Sunspear Documentation

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Numan Sachwani

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Sunspear in a library for storing activity streams. It is an implementation of the JSON Activity Stream 1.0 specification. Currently, Sunspear only supports Riak as a storage backend, however, it is modular enough to allow the use of custom backend.

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User Guide

1.1 Introduction

Sunspear is a python library which provides an API to store and manage activity stream items.

1.1.1 What it is

Sunspear is a library which allows you to add feeds and activity streams to your applications. It serializes these activities and feed items as described in the JSON Activity Stream 1.0 specifications.

The specifications look scary, dull and boring (and they are), but essentially, an activity for:

```
``John Doe`` added ``Jane Doe`` to the group ``Party Planning``
```

boils down to:

```
"actor": {
    "objectType": "user",
    "displayName": "John Doe",
    "id": "user:1234", # Totally optional, it will be generated for you if you don't provide one
    "title": "Manager",
    "foo": "bar"
},
"object": {
    "objectType": "user",
    "displayName": "Jane Doe",
    "title": "Devloper",
    "foo": "baz"
},
"target": {
    "objectType": "group",
    "displayName": "Party Planning"
},
"bar": "bee",
"verb": "added"
```

The main takeaway points are:

- An activity is composed of objects.
- An activity must define an actor, verb and object.

- An object must define an object Type and a displayName
- objects and activities may contain arbitrary attributes.

Note: For more info, see the specifications for activity and object.

Sunspear also implements parts of some extensions to the specificaltions. More specifically, Audience Targeting and Responses.

1.1.2 What it isn't

Sunspear strictly deals with storage and retrival of JSON activity stream items. It does not include all adquate indexes that allow you to build a fully fledged feed system.

For indexing, you'll probably want to use something like Sandsnake, a sorted index backed by redis.

1.2 Quick Start Guide

1.2.1 **Usage**

Sunspear provides a very simple api managing activity stream items

Initialize

You initialize sunspear by providing sunspear.clients.SunspearClient with an instance of a backend. All backends are located in sunspear.backends and extend the sunspear.backend:

```
from sunspear.backends.RiakBackend import RiakBackend
from sunspear.clients import SunspearClient

import datetime

client = SunspearClient(RiakBackend(**{
    "host_list": [{'port': 8087}],
    "defaults": {'host': '127.0.0.1'},
}))
```

Create Objects

Once you have a reference to the SunspearClient, you can, create objects:

```
obj = client.create_object({
    "objectType": "user"
    "displayName": "John Doe",
    "email": "jdoe@gmail.com",
    "id": "user:1234",
})
```

Note: If you do not specify the id of an object, one will be automatically generated for you. This also applies for the published date.

Create Activity

You can also create an activity. As per the JSON Activity Stream 1.0 specifications, an activity must have a verb, actor and an object.

Creating an activity for:

```
John Doe created the team "Marketing"
```

may look something like this:

```
activity = client.create_activity({
    "verb": "create",
    "actor": "user:1234",
    "object": {
        "objectType": "team",
        "displayName": "Marketing",
     },
})
```

Couple of intresting things to note here:

- 1. We used the id for the actor instead of the full blown object because we created the object earlier.
- 2. We didn't specify an id for our team object. One will be automatically generated.
- 3. The verb is arbratry. It can be anything except for response and activity summary verbs. For list a list of common verbs and objects you may want to use, see the Activity Base Schema.
- 4. create_activity returns the fully parsed activity.

Note: The reason you can't use response and activity summary verbs is because **Sunspear** uses some of them internally.

Create Responses

You can create responses to activities such as liking an activity or replying to an activity. Sunspear supports a few of the response types described here.

All methods that create responses, return the newly created response activity and the original activity the response was created for with the response activity embedded.

Note: Sunspear does responses a little bit differently than what is describe in the specifications.

Responses themselves are fully fledged activities and not objects. This was untimatly done to provide maximum flexibility.

Create a Reply

You can create replies to activities.

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Create a Like

You can like activities.

like_activity, original_activity = client.create_like(activity['id'], "user:1234")

Delete Reply

```
original_activity = client.delete_reply(reply_activity["id"])
```

Delete Like

```
original_activity = client.delete_like(reply_activity["id"])
```

Get Activities

You can get activities by providing a list of ids.

```
client.get_activities([activity["id"], "1234", "3456"])
```

Note: If the activity with the id does not exist, it is simply ignored.

Get Objects

You can get objects by providing a list of ids.

```
client.get_objects([obj["id"], "1234", "3456"])
```

Note: If the object with the id does not exist, it is simply ignored.

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Developer Guide	

API Guide

3.1 Sunspear Client

3.1.1 sunspear.clients

```
class sunspear.clients.SunspearClient(backend, **kwargs)
```

The class is used to create, delete, remove and update activity stream items. This is the main class you use to interact with sunspear

clear_all()

Deletes all activity stream data

clear_all_activities()

Deletes all activities data

clear_all_objects()

Deletes all objects data

create_activity (actstream_dict)

Creates an activity. You can provide objects for activities as dictionaries or as ids for already existing objects.

If you provide a dictionary for an object, it is saved as a new object. If you provide an object id and the object does not exist, it is saved anyway, and returned as an empty dictionary when retriving the activity.

Parameters actstream_dict (dict) - a dictionary representing the activity we want to store in the backend.

```
create_like (activity, actor, content='', extra={}, **kwargs)
```

Creates a like for an activity.

Parameters

- activity (a string or dict) the activity we want to create the sub-item for
- actor (a string or dict) the object creating the sub-activity
- **content** (a string or dict) a string or an object representing the content of the sub-activity
- extra (dict) additional data the is to be included as part of the sub-activity activity

create_object(object_dict)

Creates an object that can be used as part of an activity. If you specific and object with an id that already exists, that object is overidden.

Parameters object_dict (dict) - a dictionary representing the object we want to store in the backend

create_reply (activity, actor, content, extra={}, **kwargs)

Creates a reply for an activity.

Parameters

- activity (a string or dict) the activity we want to create the sub-item for
- actor (a string or dict) the object creating the sub-activity
- content (a string or dict) a string or an object representing the content of the sub-activity
- extra (dict) additional data the is to be included as part of the sub-activity activity

```
delete_activity (activity_id, **kwargs)
```

Deletes an activity item and all associated sub items

Parameters activity_id (string) - The id of the activity we want to create a reply for

```
delete_like (activity_id, **kwargs)
```

Deletes a like made on an activity. This will also update the corresponding activity.

Parameters activity_id (*string*) – the id of the like activity to delete.

```
delete_reply (activity_id, **kwargs)
```

Deletes a reply made on an activity. This will also update the corresponding activity.

Parameters activity_id (string) – the id of the reply activity to delete.

```
get_activities (activity_ids=[], **kwargs)
```

Gets a list of activities. Specific backends may support other arguments. Please see reference of the specific backends to see all kwargs supported.

Parameters activity_ids (list) – The list of activities you want to retrieve

```
get_backend()
```

The backend the client was initialized with.

Returns reference to the backend the client was initialized with.

```
get_objects (object_ids=[])
```

Gets a list of objects by object_ids.

Parameters object_ids (list) - a list of objects

3.2 Sunspear Client

3.2.1 sunspear.backends.base

class sunspear.backends.base.BaseBackend

```
activity_create (activity, **kwargs)
```

Stores a new activity to the backend.

Parameters activity (dict) – a dict representing the activity

Returns a dict representing the newly stored activity

activity_delete (activity, **kwargs)

Performs the task of actually deleting the activity from the backend.

Parameters activity (dict) – a dict representing the activity

activity_exists (activity, **kwargs)

Determins if an activity already exists in the backend.

Parameters activity (dict) – the activity we want to determin if it exists

Returns True if the activity exists, otherwise False

activity_get (activity, **kwargs)

activity_update(activity, **kwargs)

Performs the actual task of updating the activity in the backend.

Parameters activity (dict) – a dict representing the activity

Returns a dict representing the newly stored activity

clear_all_activities()

Clears all activities from the backend.

clear_all_objects()

Clears all objects from the backend.

create_activity (activity, **kwargs)

Stores a new activity in the backend. If an object with the same id already exists in the backend, a SunspearDuplicateEntryException is raised. If an ID is not provided, one is generated on the fly.

Activities that provide objects as dictionaries have their objects processed and stored using create_obj, and the objects are replaced with their id's within the activity.

Parameters activity (dict) – activity we want to store in the backend

Raises SunspearDuplicateEntryException if the record already exists in the database.

Returns dict representing the new activity.

create_obj (obj, **kwargs)

Stores a new obj in the backend. If an object with the same id already exists in the backend, a SunspearDuplicateEntryException is raised. If an ID is not provided, one is generated on the fly.

Parameters obj (dict) - obj we want to store in the backend

Raises SunspearDuplicateEntryException if the record already exists in the database.

Returns dict representing the new obj.

 $\verb|create_sub_activity| (activity, actor, content, extra={|}, sub_activity_verb='`, **kwargs)|$

Creates a new sub-activity as a child of activity.

Parameters

- activity (a string or dict) the activity we want to create the sub-item for
- actor (a string or dict) the object creating the sub-activity
- **content** (a string or dict) a string or an object representing the content of the sub-activity

- extra (dict) additional data the is to be included as part of the sub-activity activity
- **sub_activity_verb** (string) the verb of the sub activity

Returns a tuple containing the new sub activity and the original activity the sub activity was created for.

delete_activity (activity, **kwargs)

Deletes an existing activity from the backend.

Parameters activity (dict) – a dict representing the activity

Raises SunspearInvalidActivityException if the activity doesn't have a valid id.

delete_obj (obj, **kwargs)

Deletes an existing obj from the backend.

raises:

•SunspearInvalidObjectException - if the obj doesn't have a valid id.

Parameters obj (dict) – a dict representing the obj

Raises SunspearInvalidObjectException

delete_sub_activity (sub_activity, sub_activity_verb, **kwargs)

Deletes a sub_activity made on an activity. This will also update the corresponding activity.

Parameters

- **sub_activity** (*string*) the id of the reply activity to delete
- **sub_activity_verb** (*string*) the verb of the sub activity

```
get_activity (activity_ids=[], **kwargs)
```

Gets an activity or a list of activities from the backend.

Parameters activity_ids (list) – a list of ids of activities that will be retrieved from the backend.

Returns a list of activities. If an activity is not found, a partial list should be returned.

get_new_id()

Generates a new unique ID. The default implementation uses unid1 to generate a unique ID.

Returns a new id

```
get_obj (obj_ids=[], **kwargs)
```

Gets an obj or a list of activities from the backend.

Parameters ob j (1 i st) – a list of ids of activities that will be retrieved from the backend.

Returns a list of activities. If an obj is not found, a partial list should be returned.

```
obj_create(obj, **kwargs)
```

Stores a new obj to the backend.

Parameters obj (dict) – a dict representing the obj

Returns a dict representing the newly stored obj

obj_delete(obj, **kwargs)

obj exists(obj, **kwargs)

Determins if an object already exists in the backend.

Parameters obj (dict) – the activity we want to determin if it exists

Returns True if the object exists, otherwise False

```
obj_get (obj, **kwargs)
```

obj_update(obj, **kwargs)

Creates a new sub-activity as a child of activity.

Parameters

- activity (a string or dict) the activity we want to create the sub-item for
- actor (a string or dict) the object creating the sub-activity
- **content** (a string or dict) a string or an object representing the content of the sub-activity
- extra (dict) additional data the is to be included as part of the sub-activity activity
- **sub_activity_verb** (*string*) the verb of the sub activity
- **sub_activity_attribute** (*string*) the attribute in the activity the sub-activity will be a part of

Returns a tuple containing the new sub activity and the original activity the sub activity was created for.

```
sub_activity_delete (sub_activity, sub_activity_verb, **kwargs)
```

```
update_activity (activity, **kwargs)
```

Updates an existing activity in the backend. If the object does not exist, it is created in the backend.

Parameters activity (dict) – a dict representing the activity

Raises SunspearInvalidActivityException if the activity doesn't have a valid id.

Returns a dict representing the newly stored activity

```
update_obj (obj, **kwargs)
```

Updates an existing obj in the backend. If the object does not exist, it is created in the backend.

raises:

•SunspearInvalidObjectException - if the obj doesn't have a valid id.

Parameters obj (dict) – a dict representing the obj

Raises SunspearInvalidObjectException

Returns a dict representing the newly stored obj

3.2.2 sunspear.backends.riak

References

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4.1.1 Authors

Sentry was originally written and is maintained by Numan Sachwani.

A lit of additional contributors can be seen on GitHub.

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