

Programmer's Guide to the JDK Flight Recorder

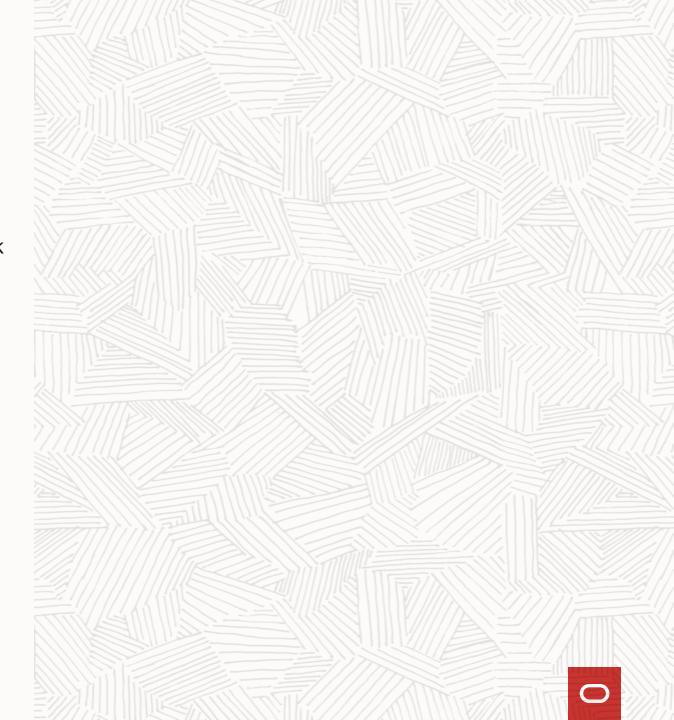
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Java Product Group, Oracle
November 2023



JDK Flight Recorder

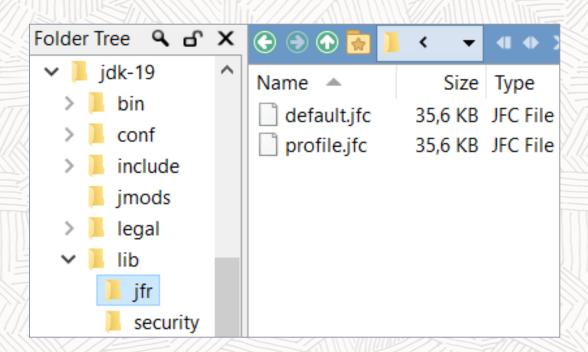
- Records events from the JVM, the JDK and applications
 - unified way to inspect the entire software stack
 - correlate events across different software layers and components
- Part of the JVM
- Low overhead
- Designed to be "always on"







- Two profiles shipped with the JVM
 - default.jfc
 - less than 1% overhead
 - designed for continous recording, "always on"
 - profile.jfc
 - can have slightly more overhead (<2%)
 - slightly changed thresholds
 - a few more stack traces



Tip: don't alter these files!

- Make copies if needed
 - Use jfr commmandline tool!
- Store custom settings together with app settings



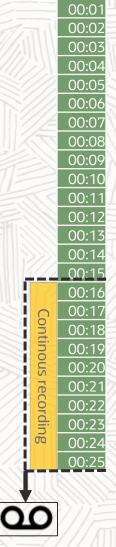
- Always start your JVM with Flight Recording!
 - Default profile has less than 1 % overhead

java -XX:StartFlightRecording

00:01 00:02 00:03 00:04 00:05 00:06 00:07 80:00 00:09 00:10 00:11 00:12 00:13 00:14 00:15 00:16 00:17 00:18 00:19 00:20 00:2 00:22 00:23 00:24 00:25

- Always start your JVM with Flight Recording!
 - Default profile has less than 1 % overhead

java -XX:StartFlightRecording:maxage=10m,maxsize=750M

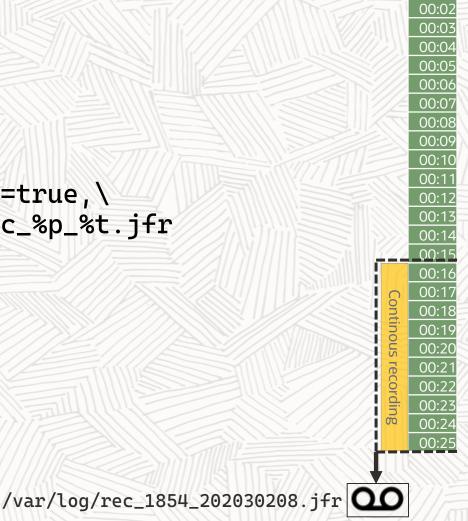


hotspot_1854_202030208.jfr



- Always start your JVM with Flight Recording!
 - Default profile has less than 1 % overhead

- dumponexit=true
 - will write JFR on JVM exit
- default name: hotspot_<pid>_<timestamp>.jfr
 - filename can be
 - directory
 - filename
 - **%p** for Process ID
 - %t for timestamp

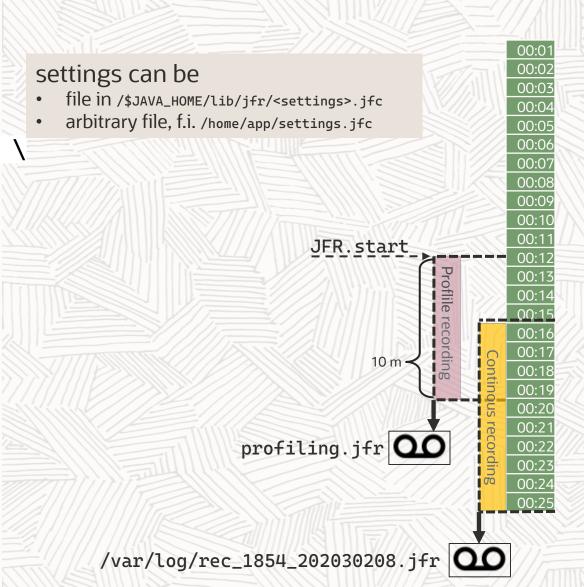




00:0

Start a recording during runtime

- Start recording using the "profile" setting:
- \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.start settings=profile \
 filename=profiling.jfr \
 duration=10m

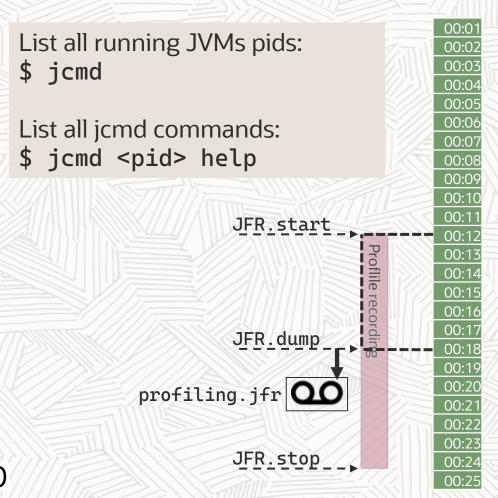




Using JCMD to control JFR recordings

- Start recording
- \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.start
- Write recording to disk
- \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.dump
- Stop recording
- \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.stop
- Check active recordings
- \$ jcmd <pid> JFR.check
 30496:

Recording 1: name=1 maxsize=250,0MB (running)







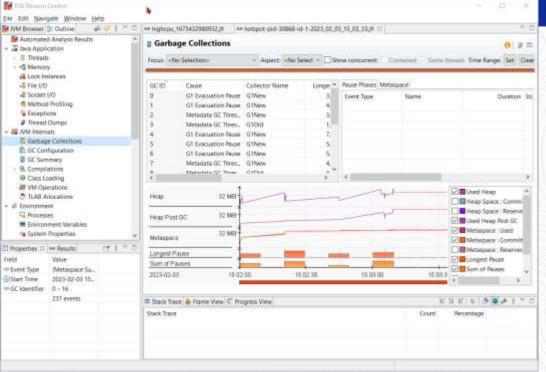


Examining the JFR recording

JDK Mission Control 8, "JMC"

- Graphical interface to analyze recordings
- Separate download: <u>oracle.com/java/technologies/jdk-mission-control.html</u>



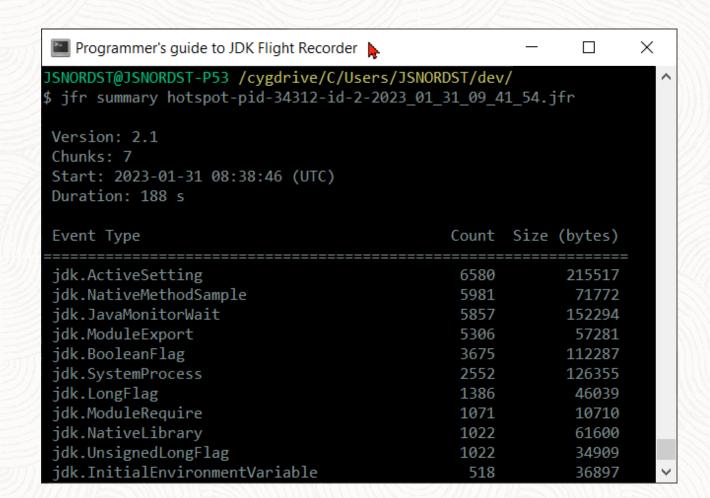




Examining the JFR recording

JFR commandline tool

- Available in the JDK
- List events, output as text/JSON
- Create .jfc configuration files
- Disassemble chunks from recording
 - If you have very large JFR recording
- Assemble leftover JFR chunks
- Scrub events from recording





Viewing on-going JFR recordings



JFR "views" shows aggregated event data

- On-going, live recordingsjcmd <pid> JFR.view <view>
- File recordingsjfr view <view> recording.jfr

JDK 21 has 70 predefined views

```
Inside the Java Dumpster (InsideDumpster)
JSNORDST@JSNORDST-P53 /cygdrive/d/jsnordst/Bugs/InsideDumpster
$ jfr view --verbose gc-pauses server_diagnosis_2023_10_18_11_34_AM.jfr
GC Pauses
Total Pause Time: 41,3 ms
Number of Pauses: 10
Minimum Pause Time: 0,200 ms
Median Pause Time: 3,97 ms
Average Pause Time: 4,13 ms
P90 Pause Time: 6,87 ms
P95 Pause Time: 6,76 ms
P99 Pause Time: 6,76 ms
P99.9% Pause Time: 6,76 ms
Maximum Pause Time: 6,76 ms
```

Read more: https://egahlin.github.io/2023/05/30/views.html



```
$ jfr help view
Java virtual machine views:
 class-modifications
                            gc-concurrent-phases longest-compilations
                            gc-configuration
 compiler-configuration
                                                 native-memory-committed
 compiler-phases
                            gc-cpu-time
                                                 native-memory-reserved
 compiler-statistics
                            gc-pause-phases
                                                 safepoints
 deoptimizations-by-reason gc-pauses
                                                 tlabs
 deoptimizations-by-site
                            gc-references
                                                 vm-operations
                            heap-configuration
 gc
```

Environment views:

active-recordings cpu-information jvm-flags active-settings cpu-load native-libraries container-configuration cpu-load-samples network-utilization container-cpu-throttling cpu-tsc recording container-cpu-usage environment-variables system-information container-io-usage events-by-count system-processes events-by-name container-memory-usage system-properties

Application views:

allocation-by-class exception-count native-methods allocation-by-site file-reads-by-path object-statistics allocation-by-thread file-writes-by-path pinned-threads class-loaders finalizers socket-reads-by-host



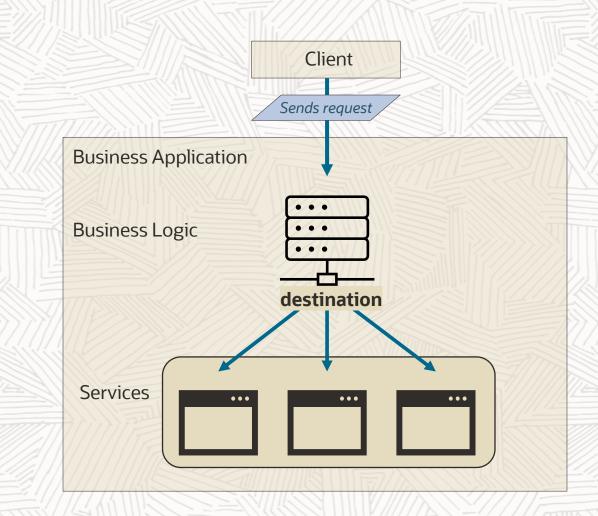


Our Business Application -- Inside the Java Dumpster

Mimics a real world system

- Server application
 - (Jetty, Micronaut, Tomcat, WebLogic, etc)
- JDK 21

Client sends request to Business Application Business Logic decides based on destination which service should handle the request

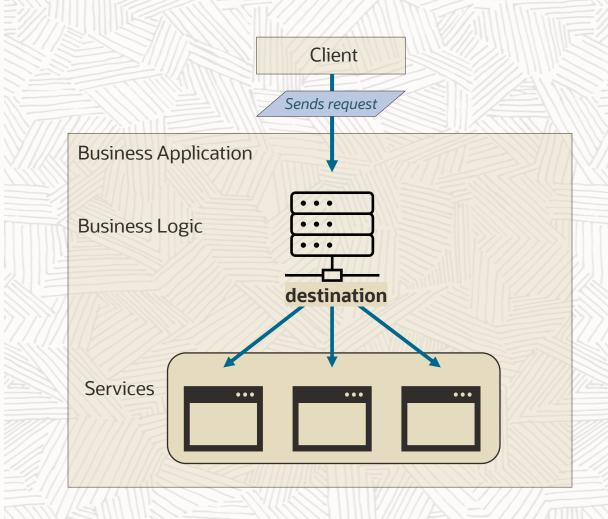




Our Business Application -- Inside the Java Dumpster

Requirements

- Monitor service calls
- Catch unhandled destinations





```
package inside.dumpster.monitoring.event;
public class ServiceCallEvent {
 public String destination;
 public Class serviceImplClass;
18
```

```
package inside.dumpster.monitoring.event;
public class ServiceCallEvent extends jdk.jfr.Event {
 public String destination;
  public Class serviceImplClass;
```

```
package inside.dumpster.monitoring.event;
@Name("inside.dumpster.ServiceCall")
@Label("Service Call")
@Category({"Business Application", "Services"})
public class ServiceCallEvent extends jdk.jfr.Event {
  @Label("Service Destination")
  public String destination;
  @Name("serviceClass")
  @Label("Service Implementation Class")
  public Class serviceImplClass;
```

@Name

- unique
- use reverse domain-name notation
 - com.acme.Application

@Label

- capitalized
- human-readable

@Name (for a field)

start with lowerCase

@Category

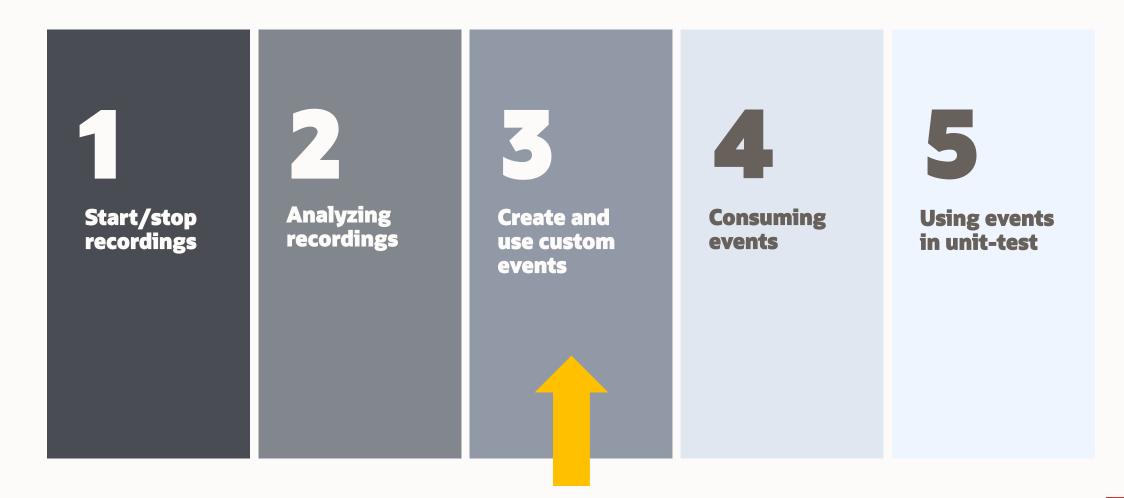
- capitalized
- descriptive
- unique
- create a logic hierarchy

```
public BusinessLogicService lookupService(Destination destination) {
  final BusinessLogicService service;
  switch(destination) {
     case Comp3:
          service = new UploadImageService();
          break;
  return service;
 21
```

```
public BusinessLogicService lookupService(Destination destination) {
 final BusinessLogicService service;
  ServiceCallEvent serviceCallEvent = new ServiceCallEvent();
  serviceCallEvent.destination = destination.name();
  serviceCallEvent.begin();
  switch(destination) {
     case Comp3:
          service = new UploadImageService();
          break;
  serviceCallEvent.serviceImplClass = service.getClass();
  serviceCallEvent.commit();
 return service;
 22
```

```
public BusinessLogicService lookupService(Destination destination) {
  final BusinessLogicService service;
  ServiceCallEvent serviceCallEvent = new ServiceCallEvent();
  serviceCallEvent.destination = destination.name();
  serviceCallEvent.begin();
  switch(destination) {
      case Comp3:
          service = new UploadImageService();
          break;
     case Unknown:
     default:
          UnhandledServiceCallEvent unhandledServiceEvent = new UnhandledServiceCallEvent();
          unhandledServiceEvent.destination = destination.name();
          unhandledServiceEvent.commit();
          return null;
  serviceCallEvent.serviceImplClass = service.getClass();
  serviceCallEvent.commit();
 return service;
} 23
```

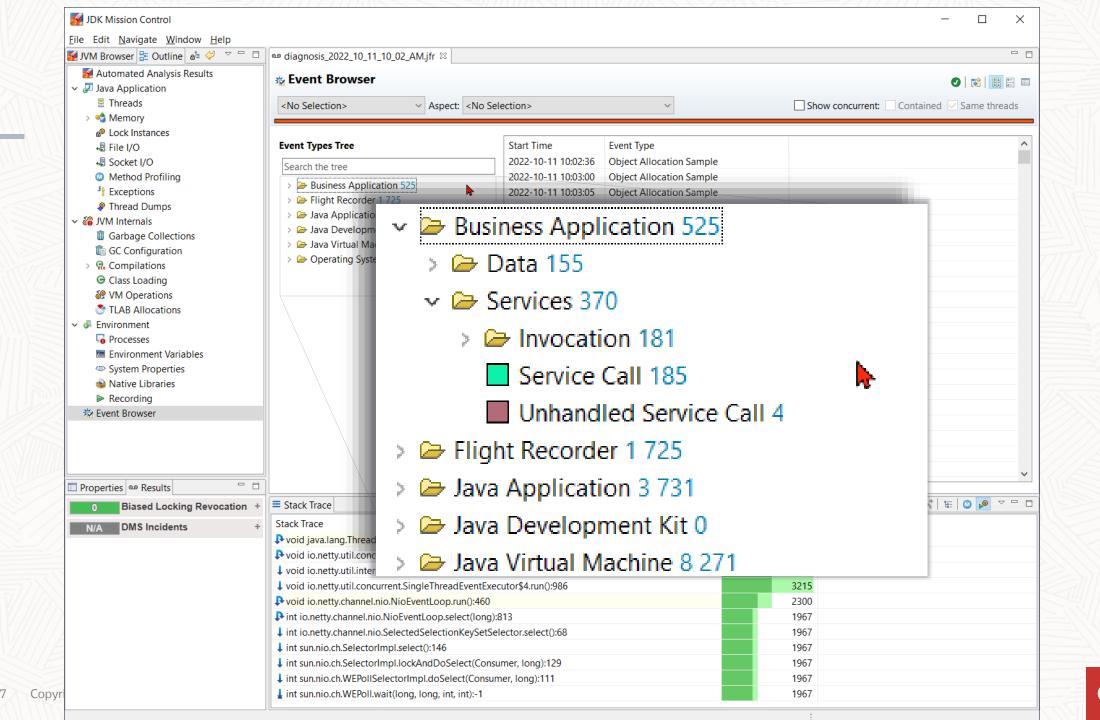
```
public BusinessLogicService lookupService(Destination destination) {
  final BusinessLogicService service;
  ServiceCallEvent serviceCallEvent = new ServiceCallEvent();
  serviceCallEvent.destination = destination.name();
  serviceCallEvent.begin();
  switch(destination) {
      case Comp3:
          service = new UploadImageService();
          break;
     case Unknown:
     default:
          UnhandledServiceCallEvent unhandledServiceEvent = new UnhandledServiceCallEvent();
          unhandledServiceEvent.destination = destination.name();
          unhandledServiceEvent.commit();
         return null;
  serviceCallEvent.serviceImplClass = service.getClass();
  serviceCallEvent.commit();
  return service;
} 24
```

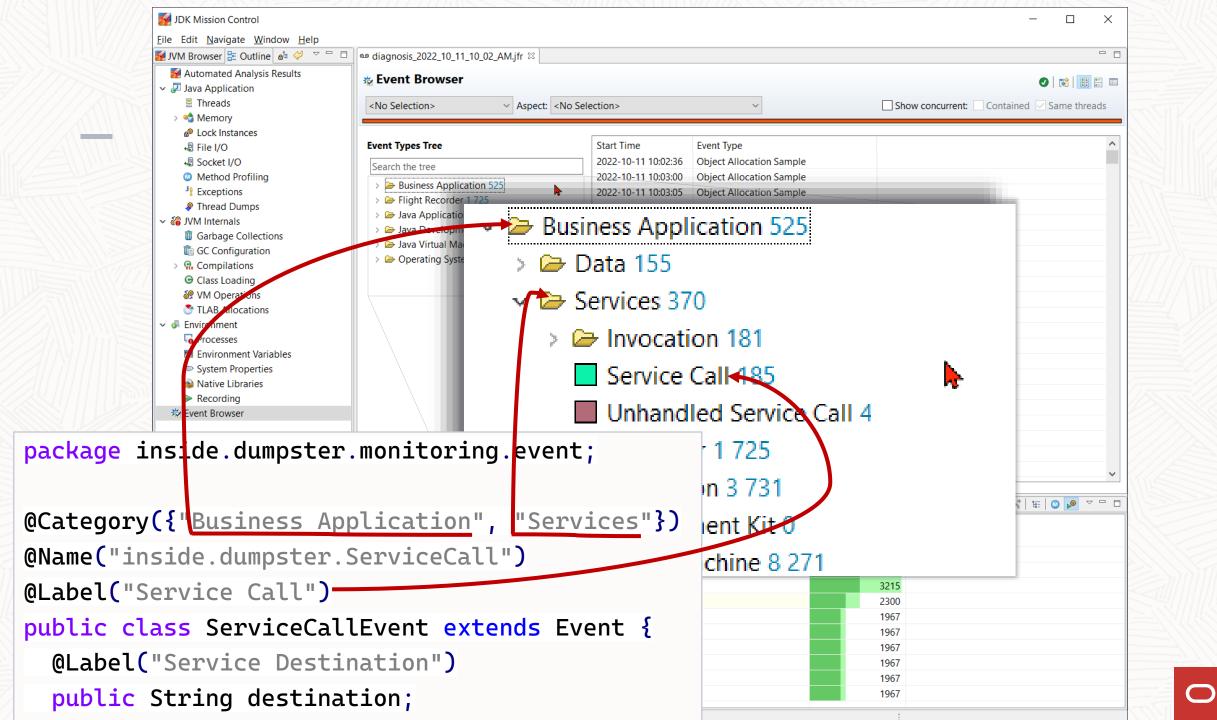


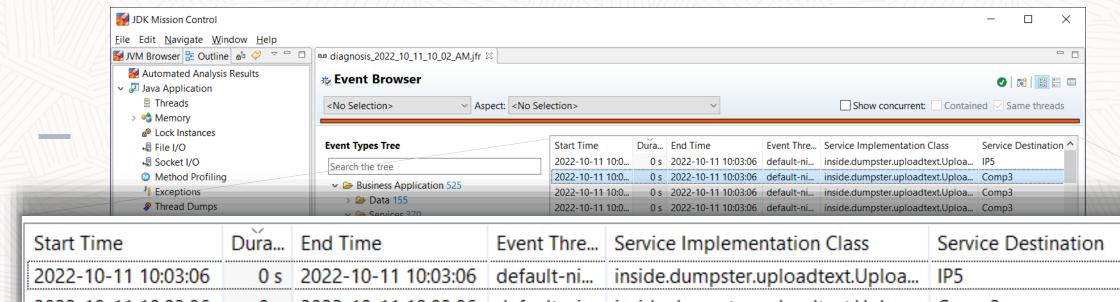












Thread Dumps		> Data 155	2022-10-11	10:0 0 s 2022-10-11 10:03:06 default-ni inside.dumpster.uploadt	ext.Uploa Comp3	
Start Time	Dura	End Time	Event Thre	Service Implementation Class	Service Destination	^
2022-10-11 10:03:06	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:06	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	IP5	
2022-10-11 10:03:06	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:06	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:06	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:06	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:06	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:06	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp3	
2022-10-11 10:03:07	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:07	default-ni	inside.dumpster.jackrabbit.JackRa	Comp2	
2022-10-11 10:03:10	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:10	default-ni	inside.dumpster.energy.EnergySer	Comp0	
2022-10-11 10:03:10	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:10	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp9	
2022-10-11 10:03:10	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:10	default-ni	inside.dumpster.uploadtext.Uploa	Comp9	
2022-10-11 10:03:10	0 s	2022-10-11 10:03:10	default-ni	inside dumpster unloadtext Unloa	Comp9	





Consuming events programmatically

jdk.jfr.consumer.EventStream

Stream events from recording

jdk.jfr.Recording

Configure, start, stop, dump recording

jdk.jfr.consumer.RecordingStream

Stream events

jdk.management.jfr.RemoteRecordingStream

Stream events from remote source



Problem

 Our JVM takes up a lot of CPU, and we don't know why

Action

 When the CPU load is high, dump a JFR recording to analyze why this happens



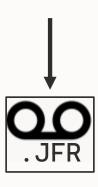


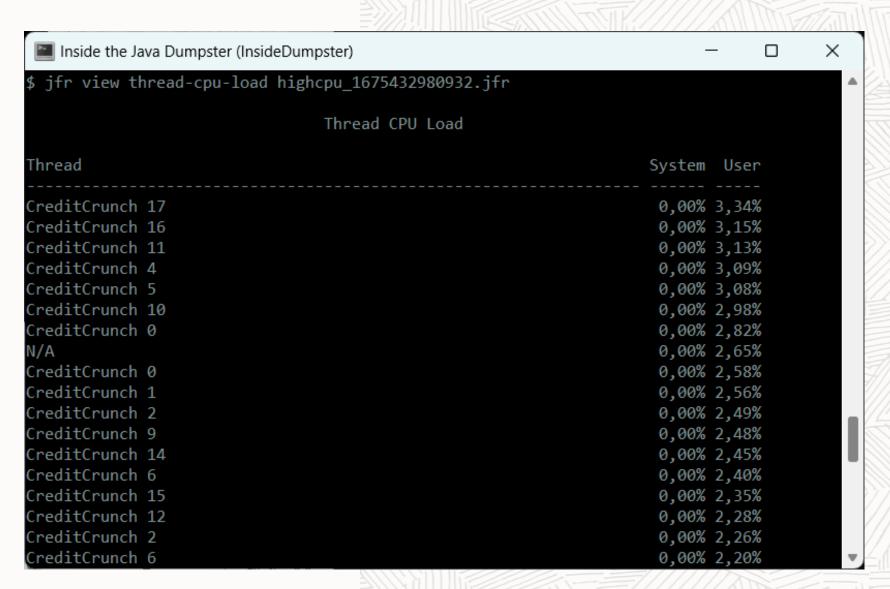
```
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
   void startCPULoadMonitor(Path dumpPath) throws Exception {
7.
       Configuration conf = Configuration.getConfiguration("default");
       try (var stream = new RecordingStream( conf )) {
8.
9.
10.
           stream.enable("jdk.CPULoad").withPeriod(Duration.ofSeconds(1));
           stream.onEvent("jdk.CPULoad", event -> {
11.
              float cpuLoad = event.getFloat("jvmUser");
12.
              if (cpuLoad > 0.8) {
13.
                 stream.dump(dumpPath);
14.
15.
16.
          });
           stream.start();
17.
18.
19.
```

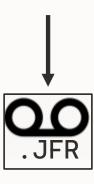
RecordingStream has no events enabled without Configuration

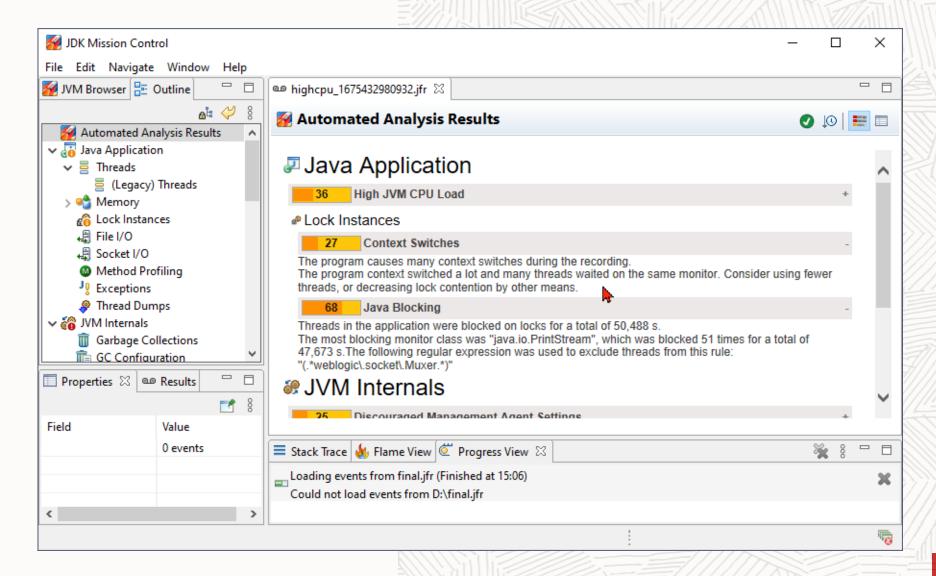
- enable events explicitly, or
- add Configuration

Since we want a JFR file to analyze, we want as many events as possible – use Configuration

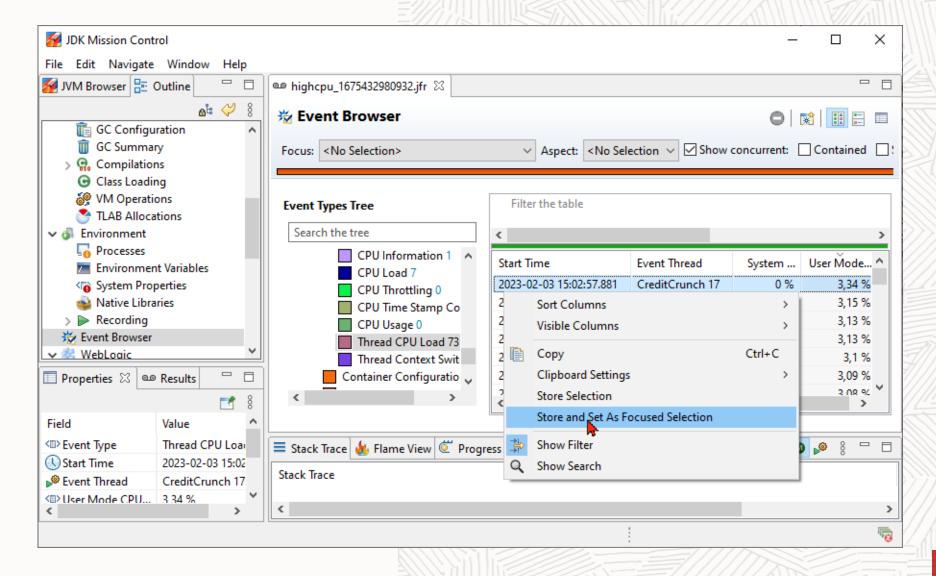






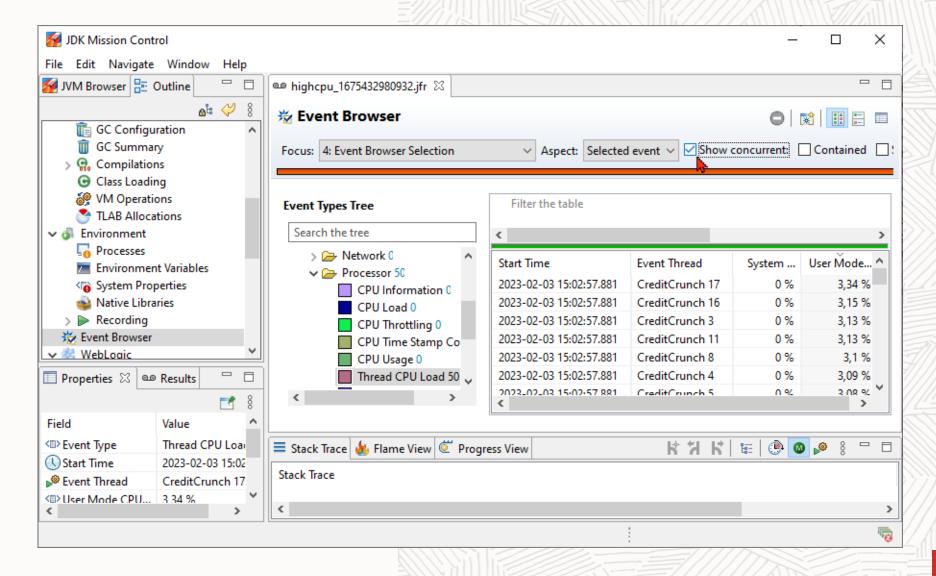






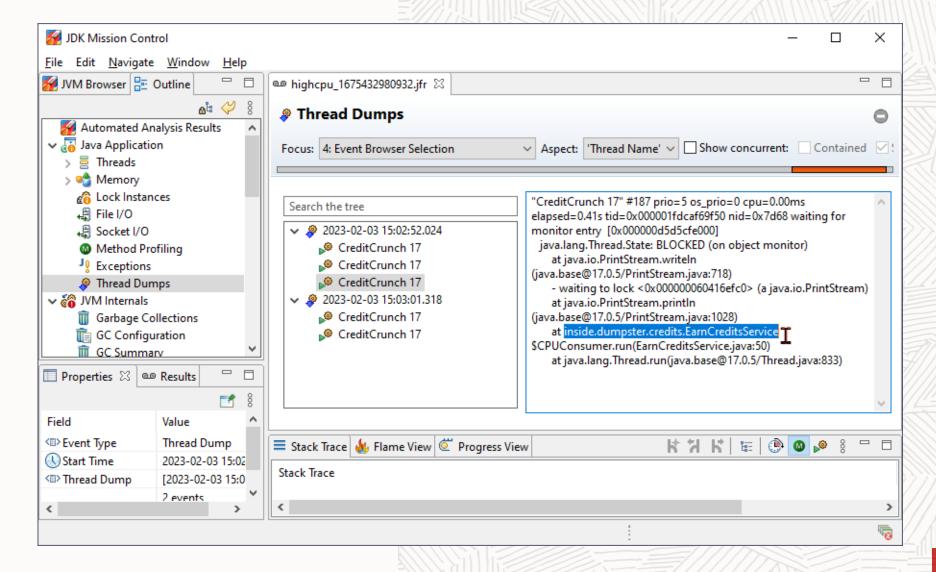


Monitoring CPU level using RecordingStream





Monitoring CPU level using RecordingStream



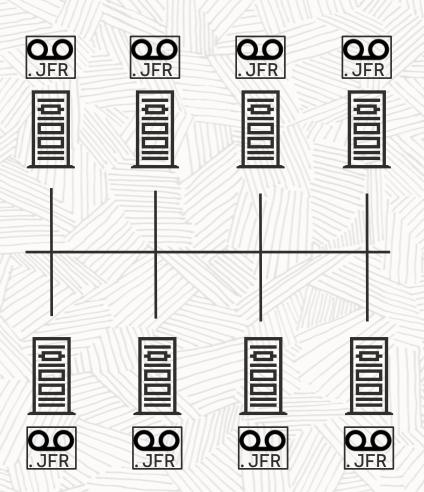


Problem

 We're saving JFR recordings on high CPU, but our server nodes are shortlived, and automatically removed

Solution

Dump JFR recording on a more persistent node



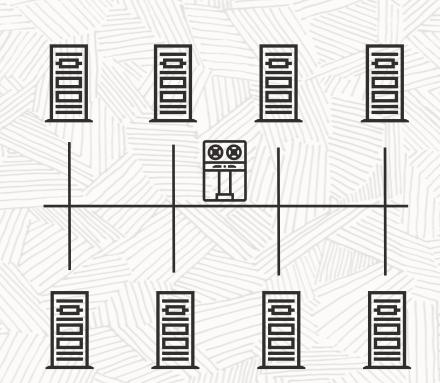


Problem

 We're saving JFR recordings on high CPU, but our server nodes are shortlived, and automatically removed

Solution

Dump JFR recording on a more persistent node



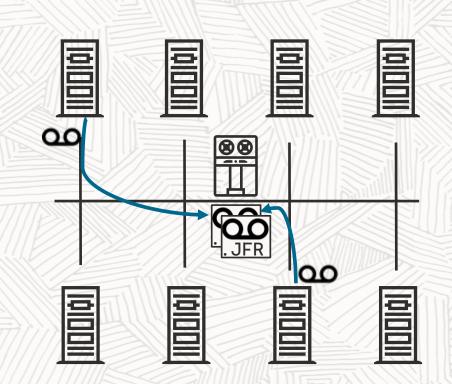


Problem

 We're saving JFR recordings on high CPU, but our server nodes are shortlived, and automatically removed

Solution

Dump JFR recording on a more persistent node





```
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
   void startCPULoadMonitor(Path dumpPath) throws Exception {
7.
       try (var stream = new RecordingStream()) {
8.
9.
10.
           stream.enable("jdk.CPULoad").withPeriod(Duration.ofSeconds(1));
           stream.onEvent("jdk.CPULoad", event -> {
11.
              float cpuLoad = event.getFloat("jvmUser");
12.
              if (cpuLoad > 0.8) {
13.
                 stream.dump(dumpPath);
14.
15.
           });
16.
            stream.start();
17.
18.
19.
 42
```

```
void startCPULoadMonitor(String host, Path dumpPath) throws Exception {
       JMXServiceURL u = new JMXServiceURL(
2.
3.
               "service:jmx:rmi:///jndi/rmi://" + host + "/jmxrmi");
       JMXConnector c = JMXConnectorFactory.connect(u,
4.
               Map.of("jmx.remote.credentials", new String[]{user, pwd}));
5.
       MBeanServerConnection conn = c.getMBeanServerConnection();
6.
7.
       try (var stream = new RemoteRecordingStream( conn )) {
8.
          stream.setMaxAge(Duration.ofMinutes(10));
9.
10.
          stream.enable("jdk.CPULoad").withPeriod(Duration.ofSeconds(1));
11.
          stream.onEvent("jdk.CPULoad", event -> {
             float cpuLoad = event.getFloat("jvmUser");
12.
             if (cpuLoad > 0.8) {
13.
                stream.dump(dumpPath);
14.
15.
           });
16.
           stream.start();
17.
18.
19.
```

Javadoc:

It's highly recommended that a max age or max size is set before starting the stream.

This means we'll keep 10 minutes worth of data on the client.



Client side

java -jar RemoteMonitor.jar server12:12345

Server side

java -XX:StartFlightRecording

- -Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.port=12345
- -Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.authenticate=true
- -Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.password.file=jmx.pwd
- -Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.access.file=jmx.acs
- -Dcom.sun.management.jmxremote.ssl=false
- -Djava.rmi.server.hostname=127.0.0.1
- -jar server.jar

JMX setup link:

https://docs.oracle.com/en/java/javase/21/management/monitoring-and-management-using-jmx-technology.html



Agenda





Using JFR events in unit tests

JEP 421: Deprecate Finalization for Removal

Finalizers are deprecated for removal

New JFR event:

• jdk.FinalizerStatistics events are emitted for each instantiated class with a non-empty finalize() method

Problem

Developers keep adding finalizers in their services.

Solution

 Add a testcase that captures all jdk.FinalizerStatistics events

```
@Override
protected void finalize() throws Throwable {
  if (fw != null) fw.close();
  if (file != null) file.delete();
}
```

Using JFR events in unit tests -- RecordingStream

```
@Test
    public void testNoServicesUsesFinalizers throws Exception {
3.
10.
11.
12.
13.
       assertTrue(classesWithFinalizers.isEmpty);
14.
15. }
```





Using JFR events in unit tests -- RecordingStream

```
@Test
    public void testNoServicesUsesFinalizers throws Exception {
       try (var stream = new RecordingStream()) {
3.
         stream.enable("jdk.FinalizerStatistics");
         stream.onEvent("jdk.FinalizerStatistics", (event) -> {
5.
           classesWithFinalizers.add(event.getClass("finalizableClass").getName());
7.
         });
         stream.startAsync();
8.
9.
10.
         callAllServices();
11.
12.
         stream.stop();
                               // new in JDK 20
13.
       assertTrue(classesWithFinalizers.isEmpty);
14.
15. }
```



Using JFR events in unit tests -- Recording

```
@Test
    public void testNoServicesUsesFinalizers throws Exception {
       try (Recording record = new Recording()) {
3.
         record.enable("jdk.FinalizerStatistics");
         record.start();
5.
         callAllServices();
         record.stop();
7.
         record.dump(tempFile);
8.
         try (EventStream stream = EventStream.openFile(tempFile)) {
9.
           stream.onEvent("jdk.FinalizerStatistics", (event) -> {
10.
             classesWithFinalizers.add(event.getClass("finalizableClass").getName());
11.
12.
           });
           stream.start();
13.
14.
15.
         Files.delete(tempFile);
16.
       assertTrue(classesWithFinalizers.isEmpty);
17.
18. }
```



Using JFR events in unit tests -- JFRUnit

Not part of the JDK!

JFRUnit

- Framework by Gunnar Morling
- JDK 16 and up
- https://github.com/moditect/jfrunit

```
1. public JfrEvents jfrEvents = new JfrEvents();
2. @Test
3. @EnableEvent(FinalizerStatistics.EVENT_NAME)
4. public void testNoServicesUsesFinalizers() throws Exception {
5.
6. callAllServices();
7. jfrEvents.awaitEvents();
8.
9. assertEquals(0, jfrEvents.filter(FINALIZER_STATISTICS).count());
10. }
```



```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
public class BytesRead extends Event {
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
                 Some other annotations:
                    @MemoryAddress
                     @Frequency
                     @Percentage
```

```
for (int pos : backend.getNext()) {
   byte arr[] = backend.read(pos);
   frontend.addBytes(arr);
```

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
public class BytesRead extends Event {
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
```

```
for (int pos : backend.getNext()) {
   var event = new BytesProcessed();
   event.begin();
   byte arr[] = backend.read(pos);
   event.end();
   event.bytes = b.length();
   event.commit();

   frontend.addBytes(arr);
}
```

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
@Enabled(false)
public class BytesRead extends Event {
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
```

```
for (int pos : backend.getNext()) {
   var event = new BytesProcessed();
   event.begin();
   byte arr[] = backend.read(pos);
   event.end();
   event.bytes = b.length();
   event.commit();
}
```

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
@Enabled(false)
public class BytesRead extends Event {
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
  public String detail;
```

```
for (int pos : backend.getNext()) {
   var event = new BytesProcessed();
   event.begin();
   byte arr[] = backend.read(pos);
   event.end();
   event.bytes = b.length();
   if (event.isEnabled()) {
     // possibly costly call
     event.detail = backend.getDetails();
   event.commit();
   frontend.addBytes(arr);
```

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
@Enabled(false)
@Threshold("50 ms")
public class BytesRead extends Event {
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
  public String detail;
```

```
for (int pos : backend.getNext()) {
   var event = new BytesProcessed();
   event.begin();
   byte arr[] = backend.read(pos);
   event.end();
   event.bytes = b.length();
   if (event.shouldCommit()) {
     // possibly costly call
     event.detail = backend.getDetails();
   3
   event.commit();
   frontend.addBytes(arr);
```

Enabling in a test

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
                                              @Test
@Label("Bytes Read")
                                              public void testBytesRead throws Exception {
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
                                                 try (var stream = new RecordingStream()) {
@Enabled(false)
                                                   stream.enable("backend.io.BytesRead");
                                                   stream.onEvent("backend.io.BytesRead",
                                                     (event) -> {
public class BytesRead extends Event {
                                                       assertWhatever(event);
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
                                                   stream.startAsync();
  public long bytes;
                                                   doStuff();
                                                   stream.stop();
                                          12
                                                 assertTrue(allIsGood);
                                          13.
                                          14. }
```

Enabling for a recording

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
@Enabled(false)
public class BytesRead extends Evemaxsize=250MB as default.
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
```

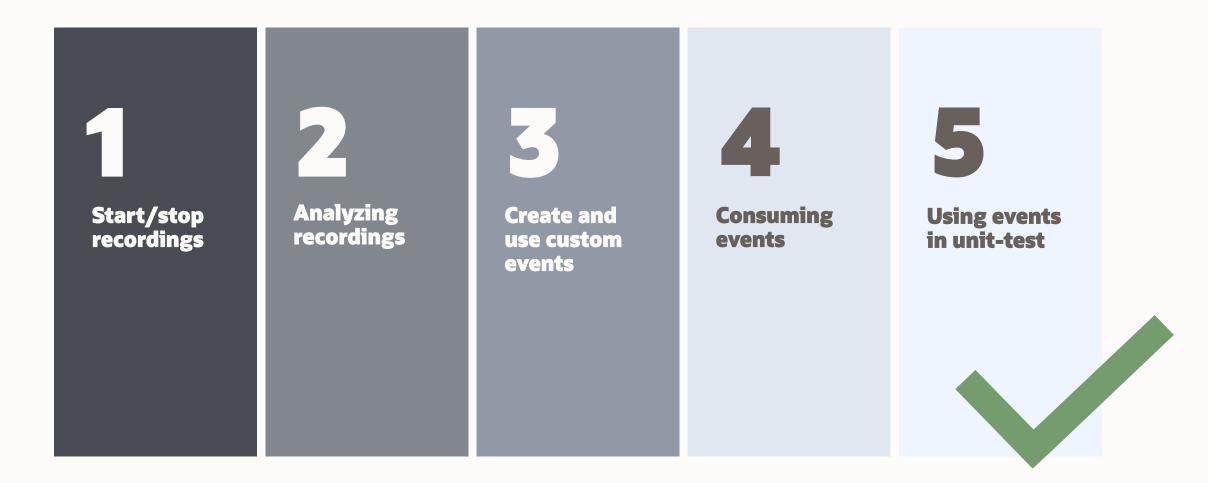
```
$ jcmd 23544 JFR.start
          +backend.io.BytesRead#enabled=true
23544:
Started recording 6. No limit specified, using
maxsize=250MB as default.
Use jcmd 23544 JFR.dump name=6 filename=FILEPATH to
copy recording data to file.
```

Enabling in a configuration

```
@Name("backend.io.BytesRead")
@Label("Bytes Read")
@Category({"Backend", "IO"})
@Enabled(false)
  @Label("Bytes Read")
  @DataAmount
  public long bytes;
```

```
jfr configure
                                          --input profile.jfc
                                          +backend.io.BytesRead#enabled=true \
                                          --output highprofile.jfc
public class BytesRead extends EveConfiguration written successfully to: highprofile.jfc
                                      jcmd 23544 JFR.start settings=highprofile.jfc
                                    23544:
                                    Started recording 7. No limit specified, using
                                    maxsize=250MB as default.
```

Agenda





Questions?

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