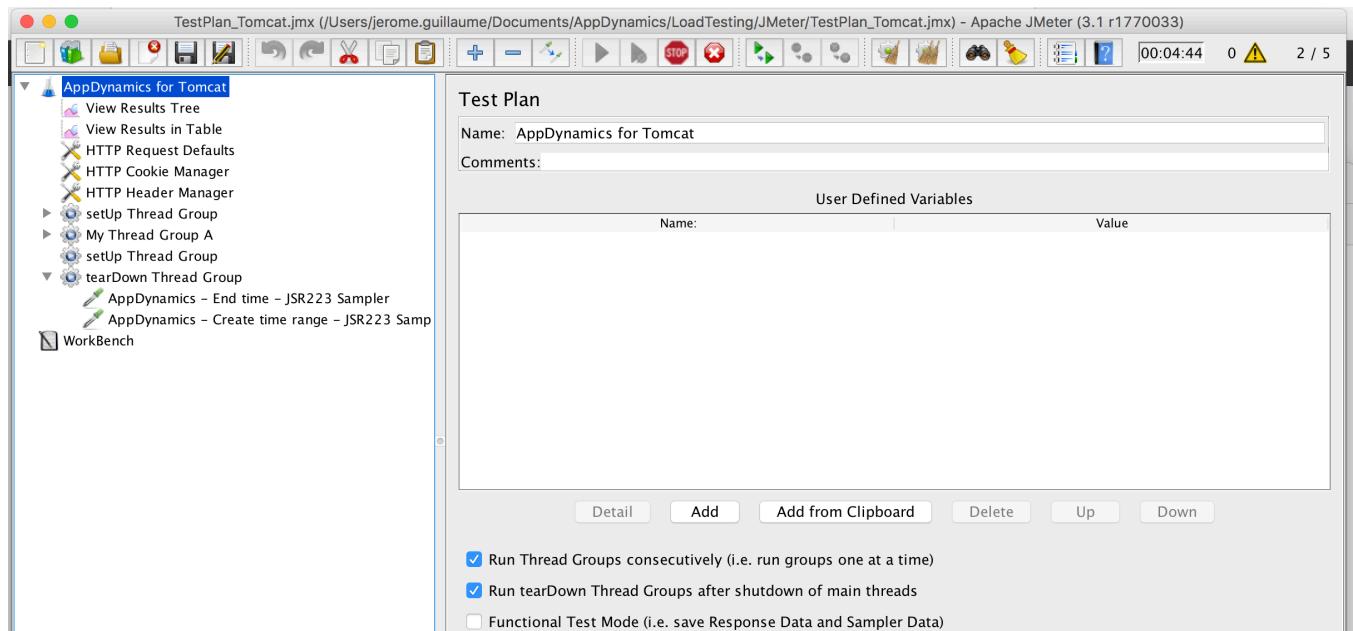
```

The result is as follows:



- Configure the Test plan by checking run tearDown Thread Groups after shutdown of main threads. The tearDown threads won't be run if the test is forcibly stopped and it will avoid useless creation of custom time range in AppDynamics.

The result is as follows:



How to configure AppDynamics (with JMeter)

Make a browser refresh of AppDynamics Controller page to see the new Custom time range

3) Retrieve the JMeter Thread name within the AppDynamics snapshot

Here, the thread name My Thread Group A 1-1 has failed on request Scen1 - 4 - Book : AppDynamics (with the corresponding snapshot) explains why there is a failure.

View Results in Table

Name: View Results in Table

Comments:

Write results to file / Read from file

Filename: Log/Display Only: Errors Successes

Sample	Start Time	Thread Name	Label	Sample Time	Status	Bytes	Sent Bytes
1	11:37:15.378	setUp Thread Group 1-1	AppDynamics - Start time - JSR22...	10	✓	13	0
2	11:37:20.518	My Thread Group A 1-1	Scen1 - 1 - Home Page	5	✓	2457	501
3	11:37:25.525	My Thread Group A 1-1	Scen1 - 2 - Hello	5	✓	1400	739
4	11:37:30.536	My Thread Group A 1-1	Scen1 - 3 - Repeat Task	5	✓	1984	749
5	11:37:35.545	My Thread Group A 1-1	Scen1 - 4 - Book	5	WARN	1101	754
6	11:37:40.551	My Thread Group A 1-1	Scen2 - 1 - Session	4	✓	2153	727
7	11:37:45.561	My Thread Group A 1-1	Scen2 - 2 - Example	4	✓	1738	702
8	11:37:45.566	tearDown Thread Group ...	AppDynamics - End time - JSR22...	11	✓	13	0
9	11:37:45.577	tearDown Thread Group ...	AppDynamics - Create time range...	25	✓	0	0

To retrieve all AppDynamics snapshots in regards of a JMeter Tread name:

- Open Transaction Snapshots page
 - Set a criteria with Collector Type=HTTP Parameter, Name=Header-AppD_ThreadName and Value=My Thread Group A 1-1

Tomcat_Mac - AppDynamics

Onboarding - Application Performance Monitoring

23 Day(s) left in Pro Trial - Upgrade Now >

Home Applications User Experience Databases Servers Analytics Dashboards & Reports Alert & Respond

Tomcat_Mac

21/12/16 11:36 - 21/12/16 11:37

Dashboard Events Top Business Transactions Transaction Snapshots Transaction Score

All Snapshots Slow and Error Transactions Diagnostic Sessions Periodic Collection

Details Filters Analyze Actions Configure

+ Add Criteria Collector Type: HTTP Parameter | Name: Header-AppD_ThreadName, Val...

	Time ↑	Collector Type	Name	Value	Thread Group
✓	21/12/16 11:37:20	HTTP Parameter	Header-AppD_Th...	TomcatFront	Tomca...
✓	21/12/16 11:37:25	HTTP Parameter	Header-AppD_Th...	TomcatFront	Tomca...
✓	21/12/16 11:37:30	HTTP Parameter	Header-AppD_Th...	TomcatFront	Tomca...
✗	21/12/16 11:37:35	HTTP Parameter	Header-AppD_Th...	TomcatFront	Tomca...
✓	21/12/16 11:37:40	HTTP Parameter	Header-AppD_Th...	TomcatFront	Tomca...
✓	21/12/16 11:37:45	HTTP Parameter	Header-AppD_Th...	TomcatFront	Tomca...

- Open the snapshot of Business Transaction JMeter_Scen1 - 4 - Book, which has the **Error** status.



- Analyze the flow map and access to call-graph or exception detail

Transaction: f94c93f3-a1b8-4ef0-8712-f1b175d96e88

Overview Slow Calls and Errors Waterfall View Segment List Actions ?

Summary

User Experience: Error

Execution Time 1 ms

Timestamp 21/12/16 11:37:35

Business Transaction JMeter.Scen1 - 4 - Book

More Details >

Potential Issues

! at RequestHeaderExample.doGet(RequestHeaderExample.java:59)
at RequestHeaderExample.doPost(RequestHeaderExample.java:109)
at javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet.service(HttpServlet.java:648)
at javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet.service(HttpServlet.java:729)
at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:292)
at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:207)
at org.apache.tomcat.websocket.server.WsFilter.doFilter(WsFilter.java:52)
at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:240)
at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:207)
at org.apache.catalina.filters.SetCharacterEncodingFilter.doFilter(SetCharacterEncodingFilter.java:108)
at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:240)
at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:207)
at org.apache.catalina.core.StandardWrapperValve.invoke(StandardWrapperValve.java:212)
at org.apache.catalina.core.StandardContextValve.invoke(StandardContextValve.java:106)

! Error Drill Down into Call Graph

How to configure JMeter (with AppDynamics)

- Start JMeter and open the Test Plan
- Open the HTTP Header Manager
- Add a header
 - Set name with `AppD_ThreadName` and value with
 `${__BeanShell(ctx.getThread().getThreadName())}` and click on Save
- See below the expected result

TestPlan_Tomcat.jmx (/Users/jerome.guillaume/Documents/AppDynamics/LoadTesting/JMeter/TestPlan_Tomcat.jmx)

AppDynamics for Tomcat

- View Results Tree
- HTTP Request Defaults
- HTTP Cookie Manager
- HTTP Header Manager
- setUp Thread Group
- My Thread Group A
- setUp Thread Group
- tearDown Thread Group
- WorkBench

HTTP Header Manager

Name: HTTP Header Manager

Comments:

Headers Stored in the Header Manager

Name:	Value
AppD_Header	<code> \${__samplerName}</code>
AppD_ThreadName	<code> \${__BeanShell(ctx.getThread().getThreadName())}</code>

How to configure AppDynamics (with JMeter)

- Connect to AppDynamics Controller
- Select the Application
- Click on Configuration
- Click on Instrumentation
- Click on >> and Data Collectors

The screenshot shows the AppDynamics web interface. The navigation bar includes 'Jerome' (user), 'Onboarding - Application Performance Monitoring' (status), and a trial upgrade notice. The main menu has tabs for 'Applications', 'User Experience', 'Databases', 'Servers', 'Analytics', 'Dashboards & Reports', and 'Alert & Response'. The 'Configuration' tab is highlighted. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Business Transactions', 'Service Endpoints', 'Tiers & Nodes', 'Servers', 'Database Calls', 'Remote Services', 'Troubleshoot', 'More', 'Alert & Respond', and 'Metric Browser'. The 'Configuration' section is expanded. The main content area is titled 'Instrumentation' and 'Transaction Detection'. It shows a dropdown for 'Select Application or Tier' with 'Tomcat_Mac' and 'TomcatFront' listed. A context menu is open over the 'Data Collectors' option in the dropdown, listing: Error Detection, Service Endpoints, Data Collectors (selected), Call Graph Settings, JMX, Memory Monitoring, and Asynchronous Transaction. A message at the bottom says 'No Application or Tier is selected'.

- Select Default HTTP Request Data Collectors and click on Edit

The screenshot shows the 'HTTP Request Data Collectors' configuration page. It displays a table with a single row for 'Default HTTP Request Data Collector'. The 'Name' column shows the row, and the 'Apply to New Transactions' column has a checked checkbox with a green checkmark. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Add', 'Edit', 'Delete', and 'Configure Transactions using this Data Collector'.

- Set a Header with the value AppD_ThreadId
- Click on Save

HTTP Request Data Collector - Default HTTP Request Data Collector

Specify the names of the parameter/cookie values to be collected. The value will be displayed in the Transaction Snapshot against the display name chosen here.

Name Apply to new Business Transactions

Enable Data Collector for Transaction Snapshots Transaction Analytics

HTTP Parameters

Display Name	HTTP Parameter Name

HTTP Request Attributes

URL
 Session ID
 User Principal

Get User Principal by `httpServletRequest.getUserPrincipal().toString()`.
 Get User Principal by evaluating a custom expression on the `HttpServletRequest`:

Enter a custom expression to be applied on the `HttpServletRequest` object. 

Cookies

Cookie Name

Session Keys

Enter a comma separated list of session keys

Headers

AppD_ThreadName

Enter a comma separated list of header names

Buttons