DeTraS 0.4.0 User Manual

Edmundo Álvarez Jiménez [1]

5 June 2010

[1] e[dot]alvarezj[at]gmail[dot]com

About this document

Chapter 1

Introduction

DeTraS is a set of tools to track developers activities by registering its applications' usage. It can be also used as a personal time manager on computer, allowing to know how much time we spend performing tasks on the computer. As a lot of networking applications, it has two parts: a client (part of the application that runs on your computer) and a server (usually runs in a remote computer). This manual describes utils under client side of DeTraS (so I will use DeTraS referring to client side of DeTraS from now on). DeTraS includes these utilities:

TempusFugit. It's a tool to track your applications' usage under X11 Window.

Squealer. A tool to filter and upload your data to a machine running DeTraS server.

DeTraS applet. A Gnome applet that allows you to configure and use DeTraS' tools more easily.

Chapter 2

Getting started

2.1 DeTraS installation

In order to use DeTraS, you have to download it from this page[1] and install it on your system. As this is not an installation guide, I will only give some brief steps to perform installation. There are three methods to install DeTraS on your system:

1. **Installing from a tarball**. Basically, you have to download `detras-0.4.0.tar.gz` file, extract it, install packages listed on `DEPENDENCIES` file, run `autogen.sh`, `make` and `make install`.

2. **Installing from a deb package**. Download `detras_0.4.0-1_i386.deb` or `detras_0.4.0-1_amd64.deb` depending on your system architecture. Then install package double clicking on it or opening a terminal and typing `sudo dpkg -i <package>`.

3. **Installing from a repository**. This is the best option if you want to get automatically updates. To install from a repository, go to this page[2], and follow instructions under *Technical details about this PPA*. Although that page only shows information about configuring software sources on Ubuntu distros, you should be able to use this repos-

---

[1]`https://launchpad.net/detras/+download`
[2]`https://launchpad.net/~edmundoa/+archive/detras-ppa`

itory for almost any recent Debian based distro. Once you have configured your software sources properly, you only have to execute `sudo aptitude update` and `sudo aptitude install detras` to get DeTraS installed on your system.
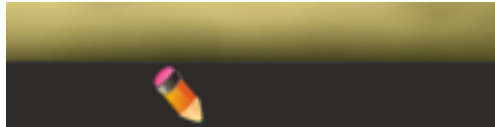

Figure 2.1: DeTraS applet icon (tracking on).

2.2   What information tracks DeTraS?

DeTraS will store and upload this information about usage of your system:

- When you change windows focus, it will take the time, application name and its window title (you can filter windows titles before upload data).

- Time when your session become active or inactive.

- Your name (optional).

- Projects you are working on (optional).

2.3   What should I do if I have any question or a problem?

Try reading questions already answered on DeTraS Launchpad page[3] (see Answers section[4]) or send your own question. You have to register in Launchpad before sending any question.

---

[3] `https://launchpad.net/detras`
[4] `https://answers.launchpad.net/detras`

If you prefer not joining Launchpad, you can write me an e-mail to `e[dot]alvarezj[at]gmail[dot]com`.

2.4   What should I do if I find a bug?

I really appreciate if you report any bug you found on DeTraS Launchpad page[5] (see Bugs section[6]). You have to register in Launchpad in order to report a bug.

As I told you previously, if you prefer not joining Launchpad, you can write me an e-mail to `e[dot]alvarezj[at]gmail[dot]com`.

---

[5]`https://launchpad.net/detras`
[6]`https://bugs.launchpad.net/detras`

Chapter 3

TempusFugit

You can interact with TempusFugit using a command line interface or De-TraS applet.

Run TempusFugit on a shell. To execute TempusFugit on a shell, you
have to run `tempusfugit` command. By default, it will store all
events on a file called `tempusfugit.xml` under `$HOME/.detras`
folder. As you will see, TempusFugit run as a daemon, so you have
to send a SIGTERM signal (Ctrl+C) to stop its execution. Be sure
you send it a SIGTERM signal, because SIGKILL can break events
file. To see more details about TempusFugit execution you can check
`tempusfugit` manual page.

Run TempusFugit using DeTraS applet. See Using DeTraS applet sec-
tion.

Chapter 4

Squealer

Squealer can be invoked from a shell or using DeTraS applet to upload tracked information.

- **Run Squealer on a shell**. To execute Squealer from a terminal, you must execute `squealer` command. It will apply any filter defined on preferences and will send data to configured server. Squealer will not show any output unless it encounter any problem. You can find more details on `squealer` manpage.

- **Run Squealer using DeTraS applet**. See Using DeTraS applet section.

Chapter 5

Preferences

DeTraS stores your preferences in a file called `detras.ini` under `$HOME/`
`.detras` folder. If this file does not exist, DeTraS will get its preferences from `/usr/share/detras/detras.ini`, which contains system default preferences. Please read `detras.ini` manual page before editing these files manually.

Chapter 6

Using DeTraS applet

6.1 Adding DeTraS applet to panel

To add DeTraS applet to panel, right-click on the panel and choose *Add to panel*. Then select DeTraS applet from applets' list and click on *Add* button. You should see a pencil icon in the panel that represents DeTraS applet.

Figure 6.1: DeTraS applet icon (tracking off).

6.2 DeTraS applet menu

You can perform many actions right clicking on DeTraS applet. As you can see on figure 6.2, you are able to see an overview of latest events tracked, toggle tracking status, upload data and change your preferences.
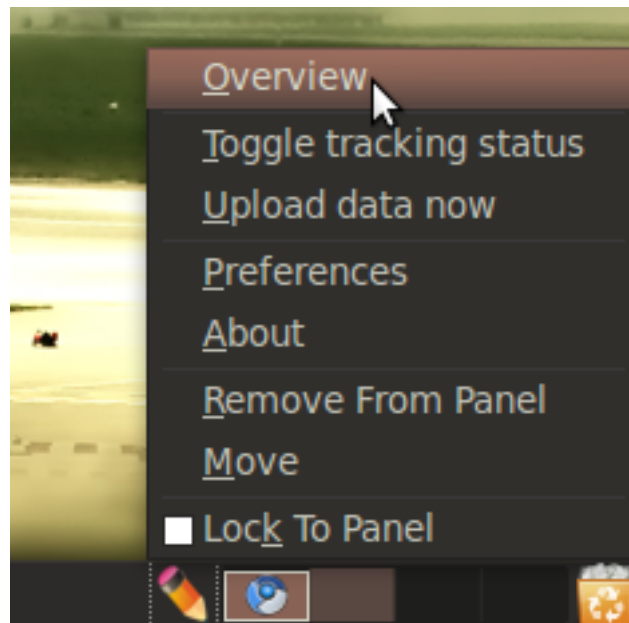
9

Figure 6.2: DeTraS applet menu.

6.3 Work with TempusFugit

You can start or stop TempusFugit in two ways: clicking on DeTraS applet or choosing *Toggle tracking status* from DeTraS applet menu. DeTraS applet icon shows you current TempusFugit's status. A grey scale icon indicates that TempusFugit is stopped, so it is not tracking your data. A colored one indicates that TempusFugit is running.

6.4 Work with Squealer

To upload data tracked by TempusFugit you have to select *Upload data now* option from DeTraS applet menu. DeTraS applet will open up a window once the upload is finished or an error is found.

6.5   Overview window

Selecting *Overview* option on DeTraS applet menu will show you a window with latest events tracked on your system. This dialog will show you events tracked since the last time you upload your data, and you can order them by date, length, name...

6.6   Preferences dialog

When you click on *Preferences* item on DeTraS applet menu, you can edit DeTraS preferences in an easier way than editing `$HOME/.detras/detras.ini` file manually.
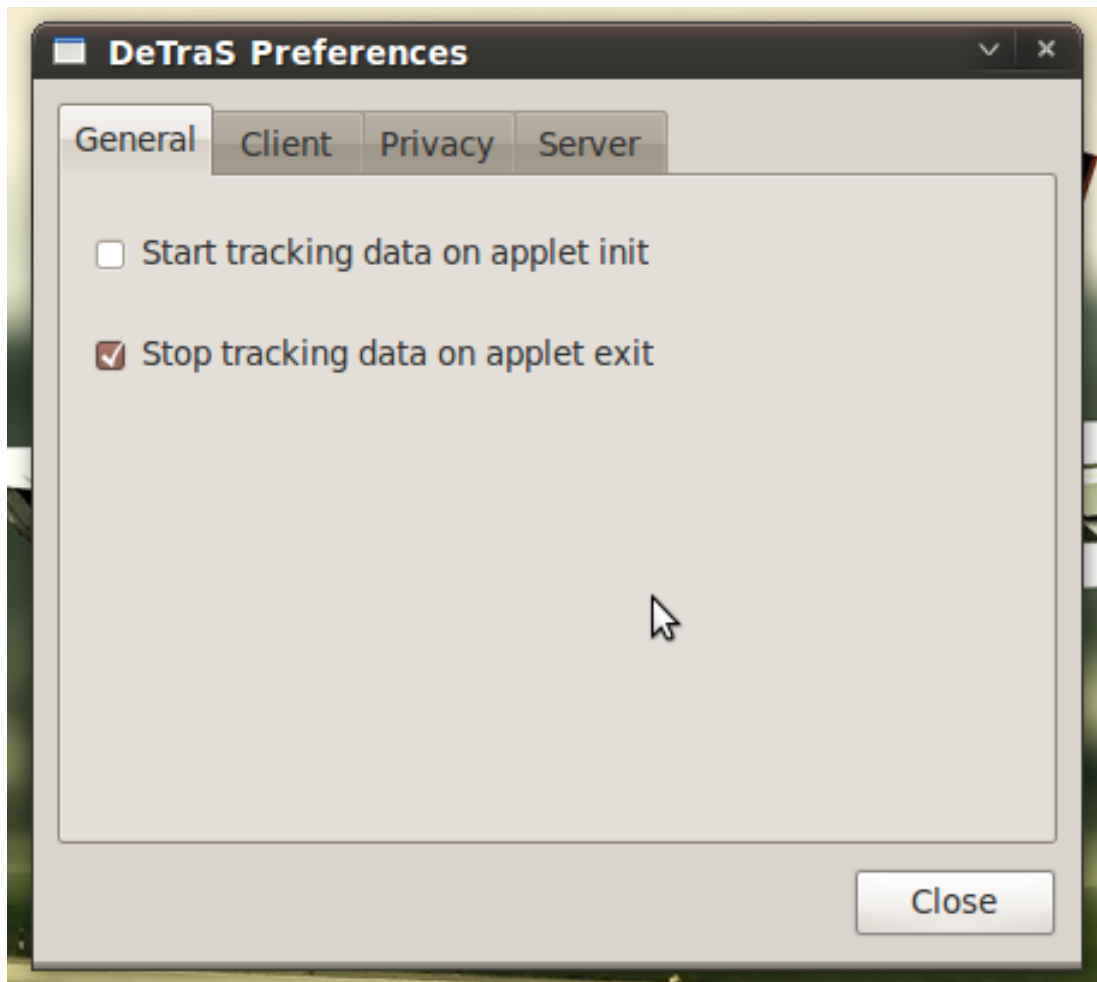
6.6.1   General tab

Figure 6.3: DeTraS general preferences.

Here you can configure general preferences:

- **Start tracking data on applet init**. If you check this box, TempusFugit will start automatically to track your activity when the applet is loaded. (Default: disabled).

- **Stop tracking data on applet exit**. If you check this box, TempusFugit will stop tracking your activity automatically when the applet is unloaded. (Default: enabled).
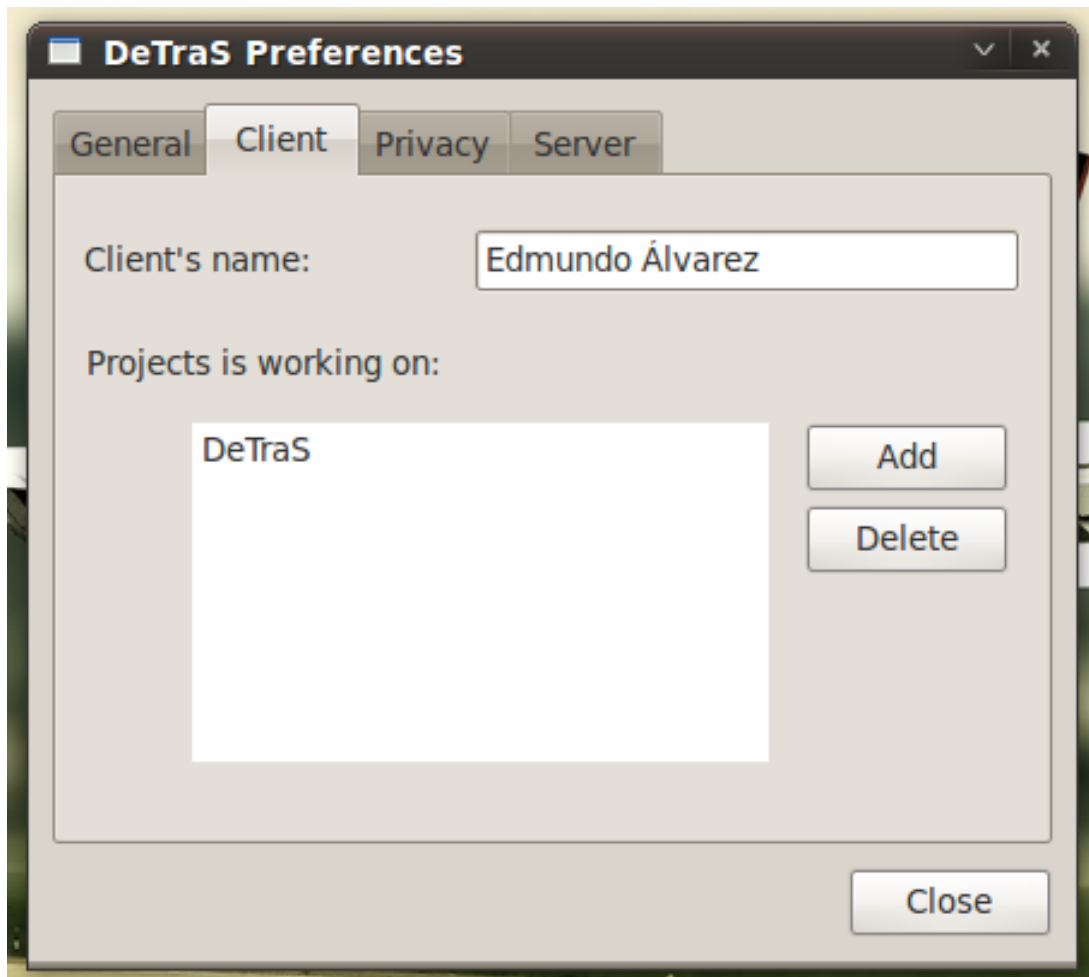
6.6.2 Client tab

Figure 6.4: DeTraS client preferences.

This window allows you to change client's preferences:

- **Client's name**. Type client's name on this text box.

- **Projects is working on**. Configure projects in which the client is working on. Click on *Add* button to add a new project, select a project and click *Delete* button to remove a project, or double-click on a project to edit it.
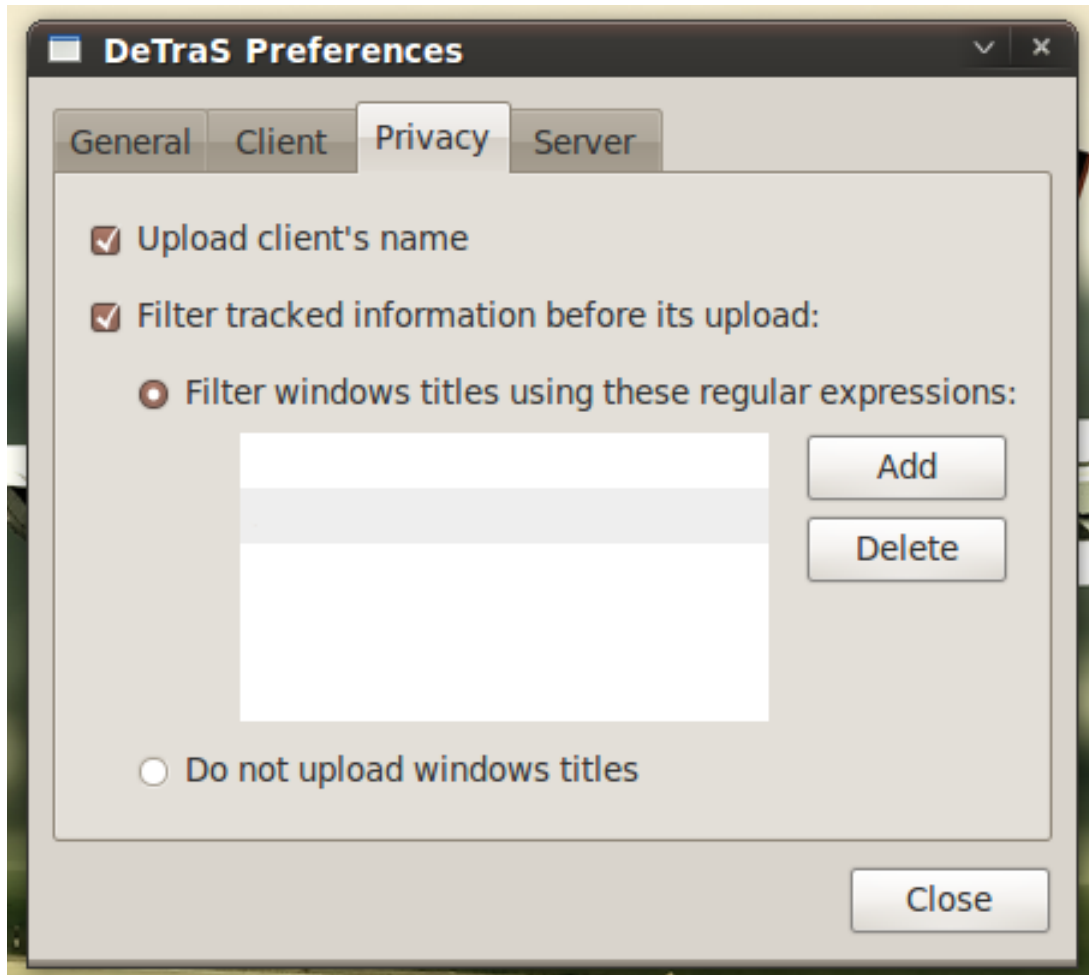
6.6.3 Privacy tab

Figure 6.5: DeTraS privacy preferences.

This window lets you modify privacy preferences:

- **Upload client's name**. Check this box to upload client's name together with your tracked data. (Default: disabled).

- **Filter tracked information before its upload**. Check this box to enable filtering of your data. (Default: disabled).

– **Filter windows titles using these regular expressions**. Check this button to enable filtering of windows titles. You can add regular expressions clicking on *Add* button, delete one of them selecting it and clicking on *Delete* button and edit a regular expression double clicking on it. If you want help to build regular expressions, you can check this guide[1].

– **Do not upload windows titles**. Check this button to hide all information about windows titles before its uploaded.

---

[1]`http://docs.python.org/library/re.html#regular-expression-syntax`
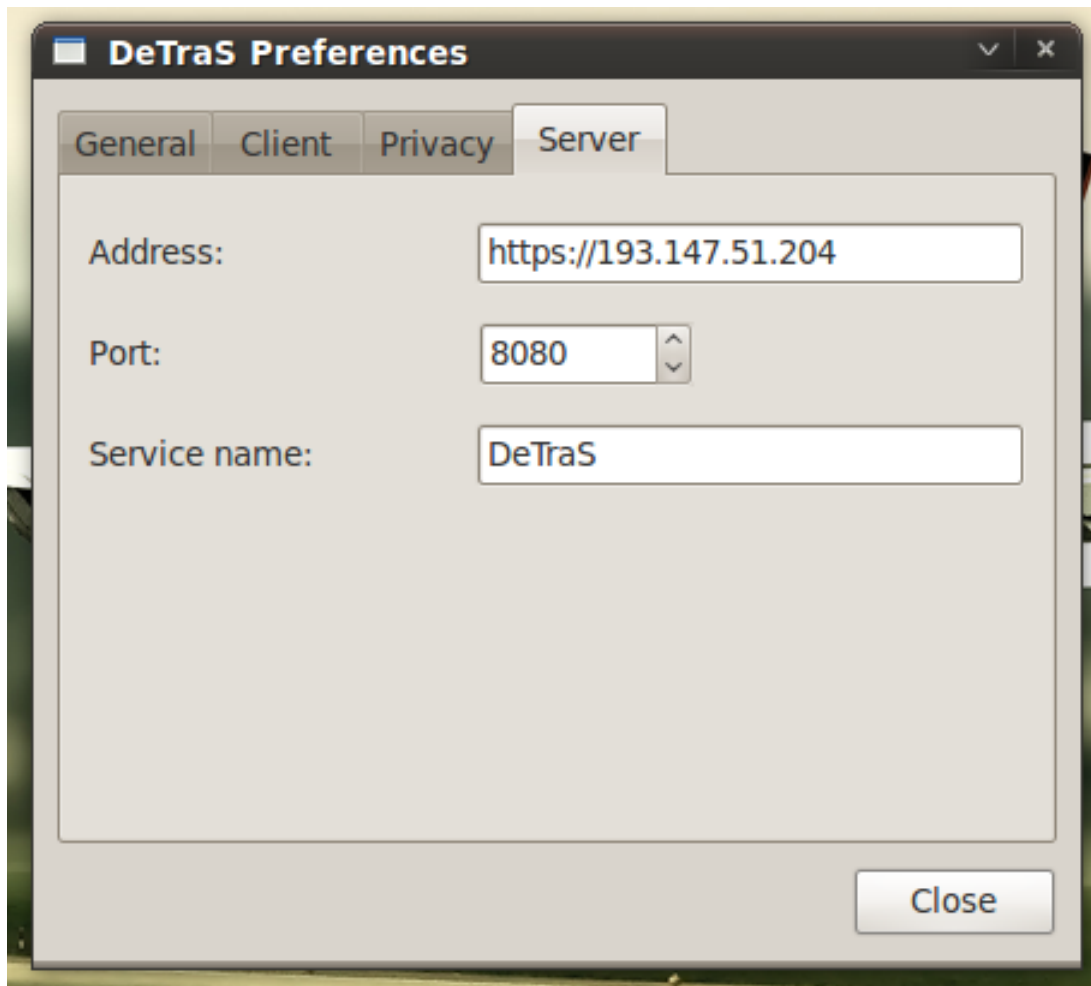
6.6.4 Server tab

Figure 6.6: DeTraS server preferences.

Configure server parameters from this window. By default, this window contains parameters of a server that is tracking data to help me doing my thesis. I really appreciate if you send your data there.

- **Address**. Type server URL. (Default: https://193.147.51.204).

- **Port**. Type port where the server is listening. (Default: 8080).

- **Service name**. Connection service name. Please don't change this preference unless you know what you are doing. (Default: DeTraS).