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# *Aware IM*

*Version 4.9*

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## **Programmers Reference**



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## About this document

This document describes the Application Programming Interface (API) to the *Aware IM* software system. The intended audience is Java programmers who want to add programming extensions to the applications configured with *Aware IM*.

### 1 Adding programming extensions to Aware IM

*Aware IM* is a powerful software system that allows users to configure the fully functional Internet enabled applications without involving any programming work in most cases. Thus *Aware IM* can be used not only by professional developers but also by business professionals and end users.

In certain cases, however, it may be necessary to add programming extensions to *Aware IM* in order to implement the application functionality that is otherwise very difficult or impossible to configure using the available configuration tools. This mostly applies to the calculation extensive functionality (for example, some mathematical algorithms) or interaction with a non-standard hardware that is not supported by *Aware IM* out-of-the-box.

It is important to stress, though, that in order to support such functionality programmers do not have to learn new technologies or understand at a very deep level the internals of the *Aware IM* software. All that is required is the knowledge of the Java programming language (other languages will be supported in the future) and generic understanding how the extensions fit into the *Aware IM* framework. In most cases programmers have to implement some standard interface that *Aware IM* requires in order for the new extensions to plug in naturally into the *Aware IM* software. The programmer's job is, therefore, to understand what different methods of the interface mean and write the code that implements these methods.

*Aware IM* allows programmers to write extensions (plug-ins) in the following areas (see "Aware IM User Guide" for the explanation of these areas):

- Custom processes implemented by software components rather than by rules.
- Custom channels for intelligent business objects.
- Custom function libraries.
- Custom document types.
- Report calculation components (scriptlets).

This document aims to describe in detail what is involved in adding extensions to each of these areas. Before we start describing each area individually we will describe some common steps required to add the extensions to any of the above areas.

## 2 General guidelines

The following section describes the common steps required to add programming extensions to the *Aware IM* software system. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the basics of programming in the Java programming language and the general steps involved in compiling Java source code and packaging jar files.

- All extensions have to be written in the Java programming language (other languages will be supported in the future).
- As all extensions implement some standard Java interface exposed by *Aware IM*, the CLASSPATH variable used when compiling the extensions must contain a reference to the correct location of the Aware IM jar file (`awareim.jar`). For example, the command to compile the code implementing the extension might look something like this:

```
javac -classpath c:\AwareIM\lib\awareim.jar myextension.java
```

- The name of the Java package where the extension will reside is not mandated and is up to a programmer.
- The resulting extensions may be packaged into one or several jar files. These jar files have to be specified in the CLASSPATH when *Aware IM* is started (both the *Aware IM* server and the Configuration Tool). To include the jar file(s) in the CLASSPATH follow the steps below (these assume that all extensions are packaged into one jar file called `myextensions.jar`):
  - If working under the Windows operating system modify the following files to add `myextensions.jar` to the declaration of the CLASSPATH variable:
    - `bin/setenv.bat`
    - `bin/setenvClient.bat`
  - If working under Linux operating system modify the following files to add `myextensions.jar` to the declaration of the CLASSPATH variable:
    - `bin/setenv.sh`
    - `bin/ClientStarter.sh`

See also the “Aware IM Installation Guide”.

## 3 Adding custom processes

The following section describes how to write extensions implementing custom processes and plug them into *Aware IM*.

To implement custom processes and add them to the configuration of your application follow the steps below:

1. Write the code for the process, compile it and add it to the jar file with your custom extensions. Make sure that the jar file is referenced in the CLASSPATH (see section 2)
2. Add the process to your application configuration using the Configuration Tool (see “Adding/Editing Processes” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”). When adding the

process click the “Custom Software Component” radio button on the General tab of the Process Property Editor and specify the fully qualified name of the class that implements the component, for example `com.myextensions.MyProcessExtension`

The rest of the section describes how to write the code implementing the custom process (step 1 above).

### 3.1 Writing code for the custom process component

When writing a process it is important to understand how processes fit into the architectural framework of **Aware IM**. When a process is started **Aware IM** creates the *execution context*, which contains the information about the environment in which the process is running. This information contains the data about the user who started the process, the process start-up time, the information about the current database transaction as well as many other things. The execution context is available to the process as the [IExecutionContext](#) interface. Because a process in **Aware IM** runs in a “sandbox” there are certain limitations on what the process can do (see guidelines later in this section).

A process communicates with **Aware IM** through the call-back interface called [IExecutionEngine](#). This interface has a variety of methods that a process can use to change attributes of objects, start other processes, call services of service providers etc.

Sometimes a particular process calls a service, which takes a long time to fulfil. In this case the call to the service may time out. If this happens the process is *suspended*. This means that **Aware IM** moves the process into the “standby” mode – it is no longer active and is waiting for the reply from the service provider. Whenever such reply arrives (the reply may arrive in a few seconds, hours, days or months or never arrive at all) **Aware IM** automatically *resumes* the process and the process continues execution from where it left off.

The custom process component must implement `IProcess` interface, which has two main methods – [execute](#) and [resume](#). The `execute` method is called when the process is started and the `resume` method is called when the process is resumed after having been suspended. Both methods are described in detail later in the section.

The following guidelines should be used when writing a process:

- A process is not supposed to perform any operations with the database directly (such as create, open or modify database tables, manage transactions etc) – this is taken care of by the **Aware IM** framework.
- A process generally should not take long to execute as it is running within a context of a database transaction. If a process does take a long time to execute it should every now and again send a special signal to the **Aware IM** framework. Having received such a signal **Aware IM** would suspend the process, commit the current transaction and continue the process execution (resume the process). This signal can be sent if the process throws `SuspendProcessException` and sets its `resumeImmediately` flag to true, for example:

```
throw new SuspendProcessException (true).
```

Before doing so the process should obviously remember its current state so that it can correctly resume itself in the `resume` method.

- If a process calls a method of the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface, which throws `ServerTimeoutException` the process is supposed to catch this exception and throw `SuspendProcessException` passing the original `ServerTimeoutException` to the `SuspendProcessException`, for example:

```
....
try
{
    engine.updateEntity (this, entity, null, null);
}
catch (ServerTimeoutException se)
{
    throw new SuspendProcessException (se);
}
```

The methods of the `IProcess` interface that the custom process components must implement are described below:

### 3.1.1 execute (IExecutionEngine, Object [])

```
public Object execute (IExecutionEngine engine, Object [] parameters)
    throws SuspendProcessException, ExecutionException, AccessDeniedException;
```

This is the main method of the interface that is called when the process is started.

#### Parameters:

**engine** – call back interface that allows the process to call services of *Aware IM*. See [IExecutionEngine](#) interface.

**parameters** – array of the process parameters. This array is null if process doesn't have any input declared in the configuration. Otherwise the array has as many members as there are input business objects in the declaration of the process. Each member of the array is an instance of [IEntity](#) interface.

**Returns:** should always return null.

#### Throws:

**SuspendProcessException** – if one of the methods of the [IExecutionEngine](#) threw `SuspendProcessException` or if the process wants to commit the current transaction.

**ExecutionException** – if something is wrong

**AccessDeniedException** – should not be thrown by the process component directly

### 3.1.2 resume (IExecutionEngine, Object [])

```
public Object resume (IExecutionEngine engine, Object reply)
    throws SuspendProcessException, ExecutionException, AccessDeniedException;
```

This method is called by the *Aware IM* framework when the process receives the reply from the service provider and gets resumed.

**Parameters:**

**engine** – the call back interface that allows the process to call services of *Aware IM*. See [IExecutionEngine](#) interface.

**reply** – reply received from the service provider. This is the instance of the [INotification](#) object. The attributes of this notification can be used to check the specific values of the reply. For example, if a remote service of a service provider were called, the reply notification would have the attributes as defined by the service declaration exposed by the provider. If a process was resumed immediately after its suspension in order to commit the current transaction, the reply is null.

**Returns:** should always return null.

**Throws:**

**SuspendProcessException** if one of the methods of the [IExecutionEngine](#) threw `SuspendProcessException` or if a process wants to commit the current transaction.

**ExecutionException** if something is wrong

**AccessDeniedException** shouldn't be thrown by the process component directly

### 3.1.3 cancel ()

```
public boolean cancel ();
```

This method is called by the *Aware IM* framework when the operator sends the request to cancel the process.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the method should return `true` if it allows the system to cancel the process. In this case it should set an internal flag indicating that the process has been cancelled. The `execute` and `resume` methods should periodically check this flag and if its value is `true` abort the execution of the process (see section 3.1.4). If a process is in a state that does not allow canceling, the method should return `false`.

### 3.1.4 Examples of custom process components

The following example shows the code for the simple process component that changes the attribute of the process input.

```
public class SimpleProcess implements IProcess
{
    public SimpleProcess()
    {
    }

    /**
     * @see com.bas.basserver.executionengine.IProcess#cancel()
     */
    public boolean cancel()
    {
        return true;
    }

    /**
     * @see
     com.bas.basserver.executionengine.IProcess#execute(com.bas.basserver.exe
     cutionengine.IExecutionEngine, java.lang.Object[])
     */
    public Object execute (IExecutionEngine engine, Object[] parameters)
        throws SuspendProcessException, ExecutionException,
        AccessDeniedException
    {
        // one entity is declared as process input
        if (parameters == null || parameters.length != 1 ||
            ! (parameters [0] instanceof IEntity))
        {
            return null;
        }

        // get the parameter
        IEntity entity = (IEntity) parameters [0];
        Object oldValue = null;
        try
        {
            // change "attrName" attribute to "attrValue" in memory
            oldValue = entity.getAttributeValue ("attrName");
            entity.setAttributeValue ("attrName", "attrValue");
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}

        try
        {
            // update entity in persistence
            engine.updateEntity (this, entity,
                new String [] {"attrName"},
                new Object [] {oldValue} );
        }
        catch (ServerTimeOutException ste)
        {
            throw new SuspendProcessException (ste);
        }
    }
}
```

```

    }

    return null;
}

/**
 * @see
 com.bas.basserver.executionengine.IProcess#resume(com.bas.basserver.exec
 utionengine.IExecutionEngine, java.lang.Object)
 */
public Object resume (IExecutionEngine engine, Object reply)
    throws SuspendProcessException, ExecutionException,
           AccessDeniedException
{
    return null;
}

```

The next example shows the code of the process that performs some lengthy calculation and throws `SuspendProcessException` every now and again:

```

public class LongProcess implements IProcess
{
    private boolean m_cancelled = false;
    private long m_count;

    public LongProcess()
    {
    }

    /** @see IProcess#cancel () */
    public boolean cancel ()
    {
        // set m_cancelled flag. This flag will be checked by execute //
        and resume methods
        synchronized (this)
        {
            m_cancelled = true;
        }
        return true;
    }

    /**
     * @see IProcess#execute(IExecutionEngine, Object [])
     */
    public Object execute (IExecutionEngine engine, Object [] parameters)
        throws SuspendProcessException, ExecutionException
    {
        m_count = 0;
        execute (engine);

        return null;
    }

    private void execute (IExecutionEngine engine)
        throws SuspendProcessException
    {
        try

```

```

    {
        // get the context in which the process is running
        IExecutionContext myContext =
            engine.getExecutionContext(this);

        while (true)
        {
            Thread.sleep (500);
            // finish after 400 iterations
            if (m_count++ >= 400)
                break;

            // every 4 iterations update our progress
            if (m_count % 4 == 0)
            {
                int progress = myContext.getProgress ();
                if (progress < 100)
                    myContext.setProgress (progress + 1);
            }

            // check if we have been cancelled
            synchronized (this)
            {
                if (m_cancelled)
                    break;
            }

            // every 120 iterations suspend ourselves so that
            // transaction can be committed (though this is
            // only for illustrational purposes as we are not //
            // doing any transactional operations here such as //
            // changing values of attributes etc)
            if (m_count % 120 == 0)
            {
                throw new SuspendProcessException (true);
                // we will be called soon - see resume
            }
        }
    }
    catch (InterruptedException ie)
    {}
}

/**
 * @see IProcess#resume(IExecutionEngine, Object)
 */
public Object resume (IExecutionEngine engine, Object reply)
    throws SuspendProcessException, ExecutionException
{
    // this is called every 120 iterations
    execute (engine);
    return null;
}

```

### 3.1.5 IExecutionEngine interface

The reference to this interface is passed to the [execute](#) and [resume](#) methods. A process can use the methods of this interface to communicate with the *Aware IM* system. The interface has the methods listed below. Note that most methods throw the following exceptions:

`ServerTimeoutException` – thrown if there was a call of the service exposed by a remote service provider, which timed out.

`ExecutionException` – thrown if there was a run-time error. All changes are discarded.

`AccessDeniedException` – thrown if there was violation of the access level. All changes are discarded.

The first parameter of each method is the process that called the method. When calling methods of `IExecutionEngine` interface the process component should always pass a reference to “this” as the first parameter to the method call. This parameter is omitted from the description below.

#### 1. getExecutionContext (IProcess)

```
public IExecutionContext getExecutionContext (IProcess process)
```

This method provides the [execution context](#) in which the process is running.

#### Parameters:

`process` – the process whose execution context is required

**Returns:** the execution context in which the process is running as an instance of the [IExecutionContext](#) interface.

#### 2. createEntity (IProcess, String)

```
public IEntity createEntity (IProcess parent, String entityName)  
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method creates new instance of the specified business object. If there are any rules associated with the business object they are executed.

#### Parameters:

`entityName` – the name of the business object to create

**Returns:** the created instance of the business object. The attributes are initialized with the values set by the initialization rules (if any), otherwise the initial values are `null`.

### 3. createEntityFromTemplate (IProcess, IEntityTemplate, ChangedReference [])

```
public IEntity createEntityFromTemplate (IProcess parent, IEntityTemplate
                                         template, ChangedReference []
                                         changedRefs)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method creates the new instance of the specified business object from the specified template, which can be pre-initialized with some values. If there are any rules associated with the business object they are executed.

#### Parameters:

**template** – an instance of the [IEntityTemplate](#) interface. The blank instance of the template can be obtained calling the static method `DomainFactory.createEntityTemplate(IEntityDefinition)` where `IEntityDefinition` is the definition of the entity being created. This definition can be obtained from `IDomainVersion`, which in turn can be obtained from the execution context of the process (see API of the `DomainFactory`, `IEntityDefinition` and `IDomainVersion` interfaces provided in the JavaDoc).

**changedRefs** – should be null

**Returns:** the created instance of the business object. The attributes are initialized with the values supplied in the provided template and set by the initialization rules (if any). The initialization rules will overwrite any values set in the original template.

### 4. updateEntity (IProcess, IEntity, String [], Object [], ChangedReference [])

```
public void updateEntity (IProcess parent, IEntity entity, String []
                          changedAttributes, Object [] oldValues,
                          ChangedReference [] changedRefs)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method updates the instance of the business object in the database. If there are any rules associated with the business object they are executed.

#### Parameters:

**entity** – an instance of the business object to write to the database

**changedAttributes** – an array of the attribute names of the business object that have been changed (null if unknown).

**oldValues** – an array of the old values of the changed attributes (null if unknown). Must be of the same size as the `changedAttributes` parameter

`changedRefs` – should be null

### 5. deleteEntities (IProcess, EntityIdAndName [])

```
public void deleteEntities (IProcess parent, EntityIdAndName [] entities)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method deletes the specified instances of the business objects. If there are references to the deleted instances anywhere in the database, these references are deleted as well. If the deleted instance is a parent of some other object, the child object is deleted as well.

#### Parameters:

`entities` – the names and ID's of the instances to be deleted.

### 6. getEntity (IProcess, String, Long)

```
public IEntity getEntity (IProcess parent, String entityName, Long id)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method retrieves the specified instance of the specified business object.

Note: any large binary attributes (of the `Binary`, `Document` and `Picture` types) are not retrieved by this method – the value of the corresponding attributes will be `null`. To retrieve the values of the binary attributes use the [getBinaryData](#) method. The `getEntity` method also retrieves only single references of the object. To retrieve all references of the object, use [getAllReferences](#) method.

#### Parameters:

`entityName` – the name of the business object to retrieve

`id` – the unique id of the instance to retrieve (the unique id is assigned to the instance automatically by the system when the instance is created)

**Returns:** the retrieved instance of the business object or `null` if the instance was not found.

### 7. getEntities (IProcess, EntityIdAndName [])

```
public IEntity [] getEntities (IProcess parent, EntityIdAndName []
                               entities)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method retrieves the specified instances of the specified business objects.

Note: any large binary attributes (of the `Binary`, `Document` and `Picture` types) are not retrieved by this method – the value of the corresponding attributes will be `null`. To retrieve the values of binary attributes use the [getBinaryData](#) method. The `getEntities` method also retrieves only single references of the object. To retrieve all references of the object, use [getAllReferences](#) method.

**Parameters:**

**entities** – the names and unique id's of the business object instances to retrieve

**Returns:** the retrieved instances of the business objects or `null` if the instances were not found.

**8. getBinaryData (IProcess, String, Long, String)**

```
public byte [] getBinaryData (IProcess parent, String entityName, Long id,
                             String attributeName)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method retrieves the value of the specified binary attribute of the specified instance of the business object. Normally if an instance of a business object is retrieved using [getEntity](#) or [getEntities](#) methods the values of attributes of the `Binary`, `Document` or `Picture` types are not retrieved. The above method will retrieve the binary value of the specified attribute.

**Parameters:**

**entityName** – the name of the business object to retrieve

**id** – the unique id of the instance to retrieve (the unique id is assigned to the instance automatically by the system when the instance is created)

**attributeName** – the name of the attribute the value of which is retrieved (must be of the binary type). For attributes of the `Document` and `Picture` types the attribute name must be specified using the “dot” notation as attributes of these types are complex attributes consisting of the file name and file data. The file data part of the attribute is binary:

`attributeName.DOCDATA`

where `attributeName` is the name of the attribute of the `Document` or `Picture` type. The returned bytes are the bytes of the document or image.

**Returns:** the bytes representing the document, image or binary data for the attribute.

**9. setBinaryData (IProcess, String, Long, String, byte[])**

```
public void setBinaryData (IProcess parent, String entityName, Long id,
                           String attributeName, byte[] data)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method sets the data of the specified binary attribute of the specified instance of the business object. This method allows clearing binary attribute (if “data” is null). Normally if binary data is provided as part of the entity null is interpreted as "no change" for binary data and therefore it is impossible to clear binary data as part of entity update. This method allows doing that.

**Parameters:**

**entityName** – the name of the business object to set the data of

**id** – the unique id of the instance to set the data of (the unique id is assigned to the instance automatically by the system when the instance is created)

**attributeName** – the name of the attribute the value of which is set (must be of the binary type). For attributes of the Document and Picture types the attribute name must be specified using the “dot” notation as attributes of these types are complex attributes consisting of the file name and file data. The file data part of the attribute is binary:

`attributeName.DOCDATA`

where `attributeName` is the name of the attribute of the Document or Picture type. The returned bytes are the bytes of the document or image.

**data** – the data to set. If “null” the binary data of the attribute is cleared.

**10. getAllReferences (IProcess, IEntity, String)**

```
public IEntity [] getAllReferences (IProcess parent, IEntity refOwner,
                                   String refOwnerAttr)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method retrieves all references of the specified instance of the business object referenced by the specified attribute of the reference type. The method [getReferences](#) of the `IEntity` interface also returns the references of the business object, so it is possible to retrieve the object by calling [getEntity](#) and then call [getReferences](#) method. However, calling the [getEntity](#) or [getEntities](#) methods will only retrieve single references and will not retrieve multiple references. The `getAllReferences` method, on the other hand, guarantees that all references of the business object referenced through the specified attribute are retrieved.

**Parameters:**

**refOwner** – the instance of the business object the references of which are retrieved

**refOwnerAttr** – the name of the attribute of the business object () the references of which are retrieved (must be of the reference type)

**Returns:** the instances of the business objects referenced through the specified attribute or null if no instances are referenced through the specified attribute.

## 11. getObjectReferences (IProcess, IEntity, String)

```
public Vector getObjectReferences (IProcess parent, IEntity refOwner,  
                                   String refOwnerAttr)  
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method is very similar to the [getAllReferences](#) method. However, it returns references as a collection of `ObjectReference` objects rather than `IEntity` objects. `ObjectReference` is a structure containing an object name and ID. If only names and ID's of the references are required calling this method is much more efficient than calling `getAllReferences`, which retrieves the values of all attributes.

### Parameters:

**refOwner** – the instance of the business object the references of which are retrieved

**refOwnerAttr** – the name of the attribute of the business object the references of which are retrieved (must be of the reference type)

**Returns:** the names and ID's of business objects referenced through the specified attribute as a vector of the `ObjectReference` objects or `null` if no instances are referenced through the specified attribute.

## 12. addReferences (IProcess, String, Long, String, EntityIdAndName [])

```
public void addReferences (IProcess parent, String refOwnerName, Long  
                           refOwnerId, String refOwnerAttr,  
                           EntityIdAndName [] refsToAdd)  
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method adds the specified references to the specified instance of the business object. There are two ways references can be added to a business object. The instance of the object can be obtained using the call to the [getEntity](#) or [getEntities](#) methods and then references can be set using the [setReferences](#) method of the `IEntity` interface. However, the [setReferences](#) method requires that *all* references are set into the business object and therefore all the existing references must be obtained before adding the new ones. This is, of course, very inefficient. The `addReferences` method does not require that the existing references of the business object are retrieved and allows adding the specified references to the existing ones.

### Parameters:

**refOwnerName** – the instance of the business object that references are added to

**refOwnerAttr** – the name of the attribute of the business object the references of which are being modified (must be of the reference type)

**refOwnerId** – the unique ID of the instance of the business object that the references are added to

**refsToAdd** – the references to be added as an array of business object names and ID's

### 13. deleteReferences (IProcess, String, Long, String, EntityIdAndName [])

```
public void deleteReferences (IProcess parent, String refOwnerName, Long
                             refOwnerId, String refOwnerAttr,
                             EntityIdAndName [] refsToDelete)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

The method is similar to the [addReferences](#) method. However, it deletes the specified references rather than adds them.

#### Parameters:

**refOwnerName** – the instance of the business object that references are deleted from

**refOwnerAttr** – the name of the attribute of the business object the references of which are being deleted (must be of the reference type).

**refOwnerId** – the unique ID of the instance of the business object that references are deleted from

**refsToDelete** – the references to be deleted as an array of business object names and ID's. If null all existing references of the business object's instance are deleted.

### 14. createNotification (IProcess, String)

```
public INotification createNotification (IProcess parent, String
                                         notificationName)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method creates the specified notification. If there are any rules associated with the creation of the notification they are executed.

#### Parameters:

**notificationName** – the name of the notification to create (the notification with this name must be configured in the business space version)

**Returns:** the instance of the created notification

### 15. executeChildProcess (IProcess, String, IEntity [], Boolean)

```
public IProcess executeChildProcess (IProcess parent, String processName,
                                     IEntity [] parameters,
                                     Boolean asynchronous)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method starts the specified process as a child of the current process. This method allows custom process components to start other processes.

**Parameters:**

**processName** – the name of the process to start (the business space version must have the process with this name configured)

**parameters** – the instances of the business objects representing the process input if it is declared or null if the process has no input

**asynchronous** – if `true` the new process is started in a separate thread.

**Returns:** the reference to the child process component.

16. **executeEntityService (IProcess, String, EntityIdentifier, IEntity [], String, Boolean)**

```
public INotification executeEntityService (IProcess parent,
                                           String serviceName,
                                           EntityIdentifier provider,
                                           IEntity [] parameters,
                                           String channelTypeName,
                                           Boolean asynchronous)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method calls the specified service of the specified service provider.

**Parameters:**

**serviceName** – the name of the service to call (the service provider must expose the service)

**provider** – the name and unique ID of the intelligent business object which provides the service

**parameters** – the instances of the business objects representing the service input if it is required or null if the service requires no input

**channelTypeName** – the name of the channel through which the service is requested. If `null` the service is requested through the default channel of the provider.

**asynchronous** – if `true` the service is called in a separate thread.

**Returns:** the notification appropriate to the reply type of the called service if the service call was successful.

17. **sendNotification (IProcess, IEntity, INotification, String)**

```
public void sendNotification (IProcess parent, IEntity recipient,
                             INotification notification,
                             String channelTypeName)
    throws ServerTimeoutException, AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

Send the specified notification to the specified recipient.

**Parameters:**

**recipient** – the instance of the intelligent business object which receives the notification

**notification** – the instance of the notification to send to the recipient. This can be obtained by calling the [createNotification](#) method.

**channelTypeName** – the name of the channel supported by the recipient through which the notification is sent. If null the notification is sent through the default channel of the recipient.

18. **executeNamedQuery (IProcess, String, Integer, Integer)**

```
public QueryResult executeNamedQuery (IProcess parent, String queryName,
                                     Integer startRange, Integer span)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method runs the query with the specified name and returns the instances of the business objects matching the conditions of the query. The query with this name must be configured in the business space version. The method may return only a subset of found instances as defined by the startRange and span parameters.

**Parameters:**

**queryName** – the name of the query to run

**startRange** – the number identifying the start of the range of the business object instances returned by the query (starting with 1). If all instances are to be returned this parameter must be null.

**span** – the number of instances of the business objects to return. If all instances are to be returned this parameter must be null.

**Returns:** the instances of the business objects that match the query conditions. These instances are wrapped in the `QueryResult` object, which also has the total number of instances in the system matching the query conditions. Note that this number can be greater than the number of business object instances returned by the method as the method may return only a subset of instances matching the conditions (if `startRange` and `span` are specified).

## 19. `executeQuery (IProcess, Query, Integer, Integer)`

```
public QueryResult executeQuery (IProcess parent, Query query,
                                Integer startRange, Integer span)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method is very similar to the [executeNamedQuery](#) method except that it runs the provided query instead of the configured query. The provided query does not have to exist in the business space version and may be created by the calling process.

### Parameters:

**query** – the query to run

**startRange** – the number identifying the start of the range of the business object instances returned by the query (starting with 1). If all instances are to be returned this parameter must be `null`.

**span** – the number of instances of the business objects to return. If all instances are to be returned this parameter must be `null`.

**Returns:** the instances of the business objects that match the query conditions. These instances are wrapped in the `QueryResult` object, which also has the total number of instances in the system matching the query conditions. Note that this number can be greater than the number of business object instances returned by the method as the method may return only a subset of instances matching the conditions (if `startRange` and `span` are specified).

## 20. `importData (IProcess, String, String, Integer, Boolean)`

```
public Collection importData (IProcess parent, String entityName,
                              String importFileName, Integer batchSize,
                              Boolean validate)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method imports the instances of the specified business object into the system from the specified file (see also “Export and Import” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”).

### Parameters:

**entityName** – the name of the business object the instances of which are imported

**importFileName** – the full path to the file being imported

**batchSize** – the number that specifies how many records are imported into the system before a transaction is committed. The system imports records in batches. Once the batch is complete the transaction is committed. If something goes wrong with the import of the subsequent batches so that the import process is aborted, those records that have been already committed are not affected. The higher the number the faster the processing of records, however it is also more likely that the whole process fails without writing any records.

**validate** – if the value of this parameter is `true` any rules associated with the business object being imported are executed. Consequently if there are any records which trigger the error action (see “Aware IM Rule Language Reference”) they are ignored and the corresponding business object is not created or modified. Setting this flag to `true` slows down the import process considerably, but on the other hand it guarantees that only valid instances of the business object are imported

**Returns:** the created or modified instances of the business object as a collection of `IEntity` objects if `validate` flag is `true`. If `validate` flag is `false` `null` is returned.

## 21. importRelationships (IProcess, String, String, Integer)

```
public void importRelationships (IProcess parent, String entityName,
                                String importFileName, Integer batchSize)
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method imports the relationships of the specified business object into the system from the specified file (see also “Export and Import Relationships” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”).

### Parameters:

**entityName** – the name of the business object the relationships of which are imported

**importFileName** – the full path to the file being imported

**batchSize** – the number that specifies how many records are imported into the system before a transaction is committed. The system imports records in batches. Once the batch is complete the transaction is committed. If something goes wrong with the import of the subsequent batches so that the import process is aborted, those records that have been already committed are not affected. The higher the number the faster the processing of records, however it is also more likely that the whole process fails without writing any records.

## 22. exportEntities (IProcess, IEntity [], String,

### ExportOptions)

```
public void exportEntities (IProcess parent, IEntity [] entsToExport,  
                           String exportFileName, ExportOptions options)  
    throws AccessDeniedException, ExecutionException;
```

This method exports the specified instances of the specified business object into the specified file (see also “Export and Import” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”).

**Parameters:**

**entsToExport** – the instances of the business objects to be exported

**exportFileName** – the full path to the file to export to

**options** – the export options (whether to export ID's, relationships, binary attributes etc).

### 3.1.6 IExecutionContext interface

There are quite a number of methods exposed by this interface. Most of the methods are of interest to the system only. The following section only describes those methods that are relevant to custom process components.

#### 1. getProgress ()

```
public int getProgress ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the number identifying the current progress of the process in percents.

#### 2. setProgress (int)

```
public void setProgress (int progress)
```

This method can be used to set the progress of the custom process component. The system will use this number when the operator inquires about the progress of the process.

**Parameters:**

**progress** – the number identifying the current progress of the process in percents.

#### 3. getStartupTime ()

```
public Date getStartupTime ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the date and time when the process was started as `java.util.Date` object.

#### 4. getSuspensionTime ()

```
public Date getSuspensionTime ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the date and time when the process was last suspended as `java.util.Date` object or `null` if the process was never suspended.

#### 5. getDomainVersion ()

```
public IDomainVersion getDomainVersion ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the current business space version.

#### 6. getAccessLevel ()

```
public AccessLevel getAccessLevel ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the access level of the user that started the process.

#### 7. getLoginName ()

```
public String getLoginName ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the login name of the user that started the process.

#### 8. getTimeout ()

```
public long getTimeout ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the number of milliseconds that the system will wait before timing out the process when it is suspended. If the value is `-1` the process never times out (this is the default value).

#### 9. setTimeout (long)

```
public void setTimeout (long timeout)
```

Set the number of milliseconds that the system will wait before timing out the process if it is suspended.

**Parameters:**

**timeout** – the timeout value in milliseconds. If the value is `-1` the process never times out.

### 3.1.7 IEntity interface

IEntity interface extends IObject interface. IObject interface is the parent to both IEntity and INotification. It exposes the following methods:

#### 1. getName ()

```
public String getName ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the name of the business object or notification as configured in the business space version.

#### 2. getId ()

```
public long getId ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the unique id of the business object instance (always `-1` for notifications). The unique id is automatically assigned to the business object instance by the system when the instance is created.

#### 3. getAttributeValue (String)

```
public Object getAttributeValue (String attributeName)  
    throws InvalidParameterException
```

This method returns the value of the specified attribute. Note: the attribute must not be a reference. Use the [getReferences](#) method to retrieve references.

**Parameters:**

**attributeName** – the name of the attribute of the business object or notification the value of which is returned

**Returns:** the value of the attribute as `Object`. The type of the object corresponds to the type of the attribute. See the Appendix A that provides the mapping between attribute types and Java types.

**Throws:** `InvalidParameterException` if the specified attribute name does not exist in the business object or notification

#### 4. setAttributeValue (String, Object)

```
public void setAttributeValue (String attributeName, Object value)
    throws InvalidParameterException
```

This method sets the value of the specified attribute.

Note: the attribute must not be a reference. Use the [setReferences](#) method to set references.

**Parameters:**

**attributeName** – the name of the attribute of the business object or notification the value of which is set

**value** - the value of the attribute to set as `Object`. The type of the object corresponds to the type of the attribute. See Appendix A that provides the mapping between attribute types and Java types.

**Throws:** `InvalidParameterException` if the specified attribute name does not exist in the business object or notification

#### 5. deepCopy ()

```
public IObject deepCopy ();
```

This method takes a “deep” copy of “this” object.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** copied business object or notification

#### 6. getReferences (String)

```
public ObjectReference [] getReferences (String attributeName)
    throws InvalidParameterException
```

This method retrieves references of the business object or notification. If the business object was obtained in the first place by the calls to the [getEntity](#) or [getEntities](#) methods of the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface the `getReferences` method will always return `null` for multiple references (it will always return the only existing reference if the attribute is a single reference). Use the [getAllReferences](#) method in the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface to obtain all multiple references of the business object.

**Parameters:**

**attributeName** – the name of the attribute of the business object or notification the references of which are returned (must be of the reference type)

**Returns:** the references as `ObjectReference` objects or `null` if no objects are referenced by the specified attribute.

**Throws:** `InvalidParameterException` if the specified attribute name does not exist in the business object or notification or it is not a reference.

### 7. setReferences (String, ObjectReference [])

```
public void setReferences (String attributeName, ObjectReference [] refs)
    throws InvalidParameterException
```

This method sets references of the business object or notification. Note that if the [updateEntity](#) method of the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface is used to update the business object in the database after setting its references the system will delete any existing references of the business object and add whatever references are set by the `setReferences` method. If, however, the `setReferences` method sets the value to `null` and then the [updateEntity](#) method is called, the `null` value is interpreted by the system as “no change” so no existing references are deleted. To clear existing references use the [deleteReferences](#) method in the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface.

#### Parameters:

**attributeName** – the name of the attribute of the business object or notification the references of which are being set (must be of the reference type)

**refs** - the references being set.

**Throws:** `InvalidParameterException` if the specified attribute name does not exist in the business object or notification or it is not a reference.

There are a number of methods that are specific to the `IEntity` interface as opposed to the `IObject` interface, however, these are mostly used by the system are not relevant to custom process extensions.

### 3.1.8 IEntityTemplate interface

`IEntityTemplate` represents the instance of the business object before it has been added to the database. As such it does not have the unique ID and some other attributes assigned to the instance of the business object automatically by the system. The main usage of this interface is to set initial values of an instance when using the [createEntityFromTemplate](#) method in the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface.

The interface exposes [getName](#), [getAttributeValue](#), [setAttributeValue](#), [getReferences](#) and [setReferences](#) methods. Their signatures and purpose is identical to the corresponding methods in the [IEntity](#) interface.

### 3.1.9 INotification interface

The `INotification` interface extends the `IObject` interface and therefore shares most methods with the [IEntity](#) interface. Some specific methods are described below (these methods are not relevant to process extensions, however, they may be helpful when writing custom channels – see section 4.1)

#### 1. [getServiceStatus](#) ()

```
public int getServiceStatus ()
```

This method returns the status of service request. Valid values are:

```
SERVICE_STATUS_SUCCESS;  
SERVICE_STATUS_WAITING;  
SERVICE_STATUS_FAILURE;
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** an integer indicating the service status.

#### 2. [getMessage](#) ()

```
public String getMessage ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** any message associated with the notification (for example, the error message if the service request failed) or `null` if no message is associated with the notification.

## 4 Adding custom channels

Communication between external entities, such as other software systems and hardware devices (which are modeled in *Aware IM* as intelligent business objects) and *Aware IM* is performed through *channels*. A channel represents a media through which messages are sent between external systems and hardware devices (collectively called here as “external parties”) and *Aware IM*. A channel is responsible for converting messages into the format that can be understood by the *Aware IM* software on one end and the external party on the other end. There can be one-way or two-way channels. In a one-way channel messages are only sent in one direction – from *Aware IM* to the external party or from the external party to *Aware IM*. In a two-way channel messages are sent in both directions.

From *Aware IM* point of view there are only two types of messages – *service requests* and *notifications*. Service request is a request for execution of a particular service. The external party

being an intelligent business object may expose a number of services that can be requested by *Aware IM*. Similarly the current business space version in *Aware IM* may expose a number of services that can be requested by the external party. The service requestor may expect a particular reply to the service as declared in the definition of the service.

A notification, on the other hand, represents just a piece of information that is sent to the external party or to *Aware IM* (the business space version in *Aware IM* may contain rules which define how different notifications are handled). It is up to a receiver of the notification to decide how it will react to this information or whether it will react at all. Generally no reply to the notification is expected from the receiver.

A channel therefore must translate the service request or notification message that is sent by *Aware IM* to the external party into whatever format the external party understands. Similarly a channel has to translate a message sent by the external party into the service request or notification message that can be understood by *Aware IM*.

Note that if an external party is sending service requests to *Aware IM* it must first log into *Aware IM* as a particular user (an intelligent business object representing the external party must be a member of the `SystemUsers` business object group), otherwise the service request will be sent on behalf of a “guest” user. Sending notifications to *Aware IM*, on the other hand, does not require logging in.

There are a number of predefined channels that *Aware IM* comes with, such as the `E-mail` channel, the `SOAP` channel and others (see the “Defining Intelligent Business Objects” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”). If your application connects to external software systems or hardware using protocols that are not supported by *Aware IM* out-of-the-box, you are likely to need to write your own custom channel that will connect your *Aware IM* system with the required software system or a hardware device.

The following section describes what is involved in adding a new custom channel to *Aware IM*.

To add a new custom channel to *Aware IM* follow the steps below:

1. Write the code for the component that will handle communication between *Aware IM* and your software system or a hardware device (see section 4.1 for details)
2. Write the code for the component that describes the capabilities of the new channel – this component must implement the `IChannelType` interface (see section 4.1.2 for details).
3. If your channel has properties that need to be controlled via the user interface in the Configuration Tool, write the code for the component that implements this user interface (see section 4.3 for details).
4. Compile the source code of your components and package them in a jar file(s). Make sure that the jar file is referenced in the `CLASSPATH` (see section 2)
5. Add the definition of the new channel to the `BASServer.props` file located in the `BIN` directory of your *Aware IM* installation. You have to add a line that provides the fully qualified name of the component that you wrote in step 2. The name of the property must start with the `ChannelType` prefix and the value is the fully qualified name of the component. For example:

```
ChannelTypeMail=com.bas.basserver.channels.EmailChannelType
```

6. If you are working with the “Lite” version of the Configuration Tool (which works without the *Aware IM* server) add the same line to the `UIConfig.props` file located in the BIN directory of the *Aware IM* installation – you have to make sure though that your jar file is available not only to the Lite version of the Configuration Tool but to the *Aware IM* server that hosts your application as well (see “Aware IM Installation Guide” for details).

If everything has been done correctly the name of the new channel must appear in the list of channels available for intelligent business objects in the Intelligence tab of the Business Object Property Editor (see “Defining Intelligent Business Objects” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”)

## 4.1 Implementing channel's Source and Sink

The first step that is required to add a custom channel to *Aware IM* is to write the component(s) that handle communication between *Aware IM* and the external software system or hardware device. In order to write the code for such components it is important to understand the architectural framework that *Aware IM* uses to communicate with an external software system or device (“external party”).

*Aware IM* incorporates the `openadaptor™` framework written by Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein to handle communication with external parties. This framework abstracts the process of sending messages between systems. The source of the message is abstracted in a component called *Source* and the destination of the message is abstracted in the component called *Sink*. Thus messages are generated by Source and travel to the corresponding Sink.

If communication with the external party requires that messages be sent from *Aware IM* to the external party the specific Sink needs to be implemented (*Aware IM* framework will automatically provide the corresponding Source). If communication requires that messages be sent from the external party to *Aware IM* the specific Source needs to be implemented (*Aware IM* framework will automatically provide the corresponding Sink).

Messages that float between *Aware IM* and external party represent arrays of `DataObject`'s. `DataObject` is the class that allows defining any number of attributes of different types and provides generic access to them - very much like the [IEntity](#) interface (in fact `IEntity` is a wrapper around `DataObject`). `DataObject` exposes the [getAttributeValue](#) and [setAttributeValue](#) methods that allow access to the values of its attributes.

*Aware IM* sends `DataObject`'s of some specific structure to the external party and it expects `DataObject`'s of this structure from the external party. As explained in the previous section this structure implies that there are only two forms of requests that can be sent between *Aware IM* and the external party – service requests and notifications.

*Aware IM* provides two utility classes `MessageBuilder` and `MessageInterpreter` that allow a programmer to easily create or read messages representing service requests and

notifications without knowing too many details about the underlying structures of `DataObject`'s and its attributes.

To summarize a programmer has to do the following:

1. When writing a Sink the service request or notification from *Aware IM* has to be translated into the protocol of the external party and sent to this party.
2. When writing a Source the message in the external party's format has to be translated into the standard service request or notification and sent to *Aware IM*.

The details of this process are described in the sections below.

### 4.1.1 Writing a Sink

To write a custom Sink follow the steps below:

1. Inherit the Sink from the `AbstractSimpleSink` class.
2. If necessary override `init` method to provide the Sink-specific initialization (if there's any) – this method is called once when the Sink is initialized. The Sink-specific properties would have been entered by the user in the Configuration Tool (see also section 4.3)
3. You must override the following method to provide your own handling of messages sent from *Aware IM*:

```
public void processMessage (Message msg) throws PipelineException;
```

You can translate messages from *Aware IM* using the following techniques:

- a) get the array of `DataObject`'s from the message:
 

```
DataObject [] dobs = msg.peekDataObjects ();
```
- b) use `MessageInterpreter` class to interpret the message (see also 4.1.3):
 

```
MessageInterpreter mi = new MessageInterpreter (dobs);
INotification notif = mi.getNotification (); or
String serviceName = mi.getServiceName ();
```

As an example you can see the code snippet below that implements the Sink that sends outgoing e-mails from *Aware IM*. Note that this code is for illustration purposes only and certain details such as e-mail construction and sending and error handling are omitted.

```
public class EmailSink extends AbstractSimpleSink
{
    private String m_mailHost = null;
    private Session m_session = null;
    private String m_fromAddress = null;

    /** Initialize the sink. Mail host and 'from address' properties are **
     * specified in the user interface */
    public void init (String name, Properties props, String prefix,
                    Controller controller)
        throws IbaException
    {
```

```

    try
    {
        super.init(name, props, prefix, controller);

        m_mailHost = props.getProperty (prefix+"."+MAIL_HOST");
        if (m_mailHost == null)
            throw new IbafeException ("Mail host property for
            outgoing e-mails is not specified.");

        Properties sessionProps = System.getProperties ();
        sessionProps.put ("mail.smtp.host", m_mailHost);

        m_fromAddress = props.getProperty (prefix+"."+
            "MAIL_FROM_ADDRESS");

        m_session=Session.getDefaultInstance(sessionProps,null);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        e.printStackTrace();
        throw new IbafeException(e.toString());
    }
}

/** Message handling method - must be provided */
public void processMessage (Message msg)
    throws PipelineException
{
    String subject = null, toAddress = null;
    String sentDateStr = null;
    try
    {
        DataObject [] dobs = msg.peekDataObjects ();
        // get all message parameters from data objects
        MessageInterpreter mi = new MessageInterpreter (dobs);

        // get e-mail address from channel values
        DataObject chvDob = mis.getChannelValues ();
        if (chvDob == null)
            return; // ignore the message

        try
        {
            toAddress = (String) chvDob.getAttributeValue
                (EMAIL_ADDRESS);
        }
        catch (InvalidParameterException ipe)
        {}
        if (toAddress == null)
            return; // ignore the message

        INotification notif = mis.getNotification ();
        if (notif == null)
            return; // ignore the message

        // we expect notification of a certain structure - it
        // must have "BODY" and SUBJECT attributes defined
        String body = null;

```

```

        try
        {
            body = (String) notif.getAttributeValue
                (EMAIL_BODY_ATTR);
        }
        catch (InvalidParameterException ipe)
        {}
        if (body == null)
            return; // ignore the message

        // subject is optional
        try
        {
            subject = (String) notif.getAttributeValue
                (EMAIL_SUBJECT_ATTR);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}

        if (subject == null)
            subject = "";

        // create MAPI e-mail message
        MimeMessage email = createEmail (body, subject,
            toAddress);

        if (email != null)
        {
            // send e-mail using MAPI
            sendEmail (email, toAddress, new Date ());
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
    }

    /** Send the e-mail using MAPI. A lot of details are omitted */
    private boolean sendEmail (MimeMessage email, String toAddress,
        String sentDate)
    {
        try
        {
            Transport.send (email);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
        return true;
    }

    /** Create e-mail message using MAPI. Details are omitted
     */
    private MimeMessage createEmail (String body, String subject, String
        toAddress, Date sentDate)
        throws Exception
    {
        MimeMessage mailMessage = new MimeMessage (m_session);

        if (m_fromAddress != null)

```

```

        mailMessage.setFrom (InternetAddress.parse

mailMessage.setRecipients (javax.mail.Message.RecipientType.TO,
                           InternetAddress.parse (toAddress,
                                                   false));

mailMessage.setSubject (subject);
mailMessage.setSentDate (sentDate);
return mailMessage;
}

```

### 4.1.2 Writing a Source

Before writing a Source you need to decide the type of Source that will receive messages from your software system or a hardware device. Three types of Sources are supported by the openadaptor™ framework:

1. *Polling* - the Source of this type will periodically poll a resource looking for data and messages that need to be processed or sent, e.g. a database, a file system or queue-based middleware.
2. *Listening* - the Source of this type will wait for a connection, establish a connection and listen, e.g. a socket.
3. *Callback* - the Source of this type will register for events and receive call-backs, e.g. publish/subscribe middleware.

You must decide which is the most appropriate type of Source for your situation. Depending on which implementation you choose, you will need to implement different methods.

After you decide which Source type you will use follow the steps below:

1. Inherit your class implementing the Source from the `AbstractSimpleSource` class.
2. Override the `init` method to set the Source type and/or initialise the Source with some specific properties. The Source-specific properties would have been entered by the user in the Configuration Tool (see also section 4.3) The type of the Source is set using the following method:

```

setSourceType(POLL_SOURCE); or
setSourceType(LISTEN_SOURCE); or
setSourceType(CALLBACK_SOURCE); or

```

3. Depending on the Source type override the following methods:

- For polling Source -

```
public DataObject[] sourcePoll() throws IbaException
```

This method should return an array of `DataObject`'s (or `null` if there is no data to process at the moment).

- For listening Source -

```
public void sourceListen() throws IbaException
```

This method should call the following method when it has some `DataObject`'s to process:

```
sourceProcess(DataObject[] dobs)
```

- For call-back Source –

You will need to implement the third party call-back method. This method should call the following method when it has some `DataObject`'s to process:

```
sourceProcess(DataObject[] dobs)
```

In the methods above you need to construct the appropriate `DataObject`'s, which will be delivered to **Aware IM** by the framework. To construct the `DataObject`'s you can use the [MessageBuilder](#) class as shown in the example below.

4. You should implement the following method to perform any necessary "start up", such as establishing connections, registering call-backs, etc:

```
public void sourceStartUp() throws IbafeException
```

5. You should implement the following method to perform necessary "clean up", such as destroying connections, releasing resources, etc:

```
public void sourceCleanUp() throws IbafeException
```

As an example you can see the code snippet that implements the Source that handles e-mails coming to a mailbox and sends them as notifications to **Aware IM**. Note that this code is for illustration purposes only and certain details are omitted.

```
public class EmailSource extends AbstractSimpleSource
{
    private String m_mailHost;
    private String m_userName;
    private String m_password;
    private Session m_session;
    private Store m_store;
    private Folder m_inbox;

    /** Initializes the source.
     * Mandatory properties
     * MAIL_HOST_PROP name of the mail host, e.g. mail.optus.com
     * MAIL_USER_PROP name of the user
     * MAIL_PASSWORD_PROP credentials of the user
     * @exception IbafeException If initialization fails.
     */
    public void init( String name, Properties props, String prefix,
                    Controller controller )
        throws IbafeException
    {
        try
        {
            super.init(name, props, prefix, controller);

            // set the type of the source!
            setSourceType (CALLBACK_SOURCE);
        }
    }
}
```

```

        // get different settings that would have been entered// //
        by the user in the Configuration Tool
        m_mailHost = props.getProperty (prefix+"."+MAIL_HOST);
        if (m_mailHost == null)
            throw new IbafeException ("Mail host property for
            incoming e-mails is not specified.");

        m_userName = props.getProperty (prefix+"."+MAIL_USER);
        if (m_userName == null)
            throw new IbafeException ("User name property is not
            specified");

        m_password = props.getProperty (prefix + "." +
            MAIL_PASSWORD);
        if (m_password == null)
            throw new IbafeException ("Password property is not
            specified");

        Properties settings = System.getProperties ();
        settings.put ("mail.smtp.host", m_mailHost);
        settings.put ("mail.store.protocol", "pop3");

        m_session = Session.getInstance (settings, null);

        m_store = m_session.getStore ();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        e.printStackTrace();
        throw new IbafeException (e.getMessage ());
    }
}

public void sourceStartUp()
    throws IbafeException
{
    super.sourceStartUp ();

    // try to connect to the remote host
    try
    {
        connect ();
    }
    catch (Exception me)
    {
    }
}

public void sourceCleanUp()
    throws IbafeException
{
    super.sourceCleanUp ();

    // close everything
    if (m_inbox != null)
    {
        synchronized (m_inbox)

```

```

        {
            try
            {
                m_inbox.close (false);
            }
            catch (Exception e)
            {}
        }
    }

    if (m_store != null)
    {
        try
        {
            m_store.close ();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
    }
}

/** connect to the remote host and register our callback function */
private void connect () throws Exception
{
    try
    {
        m_store.connect (m_mailHost, 110, m_userName,
                        m_password);
    }
    catch (Exception se)
    {}

    // Open a Folder
    try
    {
        m_inbox = m_store.getFolder ("INBOX");
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        throw new IbafeException (e.getMessage ());
    }

    // Register our call back method with the third party API!!
    synchronized (m_inbox)
    {
        m_inbox.addMessageCountListener(new MessageCountAdapter()
        {
            public void messagesAdded (MessageCountEvent ev)
            {
                gotMessage (ev);
            }
        });
    }
}

// This is a call-back method that creates data objects */
private void gotMessage (Message m)

```

```

{
    // create notification of a particular structure
    INotification notif = DomainFactory.createNotification
    (DomainFactory.createIncomingEmailNotification ());

    // set attribute values
    try
    {
        notif.setAttributeValue (INCOMING_EMAIL_MAIL_HOST,
                                m_mailHost);
        notif.setAttributeValue (INCOMING_EMAIL_USER_NAME,
                                m_userName);

        // etc...

        // using MessageBuilder to construct required data
        // objects
        MessageBuilder mb = new MessageBuilder ();
        DataObject [] dobs = mb.addNotification (null, notif);

        // send the data objects to Aware IM!
        sourceProcess (dobs);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        // some error handling
    }
}

```

### 4.1.3 Handling replies to service requests

When a service of the external party or *Aware IM* has been requested the service provider may send a reply. The reply is sent as a special notification (called the *service reply notification*). This notification implements the [INotification](#) interface and exposes methods that allow checking the status of the service request and retrieve error message if there was any.

If *Aware IM* requests services of external parties, replies from the external parties need to be delivered back to *Aware IM*. Rather than write the Source that would do this it is possible to use the special version of a Sink that would not only deliver service requests to the external party but also send the immediate replies back to *Aware IM*.

Rather than extending `AbstractSimpleSink` class such a Sink must extend the `AttachedReplySink` class. `AttachedReplySink` has the Source, which *Aware IM* automatically attaches to the Sink when Sources and Sinks are constructed. The only extra functionality that the Sink extending `AttachedReplySink` has to provide is to feed the reply to the attached Source when the reply becomes available – this will guarantee that the reply will be delivered to *Aware IM*. Feeding reply to the source is achieved by calling the `feedToSource` method of `AttachedReplySink` passing it the `DataObject`'s as required by the Source.

The message fed to the source must contain the service reply notification. The service reply notification can be constructed calling the static method

```
INotification DomainFactory.createServiceReplyNotification
    (INotificationDefinition definition, int serviceStatus,
     String errorMessage);
```

where `definition` must correspond to the structure of the reply declared for the requested service (or null if a “standard” reply has been declared), `serviceStatus` is the constant described in the `getServiceStatus` method of the [INotification](#) interface and `errorMessage` is the message describing the error if service failed.

Once the notification has been created it can be converted to `DataObject` 's using the `MessageBuilder` class and fed to the source. Here is the snippet of the code illustrating this:

```
public void processMessage (Message msg)
{
    // call the service here
    // ...
    // construct service reply notification and feed it back to Aware IM
    INotification serviceReply = DomainFactory.createServiceReplyNotification
        (null, INotification.SERVICE_STATUS_SUCCESS, null);

    MessageBuilder mb = new MessageBuilder ();
    feedToSource (msg.peekDataObjects (),
                 mb.addNotification (null, serviceReply));
}
```

#### 4.1.4 MessageInterpreter class

The `MessageInterpreter` class can be used to obtain the notification or service name and parameters from a message sent by *Aware IM* to an external party. The following public methods can be used:

##### 1. MessageInterpreter (DataObject [])

```
public MessageInterpreter (DataObject [] message)
```

Constructor. Construct `MessageInterpreter` from the array of `DataObject` 's representing the message sent by *Aware IM* to an external party.

##### Parameters:

**message** – an array of `DataObject` 's sent by *Aware IM*. Usually obtained by calling `peekDataObjects` method of the `Message` class.

##### 2. getNotification ()

```
public INotification getNotification ()
```

Retrieve the notification from the message.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the notification contained in the message or `null` if the message represents a service request.

### 3. getServiceName ()

```
public String getServiceName ()
```

Retrieve the name of the requested service from the message.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the service name of the requested service or `null` if the message represents a notification.

### 4. getServiceParameters ()

```
public Collection getServiceParameters ()
```

Retrieve parameters of the requested service from the message.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** parameters of the requested service as a collection of [IEntity](#) objects or `null` if the message represents a notification or if the service requires no parameters.

### 5. isServiceRequest ()

```
public boolean isServiceRequest ()
```

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** `true` if the message represents a service request or `false` if the message represents a notification.

### 6. getChannelValues ()

```
public DataObject getChannelValues ()
```

Retrieve the data object containing values specific to the receiver of the message. It may happen that the same channel is used to send messages to different intelligent business objects (for example, an e-mail channel may be used to send e-mails to different recipients). If this is the case the message itself must contain the values, which uniquely identify the recipient (in the e-mail case it is the e-mail address of the recipient). The method `getChannelValues` allows retrieving values identifying the recipient from the message (see also section 4.1.2)

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** DataObject containing the values specific to the recipient – the names of the attributes contained in the DataObject are channel-specific (see also section 4.1.2).

### 4.1.5 MessageBuilder class

The MessageBuilder class allows creating DataObject's in the format that *Aware IM* understands so that a message can be sent to *Aware IM*. The following public methods can be used:

#### 1. MessageBuilder ()

```
public MessageBuilder ()
```

Constructor.

**Parameters:** none

#### 2. addServiceRequest (String, String, Object [])

```
public DataObject [] addServiceRequest (String componentName, String
                                         serviceName, Object [] parameters)
```

This method constructs a message representing a service request

**Parameters:**

**componentName** – this should always be null

**serviceName** – the name of the service to call (the service with this name must be exposed by the service provider). If a message is sent to *Aware IM* the name of the service is the name of one of the methods exposed by the IExecutionEngineServices interface (see JavaDoc API)

**parameters** – the parameters of the service as an array of IEntity objects or null if the service does not require any parameters. If a message is sent to *Aware IM* the parameters must correspond to the methods exposed by the IExecutionEngineServices interface (see JavaDoc API)

**Returns:** an array of DataObject's representing the message that can be sent to *Aware IM*.

#### 3. addNotification (EntityIdentifier, INotification)

```
public DataObject [] addNotification (EntityIdentifier receiver,
                                       INotification notification)
```

This method constructs a message representing a notification

**Parameters:**

**receiver** – this should always be null

**notification** – the notification to be sent

**Returns:** an array of `DataObject` 's representing the message that can be sent to *Aware IM*.

## 4.2 Implementing Channel Type component

The next step after writing the channel-specific Sources and Sinks is to write a class that implements the `IChannelType` interface. The implementation of the following methods must be provided:

### 1. getName ()

```
public String getName ()
```

This method must return the unique name of the channel within the *Aware IM* system. This is the name that can be used by the [executeEntityService](#) and [sendNotification](#) methods of the [IExecutionEngine](#) interface and the REQUEST SERVICE and SEND actions of the Rule Language (see “Aware IM Rule Language Reference”). This name is for system purposes only – it is not displayed in the list of available channels of the intelligent business object in the Configuration Tool.

### 2. getExternalName ()

```
public String getExternalName ()
```

This method must return the name by which the channel will be known to configurators. This name is displayed in the list of available channels of the intelligent business object. This name is not used by the system in any other way.

### 3. getOutputSinkClassName ()

```
public String getOutputSinkClassName ()
```

This method must return the fully qualified name of the Sink that handles communication with the external software system or device (see also section 4.1). If messages are never sent from *Aware IM* to the external software system or device (only received), null should be returned.

#### 4. getSourceClassName ()

```
public String getSourceClassName ()
```

This method must return the fully qualified name of the Source that handles communication with the external software system or device (see also section 4.1). If messages from the external system or device are never received (only sent to), null should be returned.

#### 5. getChannelSettingsEditor ()

```
public String getChannelSettingsEditor ()
```

This method must return the fully qualified name of the component that will provide the user interface to edit the channel-specific properties (see also section 4.3). If there are no channel-specific properties that need to be specified by the user, null should be returned.

#### 6. getIntelligenceTypeApplicability ()

```
public int [] getIntelligenceTypeApplicability ()
```

This method must return those types of intelligent business object that the channel is applicable for. For example, the SOAP or Sockets channel is not applicable to business objects with the Human intelligence and the E-mail channel is not applicable to Devices. The constants specifying possible intelligence types are available in the IEntityDefinition interface. They are:

INTELLIGENCE_BUSINESS	- AWARE IM software system;
INTELLIGENCE_HUMAN	- human being;
INTELLIGENCE_DEVICE	- hardware device;
INTELLIGENCE_SYSTEM	- software system (non Aware IM)

At least one intelligence type must be returned.

#### 7. multiUser ()

```
public boolean multiUser ()
```

This method must return true if communication with several intelligent business objects is possible through the channel. In this case a message sent through the channel must identify the recipient of the message. For example, the E-mail channel allows communicating with several recipients (a message contains an e-mail address of the recipient) whereas a dedicated channel handling the protocol specific to some software system is probably not multi-user.

If this method returns true intelligent business objects communicating through this channel must have a certain attribute defined (such as an e-mail address). When the message is sent to the recipient through the channel *Aware IM* automatically gets the current value of this attribute

from the instance of the business object and writes it into the message. See also the [getChannelValues](#) method in the [MessageInterpreter](#) class and the [getReceiverEntityAttribute](#) method below.

## 8. getMessageValues ()

```
public DataObject getMessageValues (IchannelTypeCallback callback)
```

This method is called when a notification is sent to an intelligent business object. The method is supposed to return the values that are specific to the communication with this particular instance of the object – for example, an e-mail address of this instance. The method can use a callback interface to get the instance of the object and the instance of the SystemSettings object, like so:

```
IEntity intelligentEntity = callback.getEntity ();
IEntity systemSettings = callback.getSystemSettings ();
```

The method is supposed to return the data object containing specific values, or null if none are required. As an example, take a look at what the e-mail channel does:

```
public DataObject getMessageValues (IChannelTypeCallback callback)
{
    IEntity entity = callback.getEntity ();
    if (entity == null)
        return null;

    try
    {
        String emailAddr = (String) entity.getAttributeValue
(CommonConstants.EMAIL_ADDRESS_ATTR);

        SDOType dobType = new SDOType ("EmailChannelEmailValues");
        dobType.addAttribute (CommonConstants.EMAIL_ADDRESS_ATTR,
SDOType.STRING);
        DataObject dob = new SimpleDataObject (dobType);

        dob.setAttributeValue (CommonConstants.EMAIL_ADDRESS_ATTR,
emailAddr);

        return dob;
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.err.println ("Unable to read e-mail address in object
" + entity.getName ());
    }

    return null;
}
```

## 9. getDefaultChannelSettings ()

**public** Properties getDefaultChannelSettings ()

This method must return the properties that will be used by default for business objects communicating through the channel. The non-null value should generally be returned if there are settings for the channel that are editable by the user in the Configuration Tool. The returned values will be used to initialize the channel settings in the user interface. The specific names of the properties are up to the channel to define – as long as the same names are used by the Channel Settings Editor and in the initialization of the corresponding Sources and Sinks – see sections 4.3 and 4.1). If the channel does not support any settings `null` should be returned. If the channel settings are supported but the initialization with blank values is required, the blank Properties object should be returned.

## 10. getSourceSettings ()

**public** Properties getSourceSettings (Properties channelSettings)

This method extracts the channel settings specific only to the Source supported by the channel from the combined settings that has properties of both Sink and Source. This may only be relevant if for whatever reason the Source cannot use the combined channel settings.

### Parameters:

**channelSettings** – the channel settings prepared by the Channel Settings Editor that contain the settings for both Sink and Source

**Returns:** the properties that only have the settings specific to the Source. If this is not relevant the original settings may be returned.

## 11. getSinkSettings ()

**public** Properties getSinkSettings (Properties channelSettings)

This method extracts the channel settings specific only to the Sink supported by the channel from the combined settings that has properties of both Sink and Source. This may only be relevant if for whatever reason the Sink cannot use the combined channel settings.

### Parameters:

**channelSettings** – the channel settings prepared by the Channel Settings Editor that contain the settings for both Sink and Source

**Returns:** the properties that only have the settings specific to the Sink. If this is not relevant the original settings may be returned.

## 12. supportsServiceDiscovery ()

```
public boolean supportsServiceDiscovery ()
```

*Aware IM* supports service discovery mechanism – it may send a special request through the channel to find out which services are supported by an intelligent business object. The `supportsServiceDiscovery` method is supposed to return whether it supports the service discovery mechanism (for custom channels it should return `false`).

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** `true` if services can be discovered through this channel

## 4.3 Implementing Channel Settings Editor

If a channel supports the specific settings that need to be specified by the user in the Configuration Tool a Channel Settings Editor needs to be written (the fully qualified name of the editor must be returned by the class implementing `IChannelType` interface – see section 4.1.2). The Channel Settings Editor is the class implementing the `IChannelSettingsEditor` interface.

The following methods must be implemented:

### 1. startEditing (int, java.awt.Component, Properties, boolean)

```
public Properties startEditing (int intelligenceType, java.awt.Component  
                                parent, Properties initialSettings, boolean  
                                viewOnly) throws Exception
```

This method is called when the user presses the `Settings` button to start editing the settings specific to the channel. The method is supposed to invoke the user interface (for example, a dialog) that would show the initial values of the channel settings and let the user edit these settings.

**Parameters:**

**intelligenceType** – the intelligence type of the business object for which the channel is configured. Possible values are specified in the [getIntelligenceTypeApplicability](#) method of the `IChannelType` interface.

**parent** – GUI component that should be the parent of the dialog invoked by this method.

**initialSettings** – the current values of the channel settings. When the Configuration Tool is started they are initialized with the values returned by the [getDefaultChannelSettings](#) method of the `IChannelType` interface and then they are set to the return of this method in each editing session.

**viewOnly** – if this flag is true the editor is not supposed to let the user modify any of the settings – all values must be read-only.

**Returns:** channel settings after they have been edited by the editor.

## 2. validateSettings (Properties, int)

```
public void validateSettings (Properties settings, int intelligenceType)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called when changes to the business object (which include changes to the channels) are committed. The editor is supposed to validate the settings and throw the exception with the appropriate message if the settings are invalid. The validation should happen during editing as well, however, this method may be useful when the editor was never invoked by the user in the first place so that the default settings are committed. The default settings for the channel, however, may not be complete and need validation.

### Parameters:

**intelligenceType** – the intelligence type of the business object for which the channel is configured. Possible values are specified in the [getIntelligenceTypeApplicability](#) method of the `IChannelType` interface.

**settings** – the current values of the channel settings to be validated.

**Throws:** the exception if channel settings are invalid.

**Note:** If you want *Aware IM* to build the channel with the intelligent business object when the *Aware IM* server starts up so that *Aware IM* receives notifications from the business object, set the value of `CommonConstants.CHANNEL_SETTINGS_BUILD_NOTIF_CHANNEL` to be "true" in the channel settings.

Below is an example of the Channel Settings Editor that edits the settings of the E-mail channel:

```
public class EmailSettingsEditor implements IChannelSettingsEditor
{
    public EmailSettingsEditor()
    {}

    public Properties startEditing(
        int intelligenceType,
        Component parent,
        Properties initialSettings,
        boolean viewOnly)
        throws Exception
    {
        String hostServer = null;
        String fromAddress = null;
    }
}
```

```

String userName = null, password = null;
if (initialSettings != null)
{
    hostServer = initialSettings.getProperty (MAIL_HOST);
    fromAddress = initialSettings.getProperty
        (MAIL_FROM_ADDRESS);
    userName = initialSettings.getProperty
        (CHANNEL_SETTINGS_USER_NAME);
    password = initialSettings.getProperty
        (CHANNEL_SETTINGS_PASSWORD);
}

EmailSettingsDlg dlg = null;
if (parent instanceof Frame)
{
    dlg = new EmailSettingsDlg ((Frame) parent, hostServer,
        fromAddress, userName,
        password, viewOnly);
}
else if (parent instanceof Dialog)
{
    dlg = new EmailSettingsDlg ((Dialog) parent, hostServer,
        fromAddress, userName,
        password, viewOnly);
}

dlg.show ();
if (dlg.getReturnStatus () != EmailSettingsDlg.RET_OK)
    return null;

Properties props = new Properties ();
props.setProperty (MAIL_HOST, dlg.getHostName ());
props.setProperty (MAIL_FROM_ADDRESS, dlg.getFromAddress ());
props.setProperty (CHANNEL_SETTINGS_USER_NAME,
    dlg.getUserName ());

props.setProperty (CHANNEL_SETTINGS_PASSWORD,
    dlg.getPassword ());
return props;
}

public void validateSettings (Properties settings, int
    intelligenceType)
    throws Exception
{
    String hostServer = null;
    String fromAddress = null;
    if (settings != null)
    {
        hostServer = settings.getProperty (MAIL_HOST);
        fromAddress = settings.getProperty (MAIL_FROM_ADDRESS);
    }

    if (hostServer == null || hostServer.length () == 0)
        throw new Exception ("Mail host name for e-mail channel
            is not specified");

    if (fromAddress == null || fromAddress.length () == 0)

```

```
        throw new Exception ("Mail 'from' address for e-mail  
                             channel is not specified");  
    }
```

## 5 Adding function libraries

This section describes what programmers have to do to add new function libraries to *Aware IM*.

Function libraries contain functions that can be used in the Rule Language (see “Aware IM Rule Language Reference”). *Aware IM* includes some standard function libraries, such as the Date Function Library and Maths Function Library, which contain functions that work with date/time as well as some standard mathematical functions. You can find the complete list of functions supported by *Aware IM* in the “Aware IM Rule Language Reference”. These functions should be sufficient for most standard needs. However in certain cases it may be necessary to provide new functions – for example, functions that perform calculations in different mathematical areas, some non-standard processing of strings etc.

Note that unlike processes functions are not supposed to communicate with the rest of the *Aware IM* system – they are not supposed to change attributes of business objects, update objects in the database etc. Functions are only supposed to perform calculations and return the result.

Functions are organized in libraries. The grouping of functions in a library is up to the designer of the library. The name of the function must be unique across all libraries, so it is generally a good idea to start the name of the function with a prefix uniquely identifying the library that the function belongs to.

To add a new function library to *Aware IM* follow the steps below:

1. Write the code for the component that will implement functions of the library (see section 5.1 for details)
2. Compile the source code of your function library component and package it in a jar file(s). Make sure that the jar file is referenced in the CLASSPATH (see section 2)
3. Add a definition of the new function library to the `BASServer.props` file located in the BIN directory of your *Aware IM* installation. You have to add a line that provides the fully qualified name of the function library component. The name of the property must start with the `FunctionLibrary` prefix and the value must be the fully qualified name of the component. For example:

```
FunctionLibraryStatistics=com.mypackage.StatisticsLibrary
```

4. If you are working with the Lite version of the Configuration Tool (which works without the *Aware IM* server) add the same line to the `UIConfig.props` file located in the BIN directory of the *Aware IM* installation – you have to make sure though that your jar file is available not only to the Lite version of the Configuration Tool but to the *Aware IM* server that hosts your application as well (see “Aware IM Installation Guide” for details).

If everything has been done correctly the name of the new functions must appear in the list of functions displayed by the Rule Language Context Assistant (see “Context Assistant” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”)

## 5.1 Implementing function library

To implement a function library you need to write a class that implements the `IFunctionLibrary` interface. The implementation of the following methods must be provided:

### 1. getName ()

```
public String getName ()
```

This method must return the name of the library. The name must be unique within the *Aware IM* system.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the name of the library.

### 2. hasFunction (String, int)

```
public boolean hasFunction (String functionName, int paramNmb)
```

This method must return `true` if the library contains the function with the specified name and number of parameters. *Aware IM* will call this method to find the library responsible for the calculation of a particular function referenced in a rule.

**Parameters:**

`functionName` – the name of the function

`paramNmb` – the number of function parameters

**Returns:** `true` if the function with the specified name and number of parameters is supported by the library, `false` otherwise.

### 3. getAvailableFunctions ()

```
public FunctionDescription [] getAvailableFunctions ()
```

This method must return all functions supported by the library as an array of structures containing the function name and the short description of what the function does.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** an array of structures containing the function name and the short description of what the function does. At least one function description must be returned.

#### 4. calculate (String, Object [], INodeHelper)

```
public Object calculate (String functionName, Object [] parameters,  
                        INodeHelper helper)
```

This method is what the function is all about – it performs the required calculation and returns the result.

##### Parameters:

**functionName** – the name of the function in the library that needs to be calculated

**parameters** – the values of function parameters as specified in a rule where the function is used. The given array contains Java objects corresponding to different attribute types (String, Integer, DateHolder etc – see a complete list in the Appendix A)

**helper** – a call-back interface. Should not be used by custom function libraries.

**Returns:** the result of the calculation as a Java object of the type corresponding to the attribute types – see Appendix A. If the function value cannot be calculated for whatever reason (for example, the number of parameters or their types are wrong), null should be returned.

#### 5. toSQL (String, Collection, ISQLBuilderHelper)

```
public String toSQL (String functionName, Collection parameters,  
                   ISQLBuilderHelper helper) throws Exception
```

This method must return the SQL representation of the function if it supports one. The SQL representation is essential if a function is to be used in queries. If the SQL representation is not provided it will not be possible to use the function in queries. See also an example later in this section.

##### Parameters:

**functionName** – the name of the function in the library that needs to be represented in the SQL form.

**parameters** – parameters of the function specified as a collection of the `IArithmeticNode` objects. To get an SQL representation of a parameter use the `toSQL` method of the `IArithmeticNode` interface.

**helper** – a call-back interface that contains certain methods that may help define the SQL representation. See the [ISQLBuilderHelper](#) interface.

**Returns:** a string representing the SQL expression that calculates the function value.

**Throws:** `UnsupportedSQLElementException` if the SQL representation for the function is not supported.

## 6. getTypeClass (String, Collection)

```
public Class getTypeClass (String functionName, Collection parameters)
```

This method must return the class of the object that is returned when the function is calculated – see [calculate](#) method.

### Parameters:

**functionName** – the name of the function in the library the return type of which is required.

**parameters** – the parameters of the function specified as a collection of the `IArithmeticNode` objects.

**Returns:** the class of the object that is returned by the [calculate](#) method for the specified function.

### 5.1.1 ISQLBuilderHelper interface

This interface has quite a number of methods. Most of the methods, however, are used by *Aware IM* only and are of no interest to a function library developer. The only method that may be useful to developers of function libraries is the method that returns the specific database interface used by *Aware IM*. The method has the following syntax:

#### 1. getDatabaseInterface ()

```
public IDatabaseClientInterface getDatabaseInterface ()
```

This method returns the specific database currently used by *Aware IM* (see JavaDoc API for details).

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the database interface.

### 5.1.2 Function library example

See the code snippet below for an example of a function library. For illustration purposes this code snippet contains only a handful of functions supported by the standard Date Function Library.

```
public class DateFunctionLibrary implements IFunctionLibrary
{
    // supported date functions
    public static final String DAY_OF_WEEK_FUNCTION = "DAY_OF_WEEK";
    public static final String CURRENT_YEAR_FUNCTION = "CURRENT_YEAR";

    public DateFunctionLibrary ()
```

```

{
}

/**
 * @see IFunctionLibrary#getName()
 */
public String getName ()
{
    return "DateFunctionLibrary";
}

/**
 * @see IFunctionLibrary#hasFunction(String, int)
 */
public boolean hasFunction(String functionName, int paramNmb)
{
    if (paramNmb == 0)
    {
        return functionName.equalsIgnoreCase
            (CURRENT_YEAR_FUNCTION);
    }
    else if (paramNmb == 1)
    {
        return functionName.equalsIgnoreCase
            (DAY_OF_WEEK_FUNCTION);
    }
    return false;
}

/**
 * @see IFunctionLibrary#getAvailableFunctions()
 */
public FunctionDescription [] getAvailableFunctions ()
{
    FunctionDescription [] results = new FunctionDescription [2];

    results [0] = new FunctionDescription (CURRENT_YEAR_FUNCTION,
        "Parameters: none\nReturn:
        current year as 4 digit
        Number");
    results [1] = new FunctionDescription (DAY_OF_WEEK_FUNCTION,
        "Parameters: attribute of Date
        type or expression producing
        Date" +
        "\nReturn:    day of week of
        the provided date as Plain Text
        ('Monday', 'Tuesday' etc)");

    return results;
}

/**
 * @see IFunctionLibrary#calculate(String, Object[], INodeHelper)
 */
public Object calculate (String functionName, Object[] params,
    INodeHelper helper)
{
    if (params == null || params.length == 0)
    {

```

```

        if (functionName.equalsIgnoreCase(CURRENT_YEAR_FUNCTION))
        {
            Calendar cal = Calendar.getInstance ();
            cal.setTime (new Date ());
            return new Integer (cal.get (Calendar.YEAR));
        }
    }
    else if (params != null && params.length == 1)
    {
        // a single parameter must be of DateHolder type
        if (functionName.equalsIgnoreCase (DAY_OF_WEEK_FUNCTION))
        {
            if (! (params [0] instanceof DateHolder))
                return null;

            Date date=TypeUtils.toDate((DateHolder)params[0]);

            Calendar cal = Calendar.getInstance ();
            cal.setTime (date);
            SimpleDateFormat sdf = new SimpleDateFormat ("E");
            return sdf.format (date);
        }
    }
    return null;
}

/**
 * @see IFunctionLibrary#toSQL(String, Collection, ISQLBuilderHelper)
 */
public String toSQL (String functionName, Collection parameters,
                    ISQLBuilderHelper sqlHelper)
    throws Exception
{
    IDatabaseClientInterface dbi = sqlHelper.getDatabaseInterface ();
    if (parameters == null || parameters.size () == 0)
    {
        if (dbi instanceof MySQLClientInterface)
        {
            if (functionName.equalsIgnoreCase
                (CURRENT_YEAR_FUNCTION))
            {
                return "YEAR(CURDATE())";
            }
        }
        else if (dbi instanceof MSSQLServerClientInterface)
        {
            if (functionName.equalsIgnoreCase
                (CURRENT_YEAR_FUNCTION))
            {
                return "DATEPART (yy, GETDATE())";
            }
        }
    }
    else if (parameters != null && parameters.size () == 1)
    {
        Iterator iter = parameters.iterator ();
        IArithmeticNode arNode = (IArithmeticNode) iter.next ();
    }
}

```

```

        // representation of the argument
        String dateArg = arNode.toSQL (sqlHelper);
        if (dateArg == null || dateArg.length () == 0)
            return ""; // the expression won't be calculated

        if (functionName.equalsIgnoreCase (DAY_OF_WEEK_FUNCTION))
        {
            if (sqlFlavour == CommonConstants.SQL_FLAVOUR_TSQL)
                return "DATENAME(dw, " + dateArg + ")";

            else if (sqlFlavour ==
CommonConstants.SQL_FLAVOUR_MYSQL)
                return "DAYNAME(" + dateArg + ")";
        }
        throw new UnsupportedOperationException (functionName);
    }

    /**@see IFunctionLibrary#getTypeClass(String, Collection) */
    public Class getTypeClass (String functionName, Collection params)
    {
        return Integer.class;
    }
}

```

## 6 Adding custom document types

*Aware IM* comes with a number of predefined document types: - Report, MS Word, Text, MS Excel, HTML. These documents types should be sufficient for most applications. If, however, an application uses other document formats new document types can be added to *Aware IM*.

Note that adding new document types is only necessary if you want to include tags in documents and you want *Aware IM* to replace tags with specific attribute values at run time. If you want to use documents without modifying them you can just attach a document in any format to a form of a business object that has an attribute of the Document type defined and *Aware IM* will store the document in the database. In this case *Aware IM* does not need to know about the internal structure of the document.

To add a new document type to *Aware IM* follow the steps below:

1. Write the code for the component that will work with documents of the new type on the client side (see section 6.1 for details).
2. Write the code for the component that will work with documents of the new type on the server side (see section 6.2 for details).
3. Compile the source code of your components and package them in a jar file(s). Make sure that the jar file is referenced in the CLASSPATH (see section 2).
4. Add the definition of a new document type to the BASServer.props file located in the BIN directory of your *Aware IM* installation. You have to modify the line that sets the

DocumentEngines property to add the fully qualified name of your server side component. For example (note text in bold):

```
DocumentEngines=com.bas.basserver.documents.JasperReportsEngine,com.bas.basserver.documents.MSWordDocumentEngine,com.bas.basserver.documents.TextDocumentEngine,com.bas.basserver.documents.HtmlDocumentEngine,com.bas.basserver.documents.MSExcelDocumentEngine,com.mypackage.MyServerDocEngine
```

5. If you are working with the Lite version of the Configuration Tool (which works without the *Aware IM* server) do similar modifications to the `UIConfig.props` file located in the `BIN` directory of the *Aware IM* installation – in this case, though, you have to provide the fully qualified name of your client side component, for example (note text in bold):

```
DocumentEngines=com.bas.shared.docengines.HtmlEngineClient,com.bas.shared.docengines.JasperEngineClient,com.bas.shared.docengines.MSExcelEngineClient,com.bas.shared.docengines.MSWordEngineClient,com.bas.shared.docengines.TextEngineClient,com.mypackage.MyClientDocEngine
```

Note that you have to make sure that the jar file with your server side component as well as the modifications to `BASServer.props` file are available to the Aware server that hosts your application (see “Aware IM Installation Guide” for details).

If everything has been done correctly the new document type must appear in the list of document types displayed by the Document Template Property Editor (see “Adding/Editing Document Templates” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”).

## 6.1 Implementing client side component

The client side component of the new document type runs inside the Configuration Tool (as opposed to the server side component which runs inside the *Aware IM* server). The client side component is only responsible for the initialization and checking of the document template, while the server side component is responsible for generation of documents from document templates (replacing tags in templates with specific values).

The client side component is a class implementing the `IDocEngineClient` interface. The following methods must be implemented by the class:

### 1. getTemplateType ()

```
public String getTemplateType ()
```

This method must return a string that uniquely identifies the new document type in the *Aware IM* system. This is the string that is also displayed in the list of available document types in the Document Template Property Editor of the Configuration Tool.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** a string uniquely identifying the new document type.

## 2. getTemplateFileType ()

```
public String getTemplateFileType ()
```

This method must return the file extension specific to the new document type (without a dot) – for example, “txt” for text documents.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** a string identifying the document type file extension.

## 3. getEditCommand ()

```
public FileToEdit getEditCommand (String filePath)
```

This method must return the operating system specific command that should be invoked to edit a document template of the new type. This command is invoked when the user presses the Edit button in the Document Template Property Editor of the Configuration Tool.

**Parameters:**

**filePath** – the full path of the document template to be edited.

**Returns:** a structure that contains the command line and file identifier. The resulting command is formed by concatenating the command line with the file identifier (separated by the space symbol). If method returns `null`, the document template is not editable. If the command line returned as part of the `FileToEdit` structure is empty, the document template is editable but it is up to the user to select the editor for the document template (the Configuration Tool in this case will offer a dialog to select the program to edit the document template).

## 4. canHaveExternalResources ()

```
public boolean canHaveExternalResources ()
```

This method must return `true` if documents of the new type can have resources that are stored outside of the document file itself – for example, HTML documents can have image files stored separately whereas MS Word documents are self-contained.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** `true` if a document can have resources stored outside of the document file or `false` otherwise.

## 5. initialiseTemplate (DataPresentationTemplate, IDomainVersion)

```
public void initialiseTemplate (DataPresentationTemplate template,
                               IDomainVersion domainVersion)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called by *Aware IM* when a new document template is being created in the Configuration Tool. The method is supposed to find the attribute paths referenced by tags contained in the document template and set the information about these paths into the provided [DataPresentationTemplate](#) object using its [setAttributePaths](#) method.

### Parameters:

**template** – the document template to set the attribute paths into

**domainVersion** – the business space version where the document template is defined

**Throws:** an exception if an error occurs or if the document template structure is invalid.

## 6. elementsRenamed (DataPresentationTemplate, RenamedElements, INodeChangeHelper, IDomainVersion)

```
public DataPresentationTemplate elementsRenamed (
    DataPresentationTemplate oldTemplate,
    RenamedElements renamedElements,
    INodeChangeHelper helper,
    IDomainVersion domainVersion)
```

This method is called by *Aware IM* when the user of the Configuration Tool renames some elements in the business space version. The method is supposed to check whether the renamed elements are referenced by tags contained in the document template and change the contents of the tags accordingly so that they reference the new names.

### Parameters:

**oldTemplate** – the document template to be checked if it references the renamed elements

**renamedElements** – a structure that describes the elements that have been renamed by the user. The elements are grouped by categories corresponding to the different concepts supported by the business space version (business objects, processes etc). Each element in each category contains the old name of the element and the new name.

**domainVersion** – the business space version where the document template is defined

**helper** – a call-back interface containing the useful method `checkAttributePath`. This method can be used to check whether a particular attribute path referenced by the document template needs to be modified as a result of renaming. If the method returns `null` the attribute path need not be changed, otherwise the modified path is returned.

**Returns:** if the document template needs to be modified as a result of renaming the modified template must be returned otherwise `null` must be returned. Note that the method is not allowed to modify the original template directly – it must copy the original template first using the `deepCopy` method and then modify the copy.

### **7. createDynamicTemplate (String, String, byte [], String)**

```
public DataPresentationTemplate createDynamicTemplate (  
    String templateName,  
    String fileName,  
    byte [] fileData,  
    String dirPath)
```

Implementers of this method are supposed to create the `DataPresentationTemplate` on the fly from the given parameters. They should also save the template file and all resources (if any) in the provided directory.

#### **Parameters:**

**templateName** – name of the template to create

**fileName** – name of the original file containing the template and possibly resources (if file represents an archive, for example).

**fileData** – data of the original file (it can represent the template itself or an archive containing the template and its resources)

**dirPath** – name of the directory where the template file and all its resources (if any) should be written.

**Returns:** newly create template.

## 6.2 Implementing server side component

The server side component of the new document type runs inside the *Aware IM* server (as opposed to the client side component which runs inside the Configuration Tool). The server side component is mainly responsible for generation of documents from document templates – it goes through document template and generates documents by replacing tags encountered in the document template with the appropriate values of expressions contained inside the tags.

The server side component is a class implementing the `IDocumentEngine` interface. The following methods must be implemented by the class:

## 1. getClientEngine ()

```
public IDocEngineClient getClientEngine ()
```

This method must return the component that implements the document type on the client side – see section 6.1.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the instance of the client side component (must not be null)

## 2. fillWithData (String, Map, IDocumentDataSource, DataPresentationTemplate, IDocEngineHelper, IDomainVersion, int, Boolean, int)

```
public ReportResult fillWithData (  
    String dirPath,  
    Map params,  
    IDocumentDataSource dataSource,  
    DataPresentationTemplate template,  
    IDocEngineHelper helper,  
    IDomainVersion domainVersion,  
    int outputFormat,  
    boolean printResults,  
    int numCopies) throws DocumentException
```

This method is called by *Aware IM* at run time when a particular document template is processed. The method is supposed to replace tags used in the document template with the appropriate attribute values. The values must be obtained from the provided data source – see the [IDocumentDataSource](#) interface. The overall structure of the method must be as follows:

1. Find the contents of the tags used in the document template.
2. Call `reset` method of the provided data source to position it on the first element.
3. Create a document (`BinaryResource`) from the original template that will have tags replaced with their values
4. Go through all the tags and call the `getExpressionValue` method of the provided data source to calculate the value of the expression used inside the tag
5. Replace each tag in the document with its calculated value
6. Call the `next` method of the data source. While there are elements in the data source repeat steps 3 to 5.

See also the example.

**Parameters:**

**dirPath** – the name of the directory where the template file is stored

**params** – can be ignored

**dataSource** – the source of data for the values of the tags. See the [IDocumentDataSource](#) interface.

**template** – the document template which is being filled with data

**helper** – can be ignored

**domainVersion** – the business space version where the document template is defined

**outputFormat** – can be ignored

**printResults** – if `true` the resulting document(s) should also be sent to the printer

**numCopies** – number of copies to print (only if “printResults” is true)

**Returns:** A structure represented by the `ReportResult` object. The first document created at the step 3 must be set into this structure as the `BinaryResource`. All other documents must be stored on disk as files. Full path names of the files must be set into the `ReportResult` structure.

**Throws:** the `DocumentException` if error occurs.

### 3. printFile ()

**public** void printFile (File fileToPrint) throws DocumentException

This method is supposed to print the specified file. It is assumed that the provided file is of the format supported by the document type (presumably obtained by calling the [fillWithData](#) method).

**Parameters:**

**fileToPrint** – document to print

**Throws:** the `DocumentException` if an error occurs.

## 6.3 DataPresentationTemplate class

This class represents the document template that most methods of the document type components work with. Below are the descriptions of some of the methods of this class that can be useful to the document type components (for the full list of methods see the JavaDoc API).

### 1. getLoadedTemplate ()

**public** BinaryResource getLoadedTemplate ()

This method returns the data for the document template as a `BinaryResource`. `BinaryResource` is a structure that contains the document file name and the binary data of

the document as an array of bytes. This method should be used by [fillWithData](#) method to retrieve the document template so that it can find tags and replace them with values.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the document template as a `BinaryResource` structure.

## 2. getLoadedResources ()

```
public BinaryResource [] getLoadedResources ()
```

This method retrieves any resources that the document may have that are stored outside of the document template file (for example, images, fonts etc).

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the external resources as the `BinaryResource` structures or null if the document template has no external resources.

## 3. getAttributePaths ()

```
public String [] getAttributePaths ()
```

This method returns the attribute paths used inside tags in the document template. The attribute paths are represented in the form `objectName.attributeName`. Note that the paths returned are not necessarily the complete expressions used inside the tags. A tag expression may contain not only the attribute paths, but also arithmetic expressions with these paths. The paths used by the template would have been set by the [setAttributePaths](#) method.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** the attribute paths used in the document template or null if none are used.

## 4. setAttributePaths (String [] attributePaths)

```
public void setAttributePaths (String [] attributePaths)
```

This method sets attribute paths used inside tags in the document template. The attribute paths are represented in the form `objectName.attributeName`. Note that the paths returned are not necessarily the complete expressions used inside the tags. A tag expression may contain not only the attribute paths, but also arithmetic expressions with these paths. This method is usually called from the [initialiseTemplate](#) method of the `IDocEngineClient` interface.

**Parameters:**

**attributePaths** – the attribute paths used in the document template

## 5. deepCopy ()

```
public IConfigurationElement DeepCopy ()
```

This method creates a “deep copy” of “this”

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** copy of “this” as `IConfigurationElement` (which can be cast back to the `DataPresentationTemplate`).

## 6.4 IDocumentDataSource interface

This interface is used in the [fillWithData](#) function of the `IDocumentEngine` interface. The component implementing this interface provides access to the current values of object attributes in the Context and performs calculations with these values. There may be several instances of the business object in the Context and `IDocumentDataSource` allows iterating over all such instances. See also “Context of Rule Execution” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”

The methods of this interface that may be useful to document type components are described below:

### 1. reset ()

```
public void reset ()
```

This method positions the data source before the start of the first element. The subsequent call to the `next` method will position the data source on the first element. This method must be called at the start of iterations over the elements of the data source.

### 2. next ()

```
public boolean next ()
```

This method positions the data source on the next element if there is any. When called immediately after `reset` positions the data source on the first element.

**Parameters:** none

**Returns:** `true` if the method found next element to position itself on or `false` if there is no more data in the data source.

### 3. getExpressionValue (String)

```
public Object getExpressionValue (String expression) throws Exception
```

This method calculates the value of an expression inside a tag. The expression may be a reference to the object's attribute (attribute path) or a more complicated arithmetic expression. If the

expression contains the formatting expression, the result is converted to the specified format; otherwise it is converted to the format specified in the attribute (if a single attribute is used). The [fillWithData](#) method can use the `Object.toString()` method to convert the result to `String` and put it in the output document instead of the tag.

**Parameters:**

**expression** – the text of the expression. This is the text that is contained inside a tag (not including the tag symbols)

**Returns:** the value of the expression - possible types of the Java object are presented in the table of the correspondence between attribute and Java types in the Appendix A. `Null` can be returned if the value is undefined.

**Throws:** an exception if the value cannot be calculated for whatever reason.

#### 4. getExpressionValueForCalcs (String)

**public** Object getExpressionValueForCalcs (String expression) throws Exception

This method is very similar to the `getExpressionValue` method. The only difference is that the resulting value is not converted into any presentation format.

**Parameters:**

**expression** – the text of the expression. This is the text that is contained inside a tag (not including tag symbols)

**Returns:** the value of the expression - possible types of the Java object are presented in the table of the correspondence between attribute and Java types in the Appendix A.

## 6.5 Example

The code snippet below represents essentially the full text of the document engine that handles the text document type in *Aware IM*:

```
// Client side component
public class TextEngineClient implements IDocEngineClient
{
    public TextEngineClient()
    {
    }

    /**
     * @see IDocEngineClient#getTemplateType()
     */
    public String getTemplateType ()
    {
        return CommonConstants.TEMPLATE_TEXT;
    }
}
```

```

/**
 * @see IDocEngineClient#getEditCommand(String)
 */
public FileToEdit getEditCommand (String templateFilePath)
{
    return Utils.isWindows () ?
        new FileToEdit ("cmd.exe /k", "\"" + templateFilePath
            + "\"") :
        new FileToEdit ("", templateFilePath);
}

/**
 * @see IDocEngineClient#getTemplateFileType()
 */
public String getTemplateFileType()
{
    return "txt";
}

/**
 * @see IDocEngineClient#canHaveExternalResources()
 */
public boolean canHaveExternalResources ()
{
    return false;
}

/**@see IDocEngineClient#initialiseTemplate (DataPresentationTemplate,
IDomainVersion) */
public void initialiseTemplate (DataPresentationTemplate tdef,
IDomainVersion domainVersion)
    throws Exception
{
    // determine attribute paths used
    String text = getTemplateText (tdef);
    if (text != null)
    {
        // find if there are any tags
        Vector taggedParams = Utils.extractParameters (text,
            "<<", ">>");
        if (taggedParams != null && taggedParams.size () > 0)
            DocumentEngineUtils.setAttributePaths
                (taggedParams, tdef);
    }
}

/**
 * @see
com.bas.shared.docengines.IDocEngineClient#elementsRenamed(com.bas.shared.doma
in.configuration.elements.DataPresentationTemplate,
com.bas.shared.domain.configuration.misc.RenamedElements,
com.bas.shared.ruleparser.INodeChangeHelper, IDomainVersion)
 */
public DataPresentationTemplate elementsRenamed (
    DataPresentationTemplate oldTemplate,
    RenamedElements renamedElements,
    INodeChangeHelper helper,
    IDomainVersion domainVersion)

```

```

{
    String text = getTemplateText (oldTemplate);
    if (text == null)
        return null;

    // extract all parameters, convert them to ASTTagStatement
    // expressions, apply changes
    // and then replace parameters in the document
    Vector taggedParams = Utils.extractParameters(text, "<<", ">>");
    if (taggedParams == null || taggedParams.size () == 0)
        return null;

    Vector modified = DocumentEngineUtils.getModifiedParameters (
        taggedParams, renamedElements, helper);
    Vector withTags = DocumentEngineUtils.appendTags (modified,
        "<<", ">>");

    String newText = Utils.replaceParameters (text, withTags, "<<",
        ">>");
    if (newText.equals (text))
        return null;

    DataPresentationTemplate newTemplate =
        (DataPresentationTemplate) oldTemplate.deepCopy ();
    try
    {
        DocumentEngineUtils.setAttributePaths (modified,
            newTemplate);

        BinaryResource br = new BinaryResource
            (oldTemplate.getTemplate ().getName (),
            newText.getBytes ());
        newTemplate.setTemplate (br);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return null;
    } // shouldn't happen

    return newTemplate;
}

protected String getTemplateText (DataPresentationTemplate template)
{
    try
    {
        BinaryResource templData = template.getTemplate ();
        if (templData == null)
            return null;

        byte [] data = templData.getData ();
        if (data == null)
            return null;

        return new String (data);
    }
    catch (ResourceUnavailableException re)
    {

```

```

        return null;
    }
}

// Server side component
public class TextDocumentEngine implements IDocumentEngine
{
    public TextDocumentEngine ()
    {
    }

    /**
     * @see IDocumentEngine#getClientEngine()
     */
    public IDocEngineClient getClientEngine ()
    {
        return new TextEngineClient ();
    }

    /**
     * @see IDocumentEngine#fillWithData(String, Map, IDocumentDataSource,
    DataPresentationTemplate, IDocEngineHelper, IDomainVersion, int, boolean)
     */
    public BinaryResource [] fillWithData (String path, Map params,

    IDocumentDataSource dataSource,
    DataPresentationTemplate tdef,
    IDocEngineHelper helper,
    DomainVersion domainVersion,
    int outputFormat,
    boolean printResults)
        throws DocumentException
    {
        BinaryResource template = tdef.getLoadedTemplate ();
        if (template == null)
            throw new DocumentException ("No data in the presentation
            template");

        String fileName = path + "/" + template.getName ();
        try
        {
            File inputFile = new File (fileName);

            String text = FileUtils.readTextFile (fileName);
            // find if there are any tags
            Vector taggedParams = Utils.extractParameters (text);

            if (taggedParams == null || taggedParams.size () == 0 ||
                dataSource == null)
            {
                // just return the original template
                BinaryResource [] results = new BinaryResource [1];
                results [0] = new BinaryResource ();
                results [0].setName (inputFile.getName ());
                results [0].setData (FileUtils.readFile

```

```

                (fileName));
        return results;
    }

    if (dataSource == null)
        throw new DocumentException ("Document template
            requires data, but the data source is not
            provided");

    // prepare the data source
    dataSource.reset ();

    // for each group of records create resulting document
    // and resolve tagged fields inside the text
    Vector resources = new Vector ();
    while (dataSource.next ())
    {
        Vector tagValues = new Vector
            (taggedParams.size());
        for (Iterator iter = taggedParams.iterator ();
            iter.hasNext (); )
        {
            String tagContents = (String) iter.next ();
            Object o = dataSource.getExpressionValue
                (tagContents);
            tagValues.add (o==null? null : o.toString());
        }

        String newText = Utils.replaceParameters (text,
            tagValues);

        if (printResults)
            printText (newText);

        BinaryResource br = new BinaryResource ();
        br.setData (newText.getBytes ());
        br.setName (inputFile.getName ());
        resources.add (br);
    }

    if (resources.size () == 0)
        return null;

    BinaryResource [] results = new BinaryResource
        [resources.size ()];

    int i = 0;
    for (Iterator iter=resources.iterator();iter.hasNext();
        ++i)
        results [i] = (BinaryResource) iter.next ();

    return results;
}
catch (DocumentException de)
{
    throw de;
}

/**
 * @see IDocumentEngine#printFile()

```

```

    */
    public void printFile (File fileToPrint)
        throws DocumentException
    {
        try
        {
            String text =
                FileUtils.readTextFile(fileToPrint.getPath());
            printText (text);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            throw new DocumentException (e.getMessage ());
        }
    }

    protected void printText (String text)
        throws DocumentException
    {
        try
        {
            PlainDocument doc = new PlainDocument ();
            doc.insertString (0, text, null);

            TextDocumentPrintRenderer printer = new
TextDocumentPrintRenderer ();
            printer.print (doc, false);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            throw new DocumentException (e.getMessage ());
        }
    }
}

```

## 7 Adding report scriptlets

*Aware IM* offers a powerful tool called the Report Designer that allows users to configure their own reports and presentations of business objects and groups. Most reports and presentations can be configured without any programming as the Report Designer offers quite a rich set of versatile tools. Sometimes though it may be necessary to add the programming components to a particular report to perform some non-standard tasks – for example, calculate an image representing a chart of the report data.

*Aware IM* allows plugging in such programming components (scriptlets) into a particular report or presentation. To add a scriptlet to a report follow the steps below:

1. Write the code for the scriptlet (see section 7.1 for details)
2. Compile the source code of your scriptlet and package it in a jar file(s). Make sure that the jar file is referenced in the CLASSPATH (see section 2)
3. Specify the fully qualified name of the scriptlet in the Report Designer in the Configuration Tool. A scriptlet can either be attached to a text element of the report or to an image element.

Select the element that will be implemented by the scriptlet and in the Properties dialog for this element tick “Calculated by System” box. Press the Settings button and specify the fully qualified name of the component – see also the “Working with Report/Presentation Designer” section in the “Aware IM User Guide”.

## 7.1 Implementing code for the scriptlet

The scriptlet's code is called by *Aware IM* at run time when it calculates the report in which the scriptlet is present. The purpose of the scriptlet component is to calculate and set the value of the element that it is attached to. When the scriptlet is called it is given a call-back interface [IReportEnvironment](#) representing the environment in which the scriptlet is running. This interface exposes the method [setElementValue](#), which has to be called by the scriptlet when it finishes the necessary calculations.

The scriptlet is a class that must implement `IReportScriptlet` interface. Methods of this interface are called at various times during the report calculation. The scriptlet designer must provide a non-empty implementation of those methods that are called at the times that the scriptlet will be calculating its values. The methods exposed by the `IReportScriptlet` interface are described below. As mentioned before all methods are given a reference to the [IReportEnvironment](#) interface. Also all methods are supposed to throw an exception if error occurs.

### 1. beforeReportInit (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void beforeReportInit (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called just before the report is initialized.

### 2. afterReportInit (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void afterReportInit (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called immediately after the report has been initialized.

### 3. beforePageInit (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void beforePageInit (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called just before each page is initialized.

### 4. afterPageInit (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void afterPageInit (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called after the initialization of each page.

### 5. beforeColumnInit (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void beforeColumnInit (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called before each column is initialized.

### 6. afterColumnInit (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void afterColumnInit (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called after the initialization of each column.

### 7. beforeGroupInit (String, IReportEnvironment)

```
public void beforeGroupInit (String groupName, IReportEnvironment
    environment) throws Exception
```

This method is called just before the specified group is initialized.

### 8. afterGroupInit (String, IReportEnvironment)

```
public void afterGroupInit (String groupName, IReportEnvironment
    environment) throws Exception
```

This method is called after the specified group has been initialized.

### 9. beforeDetailEval (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void beforeDetailEval (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called before evaluation of the details section of the report.

### 10. afterDetailEval (IReportEnvironment)

```
public void afterDetailEval (IReportEnvironment environment)
    throws Exception
```

This method is called after evaluation of the details section of the report.

## 7.1.1 IReportEnvironment interface

Descriptions of the methods that can be used by a scriptlet are described below:

## 1. getElementValue (String)

```
public Object getElementValue (String elementName)
    throws Exception
```

This method returns the current value of the report element with the specified name. The element must be either an element with a scriptlet attached (text or image) or a tag element, in which case the current value of the tag expression is retrieved. Each element in the report may be given a name in its Properties dialog. If the element's name is not specified *Aware IM* generates its own name. If a scriptlet needs to access certain elements in the report it is a good idea to give such elements some meaningful names.

### Parameters:

**elementName** – the name of the element the value of which is retrieved

**Returns:** the value of the element – either `String` representing the text if the element is a text element or an `Object` representing the value of the tag expression of any type listed in the table in Appendix A if the element is a tag element or `java.awt.Image` if the element is an image.

**Throws:** an exception if the element with the specified name was not found or there was some other error.

## 2. setElementValue (String, Object)

```
public void setElementValue (String elementName, Object value)
    throws Exception
```

This method sets the current value of the report element with the specified name. The element must be an element with a scriptlet attached (text or image). Each element in the report may be given a name in its Properties dialog. If the element's name is not specified *Aware IM* generates its own name. If a scriptlet needs to access certain elements in the report it is a good idea to give such elements some meaningful names.

### Parameters:

**elementName** – the name of the element the value of which is set

**value** – the value to set – must be either a `String` if the element is a text element or `java.awt.Image` if the element is an image.

**Throws:** an exception if the element with the specified name was not found or there was some other error.

## 7.2 Example

The following example shows the code for a simple scriptlet that accumulates names encountered in the report and provides them in a single comma separated string. It also displays a static image. It is assumed that the report in which the scriptlet executes has the following elements:

- Tag element with the name "FirstName"
- Tag element with the name "Last Name"
- Text element with the name "NamesList" (the scriptlet is attached to this element)
- Image element with the name "Image" (the scriptlet is also attached to this element)

```
public class TestScriptlet implements IReportScriptlet
{
    private boolean m_firstTime = true;

    public TestScriptlet()
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
     com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#beforeReportInit(com.bas.basserver
     r.documents.IReportEnvironment)
     */
    public void beforeReportInit(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
     com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#afterReportInit(com.bas.basserver
     .documents.IReportEnvironment)
     */
    public void afterReportInit(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
     com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#beforePageInit(com.bas.basserver
     documents.IReportEnvironment)
     */
    public void beforePageInit(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /* (non-Javadoc)
     * @see
     com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#afterPageInit(com.bas.basserver.d
     ocsuments.IReportEnvironment)
     */
    public void afterPageInit(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }
}
```

```

    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
    com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#beforeColumnInit(com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportEnvironment)
    */
    public void beforeColumnInit(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
    com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#afterColumnInit(com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportEnvironment)
    */
    public void afterColumnInit(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
    com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#beforeGroupInit(java.lang.String, com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportEnvironment)
    */
    public void beforeGroupInit(
        String groupName,
        IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
    com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#afterGroupInit(java.lang.String, com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportEnvironment)
    */
    public void afterGroupInit(
        String groupName,
        IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*
     * @see
    com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#beforeDetailEval(com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportEnvironment)
    */
    public void beforeDetailEval(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {
    }

    /*

```

```

        * @see
com.bas.basserver.documents.IReportScriptlet#afterDetailEval(com.bas.basserver
.documents.IReportEnvironment)
    */
    public void afterDetailEval(IReportEnvironment environment)
        throws Exception
    {

        // here all report elements have been calculated already

        String firstName = (String) environment.getElementValue
            ("FirstName");
        String lastName  = (String) environment.getElementValue
            ("LastName");
        String curList   = (String) environment.getElementValue
            ("NamesList");

        if (curList == null)
            curList = "";

        // create the string with names
        if (m_firstTime)
            m_firstTime = false;
        else
            curList = curList + ",";

        // set the value for our element
        environment.setElementValue ("NamesList", curList + firstName +
            " " + lastName);

        // set the value for another element
        ImageIcon image = new ImageIcon
(getClass().getResource("/com/bas/uiconfiguration/images/arrowLeft.gif"));
        environment.setElementValue ("Image", image.getImage ());
    }
}

```

## 8 Using AJAX with Aware IM

AJAX technology is becoming more and more popular for web application development. *Aware IM* makes it possible for developers and web designers to create AJAX-enabled forms and user interfaces. The following section describes what developers and web designers have to do to integrate AJAX with *Aware IM*.

### 8.1 General Principles

In the heart of AJAX technology is XML interaction between a browser-based client and the server. This interaction is performed using JavaScript and its XMLHttpRequest object. The client uses this object to send an XML request to the server and the server sends the data represented in XML format back to the client. The client can then use JavaScript to present the data obtained from the server to the user.

Since **Aware IM** is already doing everything necessary to present the data to the user with its default user interface, one might ask why is it necessary to use AJAX at all? In many cases it is *not* necessary and the default **Aware IM** user interface is perfectly sufficient. In some cases, however, developers and web designers may want to change the default interface or add extra flexibility or totally replace it with the user interface of their own and use **Aware IM** as a backend platform only, that takes care of database integration, business logic, rules etc. This is where AJAX comes in.

**Aware IM** offers an XML interface that allows developers and web designers to use it as a backend platform that will provide the data for the forms, persist the data, execute business rules and processes, run queries, create documents from document templates etc. This XML interface can be used to post requests to **Aware IM** in the XMLHttpRequest object. The presentation of data provided by **Aware IM** can then be done using multiple AJAX/JavaScript libraries available on the market – EXT, Backbase, Dojo, Google and many others. This makes it possible to create rich user interfaces with many different styles and web widgets. In fact, it is possible to use **Aware IM** XML Interface not only in JavaScript/AJAX technology but also in other Rich Internet Applications (RIA) technologies, such as Flex or Laszlo (these use Flash player to create rich Internet applications). Section 8.2 describes the **Aware IM** XML Interface in detail.

It is also possible to use AJAX technology to embed custom forms into the **Aware IM**-driven interface, rather than create the entire user interface from scratch. Section 8.3 explains how to do this.

## 8.2 Using Aware IM XML Interface

The document type definition (DTD) file describing the structure of **Aware IM** XML interface is available at <http://www.awareim.com/dtd/awareim.dtd>. The current section describes this interface in detail.

To use Aware IM XML Interface one would need to start the **Aware IM** system on a server (see Aware IM Installation Guide for details). Once the **Aware IM** system is started it is possible to send XML requests to the following URL: <http://serverName:8080/AwareIM/xml.do>

Each XML request should consist of one or more *action requests* (usually just one). Each action request instructs **Aware IM** server to perform a particular action – get an instance of a business object, run a query, start a process etc. The first action request must be a request to login (login\_action).

*Note: The latest version 4.0 of **Aware IM** uses the AJAX technology and the EXT 2.0 library to build its default out-of-the-box user interface. This version makes use of an updated XML interface. Application developers can use the new version of the XML interface to create their own custom front ends. The DTD file describing the new interface is available at [http://www.awareim.com/dtd/web\\_interface.dtd](http://www.awareim.com/dtd/web_interface.dtd). The URL to use for the new interface is <http://serverName:8080/AwareIM/xml.awr>. The current document describes the older interface, which can still be used to develop custom user interfaces using **Aware IM** as a back-end system.*

## 8.2.1 Login action

```
<!ELEMENT login_action EMPTY >
<!ATTLIST login_action business_space CDATA #IMPLIED>
<!ATTLIST login_action user_name CDATA #IMPLIED>
<!ATTLIST login_action password CDATA #IMPLIED>
<!ATTLIST login_action testing_mode %Boolean; "false">
```

Login action must be the first XML request to be sent to the server. It starts the session with the server. The attributes of the action are user credentials. If they are omitted default values are used. If `business_space` attribute is omitted the default business space is assumed; if `user_name` attribute is omitted, guest access is assumed.

Example:

```
<login_action business_space="CRM" user_name="admin" password="password"
testing_mode="true" />
```

The reply from the server is an XML of the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT login_action_return (session_id|failure) >
```

If login was successful the session id is returned. This session id should be saved by the client and used in subsequent calls to the server (unless the client is a browser that supports cookies, in which case session id can be omitted). Example of the return:

```
<login_action_return>
  <session_id>62372304wdasda3243</session_id>
</login_action_return>
```

## 8.2.2 Getting business space version

You can send requests to *Aware IM* to provide the XML definition of the entire business space version – either in the standard mode or in the testing mode. You can then analyze these definitions in your client script (for example, check attribute types etc). The following action will request *Aware IM* to return the currently published business space version in the standard mode:

```
<!ELEMENT get_business_space_version_action (session_id?) >
```

For example:

```
<get_business_space_version_action />
```

*Aware IM* returns the XML definition of the business space version (see <http://www.awareim.com/dtd/bsv.dtd>):

```
<!ELEMENT get_business_space_version_action_return
(business_space_version|failure) >
```

To get the current business space version for testing use the following action:

```
<!ELEMENT get_test_version_action (session_id?) >
```

The return type is defined as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT get_test_version_action_return (business_space_version|failure) >
```

Because the definition of a business space version can be quite large it is better to send the request just once and save the definition of the version on the client.

### 8.2.3 Creating business objects

The following action will create a new instance of the specified business object:

```
<!ELEMENT create_object_action (session_id?, business_object_template,
nested_templates*) >
```

The `business_object_template` element defines the data for the business object to create an instance from. The `nested_templates` element should be used when the business object is created together with its nested child objects. For example, you could have a form for an Order business object that also contains data for the list of the corresponding OrderLineItem objects and you want to create both the order and all its line items. The names of the attributes that you specify in the `business_object_template` element and `nested_templates` element must match the names of the attributes defined for the business object in the business space version.

Example:

```
<create_object_action>
  <business_object_template name="Order">
    <attribute_value name="Date" value="01/06/2006" />
    <attribute_value name="Client" value="John Smith" />
    <attribute_value name="Amount" value="200.00" />
  </business_object_template>
</create_object_action>
```

The return type of the action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT create_object_action_return (business_object|action_request|failure)
>
```

`Business_object` element contains the instance of the object that has been created. For the explanation of the `action_request` element see section 8.2.14

The following action allows you to fill out a business object template with initial values based on initialisation rules before the instance of the object is created. The action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT calculate_initial_values_action (session_id?,
business_object_template) >
<!ATTLIST calculate_initial_values_action changed_attribute %AttributeName;
#IMPLIED>
```

The `business_object_template` element represents a business object that will be filled with initial values. If the `changed_attribute` attribute is specified the business object template is to be re-initialized because the value of the specified attribute has changed. The new value of the attribute must be specified in the business object template.

The server returns the business object template initialized with values from rule execution:

```
<!ELEMENT calculate_initial_values_action_return
(business_object_template|failure) >
```

## 8.2.4 Modifying business objects

The following action will modify the existing instance of a business object with provided values:

```
<!ELEMENT modify_object_action (session_id?, business_object,
((nested_templates*)|nested_objects*)) >
```

The `business_object` element defines the new data for the existing instance of the business object. The `nested_templates` element should be used when the children of the business object should be created along with the modification of the parent object. The `nested_objects` element should be used when existing child objects are modified together with the modification of the parent object. For example, you could have a form for an `Order` business object that also contains data for the list of the corresponding `OrderLineItem` objects and you want to modify the order and create/modify its line items.

The names of the attributes that you specify in the `business_object`, `nested_templates` and `nested_objects` elements must match the names of the attributes defined for the business object in the business space version.

### Example:

```
<modify_object_action>
  <business_object name="Order" id="253" version_no="1.0" >
    <attribute_value name="Date" value="01/06/2006" />
    <attribute_value name="Client" value="John Smith" />
    <attribute_value name="Amount" value="200.00" />
  </business_object>
</modify_object_action>
```

The return type of the action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT modify_object_action_return (success|action_request|failure) >
```

For the explanation of the `action_request` element see section 8.2.14

The following action allows you to fill out a business object with values based on re-calculation rules after some attribute of the object has been changed. The action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT recalculation_object_action (session_id?, business_object) >
<!ATTLIST recalculate_object_action changed_attribute %AttributeName;
#IMPLIED>
```

The `business_object` element represents a business object that will be filled with initial values. If the `changed_attribute` identifies the attribute that has been changed. The new value of the attribute must be specified in the business object.

The server returns the re-calculated business object:

```
<!ELEMENT recalculate_object_action_return (business_object|failure) >
```

### 8.2.5 Deleting business objects

The following action sends the request to the server to delete one or more instance of a business object:

```
<!ELEMENT delete_objects_action (session_id?, object_identifier+) >
```

For example,

```
<delete_object_action>
  <object_identifier name="Order" id="2677" />
  <object_identifier name="Asset" id="3647" />
</delete_object_action>
```

The return type of the action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT delete_objects_action_return (success|action_request|failure) >
```

For the explanation of the `action_request` element see section 8.2.14

### 8.2.6 Reading business objects

The following action reads the specified business objects from the server:

```
<!ELEMENT get_objects_action (session_id?, object_identifier+) >
```

The server returns business objects as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT get_objects_action_return ((business_object+)|failure) >
```

For example:

```
<get_objects_action>
  <object_identifier name="Order" id="2677" />
  <object_identifier name="Asset" id="3647" />
</get_objects_action>
```

The server may return:

```
<get_objects_action_return>
  <business_object name="Order" id="2677" version_no="2.0">
    <attribute_value name="Date" value="01/06/2006" />
    <attribute_value name="Client" value="John Smith" />
    <attribute_value name="Amount" value="200.00" />
  </business_object>
  <business_object name="Asset" id="3647" version_no="4.0">
```

```

    <attribute_value name="Name" value="Car" />
    <attribute_value name="Type" value="Automotive" />
    <attribute_value name="Value" value="20000.00" />
  </business_object>
</get_objects_action_return>

```

When the server returns reads business objects in response to the `get_objects_action` it does not read attributes of the binary types, such as attributes of the `Picture` and `Document` types, for optimisation reasons (the data for such attributes may be quite large). If you want to get the binary data for such attributes (the contents of picture images and documents) you need to send a special request to the server. The format of this request is:

```

<!ELEMENT get_binary_data_action (session_id?, object_identifier) >
<!ATTLIST get_binary_data_action attribute %AttributeName; #REQUIRED>

```

The `object_identifier` element identifies the object to read binary data from and the `attribute` attribute identifies the binary attribute to read. The binary data is returned in the following format:

```

<!ELEMENT get_binary_data_action_return (binary_data|failure) >

```

The binary data is encoded in the Base64 type encoding.

Similarly to set the value of a binary attribute use the following action:

```

<!ELEMENT set_binary_data_action (session_id?, object_identifier, binary_data)
>
<!ATTLIST set_binary_data_action attribute %AttributeName; #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT set_binary_data_action_return (success|failure) >

```

Binary data that you provide must be encoded using Base64 encoding.

### 8.2.7 Working with references

Aware IM XML interface allows you to read and modify lists of instances of business objects that are related to a particular instance of a business object through an attribute of the reference type (references). When you read a business object using the `get_objects_action` (see section 8.2.6) *Aware IM* will only return related instances for single references (“multiple allowed” flag is off). These are returned in `reference_value` elements. Related instance for multiple references (“multiple allowed” flag is on) are not returned for optimisation reasons, as their number may be quite large. If you want to get multiple references for some attribute of a business object you need to either run a query to retrieve the references (see section 8.2.8) or use the `get_all_references_action`. The former approach is more flexible as it allows you to get only a particular number of references, not all of them at once.

The format of the `get_all_references_action` is as follows:

```

<!ELEMENT get_all_references_action (session_id?, object_identifier) >
<!ATTLIST get_all_references_action attribute %AttributeName; #REQUIRED>

```

For example:

```
<get_all_references_action attribute="LineItems" >
  <object_identifier name="Order" id="1235" />
</get_all_references_action>
```

The return type is:

```
<!ELEMENT get_all_references_action_return ((business_object*)|failure) >
```

As you can see related instances are returned as business objects.

When you create or modify business objects (see sections 8.2.3 and 8.2.4) you can specify values of related objects using the `reference_value` element. If you are modifying objects the values that you specify will always *replace* the existing reference values. If you want to add to an existing list of multiple references or delete from this list you need to use `add_references_action` and `delete_references_action`. The format of the `add_references_action` is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT add_references_action (session_id?, object_identifier,
object_identifier+) >
<!ATTLIST add_references_action attribute %AttributeName; #REQUIRED>
```

The first `object_identifier` element identifies an object that we are adding references to (the `attribute` attribute identifies the reference attribute). Other `object_identifier` elements identify references to be added to the list. For example:

```
<add_references_action attribute="LineItems" >
  <object_identifier name="Order" id="3723" />
  <object_identifier name="OrderLineItem" id="4532" />
  <object_identifier name="OrderLineItem" id="4533" />
</add_references_action>
```

The action above adds two `OrderLineItem` objects (with id's 4532 and 4533) to the `LineItems` attribute of the `Order` object with id 3723.

The action has the following return type:

```
<!ELEMENT add_references_action_return (success|action_request|failure) >
```

For the explanation of the `action_request` element see section 8.2.14

An action to delete references is similar:

```
<!ELEMENT delete_references_action (session_id?, object_identifier,
object_identifier*) >
<!ATTLIST delete_references_action attribute %AttributeName; #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT delete_references_action_return (success|action_request|failure) >
```

## 8.2.8 Running queries

There are two actions that send requests to *Aware IM* server to run a query – one runs a query that is already configured in a business space version and another one allows running a query created on the fly. The format of the action that runs an existing query is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT execute_named_query_action (session_id?, context?, prompted_value*)
>
<!ATTLIST execute_named_query_action name %QueryName; #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST execute_named_query_action start %Integer; "1">
<!ATTLIST execute_named_query_action span %Integer; "20">
```

- The `name` attribute indicates that name of the query in the business space version to run.
- The `start` attribute indicates the index of the first instance of a business object to return. If you specify a number greater than 1 Aware IM will skip the first instances.
- The `span` attribute indicates how many instances to return – this allows you to limit the number of instances returned by the server in case it is too large.
- The `context` element allows you to specify instance(s) of business objects that will be used as a context for the query. The query may refer to business objects that it does not query on. The values for those objects are taken from the context. For example, if a form of a business object is displayed and a query is run from an operation on this form, the instance of a business object, whose form is displayed, may be in the context.
- If a query involves values that need to be entered at run-time by the user, the `prompted_value` element allows providing these values. The user interface on the client must ask the user for these values and provide it in the action request.

The format of the return is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT execute_named_query_action_return (query_result|failure) >
```

The `query_result` element returned by a server contains instances of a business object that match the query criteria (only those instances that are within the range specified by the `start` and `span` attributes). It also has the value of “total” which contains the total number of instances that match the query criteria.

The following action allows you to create and run a query on the fly:

```
<!ELEMENT execute_query_action (session_id?, query_definition, context?,
prompted_value*) >
<!ATTLIST execute_query_action start %Integer; "1">
<!ATTLIST execute_query_action span %Integer; "20">
```

The meaning of the `start`, `span`, `context` and `prompted_value` elements is exactly the same as for the `execute_named_query_action`. The `query_definition` element (see <http://www.awareim.com/dtd/bsv.dtd>) defines a query that the server should run.

The format of the return is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT execute_query_action_return (query_result|failure) >
```

Example: the following query will find `LineItems` belonging to a particular `Order`:

```
<execute_query_action start="1" span="20" >
  <query_definition queries_on="OrderLineItem" condition="OrderLineItem IN
Order.LineItems" >
    </query_definition>
  <context>
    <context_element>
      <object_identifier name="Order" "id=4567" />
    </context_element>
  </context>
</execute_query_action>
```

## 8.2.9 Working with processes

The following action sends a request to the server to run the specified process:

```
<!ELEMENT execute_process_action (session_id?, context?) >
<!ATTLIST execute_process_action name %ProcessName; #REQUIRED>
```

The name attribute specifies the process to run. The context element specifies process input parameters (if any).

The return type has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT execute_process_action_return
(success|action_request|failure|process_id) >
```

If a process has been suspended by the server either because it takes too long to run it or it is waiting for a reply from the user or from a service provider the id of the process is returned. This id can be used to cancel a process or check its status (see later). For the explanation of the action\_request element see section 8.2.14.

Example:

```
<execute_process_action name="BorrowItem" >
  <context>
    <context_element>
      <object_identifier name="Member" "id=4567" />
    </context_element>
  </context>
</execute_process_action>
```

The following action sends a request to the server to cancel the specified process:

```
<!ELEMENT cancel_process_action (session_id?, process_id) >
```

The process\_id element is the id of the process to be cancelled (as returned by the execute\_process\_action). The return type is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT cancel_process_action_return (success|failure) >
```

The following two actions allow you to get either the status of a particular process (identified by the process id) or of all processes active on the server:

```

<!ELEMENT get_process_statuses_action (session_id?) >
<!ELEMENT get_process_statuses_action_return ((process_status*)|failure) >

<!ELEMENT get_process_status_action (session_id?, process_id) >
<!ELEMENT get_process_statuses_action_return (process_status|failure) >

```

### 8.2.10 Working with services

The following action allows you to send a request to the server to execute a particular service of an intelligent business object:

```

<!ELEMENT execute_object_service_action (session_id?, object_identifier,
business_object*) >
<!ATTLIST execute_object_service_action name %ServiceName; #REQUIRED>

```

The `name` attribute specifies the service to execute, the `object_identifier` element identifies the instance of an intelligent business object that provides the service and the `business_object` element identifies parameters of the service (if any).

The return type of the action is as follows:

```

<!ELEMENT execute_object_service_action_return
(notification|action_request|failure) >

```

The `notification` element contains the return of the service. The structure of this notification corresponds to the definition of the service reply in the business space version. For the explanation of the `action_request` element see section 8.2.14. The following example shows a request to call service `RegisterPayment` of the `PayPal` object:

```

<execute_object_service_action name="RegisterPayment" >
  <object_identifier name="PayPal" id="459" />
  <business_object name="PaymentParameters" id="3342" version_no="1.0">
    <attribute_value name="country" value="US" />
    <attribute_value name="amount" value="1000.0" />
    <attribute_value name="item" value="Software Product" />
  </business_object>
</execute_object_service_action>

```

The following action allows to execute a service defined in the current business space:

```

<!ELEMENT execute_service_action (session_id?, business_object*) >
<!ATTLIST execute_service_action name %ServiceName; #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT execute_service_action_return (notification|action_request|failure)
>

```

The format is very similar to the `execute_object_service_action` except that there is no `object_identifier` element that identifies the service provider.

### 8.2.11 Working with documents

The following action allows you to send a request to the server to fill a document template with runtime data:

```
<!ELEMENT run_document_action (session_id?, business_object*, prompted_value*)
>
<!ATTLIST run_document_action name %DocumentName; #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST run_document_action print_results %Boolean; "false">
```

- The `name` attribute identifies the document template that will be filled with runtime data.
- The `print_results` attribute indicates whether the resulting document will be sent to the server printer
- The `business_object` elements indicate the data source for the document, provided the document template's data source is configured to be "determined at run-time".
- If the document template represents a report and this report has parameters that need to be entered by the user, the `prompted_value` elements contains data entered by the user. The client interface is supposed to collect this data prior to calling `run_document_action`.

The format of the return is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT run_document_action_return (document_result|failure) >
```

The document is returned as `document_result` element that contains binary data for the document encoded using Base64 encoding.

The following actions allow you to manage user-defined document templates (Aware IM Developer Edition only).

The `user_defined_template_action` retrieves the specified document template from the server:

```
<!ELEMENT user_defined_template_action (session_id?) >
<!ATTLIST user_defined_template_action name %DocumentName; #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT user_defined_template_action_return (document_definition|failure) >
```

The following action allows changing the design of the document template:

```
<!ELEMENT change_user_defined_template_action (session_id?, binary_file) >
<!ATTLIST change_user_defined_template_action name %DocumentName; #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT change_user_defined_template_action_return (success|failure) >
```

The following action resets the design of the document template to "factory default":

```
<!ELEMENT reset_user_defined_template_action (session_id?) >
<!ATTLIST reset_user_defined_template_action name %DocumentName; #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT reset_user_defined_template_action_return (success|failure) >
```

## 8.2.12 Import/Export

The following action sends the request to the server to import the specified CSV file:

```
<!ELEMENT import_action (session_id?, binary_file) >
<!ATTLIST import_action object_name %ObjectName; #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST import_action batch_size %Integer; "1000">
<!ATTLIST import_action validate %Boolean; "false">
```

- The `object_name` attribute specifies the name of the business object to import
- The `batch_size` attribute specifies the number of records in the file after reading which the server commits the current transaction
- The `validate` attribute indicates whether the server should execute business rules associated with the object before saving the imported values
- The `binary_file` element contains the records to be imported

The server returns the results of the import in the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT import_action_return (import_results|failure) >
```

The following action is similar to the `import_action` except that it imports the relationship file.

```
<!ELEMENT import_relationships_action (session_id?, binary_file) >
<!ATTLIST import_relationships_action object_name %ObjectName; #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST import_relationships_action batch_size %Integer; "1000">
<!ELEMENT import_relationships_action_return (import_results|failure) >
```

The following action sends the request to the server to export the data from the system. The action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT export_action (session_id?, query_definition, export_options) >
```

- The `query_definition` element defines a query that the server should run to determine the data to be exported (see <http://www.awareim.com/dtd/bsv.dtd> for the description of the format of this element)
- The `export_options` element defines the options of the export – whether to export ID's of the object, binary data, relationships etc

The server returns the results in the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT export_action_return (export_results|failure) >
```

where the `export_results` element contains a `binary_file` element representing exported data optionally followed by a relationship file if exported data includes relationships.

### 8.2.13 Logout

The logout action sends the request to the server to end the current session. The action has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT logout_action (session_id?) >
```

### 8.2.14 Handling user interface requests from the server

A number of action requests sent to the server may trigger execution of business rules. Business rules may include actions that require interaction with the user. For example, the ENTER NEW

action requires the user to fill out a form of a business object, the PICK FROM action requires the user to make a selection from a list of possible values etc. Therefore, in response to the request sent to the server, the server may request the caller to perform certain user interface operations and return the result of these operations to the server. Once the server gets these results it will continue execution of rules triggered by the original request to the server.

When this situation happens the server returns the `action_request` element in response to the request from the client. This element has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT action_request (process_id,
(enter_new_params|edit_view_params|display_document_params|display_pick_from_p
arams|display_message_question_params|run_query_params)) >
<!ATTLIST action_request action_name
(enter_new|edit|view|display_document|display|pick_from|display_message|displa
y_question|run_query) #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST action_request reply_expected %Boolean; "true">
```

- The `action_name` attribute indicates the name of the Rule Language action that requires interaction with the user
- The `reply_expected` attribute indicates whether the server expects any reply from the client. Some actions of the Rule Language require the client to display something in the user interface, but do not expect any result back. For example, the DISPLAY action just instructs the client to display the results of the query to the user.
- The `process_id` element specifies the unique id of the process on the server that was executing the rules. If the client is to supply a result back to the server, it must quote this id.
- The different parameter elements are specific to the action that requires interaction with the user. For the ENTER NEW action it is the name of the object to create, for the DISPLAY\_DOCUMENT action it is the name of the document template to display etc.

When the client receives such a request from the server it is supposed to perform the required user interface actions and if necessary provide the reply to the server. For example, if the server requested the ENTER NEW action, the client is supposed to display the appropriate form, collect the data for the business object and return this data back to the server.

The format of the client's reply to the server is as follows:

```
<!ELEMENT reply_to_server_action (session_id?, process_id, reply_data?) >
<!ATTLIST reply_to_server_action action_name
(enter_new|edit|view|display_document|display|pick_from|display_message|displa
y_question|run_query) #REQUIRED>
<!ATTLIST reply_to_server_action operation_cancelled %Boolean; "false">
```

- The `action_name` attribute indicates the Rule Language action that required interaction with the user
- The `operation_cancelled` attribute indicates whether the user cancelled the operation (if he did, the server needs to be notified so that it can abort the rule process)
- The `process_id` element identifies the server process that sent the request in the first place (this should be the value returned by the server in the `action_request` element).

- The `reply_data` element contains the data to be given to the server. This data is specific to the Rule Language action.

The server reply has the following format:

```
<!ELEMENT reply_to_server_action_return (success|action_request|failure) >
```

The server may return the `success` element, which indicates that the original request that triggered execution of rules was successfully completed, or the server may return another `action_request` element to indicate that it had executed another action of the Rule Language that requires interaction with the user.

### 8.3 Creating Custom AJAX Forms

The following section describes what a developer or web designer has to do to embed AJAX-driven business object forms into *Aware IM*. Configuration of custom forms is explained in the *Aware IM User Guide*.

*Aware IM* allows application developers to plug-in their own custom forms to be used when *Aware IM* creates or modifies a business object. These forms may use AJAX technology to communicate with the server that makes it possible for a developer to use a vast array of AJAX frameworks available on the market. Unlike the XML interface described in the previous section, which assumes that *Aware IM* is used purely as a back-end framework, custom forms are integrated into the *Aware IM* user interface framework and, therefore, must obey certain rules in order for this integration to be smooth.

There are two types of custom forms that can be integrated into *Aware IM*:

1. Custom forms that use EXT 2.0 library
2. Custom forms that use other AJAX frameworks or plain HTML and Javascript

Since *Aware IM* uses EXT 2.0 library internally it can easily integrate custom forms that use the same technology – this is why using EXT library to develop custom forms is different to creating custom forms using other technologies. We will look at these two methods separately.

#### 8.3.1 Developing Custom Forms based on the EXT 2.0 library

The following section assumes that the reader is familiar with the EXT 2.0 library.

To develop a custom form using EXT 2.0 library one has to provide a JavaScript function that would create an instance of the `Ext . FormPanel` JavaScript object. *Aware IM* expects this function to have a specific signature (see below). Once a user makes a request to display the custom form *Aware IM* will call this function and expect to return the `FormPanel`. *Aware IM* will then display this form panel. It is a developer's responsibility to populate the controls of the form panel with data and provide a function handler that would submit the data when the "Save" button is pressed. The developer can use any of the available XML interfaces that *Aware IM*

exposes to get the data to populate the form and to submit the data entered by the user to **Aware IM**.

The signature of the function that creates the form panel is as follows:

```
function MyFunction (objectName, objectId, objectVersion)
(returns Ext.FormPanel)
```

**Aware IM** will provide parameter values for this function as follows:

- `objectName`  
The name of the object being created or modified
- `objectId`  
The unique id of the object being modified (as defined in the Aware IM database) – this is not applicable for new objects in which case `objectId` is negative
- `objectVersion`  
The version number of the instance being modified (not applicable for new objects)

These parameters can be used by the function to read and write object data from/to **Aware IM**. An example of a simple function is provided below:

```
function CreditAccountForm (objectName, objectId, objectVersion)
{
    // populate the form if not a new object
    if (objectId > 0)
    {
        // use XML to extract the data for this object name and id
    }

    var panel = new Ext.FormPanel ({
        labelWidth: 70,
        width:      300,
        height:     400,
        items: [
            {
                xtype: "textfield",
                name:  "balance",
                id:    "balance",
                // We can initialize with the value obtained from the server
                //value: balanceValue,
                anchor: "99%",
                fieldLabel: "Balance"
            },
            {
                xtype: "textfield",
                name:  "limit",
                id:    "limit",
                anchor: "99%",
                fieldLabel: "Credit Limit"
            }
        ],
        buttons: [
            {
                text: "Save",
```

```

        handler: function () { SaveCreditAccount(panel, objectName,
objectId); }
    }
    ]
    });

    return panel;
}

function SaveCreditAccount (form, objectName, objectId)
{
    // use XML interface to populate the server with the data from the form
}

```

You can put all your JavaScript functions into your own JavaScript file and then you will need to modify the `startup.html` file located in the `AwareIM/Tomcat/webapps/AwareIM` directory to include your file (make sure that your file is the last in the list of Javascript files included already).

The last step you need to do is to provide the name of the function that creates the custom form for the object to the custom form dialog of the Configuration Tool – this is explained in the *Aware IM User Guide*.

### 8.3.2 Developing Custom Forms using non-EXT technologies

You do not have to use the EXT library to develop custom forms – you can use plain HTML for your form and write some Javascript to populate the form with data and then submit the data to the server.

The approach used by *Aware IM* is similar to the one described in the “Developing Custom Forms using EXT 2.0 Library” section. When configuring a custom form in the Configuration Tool you need to provide the HTML code of your form and the name of the Javascript function that *Aware IM* will call as soon as the HTML form has been displayed. This Javascript function can initialise the form with data that it obtains from the server using the *Aware IM* XML interface and add “onclick” handler to the “Submit” button of the form that would submit the data to the server (again using the XML interface).

*Aware IM* expects the function to have the following signature:

```
function MyFunction (objectName, objectId, objectVersion)
(no return is expected)
```

*Aware IM* will provide parameter values for this function as follows:

- `objectName`  
The name of the object being created or modified
- `objectId`  
The unique id of the object being modified (as defined in the *Aware IM* database) – this is not applicable for new objects in which case `objectid` is negative
- `objectVersion`

The version number of the instance being modified (not applicable for new objects)

These parameters can be used by the function to read and write object data from/to *Aware IM*. An example of a simple function is provided below:

```
function CreditAccountForm (objectName, objectId, objectVersion)
{
    // populate the form if not a new object
    if (objectId > 0)
    {
        // use XML to extract the data for this object name and id
        // balanceValue = ...
        // populate the form using id's of the fields that are assumed to
        // be available in the HTML of the form
        document.getElementById ("balanceFieldId").value = balanceValue
    }

    // setup the onclick handler of the Submit button
    document.getElementById ("submitButtonId").onclick = function () {
    SaveCreditAccount (objectName, objectId); }
}

function SaveCreditAccount (objectName, objectId)
{
    var form = document.getElementById ("CreditAccountFormId");
    // use XML interface to populate the server with the data from the form
}
```

You can put all your JavaScript functions into your own JavaScript file and then you will need to modify the `startup.html` file located in the `AwareIM/Tomcat/webapps/AwareIM` directory to include your file (make sure that your file is the last in the list of Javascript files included already).

## Appendix A: correspondence of attribute types and Java types

The following table lists the mapping between the *Aware IM* attribute types and the Java types used in certain methods such as [getAttributeValue](#) and [setAttributeValue](#) of the `IObject` interface.

Attribute Type	Java Type
Plain Text	String
Number	Long or Double depending on the format of the Number
Date	<code>org.openadaptor.util.DateHolder</code>
Timestamp	<code>org.openadaptor.util.DateTimeHolder</code>
Duration	<code>com.bas.utils.Duration</code>

Yes/No	Boolean
Document or Picture	<code>org.openadaptor.dataobjects.DataObject</code> with the following sub-attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <code>DOCDATA</code> (Binary)</li><li>• <code>DOCTYPE</code> (Plain Text)</li></ul>
Binary	<code>byte []</code>