FAQ

JBOSS OPERATIONS NETWORK FAQ

Answers to frequently asked questions

GENERAL PRODUCT

Q: What is JBoss Operations Network®?

A: JBoss Operations Network is a middleware and application management solution that provides a single point of control to deploy, manage, and monitor JBoss Enterprise Middleware, applications and services. It enables organizations to:

- Simplify application release management with support for application provisioning and patching
- Support IT governance objectives with enterprise-grade configuration management and run-time SOA governance
- Ensure application service levels with performance and availability monitoring

Q: Why should I use JBoss Operations Network when I already get content updates from the Red Hat® customer portal with my JBoss subscription?

A: The basic JBoss subscription provides certified content updates from the Red Hat customer portal and fulfills your support needs. Whereas, JBoss Operations Network is focused on the active management of JBoss Enterprise Middleware and your applications. While certified content updates are extremely valuable, JBoss Operations Network provides tools for managing the entire application lifecycle in addition to providing JBoss updates. This includes tools for provisioning and deployment of JBoss middleware and applications, configuration management, performance and availability monitoring and much more.

Most enterprise applications are not static and require active, hands-on management. JBoss Operations Network provides that management by giving administrators control and visibility into JBoss Enterprise Middleware, maximizing technology return on investment (ROI).

You can control and manage all of your application deployments from the same JBoss Operations Network console, across all JBoss Enterprise Middleware solutions.

Q: What options do I have to try JBoss Operations Network in my environment?

A: JBoss Operations Network provides 30-day supported and unsupported evaluations. For an unsupported evaluation, visit **www.jboss.com/products/jbosson** and click on the link provided there to sign up. For a supported evaluation, please contact your Red Hat sales representative.

Q: How is JBoss Operations Network packaged and sold?

A: JBoss Operations Network can either be purchased as part of Red Hat's JBoss managed solution offering or as a stand-alone product and includes both management and monitoring functionality in either case. Red Hat's JBoss managed solutions automatically include JBoss Operations Network and are available for all JBoss Enterprise Middleware offerings, including JBoss Enterprise Application Platform, JBoss Enterprise SOA Platform, JBoss Enterprise Data Services Platform, JBoss Enterprise BRMS, JBoss Enterprise Portal

Platform, JBoss Enterprise Web Platform, and JBoss Enterprise Web Server for 16 core and 64 core systems. JBoss Operations Network is also available as a standalone offering for each of these JBoss Enterprise Middleware offerings.

Q: Can I use JBoss ON to manage JBoss EAP 6 domains?

A: Yes, JBoss ON can be used to manage JBoss EAP 6 in both standalone mode and domain mode. In either case JBoss ON fully supports all base-level management capabilities of EAP 6 in addition to the capabilities offered as part of JBoss ON.

Q. What are the differences in management capabilities between JBoss EAP 6 and JBoss ON?

A. The management capabilities differ in three notable ways.

First management via JBoss ON provides a superset of capabilities that includes finer/grained security; historic performance management; fault monitoring and alerting; versioned and responsive configuration management; drift management and much more.

Second it provides a platform centric view of deployed resources in addition to any user-defined domains.

Finally it offers a holistic view and consistent interface to manage all versions of all JBoss middleware products along with the user deployments and related infrastructure from the machine hardware on up.

VIRTUALIZATION SUPPORT

Q: Can you run JBoss Operations Network management server and agents in a virtual instance on KVM, Xen, and/or VMware?

A: Yes, both the JBoss Operations Network management server and agents can be run on KVM, Xen, or VMware and still include full technical support.

INSTALLATION AND ARCHITECTURE

Q: What version of Java is required to run JBoss Operations Network?

A: JBoss Operations Network supports Java 6. The JBoss Operations Network server requires a JDK, while the agent only requires the JRE. Most types of Java are supported, including Oracle/Sun and OpenJDK.

See the following page for specific versions and additional details: **http://www.redhat.com/resourcelibrary/articles/jboss-operations-network-supported-configurations**

Q: What type of hardware do you need to run the JBoss Operations Network server?

A: A typical JBoss Operations Network server would require a minimum of 1 GB of memory and 10 GB of storage space.

See the following page for additional details: **http://www.redhat.com/resourcelibrary/articles/jboss-operations-network-supported-configurations**

Q: What platforms are supported for the JBoss Operations Network server?

A: The JBoss Operations Network server can be installed on Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Windows and Unix platforms.

See the following page for specific versions and additional details: **http://www.redhat.com/resourcelibrary/articles/jboss-operations-network-supported-configurations**

Q: What kind of database is required to run JBoss Operations Network server in my environment?

A: JBoss Operations Network server can use either PostgreSQL or Oracle database as its back-end repository.

See the following page for specific versions and additional details: **http://www.redhat.com/resourcelibrary/articles/jboss-operations-network-supported-configurations**

Q: Does JBoss Operations Network require an agent for managing machines?

A: Yes, JBoss Operations Network is a client-server or agent-based management platform. A central JBoss ON server communicates with one or more JBoss ON agents deployed on the systems that you want to manage. The JBoss ON Agent then utilizes plugins for managing the base OS platform, JBoss servers and other embedded servers and services.

Q: Are there any high availability options for JBoss Operations Network?

A: Yes. JBoss Operations Network has high availability for the server and agent failover when communication back to the primary management server is lost.

Q: Are there installation and consulting services available for JBoss Operations Network?

A: Yes. Please contact your sales representative for more information on a Red Hat professional services engagement.

INTEROPERABILITY AND CUSTOMIZATION

Q: Does JBoss Operations Network manage SUSE, Solaris, HP-UX, AIX, or Windows platforms?

A: JBoss Operations Network provides support for all of these platforms for agents and the management server. This includes the ability to monitor these platforms and administer any JBoss application servers, JBoss ESBs, or other JBoss Enterprise Middleware services that they host.

See the following page for additional details: **http://www.redhat.com/resourcelibrary/articles/jboss-operations-network-supported-configurations**

Q: Does JBoss Operations Network work with other availability management products, such as HP OpenView, IBM Tivoli, or BMC Performance Manager (formerly PATROL)?

A: Yes. JBoss Operations Network can send SNMP traps in response to an alert condition to relay events to these and other 3rd party management consoles that support SNMP integration, allowing you to correlate alerts generated by JBoss Operations Network with incidents in the overall environment.

Q: Can JBoss Operations Network manage third-party or custom content?

A: Yes. JBoss Operations Network can deploy and manage custom application content through its bundle provisioning subsystem to Linux, Windows or Unix based platforms, for both JBoss and 3rd party or custom applications. Additionally, the plug-in API can be used to extend the management capabilities of JBoss Operations Network to other resources.

SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

Q: My environment does not allow a network connection from the JBoss Operations Network management server back to the Red Hat customer portal. Do I have other options?

A: While running in detached mode, the JBoss Operations Network management server will not have access to certified content, so patching capabilities will be impaired. All other JBoss Operations Network management server functionality will remain unimpaired.

Q: How is security handled between the JBoss Operations Network management server and its agents?

A: All communications can be encrypted using SSL certificates between the JBoss Operations Network management server and its agents.

Q: Is there proxy support when communicating between the JBoss Operations Network management server and the Red Hat customer portal?

A: Yes. JBoss Operations Network supports an authentication proxy between the JBoss Operations Network management server and the Red Hat customer portal.

RELEASE HISTORY

Q: What's new in JBoss Operations Network 3.1?

A: **JBoss Enterprise Application Platform 6 Support**
JBoss ON can now manage and monitor all JBoss EAP 6-related resources: domain and host controllers, standalone servers, mod_cluster services, Infinispan services, HornetQ servers, and web contexts and applications. Supports JBoss EAP 6 in both standalone and domain mode and will provide a superset of operational control, metrics and visibility beyond the JBoss EAP Admin Console alone.

- **Improved Availability Monitoring**
  Enhancements to provide more responsive, accurate, and granular availability monitoring. Availability schedules can now be scheduled and prioritized per resource or resource type, new alert options are available based on resource state and a new state is now available to indicate a system has been purposefully disabled, such as during maintenance periods.
- **Exportable Reports**
  All reports can now be customized and exported to CSV. Enables users to get JBoss ON inventory and resource management reports without having to access them through the user interface.

Q: What's new in JBoss Operations Network 3.0?

A: **Drift Management**
Manage configuration drift and reduce application issues caused by unplanned configuration changes

- **Responsive Provisioning & Configuration**
  Automatically execute server-side provisioning and configuration scripts in response to a monitoring alert
- **Improved Usability**
  A new SmartGWT-based UI provides a more simplified & consistent layout, greatly improved dashboard customization and more responsive UI
- **JBoss Provisioning Enhancements**
  Deploy applications to a group of one or more JBoss servers. Previously only deployment to platform groups was supported.
- **Apache mod_cluster plug-in**
  Adds support for managing mod_cluster-based clusters for JBoss EAP 4.2.x, JBoss EAP 5.1.x, and JBoss AS 6
- **PostgreSQL 9.0 database support**
  Added PostgreSQL 9.0 as a supported database for the JBoss Operations Network installation

Q: What's new in JBoss Operations Network 2.4?

A: **Provisioning**
Administrators can deploy and manage applications, application servers, and scripts through JBoss Operations Network to managed platforms

- **Dynamic Search**
  New search bar with enhanced search functionality gives users the ability to save and reuse searches for managing resources
- **Alert Enhancements**
  Ability to run alert operations and scripts on remote resources and includes new, customizable alert notification methods
- **Extended JBoss EWP and EAP Support**
  Added support for managing JBoss Enterprise Web Platform 5.0.1 and JBoss Enterprise Application Platform 5.1, including HornetQ JMS topics, queues, and connection factories
- **LDAP Enhancements**
  Ability to associate JBoss Operations Network roles with LDAP group members so that group members are automatically assigned permissions for the JBoss Operations Network role
- **Oracle 11g Support**
  Added Oracle 11g R2 as a supported database for the JBoss Operations Network installation
- **New Script Agent Plug-in**
  Provides support for managing resources that have command-line executables or scripts as their management interface

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Q: What's new in JBoss Operations Network 2.3?

A: **Command line interface**
A powerful interface for interacting with JBoss Operations Network management server to enhance automation

- **JBoss Enterprise Application Platform 5 support**
  Full management capabilities for the latest JBoss Enterprise Application Platform version just as is available for JBoss Enterprise Application Platform 4.x versions

- **Remote API**
  Supports programmatic access to the manage ment server for Java and JBoss Enterprise SOA Platform clients
- **Group alerts**
  Alert definitions can now be extended from individual resources to compatible groups for regular and dynamic types of groups

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Q: What's new in JBoss Operations Network 2.2?

A: **User interface (UI)**
Completely updated, AJAX-based UI with tree views, search, and common menu system

- **Clusters**
  Cluster-oriented tree views with groupwise configuration management and monitoring
- **Security**
  Improved DynaGroups queries and new support for recursive compatible groups simplifies access control
- **Monitoring**
  Configuration change detection, auditing, and historical review
- **Agent auto upgrade**
  Agents automatically update themselves when new servers are installed

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ABOUT RED HAT

Red Hat was founded in 1993 and is headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Today, with more than 70 offices around the world, Red Hat is the largest publicly traded technology company fully committed to open source. That commitment has paid off over time, for us and our customers, proving the value of open source software and establishing a viable business model built around the open source way.

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