

UDA developments and IMAS remote data access

Jonathan Hollocombe (UKAEA)

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Overview

UDA developments and IMAS remote data access work done as part of ITER simulation catalogue development. Project finished March 2023 but support continuing under ITER Implementing Agreement with UKAEA.

- UDA developments
- UDA backend for AL5
- ITER server status
- Future developments

UDA developments

- Open sourcing of UDA
- Batch request functionality
- SSL authentication
- Cap'n Proto serialization
- Other developments

Open sourcing of UDA

- UDA is now available at <https://github.com/uksaea/uda>
- Open sourced under Apache-2.0 licence
- CI moved to GitHub actions
- Documentation being moved to <https://uksaea.github.io/UDA> (work in progress)

Batch request functionality

- Each UDA `get(signal, source)` request requires a round trip to the server, returning a `DataBlock` containing the result of the request
- For thousands of request (as generated by the IMAS UDA backend) this adds significant latency overhead
- Add a new `get_batch(signals, sources)`
- Allows for multiple requests to be sent at once, returning a list of `DataBlocks`, each one corresponding to a processed request

SSL authentication

- To allow for remote access to ITER data an authenticated connection to UDA is required
- Functionality existed in UDA to use SSL certificates but wasn't fully implemented
- UDA can now be compiled with `-DSSLAUTHENTICATION=ON` CMake flag to enable SSL authentication
- Server is configured with SSL certificate, CA certificate and CRL
- Client certificates available for ITER from <https://pkiuda.iter.org>

Cap'n Proto serialisation

- A new serialisation option was added to UDA to return hierarchical data structures
- Cap'n Proto (<https://capnproto.org/>) was chosen as an open source and performant option
- Additional option for plugins to use, does not change existing serialisation technology (XDR)
- New serialisation and deserialisation routines provided in the server which are used in the new IMAS plugin

Other developments

- A UDA CLI has been created to simplify testing server status and printing result of requests to the terminal
- Continuing refactoring and rewriting efforts to improve performance and stability of UDA codebase

UDA backend for AL5

- URI for remote data
- New IMAS plugin
- Access to mapping plugins
- Local access of remote URIs

URI for remote data

```
imas://<server>:<port>/uda?path=<path>&backend=<backend>
```

For example:

```
imas://uda.iter.org/uda?  
path=/work/imas/shared/imasdb/ITER_MD/3/1180/17&backend=hdf5
```

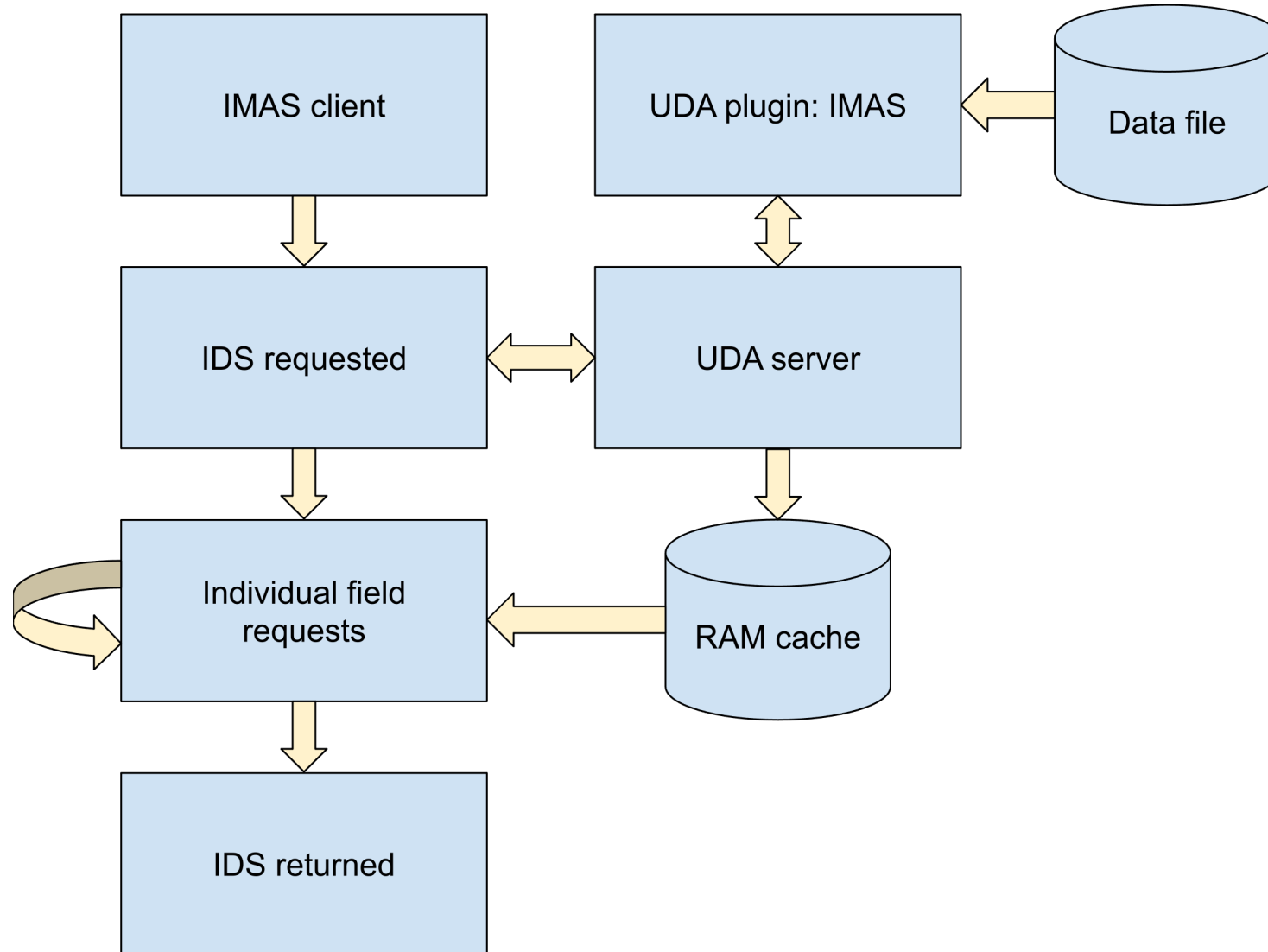
This causes the following entry to be opened on the uda.iter.org server:

```
imas:hdf5?path=/work/imas/shared/imasdb/ITER_MD/3/1180/17
```

New IMAS plugin

- IMAS remote data plugin has been rewritten for AL5
- Replaces old plugins IMAS_REMOTE, IMAS_MAPPING, etc.
- Start of request (i.e. get or getSlice) causes a pre-fetch of data
- Makes use of UDA get_batch functionality to reduce round trips to server
- Uses new Cap'n Proto serialisation to reduce serialisation overhead
- When use partial_get only the required data is pre-fetched

New IMAS plugin (cont.)



Local access of remote URIs

- When accessing an IDS using a URI, the data may be available locally so would be inefficient to go via the UDA server
- When the "server" element of the URI is found in the `IMAS_LOCAL_HOST` environmental variable then the local backend will be used instead of the UDA backend
- For example, if `io-ls-uda01.iter.org` is found in `$IMAS_LOCAL_HOSTS`:

```
imas://io-ls-uda01.iter.org/uda?  
path=/work/imas/shared/imasdb/ITER_MD/3/1180/17&backend=hdf5
```

Will use the hdf5 backend and access the data directly, as if using URI

```
imas:hdf5?path=/work/imas/shared/imasdb/ITER_MD/3/1180/17
```

Access to mapping plugins

Access to mapped experimental data is available using the new IMAS plugin by using mapped URI format:

```
imas://<server>:<port>/uda?machine=<machine>&<machine-specific-args>
```

For example:

```
imas://data.mastu.ukaea.uk/uda?machine=MASTU&shot=45125&pass=0
```

This will pass the request onto the new JSON plugin on the UDA server specified.

ITER server status

- UDA server installed and running on io-ls-uda01.iter.org (external alias uda.iter.org)
- Internal server on port 56565 – this does not use SSL authentication but only accessible from SDCC
- External server on port 56563 but mapped to external port 56565 – this uses SSL authentication and requires client certificate from pkiuda.iter.org
- Access to uda.iter.org is being opened to all IPs – currently only accessible from whitelisted IPs
- Access has been validated on all IDSs currently available to AL5

Future developments

- All SimDB URIs will be updated to use AL5 URIs
- Authenticated access to IMAS data will be tested and demonstrated at various sites
- More technical details will be disseminated at IAEA workshop in Ghent and in technical report
- Integration with new mapping plugin to provide mapped data for AL5
- UDA server and plugin training workshop to arrange