

Transactional Web Services Programmer's API

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Disclaimer

Business Activity framework is an on-going research project and is still under heavy development. The current version of framework is intended for tests only and should not be used in production environments. Information about future releases, changelog, discovered bugs, new functionality and all other information directly related to the framework can be found on the framework's website. Questions and remarks concerning the framework can be sent directly to the framework's author.

1 Introduction

This document describes the programmer's API of the Business Activity framework. It provides information about metadata that can be used on Web Services so that they can participate in Business Activities. It also describes operations that the programmer may use to increase the flexibility of compensation data management in business applications. Last section of this document presents two examples of Web Services that make use of designed set of metadata and additional operations to participate in Business Activities.

1.1 Acknowledgements

Jonathan Halliday (jhalliday@redhat.com) has provided a valuable technical input into development of the Business Activity Framework.

1.2 Documentation

All documentation directly related to the Business Activity framework can be found on the website of this framework [1]. Information about the design of the framework and its implementation details has been presented in [2]. More information concerning transactional Web Services can be found in [3] and [4]. Questions, requests and comments are more than welcome and can be directed to the author of the framework.

2 Business Activity framework

At this moment writing transaction-aware Web Services with accordance to the Business Activity model [4] is relatively problematic and requires a lot of support from business programmers. Developers need to manually wire up original services with their compensation actions and must ensure the correctness of those links (e.g. in terms of data that needs to be shared). Moreover, it is necessary to follow transaction-related patterns where a developer must code not only the business logic but the *participant* as well. The latter one is an entity, which is capable of responding to transaction protocol messages (such as commit or compensate messages). Typically, a third component is also developed. This component usually links participants with the business logic and is often referred to as the *manager*.

The proposed comprehensive framework significantly facilitates development of transaction-aware Web Services and releases programmers from mixing transaction-related code with business logic of their applications. Developers do not need to write custom participants and managers and do not have to concern themselves with any of the low level details. They may use simple annotations to enrich Web Services with support for participation in Business Activities. No additional code has to be written. Most annotations have intuitive and reasonable default values to release the developer from the necessity of specifying all required annotation member values explicitly. To address the problem of management of intermediary data that can be potentially used during compensation and increase the flexibility of data management, additional operations have been designed as well.

2.1 Programmer's API

The API of the Business Activity framework consists of metadata (Java annotations) and additional operations. The annotation-based part of the API has been designed following the conventions proposed by the JSR-181 specification [4] for exposing EJB components as Web Services. It consists of the following annotations:

- `@BAMService` – specifies the service in terms of its state management and the agreement protocol the service wants to participate in;
- `@BAMCompensation` – specifies the compensation action and the type of compensation for a group of services (class);
- `@BAMCompensatedBy` – specifies the compensation action and the type of compensation for a single service (method);
- `@BAMParam` – annotates the service's parameter so that it can be processed by the compensation mechanism and used when executing compensation action;
- `@BAMResult` – annotates the service's return value to be processed by the compensation mechanism and used when executing compensation action;
- `@BAMCompensationManagement` – annotates the compensation manager object to enable transparent dependency injection.

Apart from the annotations, the programmer may use `put(id, Object)` and `get(id)` operations, which are invoked on the previously mentioned compensation manager. Those operations enable storing and retrieving any data, which might be used for compensation.

A comprehensive description of the Business Activity Framework API is presented in sections 3 and 4 of this document.

To expose a method as a transaction-aware Web Service, the business programmer must mark it with previously mentioned annotations as shown in the example in section 5. Typically using only annotations is enough. The framework will be able to transparently apply all necessary transaction mechanisms according to the requirements specified by the business programmer. If more flexibility in compensation data management needs to be achieved, the programmer may use additional methods (`put()` and `get()`) to store and retrieve any data that could be potentially used during compensation. The compensation action must only have its parameters annotated properly so that middleware mechanisms can match them with any data remembered during the execution of the original service (additional support for numerical identifiers is currently being developed so that the compensation action will not need to have any annotations specified – this may be useful when using third-party services as compensation actions).

2.2 Design

Description of the framework's design and implementation has been presented in the Business Activity Framework Maintenance Guide [2].

2.3 Implementation

Business Activity framework has been built on top of the XTS (XML Transaction Service) component, which is a part of the JBoss Transaction Service [6]. It uses JBoss AOP framework [7] to transparently apply transactional middleware mechanisms into Web Services. Implementation specific parts have been well separated and JBoss AOP can be easily exchanged with any other framework

which is capable of intercepting calls to components exposed as Web Services. Work is currently being carried on designing a Transaction Factory component to decouple the framework from XTS.

3 Transactional Web Services Metadata

The core API of the Business Activity framework is based on metadata – Java annotations. To enrich Web Services with support for their participation in Business Activities, those services can be simply annotated. No additional code has to be written. Most annotations have intuitive and reasonable default values to release the developer from the necessity of specifying all required annotation member values explicitly.

Next sections of this document present designed annotations in more details.

3.1 Annotation: @BAService

Qualified name: `org.jboss.txbridge.ba.annotation.BAService`

Annotation type: **required**

Target element: **method**

3.1.1 Description

This annotation is used to mark a method that is exposed as a Web Service so that it can be recognised as the one that needs to participate in a Business Activity. It specifies the service in terms of its state management (whether it changes any data or is read-only). If the service is read-only then it does not require compensation action to be specified (it exits the business activity after performing its work). If it modifies any data (or simply provides information which is transaction-dependent) then it has to have a compensation action specified. This annotation also specifies the agreement protocol the service is willing to participate in. This agreement protocol is the equivalent of a commit protocol and enables different services to reach a consensus in a certain business activity.

Member-value	Meaning	Default
type	Specifies the service in terms of its state management. This member value takes elements of the BAServiceType enum.	BAServiceType.MODIFY

agreement	Specifies the agreement protocol the service wants to participate in. This member value takes elements of the BAAgreementType enum.	BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION
-----------	---	--

3.1.2 Definitions

Annotation definition:

```
@Target(ElementType.METHOD)
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Documented
public @interface BASService
{
    public BASServiceType type() default BASServiceType.MODIFY;
    public BAAgreementType agreement() default BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION;
}
```

BASServiceType definition:

```
public enum BASServiceType
{
    READONLY,
    MODIFY
}
```

BAAgreementType definition:

```
public enum BAAgreementType
{
    PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION,
    COORDINATOR_COMPLETION
}
```

3.1.3 Example

Java source code:

```
@WebMethod
@BASService(BASServiceType.READONLY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
public String getHotelInfo()
{
    // ...
}
```


3.2 Annotation: @BACompensation

Qualified name: `org.jboss.txbridge.ba.annotation.BACompensation`

Annotation type: **optional**

Target element: **class**

3.2.1 Description

This annotation marks a class, which has methods that are exposed as transactional Web Services. It specifies common compensation-related information that will be used by all those methods. Single methods may override those values using member values of the @BACompensatedBy annotation.

Member-value	Meaning	Default
serviceClass	Class that contains the method specified as the compensation task.	Empty.
ejbInterface	Interface of the EJB that contains the compensation method.	Empty.
jndiName	JNDI name of the EJB that contains the compensation method.	Empty string.
providerURL	URL of the JNDI service at which the EJB that contains the compensation method should be looked up.	Empty string.
wsdl	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
address	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
namespace	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
serviceName	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.

3.2.2 Definitions

Annotation definition:

```
@Target(ElementType.TYPE)
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Documented
public @interface BACompensation
{
    public Class[] serviceClass() default {};
    public Class[] ejbInterface() default {};
    public String jndiName() default "";
    public String providerURL() default "";
    public String wsdl() default "";
    public String address() default "";
    public String namespace() default "";
    public String serviceName() default "";
}
```

3.2.3 Example

Java source code:

```
@WebService(name="Hotel")
@BACompensation(serviceClass=HotelBAImpl.class,
    ejbInterface=HotelBA.class,
    jndiName="bademo/HotelBAImpl/remote")
public class HotelImpl implements Hotel
{
    // ...
}
```

3.3 Annotation: @BACompensatedBy

Qualified name: org.jboss.txbridge.ba.annotation.BACompensatedBy

Annotation type: **optional**

Target element: **method**

3.2.1 Description

This annotation provides necessary information about the compensation action. Member values of this annotation override those specified by the @BACompensation annotation.

Member-value	Meaning	Default
value	Name of the method that is used as a compensation action.	None

serviceClass	Class that contains the method specified as the compensation task.	Empty.
ejbInterface	Interface of the EJB that contains the compensation method.	Empty.
jndiName	JNDI name of the EJB that contains the compensation method.	Empty string.
providerURL	URL of the JNDI service at which the EJB that contains the compensation method should be looked up.	Empty string.
wsdl	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
address	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
namespace	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
serviceName	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	Empty string.
mode	Mode of the compensation – whether it is done locally, on an EJB or is remote. This member value takes elements of BACompensationMode enum.	BACompensationMode.EJB
match	Required type of parameters match for the compensation method. By default original method must provide enough data to fill in argument list for the compensation action.	BAParameterMatch.STRICT
single	If true then compensation action for this method will be invoked only once for each transaction (using data provided by the last execution of this method).	false
order	<i>NOT YET IMPLEMENTED</i>	BACompensationOrder.NORMAL

type	Type of the compensation. Specifies what data needs to be remembered by the compensation mechanism. This member value takes elements of the BACompensationType enum.	BACompensationType.RETURN_VALUE
------	--	---------------------------------

3.2.2 Definitions

Annotation definition:

```
@Target (ElementType.METHOD)
@Retention (RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Documented
public @interface BACompensatedBy
{
    public String value();
    public Class[] serviceClass() default {};
    public Class[] ejbInterface() default {};
    public String jndiName() default "";
    public String providerURL() default "";
    public String wsdl() default "";
    public String address() default "";
    public String namespace() default "";
    public String serviceName() default "";
    public boolean single() default false;
    public BAParameterMatch match() default BAParameterMatch.STRICT;
    public BACompensationOrder order() default BACompensationOrder.NORMAL;
    public BACompensationType type() default BACompensationType.RETURN_VALUE;
    public BACompensationMode mode() default BACompensationMode.EJB;
}
```

BACompensationMode definition:

```
public enum BACompensationMode
{
    EJB,
    POJO,
    UDII,
    CDII,
    RMI,
    CORBA,
    CUSTOM
}
```

BAParameterMatch definition:

```
public enum BAParameterMatch
{
    STRICT,
    ALLOW_NULL
}
```

BACompensationOrder definition:

```
public enum BACompensationOrder
{
    NORMAL,
    FIRST,
    LAST
}
```

BACompensationType definition:

```
public enum BACompensationType
{
    RETURN_VALUE,
    PARAMETERS_MATCH,
    CUSTOM
}
```

3.3.3 Example

Java source code:

```
@WebMethod
@BAService(BAServiceType.MODIFY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
@BACompensatedBy(value="cancelRoom", type=BACompensationType.CUSTOM)
public Integer bookRoom(String user, String pass, Integer roomNumber)
{
    // ...
}
```

3.4 Annotation: @BAParam

Qualified name: org.jboss.txbridge.ba.annotation.BAParam

Annotation type: **optional**

Target element: **parameter**

3.3.1 Description

This annotation marks a parameter so that it is remembered by the framework mechanisms and can be used during compensation (either as argument for the compensation method or as additional object,

which might be retrieved within the compensation method). This annotation should be used only if compensation type is `BACompensationType.CUSTOM`.

Member-value	Meaning	Default
value	Unique identifier of the method's argument that is to be remembered. The identifier must be unique at a single method's scope.	None

3.3.2 Definitions

Annotation definition:

```
@Target (ElementType.PARAMETER)
@Retention (RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Documented
public @interface BAParam
{
    String value();
}
```

3.3.3 Example

Java source code:

```
@WebMethod
@BAService (BAServiceType.MODIFY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
@BACompensatedBy (value="cancelMeal", type=BACompensationType.CUSTOM)
public MealOrder orderMeal (@BAParam ("user") Integer userId, Integer mealId)
{
    // ...
}
```

3.5 Annotation: @BAResult

Qualified name: `org.jboss.txbridge.ba.annotation.BAResult`

Annotation type: **optional**

Target element: **method**

3.4.1 Description

This annotation marks a method so that its return value is remembered by the framework mechanisms and can be used during compensation (either as argument for the compensation method or as additional object, which might be retrieved within the compensation method). This annotation should be used only if compensation type is `BACompensationType.CUSTOM`.

Member-value	Meaning	Default
value	Unique identifier of the method's return value that is to be remembered. The identifier must be unique at a single method's scope.	None

3.4.2 Definitions

Annotation definition:

```
@Target (ElementType.METHOD)
@Retention (RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Documented
public @interface BAResult
{
    String value();
}
```

3.4.3 Example

Java source code:

```
@WebMethod
@BAService (BAServiceType.MODIFY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
@BACompensatedBy (value="cancelTicket", type=BACompensationType.CUSTOM)
@BAResult ("orderId")
public Integer bookTicket (@BAParam ("user") Integer userId, Integer movieId)
{
    // ...
}
```

3.6 Annotation: @BACompensationManagement

Qualified name: org.jboss.txbridge.ba.annotation.BACompensationManagement

Annotation type: **optional**

Target element: **field**

3.5.1 Description

This marker annotation is used to tag the `CompensationManager` object so that it can be transparently injected during runtime by the framework mechanisms.

3.5.2 Definitions

Annotation definition:

```
@Target (ElementType.FIELD)
@Retention (RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Documented
public @interface BACompensationManagement
{
}
```

3.5.3 Example

Java source code:

```
public class SomeClass
{
    @BACompensationManagement
    private CompensationManager cm;

    // ...
}
```

4 Compensation Manager Methods

To address the problem of management of intermediary data that can be potentially used during compensation additional operations have been designed. Those operations can be invoked on the `CompensationManager` object.

The `CompensationManager` object is automatically injected during runtime by the framework mechanisms. It provides methods to store and retrieve arbitrary data that can be used during compensation.

Qualified name: `org.jboss.txbridge.ba.compensation.CompensationManager`

Usage: **optional**

`CompensationManager` interface definition:

```
public interface CompensationManager
{
    public void put(Object objectId, Object object);
    public Object get(Object objectId);
}
```


Usage example:

```
public class HotelBAImpl implements HotelBA
{
    @BACompensationManagement
    private CompensationManager cm;

    @WebMethod
    @BAService(BAServiceType.MODIFY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
    @BACompensatedBy(value="cancelMeal", type=BACompensationType.CUSTOM)
    public MealOrder orderMeal(@BAParam("user") Integer userId, Integer mealId)
    {
        // ...
        cm.put("id", orderID);
        // ...
        return mealOrder;
    }

    @WebMethod
    public void cancelMeal(@BAParam("user") Integer userId, @BAParam("id") Integer orderId)
    {
        // ...
    }
}
```

Following operations can be invoked on the compensation manager:

- put(id, Object)
- get(id)

The first one supports storing arbitrary objects with given identifiers. The other one is used in compensation tasks for retrieving objects with given identifiers. Identifiers must be unique at a method's scope.

Next sections of this document provide a more detailed description of those methods and present short examples of a method and its compensation action, where put() and get() operations are used to store additional data.

4.1 put()

4.1.1 Description

This method can be used to store any data, which might be required by the compensation action. The compensation method may need this data either as its arguments or may retrieve them from inside its body. Any data that is stored must be given a unique identifier so that it can be retrieved successfully. It is possible to use any objects as identifiers (i.e. String, Integer, etc).

Method signature:

```
public void put(Object objectID, Object object);
```

4.1.2 Example

Java source code:

```
public class HotelBAImpl implements HotelBA
{

    @BACompensationManagement
    private CompensationManager cm;

    @WebMethod
    @BAService(BAServiceType.MODIFY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
    @BACompensatedBy(value="cancelMeal", type=BACompensationType.CUSTOM)
    public MealOrder orderMeal(@BAParam("user") Integer userId, Integer mealId)
    {
        // ...
        cm.put("id", orderID);
        cm.put("bonusID", bonusID);
        // ...
        return mealOrder;
    }

    @WebMethod
    public void cancelMeal(@BAParam("user") Integer userId, @BAParam("id") Integer orderId)
    {
        // ...
        Integer bonusID = (Integer) cm.get("bonusID");
        if (bonusID != null)
        {
            // ...
        }
        // ...
    }
}
```

4.2 get()

4.2.1 Description

This method can be used to get any data, which is required by the compensation action. It is necessary for the compensation action to know the identifiers, which were used when storing data by the main method. This method returns null if the compensation manager does not have data with the given identifier. This can be used to differentiate, whether the service has been executed as a compensation action or as the main method (if it is exposed – i.e. as a Web Service).

Method signature:

```
public Object get(Object objectID);
```

4.2.2 Example

Java source code:

```
public class HotelBAImpl implements HotelBA
{
    @BACompensationManagement
    private CompensationManager cm;

    @WebMethod
    @BAService(BAServiceType.MODIFY, BAAgreementType.PARTICIPANT_COMPLETION)
    @BACompensatedBy(value="cancelMeal", type=BACompensationType.CUSTOM)
    public MealOrder orderMeal(@BAParam("user") Integer userId, Integer mealId)
    {
        // ...
        cm.put("id", orderID);
        cm.put("bonusID", bonusID);
        // ...
        return mealOrder;
    }

    @WebMethod
    public void cancelMeal(@BAParam("user") Integer userId, @BAParam("id") Integer orderID)
    {
        // ...
        Integer bonusID = (Integer) cm.get("bonusID");
        if (bonusID != null)
        {
            // ...
        }
        // ...
    }
}
```

5 Examples

(...scheduled for the next release of this document...) Please refer to the Business Activity Demo Application. Any questions regarding the usage of the framework are welcome and can be directed to the author of the framework. Questions can be also posted to the JBoss Transactions Developer Forum [8].

6 References

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