



PTC® IoT Academic Program

How to send data to the
ThingWorx Server from
Java Edge SDK programs
running on your
microcontroller

This tutorial guides you through the procedure of sending data to a ThingWorx server using ThingWorx Java Edge SDK, based on the SteamSensor example that you can find in the archive containing the SDK. To learn more about ThingWorx Edge SDKs follow the tutorial [How to deploy programs on your microcontroller on Learning Exchange](#) site.

If you don't have Java or a Java IDE already installed follow [this tutorial](#) to learn how to do this.

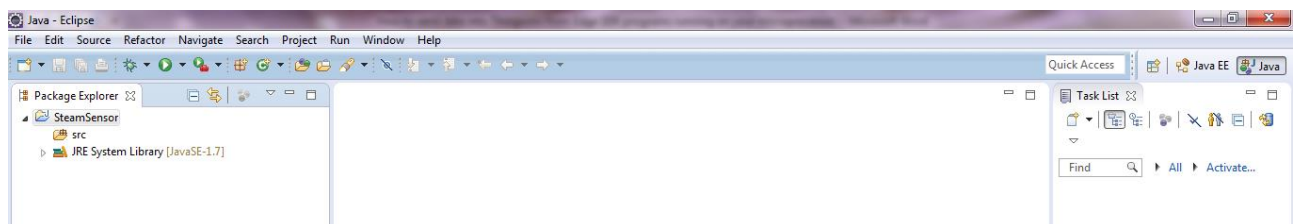
The SteamSensor example can be found in the archive containing the Thingworx Java Edge SDK which you can download from Thingworx Market Place.

The two classes that build this example are SteamThing and SteamSensorClient. The SteamThing class models the actual SteamSensor with its properties, events and services, representing basically the skeleton of the program. The SteamSensorClient class works as the brain of the program, the Main function if you'd like, in which the connection to a ThingWorx Server instance is established. This class also takes care of the binding¹ process of the Things to the ThingWorx server instance you choose to connect to and of the simulated process of reading the properties for several SteamSensorThings.

To set up this project in Eclipse and start working on it follow the next steps :

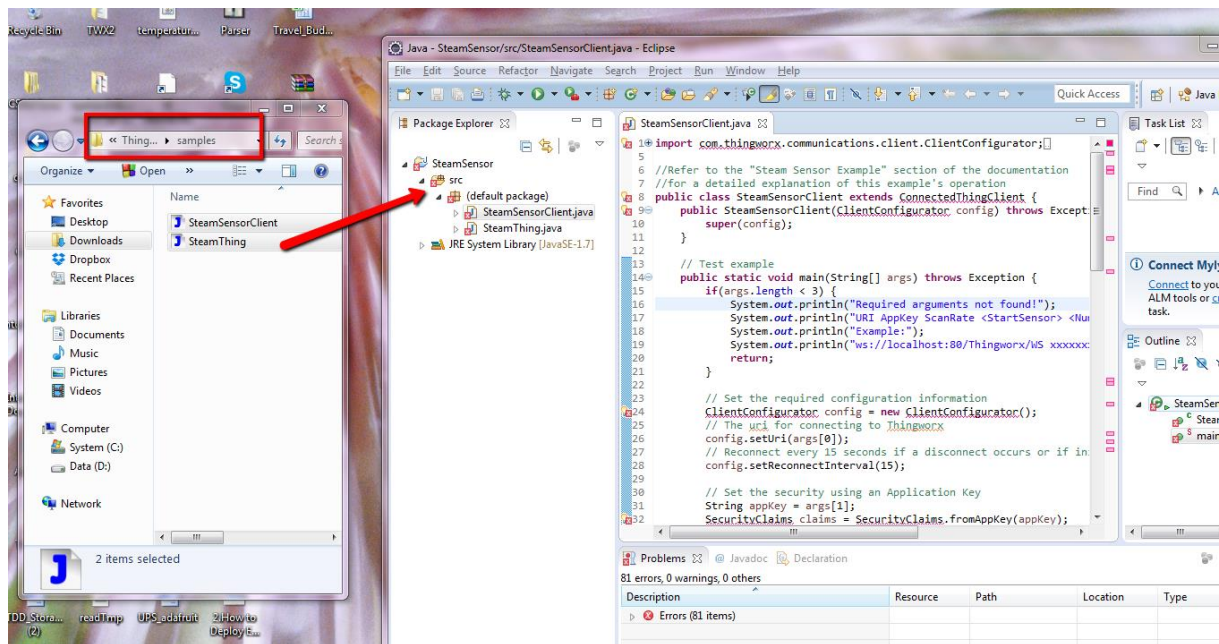
- First download the ThingWorx Java Edge SDK and extract the files to a destination of your choice.
- Then open up your Java IDE. I will use Eclipse in this tutorial. Go to File → New → Java Project. Name the Project SteamSensor.

You will be presented with the following structure:

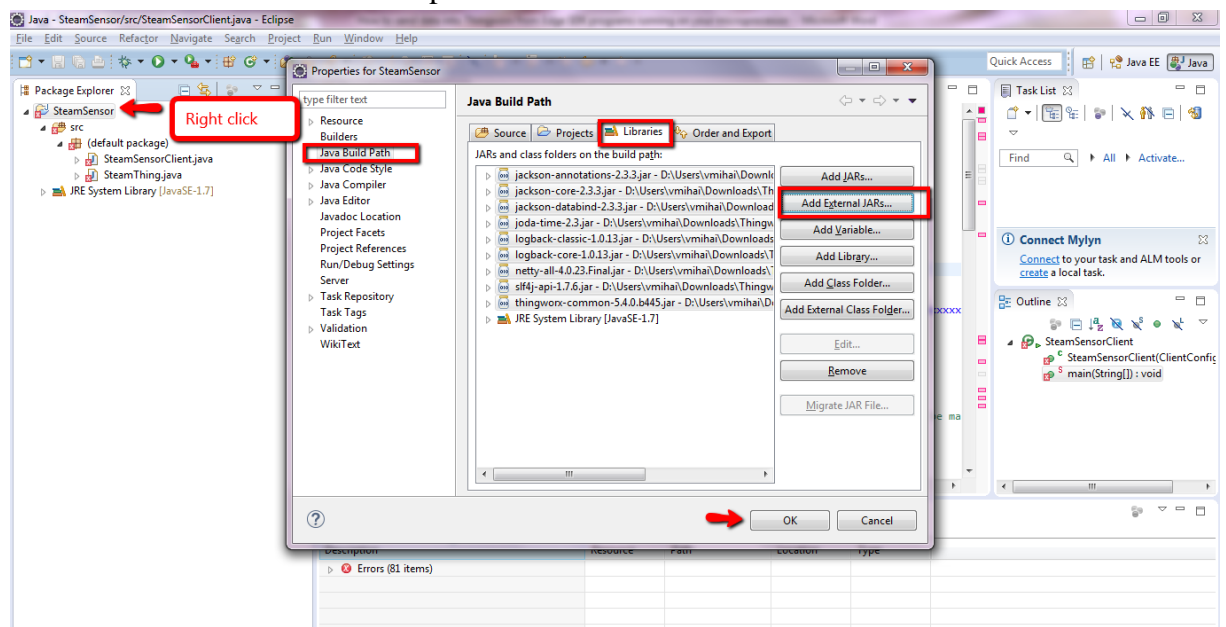


- Drag and drop the two .java files from the samples folder in the src folder of your IDE.

¹ Through this binding, the Thingworx Web application will receive requests that a Remote Thing wants to connect and send data to it.



- You will get several errors because the methods used in these classes won't be found.
- To resolve this, add the jar files that you can find in the lib folder of the Edge Java SDK archive. To do this in the Eclipse environment follow the next steps :
 - Right click the SteamSensor project and choose Properties.
 - Go to Java Build Path and select the Libraries Tab.
 - Here click add External JARs and locate the lib folder of the Java Edge SDK that you downloaded.
 - Select all of them and click open.



- Then click OK. You shouldn't see any more errors in your two Java classes.

To better understand this Java Program it helps to familiarize yourself with terms such as Thing, Thing Properties, Thing Events, Thing Services under Thingworx. To find more about

this, check out this [Glossary of Terms](#). You can experience more with these terms by exploring the other academic resources on [this page](#).

The SteamSensorThing class in this java Edge example models and simulates an actual physical Steam sensor with different properties:

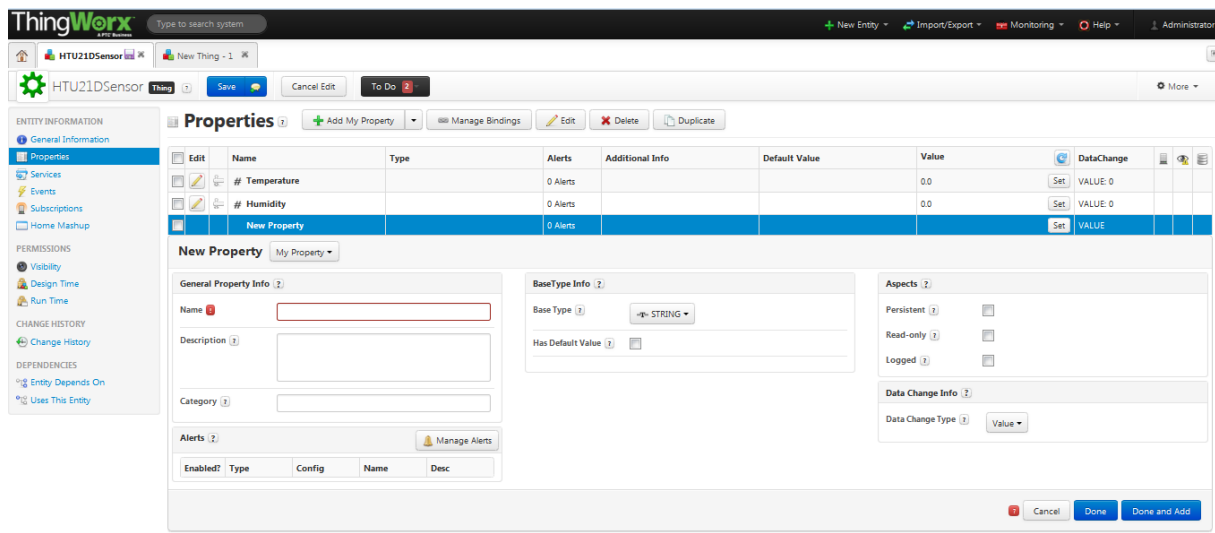
Name	Description	Function
Temperature	Steam Sensor Temperature	Ranges from 400-440
Pressure	Steam Sensor Pressure	Ranges from 18-23
TotalFlow	Total flow through the Steam Sensor	Starts at 0 and increments by 0-1 every scan rate
InletValve	Steam Sensor inlet valve	Usually true, set to false on 15 second interval
TemperatureLimit	Defines the value that causes a Steam Sensor Fault	If greater than 0 and less than temperature then cause a steam sensor fault
FaultStatus	Is the Steam Sensor faulted	True when in fault (see what causes a fault above) false otherwise

In the actual java code these properties are defined using a Java technique called [Java Annotations](#).

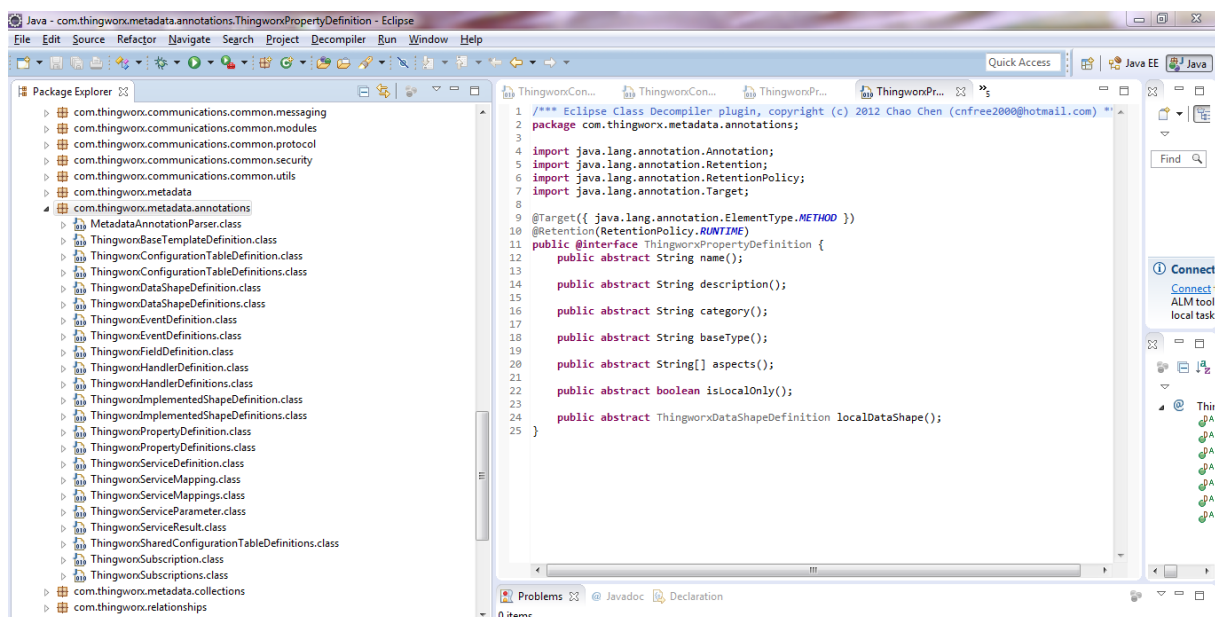
Here is how a read-only property of type number used to store the Temperature of the SteamSensor is defined using Java Annotations :

```
@ThingworxPropertyDefinition(name="Temperature", description="Current Temperature", baseType="NUMBER", category="Status", aspects={"isReadOnly:true"})
```

The keys (name, description, baseType etc.) and values (example „Number” for baseType, isReadOnly for aspects etc.) for the attributes in these properties definitions usually reflect the Thing properties and their values that appear on the ThingWorx platform, when adding a new Property for a Thing :



The safest way to find out what annotations you can use when defining either a Thing properties, Thing events or Thing services is to check out the package `com.thingworx.metadata.annotations` in the `thingworx-common-5.4.0.b445.jar` file that you referenced in your Java Build Path.



The `scanDevice()` method is where the actual setting of the values for these properties is done. The values set are randomly generated, usually these values come from actual sensors.

```
double temperature = 400 + 40 * Math.random();
super.setProperty("Temperature", temperature);
```

Thingworx doesn't provide any methods for actually reading data from sensors. Nevertheless you can see some examples of how data is read from different sensors using third party libraries on the academic resources page.

Notice that the `scanDevice()` method is called within the `processScanRequest()` method and it is this last method that you need to call when you want to update your Things properties values.

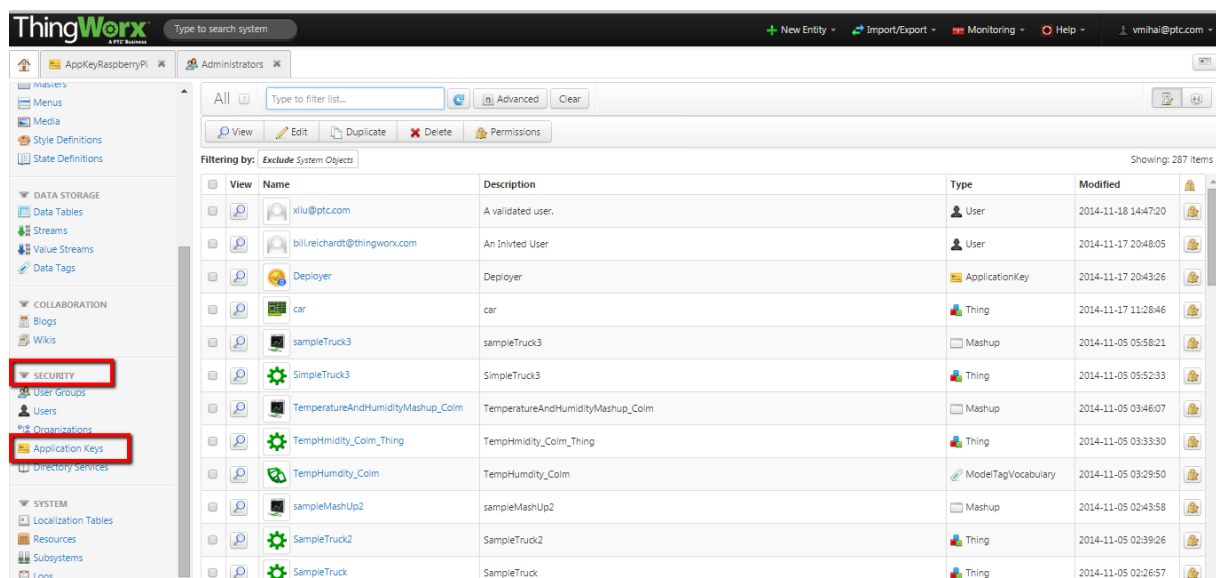
As mentioned earlier, the connection to the Thingworx server is done in the `StreamSensorClient` class, more precisely in these lines of code :

```
// The uri for connecting to Thingworx
config.setUri(args[0]);
// Reconnect every 15 seconds if a disconnect occurs or if initial
connection cannot be made
config.setReconnectInterval(15);
```

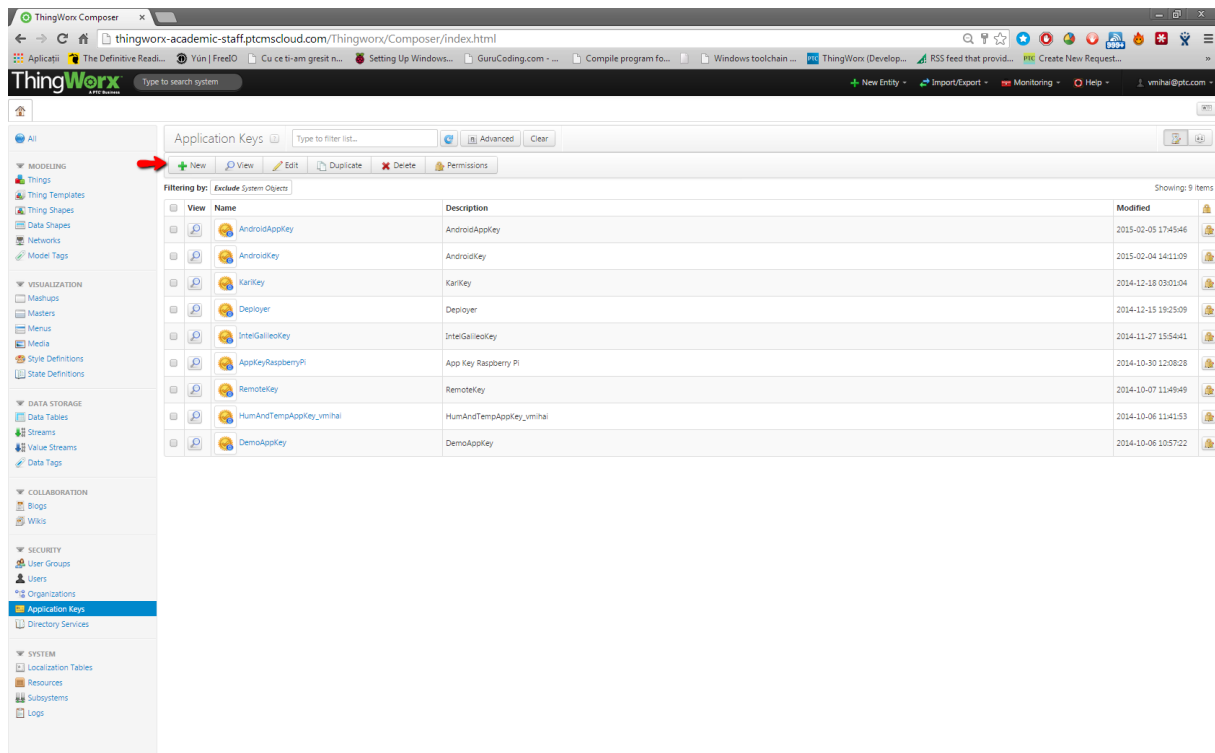
The variable `args[0]` represents an input argument that you need to provide in the Run Configuration for this program. Other input arguments that you need to provide are an AppKey, the ScanRate (the refresh interval at which you want data to be sent to the Thingworx Server) , StartSensor (the sensor at which to start reading data and sending it into TWX), Number Of Sensors (how many SteamSensorThings you would like to connect to Thingworx)

The App key is a ThingWorx created object that is used in the authentication into the ThingWorx Server process. Application keys are used whenever one would like to interact with a ThingWorx Application outside of the actual ThingWorx Web Application. Thus an app key replaces the login credentials input that is normally required for each communication with ThingWorx.

To get this value go to your ThingWorx Composer home tab and locate Application Key in the Security section.



Click it and click the +New Button:



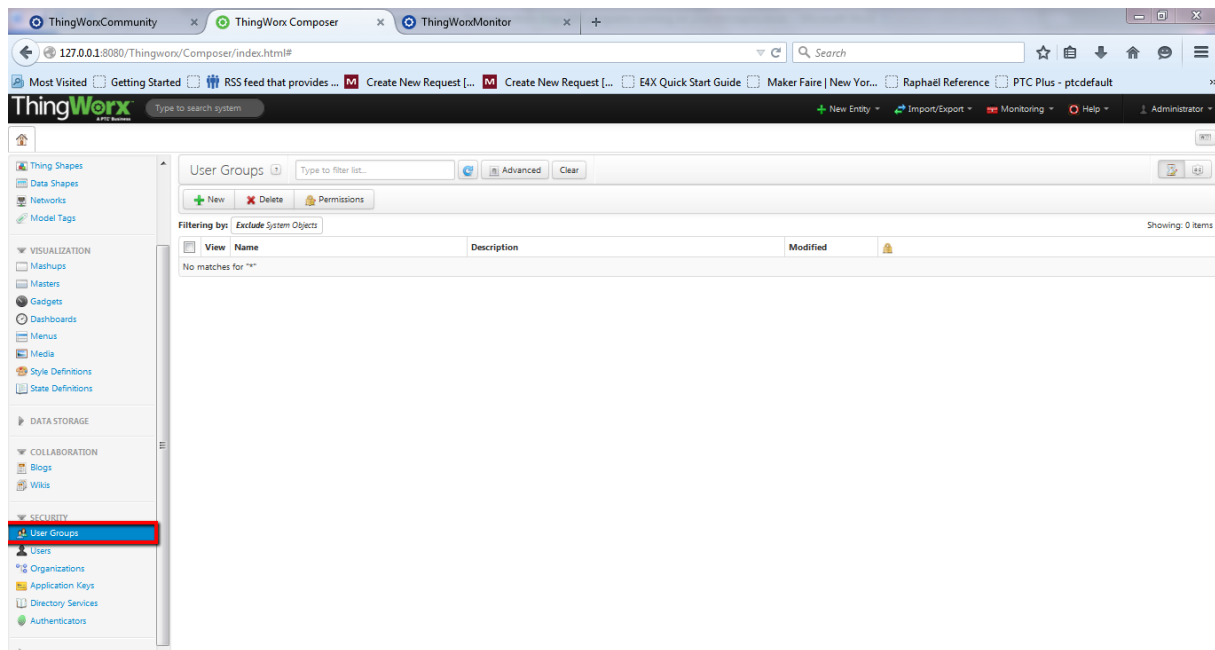
Enter a name, for example: myAppKey and select your User in the User Name Reference field :

This screenshot shows the 'New ApplicationKey' form. The 'General Information' tab is active. The 'Name' field contains 'MyAppKey'. The 'Description' field is empty. The 'Tags' field has a search prompt. The 'IP Whitelist' and 'Client Name' fields are empty. The 'User Name Reference' dropdown is set to 'Administrator'. The 'keyId' field is empty. On the right side, there are fields for 'Home Mashup' (with a search prompt), 'Avatar' (with a 'Change' button), and 'Last Modified Date' (set to 'No date and time selected').

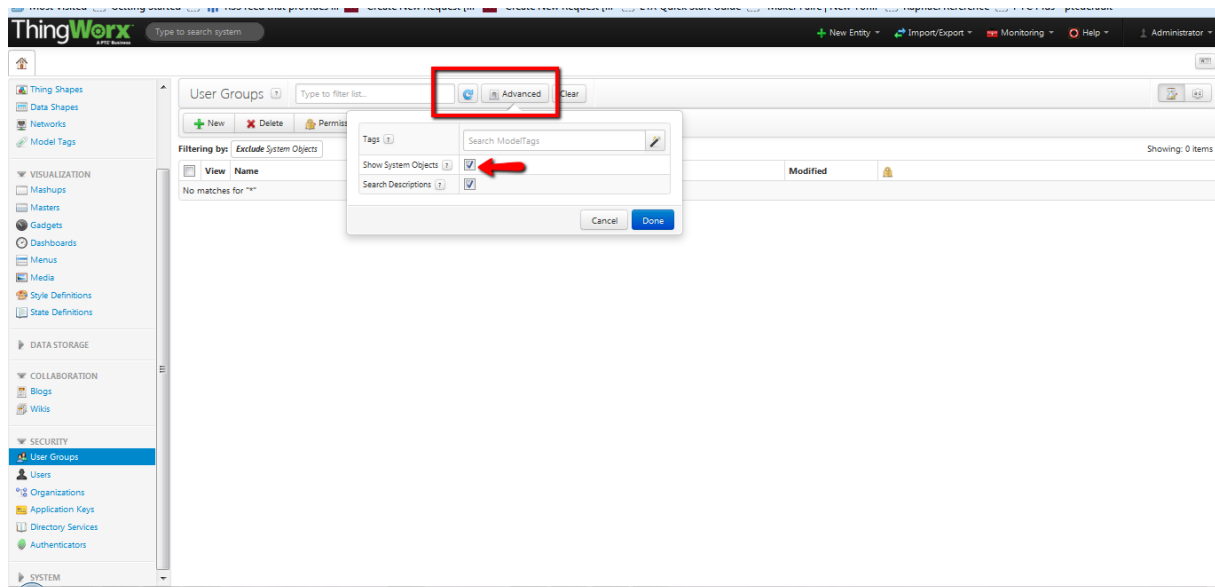
Save the App key and copy the keyId.

This screenshot shows the detail page for the 'MyAppKey' application key. The 'General Information' tab is active. The 'Name' field is 'MyAppKey'. The 'keyId' field is highlighted with a red box and contains the value '95761bee-1be9-43b3-a4a1-8efcb75b87b'. Other fields like 'Description', 'Tags', 'IP Whitelist', 'Client Name', 'User Name Reference' (set to 'Administrator'), 'Home Mashup', 'Avatar', and 'Last Modified Date' (set to '2015-03-06 17:22:10') are also visible.

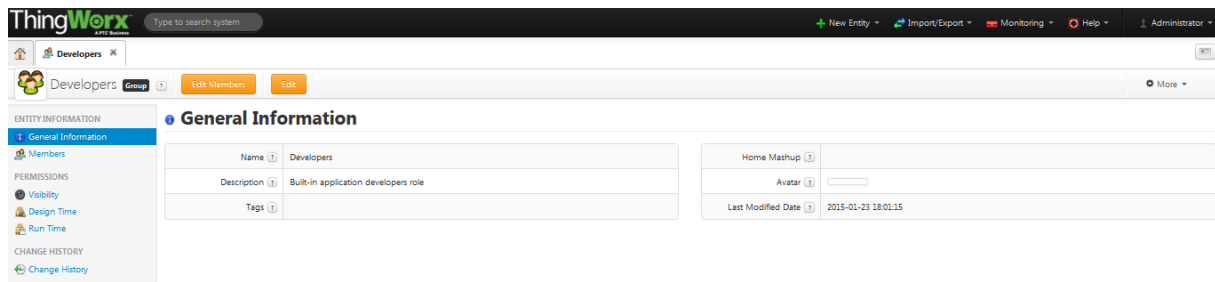
To be able to visualize data sent remotely from devices, you will need at least developer rights for the App Key. Make sure the user you choose for the App key is the user you are logged in on the Thingworx platform and that it has at least developer rights. To verify if your user belongs to the administrators or the developers group, go to your Thingworx Composer, User Group section.



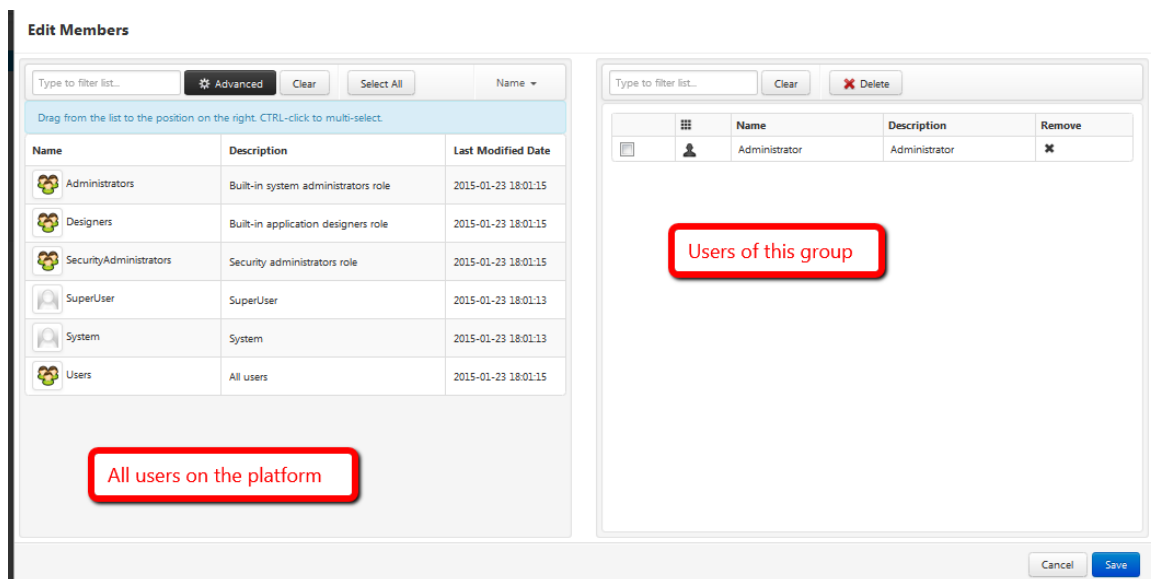
Here click on Advanced and check the Show System Objects Checkbox. Next click Done.



This will show you all the existing User Groups on the Platform. To verify if your user belongs to any of the groups, click on the one you want to verify and go to Edit Members.



Here you will be able to see if your user is among the members or not. You could also add it to a certain group if you have administrator or developer rights given by the one who created your account on the platform.



Coming back to the java code of the SteamSensor Edge Application, you can see in this for loop how the number of SteamSensorThings that you stated in the input argument are first created and then bound to the client representing the Thingworx Server Instance.

```
for(int sensor=1;sensor <= nSensors; sensor++) {
    int sensorID = startSensor + sensor;
    SteamThing steamSensorThing = new SteamThing("SteamSensor" + sensorID,"Steam
Sensor #" + sensorID,"SN000" + sensorID,client);
    client.bindThing(steamSensorThing);
}
```

Another for loop is afterwards used to simulate the reading of data from these created and bound to the Thingworx Server SteamSensorThings :

```
for(VirtualThing thing : client.getThings().values()) {
    try {
        thing.processScanRequest();
    }
    catch(Exception eProcessing) {
```

```
System.out.println("Error Processing Scan Request for [" + thing.getName() + "] :  
" + eProcessing.getMessage());  
}
```

The interval at which the reading is done being established by this line of code :

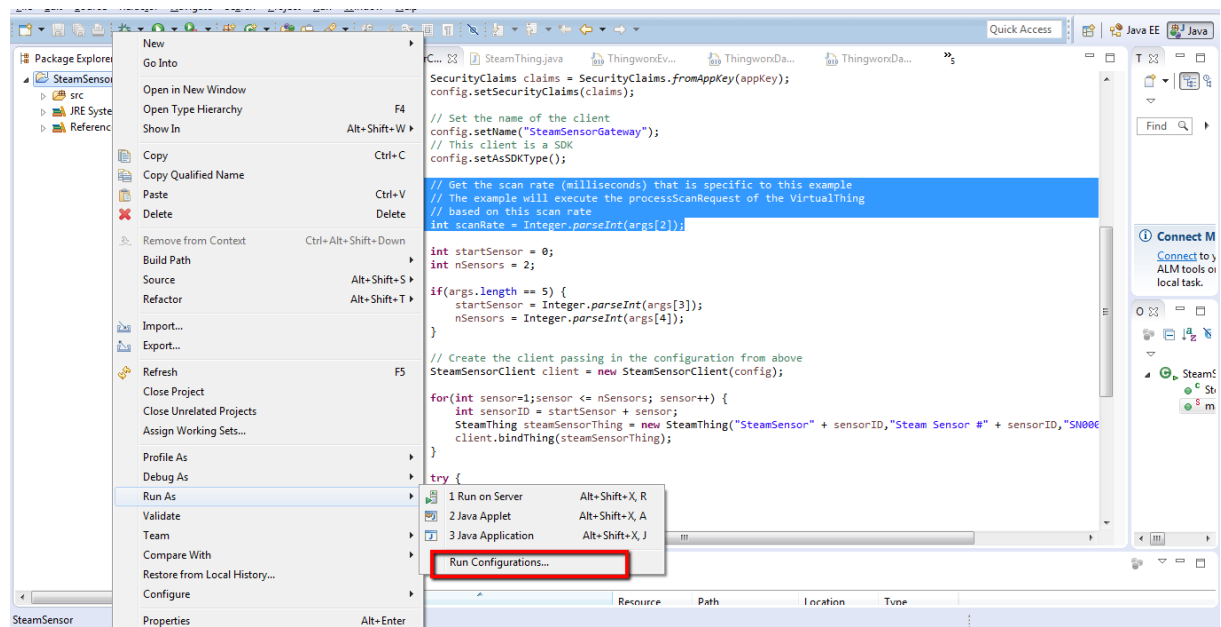
```
// Suspend processing at the scan rate interval  
Thread.sleep(scanRate);
```

Therefore, if you'd like to change this value you would have to change the value for the variable scanRate, which is given as the third input argument in your Run Configuration.

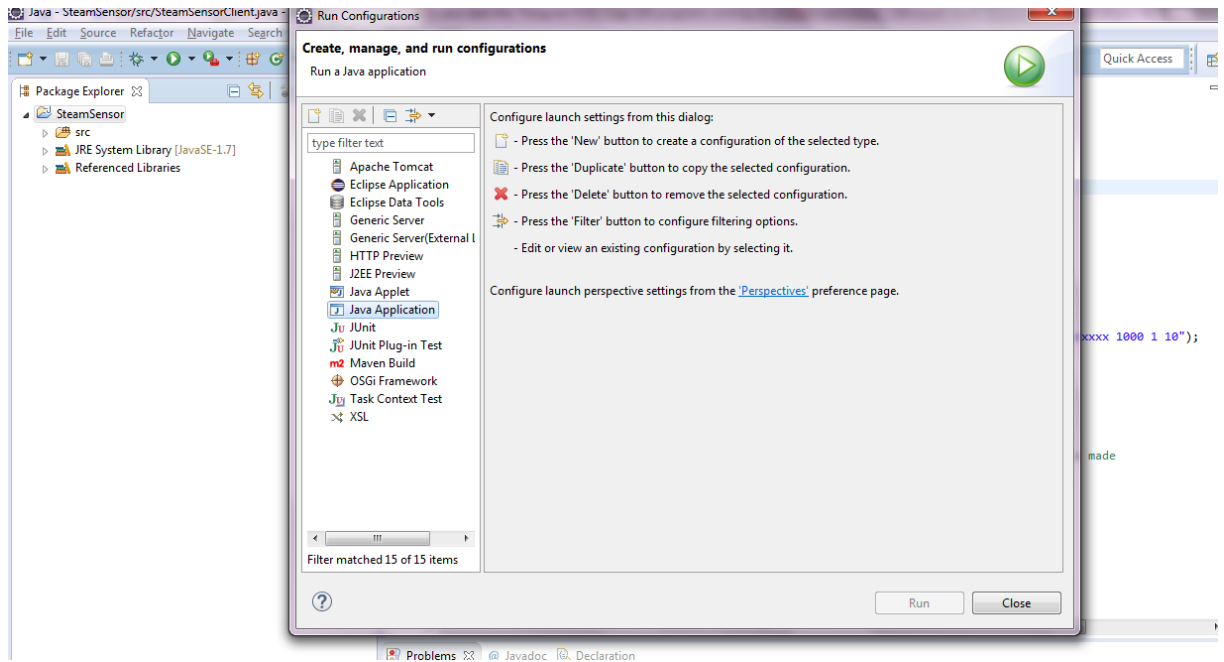
```
// Get the scan rate (milliseconds) that is specific to this example  
// The example will execute the processScanRequest of the VirtualThing  
// based on this scan rate  
int scanRate = Integer.parseInt(args[2]);
```

To set up your Run Configuration on Eclipse follow the next steps :

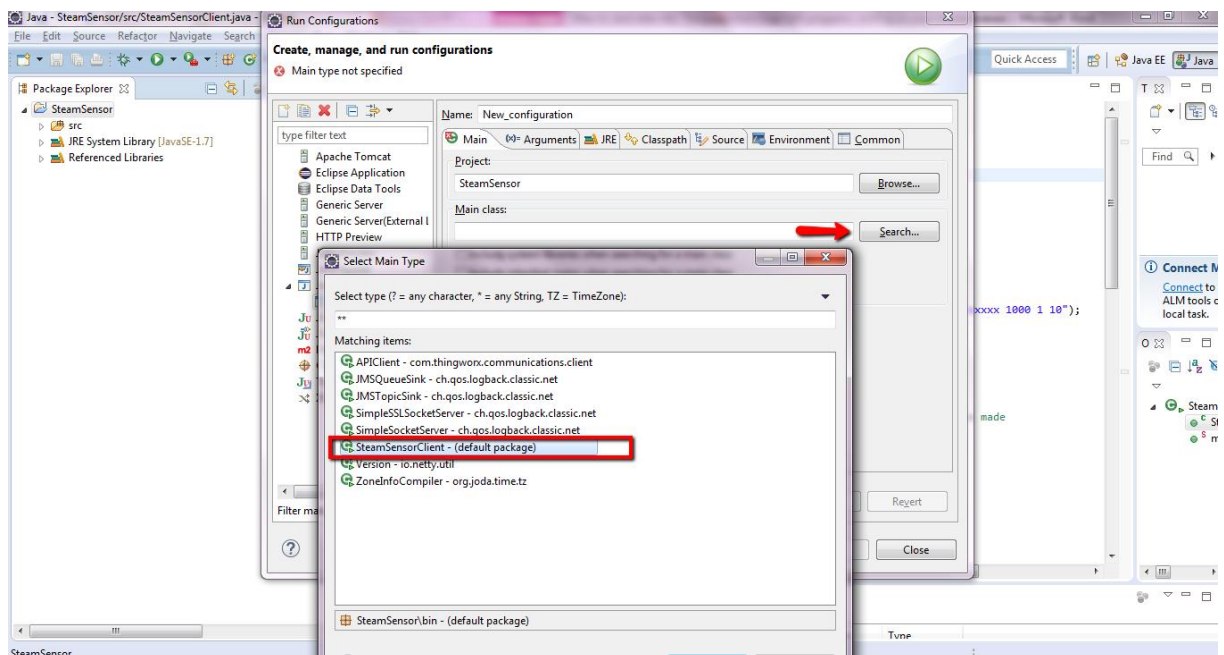
- Right click your SteamSensor java project folder and select Run as → Run Configurations



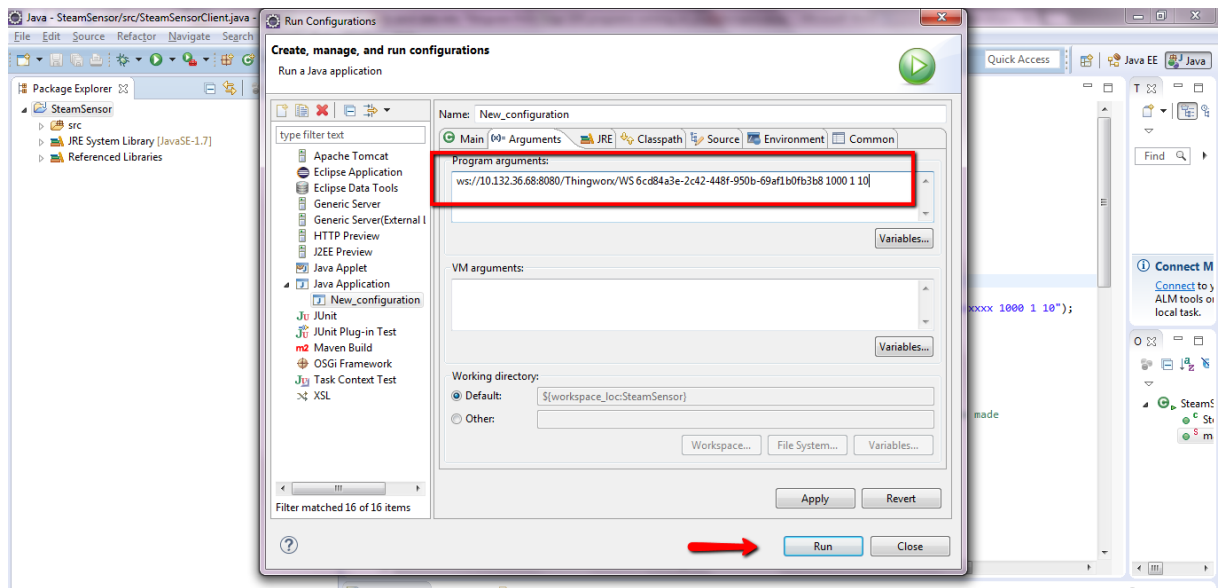
- Next go to Java Application, right click it and select New.



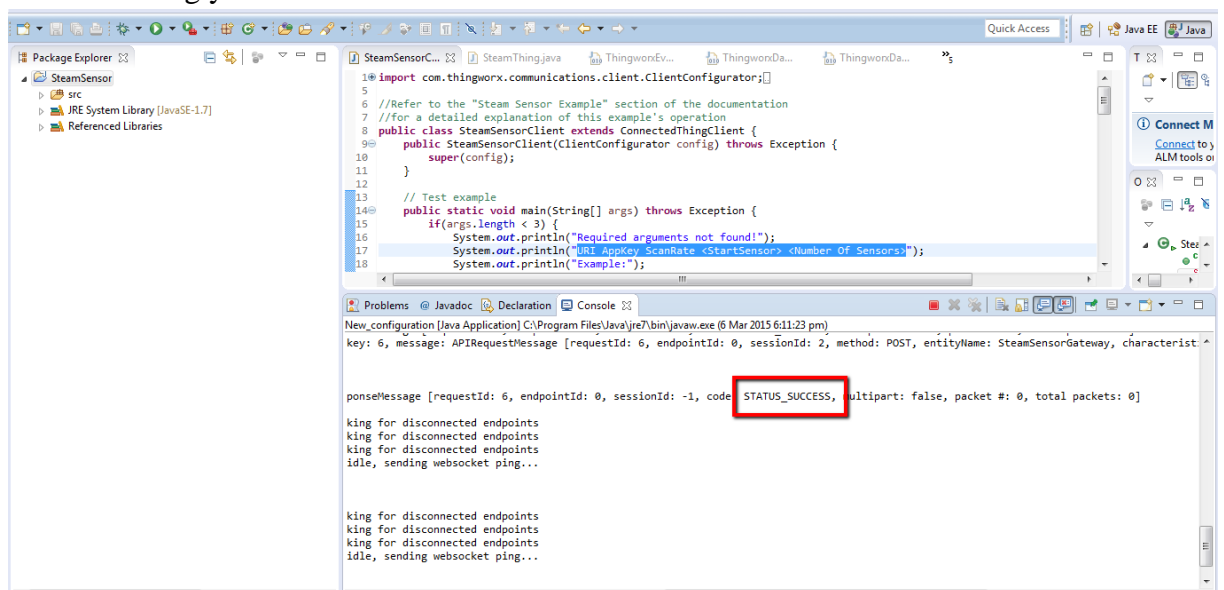
- Click the Search Button next to the Main Class field, select SteamSensorClient and click OK.



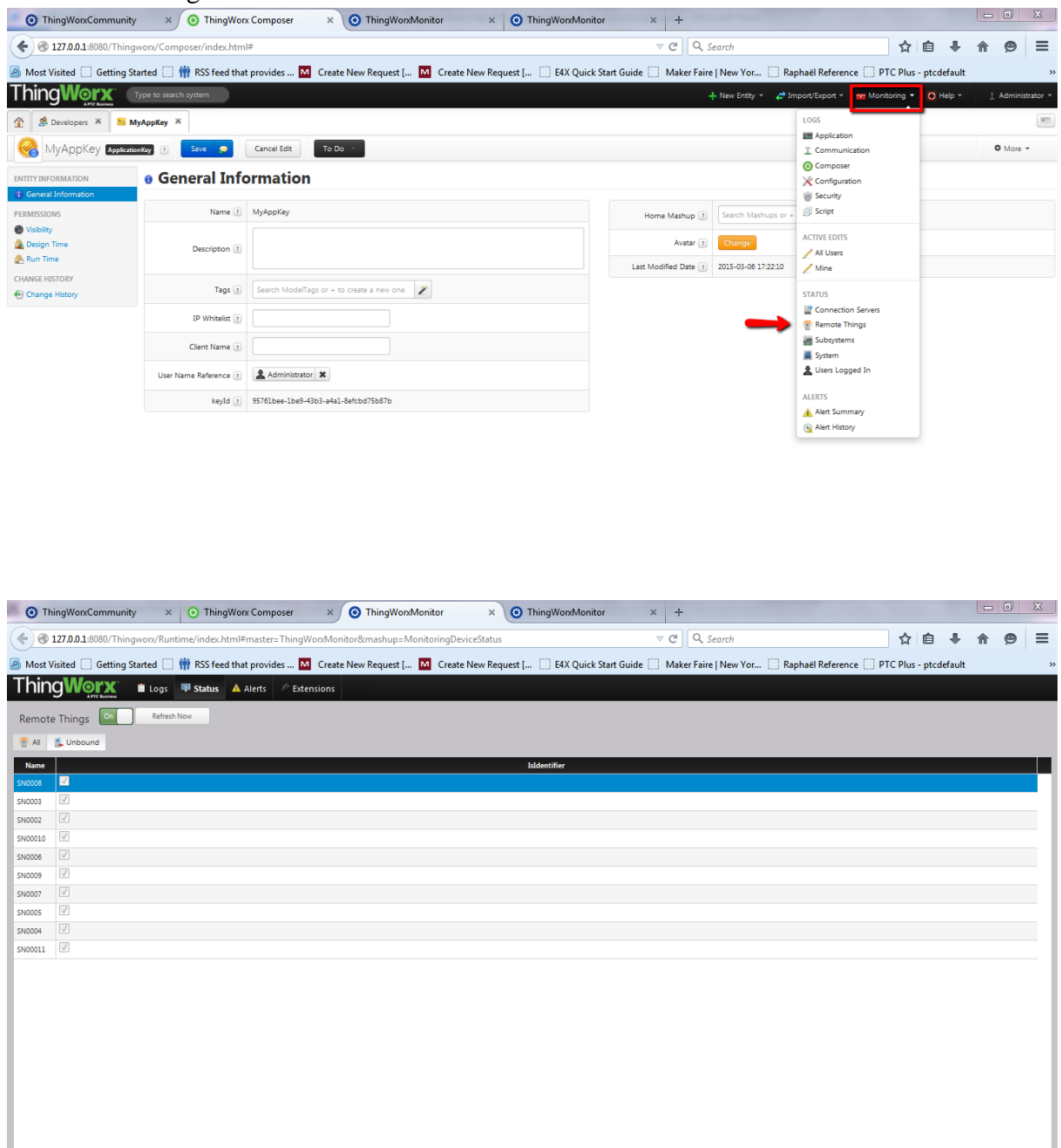
- Then select the Arguments Tab and fill in a String of the Type :
ws://10.132.36.68:8080/Thingworx/WS baebbf44-8afc-4dcd-a76c-4f340a265437 1000 1 10
- The Arguments follow this pattern :
URI AppKey ScanRate <StartSensor> <Number Of Sensors>



- Next you can click the Run Button.
- The IP address is the IP address of your Thingworx Instance, together with the port on which it is listening and receiving data. Notice that the communication protocol used is Web Sockets, and thus the port is a non-secure one, the port 80. If you are using Secure Web Sockets, you will need to use a different port, most probably 443.
- If you prefer using the name of the server (for example : thingworx-academic-staff.ptcmscloud.com), don't state the port anymore. So the URI of your Thingworx Server would be *ws://thingworx-academic-staff.ptcmscloud.com/Thingworx/WS*.
- When running the application you will see several Log messages in your Console window telling you if the connection was succesful or not.



- To see your Remote Things go to your Thingworx Composer and Select Monitoring
→ Remote Things → Unbound.



You will see the number of sensors that you gave as input argument.

To be able to interact with the data that these Remote Things are sending to the Thingworx server, you will need to bind them to a Thing created using a RemoteThing Template on your Thingworx platform.

Binding a remote device (like a Sensor sending data through a microcontroller) can be done in several way on the Thingworx Platform:

1. through the name of the Virtual Thing (when no identifier is set in the constructor for the VirtualThing)
2. Through an identifier.

Both of these values are associated with the Remote Thing in this line of code:

```

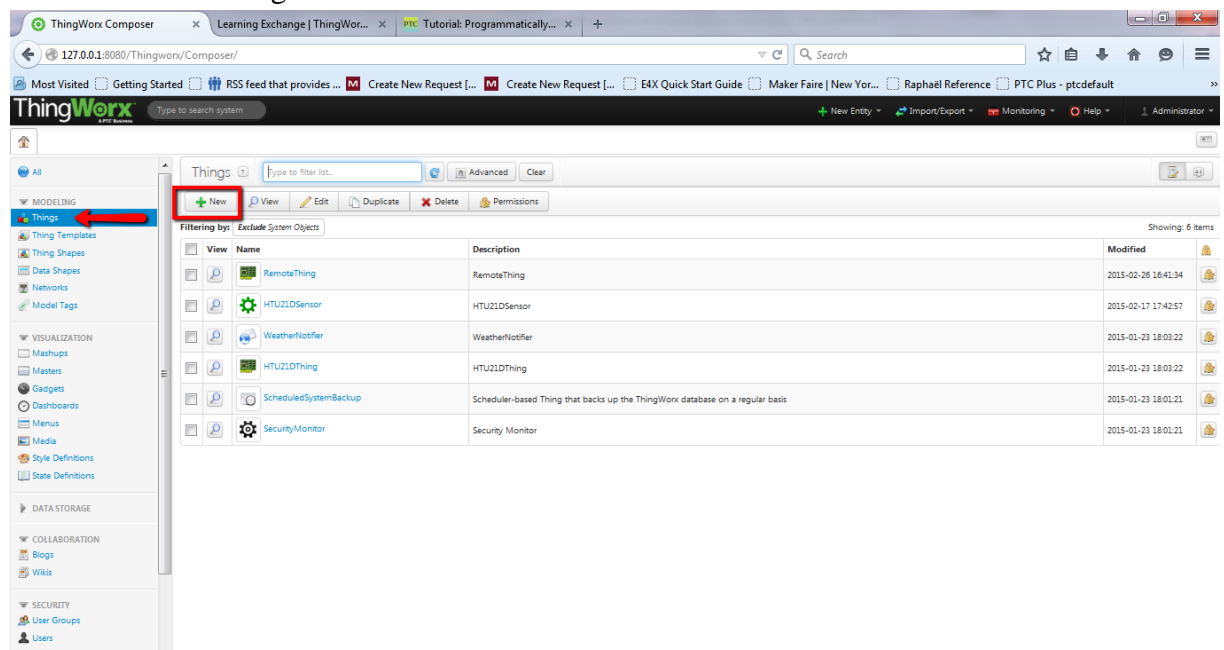
SteamThing steamSensorThing = new SteamThing("SteamSensor" +
sensorID,"Steam Sensor #" + sensorID,"SN000" + sensorID,client);
    client.bindThing(steamSensorThing);
//The parameters given in the constructor of the SteamThing class stand for
the SteamThing Name, SteamThing description, SteamThing identifier and the
client the SteamThing will send data to.

```

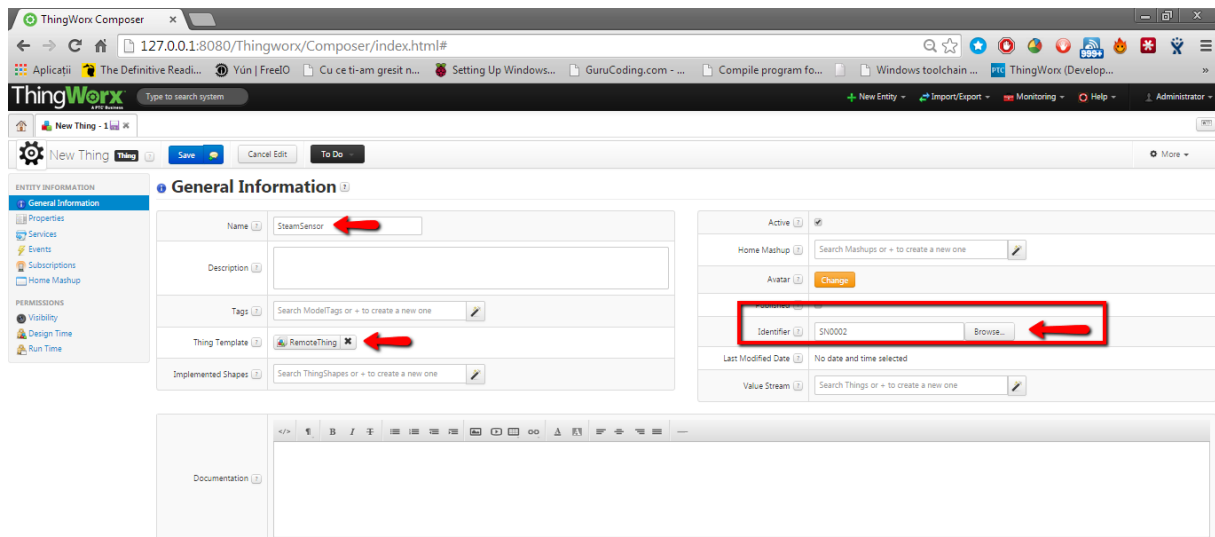
In this example you will use the second method, because the value for the identifier is present.

Follow these steps to bind a remote SteamSensorThing from your java code to an actual Thing on your Thingworx Server so that you can use its data to later build Mashups or simply to store it into ValueStreams and use these data in data analysis.

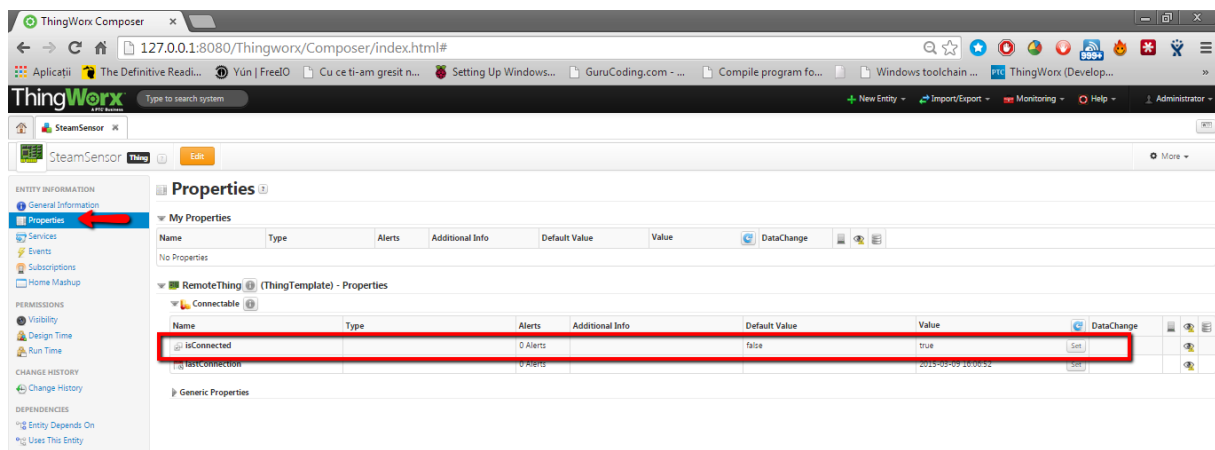
- Go to your Thingworx Composer and click the + new button from the Things section to create a new Thing.



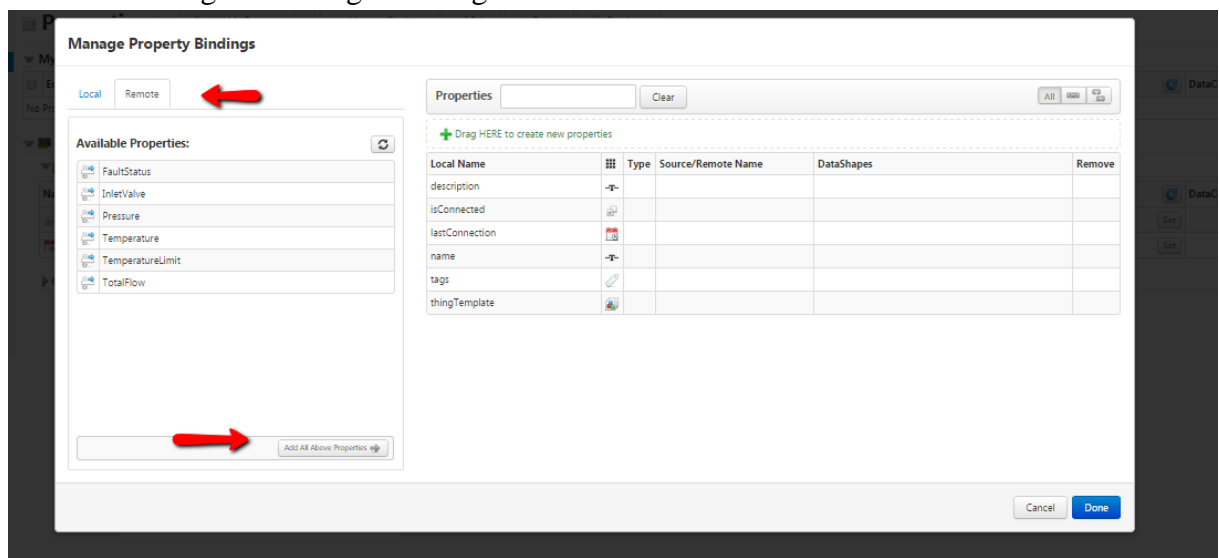
- Enter any name you'd like for the SteamSensorThing. This will store the data from your java code that you would like to bind.
- Choose RemoteThing as Template and save your Thing.
- In the Identifier field, click Browse and select the Identifier you would like to bind.



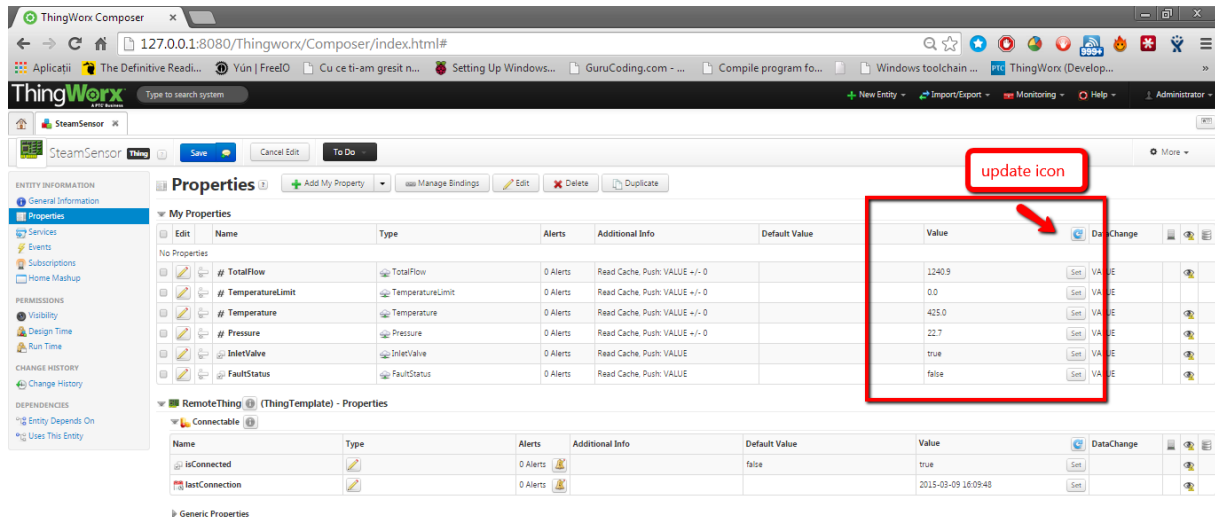
- Save the Thing and go to the Properties section. You should see the property isConnected of your Thing appearing as True.



- To bring in the properties that this remote SteamSensor is sending to the Thingworx. Click Edit and go to Manage Bindings → Remote Tab.



- Click Done and Save the Thing. You will now be able to see all the properties that this SteamSensor is sending from your java code.
- Click on the update icon for the properties. You should now be able to see also the values that are being sent together with the properties names.



Also, if you'd like to learn how to bind these Remote Things automatically to the Thingworx platform, check out the video [How to programmatically create a given number of things and assign to them a specific identifier](#) on the Learning Exchange.

Congratulations you now know how ThingWorx Java Edge SDK is used to send data read from different sensors into the ThingWorx Platform and how to import this data manually on the Platform.

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