

Advanced Energy System Design (AESD): Technical Manual for the Records API

Nicholas Brunhart-Lupo, Brian Bush, Kenny Gruchalla, and Michael Rossol National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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Acronyms and Glossary

ACI Application Container Image
AESD Advanced Energy System Design
API application programming interface

C++ a programming language CSV comma-separated-value file

Chrome a web browser Firefox a web browser

Google Protocol Buffers a serialization specification HTTP Hypertext Transfer Protocol

HTTPS Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure

Haskell a programming language

IoT Internet of Thinks

JSON JavaScript Object Notation
JavaScript a programming language
MySQL a database server product

NREL National Renewable Energy Laboratory

ODBC Open Database Connectivity

POSIX Epoch seconds since midnight 1 January 1970 UTC

PostgreSQL a database server product

Project Haystack a specification for data feeds from the Internet of Thinks (IoT)

Python a programming language
R a programming language
REST representational state transfer
Rkt a container engine (CoreOS 2017b)

SQLite3 a database server product
TSV tab-separate-value file
URI uniform resource identifier
UTC Coordinated Universal Time
WebSockets a communication protocol

YAML YAML Ain't Markup Language

Abstract

The Records API (application program interface) for Advanced Energy System Design (AESD) enables software that serves multidimensional record-oriented data to interoperate with software that uses such data. In the context of the Records API, multidimensional data records are simply tuples of real numbers, integers, and character strings, where each data value is tagged by a variable name, according to a pre-defined schema, and each record is assigned a unique integer identifier. Conceptually, these records are isomorphic to rows in a relational database, JSON objects, or key-value maps. Records servers might supply static data sets, sensor measurements that periodically update as new telemetry become available, or the results of simulations as the simulations generate new output. Records client software might display or analyze the data, but in the case of simulations, the client requests the creation of new ensembles for specified input parameters. It is also possible to chain records clients and servers together so that a client consuming data from a server might transform that data and serve it to additional clients.

This minimalist API avoids imposing burdensome metadata, or structural or implementation requirements on developers by relying on open source technologies that are readily available for common programming languages. In particular, the API has been designed to place the least possible burden on services that provide data. This document defines the message format for the Records API, a transport mechanism for communicating the data, and the semantics for interpreting it. The message format is specified as Google Protocol Buffers (Google Developers 2017a) and the transport mechanism uses WebSockets (Internet Engineering Task Force 2017). We discuss five major use cases for serving and consuming records data: (1) static data, (2) dynamically augmented data, (3) on-demand simulations, (4) with filters, and (5) with bookmarks. Separate implementations of the API exist in C++, Haskell, JavaScript, Python, and R.

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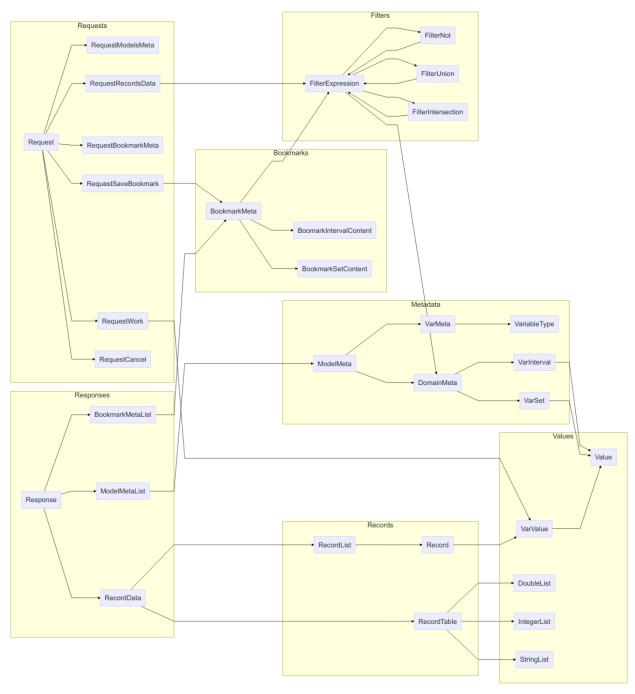
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Overview

Client-server communication in the Records API simply consists of clients sending Request messages to the server and servers asynchronously sending Response messages to the client. The request and response messages hold the specifics of the request or response and the responses are correlated with the requests; however, it is important to note that multiple responses may occur for a single request, as when record data are chunked into multiple response, or that an error response may be sent at any time. The nested messages within Request and Response may in turn contain nested fields and messages providing further details. The table below shows the correspondence between requests and responses, while the figure following that shows the containment relationships between message types.

Correlation between Requests and Responses

Request Field	Response Field
models_metadata	models or error
records_data	data or error
bookmark_meta	bookmarks or error
save_bookmark	bookmarks or error
cancel	no response or error
work	data or error



Containment relationships between protocol buffer messages in the Records API

Metadata messages describe "models," which are just sources of data, and the variables they contain. Data record messages hold the data itself. Data records are simply tuples of real numbers, integers, and character strings, where each data value is tagged by a variable name, according to a pre-defined schema, and each record is assigned a unique integer identifier. Conceptually, these records are isomorphic to rows in a relational database, JSON objects, or key-value maps. For efficiency and compactness, RecordData may be provided in list format or tabular format, with the latter format obtained only when the contents of the table all have the same data type. The data records may be provided *in toto* or filtered using filter messages so that only certain fields or records are returned. The API contains a small embedded language for filtering via set and value operations. Sets of records may be bookmarked for sharing or later retrieval by (1) enumerating their unique record identifiers, (2) defining a range of unique record identifiers, or (3) specifying a filtering criterion.

Servers that perform computations or simulations can receive input parameters via a RequestWork message that contains those input parameters. After the server has completed its computations, it sends the results as RecordData messages.

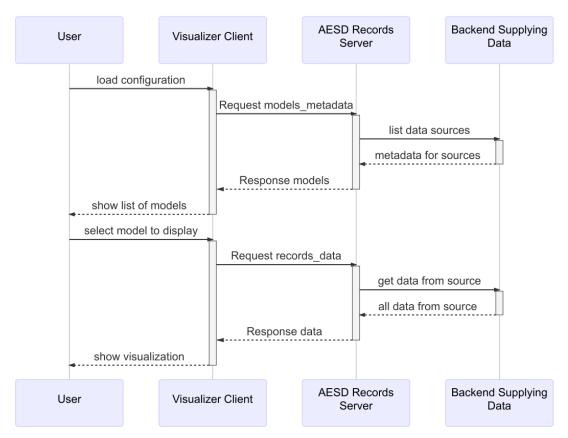
In general, the response to a request for data records comes in *chunks* numbered in sequence, where each chunk has an identifier, chunk_id, and the response specifies the identifier of the next chunk, next_chunk_id. Thus, the chunks form a linked list. The sending of additional chunks can be cancelled using a RequestCancel message. If the subscribe flag is set when making a request, the server will respond indefinitely with additional data as it becomes available, until the subscription is cancelled.

Use Cases

In this section we outline some standard use cases for the Records API. UML Sequence Diagrams (Fowler 2017) illustrate the flow of messages and the messages themselves are printed in the text format output by the Google protoc tool (Google Developers 2017b).

Static Data

The retrieval of static data records forms the simplest use case for the Records API. A user chooses a particular data source (a "model" in the parlance of the Records API) and then the data are retrieved and displayed. The visualization client software communicates with a Records server, which in turn accesses the static data. The figure below illustrates the process.



Visualizing data from a static source using the Records API

A Request without model_id specified requests the server to list all models:

```
version: 4
id: 1
models_metadata {
}
```

The Response from the server provides metadata for all of the models:

```
version: 4
id: 1
models {
   models {
     model_id: "example-model-1"
     model_name: "Example Model #1"
     model_uri: "http://esda.nrel.gov/examples/model-1"
   variables {
     var_id: 0
     var_name: "Example Real Variable"
     type: REAL
   }
   variables {
     var_id: 1
     var_name: "Example Integer Variable"
```

```
type: INTEGER
    }
    variables {
      var_id: 2
      var_name: "Example String Variable"
      type: STRING
    }
  models {
    model_id: "example-model-2"
    model name: "Example Model #2"
    model_uri: "http://esda.nrel.gov/examples/model-2"
    variables {
      var_id: 0
      var_name: "POSIX Epoch"
      type: INTEGER
    }
    variables {
      var id: 1
      var_name: "Measurement"
      type: REAL
    }
  }
  models {
    model_id: "example-simulation-3"
    model_name: "Example Simulation #3"
    model_uri: "http://esda.nrel.gov/examples/simulation-3"
    variables {
      var_id: 0
      var_name: "Input"
      type: REAL
    }
    variables {
      var_id: 1
      var_name: "Time"
      type: REAL
    }
    variables {
      var_id: 2
      var_name: "Value"
      type: REAL
    }
    inputs {
      var id: 0
      interval {
        first_value: 0
        second_value: 100
     }
   }
 }
}
```

Note that the response above is tagged with the same id as the request; this allows the client to correlate responses with the particular requests it makes. Next, the user might request three records from the first model:

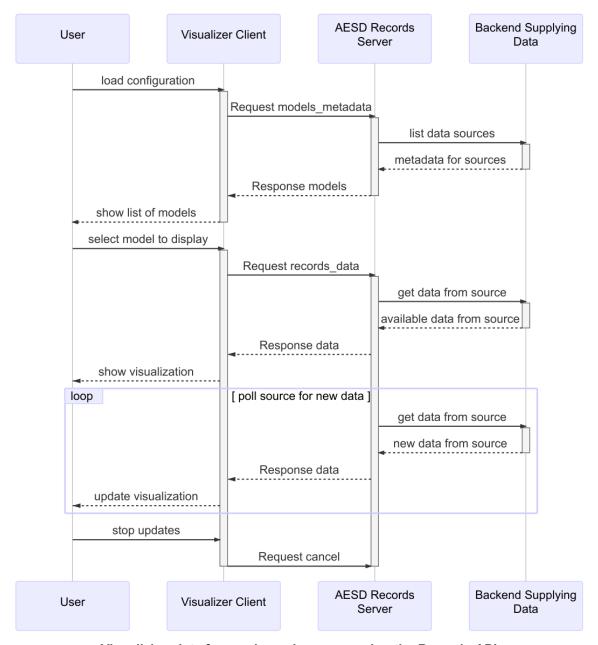
```
id: 2
records_data {
  model id: "example-model-1"
  max_records: 3
}
The record data might be returned as two chunks, where the first chunk is
version: 4
id: 2
chunk id: 1
next_chunk_id: 2
data {
  list {
    records {
      record_id: 10
      variables {
        var_id: 0
        value: 10.5
      }
      variables {
        var_id: 1
        value: -5
      variables {
        var_id: 2
        value: "first"
      }
    }
    records {
      record_id: 20
      variables {
        var_id: 0
        value: 99.2
      variables {
        var id: 1
        value: 108
      }
      variables {
        var_id: 2
        value: "second"
      }
    }
```

version: 4

```
}
 and the last chunk is:
 version: 4
 id: 2
 chunk_id: 2
 next_chunk_id: 0
 data {
   list {
     records {
       record_id: 30
       variables {
         var_id: 0
         value: -15.7
       }
       variables {
         var_id: 1
         value: 30
       }
       variables {
         var_id: 2
         value: "third"
       }
} }
```

Dynamic Data

As shown in the following figure, retrieving data from a dynamic source proceeds quite similarly to retrieving data from a static source. The only essential difference is that the server repeatedly sends additional responses containing new data, until a request to cancel is sent.



Visualizing data from a dynamic source using the Records API

When requesting dynamic data, it is advisable to set the subscribe flag in the request for data:

```
version: 4
id: 2
subscribe: true
records_data {
```

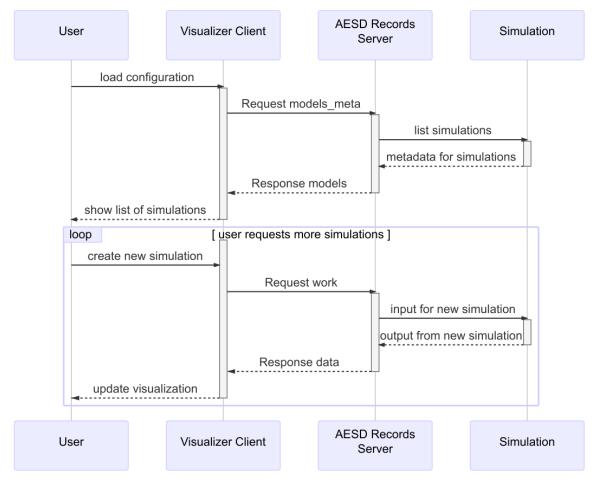
```
model_id: "example-model-2"
}
```

The RequestCancel message is the cancel field Request and must include the id of the request to be cancelled:

```
version: 4
cancel {
  id: 2
}
```

Simulations

The model Example Simulation #3 in the Static Data use case is a simulation model, as evidenced by the presence of the inputs field in its metadata. The following figure shows a typical interaction with a simulation-based model via the Records API.



Steering and visualizing simulation results using the Records API

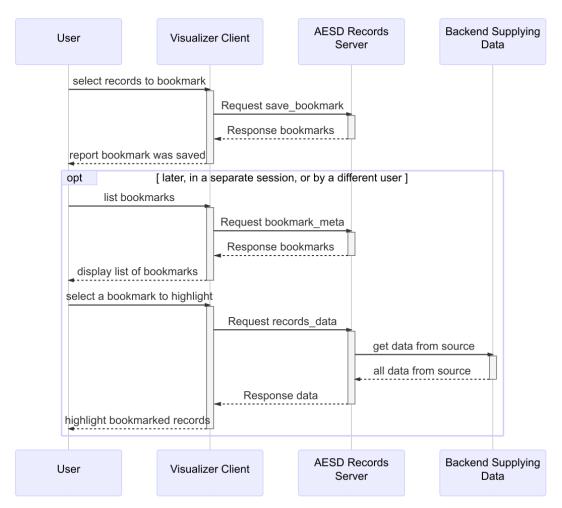
The RequestWork message, which is contained in the work field of a Request, specifies the input for a simulation to be run:

```
version: 4
id: 3
work {
   model_id: "example-simulation-3"
   inputs {
     var_id: 0
     value: 50
   }
}
```

The response to this message will be data for the result of the simulation.

Bookmarks

Once data from a model is loaded, it may be bookmarked. One simply supplies a description of the data to be bookmarked. Bookmarks can be listed and loaded, as shown in the following figure.



Creating and retrieving a bookmark and its associated data

To create a bookmark for a specific list of records, simply supply their record identifiers as part of a BookmarkMeta message in the save_bookmark field of Request:

```
version: 4
id: 4
save bookmark {
  model_id: "example-model-1"
  new_bookmark {
    bookmark_name: "Sample Bookmark"
    set {
      record ids: 10
      record_ids: 30
    }
  }
}
The response will be the same bookmark but with the bookmark_id field added:
version: 4
id: 4
bookmarks {
  bookmark metas {
    bookmark_id: "bookmark-1"
    bookmark_name: "Sample Bookmark"
    set {
      record_ids: 10
      record_ids: 30
    }
  }
}
The user, or another user, can retrieve the records corresponding to the bookmark:
version: 4
id: 5
records_data {
  model id: "example-model-1"
  bookmark id: "bookmark-1"
}
This will return precisely the bookmarked records:
version: 4
id: 5
data {
  list {
    records {
      record_id: 10
      variables {
        var_id: 0
```

```
value: 10.5
    }
    variables {
      var id: 1
      value: -5
    variables {
      var_id: 2
      value: "first"
    }
  }
  records {
    record id: 30
    variables {
      var_id: 0
      value: -15.7
    variables {
      var id: 1
      value: 30
    }
    variables {
      var_id: 2
      value: "third"
    }
  }
}
```

Filtering

Filtering records can be used to select particular records for retrieval, via the RequestRecordsData message, or in defining bookmarks via the BookmarkMeta message. Filtering of records is accomplished through expressions (FilterExpression), combining values for variables (DomainMeta), and the set operators *not*, *union*, and *intersection*, encoded in the messages FilterNot, FilterUnion, and FilterIntersection respectively. For example, the expression $x \le 20$ would be expressed as the following FilterExpression:

```
filter_domain {
  interval {
    var_id: 0
    last_value: 20
  }
}

provided that x has var_id = 0. The expression (10 ≤ x ≤ 20) ∪ (y ∉ {4,7}) would be expressed as

filter_union {
  filter_expressions {
```

```
filter_domain {
    var_id: 0
    first_value: 10
    last_value: 20
}
filter_not {
    filter_expression {
      filter_domain {
        var_id: 1
        set {
            elements: 4
            elements: 7
        }
    }
}
```

provided that x has var_id = 0 and y has var_id = 1.

Records API, Version 4

The Records API consists of Google Protobuf 3 (Google Developers 2017b) messages used to request and provide data and metadata for record-oriented information. This section contains the complete specification for Version 4 of the Records API. Clients send Request messages and servers send Response messages, which are typically transported via WebSockets (Internet Engineering Task Force 2017).

Message Groups

The message types in the Records API are organized into thematic groups below.

Requests and Responses

Request messages are sent from client to server, and Response messages are sent from server to client. Request messages contain a specific type of request and response messages contain a corresponding specific type of response.

- Request
- RequestModelsMeta
- RequestRecordsData
- RequestWork
- RequestBoomarkMeta
- RequestSaveBookmark
- RequestCancel
- Response

Metadata

Metadata messages describe data sources ("models") and variables.

- ModelMeta
- ModelMetaList
- DomainMeta
- VarMeta
- VariableType
- VarSet

VarInterval

Data Records

Data are represented as either lists of records or tables of them.

- Record
- VarValue
- Value
- RecordData
- RecordList
- RecordTable

Filtering

Records can be filtered by logical operations on conditions for values of variables in the records.

- FilterExpression
- FilterNot
- FilterIntersection
- FilterUnion
- DomainMeta

Bookmarks

Bookmarks record particular sets or records or conditions for record data.

- BookmarkMeta
- BookmarkMetaList
- BookmarkIntervalContent
- BookmarkSetContent

Miscellaneous

The following messages wrap data types for the content of records.

- DoubleList
- IntegerList

- StringList
- OptionalInt32
- OptionalUInt32
- OptionalString

General Conventions

All fields are technically optional in ProtoBuf 3, but some fields may be required in each message type in order for the message to be semantically valid. In the following specifications for the messages, fields are annotated as *semantically required* or *semantically optional*. Also, the specification notes when field in the protobuf oneof construct are required or mutually exclusive.

Furthermore, one cannot determine whether an optional value has been set if it is just a value, as opposed to a message. That is not true for fields that are messages, where the absence of the field truly indicates the value is absent and is not just a default or unset value. The message OptionalString, for example, is used in the API to indicate whether a character string value is truly present. Thus RequestModelsMeta has a model_id field that indicates whether the request is for all models, when the field has not been set, or for a specific one, when the field has been set.

Throughout this specification, the following types are used for identifiers: * var_id is int32 * model_id is string * record_id is int64

This specification conforms to Protocol Buffers Version 3.

Messages

BookmarkIntervalContent

A range of record identifiers can specify the content of a bookmark. Bookmark interval content provides a convenient means to bookmark a contiguous selection of records in a model.

Both fields in this message are optional:

- If neither field is present, the bookmark interval designates all records in the model.
- If only first_record is present, the bookmark interval designates all records starting from that record identifier.
- If only last_record is present, the bookmark interval designates all records ending at that record identifier. For a dynamic model, such a bookmark interval includes all "future" records.
- If both fields are present, the bookmark interval designates all records between the two identifiers, inclusively.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
first_record	int64	optional	[semantically optional] The identifier for the first record in the interval.
last_record	int64	optional	[semantically optional] The identifier for the last record in the interval.

BookmarkMeta

A bookmark is metadata defining a subset of records in a model.

There are three options for specifying a bookmark:

- 1. Interval content specifies a range of records in the bookmark.
- 2. Set content specifies a list of records in the bookmark.
- 3. A filter expression defines a set of logical conditions for determining whether a record is in the bookmark.

Exactly one of interval, set, or filter must be specified in this message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
bookmark_id	string	optional	[semantically optional] When creating a new bookmark, this field must be empty; the server will create a unique identifier for the bookmark. This identifier uniquely identifies the bookmark on the particular server.
bookmark_name	string	optional	[semantically required] a name for the bookmark, which is useful for displaying the bookmark to users; this need not be unique, although it is recommended to be so.
interval	BookmarkIntervalContent	optional	the range of records in the bookmark
set	BookmarkSetContent	optional	the list of records in the bookmark
filter	FilterExpression	optional	logical conditions for defining which records are in the bookmark

BookmarkMetaList

Bookmarks may be grouped into lists (sets).

Field	Туре	Label	Description
bookmark_metas	BookmarkMeta	repeated	[semantically optional] the bookmarks in the list

BookmarkSetContent

A list (set) of record identifiers can specify the contents of a bookmark. Bookmark-set content provides a convenient means to bookmark a specific selection of non-continuous records in a model.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
record_ids	int64	repeated	[semantically optional] the list of record identifiers in the set

DomainMeta

The domain (set of valid values) for a variable.

There are two options for specifying a domain:

- 1. An interval specifies a range of values in the domain.
- 2. A set specifies a list of values in the domain.

Exactly one of interval or set must be specified in the message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
var_id	int32	optional	[semantically required]
interval	VarInter val	optional	the interval of values in the domain
set	VarSet	optional	the list of values in the domain

DoubleList

A list of real numbers.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
values	double	repeated	[semantically required] the real numbers

FilterExpression

A filtering expression is a composition of logical conditions on a record. It can be used to filter records. There are four options for specifying a filter expression:

- 1. The logical negation of another filtering expression
- 2. The set union of multiple filtering expressions
- 3. The set intersection of multiple filtering expressions
- 4. Particular values of variables in a record.

Exactly one of filter_not, filter_union, filter_intersection, or filter_domain must be specified in this message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
filter_not	FilterNot	optional	logical negation of an expression
filter_union	FilterUnion	optional	set union of expressions
filter_intersection	FilterIntersection	optional	set intersection of expressions
filter_domain	DomainMeta	optional	particular values of variables

FilterIntersection

Set intersection of filtering expressions. A record satisfies this expression if it satisfies all filter_expressions.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
filter_expressions	FilterExpression	repeated	[semantically required] the expressions to be intersected

FilterNot

Logically negate a filtering expression. A record satisfies this expression if it does not satisfy filter_expression.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
filter_expression	FilterExpression	optional	[semantically required] the expression to be negated

FilterUnion

Set union of filtering expressions. A record satisfies this expression if it satisfies any of filter_expressions.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
filter_expressions	_	repeated	[semantically required] the expressions to be "unioned"

IntegerList

A list of integers.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
values	sint64	repeated	[semantically required] The integers

ModelMeta

Metadata for a model.

Field	Туре	Label	Description	
model_id	string	optional	[semantically required] the unique identifier for the model on the particular server	
model_name	string	optional	[semantically required] a name for the model, useful for display the model to users; this need not be unique, although it is recommended to be so.	
model_uri	string	optional	[semantically required] the unique URI for the model; additional metadata may be obtained by dereferencing that URI.	
variables	VarMeta	repeated	[semantically required] metadata for the variables	
inputs	DomainMeta	repeated	[semantically optional] metadata for input values to the model, if any	

ModelMetaList

A list of metadata for models.

Field	Туре	Label	Description	
models	ModelMeta	repeated	[semantically optional] the metadata for the models	

OptionalInt32

Wrapper for an optional signed integer.

Field	Туре	Label	Description	
value	int32	optional	[semantically required] the signed integer value	

OptionalString

Wrapper for an optional string.

Field	Туре	Label	Description	
value	string	optional	[semantically required] the character string value	

OptionalUInt32

Wrapper for an optional unsigned integer.

Field	Туре	Label	Description	
value	uint32	optional	[semantically required] the unsigned integer value	

Record

A record is a list of variables and their associated values.

Field	Type	Label	abel Description	
record_id	int64	optional	[semantically required] a unique identifier for the record	
variables	VarValue	repeated	[semantically optional] the values for variables in the record	

RecordData

A collection of records.

There are two options for specifying record data:

- 1. A list specifies a heterogeneously typed list.
- 2. A table specifies a homogeneously typed table.

Exactly one of *list* or *table* must be present in the message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description	
list	RecordList	optional	a heterogeneously typed list of records	
table	RecordTable	optional	a homogeneously typed table of records	

RecordList

A list of records. The list is heterogeneous in the sense that each variable may have a different type.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
records	Record	repeate d	[semantically optional] The list of records.

RecordTable

A homogeneously typed table of records, where each variable has each type, with a row for each record and a column for each variable.

This message represents the following table:

Record Identifier	var_id[0]	var_id[1]	 var_id[N]
rec_id[0]	list[0][0]	list[0][1]	 list[0][N]
rec_id[1]	list[1][0]	list[1][1]	 list[1][N]
rec_id[M]	list[M][0]	list[M][1]	 list[M][N]

The underlying list is a **single** array, addressable using the following row-major index formula list[row][var] = array[var + NY * row] where NX = length of rec_ids and NY = length of var_ids.

Exacly one of reals, integers, or strings must be specified in the message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
var_ids	int32	repeated	[semantically required] the identifiers of the variables (columns) in the table
rec_ids	int64	repeated	[semantically required] the identifiers of the records (rows) in the table
reals	DoubleList	optional	the real numbers comprising the values of the variables, in row-major order
integers	IntegerList	optional	the integers comprising the values of the variables, in row-major order
strings	StringList	optional	the character strings comprising the values of the variables, in row-major order

Request

A request. There are six types of requests:

Request	Response
Metadata for model(s)	ModelMetaList
Data records	RecordData
Metadata for bookmark(s)	BookmarkMetaList
Saving a bookmark	BookmarkMetaList
Canceling a previous request	n/a
New work, such as a simulation	RecordData

Exactly one of models_metadata, records_data, bookmark_meta, save_bookmark, cancel, or work must be specified in the message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
version	uint32	optional	[semantically required] the version number for the API; this must be the number four .
id	OptionalUInt32	optional	[semantically optional, but recommended] an identifier that will be used to tag responses, so that responses can be correlated with requests
subscribe	bool	optional	[semantically optional] whether to continue receiving responses indefinitely, as new records become available; this is useful, for example, when a sensor is reporting measurements periodically or when simulations are reporting a series or results. Use RequestCancel to end the subscription.
models_metadata	RequestModelsMeta	optional	request metadata for model(s)
records_data	RequestRecordsData	optional	request data records
bookmark_meta	RequestBookmarkMeta	optional	request metadata for bookmark(s)
save_bookmark	RequestSaveBookmark	optional	request save a new bookmark or update an existing one
cancel	RequestCancel	optional	request to cancel a previous request)
work	RequestWork	optional	request work (e.g., simulation results)

RequestBookmarkMeta

A request for one or more bookmarks for a model.

The response to this request is BookmarkMetaList

Field	Туре	Label	Description
model_id	string	optional	[semantically required] which model for which to list bookmarks
bookmark_id	OptionalString	optional	[semantically optional] If empty, list all bookmarks for the model. Otherwise, list just the bookmark metadata for this specific bookmark identifier.

RequestCancel

Cancel a previous request.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
id	OptionalUInt32	optional	[semantically required] which request to cancel

RequestModelsMeta

A request for metadata about model(s).

The response to this request is ModelMetaList.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
model_id	OptionalString	optional	[semantically optional] If absent, the request is for metadata for all models. Otherwise, the request is for the specifically identified model.

RequestRecordsData

Request record data for a model.

There are three options for requesting record data:

- 1. Request all records.
- 2. Request records in a bookmark.
- 3. Filter records according to a criterion.

The response to this request is RecordData.

No more than one of bookmark_id or expression may be present in the message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
model_id	string	optional	[semantically required] the identifier for the model
max_records	uint64	optional	[semantically optional] If specified, this is the maximum number of records to return. Otherwise, all records are returned, although they may be returned as multiple responses, each with a chunk of records.
var_ids	int32	repeated	[semantically optional] which variables to include in the response; if this is not specified, all variables will be included.
bookmark_id	string	optional	[semantically optional] Only respond with records in a specified bookmark.
expression	FilterExpression	optional	[semantically optional] Only respond with records matching a specified criterion.

RequestSaveBookmark

A request to create or update a bookmark.

The response to this request is BookmarkMetaList.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
model_id	string	optional	[semantically required] which model for which to save the bookmark
new_bookmark	BookmarkMeta	optional	[semantically optional] If empty, create a new bookmark. (In which case, leave the bookmark_id empty, so that the server will create a unique identifier for the new bookmark.) Otherwise, update an existing bookmark.

RequestWork

Request that the server compute new records based on input values.

The response to this request is RecordData.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
model_id	string	optional	[semantically required] the identifier for the model
inputs	VarValue	repeated	[semantically optional] which input variables to set to which values

Response

A response to a request.

Note that a server may send multiple responses to a single request, expressed as a linked list of chunks. It is strongly recommended that servers chunk by record_id so that each record is kept intact. A chunk may be empty.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
version	uint32	optional	[semantically required] the version number for the API; this must be the number four.
id	OptionalUInt32	optional	[semantically optional] a response without an identifier is a notification; otherwise, the response identifier matches the response identifier for the original request.
chunk_id	int32	optional	[semantically optional, but recommended] the identifier for this chunk; it is recommended that chunks are numbered sequentially starting beginning with the number one.
next_chunk_id	int32	optional	[semantically optional] the identifier of the next chunk, or zero if this is the last chunk
error	string	optional	an error message
models	ModelMetaList	optional	a list of model metadata
data	RecordData	optional	a list of record data
bookmarks	BookmarkMetaList	optional	a list of bookmark metadata

StringList

A list of character strings.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
values	string	repeated	[semantically required] the character strings

Value

Value that may be a real number, an integer, or a character string

Exactly one of *real_value*, *integer_value*, or *string_value* must be specified in this message.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
real_value	double	optional	the real number
integer_value	int64	optional	the integer
string_value	string	optional	the character string

VarInterval

A range of values of a variable.

Both fields in this message are optional:

- If neither field is present, the interval designates all values in the domain.
- If only first_value is present, the interval designates all values starting from that value.
- If only last_value is present, the bookmark interval designates all values ending at that value.
- If both fields are present, the interval designates all values between the two values, inclusive.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
first_value	Value	optional	[semantically optional] the first value in the interval
last_value	Value	optional	[semantically optional] the last value in the interval

VarMeta

Metadata for a variable.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
var_id	int32	optional	[semantically required] an integer identifying the variable
var_name	string	optional	[semantically required] the name of the variable
units	string	optional	[semantically optional] the name of the unit of measure for values of the variable
si	sint32	repeated	[semantically optional] the unit of measure expressed as a list of the exponents for the eight fundamental SI quantities [meter, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, mole, candela, radian]; for example, the unit of acceleration m/s^2 would be express as $\begin{bmatrix} 1, 0, -2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 \end{bmatrix}$ because meters has an exponent of positive one and seconds has an exponent of negative two.
scale	double	optional	[semantically optional] An overall scale relative to the fundamental SI scale of the unit of measure; for instance, kilometers would have a scale of 1,000 because the fundamental unit of distance is meters.
type	VariableType	optional	[semantically optional] the data type for values of the variable; The default type is real number.

VarSet

A set of values for a variable.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
elements	Value	repeated	[semantically optional] the list of values in the set

VarValue

The value of a variable.

Field	Туре	Label	Description
var_id	int32	optional	[semantically required] the identifier for the variable
value	Value	optional	[semantically required] the value of the variable

VariableType

The data type for a value.

Name	Number	Description
REAL	0	a real number
INTEGER	1	an integer
STRING	2	a character string

Scalar Value Types

.proto Type	Notes	C++ Type	Java Type	Python Type
double		double	double	float
float		float	float	float
int32	Uses variable-length encoding. Inefficient for encoding negative numbers—if your field is likely to have negative values, use sint32 instead.	int32	int	int
int64	Uses variable-length encoding. Inefficient for encoding negative numbers; if your field is likely to have negative values, use sint64 instead.	int64	long	int/long
uint32	Uses variable-length encoding.	uint32	int	int/long
uint64	Uses variable-length encoding.	uint64	long	int/long
sint32	Uses variable-length encoding. Signed int value. These more efficiently encode negative numbers than regular int32s.	int32	int	int
sint64	Uses variable-length encoding. Signed int value. These more efficiently encode negative numbers than regular int64s.	int64	long	int/long
fixed32	Always four bytes. More efficient than uint32 if values are often greater than 2^28.	uint32	int	int
fixed64	Always eight bytes. More efficient than uint64 if values are often greater than 2^56.	uint64	long	int/long
sfixed32	Always four bytes.	int32	int	int
sfixed64	Always eight bytes.	int64	long	int/long
bool		bool	Boolean	Boolean
string	A string must always contain UTF-8 encoded or 7-bit ASCII text.	string	String	str/unicode
bytes	May contain any arbitrary sequence of bytes.	string	ByteString	str

Implementations

This section provides an overview of the variety of libraries and applications implementing the Records API (see the table below). In particular, pre-built applications are available for serving text-based data sources, database queries, and sensor data feeds. Application Container Images (ACIs) (CoreOS 2017a) of each have been packed for use with the rkt container engine (CoreOS 2017b).

Available Client and Server Applications and Libraries for the Records API

Client or Server ?	Library or Application ?	Data Source	Implementation Language	Computing Platforms	URL
client	GUI application	any	C++	Mac, Winodws, Linux	https://github.nrel.gov/d-star/cpp-records
server	GUI/CLI applications	CSV files	C++	Mac, Winodws, Linux	https://github.nrel.gov/d-star/cpp-records
client	library	any	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
server	CLI application	TSV files	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
server	CLI application	PostgreSQ L	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
server	CLI application	MySQL	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
server	CLI application	SQLite3	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
server	CLI application	ODBC	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
server	CLI application	Haystack	Haskell	Mac, Windows, Linux	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskel
client	library, web application	any	JavaScript	Chrome, Firefox	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/javascript
client	library	any	Python	any	https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/python
client	library	any	R	any	https://github.nrel.gov/d-star/r-records

Haskell Client and Server Library and Applications

Both client and server applications in Haskell are available for the Records API. Full documentation resides at https://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/haskell.

Client Library

The client library described below provides the basic functions for interacting with any Records API server.

Types

data State

State information for a client.

Entry Point

clientMain

Run a client.

Argument Type	Description
:: String	the WebSocket host address
-> Int	the WebSocket port number
-> String	the WebSocket path
-> (State -> IO ())	customize the client
-> IO ()	action for running the client

close

Close a client.

Argument Type	Description
:: State	the state of the client
-> IO ()	action for closing the client

Server Requests

fetchModels

Fetch model metadata.

Argument Type	Description
:: State	the state of the client
<pre>-> IO (Either String [ModelMeta])</pre>	action returning either an error or the models

fetchRecords

Fetch records from the server.

Argument Type	Description		
:: State	the state of the client		
-> ModelIdentifier	the model identifier		
-> Maybe Int	the maximum number of records to request		
-> IO (Either String [RecordContent])	action returning either an error or the records		

fetchBookmarks

Fetch bookmark(s).

Argument Type	Description
:: State	the state of the client
-> ModelIdentifier	the model identifier
-> Maybe BookmarkIdentifier	the bookmark identifier, or all bookmarks
-> IO (Either String [BookmarkMeta])	action returning either an error or the bookmark(s)

storeBookmark

Save a bookmark.

Argument Type	Description		
:: State	the state of the client		
-> ModelIdentifier	the model identifier		
-> BookmarkMeta	the bookmark metadata		
-> IO (Either String BookmarkMeta)	action returning either an error or the bookmark		

Server Library

The server library provides two options for implementing a Records API server. The AESD.Records.Server module provides a main entry point serverMain, a type class ModelManager, and a monad ServiceM that implement a skeletal server, which handles all of the WebSocket communication and Protocol Buffer serialization; an implementer need only create an instance of ModelManager. Furthermore, the AESD.Records.Server.Manager module provides such an instance InMemoryManager of the type class ModelManger to handle inmemory caching of data and on-disk persistence of bookmarks; here, an implementer just calls the function makeInMemoryManager and provides several functions that retrieve content:

makeInMemoryManager

Construct an in-memory model manager.

Argument Type	Description		
:: Maybe FilePath	the name of the journal file		
-> a	the initial state		
-> (a -> IO ([ModelMeta], a))	list models in an action modifying the state		
-> (a -> ModelMeta -> IO ([RecordContent], a))	load record data in an action modifying the state		
-> (a -> ModelMeta -> [VarValue] -> IO ([RecordContent], a))	performing work in an action modifying the state		
-> IO (InMemoryManager a)	action constructing the manager		

Server Back Ends

As previously mentioned, prebuilt servers have been implemented for standard types of data sources.

Tab-Separate-Value Files

Serving tab-separated-value (TSV) files is as simple as placing the TSV files in a directory and starting a server at the command line, with the arguments specified in the table below:

aesd-file-server <host> <port> <directory> <persistence> <chunkSize>

Command-Line Arguments for Serving TSV Files

Parameter	Description
host	host address to which to bind the service
port	port to which to bind the service
directory	directory with TSV files to be served
persistence	filename for bookmark data
chunkSize	number of records return in each chunk

Database Queries

The Records API servers have been implemented for the most common database back ends. Each server takes a single command-line argument specifying a YAML (Oren Ben-Kiki, Clark Evans, Ingy döt Net 2017) configuration file with the parameters in the table below.

Parameters for Database Back Ends Serving the Records API

Parameter	Description	PostgreSQL	MySQL	SQLite3	ODBC
host	host address to which to bind the service	required	required	required	required
port	port to which to bind the service	required	required	required	required
directory	directory with queries to be served	required	required	required	required
persistence	filename for bookmark data	optional	optional	optional	optional
chunkSize	number of records return in each chunk	optional	optional	optional	optional
database	database connection information	required connection string	required connection string	required filename	required connection string

Haystack Sensor Measurements and the "Internet of Things"

Furthermore, a server for Project Haystack (Project Haystack 2017) data feeds, typically sensor measurements from devices in the "internet of things," has been implemented. The server takes command-line arguments specified in the table below.

aesd-haystack-server <configuration> <host> <port> <startTime> <persistence>
<chunkSize>

Command-Line Arguments for Serving Haystack Data Feeds

Parameter	Description
configuration	YAML configuration file for accessing the Haystack service
host	host address to which to bind the service
port	port to which to bind the service
startTime	earliest time to serve, specified in seconds of the POSIX Epoch
persistence	filename for bookmark data
chunkSize	number of records return in each chunk

The parameters in the YAML configuration file like the one below and are described in the following table:

```
siteAccess
  server
                : xv11skys01.nrel.gov
                : /api/nrel_wt_V7
  root
  authorization: ["my username","my password"]
  secure : false timeZone : [-360, true, Denver]
siteIdentifier : NWTCv4
siteURI : http://aesd.nrel.gov/records/v4/nwtc/siteName : NREL NWTC
siteDescription: Sensors from NREL National Wind Technology Center
siteTags
                ! 'DC.source' : https://xv11skys01.nrel.gov/proj/nrel_wt_v7
! 'DC.creator' : Brian W Bush <bri>brian.bush@nrel.gov>
                ! 'DC.description': NREL NWTC sensors
siteMeters
                - 1dca834e-c6af46d6 NWTC Alstom Turbine Electricity Meter Turbine-Alstom kW Demand Forward
                - 1dca834e-69a3e57e NWTC Alstom Turbine Electricity Meter Turbine-Alstom kW Demand Reverse
                - 1dca834e-f56e11f0 NWTC Alstom Turbine Electricity Meter Turbine-Alstom kWh Delivered Forward
```

YAML Configuration Parameters for Haystack-Based Records API Servers

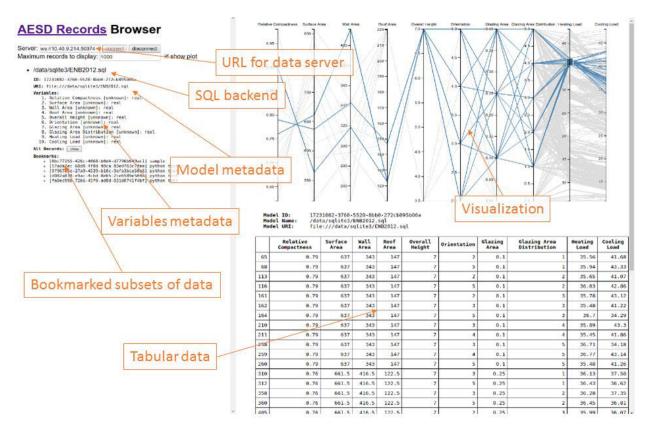
Parameter	Description	Required?
server	hostname and port for the Haystack server	required
root	path to the Haystack REST service	required
authorization	the username and password for accessing the Haystack REST service	optional
secure	whether to use HTTPS instead of HTTP	optional
time zone	time zone information: minutes offset from UTC, whether to use daylight savings time, and the geographic location	required
siteldentifier	identifier for the Records API server	required
siteURI	URI for the Records API server metadata	required
siteName	name of the Records API server	required
siteTags	key-value pairs tagging the server with additional information	optional
siteMeters	list of meters to expose on the Records API server; the Haystack ID is followed by a space and textual description.	required

C++ Server and Client

Both client and server applications have been implemented in C++ for the Records API. See https://github.nrel.gov/d-star/cpp-records for details. There are GUI and command-line applications for serving comma-separated-value files and a GUI application for browsing Records API data sources.

JavaScript Client Library and Web-Based Browser

The client library for JavaScript relies on a few simple functions to interact with a Records API server. Full documentation for the JavaScript client library is available at http://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/javascript. The figure below shows the user interface of the general purpose Records API browser using this JavaScript library.



User interface for the Records API browser

Connect to a server

connect(wsURL)

Here, wsURL is simply the URL of the server (e.g., ws://10.40.9.214:503761). This returns a connection object.

Disconnect from a server

disconnect(connection)

Here, connection is the connection object returned by the connect function.

Retrieve list of data models

requestModelsMetadata(connection, modelId, notify, notifyError)

Here, connection is the connection object returned by the connect function and modelId is either the string identifying the model or null if metadata for all models is requested. After all of the model metadata have been retrieved, the notify function is called with the list of model metadata objects as its argument; if an error occurs, notifyError is called with the error message as its argument. The function requestModelsMetadata returns a result object that contains a field done indicating whether all model metadata have been retrieved and a field models listing the model metadata retrieved so far.

Retrieve data records

requestRecordsData(connection, modelId, maxRecords, variableIds, bookmarkId, notify, notifyError)

Here, connection is the connection object return by the connect function and modelId is the string identifying the model. After all of the data records have been retrieved, the notify function is called with the list of data records as its argument; if an error occurs, notifyError is called with the error message as its argument. The maxRecords argument specifies the maximum number of records to retrieve, variableIds may list the variables of interest, and bookmarkId restricts the results to bookmarked records. The function requestRecordsData returns a result object that contains a field done indicating whether all data records have been retrieved and a field data listing the data records retrieved so far.

Retrieve list of bookmarks

requestBookmarkMeta(connection, modelId, bookmarkId, notify, notifyError)

Here, connection is the connection object returned by the connect function, modelId is the string identifying the model, and bookmarkId is either the string identifying the bookmark or null if metadata for all bookmarks is requested. After all of the bookmark metadata have been retrieved, the notify function is called with the list of bookmark metadata as its argument; if an error occurs, notifyError is called with the error message as its argument. The function requestBookmarkMeta returns a result object that contains a field done indicating whether all bookmark metadata have been retrieved and a field bookmarks listing the bookmark metadata retrieved so far.

Create/update a bookmark

requestSaveBookmark(connection, modelId, name, filter, notify, notifyError)

Here, connection is the connection object returned by the connect function, modelId is the string identifying the model, and bookmarkId is either null for a new bookmark or the identifier for a bookmark being updated. The name field names the bookmark and the filter object describing the filtering operation for the bookmark. After the bookmark metadata has been created or updated, the notify function is called with the list of bookmark metadata as its argument; if an error occurs, notifyError is called with the error message as its argument. The function requestSaveBookmark returns a result object that contains a field done indicating whether all bookmark metadata have been retrieved and a field bookmarks listing the bookmark metadata retrieved so far.

Python Client Library

Full documentation for the Python client library is available at http://github.com/NREL/AESD/lib/python.

Client API

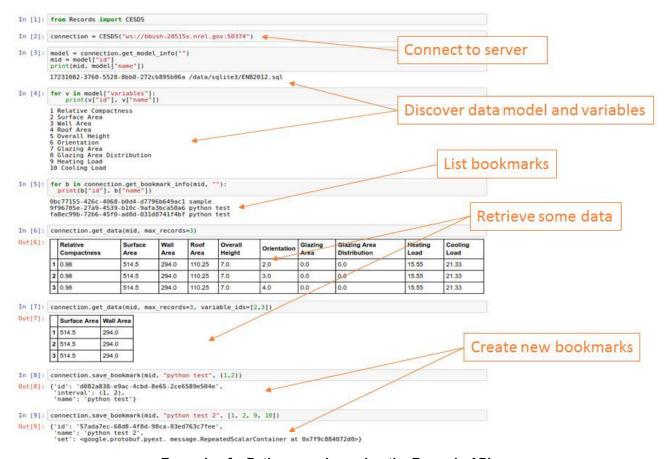
```
new_server(self, server_url)
Change server URL to which WebSocket will connect
Parameters
-----
server_url : 'string'
    server url
Returns
-----
self.url : 'string'
    server url
send(self, request)
Closes event_loop
Parameters
request: 'proto.request'
    proto request message
timeout : 'int'
    timeout in seconds for connection
Returns
-----
response : 'list'
    List of responses from the server, each response is a proto message
get_model_info(self, model_id)
Sends request of model metadata and extracts response
Parameters
model id : 'string'
    Id of model for which to request models metadata
    if None requests all models
Returns
_____
model_info : 'list'|'dict'
    List of model's metadata dictionaries for each model in models or
    dictionary for model_id
get_data(self, model_id, max_records=1000, variable_ids=None,
bookmark_id=None)
Sends request of model metadata and extracts response
Parameters
```

```
model id : 'string'
    Id of model for which to request records data
max_records : 'int'
    Number or records being request (0 will return all records)
variable_ids : 'list'
    List of variable ids (ints) to be requested
    Will be returned in same order as request
    Default=None, all variables will be returned (order?)
bookmark id : 'int'
    Request records data based on bookmark id
Returns
_____
data: 'pd.DataFrame'
    Concatenated data from each response message
    Variable ids replaced with names from model_info
do_work(self, model_id, inputs)
Sends request of model metadata and extracts response
Parameters
model_id : 'string'
    Id of model for which to request records_data
inputs : 'dict'
    Dictionary of {var id: value} pairs
Returns
-----
data: 'pd.DataFrame'
    Concatenated data from each response message
    Variable ids replaced with names from model_info
get_bookmark_info(self, model_id, bookmark_id)
Sends request of model metadata and extracts response
Parameters
model_id : 'string'
    Id of model for which to request bookmark_meta
bookmark id : 'string'
    Id of bookmark for which to request models metadata
    if None request all bookmarks
Returns
_ _ _ _ _ _
model info : 'list'|'dict'
    List of model's metadata dictionaries for each model in models or
    dictionary for model_id
```

```
save bookmark(self, model id, name, content)
Sends request to save new bookmark
Parameters
model_id : 'string'
    Id of model for which to request bookmark meta
name : 'string'
    Name for new bookmark
content : 'list'|'tuple'
    Contents of bookmark
    list is a bookmark set
    tuple is a bookmark interval
Returns
_ _ _ _ _ _
model_info : 'list'|'dict'
    List of model's metadata dictionaries for each model in models or
    dictionary for model_id
```

Example

The figure below shows example usage of the Python Records API client.



Example of a Python session using the Records API

Appendix

Protocol Buffers for Records API Version 4

```
syntax = "proto3";
package AesdRecords;
option optimize_for = LITE_RUNTIME;
message OptionalInt32 {
    int32 value = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message OptionalUInt32 {
    uint32 value = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message OptionalString {
    string value = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message Value {
    oneof value
                               /// [semantically required]
      double real_value = 1;
      int64 integer_value = 2;
      string string_value = 3;
    }
}
message DoubleList {
    repeated double values = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message IntegerList {
    repeated sint64 values = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message StringList {
    repeated string values = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message BookmarkIntervalContent {
    int64 first_record = 1; /// [semantically optional]
    int64 last record = 2; /// [semantically optional]
}
message BookmarkSetContent {
    repeated int64 record_ids = 1; /// [semantically optional]
```

```
}
message BookmarkMeta {
    string
                               bookmark id = 1; /// [semantically optional
]
                               bookmark name = 2; /// [semantically required
   string
1
   oneof
                               content
                                                  /// [semantically required
1
    {
       BookmarkIntervalContent interval
                                             = 3;
       BookmarkSetContent set
                                             = 4:
       FilterExpression
                               filter
                                             = 5;
   }
}
message BookmarkMetaList {
    repeated BookmarkMeta bookmark_metas = 1; /// [semantically optional]
}
message RequestBookmarkMeta {
                  model_id = 1; /// [semantically required]
    string
   OptionalString bookmark_id = 2; /// [semantically optional]
}
message RequestSaveBookmark {
                           = 1; /// [semantically required]
                model\_id
    string
    BookmarkMeta new_bookmark = 2; /// [semantically optional]
}
message FilterExpression {
 oneof
                      expression
                                               /// [semantically required]
 {
   FilterNot
                      filter_not
                                          = 1;
   FilterUnion
                      filter_union
                                          = 2;
   FilterIntersection filter intersection = 3;
   DomainMeta
                 filter domain
                                          = 4;
 }
}
message FilterNot {
 FilterExpression filter_expression = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message FilterUnion {
 repeated FilterExpression filter expressions = 1; /// [semantically require
d]
}
```

```
message FilterIntersection {
 repeated FilterExpression filter expressions = 1; /// [semantically require
d]
}
enum VariableType
   REAL
                   = 0;
    INTEGER
                   = 1;
   STRING
                   = 2;
}
message VarMeta {
    int32
                   var_id = 1; /// [semantically required]
                   var_name = 2; /// [semantically required]
    string
                            = 3; /// [semantically optional]
    string
                   units
                            = 4; /// [semantically optional]
    repeated sint32 si
                            = 5; /// [semantically optional]
                   scale
    double
                            = 6; /// [semantically optional]
   VariableType type
}
message ModelMeta {
                       model_id = 1; /// [semantically required]
    string
    string
                       model_name = 2; /// [semantically required]
                       model uri = 3; /// [semantically required]
    string
                       variables = 4; /// [semantically required]
    repeated VarMeta
    repeated DomainMeta inputs = 5; /// [semantically optional]
}
message ModelMetaList {
    repeated ModelMeta models = 1; /// [semantically optional]
}
message RequestModelsMeta {
   OptionalString model_id = 1; /// [semantically optional]
}
message VarInterval {
    Value first_value = 1; /// [semantically optional]
   Value last_value = 2; /// [semantically optional]
}
message VarSet {
    repeated Value elements = 1; /// [semantically optional]
}
message DomainMeta {
    int32
                            = 1; /// [semantically required]
                   var id
                                 /// [semantically required]
    oneof
                   domain
```

```
{
       VarInterval interval = 2;
       VarSet set
                         = 3;
    }
}
message RequestWork {
                       = 1; /// [semantically required]
    string model_id
   repeated VarValue inputs = 2; /// [semantically optional]
}
message VarValue {
    int32 var_id = 1; /// [semantically required]
   Value value = 2; /// [semantically required]
}
message Record {
    int64
            record_id
                               = 1; /// [semantically required]
    repeated VarValue variables = 2; /// [semantically optional]
}
message RecordList {
    repeated Record records = 1; /// [semantically optional]
}
message RecordTable {
    repeated int32 var_ids = 1; /// [semantically required]
    repeated int64 rec ids
                              = 2; /// [semantically required]
   oneof
                                   /// [semantically required]
                   list
       DoubleList reals
                              = 3;
       IntegerList integers
                              = 4;
       StringList strings
                              = 5;
    }
}
message RecordData {
   oneof
                   style
                              /// [semantically required]
    {
       RecordList list = 1;
       RecordTable table = 2;
    }
}
message RequestRecordsData {
                        model id = 1; /// [semantically required]
    string
                        max_records = 2; /// [semantically optional]
   uint64
                        var_ids
                                    = 3; /// [semantically optional]
    repeated int32
                        filter
                                         /// [semantically optional]
    oneof
```

```
{
                         bookmark id = 4; /// [semantically optional]
        string
        FilterExpression expression = 5; /// [semantically optional]
    }
}
message Response {
    uint32
                         version
                                       = 1; /// [semantically required]
    OptionalUInt32
                                       = 2; /// [semantically optional]
                         id
                                       = 3; /// [semantically optional, but r
    int32
                         chunk id
ecommended]
    int32
                         next_chunk_id = 4; /// [semantically optional]
    oneof
                                            /// [semantically optional]
                         type
    {
                                       = 5;
        string
                         error
        ModelMetaList
                         models
                                       = 6;
        RecordData
                         data
                                       = 7;
        BookmarkMetaList bookmarks
                                       = 8:
    }
}
message RequestCancel {
    OptionalUInt32 id = 1; /// [semantically required]
}
message Request {
                            version
    uint32
                                            = 1; /// [semantically required]
                                            = 2; /// [semantically optional,
    OptionalUInt32
                            id
but recommended]
    bool
                            subscribe
                                            = 3; /// [semantically optional]
    oneof
                            type
                                                 /// [semantically required]
    {
        RequestModelsMeta
                            models_metadata = 4;
                            records data
        RequestRecordsData
                                            = 5;
        RequestBookmarkMeta bookmark_meta
                                            = 6;
        RequestSaveBookmark save_bookmark
                                            = 7;
        RequestCancel
                            cancel
                                            = 8;
        RequestWork
                            work
                                            = 9;
    }
}
```

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