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.NET SDK Guide

Sybase Event Stream Processor 5.1

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Contents

Migration from Aleri Streaming Platform

The SDK interface provided by Sybase® Event Stream Processor (ESP) differs from the SDK interface provided in Aleri Streaming Platform (ASP). In Event Stream Processor, the SDK has been modified for improved flexibility and performance, and to accommodate projects running in a clustered environment.

Clusters and Projects

Because projects now run in a cluster, they are no longer accessed using the command and control host and port. A project has a unique identity denoted by its URI which typically consists of the cluster information, workspace name, and project name. The SDK takes care of resolving the URI to the physical address internally. The project object in ESP loosely corresponds to the platform object in ASP. There is no analogue of an ESP Server in the Pub/Sub API.

Note: There are methods to connect to a standalone project but these should not be used as they will be removed in a future release.

The ESP SDK includes new functionality to configure and monitor the cluster. There is no counterpart for these in the ASP Pub/Sub API.

Access Modes

In the ASP Pub/Sub, the Platform and Publisher objects were accessed using synchronous method calls. The Subscriber object required callback handlers. In ESP, this has changed. All entities—that is server, project, publisher, and subscriber—can be accessed using either DIRECT method calls or CALLBACK handlers. In addition, ESP introduces a third method called SELECTION access.

DIRECT access is similar to the way old Platform and old Publisher objects were called in ASP. Each call blocks until the task completes or results in an error. In ESP, you can use this mode for Subscribers too.

In CALLBACK, users register handler functions and the SDK calls the functions when anything of interest happens. This was the only way to work with subscribers in ASP. In ESP, you can optionally use this method for other entities too.

The SELECT access mode lets you register multiple entities with a selector and have a single thread wait for an event on any of those entities. Functionally, this is similar to the select/poll mechanism of monitoring multiple file descriptors in a single thread.

Automatic Reconnection and Monitoring

In ASP, the Pub/Sub API supported automatic reconnection to a peer when working in hot-active mode. ESP supports automatic reconnection but adds some additional functionality when working in CALLBACK or SELECT access modes. Additional functionality includes

checking if a cluster or project has gone down and optionally monitoring the backend for restarts.

Publishing

In DIRECT access mode, you can now optionally have the SDK spin a background thread when publishing to lead to better throughput. When using ASP, tasks such as these had to be done by the Pub/Sub user.

In ASP, a message was formatted using temporary storage (vectors) which needed to be filled in before calling the Pub/Sub API to create the buffer. In ESP, this is avoided by writing directly to a buffer. To create a message in the ESP SDK, users will indicate the start of a block or row, then populate it in sequence. The fields must be filled in the same order as they appear in the schema.

Subscribing

In ASP, the data from a message was available as a collection of objects. In the ESP SDK, that step is skipped. Methods are provided to read the buffer directly as native data types or helper objects (Money, BigDatetime, Binary). The data fields can be accessed in random order.

Entity Lifecycles and Access Modes

The Sybase® Event Stream Processor .NET SDK offers the same functionality and uses the same concepts as the C SDK. All entities exposed by the SDK have a common lifecycle.

User interaction in the Event Stream Processor (ESP) SDK is handled through entities the SDK exposes. The main entities are Server, Project, Publisher, and Subscriber. These entities correspond to the functional areas of the SDK. For example, the Server object represents a running instance of a cluster, the Project corresponds to a single project deployed to the cluster, the Publisher object deals with publishing data to a running project, and so on.

On initial retrieval, an entity is considered to be open. When an entity is open, you can retrieve certain static information about it. To accomplish its assigned tasks, an entity has to connect to the corresponding component in the cluster. A server connects to a running instance of a cluster, and NetEspProject, NetEspPublisher, and NetEspSubscriber all connect to running instances of a project in a cluster.

In the connected state, an entity can interact with the cluster components. Once an entity is disconnected, it can no longer interact with the cluster but is still an active object in the SDK, and can be reconnected to the cluster. Once an entity is closed, it is no longer available for interaction and is reclaimed by the SDK. To reuse an entity that has closed, retrieve a fresh copy of the entity.

For example, you can retrieve a Project object and connect it to a project in the cluster. If the back-end project dies, the SDK Project receives a disconnected event. You can attempt to reconnect manually, or, if you are using callback mode and your configuration supports it, the SDK tries to reconnect automatically. Upon successful reconnection, the SDK generates a connected event. If you actively close the entity, it disconnects from the back-end project and the SDK reclaims the Project object. To reconnect, you first need to retrieve a new Project object.

The SDK provides great flexibility in structuring access to the entities exposed by the API. There are three modes that can be used to access entities: direct, callback, and select.

Direct access is the default mode when retrieving an entity. In this mode, all calls return when an error occurs or the operation completes successfully. There are no events generated later, so there is no need to have an associated event handler.

In callback access, an event handler must be associated with the request. Most calls to the entity return immediately, but completion of the request is indicated by the generation of the corresponding event. The SDK has two internal threads to implement the callback mechanism. The update thread monitors all entities currently registered for callbacks for applicable updates. If an update is found, an appropriate event is created and queued to the dispatch thread. The dispatch thread calls the registered handlers for the user code to process them.

The select access mode lets you multiplex various entities in a single user thread—somewhat similar to the select and poll mechanisms available on many systems—to monitor file descriptors. To register an entity, call the **select_with(...)** method on the entity you want to monitor (NetEspServer, NetEspPublisher, NetEspSubscriber, or NetEspProject), passing in the NetEspSelector instance together with the events to monitor for. Then, call the **select(...)** method on the NetEspSelector instance, which blocks until a monitored update occurs in the background. The function returns a list of NetEspEvent objects. First determine the category (server, project, publisher, subscriber) of the event, then handle the appropriate event type. In this mode, the SDK uses a single background update thread to monitor for updates. If detected, the appropriate event is created and pushed to the NetEspSelector. The event is then handled in your own thread.

Starting the SDK

Before performing operations, start the SDK.

1. Create an error message store for the following:
   ```
   NetEspError error = new NetEspError();
   ```
2. Get an instance of the .NET SDK and invoke the start method:
   ```
   NetEspSdk s_sdk = NetEspSdk.get_sdk();
   s_sdk.start(espError);
   ```

Connecting to a Server

When you have started the SDK, connect to a server.

Prerequisites

Start the SDK.

Task

1. Create a URI object:
   ```
   NetEspUri uri = new NetEspUri();
   uri.set_uri("esp://myserver:19011", error);
   ```
2. Create your credentials. The type of credentials depends on which security method is configured with the cluster:
   ```
   NetEspCredentials creds = new
   NetEspCredentials(NetEspCredentials.NET_ESP_CREDENTIALS_T.NET_ESP
   _CREDENTIALS_SERVER_RSA);
   creds.set_user("auser");
   creds.set_password("1234");
   creds.set_keyfile("..\\test_data\\keys\\client.pem");
   ```

3. Set options:

```
NetEspServerOptions options = new NetEspServerOptions();
options.set_mode(NetEspServerOptions.NET_ESP_ACCESS_MODE_T.NET_CA
LLBACK_ACCESS);
```

4. Connect to the server:

```
server = new NetEspServer(uri, creds, options);
int rc = server.connect(error);
```

Getting and Connecting to a Project

To publish or subscribe to data, get and connect to a project instance.

1. Get the project:

```
NetEspProject project = server.get_project(“workspacename”,
“projectname”,
error);
```

2. Connect to the project:

```
project.connect(error);
```

Publishing

The SDK provides various options for publishing data to a project.

The steps involved in publishing data are:

1. Create a NetEspPublisher from a previously connected NetEspProject instance.
2. Create a NetEspMessageWriter for the stream to publish to. You can create multiple NetEspMessageWriters from a single NetEspPublisher.
3. Create a NetEspRelativeRowWriter.
4. Format the data buffer to publish using NetEspRelativeRowWriter methods.
5. Publish the data.

While NetEspPublisher is thread-safe, NetEspMessageWriter and NetEspRelativeRowWriter are not. Therefore, ensure that you synchronize access to the latter two.

The SDK provides a number of options to tune the behavior of a NetEspPublisher. Specify these options using NetEspPublisherOptions when creating the NetEspPublisher. Once created, options cannot be changed. Like all other entities in the SDK, publishing also supports the direct, callback, and select access modes.

In addition to access modes, the SDK supports internal buffering. When publishing is buffered, the data is first written to an internal queue. This is picked up by a publishing thread and then written to the ESP project. Buffering is possible only in direct access mode. Direct and buffered publishing potentially provides the best throughput.

Two other settings influence publishing: batching mode and sync mode. Batching controls how data rows are written to the socket. They can be written individually or grouped together in either envelope or transaction batches. Envelopes group individual rows together to send to the ESP project and are read together from the socket by the project. This improves network throughput. Transaction batches, like envelope batches, are also written and read in groups. However, with transaction batches, the ESP project only processes the group if all the rows in the batch are processed successfully. If one fails, the whole batch is rolled back.

Sync mode settings control the publishing handshake between the SDK and the ESP project. By default, the SDK sends data to the ESP project without waiting for acknowledgement. But if sync mode is set to true, the SDK waits for acknowledgement from the ESP project before sending the next batch of data. This provides an application level delivery guarantee, but it reduces throughput.

Publishing in async mode improves throughput, but does not provide an application level delivery guarantee. Since TCP does not provide an application level delivery guarantee either, data in the TCP buffer could be lost when a client exits. Therefore, a commit must be executed before a client exit when publishing in async mode.

There are certain considerations to keep in mind when using callback or select mode publishing. These modes are driven by the NET_ESP_PUBLISHER_EVENT_READY event, which indicates that the publisher is ready to accept more data. In response, you can publish data or issue a commit, but only one such action is permitted in response to a single NET_ESP_PUBLISHER_EVENT_READY event.

Like all entities, if you intend to work in callback mode with a Publisher and want to get notified, register the callback handler before the event is triggered. For example:

```
net_esp_publisher_options_set_access_mode(options, CALLBACK_ACCESS,
error);
net_esp_publisher_set_callback(publisher, events, callback, NULL,
error)
net_esp_publisher_connect(publisher, error);
```

Publishing in Direct Access Mode

Publishing in direct access mode is a multistep process that involves creating and connecting to a publisher, then identifying the stream to publish to and the data to publish.

The following code snippets illustrate one way of publishing data. Adapt this sample as necessary to suit your specific publishing scenario.

1. Create a publisher:

   ```
   NetEspCredentials creds = new NetEspCredentials
   (NetEspCredentials.NET_ESP_CREDENTIALS_T.NET_ESP_CREDENTIALS_USER
   _PASSWORD);
   creds.set_user("user");
   creds.set_password("password");
   NetEspPublisher publisher = project.create_publisher(creds,
   error);
   ```

2. Connect to the publisher:

   ```
   Publisher.connect(error);
   ```

3. Get a stream:

   ```
   NetEspStream stream = project.get_stream("WIN2", error);
   ```

4. Get the Message Writer:

   ```
   NetEspMessageWriter writer = publisher.get_message_writer(stream,
   error);
   ```

5. Get and start the Row Writer, and set an opcode to insert one row:

   ```
   NetEspRelativeRowWriter rowwriter =
   writer.get_relative_row_writer(error);
   rowwriter.start_row(error);
   rowwriter.set_opcode(1, error);
   ```

6. Set the column values sequentially, starting from the first column. Call the appropriate set method for the data type of the column. For example, if the column type is string:

   ```
   rc = rowwriter.set_string(“some value”, error);
   ```

7. When you have set all column values, end the row:
```
rc = rowwriter.end_row(error);
```
8. Publish the data:
```
rc = publisher.publish(writer, error);
```

Subscribing

The SDK provides various options for subscribing to a project.

The steps involved in subscribing to data using the SDK are:

1. Create a NetEspSubscriber from a previously connected NetEspProject instance.
2. Subscribe to streams.
3. In direct access mode, retrieve events using NetEspSubscriber.get_next_event(). In callback and select access modes, the event is generated by the SDK and passed back to user code.
4. For data events, retrieve NetEspMessageReader. This encapsulates a single message from the ESP project. It may consist of a single data row or a transaction or envelope block with multiple data rows.
5. Retrieve one or more NetEspRowReader. Use the methods in NetEspRowReader to read in individual fields.

Subscribing to a Stream in Callback Mode

Subscribing in callback mode is a multistep process that involves creating a subscriber and callback registry, connecting to the subscriber, and then subscribing to a stream.

The following code snippets illustrate one way of subscribing. Adapt this sample as necessary to suit your particular subscription scenario.

1. Create a subscriber:

```
NetEspSubscriberOptions options = new NetEspSubscriberOptions();
options.set_mode(NetEspSubscriberOptions.NET_ESP_ACCESS_MODE_T.NE
T_CALLBACK_ACCESS);
NetEspSubscriber subscriber =
project.create_subscriber(options,error);
```

2. Create the callback registry:

```
NetEspSubscriber.SUBSCRIBER_EVENT_CALLBACK callbackInstance = new
NetEspSubscriber.SUBSCRIBER_EVENT_CALLBACK(subscriber_callback);
subscriber.set_callback(NetEspSubscriber.NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT
.NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT_ALL, callbackInstance, null, error);
```

3. Connect to the subscriber:

```
subscriber.connect(error);
```

4. Subscribe to a stream:

```
subscriber.subscribe_stream(stream, error);
```

   - Callback function implementation:

```
Public static void subscriber_callback(NetEspSubscriberEvent
event, ValueType
```

```
data) {
        switch (evt.getType())
            {
               case (uint)
(NetEspSubscriber.NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT.NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_
EVENT_CONNECTED):
                    Console.WriteLine("the callback happened:
connected!");
                    break;
(uint)
( NetEspSubscriber.NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT.NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER
_EVENT_DATA):
        //handleData
        ...
            break;

                default:
                    break;
            }
}//end subscriber_callback
```

- handleData implementation:

```
NetEspRowReader row_reader = null;
while ((row_reader = evt.getMessageReader().next_row(error)) !=
null) {
             for (int i = 0; i < schema.get_numcolumns(); ++i)
{
                    if ( row_reader.is_null(i) == 1) {
                        Console.Write("null, ");
                        continue;
                    }
                    switch
(NetEspStream.getType(schema.get_column_type((uint)i, error)))
                    {
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_INTEGER:
                           ivalue = row_reader.get_integer(i,
error);
                            Console.Write(ivalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_LONG:
                        lvalue = row_reader.get_long(i, error);
                            Console.Write(lvalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_FLOAT:
                            fvalue = row_reader.get_float(i,
error);
                            Console.Write(fvalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_STRING:
                            svalue = row_reader.get_string(i,
error);
                            Console.Write(svalue);
```

```
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_DATE:
                        dvalue = row_reader.get_date(i, error);
                            Console.Write(dvalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_TIMESTAMP:
                          tvalue = row_reader.get_timestamp(i,
error);
                            Console.Write(tvalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_BOOLEAN:
                         boolvalue = row_reader.get_boolean(i,
error);
                            Console.Write(boolvalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_BINARY:
                            uint buffersize = 256;
                           binvalue = row_reader.get_binary(i,
buffersize, error);

Console.Write(System.Text.Encoding.Default.GetString(binvalue)
+ ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_INTERVAL:
                       intervalue = row_reader.get_interval(i,
error);
                            Console.Write(intervalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_MONEY01:
                          mon = row_reader.get_money(i, error);
                        Console.Write(mon.get_long(error) + ",
");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_MONEY02:
                            lvalue =
row_reader.get_money_as_long(i, error);
                            Console.Write(lvalue + ", ");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_MONEY03:
                          mon = row_reader.get_money(i, error);
                        Console.Write(mon.get_long(error) + ",
");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_MONEY10:
                          mon = row_reader.get_money(i, error);
                        Console.Write(mon.get_long(error) + ",
");
```

```
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_MONEY15:
                          mon = row_reader.get_money(i, error);
                        Console.Write(mon.get_long(error) + ",
");
                            break;
                        case
NetEspStream.NET_DATA_TYPE_T.NET_ESP_DATATYPE_BIGDATETIME:
                          bdt2 = row_reader.get_bigdatetime(i,
error);
                            long usecs =
bdt2.get_microseconds(error);
                            Console.Write(usecs + ", ");
                            break;
                    }
                }
            }

            rc = subscriber.disconnect(error);
}
```

Stopping the SDK

When your operations are complete, stop the .NET SDK to free up resources.

To stop the .NET SDK, use:

```
s_sdk.stop(espError);
```

Failover Handling

The SDK supports either fully transparent or automatic failover in a number of situations.

- **Cluster failovers –** the URIs used to connect to a back-end component can include a list of cluster manager specifications. The SDK maintains connections to these transparently. If any one manager in the cluster goes down, the SDK tries to reconnect to another instance. If connections to all known instances fail, the SDK returns an error. If working in callback or select access modes, you can configure the SDK with an additional level of tolerance for loss of connectivity. In this case, the SDK does not disconnect a NetEspServer instance even if all known manager instances are down. Instead, it generates a NET_ESP_SERVER_EVENT_STALE event. If it manages to reconnect after a (configurable) number of attempts, it generates a NET_ESP_SERVER_EVENT_UPTODATE event. Otherwise, it disconnects and generates a NET_ESP_SERVER_EVENT_DISCONNECTED event.
- **Project failovers –** an Event Stream Processor cluster allows a project to be deployed with failover. Based on the configuration settings, a cluster restarts a project if it detects that is has exited (however, projects are not restarted if they are explicitly closed by the user). To support this, you can have NetEspProject instances monitor the cluster for project restarts and then reconnect. This works only in callback or select modes. A NET_ESP_PROJECT_EVENT_STALE is generated when the SDK detects that the project has gone down. If it is able to reconnect, it generates a NET_ESP_PROJECT_EVENT_UPTODATE event. Otherwise, it generates a NET_ESP_PROJECT_EVENT_DISCONNECTED event.
- **Active-active deployments –** You can deploy a project in active-active mode. In this mode, the cluster starts two instances of the project, a primary instance and a secondary instance. Any data published to the primary instance is automatically mirrored to the secondary instance. The SDK supports active-active deployments. When connected to an active-active deployment, if the currently connected instance goes down, NetEspProject tries to reconnect to the alternate instance. Unlike failovers, this happens transparently. Therefore, if the reconnection is successful, there is no indication generated to the user. In addition to NetEspProject, there is support for this mode when publishing and subscribing. If subscribed to a project in an active-active deployment, the SDK does not disconnect the subscription if the instance goes down. Instead, it generates a NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT_DATA_LOST event. It then tries to reconnect to the peer instance. If it is able to reconnect, the SDK resubscribes to the same streams. Subscription clients then receive a NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT_SYNC_START event, followed by the data events, and finally a NET_ESP_SUBSCRIBER_EVENT_SYNC_END event. Clients can use this sequence to maintain consistency with their view of the data if needed. Reconnection during publishing is also supported but only if publishing in synchronous mode. It is not possible

for the SDK to guarantee data consistency otherwise. Reconnection during publishing happens transparently; there are no external user events generated.

API Reference

Detailed information on methods, functions, and other programming building blocks is provided in the API level documentation.

To access the API level documentation:

1. Navigate to `<Install_Dir>\ESP-5_1\doc\sdk\net`.
2. Launch `index.html`.

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