Retrieve a Complex Data Object from DLL using the Advanced Workflows DLL Action

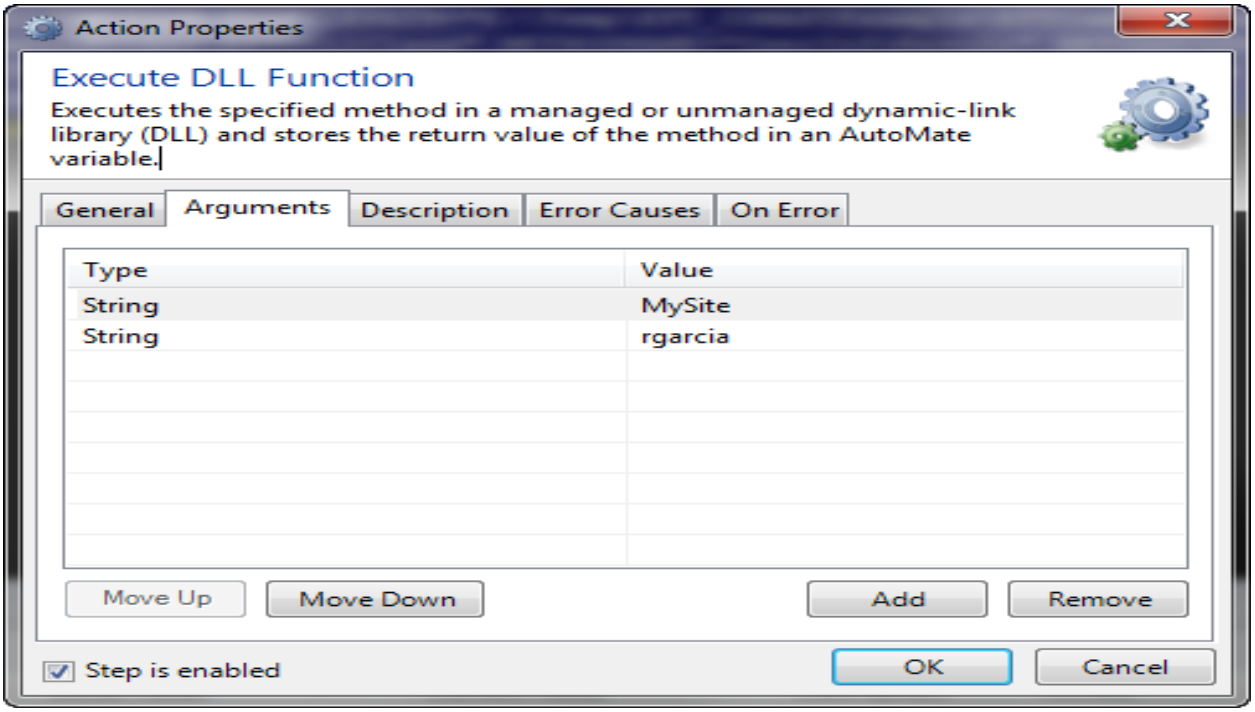
THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO:

- EFT version 7.0 and later

DISCUSSION

You can use Advanced Workflows to design scripts, batch files, macros, or any other code-intensive process using an easy drag-and-drop interface. AW actions allow you to create custom, complex interactions within EFT and use them in Event Rules.

One such action is the **Execute DLL Function** action. The **Execute DLL Function** action executes a specified method in a dynamic-link library (DLL) and stores the return value of the method in an AWE variable. The **Execute DLL Function** action only accepts simple data types as parameters. The purpose of this article is to show a sample C# class that allows the return of **complex data types**. Accompanying this article is a .NET C# example meant as a guide and template to create your own DLL. The DLL source provided demonstrates (as may be required) a simple example of a call to the SFTPCOM EFT Library which, given a Site name and a User name, returns a complex type (class) with the user name, home directory of that user, and an internal message. It is left as an exercise to extend and/or change this code to taste. The DLL Action is very versatile if you have your own managed or unmanaged DLL whose function signature is known.

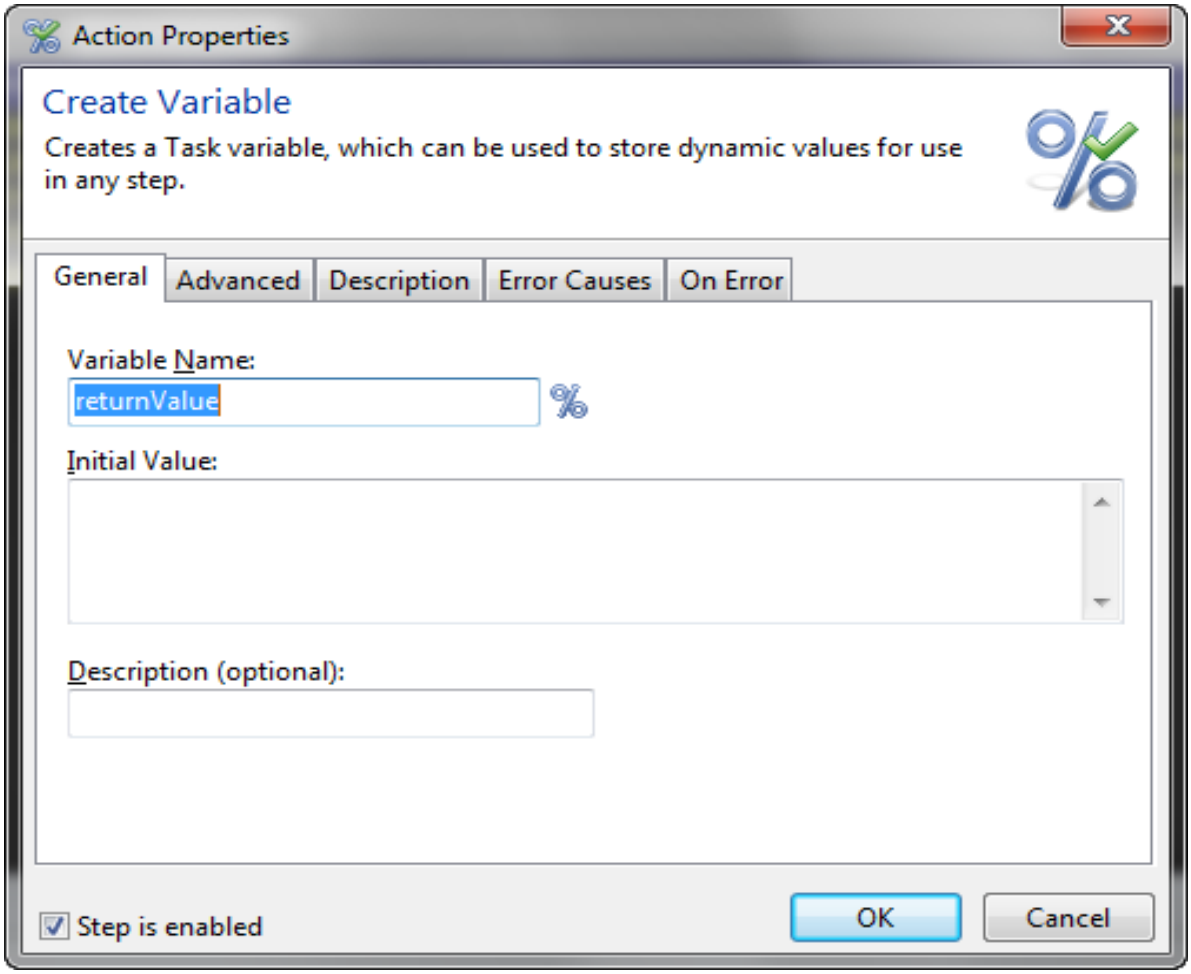


Retrieve a Complex Data Object from DLL using the Advanced Workflows DLL Action

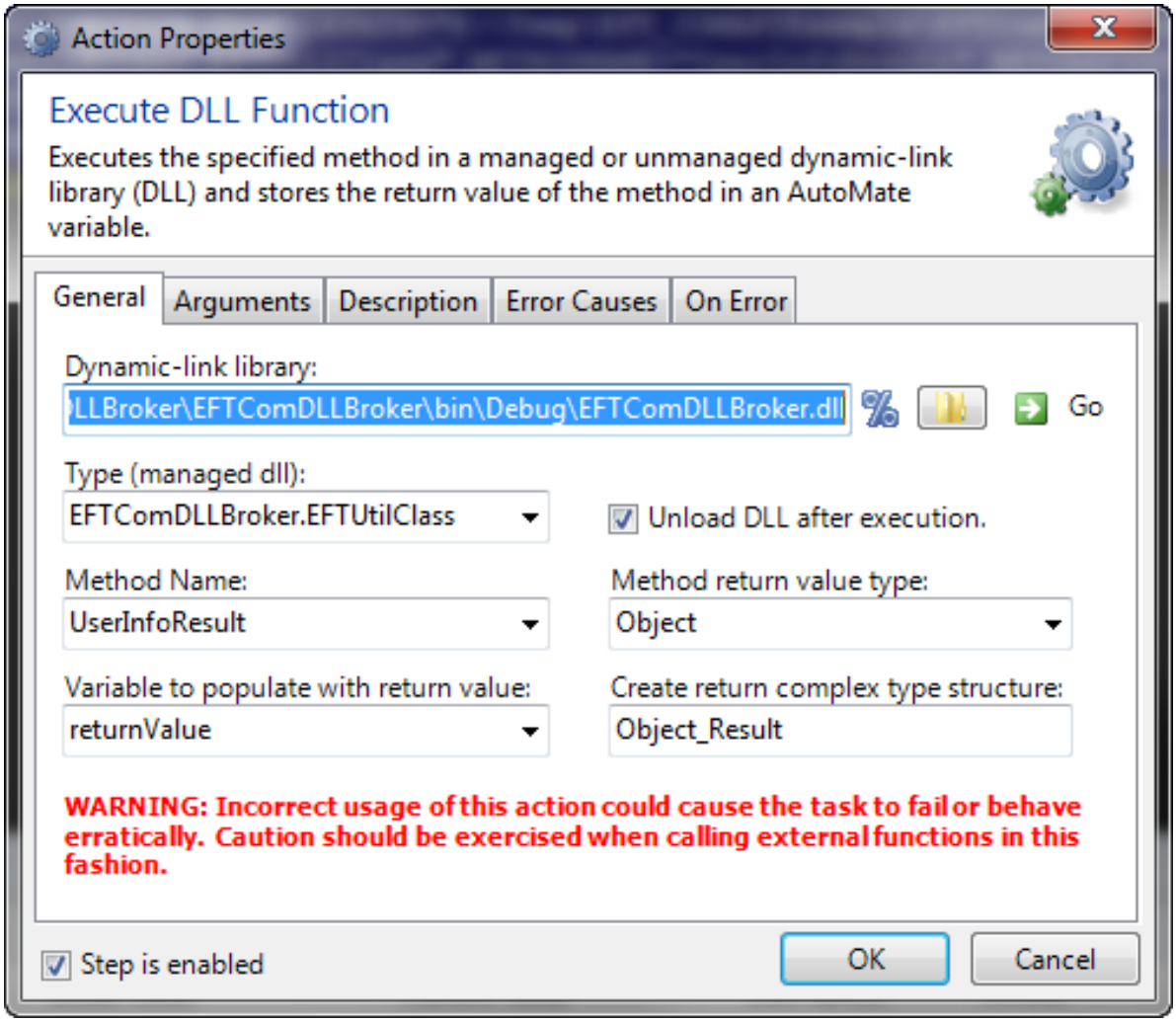
(After the procedure is example code and a ZIP with example files that you can download.)

To use the Execute DLL Function action

1. In the EFT administration interface, connect to EFT, and then click the **Server** tab.
2. In the left pane, click the **Advanced Workflow** node. The **Advanced Workflow** pane appears.
3. In the right pane, click **New**. The **Create a Workflow** dialog box appears.
4. In the **What do you want to call this workflow** box, specify a name for the workflow. When you add the workflow to Event Rules, the name you specify here appears in the Rule.
5. (Optional) Provide a description of the workflow, then click **OK**. The AWE interface appears.
6. First, you need to create a variable that will be populated with the return value. Expand the **Variables** node, then drag the **Create Variable** action to the Steps pane (or you can double-click it). The **Create Variable** dialog box appears.



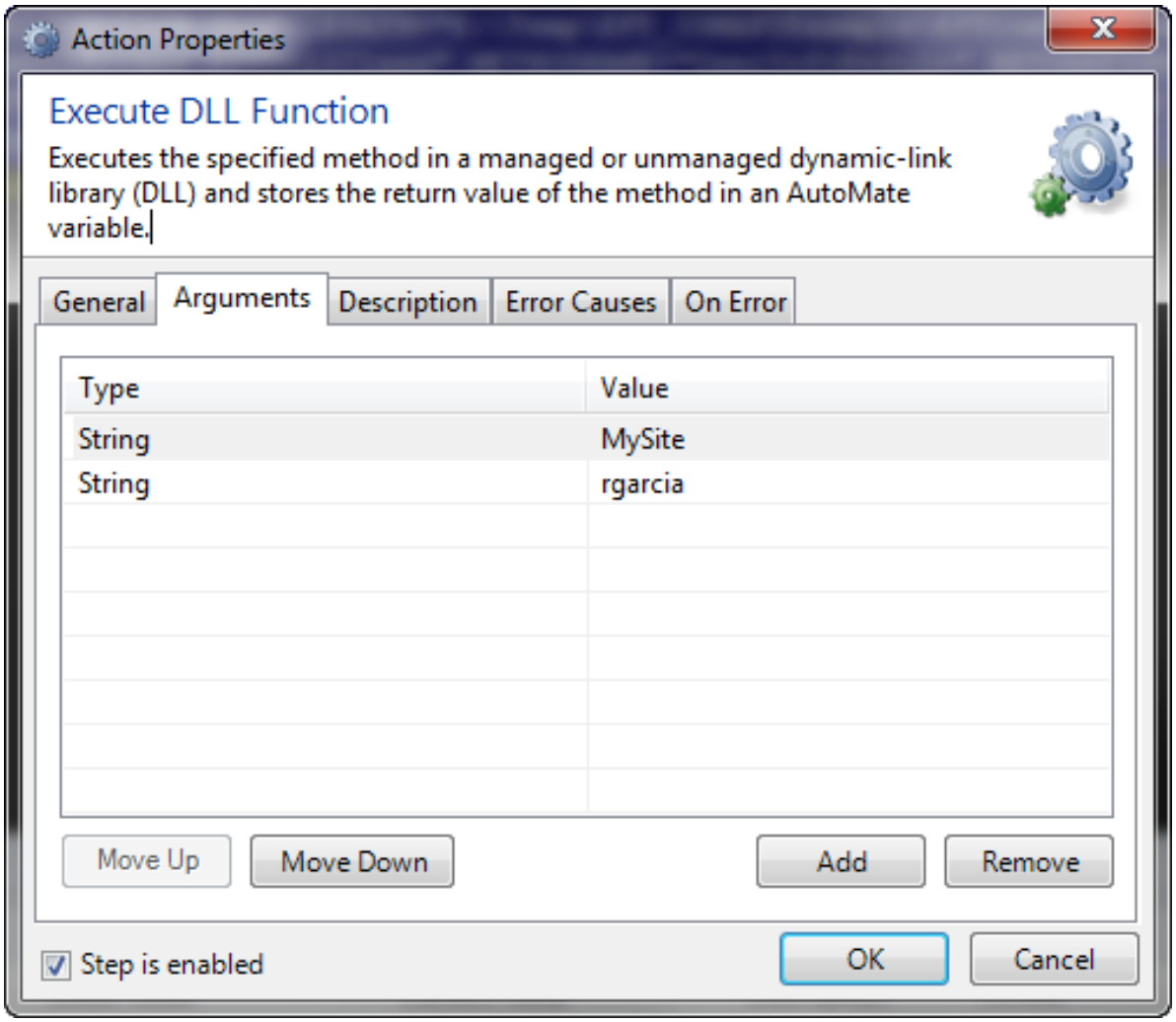
7. In the **Variable name** box, specify the **Variable Name** and its **Initial Value**, then click **OK**. You can create your own variable or use the Expression Builder to specify an EFT variable by clicking the percent sign %.
8. Expand the **Advanced** node and drag the **Execute DLL Function** action to the **Steps** pane. The **Execute DLL Function** dialog box appears.



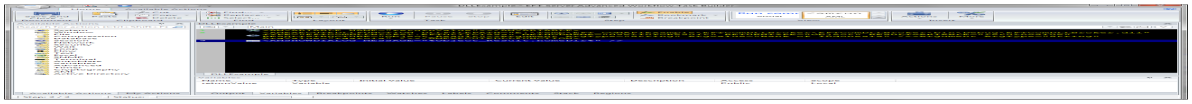
9. In the **Dynamic-link library** box, click the folder icon to specify the DLL file to use.
10. Clicking **Go** causes AWE to attempt to query available DLL types in the DLL you specified. (If it is currently being used by another process, AWE will not be able to query the DLL.) Upon a successful query, all discovered types will be populated into the **Type**, **Method Name**, and **Method return value type** fields, if applicable. Click the down arrow next to the **Type**, **Method Name**, and **Method return value type** box to display a list of values from which to select. If your DLL is a managed DLL, the **Type** box will allow you to specify the class that contains the available methods.
11. In the **Method Name** box, specify the DLL function you want to call. If you select a

class under the **Type** parameter, all discovered methods relating to that class will be populated into this field.

12. In the **Method return value type** box, select the type of data your function will return. Options include: Boolean, Byte, Char, Decimal, Double, Int16, Int32, Int64, SByte, Single, String, UInt16, UInt32, UTint64, **Object**, and Void.
13. In the **Variable to populate with return value** box, select the variable that will receive the return value of the function being called.
14. Click the **Arguments** tab and specify the data that will be passed to the function being called. Variables are allowed.



15. Click **OK** to save the action. (**Note:** On the **On Error** tab, you can specify what to do in case the action encounters an error, such as stop, retry 3 times, send e-mail, etc.)
16. Click **Run** to test your workflow.



17. Your workflow can now be added to an Event Rule.

.NET C# Code Example

```
using System;

using System.Collections.Generic;

using System.Linq;

using System.Text;

using SFTPCOMINTERFACELib;


namespace EFTComDLLBroker

{

publicclassUserInfoResult

{

publicstring user { get; set; }

publicstring homeDir { get; set; }

publicstring message { get; set; }

}


publicclassEFTUtilClass
```

```
{

publicstaticUserInfoResult UserInfoResult(string targetSite, string targetUser)

{

UserInfoResult result = newUserInfoResult();



CIServer m_server = newCIServer();

String serverNameOrAddress = "localhost";

int remoteAdminPort = 1100;

string mySiteName = "";



try

{

//User for Windows Authentication

m_server.ConnectEx(serverNameOrAddress, remoteAdminPort, AdminLoginType.IWALogin, "",
"");



//Use for Globalscape Administrative Authentication

//String username = "admin";

//String password = "password";

//m_server.Connect(serverNameOrAddress, remoteAdminPort, username, password);
```

```
}

catch (Exception e)

{

result.message = e.Message;

return result;

}


try

{

CISites sites = m_server.Sites();

if (sites.Count() > 0)

{

string siteName = targetSite;


CISite selectedSite = null;

for (int i = 0; i < sites.Count(); i++)

{

CISite site = sites.Item(i);

if (site.Name == siteName)
```

```
{
selectedSite = site;
mySiteName = site.Name;
break;
}
}

if (selectedSite != null)
{
try
{
CIClientSettings userSettings = selectedSite.GetUserSettings(targetUser);
if (userSettings != null)
{
string homeFolder = userSettings.GetHomeDirString();
result.user = targetUser;
result.message = "Success";
result.homeDir = homeFolder;
```

```
}
else
{
result.message = "User not Found!";
}
}
catch (Exception ex)
{
Console.WriteLine(string.Format("Could not configure user. Error: {0}", ex.Message));
result.message = ex.Message;
}

}
else
{
result.message = "Site not Found!";
}
}
```

```
}

catch (Exception e)

{

result.message = e.Message;

}

return result;

}

}

}
```

In the help for your version of EFT, refer to the following topics for more information:

- Creating Workflows for Use in Event Rules
- Create Variable Action
- Execute DLL Function Action

GlobalSCAPE Knowledge Base
https://kb.globalscape.com/Knowledgebase/11240/Retrieve-a-Complex-Data-Obje...