

Leveraging the Eclipse™ TPTP* Agent Infrastructure

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*Test and Performance Tools Platform (formerly known as Hyades)

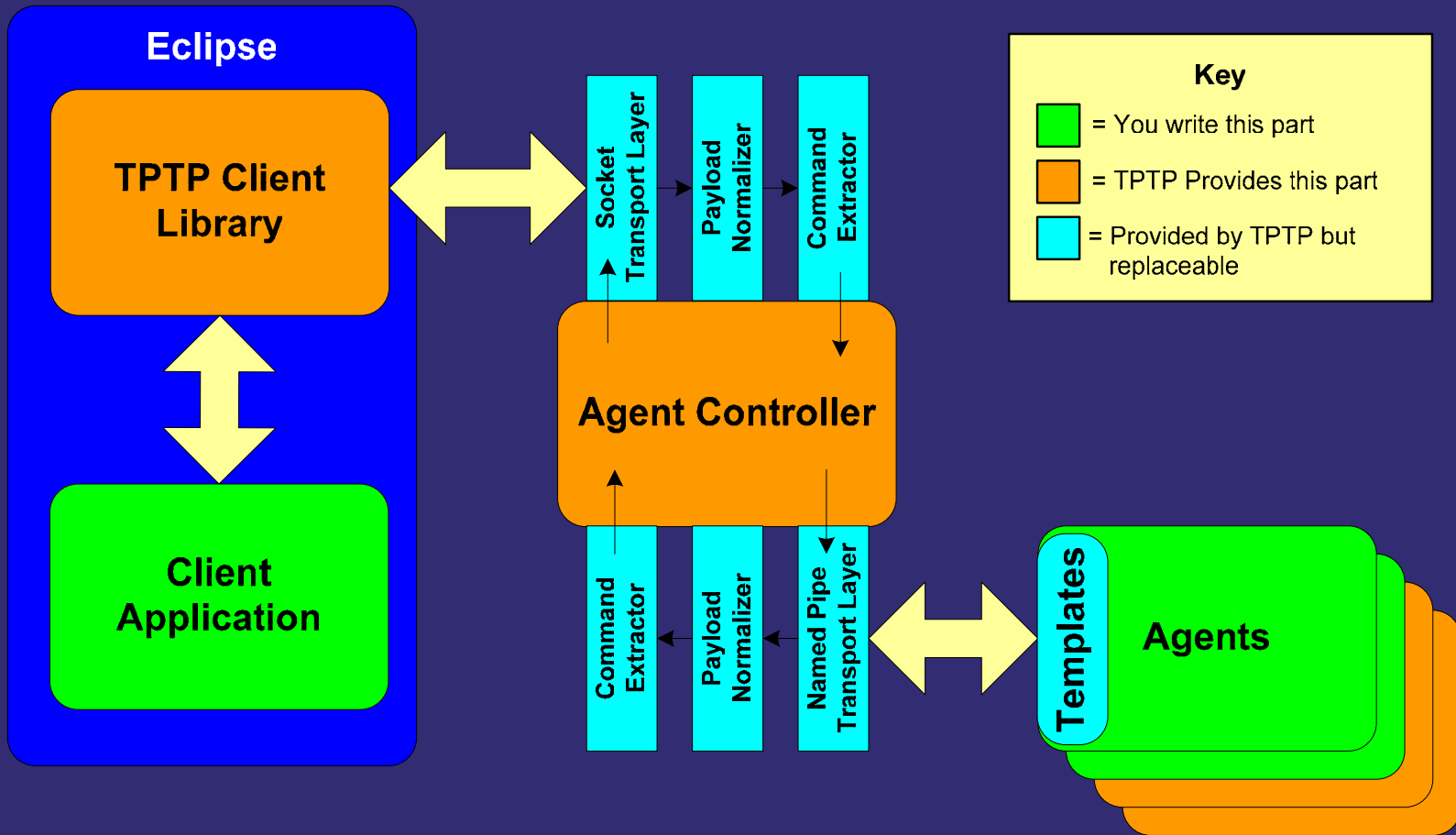
Goals for this Session

- Provide an introduction to the TPTP Agent Infrastructure
- Explain the benefits of developing systems based on this infrastructure
- Explore the technical details of TPTP-based agent development

What is TPTP?

- Test and Performance Tools Platform Project
- TPTP is an integrated testing, tracing, profiling and monitoring platform.
- It encompasses everything from data collectors to a data model and viewers integrated with Eclipse.
- Although TPTP includes a set of exemplary tools, it is intended as a platform upon which other software test and performance tools are built.

A View from 10,000 Feet

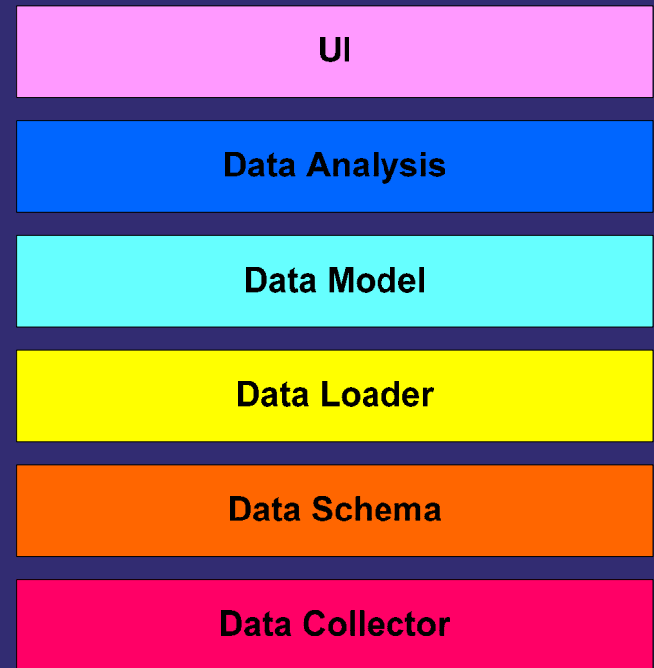


Why Use TPTP?

- TPTP provides a ready-to-use, but extensible, solution for data collection and testing development
- TPTP is an open source, collaborative platform
- Eclipse integration provides a solid foundation for UI development
- The common framework provides the opportunity for your product to be used seamlessly alongside other tools
- The standards-based common agent interface allows you to make your data collector available to other tools

Points of Entry

- TPTP is designed as a stack of possible integration points
- Each layer provides a possible point of entry for integration
- Using standard interfaces, you can provide one or more layers while leveraging existing modules for the other layers



What is an Agent?

- Within the context of TPTP, an agent is defined as a logical object that exposes services through the TPTP Agent Controller
- Data collectors are the most important type of agent, but the concept is generalized in TPTP
- Other agents can provide services such as file transfer or system information
- Access to categories of agents, such as data collectors, is generalized using common interfaces

Interfaces and Commands

- Interfaces and commands are the basic building blocks of the protocol TPTP uses for communication between components
- Each command has a header which the Agent Controller recognizes and a body which is command-specific
- Command details are defined by the interface to which the command belongs
- A standard set of interfaces is defined, but you are expected to define your own interfaces to extend the protocol

Finding an Agent

- Clients locate agents by sending requests to the Agent Controller
- The agent controller will launch agents as needed
- Agents may also be launched using other mechanisms as needed
- Agents can be located by name or by supported interfaces
- Agents may also provide additional metadata which can be used to locate the agent of interest

Agent Development

- Agents are implemented as standalone processes which communicate through the Agent Controller.
- Agents are driven by messages exchanged either with a client application or another agent.
- TPTP provides libraries to handle the boilerplate tasks of agent development, such as command parsing and communications
- Agent development is supported for C, C++ and Java

Custom Interfaces

- The development toolkit provides direct support for implementing standard interfaces and the associated commands
- Client-side classes are also provided for sending standard commands
- In order to extend the protocol with custom interfaces, you will need to write some additional code to read and write these commands

Data Handling

- The Agent Controller handles the details of negotiating connections across transport layers
- If your agent produces data in a standard TPTP data format, you don't need to write any client code to read the data
- If you use a proprietary data format, you can provide your own data loader to read the data into the standard data model
- Alternatively, you can provide your own data loader, analysis engine and viewers for complete control over data presentation

Key Points

- TPTP provides a platform for local or remote data collection and testing development
- TPTP supplies boilerplate code, allowing you to focus on your own functionality
- TPTP is an extensible, open source platform

Questions?