

# **KNIME Server Administration Guide**

#### KNIME AG, Zurich, Switzerland Version 4.7 (last updated on 2021-02-12)



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## Introduction

This guide covers in detail the configuration options for KNIME Server.

If you are looking to install KNIME Server, you should first consult the KNIME Server Installation Guide.

For guides on connecting to KNIME Server from KNIME Analytics Platform, or using KNIME WebPortal please refer to the following guides:

- KNIME Explorer User Guide
- KNIME WebPortal User Guide

## Server architecture

KNIME Server is a Java Enterprise Application, and the KNIME WebPortal a standard Java Web Application, both installed on a TomEE application server. TomEE is an extended Tomcat server, the blue box in the middle of the figure below. Users can log in to the server and the server will authenticate against any authentication source provided by Tomcat.



One of the main tasks of KNIME Server is to manage and control the server's repository. Workflows uploaded to the server go through the server application and are stored in the repository which is just a folder on the server's file system (the blue cylinder on the right in the diagram). Access to the stored workflows is controlled in KNIME Server and access rights for the workflows can be manipulated from KNIME Explorer once the client side server extensions are installed.

Workflow execution on the server is carried out by a KNIME Executor. The KNIME Executor is a persistent headless instance of a normal KNIME Analytics Platform application (leftmost element in the diagram above). The server can, depending on the installation, use either one executor for all workflow executions, or a separate executor instance for each authenticated user.

It is important to note that workflows can only be successfully loaded and executed on the server, if the executor has the required features installed and is of the same version (or newer) than the KNIME Analytics Platform version that was used to create the workflow.

## Server configuration files and options

### KNIME Server configuration file

KNIME Server is configured by a knime-specific configuration file named knimeserver.config. The file can be found in <server-repository>/config/knime-server.config. Most of the parameters defined in this file can be changed at runtime and will take effect as soon as possible. Default values will be used for empty or missing configuration options.

The section KNIME Server configuration file options contains a comprehensive list of all configuration options and explanations.

#### KNIME Server configuration file options

Below you will find a table with all supported configuration options (in alphabetical order). Some of them are described in more detail in later sections. The options can be set in the file <server-repository>/config/knime-server.config.

**For Windows users**: For paths in the server configuration file either use forward slashes ("/") or double backslashes ("\\"). A single backslash is used to escape characters.

com.knime.server.admin\_email=<email>,<email>,...

A comma separated list of email addresses that will get notified when there is a problem with the server, e.g. the license is about to expire or the maximum number of users has been reached.

com.knime.server.canonical-address=<URL to server>

The communication between executor and server is performed through the server's REST interface. In case auto-detection of the server's address doesn't work correctly, you have to specify the canonical address here, e.g. http://knime-server:8080/. This option is not required if server and executor are running on the same computer. See also section Enabling workflow execution below for more details.

#### com.knime.server.config.watch=<true|false>

If set to true changes to the configuration file are applied immediately without a server restart. Default is false, i.e. all changes will require a server restart.

com.knime.server.default\_mount\_id=<mount ID>

Specifies the name of the default mount ID. This is fetched, when clients set up their mount point to the server. Defaults to the server's hostname.

com.knime.server.executor.knime\_exe=<path to knime executable>

Specifies the KNIME executable that is used to execute flows on the server. Default is none (no execution available on the server).

com.knime.server.executor.max\_instances=<number>

Specifies the maximum number of KNIME Executors used on the server (defaults to 10), if multiple KNIME Executors are used.

com.knime.server.executor.max\_lifetime=<duration with unit, e.g. 60m, 36h, or 2d>

Specifies the time in minutes after which an executor is retired and a new instance is created (defaults to 1d), negative numbers disable.

com.knime.server.executor.prestart=<true|false>

Specifies whether an executor should be started during server startup or if it should be started on-demand when the first workflow is being executed. Default is to prestart the executor. This setting has no effect if per-user executors are used (i.e. if com.knime.server.executor.sudo\_cmd is defined). In this case executors are always started on demand.

com.knime.server.executor.reject\_future\_workflows=<true|false>

Specifies whether the executor should reject loading workflows that have been create with future versions. By default the executor will always try to load and execute any workflow.

com.knime.server.executor.skip\_teamspace\_mount=<true|false>

Specifies whether mounting the server's workflow repository in the KNIME Executor (as a TeamSpace) should be skipped. Default is to mount the workflow repository.

com.knime.server.executor.start\_port=<port>

Specifies the start port that the server uses to communicate with the KNIME Executor. Default is 50100. With multiple executors and/or automatic executor renewal multiple consecutive ports are used.

com.knime.server.executor.sudo\_cmd=<path to sudo command>

Specifies the sudo command. Default is to not use sudo i.e. all user share the same RMI instance.

com.knime.server.executor.update\_metanodelinks\_on\_load=<true|false>

Specifies whether meta node links in workflows should be updated right after the workflow has been loaded in the KNIME Executor. Default is not to update meta node links.

com.knime.server.job.max\_lifetime=<duration with unit, e.g. 60m, 36h, or 2d>

Specifies the minutes of inactivity, before a job gets discarded (defaults to 7d), negative numbers disable forced auto-discard.

com.knime.server.job.max\_time\_in\_memory=<duration with unit, e.g. 60m, 36h, or 2d>

Specifies the time of inactivity before a job gets swapped out from the executor (defaults to 60m), negative numbers disable swapping.

com.knime.server.job.status\_update\_interval=<duration with unit, e.g. 500ms, 2s,
or 5m>

Specifies the interval at which the running RMI instances are checked for unnoticed status changes and if they are still alive. Default is every 60s.

com.knime.server.job.swap\_check\_interval=<duration with unit, e.g. 30s, 1m, or 1h>

Specifies the interval at which the server will check for inactive jobs that can be swapped to disk. Default is every 1m.

com.knime.server.login.allowed\_groups =<group>,<group>,...

Defines the groups that are allowed to log in to the server. Default value allows users from all groups.

com.knime.server.login.consumer.allowed\_accounts =<account>,<account>,...

Defines account names that are allowed to log in to the server as *consumer*. Default value allows login as consumer for all users.

com.knime.server.login.consumer.allowed\_groups =<group>,<group>,...

Defines the groups that are allowed to log in to the server as *consumer*. Default value allows login as consumer from all groups.

com.knime.server.login.jwt-lifetime=<duration with unit, e.g. 12h or 30d>

Defines the maximum lifetime of JSON Web Tokens issued by the server. The default value is 30d. A negative value allows unrestricted tokens (use this value with care because there is no way to revoke issued tokens).

com.knime.server.login.user.allowed\_accounts =<account>,<account>,...

Defines account names that are allowed to log in to the server as *user*. Default value allows login as user for all users.

com.knime.server.login.user.allowed\_groups =<group>,<group>,...

Defines the groups that are allowed to log in to the server as a *user*. Default value allows login as user from all groups.

com.knime.server.report\_formats=<formats>

Defines the different formats available for report generation as a comma separated list of values. Possible values are html, pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, ppt, pptx, ps, odp, odt and ods. If this value is empty or not set the default list of formats is html, pdf, docx, xlsx and pptx.

com.knime.server.repository.update\_recommendations\_at=<time>

Defines a time during the day (in ISO format, i.e. 24h notation, e.g. 21:15) at which the node recommendations for the workflow coach are updated based on the current workflow repository contents. Default is undefined which means that no node recommendations will be computed and provided by the server.

com.knime.server\_admin\_groups=<group>,<group>,...

Specifies the admin group(s). Users belonging to at least one of these groups are considered KNIME Server admins (not TomEE server admins). Default is no admin groups.

com.knime.server\_admin\_users=<user1>,<user2>,...

Specifies the user(s) that are KNIME Server admins (not TomEE admins). Default is no users.

com.knime.server.webportal.disable\_report\_preview=<true|false>

Disables the report preview in the KNIME WebPortal. Default is to show report previews.

com.knime.server.webportal.disable\_warning\_messages=<true|false>

Disables warnings messages at the end of a workflow execution on the KNIME WebPortal. Default is to show warnings messages.

com.knime.server.webportal.hide\_version=<true|false>

Hides the server's version in the KNIME WebPortal. Default is to show the version number.

com.knime.server.webportal.ie\_compatibility=<IE version identifier>

This option allows you to set the IE compatibility mode that the KNIME WebPortal sends to the browser. Default is not to send any compatibility information.

com.knime.server.webportal.sketcher\_page=<relative URL of Sketcher Page>

Define the location of the main sketcher html-document. Helpful when the sketcher is deployed as static resources under a different context root. Note that the KNIME WebPortal and the sketcher need to be in the same domain. Otherwise cross-domain scripting would occur, which is considered a security threat in all major browsers and thus not allowed.

com.knime.server.webportal.sketcher\_size=<width x height, e.g. 300x300>

Define the size of the sketcher iframe. 300x300 is the default value for the Marvin Sketcher.

com.knime.server.title\_label=<Server Name>

Define an additional title label displayed to the right of the KNIME WebPortal logo.

com.knime.server.webportal.debug=<true|false>

Enables or disables a debug mode for the WebPortal. In debug mode JavaScript and CSS sources are included in their non-minified version and log messages might be printed to the console of the browser.

com.knime.server.webportal.restrict\_x\_frame\_options=<value>

Sets the value of the HTTP-header *X-FRAME-OPTIONS*. <value> must be one of DENY, SAMEORIGIN or ALLOW-FROM xxx, where xxx needs to be replaced with the URL of the embedding page. If this option is not present in the configuration file, the HTTP-header X-FRAME-OPTIONS is not sent. See also Avoid clickjacking attacks.

com.knime.server.webportal.enable\_x\_xss\_protection=<true|false>

If set to true, sends the HTTP-header X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block on every response from the WebPortal. Default is false, which does not send the HTTP-header. See also Preventing cross-site scripting attacks.

In the client KNIME Analytics Platform, these options are supported by the KNIME Server: Add them to the knime.ini file. After the -vmargs line, each in a separate line. -Dcom.knime.server.server\_address=<KNIME server>

Sets the <KNIME server> as the default Workflow Server in the client view.

#### Default mount ID

KNIME supports mountpoint relative URLs using the knime protocol (see the KNIME Explorer User Guide for more details). Using this feature with KNIME Server requires both the workflow author and their collaborator to use the shared Mount IDs. With this in mind, you can now set a common name (Mount ID) for the server to all users.

The default name for your server can be specified in the configuration file:

com.knime.server.default\_mount\_id=<server name>

#### KNIME executor job handling

Job swapping

Jobs that are inactive for a period of time may be swapped to disc and removed from the executor to free memory or executor instances. A job is inactive if it is either fully executed or waiting for user input (on the KNIME WebPortal). If needed, it will be retrieved from disk automatically.

The configuration option

```
com.knime.server.job.max_time_in_memory=<duration with unit, e.g. 60m, 36h, or 2d>
```

controls the period of inactivity allowed before a job will be swapped to disk (default = 60m). If you specify a negative number this feature is disabled and inactive jobs stay in memory until they are discarded.

*Note:* There are certain flows that will not be restored in the exact same state that it was in, before it got swapped out. For example, if a flow gets swapped with a loop partially executed, this loop iteration will be reset and the loop execution is restarted.

#### Job auto-discard

There is an additional threshold for inactivity of a job after which it may be discarded automatically. A discarded job due to inactivity cannot be recovered. The time threshold for a job to be automatically discarded is controlled by setting

com.knime.server.job.max\_lifetime=<duration with unit, e.g. 60m, 36h, or 2d>

The default value (if the option is not set) is 7d.

#### Restarting the executor

KNIME Server will periodically recycle its workflow executor. This process should not have any effect on workflow execution and should not significantly impact end-users. The server starts a second instance of the executor and loads future workflow jobs using the new instance – retiring the old executor instance after all jobs in the retired executor are finished.

com.knime.server.executor.max\_lifetime=<duration with unit, e.g. 60m, 36h, or 2d>

Controls the maximum lifetime of an executor, after which it will be recycled (default = 1d, a negative value will disable this feature)

*Note:* If this feature is enabled, the server must have enough resources to host two KNIME Executors (or more, in the case of multiple executors per user). Each executor instance requires at least the amount of memory specified in the knime.ini file.

### Preferences file

If the KNIME Executor requires certain preferences (e.g. database drivers), you need to provide a preference file to the server that is read by every started KNIME Executor.

- 1. Start KNIME (with an arbitrary workspace).
- Set all preferences via "File" → "Preferences") and export the preferences via "File" →
   "Export Preferences". This step can also be performed on a client computer but make
   sure that any paths you set in the preferences are also valid on the server.
- 3. Copy the exported preferences file as preferences.epf into <serverrepository>/config.

*Note:* Make sure to specify the paths of all database drivers in the new preference page, in order to be able to execute workflows with database nodes. The page is available in the

"KNIME"  $\rightarrow$  "Database Drivers" category of the preferences.

Adding JDBC drivers to executor (headless executor)

In order to be able to execute workflows that contain database nodes that use custom or proprietary JDBC driver files on KNIME Server, the preferences.epf file must contain the path to the JDBC jar file, or the folder containing the JDBC driver. This may be specified in the KNIME Analytics Platform (executor) GUI and the preferences.epf file exported as described in the above section. This is the recommended route for systems that have graphical access to the KNIME Analytics Platform (executor).

Some systems do not have graphical access to the KNIME Analytics Platform (executor) GUI. In that case the preferences.epf can be manually created, or created on an external machine and copied into location on the server. The relevant lines that must be contained in the preferences.epf file are:

```
file_export_version=3.0
\!/=
/instance/org.knime.workbench.core/database_drivers=/path/to/driver.jar;/path/to/driver-
folder
/instance/org.knime.workbench.core/database_timeout=60
```

Note that driver.jar may also reference a folder in some cases (e.g. MS SQL Server and Simba Hive drivers).

We've bundled a file called preferences.epf.template into the <server-repository>/config folder. In order for those preferences to be used, you must edit the file as appropriate, and move it so that it is named preferences.epf.

#### knime.ini file

You might want to tweak certain settings of this KNIME instance, e.g. the amount of available memory or set system properties that are required by some extensions. This can be changed directly in the knime.ini in the KNIME executor installation folder.

KNIME Server will read the knime.ini file next to the KNIME executable and create a custom ini file for every executor that is started. However, if you use a shell script that prepares an environment the server may not be able to find the ini file if this start script is in a different folder. In this case the knime.ini file must be copied to <server-

repository>/config/knime.ini. If this file exists, the server will read it instead of searching for a knime.ini next to the executable or start script.

## Log files

There are several log files that could be inspected in case of unexpected behavior:

#### TomEE server log

Location: <tomee-folder>/logs/catalina.yyyy-mm-dd.log

This file contains all general TomEE server messages, such as startup and shutdown. If TomEE does not start or the KNIME Server application cannot be deployed, you should first look into this file.

Location: <tomee-folder>/logs/localhost.yyyy-mm-dd.log

This file contains all messages related to the KNIME Server operation. It does <u>not</u> include messages from the KNIME Executor!

#### KNIME executor log

Location: <server-repository>/runtime/runtime\_knimermi\_<suffix>/.metadata/knime/knime.log Depending on the configuration, the suffix is either a number or a username, or a combination of both. This file contains messages from the KNIME Executor that is used to execute workflows on the server (for manually triggered execution, scheduled jobs, and also for generated reports, if KNIME Report Server is installed). Also useful in some cases is the Eclipse log file <server-

repository>/runtime/runtime\_knime—rmi\_<suffix>/.metadata/.log

### KNIME Analytics Platform (client) log

Location: <local workspace>/.metadata/knime/knime.log

This file contains messages of the client KNIME application. Messages occurring during server communications are logged there. The Eclipse log of this application is in <local workspace>/.metadata/.log

## Email notification

KNIME Server allows users to be notified by email when a workflow finishes executing. The emails are sent from a single email address which can be configured as part of the web application's mail configuration. If you don't want to enable the email notification feature, no email account is required. You can always change the configuration and enter the account details later.

### Setting up the server's email resource

The email configuration is defined in the web application context configuration file which is <tomee-folder>/conf/Catalina/localhost/knime.xml (or com.knime.enterprise.server.xml or similar). The installer has already created this file. In order to change the email configuration, you have to modify or add attributes of/to the <Resource name="mail/knime" ... /> element. All configuration settings must be added as attributes to this element. The table below shows the list of supported parameters (see also the JavaMail API documentation). Note that the mail resource's name must be mail/knime and cannot be changed.

Name	Value
mail.smtp.from	Address from which all mails are sent
mail.smtp.host	SMTP server, required
mail.smtp.port	SMTP port, default 25
mail.smtp.auth	Set to true if the mail server requires authentication; optional
mail.smtp.user	Username for SMTP authentication; optional
password	Password for SMTP authentication; optional
mail.smtp.starttls.enable	If true, enables the use of the STARTTLS command (if supported by the server) to switch the connection to a TLS-protected connection before issuing any login commands. Defaults to false.

Name	Value
mail.smtp.ssl.enable	If set to true, use SSL to connect and use the SSL port by default. Defaults to false.

If you do not intend to use the email notification service (available in the KNIME WebPortal for finished workflow jobs), you can skip this step.

Note that the mail configuration file contains the password in plain text. Therefore, you should make sure that the file has restrictive permissions.

## User authentication

As described briefly in the Server architecture section it is possible to use any of the authentication methods available to Tomcat in order to manage user authentication. By default the KNIME Server installer configures a database (H2) based authentication method. Previously the default configuration used a file-based authentication which we describe for legacy purposes. For enterprise applications, use of LDAP authentication is recommended.

In all cases the relevant configuration information is contained in the <Realm className="org.apache.catalina.realm.LockOutRealm"> tag in <tomeefolder>/conf/server.xml. The default configuration uses a CombinedRealm which allows multiple authentication methods to be used together. Examples for each of database, file and LDAP authentication are contained within the default installation. Configuration of all three authentication methods are described briefly in the following sections. In all cases the Tomcat documentation should be considered the authoritative information source.

### Database-based authentication

Database-based authentication is recommended to be used by small workgroups who do not have access to an LDAP system, or larger organisations in the process of trialing KNIME Server.

For default installations this authentication method is enabled within the server.xml file. No configuration changes are required. In order to add/remove users, or create/remove groups the administration pages of the WebPortal can be used. The administration pages can be located by logging into the WebPortal as the admin user, see section Administration pages for more details.

Batch insert/update of usernames and roles is possible using the admin functionality of the KNIME Server REST API. This is described in more detail in the section RESTful webservice interface. A KNIME Workflow is available in the distributed KNIME Server installation package that can perform this functionality.

### File-based authentication

Before KNIME Server 4.3 was released file-based authentication was the default option. It is now recommended to use either database-based or LDAP authentication. The advantages of each are described in the corresponding sections above and below.

The XML file <tomee-folder>/conf/tomcat-users.xml contains examples on how to define

users and groups (roles). Edit this file and follow the descriptions. By default this user configuration file contains the passwords in plain text. Encrypted storage of passwords is described in the tomcat documentation.

### LDAP authentication

LDAP authentication is the recommended authentication in any case where an LDAP server is available. If you are familiar with your LDAP configuration you can add the details during installation time, or edit the server.xml file post installation. If you are unfamiliar with your LDAP settings, you may need to contact your LDAP administrator, or use the configuration details for any other Tomcat based system in your organization. Please refer to the KNIME Enterprise Setup Guide 4.6 for a Quickstart guide for setting up LDAP, which you can download from the KNIME servers download page.

#### Connecting to an SSL secured LDAP server

In case you are using encrypted LDAP authentication and your LDAP server is using a selfsigned certificate, Tomcat will refuse it. In this case you need to add the LDAP server's certificate to the global Java keystore, which is located in <jrefolder>/lib/security/cacerts:

Alternatively you can copy the cacerts file, add your server certificate, and add the following two system properties to <tomee-folder>/conf/catalina.properties:

javax.net.ssl.trustStore=<copied keystore>
javax.net.ssl.keyStorePassword=changeit

#### Single-sign-on with LDAP and Kerberos

It is possible to use Kerberos in combination with LDAP for Single-Sign-On for authentication with KNIME Server.

This is an advanced topic and is covered in the KNIME Enterprise Setup Guide 4.7.

### Token-based authentication

KNIME Server also allows authentication by JWT (JSON Web Tokens) that have previously been issued by the server. The REST endpoint /rest/session can be used to acquire such a JWT for the currently logged in user. Subsequent requests need to carry the token in the Authorization header as follows:

Authorization: Bearer xxx.yyy.zzz

where xxx.yyy.zzz is the JWT. Token-based authentication is enabled by default and cannot be disabled. However, you can restrict the maximum lifetime of JWTs issued by the server via the server configuration option com.knime.server.login.jwt-lifetime, see section KNIME Server configuration file options.

## Configuring a license server

Since version 4.3 KNIME Server can distribute licenses for extensions to the KNIME Analytics Platform (e.g. Personal Productivity, TeamSpace, or Big Data Connectors) to clients. In order to use the license server functionality, you require a master license. Every KNIME Server automatically comes with TeamSpace client licenses for the same number of users as the server itself. TeamSpace client licenses also cover all Personal Productivity features (such as Workflow Diff).

The master license file(s) should be copied into the licenses folder of the server repository (next to the server's license). The server will automatically pick up the license and offer them to clients. For configuring the client, see the section about "Retrieving client licenses" in the KNIME Explorer User Guide.

Client licenses distributed by the server are stored locally on the client and are tied to the user's operating system name (not the server login!) and its KNIME Analytics Platform installation and/or the computer. They are valid for five days by default which means that the respective extensions can be used for a limited time even if the user doesn't have access to the license server.

If the user limit for a license has been reached, no further licenses will be issued to clients until at least one of the issued licenses expires. The administrator will also get a notification email in this case (if their email notification is configured, see previous section Email notification).

## License renewal

If the server is not behaving as expected due to license issues, please contact KNIME by sending an email to <a href="mailto:support@knime.com">support@knime.com</a> or to your dedicated KNIME support specialist.

If the license file is missing or is invalid a message is logged to the server's log file during server start up. KNIME clients are not able to connect to the server without a valid server license. Login fails with a message "No license for server found".

If the KNIME Server license has expired connecting clients fail with the message "License for enterprise server has expired on ...". Please contact KNIME to renew your license.

If more users than are licensed attempt to login to the WebPortal, some users will see the message: "Maximum number of WebPortal users exceeded. The current server license allow at most <number of licensed users> WebPortal users.". In this case you will need to email KNIME at support@knime.com to discuss options to increase the number of licensed users.

After you receive a new license file, remove the old expired license from the <serverrepository>/licenses folder. In case there are multiple license files in this folder, find the one containing a line with

"name" = "KNIME Server"

and the "expiration date" set to a date in the past. The license file is a plain text file and can be read in any text editor.

Store the new license file in the license folder with the same owner and the same permissions as the old file.

The new license is applied immediately; a server restart is not necessary.

## Backup and recovery

The following files and/or directories need to be backed up:

- The full server repository folder, except the temp folder
- The full TomEE folder
- In case you installed your own molecule sketcher for the KNIME WebPortal (see above), also backup this folder.

A backup can be performed while the server is running but it's not guaranteed that a consistent state will be copied as jobs and the workflow repository may change while you are copying files.

In order to restore a backup copy the files and directories back to their original places and restart the server. You may also restore to different location but make sure to adjust the paths in the start script, the repository location in the context configuration file, and paths in the server configuration.

## **KNIME** executor installation

Install the open-source KNIME Analytics Platform 3.5 on the server. Install all additional extensions users may need to run their workflows on the server. Make sure to include the "KNIME Report Designer" extension. Also install all extensions listed in the "KNIME Server Executor" category, either from the default online update site that or from the update site archive that you can get from the download area there. **Note that the versions of the KNIME Server Executor extensions must match the server's version (e.g. "4.7")!** Therefore, please check that you are installing from these extensions from correct update sites if you are not using the latest released versions of both the server and executor.

The easiest way to achieve this is to download the "KNIME + all free extensions" package from the public download page and extract it. It includes all extension required for running as an executor for a KNIME Server.

KNIME Analytics Platform must be executable for the server user (the user that runs the application server process, e.g. "tomcat"). If you use per-user KNIME executors, every user must be able to execute it on the server.

Make sure that users other than the installation owner either have no write permissions to the installation folder at all or that they have full write permission to at least the "configuration" folder. Otherwise you may run into strange startup issues. We strongly recommend revoking all write permissions from everybody but the installation owner.

If the server does not have internet access, you can download zipped update sites (from the commercial downloads page) which contain the extensions that you want to install. Go to the KNIME preferences at *File*  $\rightarrow$  *Preferences*  $\rightarrow$  *Install/Update*  $\rightarrow$  *Available Software Sites* and add the zip files as "Archives". In addition you need to disable all online update sites on the same page, otherwise the installation will fail. Now you can install the required extensions via *File*  $\rightarrow$  *Install KNIME Extensions...* 

### Installing additional extensions

The easiest way to install additional extensions into the executor (e.g. Community Contributions or commercial 3<sup>rd</sup> party extensions) is to start the executor in GUI mode and install the extensions as usual. In case you don't have graphical access to the server you can also install additional extensions without a GUI. The standard knime executable can be started with a different application that allows changing the installation itself:

```
./knime -application org.eclipse.equinox.p2.director -nosplash \
    -consolelog -r _<list-of-update-sites>_ -i _<list-of-features>_ \
    -d _<knime-installation-folder>_
```

Adjust the following parameters to your needs:

 <list-of-update-sites>: a comma-separated list of remote or local update sites to use. ZIP files require a special syntax (note the single quotes around the argument). Example:

-r 'http://update.knime.org/analyticsplatform/3.6,jar:file:/tmp/org.knime.update.analytics-platform\_3.6.0.zip!/'

 <list-of-features>: a comma-separated list of features/extensions that should be installed. You can get the necessary identifiers by looking at *Help* → *About KNIME* → *Installation Details* → *Installed Software* in a KNIME instance that has the desired features installed. Take the identifiers from the "Id" column and make sure you don't omit the .feature.group at the end (see also screenshot on the next page). Example:

-i org.knime.product.desktop,org.knime.features.r.feature.group

You can get a list of all installed features with:

```
./knime -application org.eclipse.equinox.p2.director -nosplash \
    -consolelog -lir -d _<knime-installation-folder_</pre>
```

• <knime-installation-folder>: the folder into which KNIME Analytics Platform should be installed (or where it is already installed). Example:

-d /opt/knime/knime\_3.6

### Updating the executor

Update of an existing installation can be performed by using the update-rmi.sh script in the root of the installation. You only have to provide a list of update sites that contain the new versions of the installed extensions and all installed extension will be updated (given that an update is available):

```
./update-rmi.sh http://update.knime.com/analytics-platform/3.6, \
    http://update.knime.com/store/3.6
```

If you want to selectively update only certain extensions, you have to build the update command yourself. An update is performed by uninstalling (-u) and installing (-i) an

#### extension at the same time:

```
./knime -application org.eclipse.equinox.p2.director -nosplash \
   -consolelog -r <list-of-update-sites> \
    -i <list-of-features> \
    -u <list-of-features> \
    -d <knime-installation-folder>
```

#### To update the Big Data Extensions, for example, run the following command:

```
./knime -application org.eclipse.equinox.p2.director -nosplash \
    -consolelog -r http://update.knime.com/analytics-platform/3.5 \
    -i
    org.knime.features.bigdata.connectors.feature.group,org.knime.features.bigdata.spark.fea
    ture.group \
    -u
    com.knime.features.bigdata.feature.group,com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group \
    -u
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime.features.bigdata.spark.feature.group
    com.knime
```

type filter text						
Name			Versio	n	Id	
ChemAxon/Infocom Ma	rvin Exten	sions Feature	3.1.0.	/0501a	jp.co.infocor	n.cheminfo.marv
CheS-Mapper-Node ex	tension for	KNIME Workbench	2.2.20	0.v2015100	org.chesmap	per.knime.featu
CIR KNIME integration			1.0.10	0.v2016040	org.talete.fe	ature.feature.gro
DYMATRIX Uplift Mode	ling Extens	ions	0.6.10	0.v2015100	org.dymatrix	.upliftmodeling.f
EMBL-EBI Nodes for KN	IME		1.0.40	0.v2015100	uk.ac.ebi.kni	ime.feature.featu
🖗 Erlwood Knime Open S	ource Core		2.9.50	0.v2015111	org.erlwood.	features.core.ba:
KNIME Active Learning			3.2.0.	/201607061	org.knime.fe	atures.activelear
KNIME Analytics Platfo	rm		3.2.0.	/201607131	org.knime.pr	roduct.desktop
KNIME Autoregressive	integrated	moving average (ARIMA	) 3.2.0.	/201606131	org.knime.fe	atures.arima.fea
KNIME Base Chemistry	Types & N	lodes	3.2.0.	/201607011	org.knime.fe	atures.chem.type
KNIME Big Data Conne	ctors		Conv	/201607061	com.knime.f	eatures.bigdata.t
KNIME Chemistry Add-	Ons		Сору	201605301	org.knime.fe	atures.ext.chem.
🚯 KNIME Data Generation	1		3.2.0.	201606131	org.knime.fe	atures.datagene
🚯 KNIME Deeplearning4J	Integratio	n (64bit only)	3.2.0.	/201607191	org.knime.fe	atures.ext.dl4j.fc
🚯 KNIME Distance Matrix			3.2.0.	/201606131	org.knime.fe	atures.distmatrix
🚯 KNIME External Tool Su	pport		3.2.0.	/201605301	org.knime.fe	atures.ext.exttoc
🚯 KNIME External Tool Su	pport (Lab	os)	3.2.0.	/201605301	org.knime.fe	atures.exttool.fe
🚯 KNIME File Handling No	odes		3.2.0.	/201607061	org.knime.fe	atures.base.fileh
🚯 KNIME Groovy Scriptin	g extension	ı	3.1.0.	/201602120	de.mpicbg.te	ds.knime.scriptin
🚯 KNIME HCS Tools			3.1.10	1.v2016042	de.mpicbg.te	ds.knime.hcstool
🚯 KNIME HTML/PDF Writ	er		3.2.0.	/201605301	org.knime.fe	atures.ext.birt.fe
🚯 KNIME Image Processing			1.5.1.3	2016072613	06 org.knime.kr	nip.feature.featur
🖗 KNIME Image Processir	ng - OMER	O Integration	0.10.0	.v20151011	org.knime.kr	nip.omero.feature
~						
KNIME nodes for accessing B	ig Data inf	rastructure such as Hiv	e, Impala, o	r HDFS.		
5	5					

## Enabling workflow execution

Once you have installed the KNIME Executor with all necessary extensions, you have to tell the server where to find the executor. Set the value of

com.knime.server.executor.knime\_exe in the server configuration to the knime executable. The path can be absolute or relative to the server's configuration folder (<server-

repository>/config). The path to the executor can be changed while the server is running it will be used when a new executor should be started (e.g. when the first workflow is being loaded).

**For Windows users**: For paths in the server configuration file either use forward slashes ("/") or double backslashes ("\\"). A single backslash is used to escape characters.

Sometimes workflow jobs running in the executor want to access files on the server, e.g. via

workflow-relative URLs or by a URL using the server's mount point ID. Since the executor cannot authenticate itself to the server with the user's password (because it's generally not known by neither the server nor the executor) a token is generated by the server, when the workflow is started (or scheduled). This token represents the user including his group membership *at the time it is created*. If group membership changes while the workflow job is still running or there are further scheduled executions, these changes will not be reflected in the workflow execution. Also if access has been revoked from the user completely, existing (scheduled) jobs can still access the server repository.

If the executor is running on a different computer than the server, please pay attention to the following: The communication between server and executor is partially performed via the REST interface, e.g. when a workflow requests files from the server repository. Therefore the executor must know the server's address. The server tries to auto-detect its address and sends it to the executor. However, if the server is running behind a proxy (e.g. Apache) or has a different external IP address than internally, auto-detection will give a wrong address and the executor will not be able to reach the server. In this case you have to set the configuration option com.knime.server.canonical-address to the server's canonical address, e.g. http://knime-server.behind.proxy/ (you do not need to provide the path to the server application). This address must be usable by the executor.

### Per-user KNIME executors

If you install KNIME Server on a Linux or OS X operating system, you can configure KNIME Server to either use a single, global executor or multiple user specific executors to run your workflows. For Windows based installations, only the global execution mode is supported.

Running with multiple executors complicates the installation process and can be much less efficient depending on your degree of concurrent access to the server since each executor has some computational overhead to maintain it. In order to mitigate this effect, you can limit the number of concurrent KNIME instances. Be aware that this will block users from executing workflows if the maximum is exceeded until a user frees his instance. Additionally, there is a preference in KNIME which can limit the number of threads used per executor.

The benefit of using multiple executors is that the workflows from different users run in relative isolation from one another; they don't share memory and should one executor become unresponsive, this should not directly affect the workflows running in the other executors. Additionally, in this case each executor is run by its user, which may be useful if your users will want to access resources on the system which are external to KNIME but are available to them at the user level. Finally, if you have KNIME Cluster Execution installed at the server and if you are using multiple executors, users will submit jobs to the cluster as themselves rather than a generic user.

By default the servers uses one KNIME Executor for all workflow jobs. On Linux systems KNIME Server offers the option to create a separate, KNIME executor instance for each user. To use multiple KNIME Executors, the following configuration is recommended:

1. Install the sudo package if necessary and add the following configuration by running visudo as root:

Cmnd\_Alias KNIME\_EXE = <path to KNIME executable>
knime-server ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD: KNIME\_EXE
#Defaults requiretty (needs to be commented out, i.e. disabled)

- 2. Set the following options in the server configuration:
  - com.knime.server.sudo\_cmd=<path to the sudo executable> sets the path to the sudo executable (e.g. /usr/bin/sudo). If this option points to a non-existing file or is empty only one shared KNIME executor is used for all users.
  - com.knime.server.rmi\_port=<port> sets the port the first KNIME executor instance listens to. The second instance listens to <port>+1 and so on. Default value is 50100.
  - com.knime.server.rmi\_max\_instances=<n> sets the maximum number of KNIME executor instances that are started. Please note that this parameter restricts the maximum number of users that can execute workflows on the server at the same time.

## **Custom Workflow Coach recommendations**

## KNIME Server is able to serve custom node recommendations to the workflow coach. In order to enable this functionality

com.knime.server.repository.update\_recommendations\_at= must be set as described in the knime-server.config settings table.

## The KNIME Analytics Platform preferences must be updated to enable the additional workflow coach recommendations:

	Preferences	
type filter text	Server Recommendations	<
<ul> <li>General</li> <li>Help</li> <li>Install/Update</li> <li>KNIME <ul> <li>Databases</li> <li>JavaScript Views</li> <li>KNIME Big Data Extension</li> <li>KNIME Big Data Extension</li> <li>KNIME GUI</li> <li>KNIME GUI</li> <li>KNIME Store</li> <li>Master Key</li> <li>Meta Info Preferences</li> <li>Preferred Renderers</li> <li>Python (Labs)</li> <li>Workflow Coach</li> <li>Server Recommendati</li> <li>Workspace Recommer</li> <li>Run/Debug</li> <li>Team</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Here you can choose which KNIME Server should send its node statis Workflow Coach. The list shows which servers are available. It might until all the available servers are listed. Now select a server from the list. The node recommendations subsect the Workflow Coach will be based on the workflows stored on the ser here. Note – you might have to download the statistics first: Update N Use KNIME Server	stics to the take a few seconds quently provided by ver you select Now.
	Manual Update Updated! For automatic updates see the main preference page for the Workflor To configure the mounted servers please refer to: <u>Mounted KNIME Server Instances</u> Restore Defaults	ow Coach. Apply
	Cancel	ОК

## Management (client preferences)

Since version 4.7 KNIME Server allows you to distribute so-called customization profiles to connected KNIME Analytics Platform clients. A profile consists of a set of files that are fetched by the client during startup. The files are copied into the user's workspace. Files ending with .epf are treated as Eclipse preferences and can be used to override the *default* preferences which are usually defined by the extension vendors. Settings that an Analytics Platform user has already changed (i.e. which don't have the default value any more) are not affected. However, the user can choose to *"Restore ALL preferences to defaults"* via the preference page in the KNIME Analytics Platform. In this case the user is first prompted, then a backup of the preferences file is stored in the <knime-

workspace>/.metadata/knime/preferences-backup.epf, finally, the server-managed settings will replace any preferences with the configured default values. The feature is available to all KNIME Server named-users and additionally to all registered consumers.

### Server-side setup

In order to enable server-managed customization on the server side you have to create one or more subdirectories inside <server-repository>/config/client-profiles. New server installations already come with an example profile that you can use as a starting point. You can have an arbitrary number of profiles. Which profiles are fetched by the client and in which order is defined by settings in the client (see below). If more than one profile defines a preference value, the *last* profile in the list requested by the client will determine the actual default value. Let's have a look at an example.

Suppose the config/client-profiles folder on the server has the following contents:

```
.../config/client-profiles/base/base.epf
org.knime.workbench.explorer.view/knime.explorer.mountpoint=...
org.knime.workbench.ui/knime.maxThreads=4
.../config/client-profiles/base/my-db-driver.jar
.../config/client-profiles/linux/linux.epf
org.knime.workbench.ui/knime.maxThreads=8
org.knime.python2/python2Path=/usr/bin/python2
org.knime.python2/python3Path=/opt/anaconda3/bin/knime-python
.../config/client-profiles/windows/windows.epf
org.knime.python2/python3Path=C:/Anaconda3/bin/knime-python.bat
.../config/client-profiles/windows/my-lib.dll
.../config/client-profiles/windows/my-lib.dll
.../config/client-profiles/windows/my-db-driver.jar
```

If the client request the profiles "base,linux" (in this order), the default number of threads used by KNIME nodes will be 8. The python paths are set to the correct Linux paths. If

another client requests "base,windows" the default number of threads will be 4 (from the base profile) and the Python 3 path will be set to a folder on the  $C:\$  drive. The pre-defined KNIME Explorer mount points will be identical for both clients because the value is only defined in the base profile.

A profile may contain several preferences files. They are all virtually combined into a single preference file for this profile in alphabetical order.

A profile may contain additional resources, for example, JDBC driver files. The entire contents of the client-profiles folder including hidden files is sent to the client as a zip file and unpacked into a location in the client workspace. There is no conflict handling for any other files in the requested profiles (e.g. my-db-driver.jar) because they will end up in separate subdirectories on the client and not be processed further.

If KNIME Server is running on Linux or macOS then the permissions of files inside profiles are transferred to the clients. This is useful for executable files on Linux or macOS clients, such as shell scripts. If you have such files in your profiles make sure to set the permissions accordingly on the server. KNIME Server's running on Windows don't support this feature because Windows file systems don't have the concept of executable files.

Note that the profiles on the server are accessible without user authentication therefore they shouldn't contain any confidential data such as passwords.

In order to create preference files for clients, start a KNIME Analytics Platform with a *fresh workspace* on the desired environments (e.g. Linux, Windows). This ensures that all preferences are set to their vendor defaults. Then change the preferences to your needs and export them via *File*  $\rightarrow$  *Export*  $\rightarrow$  *KNIME Preferences*. Then copy the resulting epf file to the profile folder on the server.

#### Variable replacement

It is possible to use variables inside the preferences files (only those files ending in .epf) which are replaced on the client right before they are applied. This makes the servermanaged customizations even more powerful. These variables have the following format: \${prefix:variable-name}. The following prefixes are available:

- env: the variable is replaced with the value of an environment value. For example, \${env:TEMP} will be replaced with /tmp under most Linux systems.
- sysprop: the variable is replaced with a Java system property.
   For example, \${sysprop:user.name} will be replaced with the current user's name. For a list of standard Java system properties see the JavaDoc. Additional system properties can be defined via -vmargs in the knime.ini.

 profile: the variable will be replaced with a property of the profile in which the current preference file is contained in. Currently "location" and "name" are supported as variable names. For example, \${profile:location} will be replaced by the file system location of the profile on the client. This can be used to reference other files that are part of the profile, such as database drivers:

org.knime.workbench.core/database\_drivers=\${profile:location}/db-driver.jar

- origin: the variable will be replaced with a HTTP response header sent by the server with the downloaded profiles. In addition to standard HTTP headers (which are probably not very useful), the following KNIME-specific origin variables are available:
  - \${origin:KNIME-Default-Mountpoint-ID} the server's configured default mount ID
  - \${origin:KNIME-EJB-Address} the address used by the KNIME Explorer; see the client profile templates in the repository created by the installer for an example
  - \${origin:KNIME-REST-Address} base address of the server's REST interface
  - \${origin:KNIME-WebPortal-Address} address of the server's WebPortal
  - \${origin:KNIME-Context-Root} base path on the server where all KNIME resources are available, usually /knime.
- custom: the variable will be replaced by the custom profile provider implementation that is also used to provide the profile location and list.

In case you want to have a literal in a preference value that looks like a variable, you have to use two dollar signs to prevent replacement. For example \$\${env:HOME} will be replaced with the plain text \${env:HOME}. If you want to have two dollars in plain text, you have to write three dollars (\$\$\${env:HOME}) in the preference file.

Note that once you use variables in your preference files they are not standard Eclipse preference files anymore and cannot be imported as they are.

### Client-side setup

The client has three possibilities to request profiles from a KNIME Server.

 Two command line arguments which define the address and the (ordered) list of requested profiles (note that the command line argument and the variable must be separated onto two lines – as seen below): -profileLocation
http://knime-server:8080/knime/rest/v4/profiles/contents
-profileList
base,linux

Both arguments must be supplied either directly on the command line or in the knime.ini **before** the -vmargs.

- 2. Two preference settings in the "KNIME/Customization profiles" preference page. There the user can select a server and then define the ordered list of profiles that he/she wants to apply. Note that this setting cannot be controlled by the server-managed customization profiles. Changes will take effect after the next start.
- 3. A custom profile provider defined in a custom Eclipse plug-in. Since this involves writing Java code and is likely only of interest for large-scale installations we cover this approach in the KNIME Server Enterprise Setup Guide.

The three possibilities are tried in exactly this order, i.e. if one of them provides a server address and a non-empty list of profiles it will be used and all following providers will be skipped.

It's also possible to provide a local file system folder as the profileLocation on the command line (or in your custom profile provider). The layout of this local folder must be the same as the profiles folder on the server.

## Security considerations

The following section describe some general security considerations for running a KNIME Server. Some of them are active by default, some other require manual configuration based on your specific environment.

### Protecting configuration files

The configuration files must be accessible by the system account running the KNIME Server. However, this account also runs the KNIME Executor which executes the workflows. This means that a malicious workflow can in principle access the server configuration files if the absolute file system paths are known. Therefore, for high security environments we recommend removing write permissions on the configurations files from the system account so that at least the workflow cannot modify them. This includes the following directories and their contained files:

- <tomee-folder>/conf
- <tomee-folder>/bin
- <tomee-folder>/endorsed
- <tomee-folder>/lib
- <server-repository>/config

### Encrypted communication

Communication between KNIME Analytics Platform and KNIME Server is performed via http. By default, both unencrypted communication via HTTP and encrypted communication via HTTPS (SSL) is enabled.

All encryption is handled by TomEE, see the Tomcat SSL Configuration How-to for full documentation.

#### Server configuration

The KNIME Server installer will enable encryption using a generic server certificate that the client accepts. Note that most browsers will issue a certificate warning when you access the KNIME WebPortal via https for the first time. Encryption is configured (default on) in the following files:
- Copy the Java keystore file knime-server.jks from the installation package to <tomeefolder>/conf.
- Edit <tomee-folder>/conf/server.xml, and add a new connector definition right after the first "<Connector... />" definition:

```
<Connector SSLEnabled="true" compression="on" maxThreads="150"

protocol="org.apache.coyote.http11.Http11Nio2Protocol"

port="8443" scheme="https" secure="true" server="Apache Tomcat">

<SSLHostConfig protocols="TLSv1, TLSv1.1, TLSv1.2">

<Certificate

certificateKeystoreFile="conf/knime-server.jks"

certificateKeystorePassword="knimeknime"

type="RSA"/>

</SSLHostConfig>

</Connector>
```

You can adjust the port number but you should not change any of the other value unless you understand the implications.

3. Restart TomEE.

If you want to enforce using only encrypted communications (HTTPS), we suggest to completely disable the unencrypted HTTP connector on port 8080 (by default). To do this remove the line that defines the first HTTP Connector in the server.xml or embed it into an XML comment so that it is not processed on startup.

#### **Client configuration**

If you want encrypted connection from KNIME Analytics Platform to KNIME Server, you have to make sure that KNIME accepts the server certificate. If you have a "real" certificate that was signed by a well-known certification authority then you should be save. If the signing CA is not known to Java you have to add the CA's certificate to the keystore used by KNIME:

- 1. Get the CA's certificate in PEM format.
- Add the CA certificate to the JRE's keystore file in <knimefolder>/jre/lib/security/cacerts. This is performed with the keytool command that is part of any Java installation (e.g. <knime-folder>/jre/bin/keytool):

```
keytool -import -trustcacerts -alias <ca-alias> \
    -file <CA.crt> -keystore jre/lib/security/cacerts
```

You can choose an arbitrary name for <ca-alias>. For <CA.crt> insert your CA's

certificate file. The password for the keystore file is "changeit".

## **CSRF** prevention

Cross-site request forgery (CSRF) is a type of malicious exploit of a website where unauthorized commands are transmitted from a user that the website trusts (see the Wikipedia entry for more technical details). In the context of KNIME Server this means that some other web page issues a (hidden) REST request to KNIME Server using the current user's active WebPortal session. The user usually doesn't notice anything but operations are performed with their account. Since version 4.3.4 KNIME Server contains a CSRF protection which prevents any modification requests (e.g. POST, PUT, or DELETE) to REST methods from hosts other than KNIME Server itself.

In case you have internal web pages on other hosts that deliberately perform valid requests you can disable CSRF protection by adding the following line to <apache-

tomee>/conf/conf/Catalina/localhost/knime.xml:

<Parameter name="com.knime.server.rest.csrf-protection" value="false" override="false" />

## Avoid clickjacking attacks

Clickjacking is also a malicious attempt to trick a user into clicking on something different than perceived, potentially revealing confidential information or taking control of the computer. (See the Wikipedia entry for more technical details). The best option to avoid clickjacking is setting the HTTP header X-Frame-Options to an appropriate value to prevent the WebPortal being embedded in a third party website. In KNIME Server this can be done with a configuration option com.knime.server.webportal.restrict\_x\_frame\_options. The value can be one of DENY, SAMEORIGIN or ALLOW-FROM any\_origin\_url. See also this article from MDN about more details of the header and available options.

Please note that, if you want to embed the WebPortal on a different website and want this setting to be enabled, you will have to set the value to ALLOW-FROM xxx (where xxx has to be replaced with the URL of the embedding website).

## Preventing cross-site scripting attacks

Cross-site-scripting is a type of security vulnerability, where an attacker tries to inject code into a page. For more technical details, read the corresponding Wikipedia entry. The KNIME WebPortal and the JavaScript-enabled nodes distributed by KNIME® (Quickforms

and JavaScript views) don't use any technique to bypass the same-origin policy. It is however possible to add an extra security option to advise browsers to block the rendering of a page, when an attack is registered. Use the configuration option

com.knime.server.webportal.enable\_x\_xss\_protection and set it to true, to enable the WebPortal sending the HTTP header X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block on every response. The header is supported by Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer and Edge, but not by Firefox. See also this article from MDN for more details on the header and its options.

## Hiding server details

By default, Tomcat prints its name and version number on error pages (e.g. if a location entered in the browser does not exist) and in standard HTTP headers. This information can be used by an attacker to target potential security issues for this particular version. Therefore for high security environments it's recommended to at least hide the server's version. Fresh installations from 4.5 onwards already hide the version. If you are upgrading from an existing installation, you can apply the following two small configuration changes:

• Add a file <tomee-folder>/lib/org/apache/catalina/util/ServerInfo.properties with the following contents:

```
server.info=Apache Tomcat
server.number=8.5.11.0
server.built= Jan 10 2017 21:02:52 UTC
```

Only the value of "server.info" is shown in error pages and by default includes the version number. The above example only exposes the server's name.

• Modify the <Connector> entries in <tomee-folder>/conf/server.xml and add an attribute "server" with "Apache Tomcat" as value:

<Connector port="8080" \*server="Apache Tomcat"\* ... />

This change hides the server version in HTTP headers.

## Advanced settings

There are a couple more actions you can take to make the server and the application even more secure which we don't discuss in detail here because they are only useful in special setups. Example are

- Cross-Origin Resource Sharing
- Strict Transport Security
- Content Security Policy (this policy cannot be implemented in Tomcat without writing custom code; see the section about Running behind frontend server for a possible solution)

## Running behind frontend server

In some cases it makes sense to run KNIME Server (Tomcat) behind a frontend server. Examples are

- Running several KNIME Servers under the same (public) hostname
- Adding custom HTTP headers (e.g. Content Security Policy, see above)
- Reusing existing HTTPS configurations
- Using standard ports (80, 443)

No configuration changes are required on the KNIME Server side, however, the frontend server must ensure that

- the public hostname is passed to KNIME Server in all HTTP requests. See the example below for details, and
- information about the public protocol (HTTP or HTTPS) is passed onto the KNIME Server.

Otherwise links generated by KNIME Server may point to the internal address which is useless for outside clients and can even expose sensitive information. A sample configuration for Apache HTTPD looks as follows:

```
<VirtualHost *:443>
ServerName public.knime.server
# Make sure the public protocol is passed to the server;
# not required if internal and external protocol are the same
RequestHeader set X-Forwarded-Proto "https"
# Ensure that the public hostname is also used in forwarded requests
ProxyPreserveHost On
ProxyRequests Off
ProxyPass /tomee/ejb http://internal:8080/tomee/ejb
keepalive=On nocanon
ProxyPass /knime http://internal:8080/knime
# Optional
ProxyPass /com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.ketcher
http://internal:8080/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.ketcher
```

Please note that such advanced setups require detailed knowledge about Tomcat and Apache configuration (or whatever frontend server you are using) and we can only provide

## limited support.

# KNIME WebPortal

The KNIME WebPortal requires workflow execution (see above for instructions). It can be accessed with any standard browser (see below for a list of supported browsers) at:

http://server-address:8080/knime/

If you enabled encrypted communication above, you can also use https:

https://server-address:8443/knime/

## Supported browsers

The KNIME WebPortal supports the following browsers:

Google Chrome:	Version 67.0+
Internet Explorer	Version 11.0+
Microsoft Edge	Version 42.0+
Firefox Version	Version 60.0+
Safari	Version 11.0+

Most WebPortal functionality may work with older browsers, although this is not tested.

Please note that IE8 and below is not supported.

## Customizing WebPortal layout

The layout and styles of the WebPortal are customizable and controllable using templates. The KNIME Server installation includes two example templates, webPortalTemplate.default, and webPortalTemplate.goldMining.

If you wish to change the look and feel, add your own components, or embed the WebPortal into your corporate environment you can use one of the templates in the server-repository/config folder in the server installation package for inspiration.



Gold mining WebPortal Customisation example login page

A custom template can be deployed under <server repository>/config/webportalTemplate (simply rename one of the example template folders as a starting point).

The customization can be done in 4 parts:

- The templates represent the structural elements of the different pages and panels of the WebPortal.
- A custom stylesheet can be applied by placing a CSS file called knime\_template.css into the templates folder.
- In order to change behavior, add additional libraries or define JavaScript functions to be available for example to the JavaScript enabled nodes, place a JS file called knime\_template.js into the templates folder.
- You can place a custom favicon.ico in the template folder in order to change the page/shortcut icon of all WebPortal pages.

Any additional resources (images, libraries, etc.) can be placed into this folder as well. On server startup, this folder is copied to a location that is accessible to a web browser. You can reference these resources directly in the CSS file (e.g. background-image: url(logo.png);) and prepend the custom folder in any template file (e.g. <img src="custom/logo.png">).

The template files are HTML fragments placed into the layout of the WebPortal page. There are several placeholders that are filled during runtime with the corresponding dynamic

components. A placeholder is defined by an HTML element that has a location attribute. The tables below list all possible placeholders.

To debug and troubleshoot your custom WebPortal templates please use the development tools of your preferred browser. A long-waiting request during page layout will most-likely be due to a mandatory component missing. Please also note that the CSS file is added to the page before the regular stylesheet. If you wish to overwrite styles you need to define new classes or ids in your template files or use the !important keyword.

#### Customizing the login page

The login page is customized in the file knime\_template\_login.html using the following placeholders:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
knime-login-image		The KNIME logo shown on the login page
knime-version-label		A label displaying the current server version
knime-login-message	Yes	Additional login message (e.g. session expired)
knime-input-username	Yes	The login input field for the username
knime-input-password	Yes	The login input field for the password
knime-login-button	Yes	The login button.

#### Customizing the main page

The main page is customized with several files. The overall structure is defined in knime\_template\_main.html and uses the following placeholders:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
knime-header	Yes	The header component

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
knime-main-panel	Yes	The two sectioned main panel
knime-footer		The footer component

The main page's header and footer can further customized in knime\_template\_header.html or knime\_template\_footer.html, respectively. The following templates can be used in either file:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
knime-user-label		A label showing the current user name
knime-version-label		A label displaying the current server version
current-year		The current year

The following templates can be used only in the knime\_template\_header.html file:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
knime-logo		The KNIME logo
knime-logout-button	Yes	The logout button
knime-admin-button		A button to call the server administration panel. Only shown for admin users.
knime-settings-button		A button to call the current user's settings panel. Only shown if user management is available.

#### Customizing job pages

The start page of a job can be customized in knime\_template\_job\_start.html using the

#### following templates:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
workflow_name		The workflow name
workflow_description		The additional workflow description
workflow-variables- credentials	Yes	The workflow variables and credentials panel
workflow-notification- settings	Yes	The workflow notification settings panel
job-start-button	Yes	The button to start a new workflow job

#### The panel shown during job execution can be customized in

knime\_template\_job\_executing.html with the following templates:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
workflow_name		The workflow name
workflow_description		The additional workflow description
job-status		A label displaying the current status of the job
progress-indicator	Yes	The spinning wheel progress indicator
job-cancel-button	Yes	A button to cancel execution

The panel showing intermediate steps during job execution (i.e. one quickform step) can be customized in knime\_template\_job\_prompt.html with the following templates:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
workflow_name		The workflow name

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
workflow_description		The additional workflow description
knime-quickforms	Yes	The panel displaying all available quickforms or JavaScript components
job-buttons	Yes	The button bar for back, next and discard buttons

The panel showing the final result page of a job can be customized in knime\_template\_job\_result.html with the following templates:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
workflow_name		The workflow name
workflow_description		The additional workflow description
job-success-text		A label displaying if execution was successful
knime-quickforms	Yes	The panel displaying all available quickforms or JavaScript components
job-buttons	Yes	The button bar for back, next and discard buttons
report-preview	Yes	A component to display a preview of a report, if available
job-warnings	Yes	Component displaying all errors/warnings that occurred during execution

#### Customizing workflow group information

The page displaying information for a selected workflow group can be customized in knime\_template\_directory.html with the following templates:

Location ID	Mandatory	Placeholder for
workflow_name		The workflow group name
workflow_description		The additional workflow group description

## Installing a molecule sketcher

The KNIME WebPortal can be used with an integrated molecular sketcher. The server installation package contains additional WAR files in the sketchers folder. In order to use one of these sketcher copy the corresponding WAR file into <tomee-folder>/webapps and configure as described below. The WAR file should automatically be extracted into a folder of the same name. You may need to restart TomEE before the WAR is extracted.

#### Marvin sketcher applet

First check that you followed the instructions in the paragraph Installing a molecule sketcher. The current version of the Marvin Sketcher provided by Chemaxon is available at https://www.chemaxon.com/download/marvin/for-web-developers/. Download the sketcher applet and extract its contents to

<tomee-folder>/webapps/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.marvin/marvin/

#### Change the server configuration in knime-server.config and set

com.knime.server.webportal.sketcher\_page=/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.marvin/sketcher. html

#### Marvin JS sketcher

First check that you followed the instructions in the paragraph Installing a molecule sketcher. The current version of the Marvin Sketcher provided by Chemaxon is available at https://www.chemaxon.com/download/marvin/for-web-developers/. Download the sketcher

#### code and extract its contents to

<tomee-folder>/webapps/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.marvinJS/marvinJS/

#### Change the server configuration in knime-server.config and set

com.knime.server.webportal.sketcher\_page=/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.marvinJS/sketche
r.html

#### GGA Ketcher

First check that you followed the instructions in the paragraph Installing a molecule sketcher. Change the server configuration in knime-server.config and set

```
com.knime.server.webportal.sketcher_page=/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.ketcher/sketcher
.html
```

#### **JSME Molecule Editor**

First check that you followed the instructions in the paragraph Installing a molecule sketcher. Change the server configuration in knime-server.config and set

```
com.knime.server.webportal.sketcher_page=/com.knime.enterprise.sketcher.jsme/sketcher.ht
ml
```

#### Administration pages

If the KNIME WebPortal is installed, a KNIME Server administration page will available, too. It can be accessed by logging into the WebPortal through a web browser and clicking on the corresponding link at the top right.

In order to have access to the administration page, a user must have administrator privileges. Users can be granted administrator privileges via the server configuration file (please see section Server administrator).



Login to the KNIME Server Admin pages by clicking on the ADMINIstration button on the top right.

The administration page provides details about the server's status (see Server status), an overview of workflow jobs (see Jobs), and allow to manage local users and groups (see User groups). Please note that the users and groups management will only be available with a specific server configuration as described in section User groups.

KNIME Server Administratic ×				Jon
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User and group administration page

#### Server status

The Server Status info box provides the following information:

Host	The name of the host the server is currently running on.
Version	The version of the running KNIME Server.
Uptime	The time that has been passed since the last start of the server.
Executors Info	Information about KNIME instances used to execute jobs. It includes the associated user name, the port a particular KNIME Executor is listening to, the uptime, general status and the number of jobs.

Config Info Config	Click on the item to expand it. It provides the current KNIME Server configuration as specified by the server's configuration file (see Section KNIME Server configuration file).

The License and Users Info-box provides information about the currently used license and the users. The following items are available:

License Type	Type of the used license.
Expiration Date	Expiration date of the license.
Company	The company the license has been issued for.
Host Identifiers	Host information used to check the license against. This can be, for instance, MAC- or IP-addresses.
Comment	An optional comment regarding the license.
Users	Click on the item to expand it. It displays the number of users and maximum number of allowed users for either the "Desktop", the "WebPortal", or the "Webservices". For WebPortal and Webservice the most recent login of users are provided as well.

#### Jobs

The jobs page lists all currently available jobs on KNIME Server. The table displays the jobstatus icon (move the mouse cursor over the icon for more details), its name, the workflow the job is associated with, its owner, and notifications. More details about a particular job can be accessed by clicking on the 'magnifier'-icon. For a more detailed description of the provided information for each job please refer to the documentation of the KNIME Server API version 4.x,

http://<server>:8080/com.knime.enterprise.server/rest/v4/\\_profile/knime-serverdoc-v4.xml in particular the documentation of the resource com.knime.enterprise.server.rest.api.v4.jobs.ent.WorkflowJob.

By typing into the search field, only jobs that contain the search string (present in any of the

columns), will be shown.

#### Users & groups

**Note:** The users and groups management is only available if the database-based authentication is chosen (see section Database-based authentication). If the LDAP or file-based authentication is configured, the users and groups management will *not* be available.

Through the user management page, users can be added (the 'plus sign'), their groups and password changed (the pencil-icon) or deleted (the waste-bin-icon). The currently logged-in user cannot be deleted.

Furthermore, groups can be added or removed. If a group is removed all member will be removed from this group, too. The pre-configured "admin" group cannot be removed. To grant another user to access the administration pages, he must have administrator privileges (e.g. being member of an admin group).

# Managing access to files/workflows/metanodes

You can assign access permissions to each server item (workflows or workflow groups) to control the access of other users to your workflows and groups.

## The owner

The server stores the owner of each server item, which is the user that created the item. When you upload a flow, copy a workflow, save a workflow job (an executed flow) or create a new workflow group you are assigned to the new item as owner. When a new server item is created, you can set the permissions how you want this item to be available to other users. Later on, only the owner can change permissions on an item.

## User groups

When the KNIME Server administrator defines the users that have access to the KNIME Server, the users are assigned to groups. Groups can be defined as needed — for example one group per department, or per research group, etc. Each user must be in at least one group, and could be in many groups.

You can set a group to be an administrator group (with the configuration option "com.knime.server.server\_admin\_group=<group name>"). Users assigned to that group are considered server administrators.

## Server administrator

Specific users can be set server administrator with a configuration option (com.knime.server.server\_admin\_users=<user>,<user>,...,) or by assigning them to the administrator group (see section User groups). Server administrators are not restricted by any access permissions. Administrators always have the right to perform any action usually controlled by user access rights. They can always change the owner of an item, change the permissions of an item, they see all workflow jobs (while regular users only see their own jobs) and they can delete all jobs and items.

## Access rights

There are three different access rights that control access to a workflow and two for a workflow group:

#### Workflow group permissions

Read	Allows the user to see the content of the workflow group. All workflows and subgroups contained are shown in the repository view.
Write	If granted, the user can create new items in this workflow group. He can create new subgroups and can store new workflows or metanode templates in the group. Also deletion of the group is permitted.

Note: In order to access a workflow it is not necessary to have read-permissions in the workflow group the flow is contained in. Only the listing of contained flows is controlled by the read-right. Also, a flow can be deleted without write permission in a group (if the corresponding permission on the flow is granted).

Also, in order to add a flow to a certain group, you only need permissions to write to that particular group, not to any parent group.

Execute	Allows the user to execute the flow, to create a workflow job from it. It does not include the right to download that job, or even store the job after it finishes (storing requires the right to download).
Write	If granted, the user can overwrite and delete the workflow.
Read	Allows the user to download the workflow (including all data stored in the flow) to its local desktop repository and inspect the flow freely.

Workflow permissions

Note: Executing or downloading/reading a flow does not require the right to read in the group that contains the flow. In fact, there is currently no right controlling the visibility of a single flow (there is no "hidden" attribute).

## Access to workflow jobs and scheduled jobs

There are no permissions to be set on a workflow job or a scheduled job. Only the owner — the user that created the job — can see the job in the repository view, and he is the only user that can delete it (besides any server administrator).

In order to store a workflow job as new workflow in the server's repository, the user needs the right to download the original workflow (the flow the job was created from). (This is a requirement, because the newly created workflow is owned by the user that stores the job — and the owner can easily grant itself the right to download the flow. Thus, if the original flow didn't have the download right set, the user that is allowed to execute the flow could easily work around the missing download right.)

## "Owner", "Group", and "Other" rights

As the owner of a server item (workflow, meta node template or workflow group) you can grant access rights to other users. But you can only assign permissions on a group level, not for particular users.

#### **Owner rights**

The owner can assign permissions to himself to protect a flow from accidental deletion. He can change his own permissions at any time.

#### Group rights

The owner of a server item can assign permissions to all users of a specific group. If an access right is granted to a group, all users that are assigned to this group have this right.

#### "Other" rights

Permissions can be set to all users that are not the owner and that are not in one of the groups.

Note: Access rights are adding up and can't be withdrawn — that means, if, for example, you grant the right to execute a flow to "other" users and you define permissions for a certain group of users not including the execute right, these users of that group are still able to execute that flow, as they obtain that right through the "other" permissions.

# Webservice interfaces

## RESTful webservice interface

KNIME Server supports execution of workflows via a REST interface. The entry point for the REST interface is http://server-address/knime/rest/.

The interface is based on a hypermedia-aware JSON format called Mason. Details about the interface, its operations, endpoints and message formats are provided at the following locations (best opened in an internet browser):

- http://<server-address>/knime/rest/\_profile/knime-server-doc.xml for the general interface and
- http://<server-address>/knime/rest/v4/\_profile/knime-server-doc-v4.xml for the 4.x API

(see also the "Link" HTTP header in all responses returned by the server).

The usual starting point to query the repository and to execute operations is http://<server-address>/knime/rest/v4/repository/ (note the trailing '/'). The returned document also contains links to further operations.

# Common problems

## Always reset with flow variables

If the values of flow variables are changed in the remote execution dialog, the flow must be reset in order for the new values to be propagated. In this case, don't remove the checkmark "Reset before Execution" in the execution dialog.

## knime.ini file not found

If the KNIME instance that is used to execute flows on the server doesn't seem to have the settings specified in the knime.ini file, it is possible that the server didn't find the ini-file: The server takes the default ini-file from the same folder as the KNIME executable. If you specify a wrapper script as executable that is located outside the installation folder it doesn't find the default ini-file. In this case copy the ini-file from the installation folder into <server-repository>/config.

## Server startup takes a long time

In some cases it may take quite some time (up to several minutes) until the server responds to requests on Linux systems. This is usually caused by insufficient entropy for the random number generator used by Tomcat. You can work around this issue by specifying a different random number source, which will provide numbers faster but which are also less random:

- 1. Edit <tomee-folder>/conf/catalina.properties.
- 3. Restart TomEE

## Large number of concurrent WebPortal users

If there are a large number of users working with the WebPortal at the same time, the TomEE configuration needs to be changed. Otherwise the WebPortal gets very slow and new users may have problems logging in. In this case the current log file <tomee-

folder>/log/localhost.yyyy-mm-dd.log also contains messages such as "Could not retrieve server item listing: No instances available in Stateless Session Bean pool. Waited 30 SECONDS". Perform the following steps in order to resolve this issue:

- 1. Edit <tomee-folder>/conf/tomee.xml.
- 2. Add the following element or adjust the value in the already existing element:

```
<Container id="Default Stateless Container" type="STATELESS">
maxSize = 25
strictPooling = false
</Container>
```

The maxSize parameter should match the number of concurrent server users. A complete list of available configuration parameters can be found here.

3. Restart TomEE.

# Third party software licenses

The KNIME Server software makes use of third-party software modules, that are each licensed under their own license. Some of the licenses require us to note the following:

The following libraries are used and licensed under the CDDL v1.1 and are owned by Oracle. The copyright belongs to the respective owners.

- javax.json-1.0.4.jar
- javax.json-api-1.0.jar
- jstl-1.2.jar

The following libraries are used and licensed under the Apache 2.0 license. The copyright belongs to the respective owners.

- amqp-client-3.6.2.jar
- animal-sniffer-annotations-1.14.jar
- commons-compress-1.15.jar
- commons-fileupload-1.3.1.jar
- commons-io-2.4.jar
- error\_prone\_annotations-2.0.18.jar
- guava-23.0.jar
- httpclient-4.5.3.jar
- httpcore-4.4.6.jar
- j2objc-annotations-1.1.jar
- jackson-annotations-2.7.0.jar
- jackson-core-2.7.1.jar
- jackson-databind-2.7.1.jar
- jackson-dataformat-xml-2.7.1.jar
- jackson-datatype-jdk8-2.7.1.jar
- jackson-datatype-jsr310-2.7.1.jar
- jackson-datatype-jsr353-2.7.1.jar
- jackson-module-jaxb-annotations-2.7.1.jar

- javassist-3.21.0-GA.jar
- jsr305-1.3.9.jar
- objenesis-2.6.jar
- ognl-3.0.8.jar
- org.osgi.compendium-4.3.1.jar
- org.osgi.core-4.3.1.jar
- rmiio-2.1.0.jar
- stax-api-1.0.1.jar
- stax2-api-3.1.4.jar
- thymeleaf-2.1.4.RELEASE.jar
- txtmark-0.13.jar
- unbescape-1.1.0.RELEASE.jar
- vaadin-client-compiled-7.7.9.jar
- vaadin-server-7.7.9.jar
- vaadin-shared-7.7.9.jar
- vaadin-themes-7.7.9.jar
- xmlbeans-2.5.0.jar

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- jsoup-1.8.3.jar
- jquery 2.2.4
- lodash 4.17.4
- react-15.6.2
- react-bootstrap 0.29.5
- react-bootstrap-table 3.3.4
- react-dom 15.6.2
- react-sidebar 2.1.1

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• Node-forge 0.7.4 (Copyright (c) 2010, Digital Bazaar, Inc. All rights reserved.)

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• reflections-0.9.10.jar

## CDDL v1.1

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