OPC UA Client .NET

Develop OPC UA Clients with C# for of .NET

Tutorial Simple Client

Document Control

Version	Date	Comment
1.0.8	18-MAY-2019	Initial version based on V1.0.8
1.0.9	31-MAY-2019	Removed several empty pages
1.1.0	22-JUN-2019	Updated to new structure
1.1.1	26-JUL-2019	Updated to V1.1.1
1.2.0	20-OCT-2019	- Added informationen for .NET Core 2.0 on Linux, macOS - Changed to .NET 4.6.2 - Added chapter *Supported OPC UA Profiles* - Added chapter *UA Client Design*
1.3.0	05-JAN-2020	- Added informationen for .NET Core 2.1 - Added information for .NET 4.8
1.4.0	24-JUN-2020	Updated to V1.4 - Reverse Connection now supported
2.0	14-NOV-2020	Updated to V2.0
2.1	16-JAN-2021	Added support for .NET 5.0
2.3	23-APR-2022	Updated to V2.3
2.4	24-AUG-2022	Updated to V2.4
2.6	17-DEC-2022	Updated to V2.6

Purpose and audience of document

Microsoft's .NET Framework is an application development environment that supports multiple languages and provides a large set of standard programming APIs. This document defines an Application Programming Interface (API) for OPC UA Client and Server development based on the .NET Standard programming model.

The OPC UA specification can be downloaded from the web site of the OPC Foundation. But only **Error! R eference source not found.** (Overview and Concepts) is available to the public. All other parts can only be downloaded from OPC Foundation members and may be used only if the user is an active OPC Foundation member. Because of this fact the OPC UA .NET Standard API hides most of the OPC UA specifications to provide the possibility to delevlop OPC UA Clients and OPC UA Servers in the .NET Standard environment without the need to be an OPC Foundation member. The API does support OPC Unified Architecture.

This document is intended as reference material for developers of OPC UA compliant Client and Server applications. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the Microsoft's .NET Standard and the needs of the Process Control industry.

Summary

This document gives a short overview of the functionality of the client development with the OPC UA Client .NET Standard. The goal of this document is to give an introduction and can be used as base for your own implementations

Referenced OPC Documents

Documents
Online versions of OPC UA specifications and information models. The OPC UA Online Reference is available at: https://reference.opcfoundation.org
OPC Unified Architecture Textbook, written by Wolfgang Mahnke, Stefan-Helmut Leitner and Matthias Damm: http://www.amazon.com/OPC-Unified-Architecture-Wolfgang-Mahnke/dp/3540688986/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1209506074&sr=8-1

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

Table of Contents

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

Disclaimer

© Technosoftware GmbH. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be altered, reproduced or distributed in any form without the expressed written permission of Technosoftware GmbH.

This document was created strictly for information purposes. No guarantee, contractual specification or condition shall be derived from this document unless agreed to in writing. Technosoftware GmbH reserves the right to make changes in the products and services described in this document at any time without notice and this document does not represent a commitment on the part of Technosoftware GmbH in the future.

While Technosoftware GmbH uses reasonable efforts to ensure that the information and materials contained in this document are current and accurate, Technosoftware GmbH makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information, text, graphics, or other items contained in the document. Technosoftware GmbH expressly disclaims liability for any errors or omissions in the materials contained in the document and would welcome feedback as to any possible errors or inaccuracies contained herein.

Technosoftware GmbH shall not be liable for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation, lost revenues or lost profits, which may result from the use of these materials. All offers are non-binding and without obligation unless agreed to in writing.

Trademark Notice

Microsoft, MSN, Windows and the Windows logo are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

1 Installation

For starting with OPC UA Development you can download the ***OPC UA Solution .NET*** from:

OPC UA Solution .NET
The OPC UA Solution .NET offers a fast and easy access to the OPC UA Client & Server technology. Develop OPC compliant UA Clients and Servers with C# targeting .NET7.0, .NET 6.0 or .NET Core 3.1. For backward compatibility we also provide .NET 4.8, .NET 4.7.2 and .NET 4.6.2 assemblies.
You can download it from https://github.com/technosoftware-gmbh/opcua-solution-net-samples

This GitHub repository is automatically tested with the following environments:

a. Linux Ubuntu 22.04
    i. .NET 6.0.404
    ii. Mono 6.12
    iii. MS Build 17.4.0
b. Mac OS X 11
    i. .NET 6.0.404
    ii. Mono 6.12
    iii. MS Build 17.4.0
c. Windows Server 202
    i. .NET 6.0.404
    ii. MS Build 17.4.0

Important:

An installation guide is available with the solution. Please read that one first and then follow this guide.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

2 Supported OPC UA Profiles

The following table shows the different OPC UA profiles and if they are supported by the OPC UA Client .NET:

2.1 Core Characteristics

Profile	Description	Supported
Core 2017 Client Facet	This Facet defines the core functionality required for any Client. This Facet includes the core functions for Security and Session handling. This Facet supersedes the Core Client Facet.	✓
Sessionless Client Facet	Defines the use of Sessionless Service invocation in a Client.	✗
Reverse Connect Client Facet	This Facet defines support of reverse connectivity in a Client. Usually, a connection is opened by the Client before starting the UA-specific handshake. This will fail, however, when Servers are behind firewalls. In the reverse connectivity scenario, the Client accepts a connection request and a ReverseHello message from a Server and establishes a Secure Channel using this connection.	✓
Base Client Behaviour Facet	This Facet indicates that the Client supports behaviour that Clients shall follow for best use by operators and administrators. They include allowing configuration of an endpoint for a server without using the discovery service set; Support for manual security setting configuration and behaviour regarding security issues; support for Automatic reconnection to a disconnected server. These behaviours can only be tested in a test lab. They are best practice guidelines.	✓
Discovery Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to discover Servers and their Endpoints.	✓
Subnet Discovery Client Facet	Support of this Facet enables discovery of the Server on a subnet.	✗
Global Discovery Client Facet	Support of this Facet enables system-wide discovery of Servers using a Global Discovery Server (GDS).	✗
Global Certificate Management Client Facet	This Facet defines the capability to interact with a Global Certificate Management Server to obtain an initial or renewed Certificate and Trust Lists.	✗
Access Token Request Client Facet	A Client Facet for using the RequestAccessToken Method on an Authorization Server (defined in Part 12) to request such a token.	✗
KeyCredential Service Client Facet	This Facet defines the capability to interact with a KeyCredential Service to obtain KeyCredentials. For example, KeyCredentials are needed to access an Authorization Service or a Broker. The KeyCredential Service is typically part of a system-wide tool, like a GDS that also manages Applications, Access Tokens, and Certificates.	✗
AddressSpace Lookup Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to navigate through the AddressSpace and includes basic AddressSpace concepts, view and browse functionality and simple attribute read functionality.	✗

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

Request State Change Client Facet	This Facet specifies the ability to invoke the RequestServerStateChange Method.	⊗
File Access Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use File transfer via the defined FileType. This includes reading and optionally writing.	⊗
Entry Level Support 2015 Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to interoperate with low-end Servers, in particular Servers that support the Nano Embedded Profile but in general Servers with defined limits.	⊗
Multi-Server Client Connection Facet	This Facet defines the ability for simultaneous access to multiple Servers.	✓
Documentation – Client	This Facet provides a list of user documentation that a Client application should provide.	⊗

2.2 Data Access

Profile	Description	Supported
Attribute Read Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read Attribute values of Nodes.	✓
Attribute Write Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to write Attribute values of Nodes.	✓
DataChange Subscriber Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to monitor Attribute values for data change.	✓
Durable Subscription Client Facet	This Facet specifies use of durable Subscriptions. It implies support of any of the DataChange or Event Subscriber Facets.	⊗
DataAccess Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to utilize the DataAccess Information Model, i.e., industrial automation data like analog and discrete data items and their quality of service.	✓

2.3 Event Access

Profile	Description	Supported
Event Subscriber Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to subscribe for Event Notifications. This includes basic AddressSpace concept and the browsing of it, adding events and event filters as monitored items and adding subscriptions.	✓
Base Event Processing Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to subscribe for and process basic OPC UA Events. The Client has to support at least one of the Events in the Facet.	✓
Notifier and Source Hierarchy Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to find and use a hierarchy of Objects that are event notifier and Nodes that are event sources in the Server AddressSpace.	⊗

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

2.4 Alarm & Condition

Profile	Description	Supported
A & C Base Condition Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the Alarm and Condition basic model. This includes the ability to subscribe for Events and to initiate a Refresh Method.	✓
A & C Refresh2 Client Facet	This Facet enhances the A & C Base Condition Server Facet with the ability to initiate a ConditionRefresh2 Method.	✗
A & C Address Space Instance Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use Condition instances in the AddressSpace.	✓
A & C Enable Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to enable and disable Alarms.	✗
A & C Alarm Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the alarming model (the AlarmType or any of the sub-types).	✓
A & C AlarmMetrics Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the AlarmMetrics model, i.e. understand and use the collected alarm metrics at any level in the HasNotifier hierarchy.	✗
A & C Exclusive Alarming Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the exclusive Alarm model. This includes understanding the various subtypes such as ExclusiveRateOfChangeAlarm, ExclusiveLevelAlarm and ExclusiveDeviationAlarm.	✗
A & C Non-Exclusive Alarming Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the non-exclusive Alarm model. This includes understanding the various subtypes such as NonExclusiveRateOfChangeAlarm, NonExclusiveLevelAlarm and NonExclusiveDeviationAlarm.	✗
A & C Previous Instances Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use previous instances of Alarms. This implies the ability to understand branchIds.	✗
A & C Dialog Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the dialog model. This implies the support of Method invocation to respond to dialog messages.	✗
A & C CertificateExpiration Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the CertificateExpirationAlarmType.	✗
A & E Proxy Facet	This Facet describes the functionality used by a default A & E Client proxy. A Client exposes this Facet so that a Server may be able to better understand the commands that are being issued by the Client, since this Facet indicates that the Client is an A&E Com Client.	✗

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

2.5 Generic Features

Profile	Description	Supported
Method Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to call arbitrary Methods.	✓
Auditing Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to monitor Audit Events.	✓
Node Management Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to configure the AddressSpace of an OPC UA Server through OPC UA Node Management Service Set.	✗
Advanced Type Programming Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the type model and process the instance AddressSpace based on the type model. For example, a client may contain generic displays that are based on a type, in that they contain a relative path from some main type. On call up this main type is matched to an instance and all of display items are resolved based on the provided type model.	✗
User Role Management Client Facet	This Facet defines knowledge of the OPC UA Information Model for user roles and permissions and the use of the Methods to manage them.	✗
State Machine Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use state machines based on the StateMachineType or a sub-type.	✗
Diagnostic Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read and process diagnostic information that is part of the OPC UA information model.	✗

2.6 Redundancy

Profile	Description	Supported
Redundant Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the redundancy feature available for redundant Clients.	✗
Redundancy Switch Client Facet	A Client that supports this Facet supports monitoring the redundancy status for non-transparent redundant Servers and switching to the backup Server when they recognize a change.	✗

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

2.7 Historical Access

2.7.1 Historical Data

Profile	Description	Supported
Historical Access Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read, process, and update historical data.	✓
Historical Data AtTime Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to access data at specific instances in time.	✓
Historical Aggregate Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read historical data by specifying the needed aggregate. This implies consideration of the list of aggregates supported by the Server.	✓
Historical Annotation Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to retrieve and write annotations for historical data.	✗
Historical Access Modified Data Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to access prior historical data (values that were modified or inserted).	✗
Historical Data Insert Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to insert historical data.	✗
Historical Data Update Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to update historical data.	✗
Historical Data Replace Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to replace historical data.	✗
Historical Data Delete Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to delete historical data.	✗
Historical Access Client Server Timestamp Facet	This Facet defines the ability to request and process Server timestamps, in addition to source timestamps.	✗
Historical Structured Data Access Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read structured values for historical nodes.	✗
Historical Structured Data AtTime Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read structured values for historical nodes at specific instances in time.	✗
Historical Structured Data Modified Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read structured values for prior historical data (values that were modified or inserted).	✗
Historical Structured Data Insert Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to insert structured historical data.	✗
Historical Structured Data Update Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to update structured historical data.	✗
Historical Structured Data Replace Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to replace structured historical data.	✗

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

Historical Structured Data Delete Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to remove structured historical data.	⊗

2.7.2 Historical Events

Profile	Description	Supported
Historical Events Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to read Historical Events, including simple filtering.	✓
Historical Event Insert Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to insert historical events.	⊗
Historical Event Update Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to update historical events.	⊗
Historical Event Replace Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to replace historical events.	⊗
Historical Event Delete Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to delete Historical events.	⊗

2.8 Aggregates

Profile	Description	Supported
Aggregate Subscriber Client Facet	This Facet defines the ability to use the aggregate filter when subscribing for Attribute values.	⊗

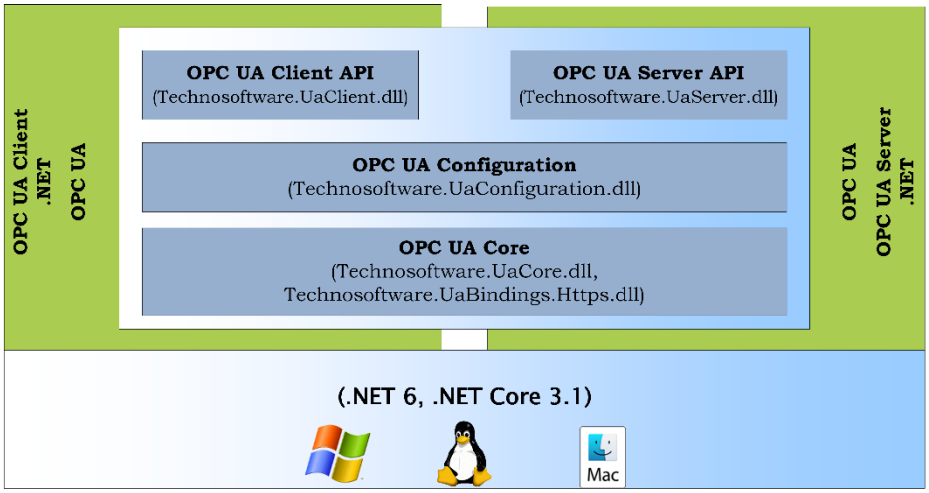
© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

3 Sample Applications

The OPC UA Client .NET contains several sample client applications, you can find them in the examples folder.

3.1 Required NuGet packages

The SDK is divided into several DLL's as shown in the picture below:



The DLLs are delivered as NuGet Packages. The OPC UA Client .NET uses the following packages:

Name	Description
Technosoftware.UaSolution.UaCore	The OPC UA Core Class Library.
Technosoftware.UaSolution.UaBindings.Https	The OPC UA Https Binding Library.
Technosoftware.UaSolution.UaConfiguration	Contains configuration related classes like, e.g. `ApplicationInstance`.
Technosoftware.UaSolution.UaClient	The OPC UA Client Class library containing the classes and methods usable for server development.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

3.2 Directory Structure

The repository contains the following basic directory layout:

- **bin/**
  - **modelcompiler/**
    Executable of OPC Foundation Model compiler
- **documentation/**
  Additional documentation like:
  - **OPC_UA_Solution_NET_Installation_Guide.pdf**
    Installation of development and run-time system
  - **OPC_UA_Solution_NET_Introduction.pdf**
    Introduction in Developing OPC UA Clients and OPC UA Servers with C# / VB.NET
  - **OPC_UA_Client_Development_with_NET.pdf**
    Tutorial for Developing OPC UA Clients with C# for of .NET 6.0 and .NET Core 3.1
  - **OPC_UA_Server_Development_with_NET.pdf**
    Tutorial for Developing OPC UA Servers with C# for of .NET 6.0 and .NET Core 3.1
- **examples/**
  Sample applications
- **schema/**
  XSD files like the UAModelDesign.xsd used for the Model Designer.
- **Workshop/**
  OPC UA Workshop content as PDF

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

3.3 OPC UA Client Solution for .NET Core

The main OPC UA Solution can be found in the root of the repository and is named.

- TutorialSamples.sln

The solution contains several sample clients, as well as several sample server examples used by these clients.

1.1 Prerequisites

Once the ***`dotnet`*** command is available, navigate to the following folder:

/

and execute

```
dotnet restore TutorialSamples.sln
```

This command restores the tree of dependencies.

1.2 Start the server

1. Open a command prompt.
2. Navigate to the folder `examples/Simulation/SampleServer`.
3. To run the server sample type

   dotnet run --no-restore --framework netcoreapp3.1 --project SampleCompany.SampleServer.csproj -a

   - The server is now running and waiting for connections.
   - The `-a` flag allows to auto accept unknown certificates and should only be used to simplify testing.

1.3 Start the client

1. Open a command prompt.
2. Navigate to the folder `examples/Simulation/SampleClient`.
3. To run the client sample type

   dotnet run --no-restore --framework netcoreapp3.1 --project SampleCompany.SampleClient.csproj -a

   - The client connects to the OPC UA console sample server running on the same host.
   - The `-a` flag allows to auto accept unknown certificates and should only be used to simplify testing.
4. If not using the -a auto accept option, on first connection, or after certificates were renewed, the server may have refused the client certificate. Check the server and client folder `%LocalApplicationData%/OPC Foundation/pki/rejected` for rejected certificates. To approve a certificate copy it to the `%LocalApplicationData%/OPC Foundation/pki/trusted`.

1.4 Check the output

If everything was done correctly the client should show the following lines:

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

```
SampleCompany .NET Core OPC UA Sample Client
Connecting...
Browse address space.
Reading nodes...
   Read Value = {24.08.2022 07:40:44 | 24.08.2022 07:49:04 | Running | Opc.Ua.BuildInfo | 0 | } , StatusCode =
Good
   Read Value = StartTime , StatusCode = Good
   Read Value = 24.08.2022 07:40:44 , StatusCode = Good
Read a single value from node ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number.
   Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number Value = 37848 StatusCode = Good.
Read multiple values from different nodes.
   Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number Value = 37848 StatusCode = Good.
   Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Static_Integer Value = 2142943445 StatusCode = Good.
   Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Static_Double Value = 1033833323429888 StatusCode = Good.
Read multiple values asynchronous.
Running...Press Ctrl-C to exit...
Status of Read of Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number is: 37848
Status of Read of Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Static_Integer is: 2142943445
Status of Read of Node ns=2;s=Scalar_Static_Double is: 1033833323429888
--- SIMULATE RECONNECT ---
--- RECONNECTED ---
```

You can abort the running application with Ctrl-C.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

4 Configuration

4.1 Application Configuration

The solution provides an extensible mechanism for storing the application configuration in an XML file. The class is extensible, so developers can add their own configuration information to it. The table below describes primary elements of the ApplicationConfiguration class.

Name	Type	Description
ApplicationName	String	A human readable name for the application.
ApplicationUri	String	A globally unique name for the application. This should be a URL with which the machine domain name or IP address as the hostname followed by the vendor/product name followed by an instance identifier. For example: http://machine1/OPC/UASampleServer/4853DB1C-776D-4ADA-9188-00CAA737B780
ProductUri	String	A human readable name for the product.
ApplicationType	ApplicationType	The type of application. Possible values: Server_0, Client_1, ClientAndServer_2 or DiscoveryServer_3
SecurityConfiguration	SecurityConfiguration	The security configuration for the application. Specifies the application instance certificate, list of trusted peers and trusted certificate authorities.
TransportConfigurations	TransportConfiguration Collection	Specifies the Bindings to use for each transport protocol used by the application.
TransportQuotas	TransportQuotas	Specifies the default limits to use when initializing WCF channels and endpoints.
ServerConfiguration	ServerConfiguration	Specifies the configuration for Servers
ClientConfiguration	ClientConfiguration	Specifies the configuration for Clients
TraceConfiguration	TraceConfiguration	Specifies the location of the Trace file. Unexpected exceptions that are silently handled are written to the trace file. Developers can add their own trace output with the Utils.Trace(…) functions.
Extensions	XmlElementCollection	Allows developers to add additional information to the file.

The ApplicationConfiguration can be persisted anywhere, but the class provides functions that load/save the configuration as an XML file on disk. The location of the XML file is normally in the same directory as the executable. It can be loaded as shown in the following example:

```
// Load the Application Configuration and use the specified config section
ApplicationConfiguration config = await
                        application.LoadConfigurationAsync("Technosoftware.SampleClient");
```

The Application Configuration file of the SampleClient can be found in the file Technosoftware.SampleClient.Config.xml.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

4.1.1 Extensions

The Application Configuration file of the SampleClient uses the Extensions feature to make the Excel Configuration configurable.

Name	Type	Description
ConfigurationFile	String	The full path including file name of the Excel file used for the configuration of the address space.

The Extension looks like:

```
<Extensions>
  <ua:XmlElement>
    <WorkshopClientConfiguration xmlns="http://technosoftware.com/SampleClient">
      <ConfigurationFile>.\SimpleServerConfiguration.xlsx</ConfigurationFile>
    </WorkshopClientConfiguration>
  </ua:XmlElement>
</Extensions>
```

Important:
This only shows how to use the Extension feature. The Excel based configuration is not implemented at all.

4.1.2 Tracing Output

With the TraceConfiguration UA client and server applications can activate trace information. SampleClient creates the following logfile:

SampleClient:
`%LocalApplicationData%/Logs/Technosoftware.SampleClient.log`

where

%CommonApplicationData% typically points to C:\ProgramData

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

5 Certificate Management and Validation

The stack provides several certificate management functions including a custom `CertificateValidator` that implements the validation rules required by the specification. The `CertificateValidator` is created automatically when the ApplicationConfiguration is loaded. Any WCF channels or endpoints that are created with that ApplicationConfiguration will use it.

The `CertificateValidator` uses the trust lists in the ApplicationConfiguration to determine whether a certificate is trusted. A certificate that fails validation is always placed in the Rejected Certificates store. Applications can receive notifications when an invalid certificate is encountered by using the event defined on the `CertificateValidator` class.

The Stack also provides the `CertificateIdentifier` class which can be used to specify the location of a certificate. The Find() method will look up the certificate based on the criteria specified (SubjectName, Thumbprint or DER Encoded Blob).

Each application has a SecurityConfiguration which must be managed carefully by the Administrator since making a mistake could prevent applications from communicating or create security risks. The elements of the SecurityConfiguration are described in the table below:

Name	Description
ApplicationCertificate	Specifies where the private key for the Application Instance Certificate is located. Private keys should be in the Personal (My) store for the LocalMachine or the CurrentUser. Private keys installed in the LocalMachine store are only accessible to users that have been explicitly granted permissions.
TrustedIssuerCertificates	Specifies the Certificate Authorities that issue certificates which the application can trust. The structure includes the location of a Certificate Store and a list of individual Certificates.
TrustedPeerCertificates	Specifies the certificates for other applications which the application can trust. The structure includes the location of a Certificate Store and a list of individual Certificates.
InvalidCertificateDirectory	Specifies where rejected Certificates can be placed for later review by the Admistrator (a.k.a. Rejected Certificates Store)

The Administrator needs to create an application instance certificate when applications are installed, when the ApplicationUri or when the hostname changes. The Administrator can use the OPC UA Configuration Tool included in the solution or use the tools provided by their Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). If the certificate is changed the Application Configuration needs to be updated.

Once the certificate is installed the Administrator needs to ensure that all users who can access the application have permission to access the Certificate's private key.

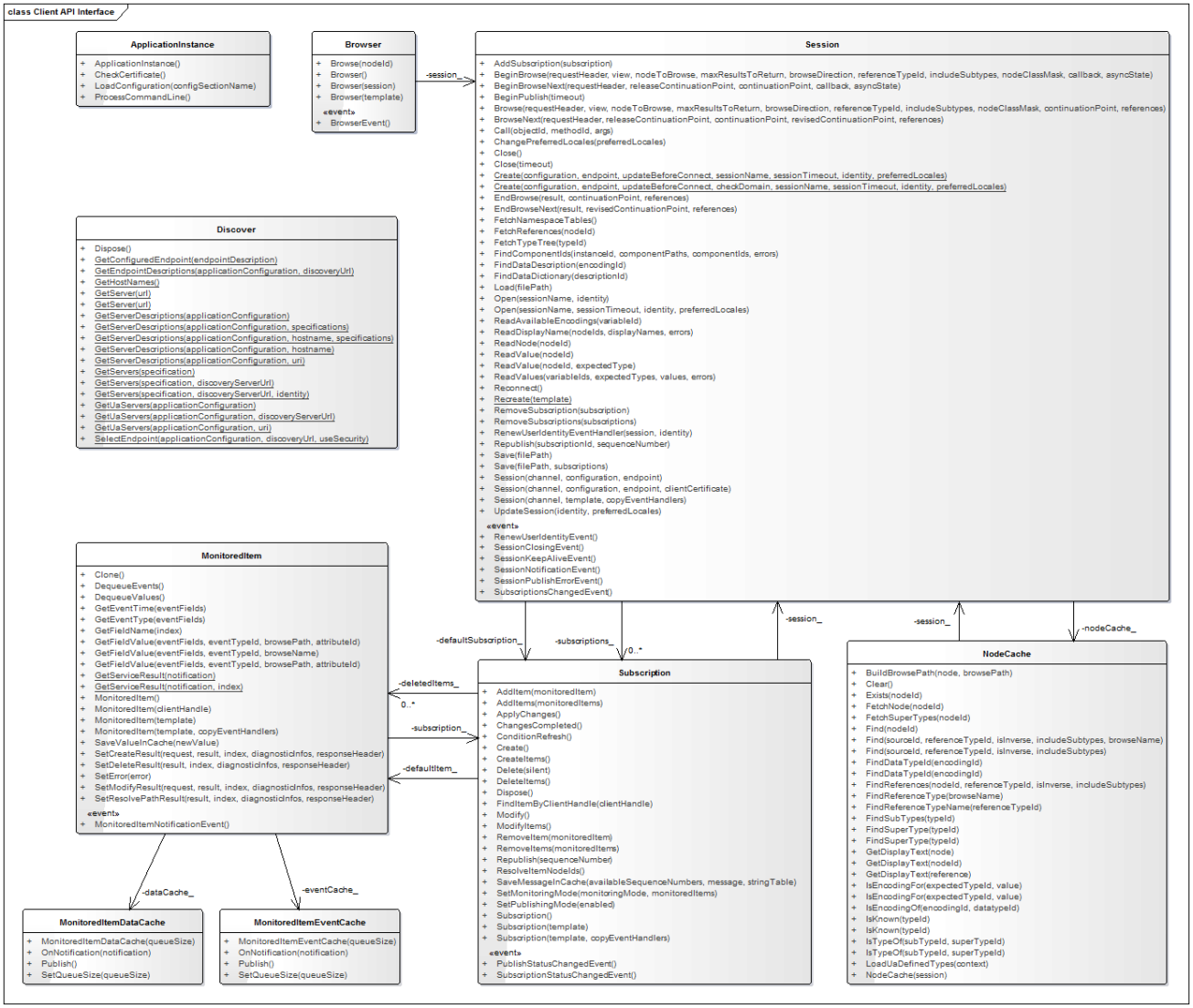
© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6 UA Client Design

The Client API is designed to ease the client development by handling the standard tasks which all clients need to do. The tasks include:

- sending the session keep alive requests
- managing the publish pipeline
- keeping track of the status for subscription and monitored items
- managing a client-side node cache
- processing and caching incoming data change and event notifications
- saving and restoring the session state including the subscriptions and monitored items

The figure below shows the main classes a client developer can use:



© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

ApplicationInstance

The ApplicationInstance class is the main instance used to use services provided by an OPC UA server. It is in the Technosoftware.UaConfiguration.dll

Discover

For UA Server discovering you can use the methods of the Discover class.

Session

A Session represents a connection with a single Server. It maintains a list of Subscriptions in addition to a NodeCache.

Subscription

A Subscription represents a Subscription with a Server. A Subscription is owned by a Session and can have one or more MonitoredItems.

MonitoredItem

MonitoredItem's are used to monitor data or events produced by individual nodes in the Server address space.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.1 Client Startup

The ApplicationInstance class is the main instance used to use services provided by an OPC UA server. The implementation of an OPC UA client application startes with the creation of an ApplicationInstance object. These are the lines in the Program.cs that create the ApplicationInstance:

```
ApplicationInstance application = new ApplicationInstance
                                        { ApplicationType = ApplicationType.Client };
```

An OPC UA Client application can be configured via an application configuration file. This is handled by calling the LoadConfigurationAsync() method. This loads the ApplicationConfiguration from the configuration file:

```
// Load the Application Configuration and use the specified config section
ApplicationConfiguration config = await application.LoadConfigurationAsync(
                                                        "Technosoftware.SampleClient");
```

The solution supports transport security within the communication of server and clients. A client application can choose the security configuration to use, depending on the security implemented in the server. All clients must have an application certificate, which is used for the validation of trusted clients.

A connection can only be established if the security settings are correct. The security principals are those of a PKI (Public Key Infrastructure).

A client application can automatically accept certificates from an OPC UA Server. If this is not used a callback can be used to get informed about new server certificates. These are the lines in the OpcSample.cs that uses the certificate valkidator callback:

```
bool haveAppCertificate = await application.CheckApplicationInstanceCertificateAsync(false, 0);

if (haveAppCertificate)
{
   config.ApplicationUri = Utils.GetApplicationUriFromCertificate(
                               config.SecurityConfiguration.ApplicationCertificate.Certificate);
   if (config.SecurityConfiguration.AutoAcceptUntrustedCertificates)
   {
      autoAccept_ = true;
   }
   config.CertificateValidator.CertificateValidationEvent += OnCertificateValidation;
}
else
{
   Console.WriteLine("    WARN: missing application certificate, using unsecured connection.");
}


private void OnCertificateValidation(object sender, CertificateValidationEventArgs e)
{
   if (e.Error.StatusCode == StatusCodes.BadCertificateUntrusted)
   {
      e.Accept = autoAccept_;
      if (autoAccept_)
      {
         Console.WriteLine("Accepted Certificate: {0}", e.Certificate.Subject);
      }
      else
      {
         Console.WriteLine("Rejected Certificate: {0}", e.Certificate.Subject);
      }
   }
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.2 Server Connection

To be able to connect to an OPC UA Server a server Url is required:

URI	Server
opc.tcp://<hostname>:55533/TechnosoftwareSampleServer	Technosoftware Sample Server
opc.tcp://localhost:55552/WorkshopSampleServer	Technosoftware Workshop UA Sample Server
opc.tcp://<hostname>:52520/OPCUA/SampleConsoleServer	Prosys OPC UA Java SDK Sample Console Server
opc.tcp://<hostname>:4841	Unified Automation Demo Server
opc.tcp://<hostname>:62541/Quickstarts/DataAccessServer	OPC Foundation QuickStart Data Access Server

where <hostname> is the host name of the computer in which the server is running.[1]

Instead of using the complete URI like this, you can alternatively define the connection in parts using the properties Protocol2, Host, Port and ServerName. These make up the Url as follows:

<Protocol>[2]://<Host>:<Port><ServerName>

The SampleClient uses as default the following Uri:

```
// use Technosoftware OPC UA Simple Server
endpointUrl = "opc.tcp://localhost:55550/TechnosoftwareSimpleServer";
```

[1] Note that 'localhost' may also work. The servers define a list of endpoints that they are listening to. The client can only connect to the server using an Url that matches one of these endpoints. But the solution will convert it to the actual hostname, if the server does not define 'localhost' in its endpoints.

Also IP number can only be used, if the server also defines the respective endpoint using the IP number.

For Windows hostname resolution, see http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb727005.aspx. If you are using the client in Linux, you cannot use NetBIOS computer names to access Windows servers. In general, it is best to use TCP/IP DNS names from all clients. Alternatively, you can always use the IP address of the computer, if you make sure that the server also initializes an endpoint using the IP address, in addition to the hostname.

[2] Note that not all servers support all different protocols, e.g. the OPC Foundation Java stack only supports the binary (opc.tcp) protocol at the moment.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.3 Discover Servers

For UA Server discovering you can use the GetUaServers() methods. To be able to find an UA server, all UA Servers running on a machine should register with the UA Local Discovery Server using the Stack API.

If a UA Server running on a machine is registered with the UA Local Discovery Server a client can discover it using the following code:

```
// Discover all local UA servers
List<string> servers = Discover.GetUaServers(application.Configuration);

Console.WriteLine("Found local OPC UA Servers:");
foreach (var server in servers)
{
    Console.WriteLine(String.Format("{0}", server));
}
```

Remote servers can be discovered by specifiying a Uri object like shown below:

```
// Discover all remote UA servers
Uri discoveryUri = new Uri("opc.tcp://technosoftware:4840/");
servers = Discover.GetUaServers(application.Configuration, discoveryUri);

Console.WriteLine("Found remote OPC UA Servers:");
foreach (var server in servers)
{
   Console.WriteLine(String.Format("{0}", server));
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4 Accessing an OPC UA Server

There are only a few classes required by an UA client to handle operations with an UA server. In general, an UA client

- creates one or more Sessions by using the Session [6.4.1] class
- creates one or more Subscriptions within a Session [6.4.1] by using the Subscription [6.4.9] class
- adding one or more MonitoredItems within a Subscription [6.4.9] by using the MonitoredItem [6.4.6] class

6.4.1 Session

The Session class inherits from the SessionClient which means all the UA services are in general accessible as methods on the Session object.

The Session object provides several helper methods including a `Session.CreateAsync()` method which Creates and Opens the Session. The process required when establishing a session with a Server is as follows:

- The Client application must choose the EndpointDescription to use. This can be done manually or by getting a list of available EndpointDescriptions by using the `Discover.GetEndpointDescriptions()` method.
- The client can also use the `Discover.SelectEndpoint()` method which choose the best match for the current settings.
- The Client takes the EndpointDescription and uses it to Create the Session object by using the `Session.CreateAsync()` method. If `Session.CreateAsync()` succeeds the client application will be able to call other methods.

Example from the SampleClient:

```
var selectedEndpoint = Discover.SelectEndpoint(endpointUrl_, haveAppCertificate, 15000);

var endpointConfiguration = EndpointConfiguration.Create(config);
var endpoint = new ConfiguredEndpoint(null, selectedEndpoint, endpointConfiguration);
var session_ = Session.CreateAsync(config,
                                   endpoint, false,
                                   "OPC UA Console Client", 60000,
                                   userIdentity, null);
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.1.1 Keep Alive

After creating the session, the Session object starts periodically reading the current state from the Server at a rate specified by the KeepAliveInterval (default is 5s). Each time a response is received the state and latest timestamp is reported as a SessionKeepAliveEvent event. If the response does not arrive after 2 KeepAliveIntervals have elapsed a SessionKeepAliveEvent event with an error is raised. The KeepAliveStopped property will be set to true. If communication resumes the normal SessionKeepAliveEvent events will be reported and the KeepAliveStopped property will go back to false.

The client application uses the SessionKeepAliveEvent event and KeepAliveStopped property to detect communication problems with the server. In some cases, these communication problems will be temporary but while they are going on the client application may choose not to invoke any services because they would likely timeout. If the channel does not come back on its own the client application will execute whatever error recovery logic it has.

Client applications need to ensure that the SessionTimeout is not set too low. If a call times out the WCF channel is closed automatically and the client application will need to create a new one. Creating a new channel will take time. The KeepAliveStopped property allows applications to detect failures even if they are using a long SessionTimeout.

The following sample is taken from the WorkshopClientConsole and shows how to use the KeepAlive and Reconnect handling. After creating the session [6.4.1] the client can add a keep alive event handler:

```
session_.SessionKeepAliveEvent += OnSessionKeepAliveEvent;
```

Now the client gets updated with the keep alive events and can easily add a reconnect feature:

```
private void OnSessionKeepAliveEvent(object sender, SessionKeepAliveEventArgs e)
{
   if (sender is Session session && e.Status != null && ServiceResult.IsNotGood(e.Status))
   {
      Console.WriteLine("{0} {1}/{2}", e.Status, session.OutstandingRequestCount,
                        session.DefunctRequestCount);

      if (reconnectHandler_ == null)
      {
         Console.WriteLine("--- RECONNECTING ---");
         reconnectHandler_ = new SessionReconnectHandler();
         reconnectHandler_.BeginReconnect(session, ReconnectPeriod * 1000,
                                          OnServerReconnectComplete);
      }
   }
}
```

As soon as the session keep alive event handler (`OnSessionKeepAliveEvent`) detects that a reconnect must be done a reconnect handler is created. In the above sample the following lines are doing this:

```
      if (reconnectHandler_ == null)
      {
         Console.WriteLine("--- RECONNECTING ---");
         reconnectHandler_ = new SessionReconnectHandler();
         reconnectHandler_.BeginReconnect(session, ReconnectPeriod * 1000,
                                          OnServerReconnectComplete);
      }
```

As soon as the OPC UA stack reconnected to the OPC UA Server the `OnServerReconnectComplete` handler is called and can then finish the client-side actions.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

The following sample is taken from the SampleClient and shows how to implement the `OnServerReconnectComplete` handler:

```
private void OnServerReconnectComplete(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
   // ignore callbacks from discarded objects.
   if (!ReferenceEquals(sender, reconnectHandler_))
   {
      return;
   }

   if (reconnectHandler_ != null)
   {
      session_ = reconnectHandler_.Session;
      reconnectHandler_.Dispose();
      reconnectHandler_ = null;
      Console.WriteLine("--- RECONNECTED ---");
   }
}
```

Important in the `OnServerReconnectComplete` handler are the following lines:

1. `session_ = reconnectHandler_.Session;`
   The session used up to now must be replaced with the new session provided by the reconnect handler. The client itself does not need to create a new session, subscreiptions or MonitoredItems. That's all done by the OPC UA stack. So with taking the session provided by the reconnect handler all subriptions and MonitoredItems are then still valid and functional.
2. `reconnectHandler_.Dispose();` and `reconnectHandler_ = null;`
   This ensures that the keep alive event handler doesn't start a new reconnect again.

6.4.1.2 Cache

The Session object provides a cache that can be used to store Nodes that are accessed frequently. The cache is particularly useful for storing the types defined by the server because the client will often need to check if one type is a subtype of another. The cache can be accessed via the NodeCache property of the Session object. The type hierarchies stored in the cache can be searched using the TypeTree property of the NodeCache or Session object (the both return a reference to the same object).

The NodeCache is populated with the FetchNode() method which will read all of the attributes for the Node and the fetch all of its references. The Find() method on the NodeCache looks for a previously cached version of the Node and calls the FetchNode() method if it does not exist.

Client applications that wish to use the NodeCache must pre-fetch all the ReferenceType hierarchy supported by the Server by calling FetchTypeTree() method on the Session object.

The Find() method is used during Browse of the address space [6.4.1].

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.1.3 Events

The Session object is responsible for sending and processing the Publish requests. Client applications can receive events whenever a new NotificationMessage is received by subscribing to the SessionNotificationEvent event.

- The SessionPublishErrorEvent event is raised whenever a Publish response reports an error.
- The SubscriptionsChangedEvent event indicates when a Subscription is added or removed.
- The SessionClosingEvent event indicates that the Session is about to be closed.

Important: The WorkshopClientConsole doesn't show the usage of these features.

6.4.1.4 Multi-Threading

The Session is designed for multi-threaded operation because client application frequently need to make multiple simultaneous calls to the Server. However, this is only guaranteed for calls using the Session class. Client applications should avoid calling services directly which update the Session state, e.g. CreateSession or ActivateSession.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.2 Browse the address space

The first thing to do is typically to find the server items you wish to read or write. The OPC UA address space is a bit more complex structure than you might expect to, but nevertheless, you can explore it by browsing.

In the solution, the address space is accessed through the Browser class. You can call browse to request nodes from the server. You start from any known node, typically the root folder and follow references between the nodes. In a first step, you create a browser object as follows:

```
// Create the browser
var browser = new Browser(mySessionSampleServer_)
{
    BrowseDirection = BrowseDirection.Forward,
    ReferenceTypeId = ReferenceTypeIds.HierarchicalReferences,
    IncludeSubtypes = true,
    NodeClassMask = 0,
    ContinueUntilDone = false,
};
```

The `Objects.ObjectsFolder` node represents the root folder, so starting from the root folder can be done with the following call:

```
// Browse from the RootFolder
ReferenceDescriptionCollection references = browser.Browse(Objects.ObjectsFolder);

GetElements(mySessionSampleServer_, browser, 0, references);
```

The `GetElements` method can be implemented like this:

```
private static void GetElements(Session session, Browser browser, uint level,
                                ReferenceDescriptionCollection references)
{
    var spaces = "";
    for (int i = 0; i <= level; i++)
    {
        spaces += "   ";
    }
    // Iterate through the references and print the variables
    foreach (ReferenceDescription reference in references)
    {
        // make sure the type definition is in the cache.
        session.NodeCache.Find(reference.ReferenceTypeId);

        switch (reference.NodeClass)
        {
            case NodeClass.Object:
                Console.WriteLine(spaces + "+ " + reference.DisplayName);
                break;

            default:
                Console.WriteLine(spaces + "- " + reference.DisplayName);
                break;
        }
        var subReferences = browser.Browse((NodeId)reference.NodeId);
        level += 1;
        GetElements(session, browser, level, subReferences);
        level -= 1;
    }
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.3 Read Value

Once you have a node selected, you can read the attributes of the node. There are actually several alternative read-calls that you can make in the Session class. In the WorkshopClientConsole this is used with

```
DataValue simulatedDataValue = mySessionSampleServer_.ReadValue(simulatedDataNodeId_);
```

where the `simulatedDataNodeId_` is defined as

```
private readonly NodeId simulatedDataNodeId_ = new NodeId("ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number");
```

This reads the value of the node `"ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number"` from the server.

In general, you should avoid calling the read methods for individual items. If you need to read several items at the same time, you should consider using `mySessionTechnosoftwareSampleServer .ReadValues()` [6.4.4]. It is a bit more complicated to use, but it will only make a single call to the server to read any number of values. Or if you want to monitor variables that are changing in the server, you had better use the Subscription, as described in chapter [0].

6.4.4 Read Values

As already mentioned above you can also read attributes of multiple nodes at the same time. This is more efficient then calling `mySessionTechnosoftwareSampleServer .ReadValue()` [6.4.3] several times for each of the nodes you want to get attributes from. In the WorkshopClientConsole this is used with

```
// The input parameters of the ReadValues() method
List<NodeId> variableIds = new List<NodeId>();
List<Type> expectedTypes = new List<Type>();

// The output parameters of the ReadValues() method
List<object> values;
List<ServiceResult> errors;

// Add a node to the list
variableIds.Add(simulatedDataNodeId_);
// Add an expected type to the list (null means we get the original type from the server)
expectedTypes.Add(null);

// Add another node to the list
variableIds.Add(staticDataNodeId1_);
// Add an expected type to the list (null means we get the original type from the server)
expectedTypes.Add(null);

// Add another node to the list
variableIds.Add(staticDataNodeId2_);
// Add an expected type to the list (null means we get the original type from the server)
expectedTypes.Add(null);

mySessionSampleServer_.ReadValues(variableIds, expectedTypes, out values, out errors);
```

where the following NodeId's:

```
private readonly NodeId simulatedDataNodeId_ = new NodeId("ns=2;s=Scalar_Simulation_Number");
private readonly NodeId staticDataNodeId1_ = new NodeId("ns=2;s=Scalar_Static_Integer");
private readonly NodeId staticDataNodeId2_ = new NodeId("ns=2;s=Scalar_Static_Double");
```

This reads the value of the 3 nodes from the server.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.5 Write Value

Like reading, you can also write values to the server. For example:

```
short writeInt = 1234;

Console.WriteLine("Write Value: " + writeInt);
StatusCode result = mySessionSampleServer_.WriteValue(staticDataNodeId1_,
                                                      new DataValue(writeInt));

// read it again to check the new value
Console.WriteLine("Node Value (should be {0}): {1}",
                  mySessionSampleServer_.ReadValue(staticDataNodeId1_).Value, writeInt);
```

As a response, you get a status code – indicating if the write was successful or not.

If the operation fails, e.g. because of a connection loss, you will get an exception. For service call errors, such that the server could not handle the service request at all, you can expect `ServiceResultException`.

6.4.6 Write Values

Like reading several values at once, you can also write values of multiple nodes to the server. For example:

```
writeInt = 5678;
Double writeDouble = 1234.1234;

List<NodeId> nodeIds = new List<NodeId>();
List<DataValue> dataValues = new List<DataValue>();

nodeIds.Add(staticDataNodeId1_);
nodeIds.Add(staticDataNodeId2_);

dataValues.Add(new DataValue(writeInt));
dataValues.Add(new DataValue(writeDouble));

Console.WriteLine("Write Values: {0} and {1}", writeInt, writeDouble);
result = mySessionSampleServer_.WriteValues(nodeIds, dataValues);

// read it again to check the new value
Console.WriteLine("Node Value (should be {0}): {1}",
                  mySessionSampleServer_.ReadValue(staticDataNodeId1_).Value,
                  writeInt);
Console.WriteLine("Node Value (should be {0}): {1}",
                  mySessionSampleServer_.ReadValue(staticDataNodeId2_).Value,
                  writeDouble);
```

As a response, you get a status code – indicating if the write was successful or not.

If the operation fails, e.g. because of a connection loss, you will get an exception. For service call errors, such that the server could not handle the service request at all, you can expect `ServiceResultException`.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.7 Create a MonitoredItem

The `MonitoredItem` class stores the client-side state for a `MonitoredItem` belonging to a `Subscription` on a Server. It maintains two sets of properties:

1. The values requested when the MonitoredItem is/was created
2. The current values based on the revised values returned by the Server.

The requested properties are what is saved when then `MonitoredItem` is serialized.

The requested properties are saved when then `MonitoredItem` is serialized. Please keep in mind that the server may change (revise) some values requested by the client. The revised properties are returned in the Status property, which is of type `MonitoredItemStatus`.

The `NodeId` for the `MonitoredItem` can be specified as an absolute `NodeId` or as a starting `NodeId` followed by RelativePath string which conforms to the syntax defined in the OPC Unified Architecture Specification Part 4. The RelativePath class included in the Stack can parse these strings and produce the structures required by the UA services.

Changes to any of the properties which affect the state of the MonitoredItem on the Server are not applied immediately. Instead the ParametersModified flag is set and the changes will only be applied when the ApplyChanges method on the `Subscription` is called. Note that changes to parameters which can only be specified when the `MonitoredItem` was created are ignored if the `MonitoredItem` has already been created. Client applications that wish to change these parameters must delete the monitored item and then re-create it.

The current values for monitoring parameters are stored in the Status property. Client application must use the Status. Error property to check an error occurs while creating or modifying the item. MonitoredItems that specify a RelativePath string may have encountered an error parsing or translating the RelativePath. When such an error occurs the Error property is set and the MonitoredItem is not created.

The `MonitoredItem` maintains a local queue for data changes or events received from the Server. This means the client application does not need to explicitly process NotificationMessages and can simply read the latest value from the MonitoredItem whenever it is required. The length of the local queue is controlled by the CacheQueueSize property.

The `MonitoredItem` provides a MonitoredItemNotification event which can be used by the client application to receive events whenever a new notification is received from the Server. It is always called after it is added to the cache.

The `MonitoredItem` is designed for multi-threaded operation because the Publish requests may arrive on any thread. However, data which is accessed while updating the cache is protected with a separate synchronization lock from data that is used while updating the `MonitoredItem` parameters. This means notifications can continue to arrive while other threads update the `MonitoredItem` parameters.

Client applications must be careful when update `MonitoredItem` parameters while another thread has called ApplyChanges on the Subscription because it could lead to situation where the state of the MonitoredItem on the Server does not match the state of the MonitoredItem on the client.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

The WorkshopClientConsole uses the following code to create a MonitoredItem:

```
// Create a MonitoredItem
MonitoredItem monitoredItem = new MonitoredItem
{
    StartNodeId = new NodeId(simulatedDataNodeId_),
    AttributeId = Attributes.Value,
    DisplayName = "Simulated Data Value",
    MonitoringMode = MonitoringMode.Reporting,
    SamplingInterval = 1000,
    QueueSize = 0,
    DiscardOldest = true
};
```

6.4.8 Create a Subscription

The `Subscription` class stores the client-side state for a Subscription with a Server. It maintains two sets of properties:

- the values requested when the Subscription is/was created and
- the current values based on the revised values returned by the Server.

The `Subscription` object is designed for batch operations. This means the subscription parameters and the `MonitoredItem` can be updated several times but the changes to the `Subscription` on the Server do not happen until the ApplyChanges() method is called. After the changes are complete the SubscriptionStatusChangedEvent event is reported with a bit mask indicating what was updated.

In normal operation, the important settings for the `Subscription` are the `PublishingEnabled` and `PublishingInterval`. The following example shows how the WorkshopClientConsole creates a subscription:

```
// Create a new subscription
Subscription mySubscription = new Subscription
{
    DisplayName = "My Subscription",
    PublishingEnabled = true,
    PublishingInterval = 500,
    KeepAliveCount = 10,
    LifetimeCount = 100,
    MaxNotificationsPerPublish = 1000,
    TimestampsToReturn = TimestampsToReturn.Both
};
```

The settings `KeepAliveCount`, `LifetimeCount`, `MaxNotificationsPerPublish` and the `Priority` of the `Subscription` can also be omitted to use the default values.

The **`KeepAliveCount`** defines how many times the PublishingInterval needs to expire without having notifications available before the server sends an empty message to the client indicating that the server is still alive but no notifications are available.

The **`LifetimeCount`** defines how many times the PublishingInterval expires without having a connection to the client to deliver data. If the server is not able to deliver notification messages after this time, it deletes the Subsction to clear the resources. The LifetimeCount must be at minimum three times the KeepAliveCount. Both values are negotiated between the client and the server.

The **`MaxNotificationsPerPublish`** is used to limit the size of the notification message sent from the server to the client. The number of notifications is set by the client but the server can send fewer notifications in one message if his limit is smaller than the client-side limit. If not all available notifications can be sent with one notification message, another notification message is sent.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

The **Priority** setting defines the priority of the Subscription relative to the other Subscriptions created by the Client. This allows the server to handle Subscriptions with higher priorities first in high-load scenarios.

The `Subscription` class provides several helper methods including a Constructor with default values for several. The process required when using a subscription is as follows:

1. The `Subscription` object must be created. This can be done by using the default constructor and using one or more of the properties available.
2. Items (MonitoredItem) must be added to the subscription.
3. The subscription must be added to the session.
4. The subscription must be created for the session.
5. The subscription changes must be applied, because of the above-mentioned batch functionality.

When a `Subscription` is created, it must start sending Publish requests. It starts off the process by telling the Session object to send one request. Additional Publish requests can be send by calling the Republish() method. Applications can use additional Publish requests to compensate for high network latencies because once the pipeline is filled the Server will be able to return a steady stream of notifications.

Once the `Subscription` has primed the pump the `Session` object keeps it going by sending a new Publish whenever it receives a successful response. If an error occurs the Session raises a SessionPublishErrorEvent event and does not send another Publish.

If everything is working properly the `Session` save the message in cache at least once per keep alive interval. If a NotificationMessage does not arrive it means there are network problems, bugs in the Server or high priority Subscriptions are taking precedence. The keep alive timer is designed to detect these problems and to automatically send additional Publish requests. When the keepalive timer expires, it checks the time elapsed since the last notification message. If publishing appears to have stopped the PublishingStopped property will be true and the Subscription will raise a PublishStatusChangedEvent event and send another Publish request. Client applications must assume that any cache data values are out of date when they receive the PublishStatusChangedEvent event (e.g. the StatusCode should be set to UncertainLastKnownValue). However, client applications do not need to do anything else since the interruption may be temporary. It is up to the client application to decide when to give up on a Session and to try again with a new Session.

The `Subscription` object checks for missing sequence numbers when it receives a NotificationMessage. If there is a gap it starts a timer that will call Republish() in 1s if the gap still exists. This delay is necessary because the multi-threaded stack on the client side may process responses out of order even if they are received in order.

The `Subscription` maintains a cache of messages received. The size of this cache is controlled by the MaxMessageCount property. When a new message is received, the Subscription adds it to the cache and removes any extras. It then extracts the notifications and pushes them to the MonitoredItem identified by the ClientHandle in the notification.

The Subscription is designed for multi-threaded operation because the Publish requests may arrive on any thread. However, data which is accessed while processing an incoming message is protected with a separate synchronization lock from data that is used while updating the Subscription parameters. This means notifications can continue to arrive while network operations to update the Subscription state on the server are in progress. However, no more than one operation to update the Subscription state can proceed at one time. Closing the Session will interrupt any outstanding operations. Any synchronization locks held by the subscription are released before any events are raised.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.9 Subscribe to data changes

In order to monitor data changes, you have to subscribe to the `MonitoredItemNotificationEvent` as shown below:

```
// Establish the notification event to get changes on the MonitoredItem
monitoredItem.MonitoredItemNotificationEvent += OnMonitoredItemNotificationEvent;
```

You also must add the MonitoredItem to the subscription

```
// Add the item to the subscription
mySubscription.AddItem(monitoredItem);
```

If you are finished with adding MonitoredItems to the subscription you have to add the subscription to the session:

```
// Add the subscription to the session
mySessionSampleServer_.AddSubscription(mySubscription);
```

Now you can finish creating the subscription and apply the changes to the session by using the following code:

```
// Create the subscription. Must be done after adding the subscription to a session
mySubscription.Create();

// Apply all changes on the subscription
mySubscription.ApplyChanges();
```

The specified event callback `OnMonitoredItemNotificationEvent` of the WorkshopClientConsole looks like:

```
private void OnMonitoredItemNotificationEvent(object sender,
                                              MonitoredItemNotificationEventArgs e)
{
    var notification = e.NotificationValue as MonitoredItemNotification;
    if (notification == null)
    {
        return;
    }
    var monitoredItem = sender as MonitoredItem;
    if (monitoredItem != null)
    {
        var message = String.Format("Event called for Variable \"{0}\" with Value = {1}.",
                                    monitoredItem.DisplayName, notification.Value);
        Console.WriteLine(message);
    }
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.10 Subscribe to events

In addition to subscribing to data changes in the server variables, you may also listen to events from event notifiers. You can use the same subscriptions, but additionally, you must also define the event filter, which defines the events that you are interested in and the event fields you wish to monitor. To make handling of the filters a bit easier the WorkshopClientConsole uses a utility class `FilterDefinition`. The following code creates a filter:

```
// the filter to use.
filterDefinition = new FilterDefinition();
```

The default constructor subscribes to all events coming from the RootFolder of the Server object (`ObjectIds.Server`) with a Severity of `EventSeverity.Min` and all events of type `ObjectTypeIds.BaseEventType`.

The `FilterDefinition` class also has a helper method to create the select clause:

```
// must specify the fields that the client is interested in.
filterDefinition.SelectClauses = filterDefinition.ConstructSelectClauses(
                    mySessionSampleServer_,
                    ObjectIds.Server,
                    ObjectTypeIds.BaseEventType
                    );
```

The code above creates a select claus which includes all fields of the BaseEventType. Another helper method of the `FilterDefinition` class creates the MonitoredItem:

```
// create a monitored item based on the current filter settings.
MonitoredItem monitoredEventItem =
                    filterDefinition.CreateMonitoredItem(mySessionSampleServer_);
```

Now we can subscribe to the event changes with:

```
// set up callback for notifications.
monitoredEventItem.MonitoredItemNotificationEvent += OnMonitoredEventItemNotification;
```

See the WorkshopClientConsole for the code of the callback `OnMonitoredEventItemNotification()`. After creating the MonitoredItem it must be added to the subscription and the changes must be applied:

```
mySubscription.AddItem(monitoredEventItem);
mySubscription.ApplyChanges();
mySubscription.ConditionRefresh();
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.11 Calling Methods

OPC UA also defines a mechanism to call methods in the server objects. To find out if an object defines methods, you can call `ReadNode()` of the session and use as parameter the NodeId you want to call a method from:

```
private readonly NodeId methodsNodeId_ = new NodeId("ns=2;s=Methods");
private readonly NodeId callHelloMethodNodeId_ = new NodeId("ns=2;s=Methods_Hello");

INode node = mySessionSampleServer_.ReadNode(callHelloMethodNodeId_);

MethodNode methodNode = node as MethodNode;

if (methodNode != null)
{
    // Node supports methods
}
```

OPC UA Methods have a variable list of Input and Output Arguments. To make this example simple we have choosen a method with one input and one output argument. To be able to call a method you need to know the node of the method, in our example `callHelloMethodNodeId_` but also the parent node, in our example `methodsNodeId_`. Calling the method then done by

```
NodeId methodId = callHelloMethodNodeId_;
NodeId objectId = methodsNodeId_;

VariantCollection inputArguments = new VariantCollection();
Argument argument = new Argument();
inputArguments.Add(new Variant("from Technosoftware"));

var request = new CallMethodRequest { ObjectId = objectId,
                                      MethodId = methodId,
                                      InputArguments = inputArguments };

var requests = new CallMethodRequestCollection { request };

CallMethodResultCollection results;
DiagnosticInfoCollection diagnosticInfos;

ResponseHeader responseHeader = mySessionSampleServer_.Call(
                        null,
                        requests,
                        out results,
                        out diagnosticInfos);

if (StatusCode.IsBad(results[0].StatusCode))
{
    throw new ServiceResultException(new ServiceResult(
                    results[0].StatusCode,
                    0, diagnosticInfos,
                    responseHeader.StringTable));
}

Console.WriteLine(String.Format("{0}", results[0].OutputArguments[0]));
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.12 History Access

The UA Servers may also provide history information for the nodes. You can read the Historizing attribute of a Variable node to see whether history is supported. For this example we use the Historical Access Sample Server with the Endpoint Uri opc.tcp://<localhost>:55551/TechnosoftwareHistoricalAccessServer.

6.4.12.1 Check if a Node supports historizing

You can get information about a node by reading the Attribute `Attributes.AccessLevel` and check whether the node supports HistoricalAccess. The code we use for this is shown below:

```
ReadValueId nodeToRead = new ReadValueId();
nodeToRead.NodeId = dynamicHistoricalAccessNodeId_;
nodeToRead.AttributeId = Attributes.AccessLevel;
nodesToRead.Add(nodeToRead);

// Get Information about the node object
mySessionHistoricalAccessServer_.Read(
                    null,
                    0,
                    TimestampsToReturn.Neither,
                    nodesToRead,
                    out values,
                    out diagnosticInfos);

ClientBase.ValidateResponse(values, nodesToRead);
ClientBase.ValidateDiagnosticInfos(diagnosticInfos, nodesToRead);


for (int ii = 0; ii < nodesToRead.Count; ii++)
{
    byte accessLevel = values[ii].GetValue<byte>(0);

    // Check if node supports HistoricalAccess
    if ((accessLevel & AccessLevels.HistoryRead) != 0)
    {
        // Node supports HistoricalAccess
    }
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.4.12.2 Reading History

To actually read history data you use the `HistoryRead()` method of the Session. The example below reads a complete history for a single node (specified by nodeId):

```
HistoryReadResultCollection results = null;

// do it the hard way (may take a long time with some servers).
ReadRawModifiedDetails details = new ReadRawModifiedDetails();
details.StartTime = DateTime.UtcNow.AddDays(-1);
details.EndTime = DateTime.MinValue;
details.NumValuesPerNode = 10;
details.IsReadModified = false;
details.ReturnBounds = false;

HistoryReadValueId nodeToReadHistory = new HistoryReadValueId();
nodeToReadHistory.NodeId = dynamicHistoricalAccessNodeId_;

HistoryReadValueIdCollection nodesToReadHistory = new HistoryReadValueIdCollection();
nodesToReadHistory.Add(nodeToReadHistory);

// Read the historical data
mySessionHistoricalAccessServer_.HistoryRead(
    null,
    new ExtensionObject(details),
    TimestampsToReturn.Both,
    false,
    nodesToReadHistory,
    out results,
    out diagnosticInfos);

ClientBase.ValidateResponse(results, nodesToRead);
ClientBase.ValidateDiagnosticInfos(diagnosticInfos, nodesToRead);

if (StatusCode.IsBad(results[0].StatusCode))
{
    throw new ServiceResultException(results[0].StatusCode);
}

// Get the historical data
HistoryData historyData = ExtensionObject.ToEncodeable(results[0].HistoryData) as HistoryData;
```

What you need to be aware of is that there are several “methods” that the historyRead supports, depending on which HistoryReadDetails you use. For example, in the above example we used ReadRawModifiedDetails, to read a raw history (the same structure is used to read Modified history as well, therefore the name).

6.5 UserIdentity and UserIdentityTokens

The solution provides the UserIdentity class which converts UA user identity tokens to and from the SecurityTokens used by WCF. The solution currently supports UserNameSecurityToken, X509SecurityToken, SamlSecurityToken and any other subtype of SecurityToken which is supported by the WCF WSSecurityTokenSerializer class. The UA specification requires that UserIdentityTokens be encrypted or signed before they are sent to the Server. UserIdentityToken class provides several methods that implement these features.

Important: This feature is not supported in the WorkshopClientConsole.

© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

6.6 Reverse Connect Handling

To be able to use the Reverse Connect Feature the following code must be added to your client:

6.6.1 Program.cs

The configuration of the client Url's to be used for reverse connect can be done after starting the client. For example like this:

```
private async Task<Session> ConsoleSampleClient()
{
    ApplicationInstance application = new ApplicationInstance
                                          { ApplicationType = ApplicationType.Client };

    #region Create an Application Configuration
    Console.WriteLine(" 1 - Create an Application Configuration.");
    ExitCode = ExitCode.ErrorCreateApplication;

    // Load the Application Configuration and use the specified config section
    // "Technosoftware.SampleClient"
    ApplicationConfiguration config = await application.LoadConfigurationAsync(
                                            "Technosoftware.SampleClient");

    Uri reverseConnectUrl = new Uri("opc.tcp://localhost:65300");

    reverseConnectManager_ = null;
    if (reverseConnectUrl != null)
    {
        // start the reverse connection manager
        reverseConnectManager_ = new ReverseConnectManager();
        reverseConnectManager_.AddEndpoint(reverseConnectUrl);
        reverseConnectManager_.StartService(config);
    }
    #endregion
```

The above code configures the reverse connection. Session creation is also a bit different to a normal session. Below the code for a normal creation of a session:

```
// create worker session
if (reverseConnectManager_ == null)
{
    session_ = await CreateSessionAsync(config, selectedEndpoint,
                                            userIdentity).ConfigureAwait(false);
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

And below the code for a creation of a session with reverse connect:

```
else
{
    Console.WriteLine("   Waiting for reverse connection.");
    // Define the cancellation token.
    var source = new CancellationTokenSource(60000);
    var token = source.Token;
    try
    {
        ITransportWaitingConnection connection =
                                        await reverseConnectManager_.WaitForConnection(
                                                new Uri(endpointUrl_), null, token);
        if (connection == null)
        {
            throw new ServiceResultException(StatusCodes.BadTimeout,
                "Waiting for a reverse connection timed out.");
        }

        session_ = await CreateSessionAsync(config, connection, selectedEndpoint,
                                            userIdentity).ConfigureAwait(false);
    }
    finally
    {
        source.Dispose();
    }
}
```


© Copyright 2019 - 2022, Technosoftware GmbH – www.technosoftware.com

Why Technosoftware GmbH?...

- Professionalism
  Technosoftware GmbH is, measured by the number of employees, truly not a big company. However, when it comes to flexibility, service quality, and adherence to schedules and reliability, we are surely a great company which can compete against the so called leaders in the industry. And this is THE crucial point for our customers.

- Continuous progress
  Lifelong learning and continuing education is, especially in the information technology, essential for future success. Concerning our customers, we will constantly be accepting new challenges and exceeding their requirements again and again. We will continue to do everything to fulfill the needs of our customers and to meet our own standards.

- High Quality of Work
  We reach this by a small, competent and dynamic team of coworkers, which apart from the satisfaction of the customer; take care of a high quality of work. We concern the steps necessary for it together with consideration of the customers' requirements.

- Support
  We support you in all phases – consultation, direction of the project, analysis, architecture & design, implementation, test and maintenance. You decide on the integration of our coworkers in your project; for an entire project or for selected phases.

Technosoftware GmbH
Windleweg 3, CH-5235 Rüfenach

sales@technosoftware.com
www.technosoftware.com