

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) –  
Part 407: Time Series Data Access (TSDA)**

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) –  
Part 407: Time Series Data Access (TSDA)**

INTERNATIONAL  
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PRICE CODE

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
APPLICATION PROGRAM INTERFACE (EMS-API) –****Part 407: Time Series Data Access (TSDA)**

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The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

| FDIS        | Report on voting |
|-------------|------------------|
| 57/889/FDIS | 57/908/RVD       |

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61970 series, under the general title *Energy Management System Application Program Interface (EMS-API)*, can be found on the IEC website.

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- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

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## INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61970 is part of the IEC 61970 series that defines Application Program Interfaces (APIs) for an Energy Management System (EMS). The IEC 61970-4XX and IEC 61970-5XX series documents comprise Component Interface Specifications (CISs). The IEC 61970-4XX series CIS are specified as Platform Independent Models (PIMs), which means they are independent of the underlying technology used to implement them. PIM specifications are also referred to as Level 1 specifications. The IEC 61970-5XX series CIS, on the other hand, are specified as Platform Specific Models (PSMs). PSM specifications are also referred to as Level 2 specifications.

IEC 61970-4XX CISs specify the functional requirements for interfaces that a component (or application) should implement to exchange information with other components (or applications) and/or to access publicly available data in a standard way. The component interfaces describe the specific event types and message contents that can be used by applications for this purpose.

IEC 61970-407 specifies an interface for the efficient transfer of time series data in a distributed environment. Small amounts of data are transferred with short delay but also large amounts of data are transferred in short time but with possibly longer delay. Replay of time series data is also supported. This is a typical requirement for a SCADA system that acts as a real time data provider to other sub-systems. Other systems than SCADA may also benefit from the characteristics of TSDA. When short delay times as well as bulk data transfer is required TSDA is a good fit.

These component interface specifications refer to entity objects for the power system domain that is defined in the IEC 61970-3XX series, including IEC 61970-301.

## ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPLICATION PROGRAM INTERFACE (EMS-API) –

### Part 407: Time Series Data Access (TSDA)

#### 1 Scope

The IEC 61970-407 Time Series Data Access (TSDA) specification specifies a generalized interface for efficient exchange of data. The specification takes into account the latencies caused by a Local Area Network (LAN) providing efficient data exchange also over Local Area Networks.

IEC 61970-407 is derived from the Object Management Group (OMG) Historical Data Access from Industrial Systems (HDAIS) specification. OMG HDAIS relies on the OMG Data Access Facility (DAF) and OPC Historical Data Access (HDA) specifications. OMG HDAIS is a Platform Specific Model (PSM) with CORBA as the platform and OPC HDA is a PSM with Microsoft COM as the platform. The IEC 61970-407 specification describes the functionality of these PSMs in a technology independent way (i.e., as a Platform Independent Model (PIM)). Hence, it explains the functionality to a level that can be used to create additional PSMs or be an introduction to existing PSMs, i.e. HDAIS and OPC HDA. Implementers wanting an introduction to OMG HDAIS and OPC HDA should read these documents.

The TSDA interface is intended to interoperate with other IEC 61970 based interfaces. Hence, it is possible to use information retrieved from other interface to access the same information using this interface, for example:

- object identifiers,
- attribute names or identifiers,
- class names or identifiers.

Subclause 4.6 provides a generic mapping for the CIM classes and attributes.

The way data is organized in a server implementing the TSDA interface can be seen by using the browse interfaces for data and meta data. It is also possible to use the data access interface directly without using the browse interfaces if the client has an *a priori* knowledge of object, class and attribute identifiers. Object identifiers may be retrieved using data from other interfaces, for example a CIMXML file or the IEC 61970-404 interface. Information on what classes and attributes are available will be described in IEC 61970-45X documents, for example historical SCADA data, historical State Estimator results etc.

IEC 61970-1 provides the EMS-API reference model upon which this standard is based. In that reference model, the terminology used in this part of IEC 61970 is introduced and the role of the CIS is explained.

IEC 61970-401 provides an overview and framework for the CIS (IEC 61970-4XX) standards.

The mapping of IEC 61970-407 to implementation specific technologies or PSMs is further described in a separate series of documents, i.e. the future IEC 61970-5XX. For actual implementations the future IEC 61970-5XX, OMG HDAIS, OMG DAF or OPC HDA are used.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 61970-1, *Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) – Part 1: Guidelines and general requirements*

IEC/TS 61970-2, *Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) – Part 2: Glossary*

IEC 61970-301:2005, *Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) – Part 301: Common Information Model (CIM) base*

IEC 61970-401, *Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) – Part 401: Component Interface Specification (CIS) Framework*

IEC 61970-402, *Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API) – Part 402: Component Interface Specification (CIS) - Common Services*

*Historical Data Access from Industrial Systems (HDAIS)*, OMG Adopted Specification Version 1.0, dtc/2003-02-01 November 2003 (Referred herein as 'OMG HDAIS')

*Utility Management System (UMS) Data Access Facility (DAF)*, OMG Adopted Specification, Version 2.0, formal/02-11-08, November 2002 (Referred to herein as 'OMG DAF')

*Data Acquisition from Industrial Systems (DAIS)*, OMG Adopted Specification Version 1.0, formal/2002-11-07 November 2002 (Referred herein as 'OMG DAIS')

*OPC Historical Data Access Custom Interface Specification*, Version 1.20, OPC Foundation, December 2003 (Referred to herein as 'OPC HDA')

## 3 Terms, definitions and identification conventions

### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 61970-2 apply.

### 3.2 Conventions

A convention used in this document to uniquely identify a UML attribute is to concatenate the class name and the attribute name with a period in between, for example, the attribute "id" in the class "Node" will then be named "Node.id". For attributes in sub structures multiple attribute names may be used, for example "Item.id.node\_id" where the "node\_id" is a part in the structure "Item.id".

## 4 CIS Specification

### 4.1 Background (informative)

For historical reasons, control systems for different industrial processes have evolved along different lines. Control systems for power systems have evolved on a UNIX base and control systems for most other industrial processes have evolved on a Windows base. For Windows based control systems, OPC has become the dominating standard. For UNIX based systems, the DAIS/HDAIS API defined in Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA)

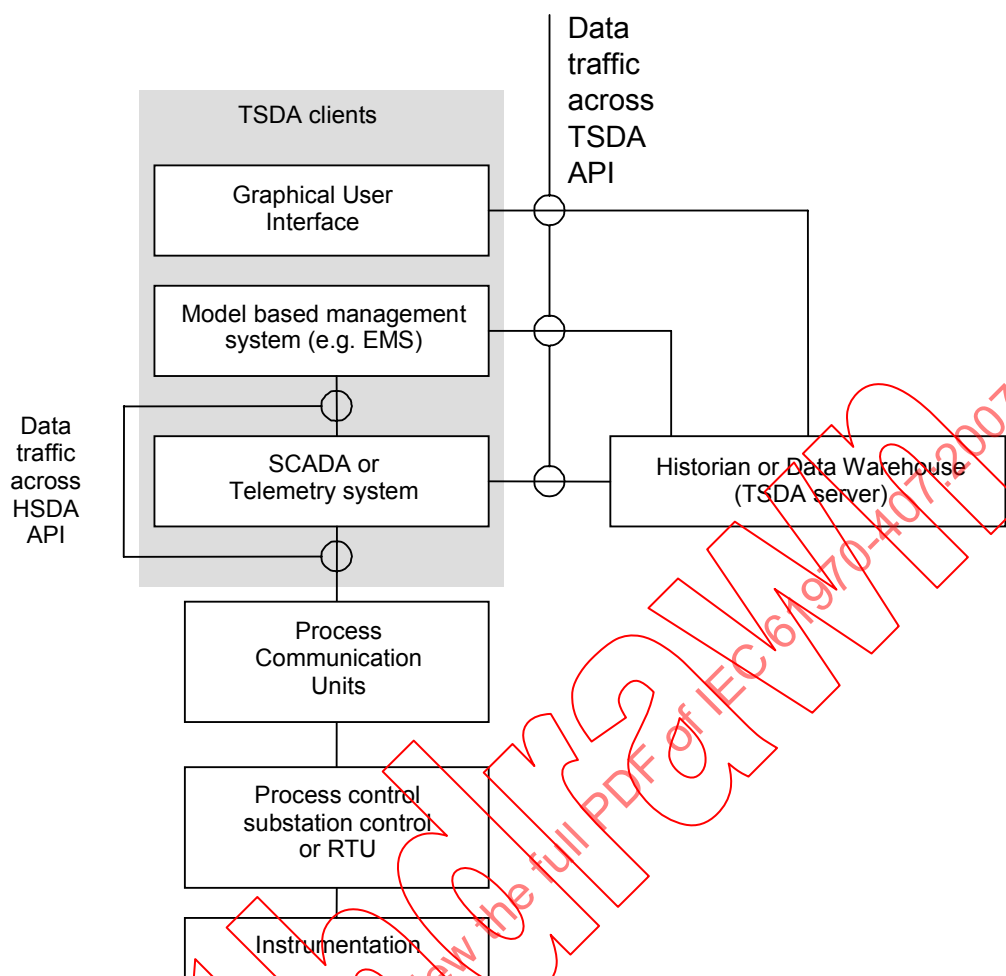
Interface Definition Language (IDL) has been developed. DAIS/HDAIS is based on OPC to benefit from the success of OPC and enable easy bridging to OPC. With this intent Object Management Group (OMG) started in 1997 to develop a CORBA based interface with the same functionality as OPC. TSDA has the functionality from OMG HDAIS and OPC HDA described in a technology neutral way, hence TSDA is intended to be a Platform Independent Model (PIM).

#### 4.2 Historian use case (informative)

An important component in a utility operational system is a Historian or Utility Data Warehouse (UDW) that acts as a repository for past or future time series data. A UDW acts as a server to client components. Such a system typically has the following components:

- Process instrumentation making sensor data and actuation capabilities available
- Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) or substation control systems reading sensor data and controlling actuators.
- Process communication units connecting to RTUs or substation control systems. Remote communication is typically solved by specialized RTU or field bus protocols (e.g. IEC 60870-5). The IEC 61850 is a new standard for communication with and within substations. The interfaces defined in this specification can be used as a standard API to encapsulate such communication solutions at the client side.
- SCADA subsystem making processed sensor data and control capabilities available to operators, applications or other systems.
- A Model based management system, for example Energy Management System (EMS), using the SCADA subsystem for extended processing and control.
- A Graphical User Interface (GUI).
- UDW that stores time series data.

The architecture is shown in Figure 1 below.



IEC 1334/07

**Figure 1 – Control system structure**

A UDW and possible clients using it are shown in Figure 2:

- Data sources recording data as the SCADA recording real time data, EMS recording calculation results or GUI recording manually entered data.
- A Process Communication Unit providing time series data from remote sources.
- Clients, for example a GUI, retrieving data for discovery, presentation and updates/corrections.
- Clients, for example analysis programs, retrieving data for analysis and or input to calculations
- A UDW typically also has calculations that create new results from already stored time series data.

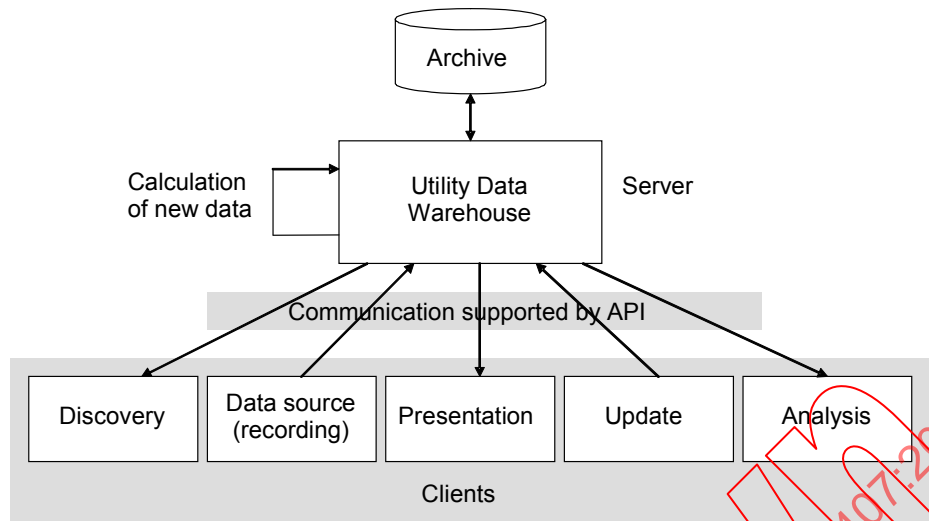


**Figure 2 – TSDA server and clients**

TSDA supports both subscription and read/write operations. The concept of subscription is described in Figure 3.

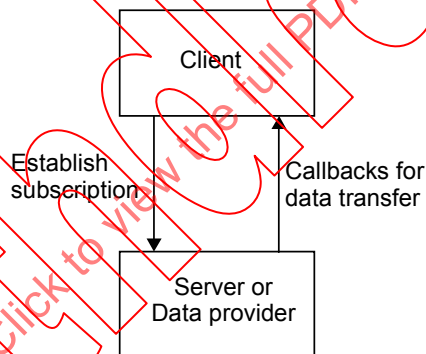
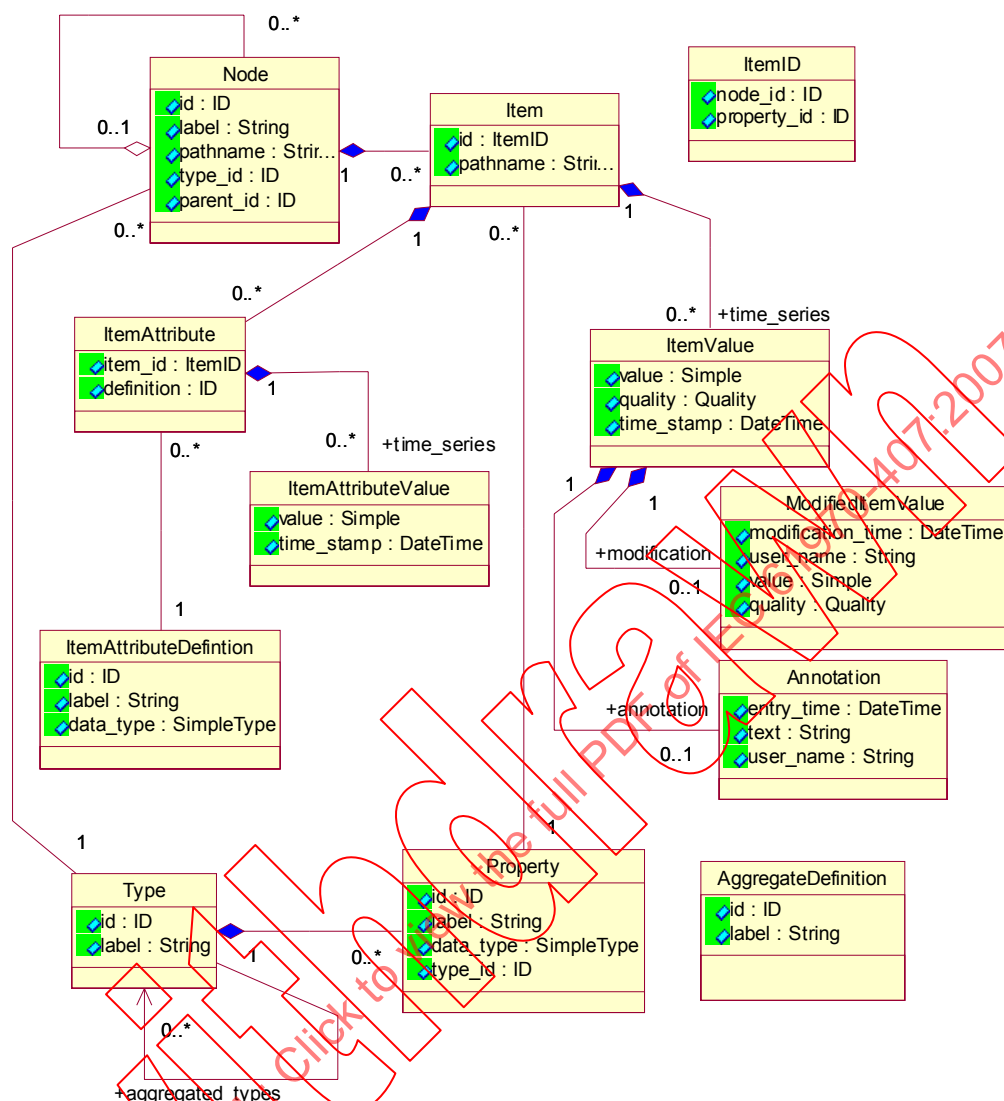


**Figure 3 – Data subscription**

A subscription involves a server that publishes data and clients that subscribe to receive the data. The server has no *a priori* knowledge of its clients; they become known to the server when a client creates a subscription. Once a subscription is established, the server calls the client back when data becomes available or is updated.

#### 4.3 Data model

The TSDA data model describes how data seen through the TSDA interface appears to be organized within a server. A server implementation may organize data differently, but a client using TSDA will see a data model as shown in Figure 4.



IEC 1337/07

**Figure 4 – TSDA data model**

The following objects are defined in the model:

- Type, which describes objects with the same time series characteristics, for example the time interval between values, calculations of values etc. Hence, the TSDA Type is different from the HSDA Type. The HSDA Types typically describe the types defined in IEC 61970-301 while the TSDA Type has no corresponding description in IEC 61970-301. However, a TSDA Type usually refers to a HSDA Type.
- Property, which describes the Items recorded as time series. A TSDA Property usually refers to a HSDA Property. A Type can have any number of Properties.
- ItemAttributeDefinition, which describes ItemAttributes specific to time series data. ItemAttributeDefinitions are similar to the Properties in that it describe time series data but different as the data is specific to the time series. Several ItemAttributeDefinitions usually exist for a Type.
- ItemAttribute, which describes how Items are treated within a TSDA server, i.e. it is meta data for Item time series. Hence ItemAttributes cannot be accessed using HSDA. As an

ItemAttribute may change over time it is a time series by itself, i.e. the ItemAttributeValues.

- Node, which is an object that has one or more Items recorded as time series. A TSDA Node typically has a corresponding HSDA Node.
- Item, which is an object that has one time series, i.e. the ItemValues. An Item has a number of ItemAttributes describing the time series.
- ItemValue, which is a time stamped and quality coded value. An Item has a time series consisting of ItemValues.
- ModifiedItemValue, which is a modification made to an ItemValue. As it is not allowed to alter an ItemValue changes are instead recorded by the ModifiedItemValue.
- Annotation is an annotation text that can be added to an ItemValue.
- AggregateDefinition, which describes calculations that can be used on time series data, for example mean value, max value etc.

The following UML attributes and references related to identification:

- Type.id, Property.id, Node.id, ItemAttributeDefinition.id and AggregateDefinition.id are system unique identification codes of type ID. The ID type is a string or number with a range sufficient to enable globally unique identifiers. However, the id is not required to be globally unique. The id is intended for use by machines.
- Item.id of type ItemID is a system-unique Item identification that consists of the ItemID.node\_id that refer to a Node and the ItemID.property\_id that refers to a Property. The Item.id is intended for use by machines.
- Type.label, Property.label, Node.label, ItemAttributeDefinition.label and AggregateDefinition.label are human readable names. The Type.label or Property.label uniquely identifies a Type or Property. A Node.label is unique only among the Nodes that are children of the same parent Node. The label is intended for use by humans.
- Node.pathname is a name unique within a system. It consists of all labels from the Node in question to the root. This is the same idea as for a file path. The exact layout of the Node.pathname is platform and implementation specific. However, it is suggested that whenever possible an implementation shall use existing standards, for example XPath from W3C. The pathname is intended for use by humans.
- Item.pathname is a name unique within a system. It consists of all names from the Node in question to the root and ends with the Property.label for the Property describing the Item. The exact layout of the Item.pathname is platform and implementation specific. However, it is suggested that whenever possible, an implementation shall use existing standards, for example XPath from W3C. The pathname is intended for use by humans.

The following UML references related to associations:

- Type.aggregated\_types enumerates the IDs of the Type of Nodes that may be children to a Node of this Type. This is used to restrict what Type of Nodes may appear as children to other Nodes in the Node hierarchy, for example, if a Node of Type Substation may contain Nodes of Type Bay or Measurement, Type.aggregated\_types enumerates the Types Substation and Measurement.
- Property.type\_id refers to the Type a Property belongs to. It implements the Property.type reference.
- Node.type\_id is the Type.id of the Type that a Node has.
- Node.parent\_id refers to a parent Node, if it exists. It creates a hierarchical structure of Nodes that is the basis for creation of the pathnames from the labels in the path to the root Node.
- ItemID.node\_id refers to the Node that the Item belongs to.
- ItemID.property\_id refers to the Property that the Item represents.
- Item.time\_series is a sequence of ItemValues representing the actual time series.

- ItemValue.modification holds a possible modification the ItemValue.
- ItemValue.annotation holds a possible annotation to the ItemValue.
- ItemAttribute.item\_id and ItemAttribute.definition refer to an Item and an Item AttributeDefinition.
- ItemAttribute.time\_series is a sequence of ItemAttributeValues representing the actual time series.

The following UML attributes holding data:

- Property.data\_type describes the Item.value data type, for example, any string, number, boolean, etc.
- ItemAttributeDefinition.data\_type describes the ItemAttribute.value data type, for example, any string, number, boolean, etc.
- ItemValue.value is a value of the data type Property.data\_type. The data type Simple is any type not divisible into sub types, for example any type of number, string or boolean.
- ItemValue.quality is the Quality code of the ItemValue.value. The Quality code tells if the ItemValue.value is valid and if not valid it supplies the reason why the ItemValue.value is invalid. The default Quality code is "Good", i.e. a ItemValue.value that has no particular Quality code associated with it will always appear as "Good" seen through the HSDA interface. A large number specifications defining Quality codes exists, for example RTU protocols, ICCP, ELCOM, OPC DA, OMG DAIS DA etc. This specification does not specify a unified Quality code system, but relies on the Quality codes defined in OMG DAIS DA.
- ItemValue.time\_stamp is the time when the ItemValue.value was last updated. If no time has been assigned to an ItemValue.value, the Item.time\_stamp is left unspecified. For configuration parameters, if available, the time when the ItemValue.value was entered or updated may be used as ItemValue.time\_stamp.
- ItemAttributeValue.value is a value of the data type ItemAttributeDefinition.data\_type. The data type Simple is any type not divisible into sub types, for example any type of number, string or boolean.
- ItemAttributeValue.time\_stamp is the same as ItemValue.time\_stamp.

#### 4.4 Messages (normative)

The payload in the time series messages between the server and the clients (both directions) consists of:

- An Item identification that uniquely identifies the Item (the Item.id in Figure 4) within the server.
- Time stamped values where each value consists of
  - A data value (the ItemValue.value in Figure 4).
  - The quality (the ItemValue.quality in Figure 4) of the data value, i.e. if the value is reliable. If the value is bad, the quality also indicates the reason why the value is bad. The default quality code is "Good", i.e. the value is valid.
  - A time stamp (the Item.time\_stamp in Figure 4) that indicates when the item value was recorded for past values or the planned time for a future value.

Messages from clients to the server may also contain additional information if a time stamped value shall replace an already existing value, i.e. a ModifiedItemValue shall be created.

#### 4.5 Interface (normative)

##### 4.5.1 Objects and interfaces

The TSDA interfaces, objects and their relations are shown in Figure 5.

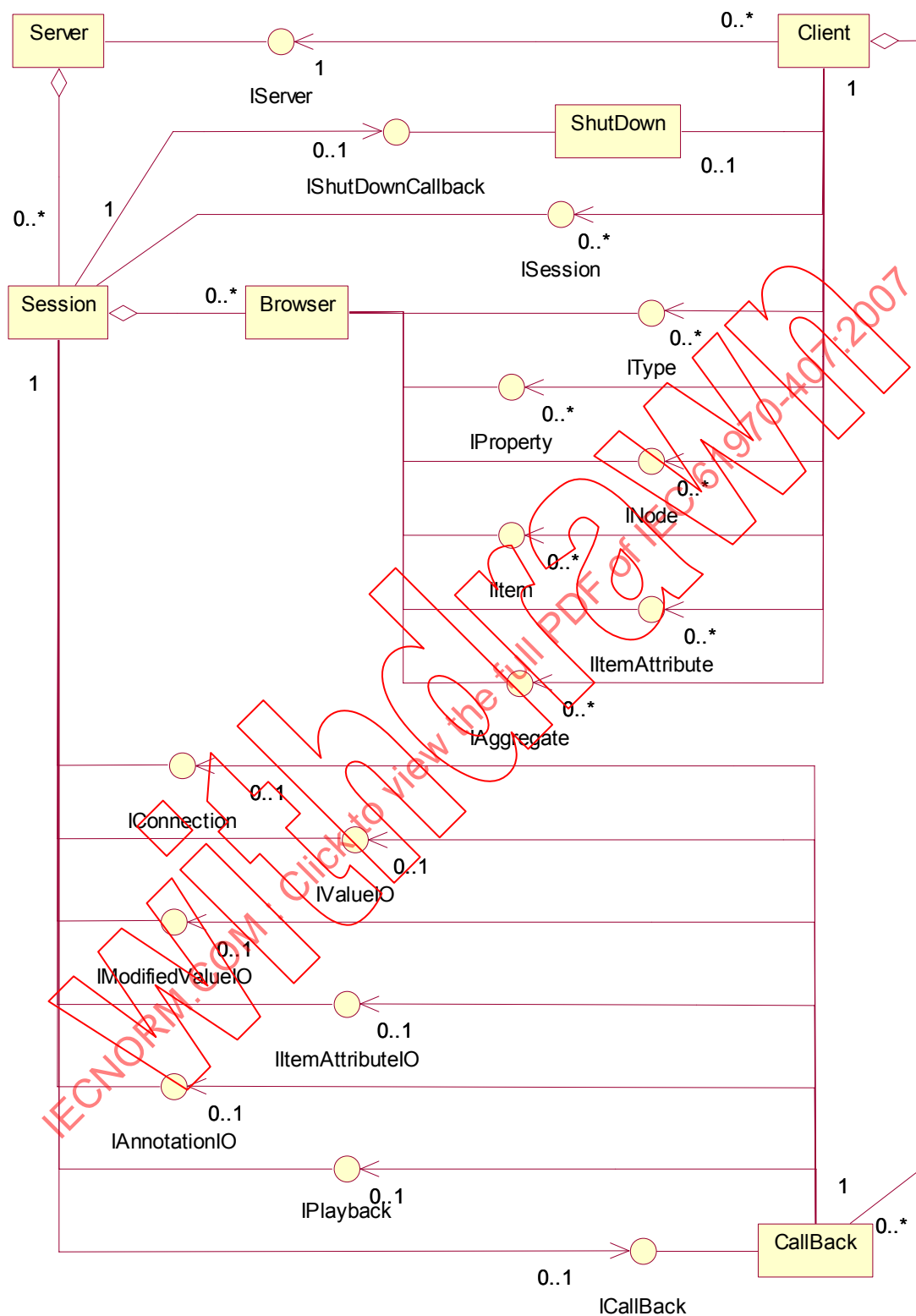


Figure 5 – TSDA objects and interfaces

Figure 5 indicates the objects and the interfaces a HSDA server and client implements. The diagram uses the UML 1 notation where interfaces are shown as small circles attached with a line to the class implementing the interface. Interface names also have an initial upper case "I".

The TSDA interfaces are divided in the groups:

- Browse, which is used for discovery of data. The Browse interfaces are located at the Browser object.
- Data access, which is used to actually access the data. The Data access interfaces are located at the Session object.
- Management, which is used to manage the connection between the Server and a Client.
- Call back, which is used by the Server to deliver data to the Clients

Configuration of the data objects within the server hosting the data is outside the scope of this part of IEC 61970.

The Server is an object that implements the IServer interface and may have any number of Clients using it. The Server object has a number of Session objects. Also note that the Server and Session objects may be combined into one object as in OPC HDA.

The Session object has a number of interfaces:

- ISession, which is used to manage the session.
- IConnection, which is used to manage the connection between a Client and the Server.
- IValueIO, which is used to access Item time series data. In this interface modifications, if present, override the original recorded values.
- IModifiedValueIO, which is used to read old ItemValues as they were before a modification.
- IItemAttributeIO, which is used to access the ItemAttribute time series data.
- IAnnotationIO, which is used to access ItemValue Annotations.
- IPlayBack, which is used to replay recorded data in simulated time.

The Session object may also have Browser objects having the following interfaces:

- IType is a browser that is used to find meta-data about the Node data objects implemented by the TSDA server.
- IProperty is a browser that is used to find meta-data about the Item data implemented by the TSDA server.
- INode browser, which is used to find Node data objects that have been instantiated within the TSDA server.
- IItem browser, which is used to find Items that exist for an Node object.
- IItemAttribute browser, which is used to find the ItemAttributeDefinitions describing the ItemAttributeValues time series data.
- IAggregate browser that is used to get the AggregateDefintions that exists.

The Callback object implements the ICallback interface and is implemented by the Client.. Each Session object may have an associated Callback object. A Client may create any number of Session and associated Callback objects.

A typical interaction sequence between a DA Server and a Client is shown in Figure 6.

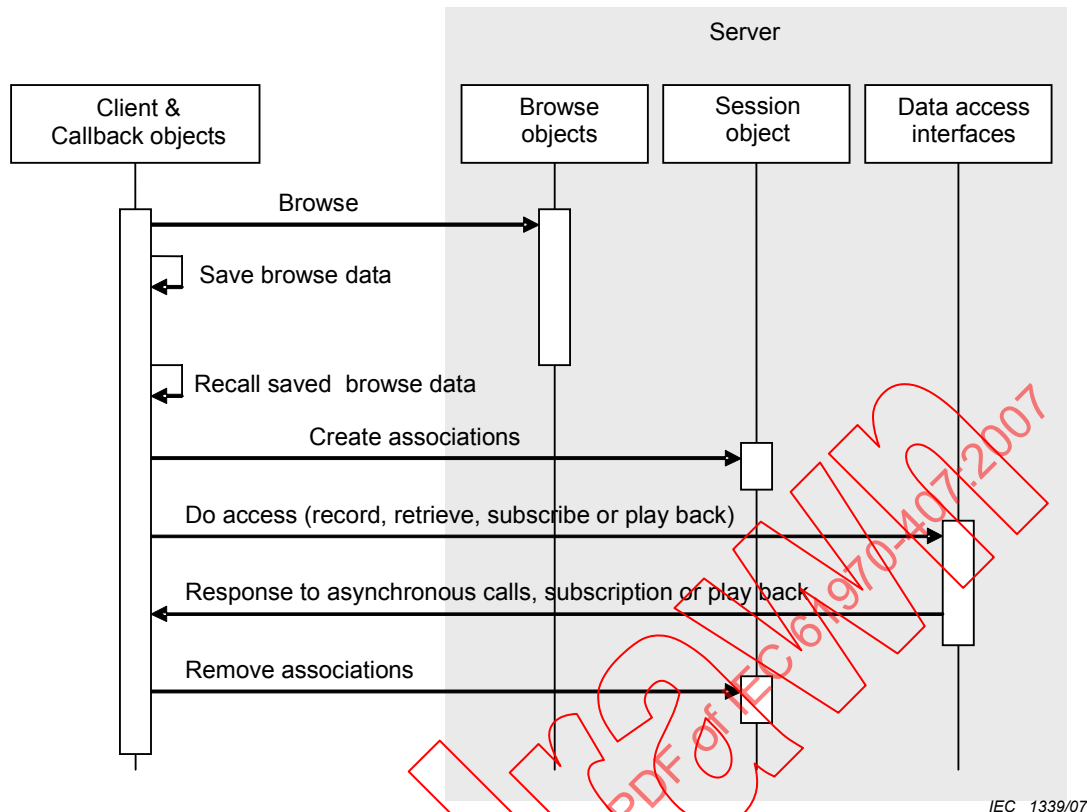


**Figure 6 – Typical Interaction between the TSDA objects**

A Client will typically start to browse the server to find out what time series data is available. The browse interfaces (IType, IProperty, INode, IItem, IItemAttribute and IAggregate) are used for this. The Client selects a subset of the Items found when browsing and saves them for later use. The Client that does the browse can be an editor for display building, dialog building or data base generation.

At a later time, for example, at picture call up, the saved Items will be recalled and used by the Client to populate the Session object. When a Session object has been created, it can be used to read, write or subscribe for data. A subscription or asynchronous read or write call results in a callback. For a subscription, the call backs will continue until the Client terminates them.

#### 4.5.2 Server and Session interfaces

The IServer interface has the following attributes and methods:

- A read only attribute describing the Server status, for example, server health, start-time, current time, vendor information etc.
- create\_historical\_data\_access\_session(), which is used to create a Session object.
- create\_historical\_data\_access\_session\_for\_view(), which is used to create a Session object. This method can be used if a server supports multiple hierarchies. Each hierarchy then corresponds to a view.
- find\_views(), which returns the views that are supported by the server.
- A read only attribute, which gives the functions supported by the interface.
- create\_historical\_data\_access\_session()
- A read only attribute, which gives the maximum number of time series values (ItemValues) that the server may return.

- A read only attribute Server status, which gives the status of the Server, for example, vendor info, time when started, current time etc.
- A read only attribute, which gives the functions supported by the interface.

The Session object implements the ITSDASession interface that has the following attributes and methods:

- A read only status attribute that gives the status of the Session, for example, name, time when started, current time and number of groups.
- An attribute holding the optional ShutDown object.
- create\_browser(), which is used to create a Browse object.

#### 4.5.3 Management interfaces

The Session object also implements the IConnection interface that has the following attributes and methods:

- An attribute having the Callback object created by the Client.
- create(), which is a method used to populate the Session with Items.
- remove(), which is a method used to remove Items from the Session.
- validate(), which is a method used to validate if Items exists.
- cancel(), which is a method to cancel ongoing asynchronous calls.

#### 4.5.4 Browse interfaces

The Browse object implements the following attributes and interfaces:

- An attribute browse\_base\_time, which is used by the client to set the base time for the browse. The browser use this time to locate objects that are was defined at this time. This is useful to retrieve objects deleted objects that existed in past times. This also implies that a server shall also keep the history for deleted objects. If no base time is provided, current time is used.
- IType browser.
- IProperty browser.
- INode browser.
- IItem browser.
- IItemAttribute browser.
- IAggregate browser.

The INode and IItem interfaces have the following methods:

- find(), which returns more information about one Node or Item specified by it's id's.
- find\_each(), which returns more information about a number of Nodes or Items specified by their id's.
- find\_by\_parent(), which returns all children for a parent with a specified id.
- find\_by\_type() which, recursively returns all children with a given Type.id for a parent with a specified id.
- get\_pathnames(), which translates a number of pathnames to the corresponding id's.
- get\_ids(), which translates a number of id's to pathnames.

The IType interface has the following methods:

- find(), which returns more information about a Type specified by its id.
- find\_by\_schema(), which returns the Type.id's for all Types that belong to a schema specified by a given id.

The IProperty interface has the following methods:

- find(), which returns more information about a number of Properties specified by their id's.
- find\_by\_node(), which returns all Properties for a Node with a specified id.
- find\_by\_type(), which returns all Properties for a Type with a specified id.

The IItemAttribute and IAggregate interfaces has the following methods and data:

- find(), which returns more information about an object specified by its id.
- find\_all(), which returns information about all objects.
- A definition of all object identifications (ItemAttribute and Aggregate IDs) that exist.

#### 4.5.5 IO interfaces

The IO interfaces supports the following functions:

- Synchronous read and write.
- Asynchronous read and write.
- Subscription.
- Play back.

The IO interfaces are:

- IValueIO.
- IModifiedValueIO.
- IItemAttributeIO.
- IAnnotationIO.
- IPlayback.

The IValueIO synchronous interface has the following methods:

- sync\_read\_raw(), which is used to synchronously read data as recorded or updated in a specified time interval.
- sync\_read\_processed(), which is used to synchronously read data using an Aggregate calculation in a specified time interval.
- sync\_read\_at\_time(), which is used to synchronously read data at a number of specified times.
- sync\_insert(), which is used to synchronously insert new time series data values (i.e. ItemValues).
- sync\_replace(), which is used to synchronously replace existing time series data values (i.e. ItemValues).
- sync\_insert\_replace(), which is used to synchronously replace existing time series data values (i.e. ItemValues) or if a value does not exist insert it as new.
- sync\_delete\_raw(), which is used to synchronously delete recorded data in a specified time interval.