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AXCIOMA Internals

A LwCCM implementation supporting the IDL to C++11 language mapping

<https://www.axcioma.com/>

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Advantages of IDL to C++11

- The IDL to C++11 language mapping has the following advantages compared to the IDL to C++ language mapping
 - Easier to use
 - Language mapping is much safer to use
 - Improved runtime performance
 - Reduced training time
 - Reduced development and test time
 - Faster time to market



AXCIOMA Requirements

- LwCCM implementation using the IDL to C++11 Language Mapping
- Existing CIAO deployment plans should be reusable with minimal changes
- Reduced footprint compared to CIAO
- Reduced dependency on CORBA
- Optimized set of features compared to CIAO
 - No support for CCM events
 - No support for the IDL 'supports' keyword
 - Component attributes are set to their initial value using a D&C compliant deployment tool but not changeable through CORBA



Prerequisites AXCIOMA

- C++ compiler supporting C++11
 - GCC 4.7 or newer
 - Clang version 5 or newer
 - Visual Studio 2015
 - Visual Studio 2017
 - Intel C++ 2016
 - Other C++ compilers have been tested but lack features

- Extensible IDL compiler supporting IDL2, IDL3, and IDL3+
 - RIDLC

- Implementation of the IDL to C++11 language mapping for all IDL type constructs
 - TAOX11



RIDLC

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- Ruby based IDL compiler developed by Remedy IT
- Front end with support for IDL2, IDL3, IDL3+, and annotations compatible with DDS-XTypes
- Supports pluggable and extensible backends
- Current available backends
 - IDL to Ruby
 - IDL to C++
 - IDL to C++11
- A LwCCM C++11 backend is developed by extending the IDL to C++11 backend
- Frontend is available as Ruby Gem from <http://www.rubygems.org/gems/ridl>



TAOX11

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- Commercial CORBA implementation by Remedy IT
- Compliant with the IDL to C++11 language mapping
- Uses TAO core leveraging its portability and features
- Uses RIDLC as IDL compiler
- Extended suite of unit tests
- See <https://taox11.remedy.nl>



AXCIOMA Goals

- Fix the API for component developers by using the IDL to C++11 language mapping
- Independent from the existing CIAO LwCCM implementation
- Existing CIAO deployment plans can be used with minimum changes
- Uses TAOX11 for the C++11 type system and optional CORBA support
- Uses RIDLC as extensible IDL compiler



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DAnCEX11 Requirements

- Be able to deploy AXCIOMA components and connectors
- Provide a flexible and powerful deployment tooling
- Support plugin support for various interception points



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Requirements DAnCEX11 LM

- A new DAnCEX11 Locality Manager will be developed
- Same set of features as the DAnCE LM
- New internal design and implementation
- Will provide same plugin support as the DAnCE LM



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AXCIOMA Container Architecture

- AXCIOMA container does not depend on CORBA for its core functionality
- AXCIOMA container is smaller in terms of LOC and footprint compared to CIAO



AXCIOMA Container

- AXCIOMA container will provide services to the components hosted
- AXCIOMA installation handlers will create all components
- AXCIOMA architecture is way easier than the CIAO architecture



Component CORBA servant

- Signature of the component CORBA servant entry point as used by D&C will be updated with a different return value
- Name of the entry point will be kept the same which means deployment plans don't change
- An AXCIOMA ExecutorLocator is returned which provides access to all needed component related entities:
 - Component and facet executors
 - Component context
 - Component configuration values



Executor Locator and Configuration Values

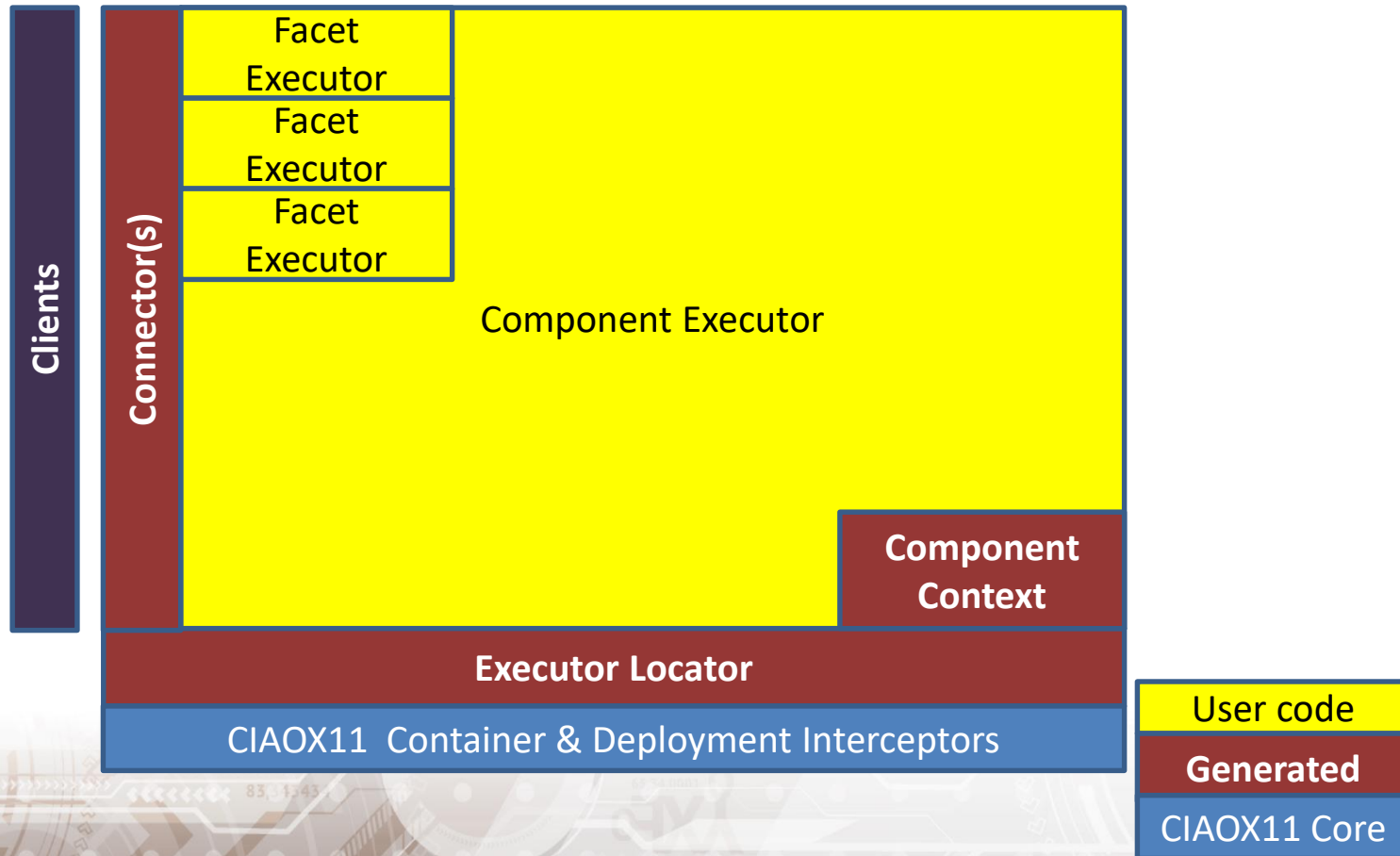
- ExecutorLocator is responsible for setting component attributes to their initial value
- Converts attribute names to concrete method invocations onto the user implemented component executor
- Extracts the attribute value from their Any encapsulation



High level architecture

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Component context

- Caches object references for all receptacles of a component
- The CIAO SessionContext `get_CCM_object` is removed
- Simplified API because of the fact that the `connection_name` is now used as Cookie, no `valuetypes` anymore!



Lifecycle operations

- LwCCM defined lifecycle operations will go directly from the container to the component executor using the ExecutorLocator
- Which operations are called on the component executor is determined by the container, not by the generated code



Component CORBA servant

- The component CORBA servant is used by D&C to retrieve CORBA facet object references when remote CORBA interfaces are used
- The component CORBA servant is registered with the POA using its unique D&C id
- Retrieval of facet CORBA object references happens through the POA using the unique component D&C id and the facet name, the references are not cached in the component CORBA servant
- One CORBA component servant implementation will be used for all user components, no user component specific API will be available through CORBA
- The component CORBA servant is not required for the container to operate
- The CORBA servant is handled within CORBA4CCM



Connector CORBA servant

- Connectors only provide local facets
- Connectors don't have CORBA mandatory parts, no CORBA servants are needed
 - A DDS4CCM connector will have no component and facet CORBA servants
 - Leads to a heavy reduction in code generation and footprint for connectors



CORBA4CCM connector

- A CORBA4CCM connector is introduced to support request/reply interaction between components
- CORBA4CCM connector delegates all operations and attribute access to the user provided facet executor
- No usage of inheritance for the C++11 facet CORBA servants leads to reduced dependencies and simplified compilation steps



DDS4CCM

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- DDS4CCM connectors are implemented using C++11
- Use a similar C++ templated connector framework as CIAO
- Optimal integration requires a DDS vendor that natively supports IDL to C++11 for
 - Built in DDS entities and types
 - User defined types as generated by TAOX11
 - IDL defined type specific DataReader and DataWriter



RTI DDS integration

- RTI DDS lacks support for IDL to C++11
- AXCIOMA will provide C++11 API to the user and convert internally to the RTI C++ API
 - Makes the integration possible
 - Can be adapted for other DDS vendors that lack C++11 support
 - Templated design allows for full optimization when a DDS vendor with native IDL to C++11 support is integrated
- No usage of the RTI CORBA Compatibility Kit (CCK)
- Runtime conversion of user data to the RTI C++ types
- New set of RIDLC backends for generating the type conversion



AMI4CCM

- AMI4CCM connectors are implemented using C++11 and generated by RIDLC
- TAOX11 CORBA AMI support is used
- CORBA AMI support is completely hidden inside the AMI4CCM connector, no CORBA AMI is exposed to the component developer



Timer Support

- Timer support is provided by the TT4CCM connector
- TT4CCM shields application code from low level middleware details
- AXCIOMA does provide access to the TAOX11 ORB through the LwCCM service registry and the TAOX11 ORB will provide access to its ACE Reactor
- Future revisions of the LwCCM/UCM standard need to address the lack of a timer concept in LwCCM



Valuetypes

- AXCIOMA modifies the LwCCM IDL to not use valuetypes
 - ConfigValue are changed to an IDL struct
 - Cookie will be an IDL string simplifying the usage of it
- Not using valuetypes reduces footprint and complexity



Starter Executor Generation (1)

- AXCIOMA uses RIDLC for generating the starter code for the component and facet executors
- Unique RIDLC regeneration blocks will be added to the generated starter code
 - A regeneration block is enclosed by a begin and end marker
 - Marker is unique for the file where it is used in
- RIDLC will read in the existing file, store the blocks and place them back upon regeneration



Starter Executor Generation (2)

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```
// Some example markers, the @@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} part can be changed through the commandline
// flags of RIDLC

@@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} - BEGIN : Shapes_Receiver_Impl[src_includes]
#include "ace/OS_NS_time.h"
@@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} - END : Shapes_Receiver_Impl[src_includes]

void
info_out_data_listener_exec_i::on_one_data (const ::ShapeType& datum, const ::CCM_DDS::ReadInfo&
      info) override
{
  @@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} - BEGIN : info_out_data_listener_exec_i::on_one_data[_datum_info]
  std::cout << "Received shape <" << datum << std::endl;
  @@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} - END : info_out_data_listener_exec_i::on_one_data[_datum_info]
}

Receiver_exec_i::~Receiver_exec_i ()
{
  @@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} - BEGIN : Shapes_Receiver_Impl::Receiver_exec_i[destructor]
  @@{__RIDL_REGEN_MARKER__} - END : Shapes_Receiver_Impl::Receiver_exec_i[destructor]
}
```



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AXCIOMA Release



AXCIOMA V2.0

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- Android, RHEL 6.x/7.x, Fedora >= 17, OpenSuSE >= 12.2, CentOS 6.x/7.x, and Windows 32/64 using MinGW, Visual Studio 2015, and Intel C++ 2016 as supported platforms
- Support for components and connectors
- CORBA support through CORBA4CCM
- DDS4CCM Event and State connectors using RTI Connex DDS 5.2.3
- AMI4CCM support
- TT4CCM support
- Full suite of unit tests and examples
- Full D&C compliant toolchain
- Full documentation



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Resources



External links

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- TAOX11
 - <https://taox11.remedy.nl/>
- IDL to C++11 specification
 - <http://www.omg.org/spec/CPP11>



Want to know?

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- Go to our AXCIOMA website at <https://www.axcioma.com>
- See our other presentations at <http://www.slideshare.net/RemedyIT>
- Ask for a free evaluation version, see <https://swsupport.remedy.nl>



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