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SAGA API Extension: Message API

Status of This Document

This document provides information to the grid community, proposing a standard for an extension to the Simple API for Grid Applications (SAGA). As such it depends upon the SAGA Core API Specification [1]. This document is supposed to be used as input to the definition of language specific bindings for this API extension, and as reference for implementors of these language bindings. Distribution of this document is unlimited.

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Abstract

This document specifies a Message API extension to the Simple API for Grid Applications (SAGA), a high level, application-oriented API for grid application development. This Message API is motivated by a number of use cases collected by the OGF SAGA Research Group in GFD.70 [2], and by requirements derived from these use cases, as specified in GFD.71 [3]). It adds an additional layer of abstraction to the SAGA Stream API, which is described in the SAGA Core API specification [1].

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1 Introduction

A significant number of SAGA use cases [2] covers data visualization systems. The common communication mechanism for this set of use cases seems to be the exchange of large messages between different applications. These applications are thereby often demand driven, i.e. require asynchronous notification of incoming messages, and react on these messages independent from their origin. Also, these use cases often include some form of pulish-subscriber mechanism, where a server provides data messages to any number of interested consumers (publish/subscribe).

This API extension is tailored to provide exactly this functionality, at the same time keeping coherence with the SAGA Core API look & feel, and keeping other Grid related boundary conditions (in particular middleware abstraction and authentication/authorization) in mind.

1.1 Notational Conventions

In structure, notation and conventions, this documents follows those of the SAGA Core API specification [1], unless noted otherwise.

1.2 Security Considerations

As the SAGA API is to be implemented on different types of Grid (and non-Grid) middleware, it does not specify a single security model, but rather provides hooks to interface to various security models – see the documentation of the saga::context class in the SAGA Core API specification [1] for details.

A SAGA implementation is considered secure if and only if it fully supports (i.e. implements) the security models of the middleware layers it builds upon, and neither provides any (intentional or unintentional) means to by-pass these security models, nor weakens these security models' policies in any way.

2 SAGA Message API

2.1 Introduction

The SAGA Message API provides a mechanism to communicate opaque messages between applications. The intent of the API package is to provide a higher level abstraction on top of the SAGA Stream API: the exchange of opaque messages is in fact the main motivation for the SAGA Stream API, but it requires a considerable amount of user level code in order to implement this use case with the current SAGA Stream API. In contrast, this message API extension guarantees that message blocks of arbitrary size are delivered in order, and intact, without the need for additional application level coordination or synchronization.

Any compliant implementation of the SAGA Message API will imply the utilization of a communication protocol – that may, in reality, limit the interoperability of implementations of this API. This document will, however, not address protocol level interoperability – other documents outside the SAGA API scope may address it separately.

This SAGA API extension inherits the object, async and monitorable interfaces from the SAGA Core API [1]. It CAN be implemented on top of the SAGA Stream API [ibidem].

2.1.1 Endpoint URLs

The endpoint URLs used in the SAGA Message API follow the conventions lay-ed out for the SAGA Stream API [1].

2.1.2 State Model

The state model for message endpoint instances is very simple: an endpoint gets constructed in New state. A successful call to serve() or connect() moves it into Open state, where it can send and receive messages. A call to close() moves it into the only final state, Closed.

Note that the **Open** state does not imply any active connection. E.g., no client may have connected yet after **serve()** has been called. Or a connection which has been established with **connect()** may have been dropped by the remote side. The **Open** state only signals that the methods **send()** and **recv()** can be called on the endpoint instance. These methods will fail gracefully of no connection is active: **send()** will silently discard the message to send, and **recv()** will block



Figure 1: The SAGA Message endpoint state model

until a connection is (re-)established, and a new message arrives.

2.1.3 Classes

The SAGA Message API consists of two classes: a msg class, encapsulating an opaque message to sent, or an opaque message received; and a endpoint class, representing the sending and receiving end for a sequence of opaque messages.

A message sent by a endpoint is received by all endpoints which connect()ed to that sending endpoint. A endpoint can test() for the availability of a message, and can receive() it. A endpoint can also be notified of incoming messages, by using the asynchronous notification mechanisms of the monitorable interface, as described in [1].

2.1.4 Memory Management

Sending Messages On sending messages, memory management (allocation and deallocation) is always performed on application level. Depending on the

actual language bindings, message data will be passed by-reference (preferred) or by-value. If passed by-reference, the implementation MUST NOT access the message data memory block before a send() operations starts, nor after the send() operation finishes. The application MUST NOT change the size of a message nor the content of a message while a send() operation with this message is in progress – the methods would cause an IncorrectState exception then. If the message data block is larger than the size of the given msg instance, the message is truncated, and no error is returned. The Application MUST ensure that the given message size is indeed the accessible size of the given message block, otherwise the behavior of the send is undefined.

Receiving Messages When receiving messages, the application can choose to perform memory management for the messages itself, or to leave memory management to the implementation.

For application level memory management hold similar restrictions as listed above for sending: the implementation MUST NOT access the memory block before or after the recv() operation is active, and the application MUST NOT change size or content of the message data block while the receive() operation is active. If the received message is larger than the size of the given msg instance, the message is truncated, and no error is returned. The Application MUST ensure that the given message size is indeed the accessible size of the given message block.

Memory is managed by the API implementation if the msg instance is created with a negative size argument (e.g. -1). If the message is under implementation management, the data block of the msg instance gets allocated by the implementation, and MUST NOT be accessed by the application before the receive() operation completed successfully, nor after the msg instance has been deleted (e.g. went out of scope).

An implementation managed msg instance MUST refuse to perform a set_size() or set_data() operation, throwing an IncorrectState exception. A message put under implementation memory management always remains under implementation memory management, and cannot be used for application level memory management anymore. Also, a message under application memory management cannot be put under implementation management later, i.e. set_size() cannot be called with negative arguments – that would raise a BadParameter exception.

If an implementation runs out of memory while receiving a message into a implementation managed msg instance, a NoSuccess exception with the error message "insufficient memory" MUST be thrown.

2.1.5 Asynchronous Notification and Connection Management

Event driven applications are a major use case for the SAGA Message API – asynchronous notification is thus of some importance for this API extension. It is, in general, provided via the monitoring interface defined in the SAGA Core API Specification [1].

The available metrics on the endpoint class allow to monitor the endpoint instance for connecting, disconnecting and dropping client connections, for state changes, and for incoming messages. The last is probably the most important metric, and allows to receive messages asynchronously.

The connection inspection metrics, RemoteConnect, RemoteDisConnect, and RemoteDropped try to identify the respective remote party by its connection URL. That URL is, however, not always always available, and the notification mechanism may not allow the application to distinguish which client failed. That is, at the moment, intentional: we imagine the main use case to be the publisher/subscriber model, where a server serves any number of interested clients, and where clients receive data from usually one service. Also, we think that it is, in most use cases, unimportant from where a message originates.

Harder requirements on connection management would imply, in our opinion, either (a) a much more complex API, or (b) a point-to-point connection paradigm (such as the SAGA Streams, i.e. without support for publish/subscriber).

2.1.6 Connection Topology

_ ***NEW*** _

The message API as presented here allows for two different connection topologies: PointToPoint and MessageBus. The topology type is can be specified by a flag on the creation of an endpoint instance. The topology level is therefor constant for the lifetime of an endpoint, and for all connections on that endpoint. Two endpoints which communicate with each other MUST use the same topology type – otherwise the connection setup with connect() will fail with an NoSuccess exception. The topology defaults to PointToPoint.

In either topology, the number of clients connecting to a server (which called serve() can be limited by an integer argument to serve(). This argument is optional and defaults to -1 (no limit). A connect() always implies the setup of a single connection.

PointToPoint Topology: PointToPoint topology means that two participating parties can interchange messages in both directions (both endpoints can send() and recv() messages). However, messages sent to an endpoint are received only by that endpoint, and are not received by any other clients connected to that endpoint.

MessageBus Topology: PointToPoint topology means that two participating parties can interchange messages in both directions (both endpoints can send() and recv() messages). However, messages sent to an endpoint are also received by *all* other clients connected to that endpoint (this property is transitive).

In this topology, all endpoints which are (directly or indirectly) connected to each other receive all messages sent from any of the connected endpoints to any other one.

2.1.7 Reliability, Correctness and Order

. ***NEW*** .

The use cases addressed by the SAGA Message API cover a variety of reliable and unreliable message transfers. The level of reliability required for the message transfer can be specified by a flag on the creation of an endpoint instance. The reliability level is therefor constant for the lifetime of an endpoint, and for all connections on that endpoint. Two endpoints which communicate with each other MUST use the same reliability level – otherwise the connection setup with connect() will fail with an NoSuccess exception. The reliability level defaults to Reliable.

The available realiability levels are:

Unreliable:	messages MAY (or may not) reach the remote clients.
Atomic:	Unreliable, but a message received by one client is guaranteed to (MUST) arrive at all clients.
SemiReliable:	messages are guaranteed to (MUST) arrive at all clients, but may arrive more than once.
Reliable:	all messages are guaranteed to (MUST) arrive at all clients.

If a connection setup requires unreliable message transfer, the implementation CAN be unreliable, atomic or reliable. If it requires atomic transfer, the implementation CAN be atomic or reliable. If it requires reliable transfer, the implementation MUST be reliable.

Message MUST be received at-most-once.

A message MUST be received completely and correct, or not at all.

The order of sent messages MUST be preserved by the implementation. Global ordering is, however, not guaranteed to be preserved:

Assume three endpoints A, B and C, all connected to each other. If A sends two messages [a1, a2], in this order, it is guaranteed that both B and C receive the messages in this order [a1, a2]. If, however, A sends a message [a1] and then B sends a message [b1], C may receive the messages in either order, [a1, b1] or [b1, a1].

2.2 Specification

```
package saga.message
{
  enum state
  {
    New
                  = 1,
    Open
                  =
                     2,
    Closed
                  =
                     3
  }
  enum reliability
  {
    Reliable
                    =
                       1,
    Atomic
                       2,
                    =
    SemiReliable
                       З,
                    =
    Unreliable
                       4
                    =
  }
  enum topology
  {
    PointToPoint
                      1,
                    =
    MessageBus
                       2
                    =
  }
  class msg : implements saga::object
           // from object saga::error_handler
  {
    CONSTRUCTOR
                                        size = 0,
                  (in
                         int
                                        obj);
                   out
                         msg
    DESTRUCTOR
                  (in
                         msg
                                        obj);
    set_size
                  (in
                         int
                                        size);
```

```
size);
 get_size
               (out
                      int
               (inout array<byte>
 set_data
                                    buffer);
  get_data
                      array<byte>
                                    buffer);
               (out
}
class endpoint : implements
                              saga::object
                 implements
                              saga::async
                 implements
                              saga::monitorable
              // from object saga::error_handler
ſ
 CONSTRUCTOR
                (in
                       session
                                     session,
                                     reliable = 1,
                 in
                       int
                       int
                                     topology = 1,
                 in
                 out sender
                                     obj);
 DESTRUCTOR
                (in
                       sender
                                     obj);
 // inspection methods
 get_url
                (out
                                     url);
                       string
                       array<string> urls);
 get_receivers (out
 // management methods
                (in
                                     url
                                             = "",
 serve
                       string
                 in
                       int
                                     n
                                             = -1);
                (in
                       float
                                     timeout = -1.0,
 connect
                 in
                       string
                                     url);
 close
                (void);
 // I/O methods
 send
                (in
                       float
                                     timeout = -1.0,
                 in
                       msg
                                     msg);
                (in
                       float
                                     timeout = -1.0,
 test
                 out
                       int
                                     size);
 recv
                (in
                       float
                                     timeout = -1.0,
                 inout msg
                                     msg);
 // Attributes:
 11
      name: Reliability
 11
      desc: informs about the reliability level
 11
              of the endpoint
 11
      mode:
             ReadOnly
 11
      type:
             Enum
 11
      value: "Reliable"
 11
 11
             Topology
      name:
  11
      desc: informs about the connection topology
```

```
11
           of the endpoint
11
    mode: ReadOnly
11
   type: Enum
11
    value: "PointToPoint"
11
11
// Metrics:
11
    name: State
11
    desc: fires if the sender state changes
// mode: Read
11
   unit: 1
11
    type: Enum
    value: "New"
11
11
11
   name: RemoteConnect
11
    desc: fires if a receiver connects
11
    mode: Read
    unit: 1
11
11
    type: String
    value: ""
11
11
    notes: - this metric can be used to perform
11
             authorization on the connecting receivers.
11
           - the value is the endpoint URL of the
11
             remote party, if known.
11
11
    name: RemoteDisConnect
11
    desc: fires if a receiver disconnects or the
           connection dropped
11
11
    mode: Read
11
    unit: 1
11
    type: String
11
    value: ""
    notes: - the value is the endpoint URL of the
11
11
             remote party, if known.
11
11
    name: RemoteDropped
11
    desc: fires if the connection gets dropped by
11
           the remote sender
11
    mode: Read
11
    unit: 1
11
    type: String
11
    value: ""
11
    notes: - the value is the endpoint URL of the
11
             remote party, if known.
11
11
    name: Message
```

```
11
             fires if a message arrives
      desc:
      mode:
  11
             Read
  11
      unit: 1
  11
      type: String
  11
      value: ""
  11
      notes: - the value is the endpoint URL of the
                sending party, if known.
  11
}
```

2.3 Specification Details

class msg

}

The msg object encapsulates a sequence of bytes to be communicated between applications. A msg instance can be sent (by an endpoint calling send()), or received (by an endpoint calling recv()). A message does not belong to a session, and a msg object instance can thus be used in multiple sessions, for multiple endpoints.

```
- CONSTRUCTOR
 Purpose: create a new message object
 Format:
           CONSTRUCTOR
                             (in int
                                              size = 0,
                                out sender
                                              obj);
 Inputs:
           size:
                                the size of the message
 Outputs: obj:
                                 new message object
 Throws:
           NotImplemented
           NoSuccess
 Notes:
           - see notes to memory management
- DESTRUCTOR
 Purpose: Destructor for sender object.
 Format:
           DESTRUCTOR
                                (in sender obj)
           sender:
                                 object to be destroyed
 Inputs:
 Outputs:
           _
 Throws:
 PostCond: - the connection is closed.
 Notes: - see notes to memory management.
```

- set_size Purpose: set the size of the message data buffer (in int size); Format: set_size size of data buffer Inputs: size: Outputs: Throws: NotImplemented BadParameter IncorrectState NoSuccess Notes: - see notes to memory management. - size must be positive, otherwise a 'BadParameter' exception is thrown. - set_size() cannot be called on an implementation managed msg instance. That raises a 'IncorrectState' exception. - the method does not cause a memory resize etc, but merely informs the implementation on the size to be used for the data buffer on send() or recv(). - get_size Purpose: get the size of the message data buffer (out int size); Format: get_size Inputs: _ Outputs: size: size of data buffer Throws: NotImplemented NoSuccess Notes: - see notes to memory management. - on application managed messages, the call returns exactly the value which was set during construction, or via set_size(). - on implementation managed buffers, the call returns the currently allocated buffer size. That size can reliably be used to access the data buffer. - set_data Purpose: set the data buffer for the message Format: (inout array<byte> buffer); set_data Inputs: InOuts: buffer data buffer for message Outputs: -Throws: NotImplemented IncorrectState

Notes:	 NoSuccess see notes to memo set_data() cannot implementation ma That raises a 'In the given data bu reallocated, or d implementation, b to. In can thus memory segment. 	ry management. be called on an naged msg instance. correctState' exception. ffer will not be resized, or eallocated by the ut only read from or writter be, for example, a mmapped	1
- get_data Purpose: Format: Inputs: Outputs: Throws: Notes:	<pre>get the data buffer get_data - buffer NotImplemented NoSuccess - see notes to memo - get_data() return Depending on the a reference to th memcopies, prefer message buffer if a reference is managed msg insta be changed by the accessed after th e.g. goes out of - the returned buff</pre>	<pre>for the message (out array<byte> buffer); data buffer for message ry management. s the current message buffer language binding, that can b e actual buffer (which avoid red), or a copy of the returned for a implementation nce, that reference MUST NOT application, and MUST NOT b e msg instance is destroyed, scope. er may be empty or NULL.</byte></pre>	ion be

class endpoint

The endpoint object represents a connection endpoint for the message exchange, and can send() and recv() messages. It can be connected to other endpoints (connect()), and can be contacted by other endpoints (serve()). All other endpoints connected to the endpoint instance will receive the messages sent on that endpoint instance. The endpoint instance will also receive all messages sent by any of the other endpoints (global order is not guaranteed to be preserved!).

- CONSTRUCT	OR	
Purpose:	create a new endpoir	nt object
Format:	CONSTRUCTOR	(in session session,
		in int reliable = 1,
		in int topology = 1,
		out endpoint obj);
Inputs:	session:	session to be used for
		object creation
	reliable:	flag defining transfer
		reliability
	topology:	flag defining connection
		topology
Outputs:	obj:	new endpoint object
Throws:	NotImplemented	
	NoSuccess	
PostCond:	- the endpoint is in	n 'New' state, and can now
	serve client conne	ections (see serve()), or
	connect to other e	endpoints (see connect()).
	_	
- DESTRUCTO	R	• • •
Purpose:	Destructor for sende	er object.
Format:	DESTRUCTOR	(in sender obj)
Inputs:	sender:	object to be destroyed
Outputs:	-	
Notes:	-	
inspection	methods:	
- get_url		
Purpose:	get UKL to be used t	co connect to this server
Format:	get_url	(out string url);
Inputs:	-	
Outputs:	url:	string containing the
		contact URL of this
		endpoint.
Throws:	NotImplemented	
	IncorrectState	
Notes:	- returns a URL whic	ch can be passed to the
	receiver construct	cor to create a client
	connection to this	s endpoint.
	- this method can or	nly be called after serve()

has been called - otherwise an 'IncorrectState' exception is thrown. The return of a URL does not imply a guarantee that a endpoint can successfully connect with this URL (e.g. the URL may be outdated on 'Closed' endpoints).

get_recei	vers	
Purpose:	get the endpoint URLs	of connected clients
Format:	get_url	<pre>(out array<string> urls);</string></pre>
Inputs:	-	
Outputs:	urls:	endpoint URLs of connected
		clients.
PreCond:	- the sender is in 'O	pen' state.
Throws:	NotImplemented	
	IncorrectState	
Notes:	- the method causes a	n 'IncorrectState'
	exception if the se	nder instance is not in
	'Open' state.	
	- the returned list c	an be empty
	- if a remote endpoin	t does not has a URL (e.g.
	if it did not yet c	all serve()), the
	returned array elem	ent is an empty string.
	<pre>get_recer Purpose: Format: Inputs: Outputs: PreCond: Throws: Notes:</pre>	<pre>get_receivers Purpose: get the endpoint URLs Format: get_url Inputs: - Outputs: urls: PreCond: - the sender is in 'O Throws: NotImplemented IncorrectState Notes: - the method causes a exception if the se 'Open' state the returned list c - if a remote endpoin if it did not yet c returned array elem</pre>

That allows to count the connected clients.

management methods:

- serve		
Purpose:	start to serve incomin	ng client connections
Format:	serve	(in string url = "",
		in int $n = -1$;
Inputs:	url:	specification for
		connection setup
	n:	number of clients to
		accept
Outputs:	-	-
Throws:	IncorrectState	
	IncorrectURL	
	AuthorizationFailed	
	AuthenticationFailed	
	PermissionDenied	
	NoSuccess	
PreCond:	- the endpoint is in	'New' or 'Open' state, but
	ala not yet call se	LVE().

	PostCond:	- the endpoint is in 'Open' state, and accepts client connections.
	Notes:	 if the endpoint is not in 'New' or 'Open' state when this method is called, or if serve() was called on this instance before, an 'IncorrectState' exception is thrown. a close()'d endpoints cannot serve() again (it is in 'Closed' state). 'n' defines the number of clients to accept. If that many clients have been accepted successfully (e.g. messages could have been sent to / received from these clients), the serve call finishes. if 'n' is set tp '-1', the default, no limit on the accepted clients is applied. the given URL can be used to specify the protocol, network interface, port number etc, but could also be empty - the implementation will then use a default value. That default MUST be documented by the implementation. the URL error semantics as defined in the SAGA Core API specification applies.
_	connect	
	Purpose:	connect to another endpoint
	Format:	<pre>serve (in float timeout = -1.0,</pre>
	Inputs:	timeout: seconds to wait
		url: specification for
	_	connection setup
	Outputs:	-
	Inrows:	IncorrectState
		AuthorizationFailed
		AuthenticationFailed
		PermissionDenied
		Timeout
		NoSuccess
	PreCond:	- the endpoint is in 'New' or 'Open' state.
	PostCond:	- the endpoint is in 'Upen' state, and can send and receive messages.
	Notes:	- if the endpoint is not in 'New' or 'Open'
		state when this method is called, an
		'incorrectState' exception is thrown.
		a crose() a enaborne cannot be connect()ed

again (it is in 'Closed' state). - if the reliability level of the connecting and connected endpoint do not match, the method fails with a 'NoSuccess' exception, and a descriptive error message. - if the connection topology of the connecting and connected endpoint do not match, the method fails with a 'NoSuccess' exception, and a descriptive error message. - the URL error semantics as defined in the SAGA Core API specification applies. - the timeout semantics as defined in the SAGA Core API specification applies. - close Purpose: close the endpoint, and release all resources Format: close (in float timeout = -1.0); Inputs: timeout: seconds to wait Outputs: Throws: NotImplemented IncorrectState Timeout NoSuccess PreCond: - the endpoint is in 'Open' state. PostCond: - the endpoint is in 'Closed' state. - if the endpoint is not in 'Open' state when Notes: this method is called, an 'IncorrectState' exception is thrown. - the timeout semantics as defined in the SAGA Core API specification applies. - a close()'d endpoint cannot serve() or connect() again. I/O methods: _____ - send Purpose: send a message to all connected endpoints (in float timeout = -1.0, Format: serve in msg msg); seconds to wait Inputs: timeout: message to send msg:

Outputs:

Throws:	NotImplemented
	IncorrectState
	Timeout
	NoSuccess
Notes:	- if the endpoint is not in 'Open' state when this method is called an 'IncorrectState'
	exception is thrown
	- error reporting is non-trivial as some
	message transfer may succeed for some clients
	and not for others. For reliable transfers,
	the method MUST raise a 'NoSuccess' exception
	with detailed information about the clients
	the transport failed for. For unreliable
	transfer, the method MAY raise such an
	exception if the implementation deems the
	error condition severe enough to disrupt the
	communication altogether (i.e. future messages
	are unlikely to get through). Again, the
	exception must then give detailed information
	on the client(s) which failed.
	- a timeout can happen for all or for one
	client - the returned error MUST indicate
	which is the case, and which clients failed.
	- the implementation MUST carefully document its
	possible error conditions.
	- 11 the enapoint reached the 'Upen' state by
	calling serve(), and did not call connect(),
	no client endpoint may be connected to this
	emportant instance. That does not cause an
	- the timeout computing an defined in the
	- the timeout semantics as defined in the
	SAGA Cole art specification applies.
- test	
Purpose:	test if a message is available for receive
Format:	test (in float timeout = -1.0,
	out int size);
Inputs:	timeout: seconds to wait
	size: size of incoming message
Outputs:	-
Throws:	NotImplemented
	IncorrectState
	NoSuccess
Notes:	- if the endpoint is not in 'Open' state when
	this method is called, an 'IncorrectState'
	exception is thrown.

	 if the endpoint reached the 'Open' state by calling serve(), and did not call connect(), no client endpoint may be connected to this endpoint instance. That does not cause an error the method will wait for the specified timeout. The implementation MUST respect messages originating from connections which have been established during the timeout waiting time. if no message is available for recv() after the timeout, the method returns (it does not throw a 'Timeout' exception). The returned size is set to -1. if a message is available for recv(), the returned size is set to the size of the incoming messages data buffer. The size MUST be a valid value to be used to construct a new msg object instance. The message for which the size was returned MUST be the message which is returned on the next initiated recv() call. if any (synchronous or asynchronous) recv() calls are in operation while test is called, they MUST NOT be served with the incoming message if size is returned as positive value. Instead, the next initiated recv() call get
	- the timeout semantics as defined in the SAGA Core API specification applies.
- recv	
Purpose:	receive a message from remote endpoints
Format:	test (in float timeout = -1.0,
_	<pre>inout msg msg);</pre>
Inputs:	timeout: seconds to wait
InOuts:	msg: received message
Outputs:	-
Throws:	NotImplemented
	IncorrectState
	Timeout
	NoSuccess
Notes:	- if the endpoint is not in 'Open' state when this method is called, an 'IncorrectState' exception is thrown
	- if the endnoint reached the 'Onen' state by
	calling serve(), and did not call connect(),

no client endpoint may be connected to this endpoint instance. That does not cause an error -- the method will wait for the specified timeout. The implementation MUST respect messages originating from connections which have been established during the timeout waiting time.

- error reporting is non-trivial, as some message transfer may succeed for some clients, and not for others. For reliable transfers, the method MUST raise a 'NoSuccess' exception with detailed information about the clients the transport failed for. For unreliable transfer, the method MAY raise such an exception if the implementation deems the error condition severe enough to disrupt the communication altogether (i.e. future messages are unlikely to get through). Again, the exception must then give detailed information on the client(s) which failed.
- if no message is available for recv() after the timeout, the method throws a 'Timeout' exception. The application must use test() to avoid this.
- the timeout semantics as defined in the SAGA Core API specification applies.

2.4 Examples

TO BE DONE

3 Intellectual Property Issues

3.1 Contributors

This document is the result of the joint efforts of several contributors. The authors listed here and on the title page are those committed to taking permanent stewardship for this document. They can be contacted in the future for inquiries about this document.

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The initial version of the presented SAGA API was drafted by members of the SAGA Research Group. Members of this group did not necessarily contribute text to the document, but did contribute to its current state. Additional to the authors listed above, we acknowledge the contribution of the following people, in alphabetical order:

Andrei Hutanu (LSU), Hartmut Kaiser (LSU), Pascal Kleijer (NEC), Thilo Kielmann (VU), Gregor von Laszewski (ANL), Shantenu Jha (LSU), and John Shalf (LBNL).

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