

# **Envoy Connect XIPC Connector**

Version 3.4.0

# **Envoy Connect XIPC Technical Notes**

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#### 1. THE X+IPC IDLE USER DETECTION MECHANISM

# 1.1 Background

Computer applications operating in the context of client/server architecture typically require that the client and server components be kept abreast of each other's respective status. A primary motivation for this requirement is to allow the server program to recycle server resources whenever a participating client "goes away."

While this requirement is most evident within *networked* applications (i.e., where clients and servers are physically separated by a network), it is similarly a concern in situations where the processes are operating on a *single* platform. Nevertheless, the penalties for not addressing this requirement properly within a distributed environment are more severe than within a stand-alone environment and, if left unaddressed, such distributed applications can exhibit one or both of the following problems:

	Net	work	sessions	are kent	onen	after	the an	nlica	tion's	need	for	them	has	ended	
_	1101	WOIK	303310113	are Kept	Open	arter	mc ap	prica	uons	nccu	101	uiciii	mas	ciiaca	٠

☐ Server operating system processes and other resources are held onto after they are no longer needed.

Distributed applications involving "not so intelligent" client platforms (e.g., MS/Windows), are particularly susceptible to this problem. Over time, as network and operating resources are consumed, and left idle, such a problem can bring a distributed application to its knees.

# 1.2 The X+IPC Specific Problem

This problem can manifest itself when working with XIPC in that it is possible for XIPC user programs to hold network, operating system and XIPC instance resources following ungraceful user program termination.

An example of this within a network environment is when a user of an XIPC -based distributed application "powers down" an MS/Windows machine without first exiting the applications being run (i.e., without first logging out of the XIPC instances being used by the application). This *modus operandi* is more often the rule than the exception. The result, within an XIPC network environment, is that not all XIPC, system and network resources are released.

#### 1.3 The X+IPC Solution: The Idle User Detection Mechanism

The XIPC Idle User Detection Mechanism makes it possible for XIPC to automatically monitor and detect *idle users* within an instance and to cause the release of any resources held by such users. In order for XIPC users within an instance to be subject to such monitoring and to potential resource recovery, two prerequisites must be satisfied:

☐ The instance involved must be actively monitored against idle user activity, and

☐ Each instance user must explicitly request that it be monitored against idle activity within that instance.

If *either* of these conditions is not met, then users will not be subject to any form of idle usage monitoring. This provides maximum flexibility from both the user program and the instance perspective for controlling the operation of the idle user detection mechanism.

# 1.4 Configuration and Programming Concepts

Operation of the idle-user detection mechanism is controlled by two components: the xipcidld daemon program and the XipcIdleWatch () function call.

#### 1.4.1 THE XIPCIDLD DAEMON PROGRAM

The xipcidld daemon program is used for monitoring user activity within an XIPC instance so as to detect the presence of idle users within that instance. Resources held by such users are forcibly recovered. A user is determined to be idle within an instance when it has not executed an XIPC operation against the instance, over a certain period of time. This time period is referred to as the idle-interval of that instance. Each instance is assigned its own idle-interval value.

# 1.4.1.1 Starting XIPCIDLD

The xipcidld daemon is started on the platform that serves the instance via the xipcinit command.

# 1.4.1.2 Stopping XIPCIDLD

The xipcidld daemon is stopped via the xipcterm command.

# 1.4.1.3 Registering an Instance

The [IDLE\_USER] section must be defined in the configuration file if the instance is to be monitored with xipcidld at xipcstart. If [IDLE\_USER] is not defined, the instance will not be monitored.

The [IDLE\_USER] section may specify values for any of the following parameters; if the parameter is omitted, its default value is used:

Parameter	Description	<b>Default Value</b>
INTERVAL	How often an instance should be monitored for 30m	
	idle users, such as 30m, 30s, 10h.	
LOGFILENAM	The name of a file to log idle information for	No log
E	that instance.	
ACTION	The action the xipcidld should take when a	ABORT
	user is found to be idle.	
	The options are: NOACTION, ABORT and	
	UserDefinedExitProgram.	

It is possible with the current version of XIPC to monitor multiple XIPC instances on a single platform. (Previously, only a single instance per platform could be specified in the xipc.env file for idle user monitoring; this option is still supported for backward compatibility.)

# 1.4.2 THE XIPCIDLEWATCH() FUNCTION

By default, users logging into an XIPC instance that is monitoring against idle users, are not subject to the monitoring. Users wishing to have their activity within the instance monitored must notify that instance of such desire. This is accomplished via the XipcIdleWatch() function call, which is fully defined in the the XIPC Reference Manual.

The XipcIdleWatch () function call can be used to toggle the user's state within an instance - between being watched and not being watched. It is additionally possible for a user to notify an instance that it is *still alive* even though it has not recently performed XHPC operations within the instance. This too is accomplished using the XipcIdleWatch() function.

The XipcIdleWatch() function takes one argument, WatchOption, that can have one of three values:

- ☐ The XIPC\_IDLEWATCH\_START value notifies the instance to start monitoring the calling user as part of the instance's idle user detection activity.
- ☐ The XIPC\_IDLEWATCH\_STOP value notifies the instance to stop monitoring the calling user as part of the instance's idle user detection activity.
- ☐ The XIPC\_IDLEWATCH\_MARK argument value notifies the instance that the calling user is still alive. Calling XipcIdleWatch() with this option is a means of issuing a "heartbeat" to the instance. This saves the user from detection during the current idle-period cycle. Another way of viewing this option is as if the user is executing a null XIPC operation within the instance.

All calls to XipcIdleWatch() are ignored if the instance is not currently watching for idle users.

# 1.5 Log Files

General xipcidld information and any general errors are logged to the xipcidld.log file. This file is located within the XIPC platform log directory. (See the XIPC User Guide, section 3.4.)

Specific log errors for an instance are logged to the user-specified log file, if specified. Note that if multiple instances are being monitored, each instance should have a different log file.

# 1.6 An Example of Using the X+IPC Idle User Detection Mechanism

### 1.6.1 STARTING xipcidld

xipcidld is one of the default processes started by xipcinit. Refer to the XIPC Reference Manual for a discussion of how to start the XIPC platform without xipcidld. The .cfg file of the instance to be monitored must contain an [IDLE\_USER] section. If the default parameter values are not to be used, then parameter values for monitoring the instance must be specified in this section. If the default parameter values are to be used, the [IDLE\_USER] section can be left empty.

### 1.6.2 SAMPLE USER PROGRAM

The following sample user program demonstrates the usage of the XipcIdleWatch() function for controlling the user's susceptibility to being monitored:

```
#include <xipc.h>
VOID
main()
    * Login to the "example" instance. By default, the user will initially
     * not be susceptible to the instance's idle-user monitoring.
    XipcLogin("@example", ...);
    . . .
    * Start to be monitored.
    XipcIdleWatch(XIPC IDLEWATCH START);
    * It's been some time since executing an XIPC operation against the
     * "example" instance. Let it know that I'm still alive.
     XipcIdleWatch(XIPC IDLEWATCH MARK);
     * Stop being monitored.
     XipcIdleWatch(XIPC IDLEWATCH STOP);
    XipcLogout ();
}
```

# 1.7 Summary of Idle User Enhancements in X+IPC Version 3.X

• The parameter MAX\_INSTANCES can now be included in the [xipcidld] section of the xipc.env file. This specifies the maximum number of instances that may be simultaneously monitored for idle users. The default value is 10.

- ♦ The xipcidld is now started as one of the default daemon/service programs by XIPCINIT.
- ♦ It is now possible to monitor multiple XPC instances on a single platform. Previously, only a single instance per platform could be specified for idle user monitoring; this option is still supported for backward compatibility. Each instance must have an [IDLE\_USER] section in its .cfg file, indicating to the xipcidld daemon program that the instance is to be monitored for idle users.
- ◆ The INSTANCENAME parameter of the [xipcidld] section of the xipc.env file no longer has a default value. (It had been the value of the XIPC environment variable.) The preferred way to specify idle user monitoring for an instance is to by including an [IDLE\_USER] section in the instance's .cfg file, rather than by specifying the instance name in the xipc.env file's [xipcidld] section.

# 2. USING I/O DESCRIPTORS FOR ASYNCHRONOUS OPERATIONS ON UNIX

# 2.1 X♦IPC Asynchronous Operations

A major advantage of developing multitasking and distributed applications using XPC is that it provides a rich set of asynchronous functionality. The benefits of such mechanisms are many, the most significant being that they allow an application's distributed processes to execute *concurrently* on a single multitasking platform as well as on multiple network nodes, thus leveraging the inherent parallelism provided by such environments.

A key step in the asynchronous execution of *XIPC* operations is that of *completion notification*. This is the step by which *XIPC* notifies a process of the completion of its asynchronous *XIPC* operations. On designated platforms, *XIPC* currently supports two completion notification methods.

# 2.2 Using Signals

As its default method, XIPC implements completion notification by means of the native operating system's process signaling and interrupt mechanism. XIPC signals the involved process that an asynchronous XIPC operation has completed. An internal XIPC signal handler, within the user process, responds by performing the completion activity indicated for that operation (e.g., execute a user-specified callback function). The user process then returns to whatever it was doing before being interrupted.

The problems with employing signals for this purpose are the following:

Ш	It is inherently difficult to program an application that may be interrupted by an operating
	system signal at almost any point in time. This is particularly true when working within a
	windowing environment such as X-Windows. Such environments are generally ill-behaved when user signaling is present.
	Many operating systems provide a means for waiting on multiple I/O related events where

Many operating systems provide a means for waiting on multiple I/O related events, where each of the involved events is related to an open I/O descriptor. Employing signals as the method of XIPC asynchronous notification precludes the possibility of multiplexing XIPC events with operating system events. This essentially forces the developer who needs to block concurrently on I/O events and XIPC events to do so separately, and in incompatible ways.

# 2.3 Using I/O Descriptors

XIPC Version 3.0 uses a second and more generalized approach for XIPC asynchronous event notification, that of employing file system I/O descriptors. Using I/O descriptors for notifying a process of asynchronous XIPC events remedies the problems listed above. An explanation of the I/O descriptor approach follows.

The major difference between signal driven notification and I/O descriptor notification lies in how XHPC internally notifies a process that an asynchronous XHPC operation has completed. The I/O approach alerts the process by creating an I/O event on an I/O descriptor known to the process. Just how the process waits for and reacts to the I/O event (polling driven or interrupt driven) is left up to the application to decide.

An application can treat the XIPC async I/O descriptor as it does any other I/O descriptor. It can set it to be blocking or non-blocking. It can additionally multiplex it with other descriptors. This approach has the following advantages:

An application's ability to react to asynchronous activity need not be signal driven. Applications having this requirement can be coded to poll the XIPC asynchronous I/O descriptor at set (and safe) points within the application.

In addition, X-Windows applications can now be set to handle XIPC asynchronous events as non-X-ToolKit events. Specifically, the XtAddInput() or XtAppAddInput() Xt library functions can be called to add the XIPC I/O descriptor to the X-Window environment.

The XIPC Asynchronous I/O descriptor can be multiplexed with other I/O descriptors, so that waiting for XIPC and non-XIPC events can occur in a uniform manner.

# 2.4 Programming Concepts

Programming to use the XIPC I/O descriptor method involves the following:

- ☐ The XIPC\_SETOPT\_ASYNCFD option.
- ☐ The XipcAsyncIoDescriptor() function.
- ☐ The XipcAsyncEventHandler() function.

# 2.4.1 THE XIPC\_SETOPT\_ASYNCFD OPTION

The default asynchronous mechanism used by XIPC is the signaling method described above. Using the XIPC\_SETOPT\_ASYNCFD option directs XIPC to use the I/O descriptor method instead. This option *must* be set before the process issues a call to the XipcLogin() API. Otherwise, the default (i.e., signal) approach is used.

# 2.4.2 THE XipcAsyncloDescriptor() FUNCTION

A process that is using the I/O descriptor approach for handling its asynchronous XIPC activity will inevitably need the value of the I/O descriptor being used. This value is returned by the XipcAsyncIoDescriptor() function call.

# 2.4.3 THE XipcAsyncEventHandler() FUNCTION

When a data-available event is sensed on the XIPC I/O descriptor, an application must invoke the XipcAsyncEventHandler() function for actually processing the completed XIPC operations. It is within this function that XIPC executes the user-specified reaction to the operation's completion (e.g., execute a user-specified callback function).

# 2.5 Using Private Queues in a Threaded Application

Private queues should be used in threaded applications so that:

◆ UNIX IPC queues will not fill up.

♦ Threads will not receive incorrect ACBs.

# 2.6 Examples

The following examples outline the programming steps necessary when using the I/O descriptor method of asynchronous operation notification.

#### 2.6.1 AN EXAMPLE OF POLLING USING THE X+IPC I/O DESCRIPTOR

The following program outline demonstrates how to poll the XIPC asynchronous I/O descriptor.

```
VOID
main()
    ASYNCRESULT Acb;
XINT xipcfd;
VOID GotMessage();
     ^{\star} Add XIPCASYNCIO to environment. It can be set to
     ^{\star} any non-NULL value.
XipcSetOpt(XIPC SETOPT ASYNCFD)
     * Login to an XIPC instance.
    XipcLogin( ..., ... );
     * Get the XIPC aysnc I/O descriptor.
    xipcfd = XipcAsyncIoDescriptor();
     ^{\star} Issue an asynchronous XIPC operation. This example uses the
     * CALLBACK option. The POST or IGNORE option could have been
     * used as well.
    QueReceive( ..., QUE CALLBACK(GotMessage, &Acb));
     * Wait for a data-available event on the I/O descriptor.
     ^{\star} This can be done either using the select() or poll()
     * system call. It can also involve other I/O descriptors.
    select() or poll() xipcfd;
     * An XIPC asynchronous operation has completed.
     * Process it.
```

```
XipcAsyncEventHandler();
...
...
}

VOID
GotMessage(Acb)
ASYNCRESULT *Acb;
{
   if (Acb->Api.QueReceive.RetCode >= 0)
       printf("Got message: %s\n", Acb->Api.QueReceive.MsgBuf);
}
```

#### 2.6.2 AN X-WINDOWS EXAMPLE USING THE X+IPC I/O DESCRIPTOR

The following program outline demonstrates how to use the *XIPC* asynchronous I/O descriptor within an X-Windows application.

```
VOID
main()
    ASYNCRESULT
                                Acb;
                                xipcfd;
    VOID
                                GotMessage();
    XtInputCallbackProc
                               MyXtCallBack();
     * Add XIPCASYNCIO to environment. It can be set to
     ^{\star} any non-NULL value.
XipcSetOpt(XIPC SETOPT ASYNCFD)
     * Login to an XIPC instance.
    XipcLogin( ..., ... );
     * Get the XIPC aysnc I/O descriptor.
    xipcfd = XipcAsyncIoDescriptor();
     * Register the xipcfd I/O descriptor with the X-ToolKit.
     * XtAppAddInput() could have been used as well.
     * The condition argument should be XtInputReadMask.
    XtAddInput(xipcfd, XtInputReadMask, MyXtCallBack, NULL);
     * Issue an asynchronous XIPC operation. This example uses the
     * CALLBACK option. The POST or IGNORE option could have been
     * used as well.
     */
    QueReceive( ..., QUE_CALLBACK(GotMessage, &Acb));
    /*
```

# 2.7 Manual Pages

The following pages describe the programming elements needed for using the I/O descriptor method of completion notification. These pages are also provided in the appropriate sections of the XIPC Reference Guide.

### 2.7.1 THE XIPCASYNCIO ENVIRONMENT VARIABLE

#### **NAME**

**XIPCASYNCIO** - The Asynchronous I/O Descriptor Environment Variable

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Setting the XIPCASYNCIO to any non-NULL value directs XIPC to establish the process's XIPC asynchronous notification mechanism to use an I/O descriptor instead of a signal. The environment variable must be set at the time that the process issues an XipcLogin() function call, in order for the environment variable to have its effect. Otherwise, the default (i.e. signal) mechanism is set up.

#### FUNCTIONS REFERENCING "XIPCASYNCIO"

XipcLogin(), XipcAsyncIoDescriptor(),
XipcAsyncEventHandler()

# 2.7.2 THE XIPCASYNCIODESCRIPTOR() FUNCTION

#### NAME

**XipcAsyncIoDescriptor()** - Access the Value of the XIPC Asynchronous I/O Descriptor

#### SYNTAX

```
#include "xipc.h"
```

XINT

XipcAsyncIoDescriptor()

#### **PARAMETERS**

None.

#### **RETURNS**

Value	Description
RC >= 0	Value of the XIPC asynchronous I/O descriptor.
RC < 0	Error (see error codes below).

#### **DESCRIPTION**

XipcAsyncIoDescriptor() returns the value of the I/O descriptor being used by XIPC for notifying the completion of asynchronous XIPC operations initiated by the calling process. This I/O descriptor is then typically used by the process for polling on, or for multiplexing along with, other I/O descriptors. Completion notification of an XIPC asynchronous operation is indicated as a data-available event on the I/O descriptor. The process should react by running the XipcAsyncEventHandler() function. This function processes the completing asynchronous XIPC operations.

The I/O descriptor may be integrated within an application's X-Window event loop environment. This is typically accomplished by passing the I/O descriptor to the XtAddInput() ot XtAppAddInput() Xt library function. The application must then be coded to call XipcAsyncEventHandler() at some point within the Xt callback function associated with the I/O event.

#### **ERRORS**

Code	Description
XIPC_ER_NOTLOGGEDIN	Process not logged into XIPC instance.
XIPC ER SYSERR	An internal error has occurred while processing the request.

# 2.7.3 THE XIPCASYNCEVENTHANDLER() FUNCTION

#### NAME

**XipcAsyncEventHandler()** - Process Completing XIPC Asynchronous Operations

#### SYNTAX

#include "xipc.h"

XINT

XipcAsyncEventHandler()

#### **PARAMETERS**

None.

#### RETURNS

Value	Description
RC >= 0	Success.
RC < 0	Error (see error codes below).

#### **DESCRIPTION**

XipcAsyncEventHandler() processes completing asynchronous XiPC operations and reads all data on the XiPC async I/O descriptor. The function should be executed when a process is notified that one of its asynchronous XiPC operations is complete. This generally occurs following the occurrence of a "data ready" event on the XiPC asynchronous I/O descriptor.

The call to XipcAsyncEventHandler() may be placed within the main-line logic, within a signal handler or within an X-Windows event handler.

Note that XipcAsyncEventHandler() blocks if called when there are no outstanding AEBs; therefore, don't call this function until the select() call returns, indicating "data ready." Refer to the previous X-Windows example for a program outline.

The XipcAsyncEventHandler() function should only be used when the process has chosen the I/O descriptor method of asynchronous notification by setting the XIPCASYNCIO environment variable.

#### **ERRORS**

Code	Description
XIPC_ER_NOTLOGGEDIN	Process not logged into XIPC isntance.
XIPC_ER_SYSERR	An internal error has occurred while processing the request.

# 3. USING EVENT OBJECTS FOR ASYNCHRONOUS OPERATIONS ON WIN32 PLATFORM

# 3.1 X+IPC Asynchronous Operations

A major advantage of developing multitasking and distributed applications using XIPC is that it provides a rich set of asynchronous functionality. The benefits of such mechanisms are many, the most significant being that they allow an application's distributed processes to execute *concurrently* on a single multitasking platform as well as on multiple network nodes, thus leveraging the inherent parallelism provided by such environments.

A key step in the asynchronous execution of  $X \neq PC$  operations is that of *completion notification*. This is the step by which  $X \neq PC$  notifies a process of the completion of its asynchronous  $X \neq PC$  operations.

# 3.2 Using Event Objects

XIPC introduces a generalized approach for XIPC asynchronous event notification—the use of Event Objects. An application can treat the XIPC async event object as it does any other Windows NT/Windows 2000 object. XIPC sets the event object to non-signaled when an XIPC function returns before the operation has completed. When the operation is completed, XIPC sets the state as signaled. The thread can detect the state of the object by specifying the handle of the event object returned by the XipcAsyncEventObject function in one of the following Windows NT/Windows 2000 functions: WaitForSingleObject or WaitForMultipleObjects.

The XIPC asynchronous notification event handle is maintained on a per-thread basis. A thread should call XipcAsyncEventHandler only when it finds its own event object in a signaled state. If a single thread wants to wait on event objects of different threads, it can do so, but it should notify the owner of the XIPC event by some other means of IPC so that the thread can call XipcAsyncEventHandler.

# 3.3 Programming Concepts

Programming to use the XIPC Event Object involves the following:

The XipcAsyncEventObject() function.

☐ The XipcAsyncEventHandler() function.

# 3.3.1 THE XipcAsyncEventObject() FUNCTION

A process that is using the event object approach for handling its asynchronous *XPC* activity will inevitably need the value of the event object being used. This value is returned by the XipcAsyncEventObject function call.

# 3.3.2 THE XipcAsyncEventHandler() FUNCTION

When a data-available event is sensed on the XIPC event object, an application must invoke the XipcAsyncEventHandler function for actually processing the completed XIPC operations. It is within this function that XIPC executes the user-specified reaction to the operation's completion (e.g., execute a user-specified callback function).

# 3.4 Examples

The following example outlines the programming steps necessary when using the Event Object method of asynchronous operation notification.

#### 3.4.1 AN EXAMPLE OF POLLING USING THE X+IPC EVENT OBJECTS

The following program outline demonstrates how to poll the XIPC asynchronous event object.

```
main()
    ASYNCRESULT
    HANDLE
                   hAsyncNotify;
    VOID
                    GotMessage();
     * Login to an XIPC instance.
    XipcLogin( ..., ... );
    /* Get the XIPC aysnc notification handle.*/
    hAsyncNotify = (HANDLE)XipcAsyncEventObject();
     * Issue an asynchronous XIPC operation. This example uses the
     * CALLBACK option. The POST or IGNORE option could have been
     * used as well.
    QueReceive( ..., QUE_CALLBACK(GotMessage, &Acb));
     * Wait for a data-available event.
     * Wait for either single objects or multiple objects ...
     WaitForSingleObject(hAsyncNotify, INFINITE);
     * An XIPC asynchronous operation has completed.
     * Process it.
     * /
    XipcAsyncEventHandler();
    . . .
}
```

```
VOID
GotMessage(Acb)
ASYNCRESULT *Acb;
{
    if (Acb->Api.QueReceive.RetCode >= 0)
        printf("Got message: %s\n", Acb->Api.QueReceive.MsgBuf);
}
```

# 3.5 Manual Pages

The following pages describe the programming elements needed for using the Event Object method of asynchronous completion notification. These pages are also provided in the appropriate sections of the XMPC Reference Guide.

# 3.5.1 THE XIPCASYNCEVENTOBJECT() FUNCTION

#### **NAME**

XipcAsyncEventObject () - Access the Handle of the XIPC Asynchronous Event Object

#### **SYNTAX**

```
#include "xipc.h"

HANDLE
XipcAsyncEventObject()
```

#### **PARAMETERS**

None.

#### **RETURNS**

Value	Description	
RC >= 0	Success	
RC < 0	Failure	

#### **DESCRIPTION**

XipcAsyncEventObject() returns the handle of the event object being used by XIPC for notifying the completion of asynchronous XIPC operations initiated by the calling process. This event object is then typically used by the process for polling on or for multiplexing along with other event objects.

#### **ERRORS**

Code	Description
XIPC_ER_NOTLOGGEDIN	Process not logged into XAPC instance.
XIPC_ER_SYSERR	An internal error has occurred while processing the request.

# 3.5.2 THE XIPCASYNCEVENTHANDLER() FUNCTION

#### **NAME**

XipcAsyncEventHandler() - Process Completing XIPC Asynchronous Operations

#### **SYNTAX**

```
#include "xipc.h"

XINT
XipcAsyncEventHandler()
```

#### **PARAMETERS**

None.

#### **RETURNS**

Value	Description
RC >= 0	Success.
RC < 0	Error (see error codes below).

#### **DESCRIPTION**

XipcAsyncEventHandler() processes completing asynchronous XiPC operations.

The function should be executed when a process has determined that one of its asynchronous XiPC operations is complete. This determination is typically accomplished via a prior call to WaitForSingleObject(), as described in the earlier polling example.

Note that XipcAsyncEventHandler() blocks if called when there are no outstanding AEBs; therefore, don't call this function until async operations are complete and ready to be handled.

#### **ERRORS**

Code	Description
XIPC_ER_NOTLOGGEDIN	Process not logged into XAPC instance.
XIPC_ER_SYSERR	An internal error has occurred while processing the request.