

TPF Toolkit Enhancements

2023 TPF Users Group Conference

April 24-26, Dallas, TX

Development Tools Subcommittee

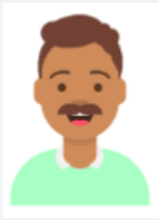
—

Gerry Strait

Disclaimer

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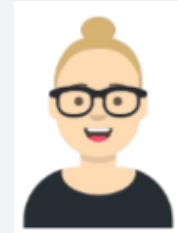
Personas



Jeremy

QA Manager

My role is ensuring product quality.



Christine

Security Admin

My role includes ensuring adherence to business security requirements.



Arthur

Toolkit Administrator

My role is to make TPF Toolkit available for install, get fix packs from IBM, create customizations, assist users with problems, maintain the Toolkit web application, etc...



Zach

Toolkit User

My role is TPF development. That includes writing and debugging code. That also includes developing automated test framework testcases, running code coverage, etc...

What's New in TPF Toolkit Fix Packs since 2022 TPFUG:

4.6.14 – Released 04/07/22

4.6.15 – Released 08/29/22

4.6.16 – Released 03/31/23

Summary of Enhancements

- **For the Toolkit Administrator**
Custom Menu Sample and the Problems View
Pushing Preferences to Users
- **Security**
Secure HTTP
- **Support for Automated Test Framework on TPF**
Automated Test Framework View
Load, Activate and Test
- **For the Developer**
Debugger Null Pointer/Address Detection
Run C/C++ Code Analysis
DFDL Validation
Remote File Search
Trace Log Collection
TPF LPEX Editor

For the Toolkit Administrator

Custom Menu Sample and the Problems View

The **Custom Menu Sample plug-in project**, included with each Fix Pack, demonstrates how to develop a custom menu item on a TPF project that executes a remote maketpf command on the linux build machine.

For example: Right-click a source file and execute a maketpf command: **maketpf -f cdco.c**

Pain Point: When the developer clicks the custom menu item, any error/warning/info messages that are produced appear in the Console view as text only.

Solution: New **MaketpfErrorParser** class

The administrator uses the MaketpfErrorParser in custom menu handlers to automatically add markers to the Problems View for any command response lines containing error/warning/info messages.

Value: Better productivity.

Developers can easily understand source code problems by looking at the Problems View and from the view jump to a source file to begin fixing problems.

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.16

Learn more... TPF Toolkit Knowledge Center

[Developing custom menu items that run commands](#)

Custom Menu Sample and the Problems View



Arthur

Toolkit Administrator
Delivers the custom menu



Zach

Toolkit User
Quickly locates and fixes errors in his code

The screenshot shows an IDE interface with a custom menu and a Problems view. The menu is open over the 'cdco.c' file in the Project Explorer. The Problems view is open at the bottom, showing 3 errors and 1 warning.

Project Explorer:

- DevPrj2
- External Plug-in Libraries
- MyProject
 - appl
 - build
 - Includes
 - tpf
 - base
 - rt
 - cdco.c

Code Editor (cdco.c):

```
172  "};  
173  
174  ///////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////  
175  // Begin of the main ZCDCO handler function.  
176  // This function determines the ZCDCO command type and calls the  
177  // appropriate command handler.  
178  ///////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////  
179  int CDCCO(  
180  {  
181      struct mioml *inputBlock; // Ptr to input message block //PJ3  
182      char *inputPtr; // Pointer to input command //PJ3  
183      int parmCount; // Count of command parameters //PJ3  
184      struct IPRSE_output parseResults; // Output from the input parser //PJ3  
185      int flagsSS; // 0 = ZCDCO not entered from //PJ3  
186                          // BSS  
187                          // 1 = ZCDCO entered from BSS  
188      int globalDescriptor = 0; // used by tpf.c10n //PJ3  
189  }  
190  }
```

Problems View:

Description	Resource	Path	Location	Type
3 errors, 1 warning, 0 others				
Errors (3 items)				
Error building program. See file contents for details	CDCO.err	/MyProject/build	line 0	C/C++ Problem
error: expected declaration specifiers or '...' before	cdco.c	/MyProject/tpf/base/rt	line 180	C/C++ Problem
recipe for target 'cmd' failed	makefile	/MyProject/build	line 58	C/C++ Problem
Warnings (1 item)				
Unused declaration of function 'zcdcModifyJam'	cdco.c	/DevPrj2/tpf/base/rt	line 125	Code Analysis

Pushing Preferences to Users

Toolkit behavior can be customized by using **Window>Preferences**

Pain Point: For some preferences, administrators want all users to have the same preference setting. But directing users to manually set certain preferences is not a reliable solution.

Solution: Eclipse Installer Preference Recorder

The administrator sets preferences while the recorder is active. The recorder saves the preferences into the Eclipse Installer .setup file accessed by all Toolkit installations. The next time users restart Toolkit, those recorded preferences will be set in the users Toolkit.

** If you install Toolkit from the product archive then this option is not available.*

Value: The administrator sets base Toolkit behavior. Consistent Toolkit behavior across the organization. Less hunting for preferences by users.

***Has been available since 4.6 was released!**

Learn more... Toolkit Knowledge Center
[Setting up default preferences](#)

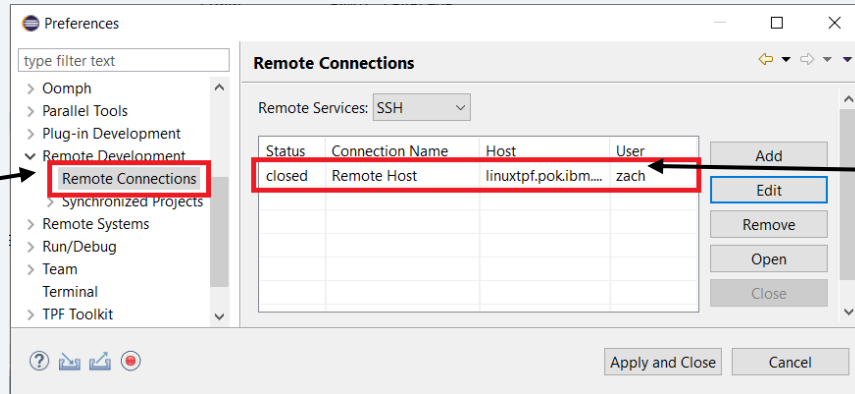
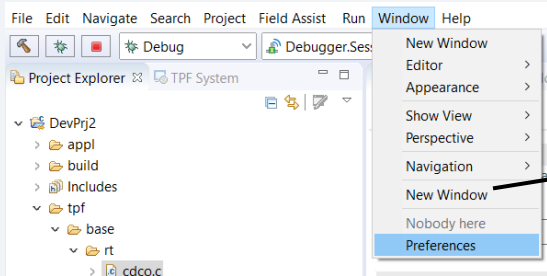
Pushing Preferences to Users

Example 1 – Remote Connection

Push the Remote Connection preference to your linux build machine that will be used by all your users.

Value: All users will by default have a common Remote Connection definition. The administrator completes Advanced settings that may be required depending on your linux system. Users will only have to supply their login credentials.

Learn more... [TPF Toolkit Knowledge Center](#)
[Configuring a remote connection to Linux](#)



Zach
Toolkit User
Enters login
credentials

Pushing Preferences to Users

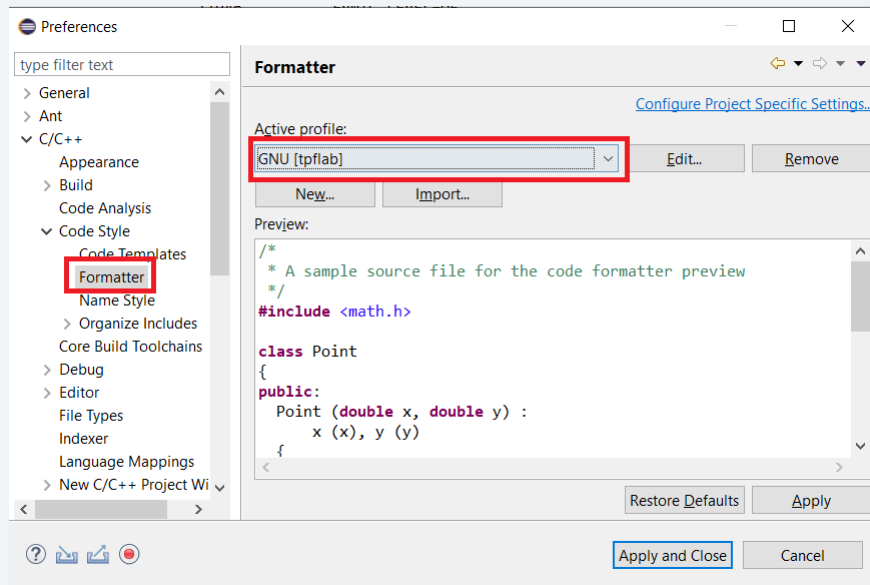
Example 2 – C/C++ Editor Formatting

Push C/C++ formatting preferences such as the use of spaces instead of tabs as formatting characters.

Value: By using spaces for formatting, C/C++ source files are more likely to exhibit consistent formatting in editors inside and outside Toolkit.

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.16 (documentation only)

Learn more... [TPF Toolkit Knowledge Center](#)
[Configuring C/C++ editor formatting](#)



Security

Securing HTTP Connections – Between Toolkit and TPF

Problem: The use of unsecure protocols is becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to justify.

Solution: New **TPF Connections** settings in the Toolkit preference page.
Secure HTTP using Transport Layer Security (TLS).

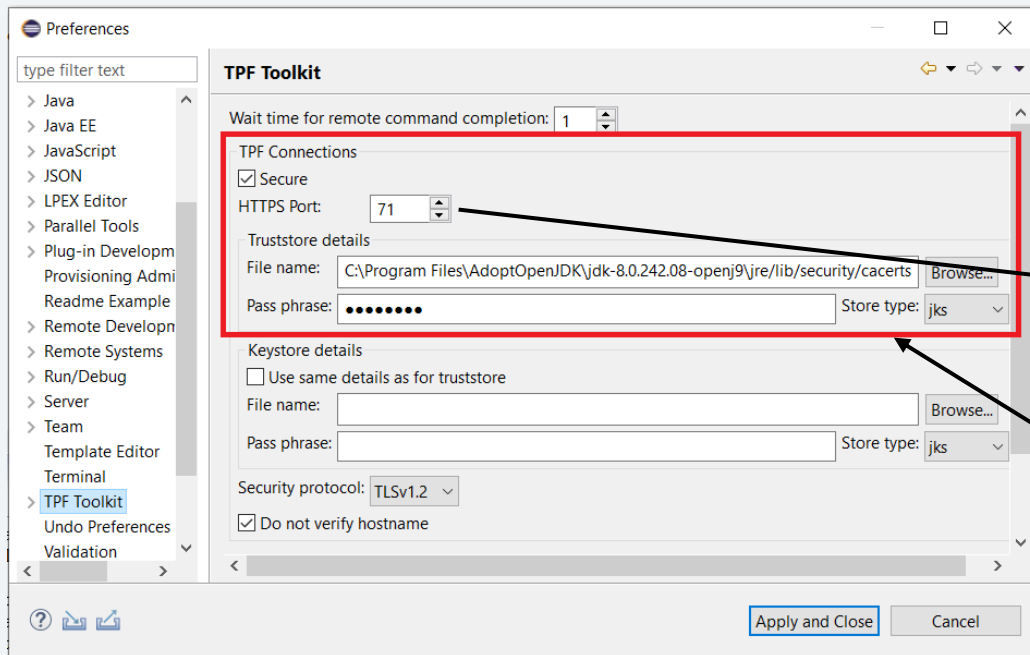
Value: Secure HTTP connections of course!

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.15

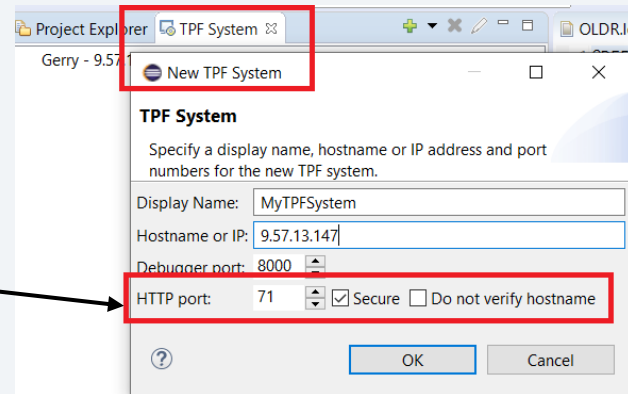
Learn more... Toolkit Knowledge Center
[Enabling TLS security for z/TPF REST connections](#)
[TPF System view](#)

Securing HTTP Connections – Between Toolkit and TPF

Complete the TPF Connections fields on the TPF Toolkit preference page.



Secure HTTP becomes default when defining a TPF system.



A potential candidate for pushing of preferences. The Toolkit administrator can dictate that all are using secure HTTP!



Arthur
Toolkit
Administrator

Securing HTTP Connections – Between TPF and Linux

Problem: The use of unsecure protocols is becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to justify.

Solution: Secure HTTP using Transport Layer Security (TLS)

Secure z/TPF REST connections for:

- Remote formatting of code coverage results
- Debugger:
 - Automatic source lookup
 - Remote debug information

Value: Secure HTTP connections of course!

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.15 (TPFToolkitServices.war uploaded 2/22/23)

APAR PJ46903 Available 02/20/23

Learn more... [Blog](#)

Support for Automated Test Framework on TPF

Automated Test Framework View

The z/TPF automated test framework provides a way for you to test new or changed software automatically. Compared to manual testing, automated testing improves code quality and reduces the testing cost and time.

Paint Point: I want to run automated test framework testcases on TPF from Toolkit.

Solution: Automated Test Framework View

Value: Better productivity

- No need to leave Toolkit to run testcases and review results
- Easy to find, select and run testcases relevant to my application
 - More control over what testcases are run
 - Easy to re-run a particular set of testcases
- Develop a “test plan” file
 - Import/Export selected testcase in JSON format
 - Potentially used in DevOps pipeline
 - Save for reuse later or as a historical document
- Short term history of testcase runs



Zach
Toolkit User
Uses Automated
Testing on TPF



Jeremy
QA Manager
Code has been tested
before release

Delivered in Fix Packs 4.6.14 and 4.6.15

Learn more... TPF Toolkit Knowledge Center [Automated Test Framework view](#)

Automated Test Framework View

TPF System

Filter

The screenshot displays the Automated Test Framework (ATF) interface. On the left, a sidebar shows the selected system: "Gerry - 9.57.13.147". Below this, system details are listed: "Selected system - Gerry", "Processor - B", "Subsystem name - BSS", and "Complex - CO0901". The main area is divided into a filter pane and a test execution pane. The filter pane shows a tree view with "mat_start" selected, containing sub-items "ibm.zrtmc" and "QRTM". A context menu is open over the "QRTM" items, with options "Run" and "Add To Run List" highlighted. The test execution pane shows a progress bar, statistics "Runs: 6/6", "Failed: 0", "Ignored: 0", and "Time: 0.103". A list of test cases is shown, including "mat_start_matEpt_none", "mat_start_input_invalid", "mat_start_matEpt_invalid", "mat_start_alreadyStarte", and "mat_start_normal". A context menu is open over the list, with options "Run", "Run All", "Run All Failed", "Cancel", "Remove", "Remove All", "Export Test Plan", and "Import Test Plan".

Short Term History

The Short Term History window displays a list of recent test runs:

- QRTM : mat_start_matEpt_dupe (Gerry - 9.57.13.147)
- QXZY : test_aor (Gerry - 9.57.13.147 Feb 22, 2023)
- QLFG : tpf_bev_getEventInfo1 (Gerry - 9.57.13.147)
- QRTM : mat_start_matEpt_dupe (Gerry - 9.57.13.147)

History...

Automated Test Framework View - Exported Test Plan File Sample

JSON format

Contains programs and testcases within programs

```
{
  "testplan" : {
    "info" : [ {
      "description" : "Exported from TPF Toolkit Feb 15, 2023 11:48:35 AM"
    }, {
      "version" : "1.0"
    } ],
    "tests" : [ {
      "testProgram" : "QFLG",
      "testCases" : [ "tpf_bev_getEventInfo1", "tpf_bev_getEventInfo2", "tpf_bev_getEventInfo3" ]
    }, {
      "testProgram" : "QHSD",
      "testCases" : [ "test_EPT_findAliasGroup", "test_bad_async_len" ]
    } ]
  }
}
```

Load, Activate and Test

Toolkit provides a means to load and active programs in a single action.

Pain Point: I want to automatically run testcases when I load and activate programs on TPF.

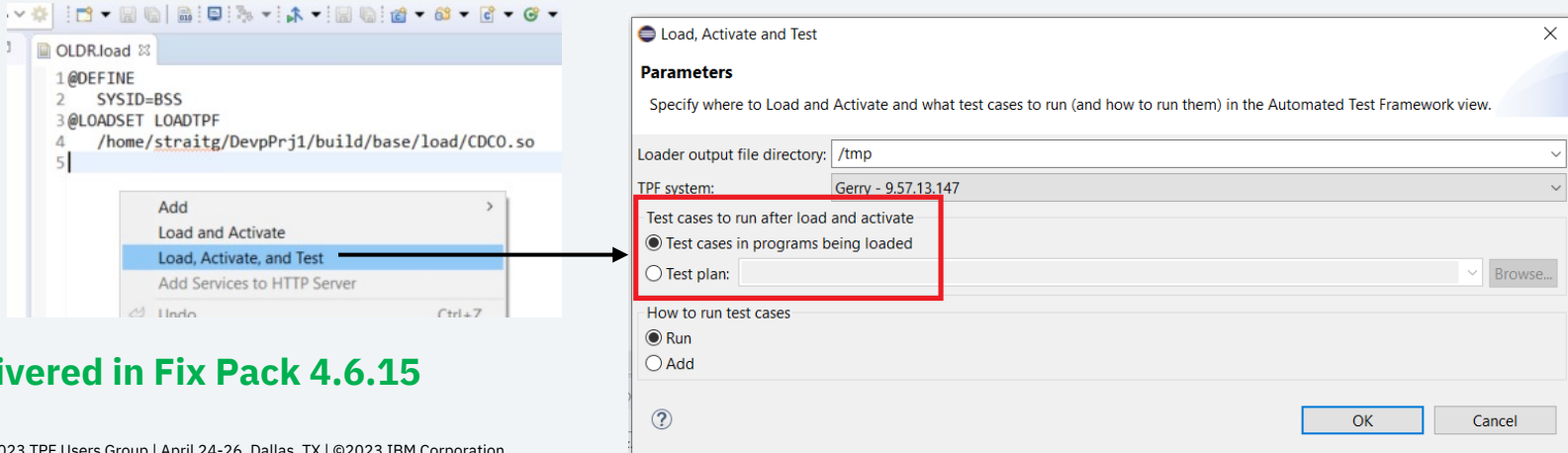
Solution: Add right-click **Load, Activate and Test** menu item on loader input file files. E.g. **.load** files.

Value: Fewer clicks to run and review testcase results.

Automatically run testcases when loading your application updates.

Run testcases for programs being loaded or run a “test plan” of select testcases.

Automatically switches to the Automated Test Framework view.



Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.15

For the Developer

Debugger Null pointer and null address detection

Null pointers in C/C++ code and null address references in assembler code can cause run-time errors that can be difficult to understand and time consuming to fix.

Paint Point: Toolkit debugger does not help identify null pointer and null address references in code.

Solutions:

- New **Stop at null pointers and addresses** breakpoint.
- New **Log null pointer address detection events** preference.

Value: Much faster identification of the problem code and problem resolution.

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.14

Learn more... Toolkit Knowledge Center

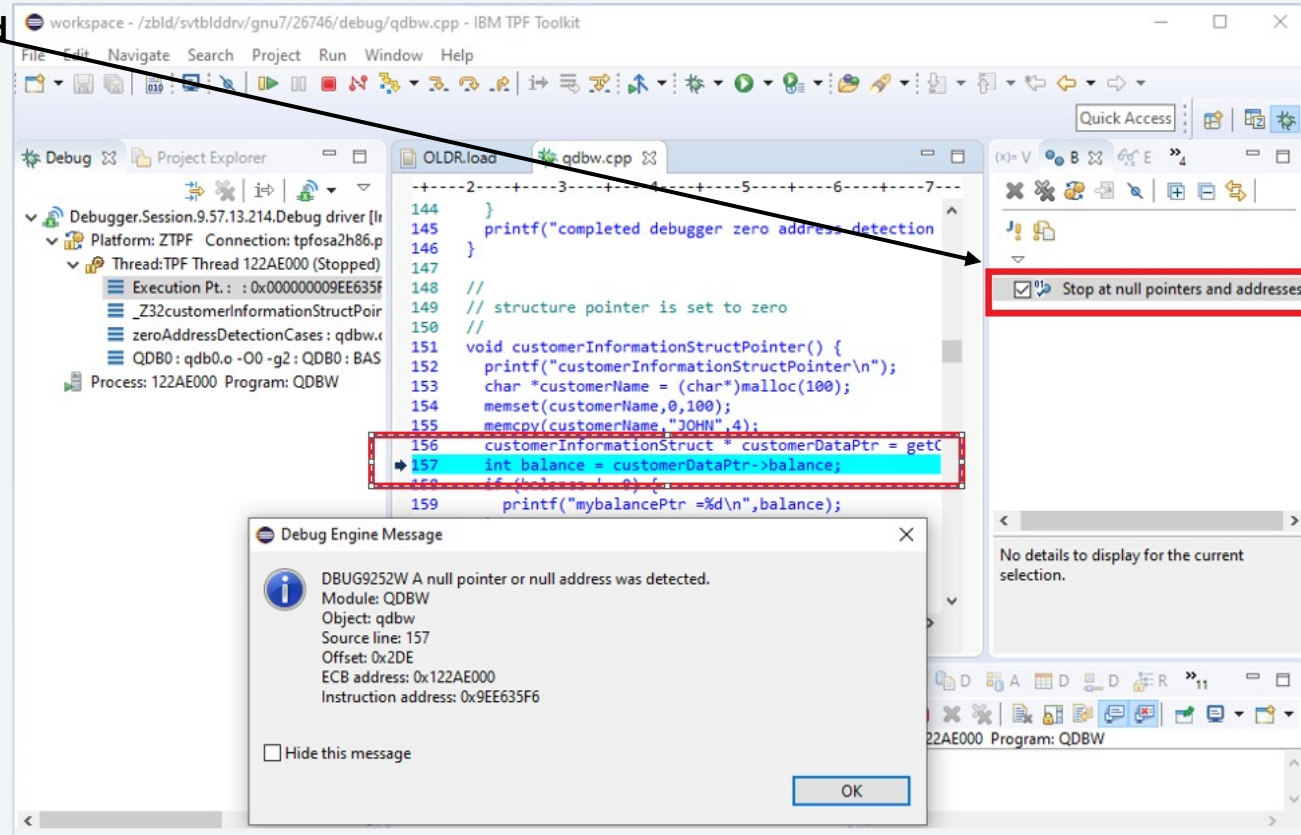
[Null pointer and null address detection](#)

Null pointer and null address detection - Example

Zach set a **Stop at null pointers and address** breakpoint.

If the debugger detects a null, then a pop-up box displays information about the event.

Zach can then update source code to take corrective action.



Null pointer and null address detection – logging

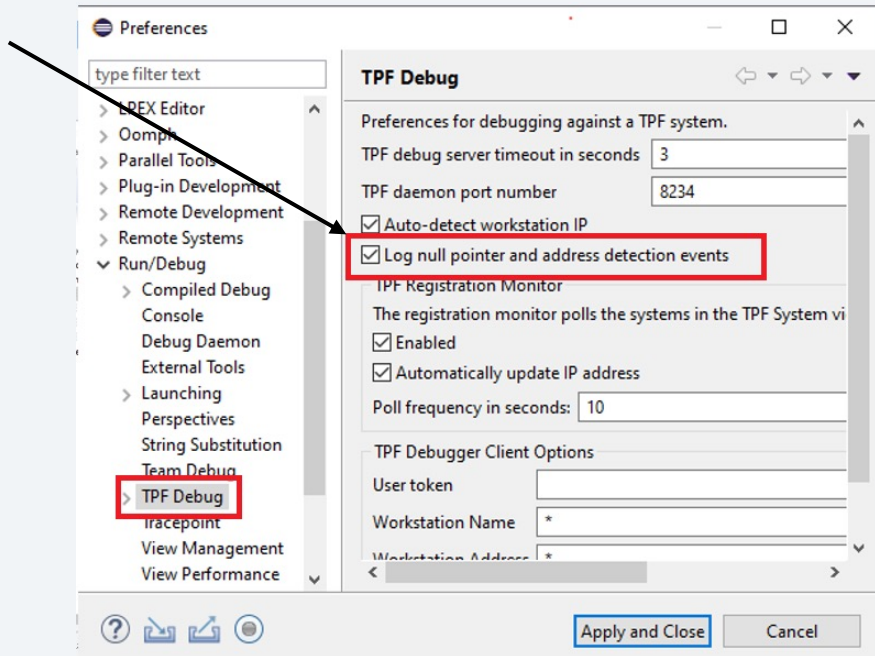
Zach sets the **Log null pointer address detection events** preference.

Zach can then debug his application, review the log file and update code to avoid or handle null pointers.

Sample log file entry

```
=====
Null address reference DETAILS:
=====
A null pointer or null address was detected.
Module: QDBW
Object: qdbw
Function: customerInformationCharPointer()
Debugger source line: 248
Offset: 0x460
ECB address: 0x1402D000
Instruction address: 0xA0B3B778
ECB TOD: DCED849F103BE582
ECB creation time: 28 Feb 2023, 14:57:32
=====

Null address reference SUMMARY for process 0x1402D000:
=====
Module;Object;Function;Offset;Count
QDBW;qdbw;customerInformationCharPointer();0x460;1|
=====
```



Run C/C++ Code Analysis (previously known as Generate Include Paths)

Pain Points:

- Not valid error markers when I edit C/C++ files in Toolkit.
- Toolkit doesn't provide C/C++ editor capabilities like navigation and static analysis.

Solution: Override the right-click **Run C/C++ Code Analysis** menu item.

* *Run C/C++ Code Analysis* fixes some reliability issues with the former *Maketpf Actions>Generate Include Paths*

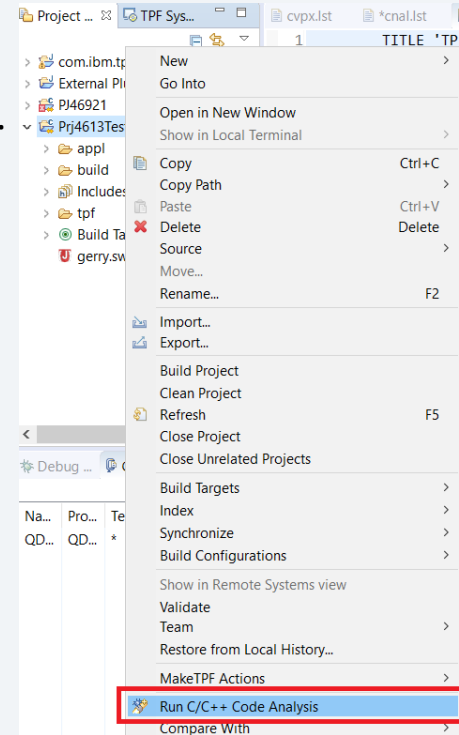
Value: By running Run C/C++ Code Analysis, only valid markers are displayed and the following capabilities are enabled:

- **navigation** – jump to locations in code, header files, ect.
- **content assist** – suggestions to complete your typing
- **static analysis** – show errors as you type

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.15

Learn more... IBM Media Center Videos

[Run C/C++ Code Analysis](#)
[Resource Markers](#)

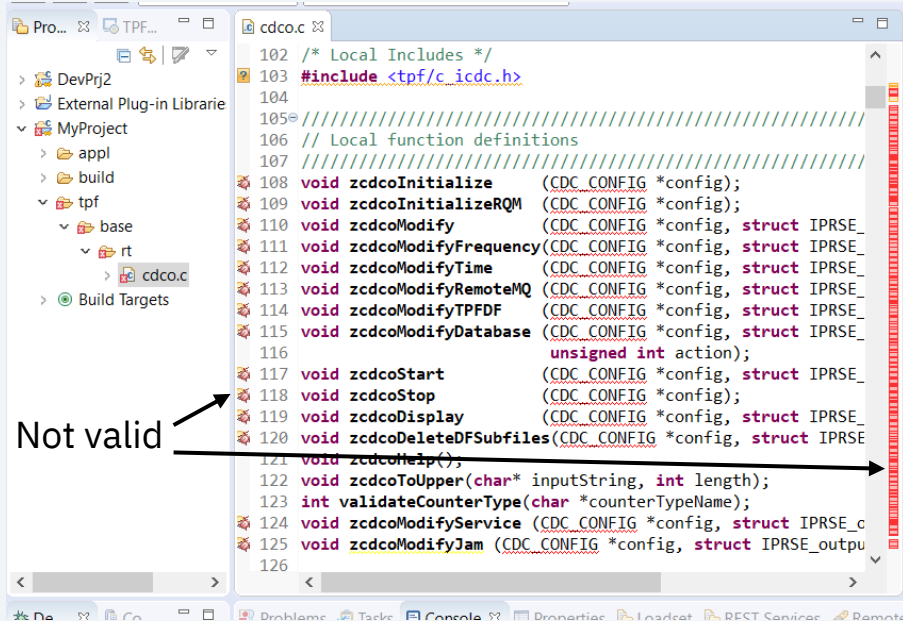


Run C/C++ Code Analysis (previously known as Generate Include Paths)

Before

Not valid markers

No CDT capabilities functional



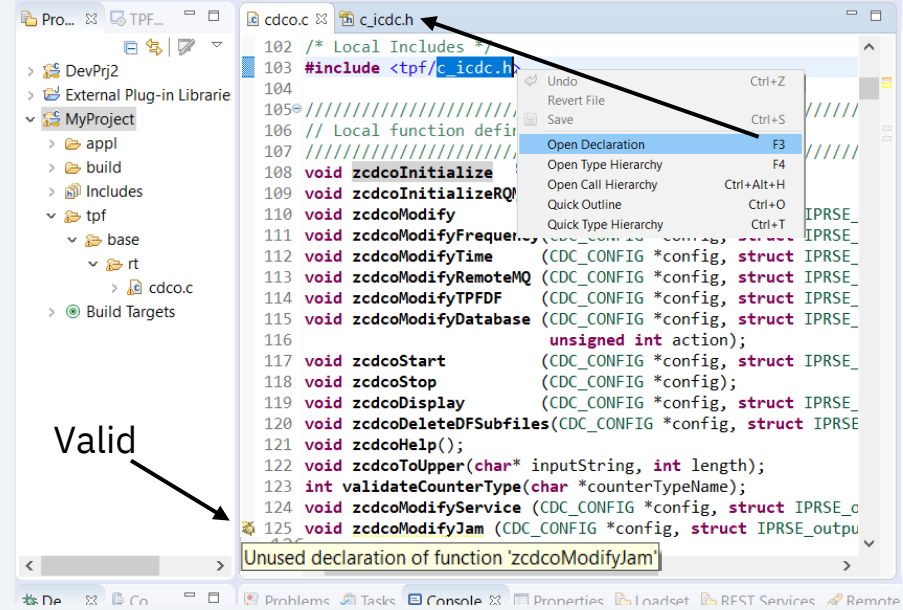
Not valid

Note: CDT is Eclipse C Development Tools

After

Only valid markers

CDT capabilities functional



Valid

Note: Open Declaration will open a local read-only cache copy if the file is not in the project.

DFDL Validation

The z/TPF DFDL offline utility is an offline program that you can use to validate DFDL schema files. Previously, DFDL validation occurred when the DFDL schema was loaded to the z/TPF system. Processing stopped after the first error was encountered, and subsequent errors were not identified until the file was loaded to the system again.

Pain Point: Finding out about errors in my DFDL schema files after I load from Toolkit to TPF wastes time.

Solution: Add right-click **Validate** on DFDL schema files in a TPF Project.

Calls the DFDL offline utility on linux and display errors and warnings in an editor.

Value: Time savings.

Fixing errors before loading to TPF saves the developer time.

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.15

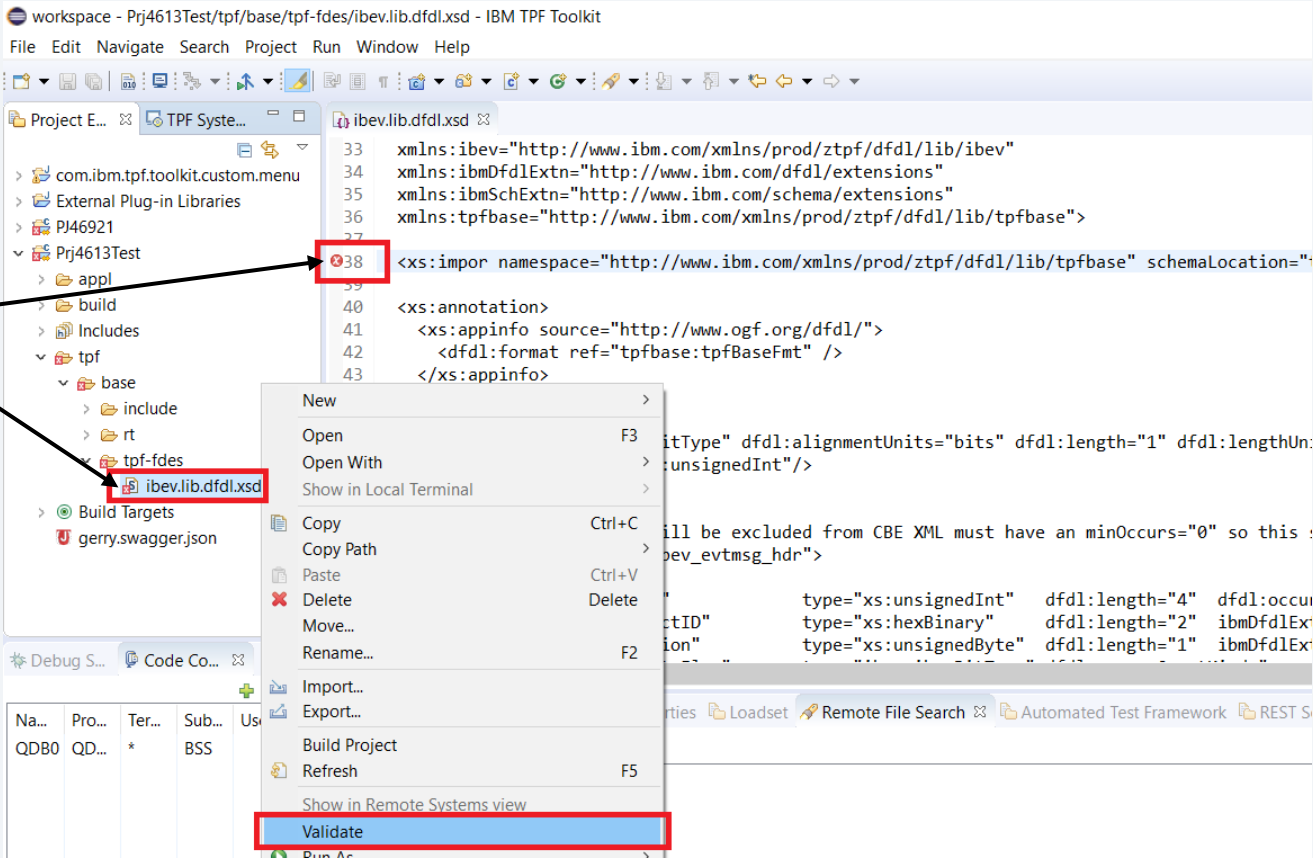
Learn more... TPF Toolkit Knowledge Center

[Creating deployment descriptors in XML format](#)

Requires: [z/TPF DFDL offline utility](#) (APAR PJ46509)

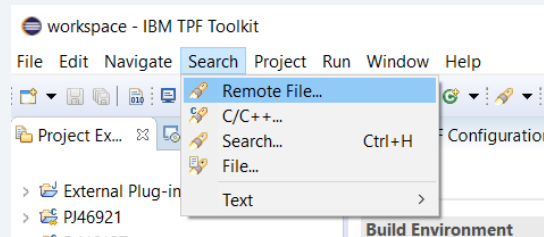
DFDL Validation

Error icons



Remote File Search

Remote File Search is used to search for files or strings within files on your linux build machine.



Pain Point: Search can be slow when search includes many subdirectories.

Solution: We sped up search by excluding binary files and made search of listings optional.

Value: Better user experience.

Roughly an order of magnitude improvement. A search that might take ~30 seconds now takes ~3 seconds.

Pain Point: I have to manually select the Remote Connection to search after every Toolkit restart.

Solution: Autofill the Remote Connection to search.

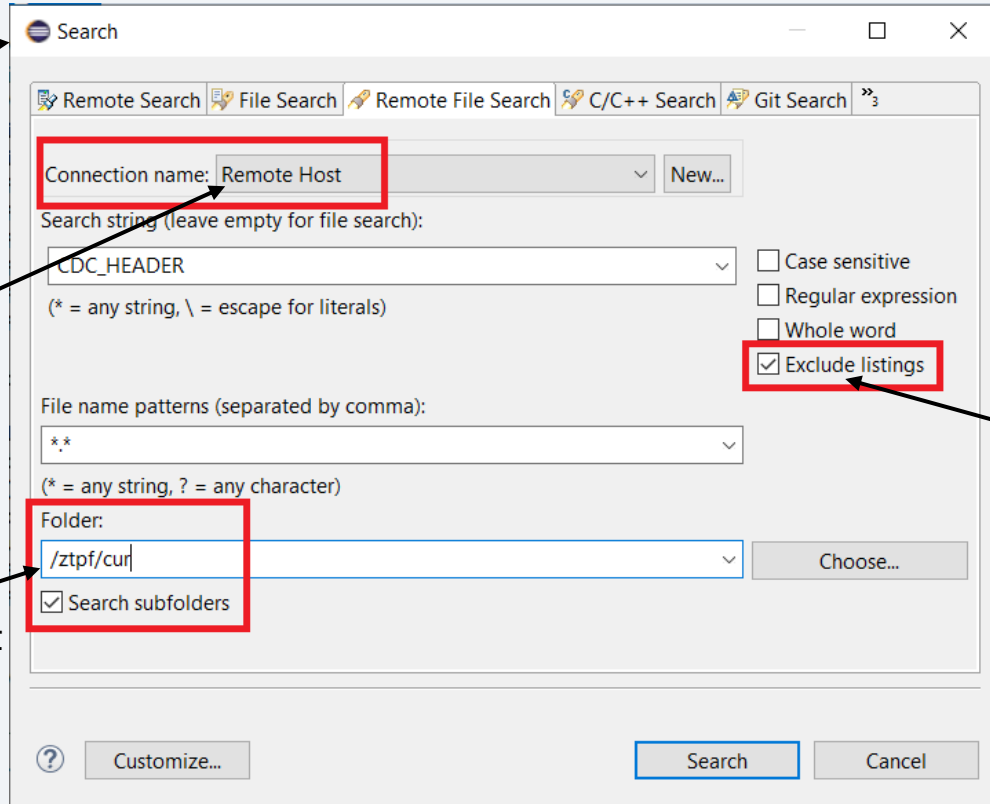
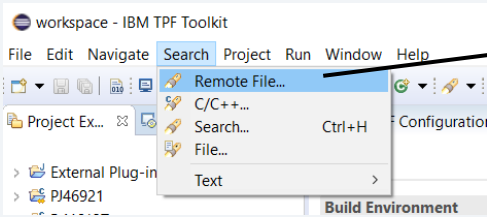
Value: Better user experience. Fewer clicks.

In most cases the user will never have to select the Remote Connection to search.

The Remote Connection selection is restored across Toolkit sessions.

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.16

Remote File Search



Auto-selected

Default

The Folder to search contains a lot of subdirectories, some of which contain listings and binaries.

Trace Log Collection View

This view allows you to collect and analyze macro and function calls by an ECB being debugged. Data for the view is obtained from trace logging on TPF.

Pain Point: I want to work with the trace log table data outside Toolkit. But there is no way to do so.

Solution: Add right-click **Copy** and **Copy Table** menu items. Copies to a CSV text file.

Value: Users can easily share and work with trace log data outside of Toolkit. For example, in a spreadsheet.

Pain Point: The table is in the opposite Timestamp order than I want.

Solution: Reverse order button and preserve the setting.

Name	Trace Group	Module	Loadset	Object	I-stream	Object Displacement	Timestamp
strncmp	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
strlen	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
strlen	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
strlen	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
strlen	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
strlen	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
strncmp	IBM_DEFT	QDB0	BASE	1	1	0000000000000000	2023-02-27 12:25:09
IPRSE_parse	IBM_DEFT	CTBX	BASE	crfb	1	0000000000000024	2023-02-27 12:25:09
_ctype_b_loc	IBM_DEFT	CISO	BASE	ctype-info	1	0000000000000024	2023-02-27 12:25:09

Properties

Parameters

Called from module
QDB0

From object offset
9EDE37A4

Trace Log Collection View – Resource Counts

When a Toolkit user starts a trace log collection for an ECB during a debug session, counts of resources that the ECB uses are collected at various points in the trace log collection.

Pain Point: The view does not provide resource usage information included in [trace logging](#).

Solution: Add a new **Resource counts** tab in the existing Trace Analysis Report.

Counts values are at the start, at the end, and during the collection period.

Resource counts include the same information as runtime metrics collection database metrics.

Value: A more complete set of information is available to help understand your application.

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.16

Learn more... TPF Toolkit Knowledge Center

[Trace log resource counts](#)

[Runtime metrics collection database metrics](#)

For example, COW, is the number of copy-on-writes that have happened for the ECB.

Resource name	Used counts	Starting counts	Ending counts
CMBK	0	0	0
COW	2	4	6
CPU_USED (microseconds)	2945	90459	93404
CRET	0	0	0
DD_TIME (microseconds)	0	0	0
DF_ATTAC	0	0	0
DF_BTFIL	0	0	0
DF_BTFND	0	0	0

TPF LPEX Editor

The TPF LPEX editor is used to edit assembler files.

Pain Point: TPF LPEX editor features that I had in Toolkit 4.2 are not in Toolkit 4.6

Solutions: We brought forward TPF LPEX editor preferences into Toolkit 4.6

- Show margins
- HLASM parser enable/disable local syntax checking

Value: Better user experience

Delivered in Fix Pack 4.6.16

TPF LPEX Editor

Syntax error shown in pink

Margins at columns 71, 72, 81

The screenshot shows the 'Preferences' dialog box for the TPF HLASM editor. The 'TPF HLASM' section is expanded, showing configuration options for the parser. The 'Show margins' and 'Enable local syntax checking' checkboxes are checked. The 'TPF HLASM' label is highlighted with a red box. At the bottom, the 'Apply and Close' button is highlighted with a blue box.

The screenshot shows the TPF LPEX Editor interface. The left pane displays a project tree with the file 'cvpx.asm' selected. The main editor window shows the assembly code for 'cvpx.asm'. A syntax error is highlighted in pink: 'Columns 1 - 15 must be blank for a line that follows a continued statement.' This error points to a line of code that is not properly indented. Vertical lines indicate column margins at 71, 72, and 81. The code includes comments such as 'Licensed Materials - Property of IBM' and 'APAR DATE DESCRIPTION'.

What's Next In 2023?

- Upgrade Toolkit to Eclipse 4.23 and Java 17 – [Target 3Q2023](#)
- Secure All Toolkit Connections:
 - Secure HTTP connections – [Delivered 1Q2023](#)
 - Secure FTP connections to TPF – [Target 3Q2023](#)
 - Secure Debugger connections to TPF – [Target 4Q2023](#)

Conclusion

- [TPF Toolkit documentation](#)
- [IBM Media Center: TPF Toolkit demo videos](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Ideas](#) – We're always open to ideas to improve Toolkit!

We want sponsor users!

Our development cycle is driven by your feedback.

We are looking for sponsor users to assist in design and implementation of new features, targeting the following personas:

- Application developer
- System programmer
- Test engineer

If you are interested in participating as a sponsor user, please contact:

Kishore Nagareddy (kishoren@us.ibm.com)

Thank you

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