



IBM Software Group

Ask the Experts

WebSphere Application Server System Management includes Admin tools, Synchronization, Discovery and Application Management in Full profile

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WebSphere® Support Technical Exchange



Agenda

- Introduce the panel of experts
- Introduce WebSphere Application Server Topics
- Answer 6 questions submitted by email
- Open telephone lines for questions
- Summarize highlights

Panel of Experts

Panelist	Role at IBM
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Introduction

- We will be covering a number of questions that cover various WebSphere Application Server Topics :
 - WebSphere Application Server admin tools
 - Synchronization/discovery process
 - Application Management
 - Server start/stop

- Platforms covered will include 7.x/8.x in full profile setup.



Question 1

- Can I federate the lower version of an application server profile into the upper version of DMGR ? Are there any limitations with this topology setup?

Answer to Question 1

- IBM WebSphere Application Server does support mixed node environment.
- User can federate the lower version of Application Server node into higher version of Deployment Manager cell.
- During migration it is ok to migrate Deployment Manager (Dmgr) first and have the new Dmgr manage the older version nodes until all the nodes are migrated.
 - ▶ Example: If migrating 7.0 to 8.5 it is ok to migrate Dmgr first and then migrate nodes one by one and have 8.5 Dmgr manage v7.0 nodes in until migration process is complete

NOTE: if the older or lower is version is going out of support then the nodes must be migrated to supported version before end of support.

Question 2

- Is it recommended/supported starting my nodeagent and application server on a node with 2 different user accounts ?

Answer to Question 2

- Running nodeagent as non root user and running application server as root user is not supported.
- Running nodeagent as root and application servers as non root is supported but not recommended.
- IBM recommends starting processes that run on the same profile with same user IDs or the user ID that have mutually compatible file permissions.
- To avoid permission-denied errors run the profile with single user ID.

Question 3

- My installedApps folder was wiped out. How do I recover it and how do I prevent this from happening in the future?

Answer to Question 3

- It is always recommended maintaining a backup to WebSphere install home and if any un expected problem happens respective folder can be re-stored.
- WebSphere Application Server product does not have any known issues from WAS V7 with installedApps directory.
- Problem might occur due to some file space issue under installedApps (or) some user error .

Following ways can be used to recover applications:

1. Uninstall and re-install the applications.
2. If there was a backup taken then re-store it from backup.
3. If the cell has identical node with same set of applications then user can copy all applications folders from working node installedApps folder into non working node installedApps folder.



4. Forcing application re-expansion operation using following steps but please note that this step can be applied only when previous options are can't be used.

- Stop nodeagent on the problem appserver node
- Take a backup to /profile_home/config directory
- Remove missing applications folder from “/profile_home/config/cells/\$cell_name/applications” folder
- Now run syncNode.sh command to perform full re-sync operation. This operation gets all the missing applications from Deployment Manager master configuration and expand the apps into installedApps folder.

Question 4

- My complete deployment manager profile is lost due to some hardware issue and unfortunately no backup taken. Is it possible to recover this dmgr config data from the appserver nodes ?

Answer to Question 4

- Deployment Manager profile contains complete master configuration. Unless you have a backup , it cant be restored.
- Before making any configuration change or before any major deployment, please collect the Deployment Manager configuration backup.
 - You can run backupConfig tool or manageprofile with –backupProfile option to collect the backup.
- In case if you have issue with node machine (Machine in accessible, Node Configuration Corrupted or machine removed from network) then you have few options to recover.
 - Starting from WebSphere Application Server V8 , there is a new parameter called “-asExistingNode” to addNode command which can be used to achieve this
 - Earlier release(<= V7.0) requires lot of manual steps to recover the node with out backup, please open a ticket with IBM .

Answer to Question 4 – Cont..

- Following infocenter has more details about addNode -asExistingNode

http://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/wsbroker/redirect?version=matt&product=was-nd-dist&topic=tagt_addNode_asExistingNode

- Another good reference for “IBM WebSphere Application Server Repository Migration” process is :

<http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg27020204>

Question 5

- If I connect to the nodeagent process from the wsadmin.sh /bat scripting tool in deployment manager, is it okay to make some changes to the configuration? What can be done by connecting to the nodeagent process?



Answer to Question 5

- IBM do not recommend making configuration changes using nodeagent's AdminService.
- Since there's no application management service running on nodeagent, deploying application won't be possible.
- Starting or stopping of Application Servers and querying the status are allowed.

Question 6

- We use WebSphere application server , write scripts for automation jython. Can you offer something for configuration change management? So that you can use instead of urban deploy.

Answer to Question 6

- IBM WebSphere Application Server currently do not provide configuration change management like Urban Code Deploy.
- WebSphere Application Server does have config repository validation. Warning message or Error messages can be thrown , if there is any issue with the configuration you have changed or added.

Open Lines for Questions

Links provided during the Q&A session

New in V8

http://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/wsbroker/redirect?version=matt&product=was-nd-mp&topic=welc_newinrelease

Migrating cells using the command-line tools

http://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/?lang=en#!/SSAW57_8.5.5/com.ibm.websphere.migration.nd.doc/ae/tmig_migrate_cells_commandline.html?cp=SSAW57_8.5.5%2F1-4-0-3

Software Development kit (mangesdk command)

http://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/?lang=en#!/SSAW57_8.5.5/com.ibm.websphere.nd.doc/ae/rxml_managesdk.html



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Summary



Additional WebSphere Product Resources

- Learn about upcoming WebSphere Support Technical Exchange webcasts, and access previously recorded presentations at:
http://www.ibm.com/software/websphere/support/supp_tech.html
- Discover the latest trends in WebSphere Technology and implementation, participate in technically-focused briefings, webcasts and podcasts at:
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- View a webcast replay with step-by-step instructions for using the Service Request (SR) tool for submitting problems electronically:
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