Agent Instance

At a general level, agents are responsible for carrying out tasks for remote users. They can connect over the network to any other type of instance. At minimum, agents must be associated with one server.

Instance Configuration

```
{
  "network" : {
    "servers" : String(),
    "timeout" : Number(), # The server connection timeout in milliseconds
    "strict_certs" : Boolean(), # The agent will refuse to connect to a server
that presents an invalid certificate
    "polling_interval" : Number(), # The connection poll interval in
milliseconds
  }
}
```

Connection Modes

There are two connection modes that have an impact on performance and latency.

Continuous

In continuous mode, the agent maintains its primary connection at all times. If the connection is lost, the agent will periodically attempt to reestablish the connection using the same parameters it used to establish the initial connection.

The connection mode can be changed on-the-fly by a user or scheduled to change automatically according to the time and day.

Polling

In polling mode, the agent intentionally closes the primary connection unless there exists an active stream. On a configurable schedule, the agent reconnects to a server, flushes any cached data, and checks for any new work items. After executing all available work items, the primary connection is closed again.

The agent may attempt a spontaneous connection outside of the regular schedule if an internal agent process triggers it.

Plugins

Agents can optionally support plugins to enhance functionality beyond the standard feature set. Upon initial connection, the agent provides a list of plugin versions that it has loaded. The server responds with a list of plugin archives that the agent should install.

Standard Feature Set

The standard feature set is the minimum amount of functionality an agent implementation must provide.

AgentMetadata

Upgrades

There are two ways to upgrade the agent:

- automatically by sending the update command to the server,
- manually by generating a new installer and executing it on the agent

Manual Upgrade

A manual upgrade is triggered when an installer is executed on the agent and the relevant base directory is already populated with an installation. If the agent is not running, the installer will overwrite the base directory and install itself. Any data that the agent has cached but not sent to the server will be lost!

Advantages

 This is the only way to upgrade if the agent can no longer connect to the server

Disadvantages

- Manual intervention required
- · Cached data may be lost

Automated Upgrade

If the agent is connected to a server, it can be upgraded remotely. This will cause the server to fetch the agent configuration, generate a new installer, and transfer it to the agent. The agent then executes the new installer and terminates.

Container Resident

Boot Agent

Boot agents are a special subset of agent instances that run in a custom UEFI boot environment rather than on a host's OS.

Configuration

The boot agent accepts the following specific configuration options.

Property Default Description

s7s.agent.boot.network.interface A specific network interface to use

Whether the boot agent will attempt to obtain

s7s.agent.boot.network.dhcp true a DHCP address
s7s.agent.boot.network.ip A static IPv4 that will be used instead of DHCP

s7s.agent.boot.network.netmask The network mask for the static IPv4 address

Boot Environment

The boot agent environment occupies an entire partition on the host and contains:

- A bootloader
- A Linux kernel
- efibootmgr executables
- Boot agent executables
- All library dependencies

Startup

The boot environment does not provide a shell and merely executes the boot agent on startup.

The boot agent immediately spawns an infinite connection loop for the configured server.

Installation

Agent instances are capable of installing a boot agent on their host machine if installed with sufficient permissions.

downloads a boot agent image to the partition and writes a new configuration according to parameters of the host OS or overrides provided by a client.

Once the partition is written, the agent adds it to the end of the existing EFI boot order.

Host Media

In order to install the boot agent to the existing disk, a new partition of at least 250 MiB must first be created manually. The agent installs an additional bootloader to the existing ESP.

Removable Media

The agent can erase an existing disk and create a new ESP and boot agent partition.

Uninstallation

To uninstall, an agent must remove the boot agent's entry in the EFI boot order and overwrite all data in the boot agent partition.

Reboot into boot agent

Agents can launch the boot agent indirectly by setting the BootNext variable to the index of the boot agent EFI entry and rebooting the machine.

Client/Server Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations	Description
RQ_ServerBanner	client	server	Request the server's banner
RS_ServerBanner	server	client	Response containing the server's banner
RQ_Logout	client	server	Request that the current login session be terminated
RS_Logout	server	client	
RQ_Login	client	server	Request a new login session

Message Formats

RS ServerBanner

Field	Type	Requirements	Description
maintenance	e bool		Indicates that only superusers will be allowed to login
version	string 5	- 32 characters	The server's version string
message	string 0	- 128 characters	The banner text message
image	bytes 0	- 1 MiB PNG forma	t The banner image

Description

RS_Logout

Field Description

LOGOUT_OK Indicates the logout attempt was successful

RQ_Login

Field	Туре	Requirements	Description
username	string	5 - 32 characters The	e username
password	string	5 - 32 characters An	unsalted SHA512 hash of the password
token	int32	АТ	ΓΟΤΡ token

RS_Login

11010	Description
LOGIN_OK	Indicates the login attempt succeeded
LOGIN_INVALID_USERNAME	Indicates the supplied username

RQ_CreateUser

Field

Field Type Requirements Description

username string password string email string phone string

RS_CreateUser

Field Description

CREATE_USER_OK

CREATE USER ACCESS DENIED

CREATE_USER_INVALID_USERNAME

CREATE_USER_INVALID_PASSWORD

CREATE_USER_INVALID_EMAIL

CREATE USER INVALID PHONE

RQ_DeleteUser

Field Type Requirements Description

username string

RS_DeleteUser

Field Description

DELETE_USER_OK

DELETE_USER_ACCESS_DENIED

RQ_DeleteGroup

Field Type Requirements Description

name string

RS DeleteGroup

Field Description

DELETE_GROUP_OK

DELETE GROUP ACCESS DENIED

RQ_DeleteListener

Field Type Requirements Description

name string

RS_DeleteListener

Field Description

DELETE_LISTENER_OK

DELETE_LISTENER_ACCESS_DENIED

RQ_BuildAgent

Request to build an agent for the given group.

Field Type Description

group string The group ID

config core.instance.AgentConfig The agent configuration

generator_options GeneratorOptions Options for the generator component Options for the packager component deployment_options DeploymentOptions Options for the deployment component

RS_BuildAgent

null

Field Description

BUILD_AGENT_OK 0
BUILD AGENT FAILED 1

RQ_CreateGroup

null

Field Type Description

name string The group's name

RS_CreateGroup

null

Field Description

CREATE_GROUP_OK 0
CREATE GROUP FAILED ACCESS DENIED 1

RQ_DeleteGroup

null

Field Type Description

RS DeleteGroup

null

Field Description

DELETE_GROUP_OK 0
DELETE_GROUP_FAILED_ACCESS_DENIED 1

RQ UpdateGroup

null

Field Type Description

RS_UpdateGroup

null

Field Description

UPDATE_GROUP_FAILED_ACCESS_DENIED 1

RQ_CreateListener

null

Field Type Description

address string The listening address port int32 The listening port

RS_CreateListener

null

Field Description
CREATE_LISTENER_OK 0
CREATE_LISTENER_ACCESS_DENIED 1
CREATE_LISTENER_INVALID_PORT 2

RQ_DeleteListener

null

Field Type Description

RS_DeleteListener

null

Field Description
DELETE_LISTENER_OK 0

DELETE_LISTENER_ACCESS_DENIED 1

RQ UpdateListener

null

Field Type Description

RS_UpdateListener

null

Field Description

UPDATE_LISTENER_OK 0
UPDATE_LISTENER_ACCESS_DENIED 1

RQ_Login

Request a login from the server

Field Type Description

username string The login username password string The password

totp int32 Time-based One-Time Password token

RS_Login

null

Field	Description
LOGIN_OK	0
LOGIN_FAILED	1
LOGIN_FAILED_EXPIRED_USER	2
LOGIN_INVALID_USERNAME	3
LOGIN_INVALID_PASSWORD	4
LOGIN INVALID TOKEN	5

RQ_Logout

Request that the current user be logged out

Field Type Description

RS_Logout

null

Field Description

LOGOUT_OK 0

RQ_ServerBanner

Request for the server's banner

Field Type Description

RS_ServerBanner

Response bearing the server's banner

Field	Type	Description
maintenance	bool	Maintenance mode indicates that only superusers will be allowed to login
version	string	The 3-field version of the server
banner	string	A string to display on the login screen
banner_image	bytes	An image to display on the login screen

RQ_CreateUser

null

Field	Type	Description
rieiu	IVDE	Pescilibrioli

username string The user's immutable username

RS_CreateUser

null

Field Description

CREATE_USER_OK 0

CREATE_USER_ACCESS_DENIED 1

RQ DeleteUser

null

Field Type Description

RS DeleteUser

null

Field DescriptionDELETE_USER_OK 0
DELETE_USER_ACCESS_DENIED 1

RQ_UpdateUser

null

Field Type Description

RS_UpdateUser

null

Field	Descriptio
UPDATE_USER_OK	0
UPDATE_USER_ACCESS_DENIED	1

Deployer

Deployer instances are responsible for installing, updating, or removing agent and probe instances.

If an existing agent or probe was originally installed by a package manager, it cannot be updated or removed by a deployer.

Instance Configuration

```
"agent_type"
                : String(), # The type of agent to install
 "callback"
   "address" : String(), # The callback address
   "identifier" : String(), # The callback identifier
 },
 "install dir" : String(), # The installation's base directory
 "autorecover" : String(), # Whether the agent can disregard elements of the
config in case of failure
              : Boolean(), # Whether the agent should be started on boot
 "autostart"
 "kilo"
   "modules" : [
     {
       "group"
                     : String(), # The artifact's maven group identifier
       "artifact"
                     : String(), # The artifact's identifier
       "filename"
                     : String(), # The artifact's filename
       "version"
                     : String(), # The artifact's version string
       "hash"
                     : String(), # The artifact's SHA256 hash
     }
   ]
 }
```

Callbacks Connections

If the install/update operation fails, and callbacks are configured, the deployer will establish an encrypted "callback" connection with a server and transfer details on the error.

Instance

The following sections apply to all Sandpolis instances.

Instance Types

Every instance belongs to one of five mutually exclusive *instance types*. There is often more than one implementation in each category.

Instan Type	Description
server	A headless application that coordinates interactions among instances in the network
agent	A headless application that runs continuously on hosts in the Sandpolis network
probe	A headless application that provides strictly read-only data to servers
client	A UI application used for managing agents and probes
deployer	A headless application that installs or updates agents and probes

Instance Flavors (subtypes)

Each instance type may have multiple implementations (or flavors) to support a variety of use cases. Flavors are identified by a codename and also have a user-friendly "official" name.

Type	Flavor codename	e Implementation languages	Official name
server	vanilla	Java	Server
client	lifegem	Java, Kotlin	Desktop Client
client	ascetic	Java	Terminal Client
client	lockstone	Swift	iOS Client
client	brightstone	JavaScript	Web Client
agent	kilo	Java	Agent
agent	micro	Rust	Native Agent
agent	boot	Rust	Boot Agent
probe	nano	C++	Probe
deployer	rust	Rust	Agent deployer (Rust)
deployer	java	Java	Agent deployer (Java)

Instance Configuration

```
{
   "runtime" : {
      "residency": Boolean(default=False), # Whether the instance is running in a container
   }
}
```

Build Metadata

```
{
  "build_platform" : String(), # The build platform
  "build_timestamp" : Number(), # The build timestamp
  "instance_version" : String(), # The instance's version
  "gradle_version" : String(), # The Gradle version
  "java_version" : String(), # The Java version
  "kotlin_version" : String(), # The kotlin version is applicable
  "rust_version" : String(), # The rust version if applicable
  "dependencies" : [
    String(), # The artifact coordinates in G:A:V format
  ]
}
```

Data Model

There are three layers in the Sandpolis data model. Of which, client implementations are required to support at least two (ST and OID layers).

The ST Layer

The State Tree layer is the lowest layer and is concerned with storage and persistence. Every instance maintains a global tree called the "ST Tree". The tree is seldomly manipulated directly. Instead, higher layers make changes to the ST Tree on behalf of consumers.

The ST tree is composed of two components: Attributes and Documents.

Attributes

Attributes contain data of a specific type and meaning. All data in the ST tree is stored in attributes.

Retention

The history of an attribute can optionally be recorded with *tracked* attributes.

AttributeChangedEvent

Documents

Documents are a set of attributes and sub-documents.

DocumentAddedEvent

Indicates that a document has been added to the tree. No futher events will be fired for all children of the added document as a direct result of the addition.

DocumentRemovedEvent

Indicates that a document has been removed from the tree.

Entanglement

A concept that exists at the ST layer is **entanglement**: ST trees that reside on remote instances can synchronize their state. The relation can be bidirectional or unidirectional and last as long as necessary. All changes to the source of an entanglement pair will be propagated to the destination in real-time.

Snapshots and Merging

The VST Layer

The OID Layer

Every node in a ST Tree is uniquely identified by an OID.

Path

The OID path is a sequence of / separated strings that describe how to reach the corresponding node from the root node.

Elements of the path are called *components* which may consist of any number of alphanumeric characters and underscores. If a component equals the wildcard character (*), then the OID corresponds to all possible values of that component and is known as a *generic* OID. If an OID is not generic, then it's *concrete*.

Namespace

OIDs have a namespace string that identifies the module that provides the OID. This allows modules to define OIDs without the possibility of collisions. The namespace string must equal the name of the module that defines an OID.

Namespace notation is to prefix the namespace string and a :, similar to the protocol section of a URI:

com.sandpolis.plugin.example:/profile/*/example

Temporal Selector

In order to select historic values of an attribute, concrete OIDs may include a timestamp range selector or an index selector.

Timestamp Selector

To select all values within an arbitrary timestamp range, specify the inclusive start and end epoch timestamps separated by a . . in parenthesis. If either timestamp is omitted, then the range is extended to the most extreme value possible.

//profile/ba4412ea-1ec6-4e76-be78-3849d2196b52/example(1628216870..1628216880)

Index Selector

To select an arbitrary amount of values, specify inclusive start and end indicies separated by a . . in square brackets. If either index is omitted, then the range is extended to the most extreme value possible. Index 0 is the oldest value.

/profile/ba4412ea-1ec6-4e76-be78-3849d2196b52/example[2..7]

To select one value, omit the range specifier entirely:

/profile/ba4412ea-1ec6-4e76-be78-3849d2196b52/example[1]

Message Format

The Sandpolis network protocol is based on protocol buffers (https://github.com/protocolbuffers/protobuf).

Request/Response messages

Request messages are named with a RQ prefix.

Event messages

Event messages are named with a EV prefix and are typically part of a stream.

RQ_Ping

Ping request.

Field Type Description

RS_Ping

Ping response.

Field Type Description

RQ_PluginOperation

Request: Attempt a plugin operation.

Field	Туре	Description
operation	PluginOperation	null
plugin_config	core.instance.PluginConfig	null

RS_PluginSync

null

Field Type Description plugin config core.instance.PluginConfig null

RQ_ArtifactDownload

A request to download an artifact.

Field	Туре	Description
coordinate	s string	The coordinates of the artifact to download
location	bool	Whether it's acceptable to receive the external location of the artifact only

RS_ArtifactDownload

The download response bearing the artifact binary or the artifact's address.

Field	Type	Description
binary	bytes The	artifact binary
url	string The	artifact's HTTP location
coordinates	string The	artifact's maven central coordinates

RQ_PluginInstall

A request to install a server plugin.

Field	Type	Description
-------	------	-------------

plugin_binary bytes The plugin binary

plugin_url string The plugin's HTTP location

plugin_coordinates string The plugin's maven central coordinates

RS_PluginInstall

null

Field	Description
PLUGIN_INSTALL_OK	0
PLUGIN_INSTALL_FAILED	1
PLUGIN_INSTALL_FAILED_DISABLED	2
PLUGIN_INSTALL_FAILED_CERTIFICATE	3
PLUGIN INSTALL INVALID	4

${\bf RQ_STStream}$

null

Field	Type	Description
stream_id	int32	null
permanent	bool	null
oid	string	null
whitelist	string	null
direction	Direction	null
update_period	int32	null

${\bf RS_STStream}$

null

Field	Description
ST_STREAM_OK	0
ST_STREAM_INVALID	1
ST_STREAM_FAILED	2

EV_STStreamData

null

Field	Type	Description
oid	string	The object's relative OID
removed	bool	Whether the object corresponding to the OID was removed
value_type	ValueTyp	e The attribute value type
timestamp	int64	The timestamp associated with the attribute value
bytes	bytes	null
bytes_array	bytes	null
string	string	null
string_array	string	null

integer	int32	null
integer_array	int32	null
long	int64	null
long_array	int64	null
boolean	bool	null
boolean_array	bool	null
double	double	null
double_array	double	null

Networking Module

Sandpolis Protocol

Sandpolis uses a custom binary protocol based on <u>protocol buffers (https://developers.google.com/protocol-buffers)</u> for all inter-instance network communications. By default, the server listens on TCP port **8768**.

Most communication happens over TCP connections among instances and the server, but the server can also coordinate direct TCP or UDP "sessions" between any two instances that need to transfer high-volume or low-latency data.

Streams

Many operations require real-time data for a short-lived or long-lived session.

All streams have a *source* and a *sink* and can exist between any two instances (a stream where the source and sink reside on the same instance is called a *local stream*). The source's purpose is to produce *stream events* at whatever frequency is appropriate for the use-case and the sink's purpose is to consume those stream events.

Multicasting

Stream sources can push events to more than one sink simultaneously. This is called multicasting and can save bandwidth in situations where multiple users request the same resource at the same time.

Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations	Description
R() Session	client, agent	server	
RS_Session	server	client,agent	
RQ_AddConnection	client	server	
RQ_CoordinateConnection	server	client, agent	
EV NetworkChanged	server	client,	Indicates that some node in the network

		agent	has changed in connection status
RQ_InstallPlugin	client	server	Request that a new plugin be installed
RQ_STStream	client, agent	server	Request a new state tree sync stream
EV_STStreamData	server		
RQ CloseStream			Request that a stream be closed

Session

Clients and agents maintain an ephemeral session which consists of a session identifier and authentication state.

Session identifiers are 4-byte unsigned integers that have the instance type and instance flavor encoded in them.

0	1	2	3
01234	15678901234567	7890123 4	5678 901
[Base CVID		FID IID]

RQ_CoordinateConnection

Request that the receiving instance establish a new connection to the given host. The receiver should attempt the connection as soon as possible.

Field	Type Requirements	Description
host	string An IP address	The connection host
port	int32 A valid port number	er The connection port
protocol	string tcp or udp	The connection protocol
encryption ke	y bytes 64 bytes	The initial encryption key for the new connection

RQ_STStream

Field	Туре	Requirements	Description
stream_id	int32		
oid	string		
whitelist	repeated string		
direction	string	"upstream", "downstream", or "bidirectional"	

RQ_Session

Request that a new session be created. Any previous sessions associated with the instance are invalidated.

Field	Туре	Description	
instance_uuid	string	The UUID of the requesting instance	
instance_type	core.instance.InstanceType	The instance type of the requesting instance	
instance flavor core.instance.InstanceFlavor The instance flavor of the requesting instance			

RS_Session

Respond to a session request with a successful result.

Field Type Description

instance_sid int32 A SID for the requesting instance server_sid int32 The SID of the server server_uuid string The UUID of the server

RQ_DirectConnection

Request the server for a new direct connection.

	Field	Type	Description
cvid		int32	The requested node
type		LinkTyp	e The type of connection
port		int32	An optional listener port. If specified, the requested node will attempt

a connection on this port. Otherwise, the server will coordinate the connection.

RS_DirectConnection

Server response to a connection request.

Field Type Description request RQ Connection The connection request

RQ_Connection

Request the instance to establish a new connection.

Field Type Description

host string The host port int32 The port type LinkType The link type

EV_EndpointClosed

Indicates that a connection has been lost.

Field Typecvid int32 The node that has lost connection

EV_NetworkChange

Indicates that the network has been updated.

Field	Туре	Description
node_added	NodeAdded	null
node_removed	NodeRemoved	null
connection_added	LinkAdded	null
connection_removed	LinkRemoved	null

RQ_StopStream

null

Field Type Description

id int32 The stream ID of the stream to stop

RS_StopStream

null

```
Field Description
STOP_STREAM_OK 0
STOP_STREAM_INVALID 1
```

Probe Instance

Probes are similar to agents, but are only allowed to egress data to a server. They cannot receive messages, so their configuration is immutable unless the system also runs an agent capable of managing probe instances.

Probe instances are designed to be extremely lightweight and run on almost any hardware.

Probe Configuration

```
{
   "network" : {
      "server_address" : [
        String() # An IP address or DNS name with port info
      ],
      "connection": {
        "timeout" : Number(), # The connection timeout in milliseconds
        "interval" : Number() # The connection poll interval in milliseconds
      }
   },
   "collectors": {
      "/memory/total_used"
   }
}
```

Connection Mode

The only connection mode supported by probes is the *polling* mode. On a configurable schedule, the probe reconnects to a server, flushes any cached data, and closes the connection.

The probe may attempt a spontaneous connection outside of the regular schedule at any time.

If a server is overloaded, the probe's connection attempt may not be accepted. In this case, the probe may choose another server or wait and try again later.

Connection Security

Unlike agents, probes do not use TLS. Rather, outgoing messages are encrypted with AES256 using a sesion key derived from a master key embedded in the configuration.

No two connections will use the same session key, so compromising it will only yield an attacker decrypted data for the remainder of the connection.

Server Instance

Every Sandpolis network must include one server instance at minimum. Servers are responsible for coordinating interactions among instances and persisting data.

Listening port

The Sandpolis server listens on TCP port **8768** by default, but can be configured to listen on a different port or multiple ports concurrently.

Instance Configuration

```
"storage" : {
    "provider" : String(default="ephemeral"), # The database storage provider
    "mongodb" : {
      "host"
                : String(), # The address of the mongodb host
      "username" : String(), # The mongodb user's username
      "password" : String(), # The mongodb user's password
   }
 },
  "geolocation" : {
   "service" : String(values=["ip-api.com", "keycdn.com"], default="ip-
api.com"), # The name of the geolocation service to use
                 : String(), # The service API key
    "key"
    "expiration" : Number(), # The cache timeout in hours
 }
```

First Start

If the server starts with ephemeral storage or an empty database, the server enters "first start" mode. This mode has the following implications:

Default admin password

The admin password will be randomized and printed in the server log. All clients are required to force users to change the admin password and setup multi-factor authentication before proceeding after the first login.

Connection Blocking

The server will refuse connections from IP addresses on a configurable blocklist or those that trigger the global rate-limiting policy.

IP address on a configurable whitelist are exempt from rate-limiting.

Permissions

All user accounts are subject to a set of permissions controlling what server operations are authorized. The inital admin user has complete and irrevocable permissions. By default, additional user accounts are created without permissions and consequently are allowed to do almost nothing.

Permissions list

Permission	Description
server.generate	Rights to use the generator
server.users.list	Right to view usernames and permissions of all other users
server.users.create	Right to create new users (of lesser or equal permissions)
server.net.view	Right to open the network control panel
server.listener.create	e Right to create a new listener on the server
server.listener.list	Right to view all listeners on the server
server.group.create	Right to create a new authentication group on the server
server.group.list	Right to view all authentication groups on the server
agent.system.power	Right to shutdown, reboot, etc the agent

Agent Groups

Agent groups are sets of agents that share one or more authentication schemes. Every group has exactly one owner and zero or more (user) members.

Password Authentication Scheme

After establishing a connection, agents may present an unsalted SHA512 hash of a password entered by the user to the server. The server compares the password to each agent group until it finds a match. If a match is found, the agent is becomes authenticated to the matching agent group. Otherwise, the connection is closed if more than 5 attempts were made on that connection.

Since a user must type the password manually, the server will attempt to configure the certificate authentication scheme for all subsequent connections.

Token Authentication Scheme

The agent may provide an 8 character alphanumeric time-based token periodically generated by the server from an agent group's secret key. Since a user must type the token in manually, the server will attempt to configure the certificate authentication scheme for all subsequent connections.

Certificate Authentication Scheme

The agent may provide an X509 "client" certificate signed by an agent group's secret key during the initial connection attempt. If the agent certificate was found to be valid, the connection is automatically authenticated without any additional message exchanges.

Agent Certificate Expiration

The default lifetime for an agent certificate is six months. The following section implies an agent must connect to a server at least once every 1.5 months otherwise it loses its ability to authenticate.

Agent Certificate Renewal

Once 75% of the lifetime of an agent certificate elapses, the server attempts to issue a new certificate and installs it on the agent.

Agent Generators

A Generator is a routine which produces some installation artifact according to the parameters set out in an authentication group. The installation artifact can then be used to install an agent on a remote system.

Deployers

On execution, deployers set up the agent base directory according to its configuration and executes the agent. If the target directory already contains an installation, the old installation is entirely overwritten.

Packager

A packager is responsible for creating a deployer binary according to the parameters set out in an authentication group.

Distributor

A distributor is responsible for transferring and executing generated deployer artifacts to remote systems.

SSH Distributor

The SSH deployer first determines the remote system type and invokes an appropriate packager to generate an installer. The installer is then transferred to the remote host and executed.

Server/Agent Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations	Description
RQ_AuthSession	agent	server	Request to authenticate an agent session
RQ_RefreshAuthCertificate	server	agent	Request to refresh an agent's authentication certificate
RQ_AgentMetadata	server	agent	Request agent metadata
RS_AgentMetadata	agent	server	Response containing agent metadata
RQ_FindBootAgents	client, server	agent	Request to locate all installed boot agents
RS_FindBootAgents	agent	client, server	Response listing boot agent installations
RQ_FindBootAgentCandidates	client, server	agent	Request candidate partitions and devices that may be suitable for a boot agent installation
RS_FindBootAgentCandidates	agent	client, server	Response listing boot agent installation candidates
RQ_InstallBootAgent	client, server	agent	Request a boot agent be installed on the system
RQ_UninstallBootAgent	client, server	agent	Request a boot agent be uninstalled from the system
RQ_LaunchBootAgent	client, server	agent	Request that the boot agent be started
RQ_ChangePowerState	client, server	agent	Request that the agent alter its power state

Agent Authentication Messages

RQ_AuthSession

Field Type Requirements Descriptionpassword string 8 - 64 characters The password text
token string 8 characters The authentication token

$RQ_Refresh Auth Certificate$

Field Type Requirements Description

General Messages

$RQ_AgentMetadata$

${\bf RS_AgentMetadata}$

pe	Requirements	Description
ng	0 - 64	The agent's network hostname
	ina	/pe Requirements 0 - 64 characters

os OsType The agent's OS family

arch string The agent's CPU architecture

boot_agent_detected bool Whether a boot agent was detected on the

system

Boot Agent Messages

RQ FindBootAgents

Field Type Requirements Description

RS_FindBootAgents

Field Type Requirements Description

RQ InstallBootAgent

Field	Type Requirements	Description
partition_uuid	string	The UUID of the target partition
device_uuid	string	The UUID of the target device
interface_mac	string	The MAC address of the network interface to use for connections
use_dhcp	bool	Whether DHCP will be used
static_ip	string	A static IP address as an alternative to DHCP
netmask	string	The netmask corresponding to the static IP
gateway_ip	string	The gateway IP

RS InstallBootAgent

Field Description

INSTALL_BOOT_AGENT_OK

INSTALL BOOT AGENT ACCESS DENIED

RQ_UninstallBootAgent

Field Type Requirements Description

target_uuid string The UUID of the partition containing the boot agent

RS UninstallBootAgent

Field Description

UNINSTALL_BOOT_AGENT_OK

UNINSTALL_BOOT_AGENT_ACCESS_DENIED

RQ_LaunchBootAgent

Field Type Requirements Description

target_uuid string The UUID of the partition containing the boot agent

RS_LaunchBootAgent

Field Description

LAUNCH_BOOT_AGENT_OK
LAUNCH_BOOT_AGENT_ACCESS_DENIED
LAUNCH_BOOT_AGENT_FAILED

RQ_ChangePowerState

Field Type Requirements Description

RQ_AgentMetadata

Request metadata from an agent.

Sources : server Destinations : agent

Response: RS_AgentMetadata

Field Type Description

RS AgentMetadata

Response containing agent metadata.

Sources : agent Destinations : server

Request: RQ_AgentMetadata

Field Type Description

hostname string The network hostname install_directory string The install directory

os core.foundation.OsType The OS family

boot agent detected bool Whether a boot agent was detected on the

system

RQ LaunchBootAgent

Request that the boot agent be started.

Sources : client, server Destinations : agent Response : Outcome

Field Type Description

target_uuid string The UUID of the partition containing the boot agent

RQ UninstallBootAgent

Request a boot agent be uninstalled from the system.

Sources : client, server Destinations : agent Response : Outcome

Field Type Description

target_uuid string The UUID of the partition containing the boot agent

RQ FindBootAgents

Request to locate all installed boot agents.

Sources : client, server Destinations : agent

Response: RS FindBootAgents

Field Type Description

RS_FindBootAgents

Response listing boot agent installations.

Sources : client, server Destinations : agent

Request: RQ FindBootAgents

Field Type Description

installation BootAgentInstallation null

RQ InstallBootAgent

Request a boot agent be installed on the system.

Sources : client, server Destinations : agent Response : Outcome

Field Type Description

partition_uuid string The UUID of the target partition device uuid string The UUID of the target device

interface_mac string The MAC address of the network interface to use for connections

use_dhcp bool Whether DHCP will be used

static_ip string A static IP address as an alternative to DHCP netmask string The netmask corresponding to the static IP

gateway_ip string The gateway IP

RQ_FindBootAgentCandidates

Request candidate partitions and devices that may be suitable for a boot agent installation.

Sources : client, server Destinations : agent

Response: RS FindBootAgentCandidates

Field Type Description

RS FindBootAgentCandidates

Response listing boot agent installation candidates.

Sources: agent

Destinations : client, server Request : RQ FindBootAgents

Field Type Description

device_candidate DeviceCandidate null partition candidate PartitionCandidate null

RQ_AuthSession

Request to authenticate the current session.

Sources : agent Destinations : server Response : Outcome

Field Type Description

password string The group password token string The authentication token

string the addiction too

RS_AuthSession

null

Field Description

AUTH_SESSION_OK 0
AUTH SESSION FAILED 1

RQ_RefreshAuthCertificate

Request to refresh an agent's authentication certificate.

Sources : server Destinations : agent Response : Outcome

Field Type Description

certificate bytes The new "client" certificate

Boot Agent

Standard Agent

This JVM-based agent implementation has the most features and is consequently the most resource intensive. It's suitable when running on modern hardware where memory/storage is abundant.

Installation Types

There are three ways to install the agent, each with advantages and disadvantages.

Package Manager Installation

This option makes installation itself easy, but requires some effort to configure the agent to connect to a server. This installation type also means that upgrades must only occur through the package manager.

Filesystem Layout

Pacman (Arch Linux)

Path	Description
/usr/lib/systemd/system/sandpolis-agent.service	Systemd service definition
/usr/bin/sandpolis-agent-config	Configuration executable
/usr/bin/sandpolis-agent	Main executable
/usr/share/java/sandpolis-agent/lib	LIB location
/usr/share/java/sandpolis-agent/plugin	PLUGIN location
/var/lib/sandpolis-agent/data	DATA location

Apk (Alpine)

Deployer Installation

This option requires no explicit configuration, but the *deployer* executable must be transferred to the host and invoked explicitly.

Filesystem Layout

Deployers install everything under a single *base directory* and create symbolic links in certain locations outside of the base directory.

Platform Default base directory path

Linux /opt/sandpolis-agent Windows macOS

Docker Installation

This option is easy to deploy and configure, but can limit the functionality of the agent in some cases.

Certain elements of the host filesystem may be optionally mounted into the container.

Native Agent

This agent implementation is designed for performance critical deployments. It has fewer features than the standard agent, but requires significantly less resources.

Release artifacts

Identifier	Type
agent-linux-amd64	ELF
agent-linux-i686	ELF
agent-linux-aarch64	ELF
agent-linux-armv7	ELF
agent-windows-amd64	PE
agent-windows-i686	PE
agent-macos-amd64	Mach-O
agent-macos-aarch64	Mach-O
bootagent-linux-amd64	ELF
bootagent-linux-i686	ELF
bootagent-linux-aarch64	ELF

Web Client

Desktop Client

The desktop client is based on the JVM.

Installation Types

There are two ways to install the client, each with advantages and disadvantages.

Package Manager Installation

Filesystem Layout

Chocolately (Windows)

Path Description

C:/ProgramData/Microsoft/Windows/Start Menu/Programs Desktop shortcut

Docker Installation

This option is easy to deploy, but only works on Linux with X11.

Server

Installation Types

There are two ways to install the server with the recommended approach being Docker.

Package Manager Installation

Filesystem Layout

Pacman (Arch Linux)

Path	Description
/usr/lib/systemd/system/sandpolis-server.se	ervice Systemd service definition
/usr/share/java/sandpolis-server/lib	LIB location
/usr/share/java/sandpolis-server/plugin	PLUGIN location
/var/lib/sandpolis-server/data	DATA location

Docker Installation

Desktop Plugin

The desktop plugin provides remote desktop and clipboard integration.

Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations
RQ_DesktopList	client	agent
RS_DesktopList	agent	client
RQ_DesktopStream	client	agent
EV_DesktopInput	client	agent
EV_DesktopOutput	agent	client
RQ_Screenshot		
RS_Screenshot		

RQ_DesktopList

Request for a listing of available desktops.

Field Type Requirements Description

RS_DesktopList

Response containing all available desktops.

Field	Type Requirements	Description
desktop::name	string	The desktop name
desktop::width	int32	The desktop width in pixels
desktop::height	int32	The desktop height in pixels

RQ_DesktopStream

Request a new desktop stream be established.

Field	Type	Requirements	Description
stream_id	int32		
desktop_uuid	string		
capture_mode	string	poll or hook	
color_mode	string	rgb888, rgb565, or rgb332	
compression_mode	e string	zlib	
scale_factor	double		

EV_DesktopInput

EV_DesktopInput contains key, mouse, and clipboard data.

Field	Type	Requirements Description
key_pressed	string	
key_released	string	
key_typed	string	
pointer_pressed	int32	
pointer_released	int32	
pointer_x	int32	
pointer_y	int32	
scale_factor	double	
clipboard	string	

EV_DesktopOutput

EV DesktopOutput contains pixel data and clipboard data.

Field	Type Requirements	Description
width	int32	The width of the destination block in pixels
height	int32	The height of the destination block in pixels
dest_x	int32	The X coordinate of the destination block's top left corner
dest_y	int32	The Y coordinate of the destination block's top left corner
source_x	int32	The X coordinate of the source block's top left corner
source_y	int32	The Y coordinate of the source block's top left corner
pixel_data	bytes	The pixel data encoded according to the session's parameters
clipboard	string	Clipboard data

RQ_DesktopList

Request for a listing of available desktops

Field Type Description

RS_DesktopList

Response containing all available desktops

Field Type Description

desktop Desktop null

RQ_DesktopStream

null

Field Type Descriptionstream_id int32 The requested stream ID desktop_uuid string The desktop to capture

RS_DesktopStream

null

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Field} & \textbf{Description} \\ \textbf{DESKTOP_STREAM_OK} \ 0 \\ \end{tabular}$

EV_DesktopInput

null

Field	Туре	Description
key_pressed	string	
key_released	string	
key_typed	string	
pointer_pressed	PointerButton	
pointer_released	PointerButton	
pointer_x	int32	The X coordinate of the pointer
pointer_y	int32	The Y coordinate of the pointer
scale_factor	double	Scale factor
clipboard	string	Clipboard data

EV_DesktopOutput

null

Field	Type	Description
width	int32	The width of the destination block in pixels
height	int32	The height of the destination block in pixels
dest_x	int32	The X coordinate of the destination block's top left corner
dest_y	int32	The Y coordinate of the destination block's top left corner
source_x	int32	The X coordinate of the source block's top left corner
source_y	int32	The Y coordinate of the source block's top left corner
pixel_data	a bytes	The pixel data encoded according to the session's parameters
clipboard	string	Clipboard data

RQ_CaptureScreenshot

null

Field Type Description

desktop uuid string The desktop to capture

RS_CaptureScreenshot

null

Field Type Description

data bytes null

Device Plugin

The device plugin extends management functionality out to agent-less devices.

Subagents

Subagents are devices that do not have Sandpolis agent software installed, but are instead managed via a third-party protocol such as SSH, IPMI, or SNMP from an instance called the *gateway*. The gateway instance for a subagent may be an independent agent or a server.

Communicators

A subagent communicates to its gateway instance over one of the following well-known protocols. Since subagents must accept incoming connections, the gateway instance usually must reside on the same network segment.

WOL

The WOL communicator is able to send Wake-on-LAN magic packets to listening devices.

SSH

The SSH communicator establishes SSH sessions with remote devices.

Property	Description
ssh.username	The SSH username
ssh.password	The SSH password
ssh.private key	The SSH private key

IPMI

The IPMI communicator runs IPMI commands on remote devices.

Property Description

ipmi.username The IPMI username
ipmi.password The IPMI password

SNMP

The SNMP communicator reads and writes standard MIBs on remote devices.

Property Description

snmp.version The SNMP version

snmp.community The SNMP community string if version < 3

snmp.privacy.type

snmp.privacy.secret

snmp.authentication.type

snmp.authentication.secret

Messages

Message Sources Destinations

RQ_FindSubagents client, server agent

RS FindSubagents agent client, server

RQ_RegisterSubagent client server RQ ConfigureSubagent server agent

 $RQ_IpmiCommand$

RQ SnmpWalk

RQ SshCommand

RQ SendWolPacket

RS SendWolPacket

RQ FindSubagents

Scan the local network (if it's smaller than a /16) for devices that may be candidate subagents.

- For the ssh communicator, a TCP connection is attempted on port 22
- For the snmp communicator, probes are sent via UDP port 161
- For the ipmi communicator, probes are sent via UDP port 623

Field Type Requirements Descriptiongateway_uuid string The UUID of a gateway instance
communicators repeated string ssh, snmp, ipmiThe communicator types to search

RS_FindSubagents

Field Type Requirements Description

ssh_device::ip_address string IPv4 or IPv6 address Device IP address

ssh_device::mac_address string MAC address

ssh_device::fingerprint string Device SSH fingerprint

snmp_device::ip_address string IPv4 or IPv6 address Device IP address

ipmi_device::ip_address string IPv4 or IPv6 address Device IP address

RQ_SnmpWalk

Field Type Requirements Description

oid string An OID string Request an SNMP walk operation be executed

RS_SnmpWalk

Field Type Requirements Description

data::oid string data::type string data::value string

RQ_FindSubagents

null

Field	Туре	Description
network	string	If specified, the search will be restricted to the given networks
communicator	Communicatorivoe	If specified, the search will be restricted to the given communicator types

RS_FindSubagents

null

Field	Туре	Description
ssh_device	SshDevice	null
snmp_device	SnmpDevice	null
ipmi_device	IpmiDevice	null
http_device	HttpDevice	null
${\sf onvif_device}$	OnvifDevice	null
rtsp_device	RtspDevice	null
wol_device	WolDevice	null

RQ_RegisterSubagent

null

Field	Туре	Description
ip_address	string null	
mac_address	string null	
gateway_uuid	string The uuid	of the gateway instance

RS_RegisterSubagent

null

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Field} & \textbf{Description} \\ \textbf{REGISTER_SUBAGENT_OK 0} \\ \end{tabular}$

RQ_IpmiCommand

Request an IPMI command be executed

Field Type Description

command string The IPMI command

RQ_SnmpWalk

Request an SNMP walk operation be executed

Field Type Description

oid string The OID to retrieve

RS_SnmpWalk

Response containing the result of a walk operation

Field Type Description

data Data null

RQ SendWolPacket

null

Field Type Description

RS_SendWolPacket

null

Field Description

Filesystem Plugin

The filesystem plugin exposes agent and client filesystems to Sandpolis.

Mounting

Remote filesystems may be mounted on clients or agents with FUSE. Once established, the mount is permanent until explicitly closed by the user.

By default, the entire filesystem is mounted, but can be configured to only expose a particular subtree.

Agent mount

An agent's filesystem may be mounted to a mountpoint on another agent or on a client's machine.

Client mount

A client's filesystem may be mounted to a mountpoint on an agent's machine.

Permissions list

Permission

Description

agent.fs.mount Rights to mount an agent's filesystem
agent.fs.read Rights to read an agent's filesystem
agent.fs.write Rights to write an agent's filesystem
client.fs.mount Rights to mount the current client's filesystem
client.fs.read Rights to read the current client's filesystem
client.fs.write Rights to write the current client's filesystem

Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations Description
RQ_DirectoryListing	client	agent
RS_DirectoryListing	agent	client
RQ_MountDirectory	client	agent
RQ_UnmountDirectory	client	agent
RQ_FileStats	client	agent
RS_FileStats		
RQ_DeleteFile	client	agent
RQ_DirectoryStream	client	agent
EV_DirectoryChange	agent	client

EV_FileListing

Updates to a directory listing.

Field	Type	Description
fmid	int32	null
path	string	The directory's absolute path
listing	FileListle	t Listing updates

RQ_FileListing

Request a directory listing.

Field	Type	Description
path	string	null
options	FsHandleOptions	null

RS_FileListing

Response to a directory listing request.

Field	Type	Description
path	string	The directory's absolute path
listing	FileListlet	The directory listing

RQ_FileInfo

Request for detailed file information.

Field Type Description

file string An absolute path

RS_FileInfo

Response to a file info request.

Field Type Description

local_icon bytes The file's icon on the local platform

path string The file's location name string The file's name

ctime int64 The file's creation time mtime int64 The file's modification time

atime int64 The file's access time

size int64 The file's size in bytes or number of elements if directory

mime string The file's MIME type

RQ FileDelete

Request for one or more files to be deleted.

Field Type Description

target string A list of absolute paths to delete

RQ FsHandle

Request to open a new filesystem handle.

Field Type Description

options FsHandleOptions null

RS FsHandle

Response to a handle request.

Field Type Description

fmid int32 The filesystem handle's ID

RQ CloseFsHandle

Request to close the given handle.

Field Type Description

fmid int32 The filesystem handle to close

Shell Plugin

The shell plugin integrates with various kinds of system shells.

Shell Capability

Label Shell Name

bash (zsh, ash, dash)

fish

powershell

cmd.exe

ksh

csh (tcsh)

Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations	Description
RQ_ShellStream	client	agent	Request to start a new shell session
EV_ShellInput	client	agent	Event containing standard-input to a shell
EV_ShellOutput	agent	client	Event containing standard-output and standard-error
RQ_FindShells	client	agent	Request to locate supported shells on the system
RS_FindShells	agent	client	Response containing supported shell information
RQ_Execute	client	agent	Request to execute a command snippet in a shell
RS_Execute	agent	client	Response containing execution results

RQ_FindShells

Field Type Requirements Description

${\bf RS_FindShells}$

Field	Туре	Requirements	Description
shell::path	string	Filesystem path TI	ne location of the shell executable
shell::capability	repeated string	А	list of shell capabilities

RQ_Execute

Field	Туре	Requirements	Description
shell_type			
command	repeated string		The commands to execute
timeout	int32		
ignore_stdout	bool		
ignore_stderr	bool		

RS_Execute

Field Type Requirements Description

EV_ShellInput

Field	Type Requirements	Description
stdin	bytes 0 - 65535 bytes Th	e process standard-input
rows_changed	int32	
cols_changed	int32	

EV_ShellOutput

Field Type Requirements Description

stdout bytes 0 - 65535 bytes The process standard-output stderr bytes 0 - 65535 bytes The process standard-error

RQ_ShellStream

Field Type Requirements Description

stream_id int32
capability string
environment map
rows int32
cols int32

RQ_Execute

null

Field Type Description

type Shell null command string null

RS_Execute

null

Field Type Description

exitCode int32 null result string null

RQ ListShells

null

Field Type Description

RS_ListShells

null

Field Type Description

listing ShellListing null

RQ ShellStream

null

Field	Туре	Description
id	int32 The de	esired stream ID
type	Shell The st	ream type

environment string null

rows int32 The number of rows to request cols int32 The number of columns to request

EV_ShellStream

null

Field Type Description

data bytes The I/O data rows int32 Update the number of rows cols int32 Update the number of columns

Snapshot Plugin

The snapshot plugin gives agents the ability to take and apply snapshots, even on filesystems that don't natively support snapshots.

Block-based snapshots

The target device is divided into blocks of variable size (power of 2 only). Each block has a corresponding block hash which is the murmur3 128-bit hash of its content.

File-based snapshots

Partition size considerations

On-premise Server

```
(1 \text{ TiB}) = (100 \text{ MiB} / \text{s}) * \text{t}

t = 1000 \text{ s} \sim 16 \text{ minutes}
```

Off-premise Server

```
(1 \text{ TiB}) = (1 \text{ MiB / s}) * t

t = 100000 \text{ s} \sim 27 \text{ hours}
```

Server

The server is responsible for storing snapshot data and uploading/downloading it to/from agents.

Snapshot format

Snapshot contents are stored in QEMU qcow2 files on the server. This format is mature and supports useful features like compression and encryption.

Boot Agent

All snapshot read/write operations are run from a boot agent rather than the regular agent. This ensures snapshots are perfectly consistent, but implies some amount of downtime during the operation.

Create Snapshot

If there exist no previous snapshots, the boot agent first determines the appropriate block size for the disk. The agent may take into account the size of the disk or the erase-block size of an SSD, but the block size must be a power of two.

If allowed, the boot agent will wipe the disk's free space before continuing. This can significantly decrease the size of the resulting snapshot because empty blocks are omitted.

If there exists a previous snapshot for the disk, the boot agent receives a stream of block hashes. A single worker thread reads blocks from the disk and compares their hashes against the block hashes retrieved from the server. If the hashes do not match, the block is passed into a send queue to be egressed to the server.

Apply Snapshot

If there exists a previous snapshot for the disk, the boot agent initiates a stream of block hashes. A single worker thread reads blocks from the disk and passes their hashes into a send queue to be egressed to the server.

Simultaneously, the boot agent receives a stream of block data which are placed into a write queue to be written to the device.

Snapshot Messages

Message	Sources	Destinations	Description
RQ_CreateSnapshot	client	server	Create a new snapshot on a target agent
RQ_ApplySnapshot	client	server	Apply an existing snapshot on a target agent
RQ_SnapshotStream	server	agent	Create a new snapshot stream
EV_SnapshotDataBlock	server, agent	server, agent	An event containing compressed snapshot data
EV_SnapshotHashBlock	server, agent	server, agent	An event containing one or more contiguous block hashes

RQ_CreateSnapshot

Field	Type Requirements	Description
agent_uuid	string	The target agent's UUID
partition_uuio	d string	The target partition's UUID

RQ_ApplySnapshot

Field Type Requirements Description

agent_uuid string The target agent's UUID partition_uuid string The target partition's UUID

RQ_SnapshotStream

Field	Type	Requirements	Description
stream_id	int32		The stream's ID
operation	string	"create" or "apply"	The snapshot operation type
partition_uuid	string		The target partition uuid
block_size	int32		The block size in bytes

EV SnapshotDataBlock

Field Type Requirements Description

offset int64 The block's offset

data bytes The block's contents compressed with zlib

EV_SnapshotHashBlock

Field	Type	Requirements	Description
-------	------	--------------	-------------

offset int64 The offset of the block that the first hash corresponds

hash repeated bytes A list of consecutive block hashes

Permissions list

Permission Description

agent.snapshot.create Rights create new snapshots of agent disks agent.snapshot.apply Rights apply existing snapshots to agent disks server.snapshot.list Rights to list existing snapshots stored by the server

Configuration

Property	Default	Description
s7s.snapshot.storage.provider	filesystem	The storage provider to use
s7s.snapshot.storage.filesystem.path		The filesystem path

RQ_CreateSnapshot

Create a new snapshot on a target agent.

Sources : client Destinations : server Response : Outcome

Field Type Descriptionagent_uuid string The target agent's UUID
partition uuid string The target partition's UUID

RQ_ApplySnapshot

Apply an existing snapshot on a target agent.

Sources : client Destinations : server Response : Outcome

Field Type Descriptionagent_uuid string The target agent's UUID
partition_uuid string The target partition's UUID
snapshot uuid string The snapshot's UUID

RQ SnapshotStream

Create a new snapshot stream.

Sources : server, agent Destinations : server, agent

Response: Outcome

FieldTypeDescriptionstream_idint32The stream's IDoperationstring The snapshot operation typepartition_uuidstring The target partition uuidblock_sizeint32The block size in bytes

EV_SnapshotDataBlock

An event containing compressed snapshot data.

Sources : server, agent Destinations : server, agent

Field Type Description

offset int64 null data bytes null

EV SnapshotHashBlock

An event containing one or more contiguous block hashes.

Sources : server, agent Destinations : server, agent

Field Type Description

offset int64 The offset of the block that the first hash corresponds hash bytes A list of consecutive block hashes

Update Plugin

The update plugin integrates with system package managers.

Messages

MessageSources Destinations DescriptionRQ_RemovePackagesclient agent

RQ_RemovePackages client agent RQ_InstallOrUpdatePackages client agent

RQ_InstallOrUpgradePackages

null

Field Type Description

package string null

RQ_RemovePackages

null

Field Type Description

package string null

RQ_RefreshPackages

null

Field Type Description