

Functional Specification: Application Server Administration

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1. Introduction

1.1. Project/Component Working Name

GlassFish V2/Sun Java System Application Server 9.1.

1.2. Name(s) and e-mail address of Document Author(s)/Supplier

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1.3. Date of This Document

09/01/2006.

2. Project Summary

2.1. Project Description

The project is about administration and management support for GlassFish V2. This also covers configuration. It includes the following areas: Domain Configuration Management, Administration Infrastructure, Inter Process Communication using JMX Connectors, Management API, J2EE Security, Process Launcher and Startup, Synchronization, Dynamic Reconfiguration, and

It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the [overall application server architecture](#). The architecture of application server is more or less similar to that of the previous releases. The (server 9.1) administrative projects are focused more on the improved scalability, performance, and feature set.

Since most of the server side entities are being enhanced in this release, this document just updates the existing features, along with new features, if any.

2.2. Risks and Assumptions

There are no risks in this project.

3. Problem Summary

3.1. Problem Area

The administration experience of application server should be enhanced. It is also important

performance of the Domain Admin Server is improved.

3.2. Justification

Administration of application server should always be improved and made more robust.

4. Technical Description

4.1. Details

Here is a list of things that we will be doing, for this release.

- [Domain Configuration Management](#)
- [Administrative MBeans and JMX Infrastructure](#)
- [Inter Process Communication using JMX Connectors](#)
- [Management API \(AMX\)](#)
- [JSR 77 Support](#)
- [Administrative Security](#)
- [Process Launcher and Startup/Shutdown](#)
- [Synchronization](#)
- [Node Agent](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)

Item	Details
Domain Configuration	<p>Background</p> <p>The configuration is stored in various files on disk. There are no new changes in this release.</p> <p>Changes planned for this release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The domain's configuration DTD changes are being tracked in http://www.glassfishwiki.org/gfwiki/Wiki.jsp?page=GlassFishV• Administrative interface will be provided to default web tier configuration (default-web.xml). The exact list of settings that will be managed<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The default web tier configuration is applicable to all the domain.◦ All the affected servers will require a restart. In other words, default-web.xml are not dynamic. <p>The default-web.xml editing support is NOT PLANNED for this release.</p>

Management

- It will be possible to copy the entire domain configuration folder (<install-dir>/domains/domain1) somewhere else on the same host. The installation configuration does not depend on where the application software is installed. It is the user/administrator responsibility to make sure that the source and target application server are the same. Following should be noted in this regard:
 - This feature should not be confused with backup-restore (6418805, 90). This is not a replacement of the other.
 - The start-domain command might have to change, after the folder is moved from one place to another.
 - The **name** of the domain (root folder containing domain's configuration) should be the same.
- It will also be possible to copy the entire installation somewhere else on the same host (6418805, 90). Following should be noted in this regard:
 - All the scripts in the <install-dir>/bin folder should continue to work as their "execute" permission is retained.

Administrative
MBeans and
JMX
Infrastructure

Background

These are the MBeans that pertain to the configuration changes of the application server. The CLI usually communicate with these MBeans to perform configuration changes.

Changes planned for this release

No changes are planned here.

Inter Process
Communication
using JMX
Connectors

Background

The JMX Connectors are used for two distinct purposes within application server:

- One-way communication between asadmin client and DAS. This is the implementation of client-side JSR-160, over HTTP/HTTPS.
- Two-way communication between DAS and node-agents + other components. The node-agents communicate with these over RMI/JMX -- the standard JSR-160 implementation is used into the Java Platform.

Changes planned for this release

No changes are planned here, apart from some bug-fixes.

Background

AMX is the programmatic API to manage application server.

Changes planned for this release

Management API
(AMX)

- ~~Provide the offline configuration support for most of the config domain.xml. This means that when a user wants to modify domain running, s/he should be able to do that. This is required when the changes to be made and does not want to start the DAS to be run modify the domain's configuration, we need the DAS to be run considered in this regard:~~
 - ~~It is not required that application archive deployment is start reason is that the deployment is quite complex operation and running DAS. In fact, following operations are **not required** configuration, for this release:~~
 - ~~Deployment of application archives.~~
 - ~~Creation of users/groups that use the FileRealm.~~
 - ~~Load Balancer configuration.~~
 - ~~Minimum validation of the domain's configuration must be~~
 - ~~It should be ensured by AMX that domain is NOT running perform offline configuration.~~
 - ~~No Dynamic reconfiguration support will be provided. In instances will have to be restarted so that their configuration administrators should make sure that no server side entities configuration is performed.~~
 - ~~This facility is meant mainly for the configurators that want configuration in a certain manner, without having to start~~
- **Offline Configuration is NOT PLANNED for this release**
- Provide a way to **reload** an application.

JSR 77 Support

Background

JSR 77 Specification is in maintenance mode, so there is no new revisions

Changes planned for this release

- The first time startup of the domain/instance causes the MEjb application to be deployed. This causes some delay in bringing up application incurs minor overhead to make sure that it is not required to be care are going to prepackage the MEjb application, so that the startup marginally increase the application server bundle size.
- See the administrative security section for other changes made to clients.

Background

This section covers the changes being made to the administrative security.

Changes planned for this release

There are no major changes planned for administrative security.

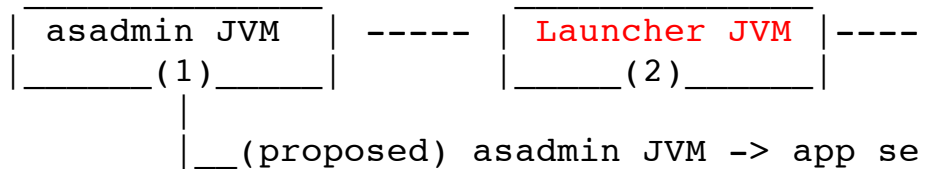
- Currently, a group-name, **asadmin** is reserved for the group of application server, who have administrative privileges. This works with the authentication realm (file-realm) is used. But when, LDAP is used, unfortunately all the users in this group get administrative access. This is a customer issue [6454224](#) which will be fixed for this release.
- We should be able to use either JKS or NSS as our key-store and as a default, the Platform Edition of the product gets JKS, whereas in this release, rather than hard-coding these, there will be a way to allow an administrator for a particular domain. Note however that, once the key-store is set, it will not be possible to change it. These details are covered in [profiles](#).

Background

The process launcher code is responsible for launching the application server in default mode, a separate *launcher* VM is started that finally starts the application server (JVM). This is the default for this release. In case of the other flavor, a separate launcher process) that launches another native application server process. This will need to maintain both the flavors for this release.

Changes planned for this release

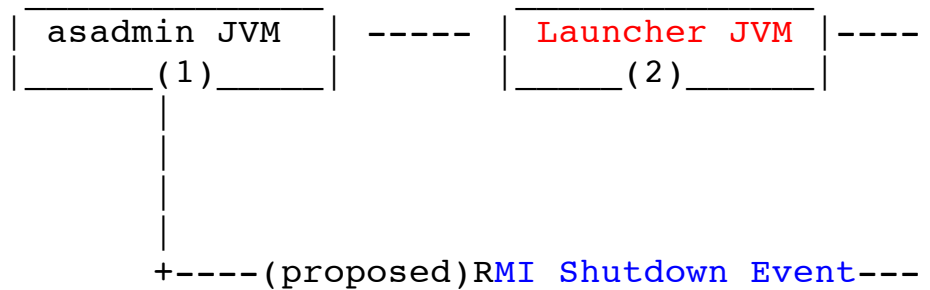
- Improve the startup performance in the case of default mode: Currently, when default mode is used, there is a Launcher JVM (2) that is started and that invokes the application server JVM (3).



It is desired that we eliminate the separate Launcher JVM and instead have the application server JVM launch itself as a separate process. For that matter, it should be possible for the application server JVM as a separate process. This will be made part of the product and will become a public API. Note that following in this regard:

Process Launcher
and
Startup/Shutdown

- If possible, streaming API for XML will be used to parse form the Java invocation command line.
 - There are some hairy issues here from a compatibility standpoint imperative that all the options on the start-domain and start-instance be taken care of, while we try to make this change.
 - The changes should apply to both start-domain and start-instance case of start-instance command, the node-agent being the
 - The Java-level thread-dump capability of the server must be implemented. One way we have several ways to get the thread dump from the application. One way is to send an OS signal (e.g. SIGQUIT on Solaris) to the process. Something that must be noted (which is actually a Java bug) is that while using the Java Launcher, we cannot get the thread dump from the server's server.log, by sending the SIGQUIT-like signal to the process because the signal handler in the JVM (native code) does *PrintStream* that Java-land understands.
 - There used to be an internal interface called *processlauncher*. The level of this interface will be assessed under changing circumstances. It may be required in the case of Java Launcher.
 - Debuggability of this code will be improved.
- Removal of Launcher from the stop-domain/stop-instance logic: why this is there to begin with. It makes no sense to go through SHUTDOWN event to a running application server JVM.



Whenever the server starts up an RMI Stub (A live object) is written to the log folder. If a piece of software can access this Stub, it can be an RMI client on the server. So, while stopping the domain or server instance, all that needs to be done is to stop this stub. In fact, the logic through the Launcher does the same thing. **PEMain** is called with an argument, *stop* and that becomes the SHUTDOWN event to the running server. To achieve this, we just need one JVM and that is of the asadmin, while stopping the

node-agent, while stopping the server instance. This has huge complexity. See [Issue No. 949](#) for some hideous side effects of

Synchronization

Background

This is the piece of code that is supposed to take care of bringing the central repository. For all practical purposes, the central repository domain's folder.

Changes planned for this release

Nazrul Islam is supposed to provide the details here.

Background

Node Agent controls the life cycle of the server instances on a given node. It starts instances, stops them, initiates synchronization of their repositories and instances among other things.

Changes planned for this release

- Handling of admin password change across the domain: Current behavior is that when admin password is changed, it is dynamically applicable only to the DAS. The communication between DAS and node agents is through JMX connections. The upshot of this is that unless the DAS is restarted, all instances are restarted after changing the admin password (provided the process), the communication between DAS and node agents becomes unpredictable. But having to restart all the entities in the domain for a password change operation seems illogical. It might be hard to take care of this in a release, when admin password is changed, but user experience is a priority case. Following is what will be attempted for this release in this area:
 - Admin Interfaces (admin CLI, GUI, AMX) should clearly indicate what needs to be restarted and how, after the admin password is changed. Stress that until the restart is done in the described fashion, the instances will continue to use older admin password for authentication. We don't know what happens when the auth-realm for admin changes, for this reason that we take a safe approach for this release.
- Synchronize an instance on restarting the node-agent: We have a feature that administrators would like to forcefully sync the instance's cache with the central repository **on restarting the node-agent**. Today, when a node-agent is stopped followed by **asadmin start-node-agent**, the s

That's by design and cannot be overridden. But in some cases, if you knowingly want to synchronize the instances, an option could be added. We will provide an explicit option to synchronize the instances when Administrators must know however that when used, *all* the instances will restart at the node-agent's startup.

- Improved restore of DAS from a backup([6380268](#)): When a DAS is restored (after a machine failure), all the node-agents must be *manually* reconnected to the new DAS. In this release, we will make changes such that since the DAS knows the location of the node-agents (that have shaken hands with DAS) in the given domain, it will change the location to the node-agents. This way, node-agents do not need to be manually reconnected.
 - For this release, this applies to all the node-agents that are connected to the old DAS at the time of DAS's startup. Any node-agents that are not running at the time of DAS's startup will be modified to know DAS's changed location.
 - There is no explicit command/interface defined for this operation. [**implications of doing this implicitly, TBD**]. DAS performs this as a background task at the time of its own startup.
 - A node-agent establishes the trust with the new incarnation of DAS.
 - DAS has the right admin user and admin password
 - DAS sends the right server certificate that is already trusted by the node-agent. If a node-agent is either unbound or is bound to a different DAS, the node-agent can be contacted by a DAS (or its reincarnation) and a new handshake between the two. Also note that even if the node-agent has its own server certificate, by default.
- Separation of client trust-store and server trust-store: Currently, the node-agent uses the `.asadmintruststore` in the user's home directory that is used to store the trust-store for the secure domains that are contacted by `asadmin` over HTTPS. As of now, the same trust-store is used by the node-agents. The node-agents use the trust store for server side communication between node-agents. We will be using the domain-specific trust-stores for an intra-domain communication. This includes avoiding the accidental trust of a node-agent on a DAS that it has trusted at the time of binding (See [6450817](#)).

Following miscellaneous changes will be done for this release.

- Provision of sample resource creation templates for frequently used resources to improve the usability of the `asadmin add-resources` command, which defines the resources (See [RFE - 582](#)). Following templates will be provided, so that the database vendor specific properties will be provided, so that the user can refer to the reference. For this release, only templates would be provided for the most common resources with appropriate resource types (e.g. JDBC Resource, JDBC Connection Pool Resource, etc. template):

Miscellaneous

- Oracle
- JavaDB
- MySQL
- Attempt to do better integration with the operating platforms: To create a service in `asadmin` that creates the so-called Operating System Solaris-10 SMF integration as of now. We will need to do follow-up in the next release. Creation of services pertains to Domain and node-agent integrated with services infrastructure on a particular platform, versus for server instances.
 - Fix the issues [695](#), [726](#) blocking SMF integration on Solaris
 - Provide `etc/rc` scripts for RedHat Linux. Integrate them with the existing infrastructure
 - Revive and enhance the support for Windows. Integrate it with the existing infrastructure. We have an executable called `appservService.exe`, that is not usable. This approach is not usable.

4.2. Bug/RFE Number(s)

These are noted against the details [above](#).

4.3. In Scope

The items covered in [4.1](#) are in scope.

4.4. Out of Scope

The items *not* covered in [4.1](#) are not in scope. Nothing in particular. Not all bugs and RFEs for the next release can be mentioned here.

4.5. Interfaces

<http://www.opensolaris.org/os/community/arc/policies/interface-taxonomy/> describes the policy for interfaces.

4.5.1 Exported Interfaces

Interface	Stability	Former Stability (if changing)	Comments
<code>sun-domain_1_3.dtd</code> (An XML file)	EVOLVING	EVOLVING	The configuration file for the entire domain.
			The schema derive

sun-resources_1_3.dtd (An XML file)	EVOLVING	EVOLVING	domain_1_3.dtd, a the resources. All t in any XML used l <i>resources</i> must cor
New asadmin commands	EVOLVING	EVOLVING	These are covered
New AMX interfaces	EVOLVING	EVOLVING	These will be cove Javadocs.
processlauncher.xml	UNSTABLE	UNSTABLE	Customers edit this and because we did has become a sort o

4.5.2 Imported interfaces

Interface	Stability	Exporting Project: Name, Specification or other Link.	Comme
schema2beans.jar	EVOLVING	NetBeans	Contain runtime Pertains
schema2beansdev.jar	EVOLVING	NetBeans	Used fo beans. F 5.5.
jdmkrt.jar	EVOLVING	Java SE	Java DM feature.
Jakarta Commons Modeler	EVOLVING	Apache	Used fo MBeans generati

4.5.3 Other interfaces (Optional)

Not applicable.

4.6. Doc Impact

Moderate impact

Moderate impact.

4.7. Admin/Config Impact

Administration specification, this is.

4.8. HA Impact

Not applicable.

4.9. I18N/L10N Impact

Not applicable.

4.10. Packaging & Delivery

Standard packages, zip files that are documented in the packaging specification.

4.11. Security Impact

Not applicable.

4.12. Compatibility Impact

TBD.

4.13. Dependencies

- Security Functional Specification
- [Profiles Functional Specification](#)
- [CLI One Pager](#)

5. Reference Documents

// List of related documents, if any (BugID's, RFP's, papers, Blogs).

// Explain how/where to obtain the documents, and what each

// contains, not just their titles.

6. Schedule

6.1. Projected Availability

Covered elsewhere.

7. Document History

Version	Date	Author, Comment
1.0	06 January 2007	Incorporated some feedback. Made changes for features that could not make it.
0.91	01 September 2006	Kedar Mhaswade, Added material related to platform services.
0.9	31 August 2006	Kedar Mhaswade. Added material, Made it ready for review.
0.8	29 August 2006	Kedar Mhaswade, created.