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Programming with Cisco Cloud Center

Action Orchestrator Engine

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DEVNET-2907

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Barcelona | January 27-31, 2020

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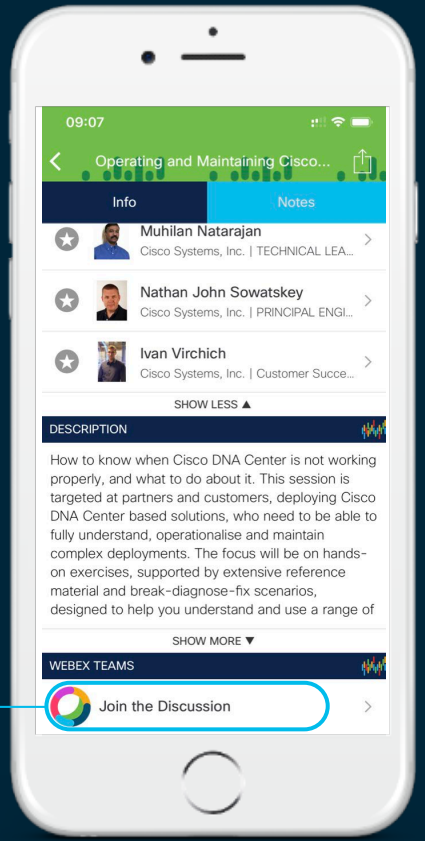


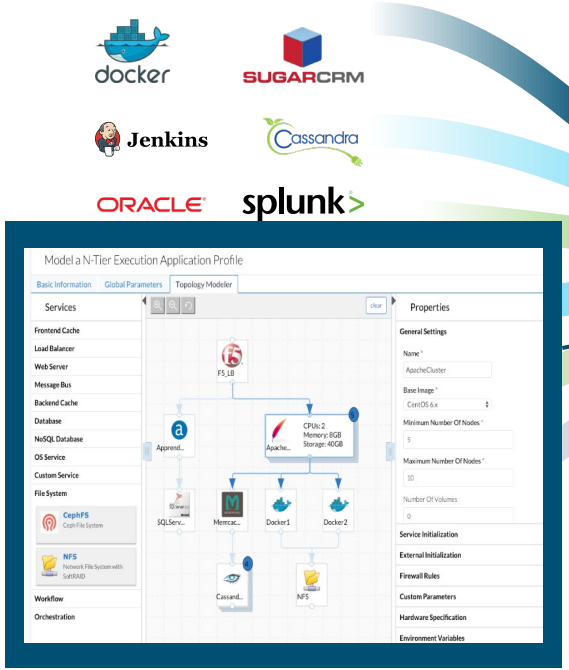
Agenda

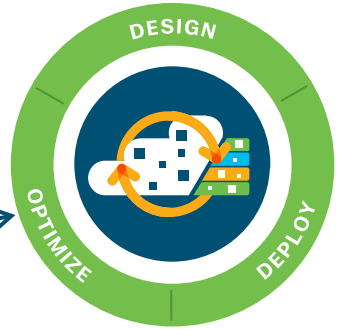
- Cisco CloudCenter Suite Overview
- Cisco Action Orchestrator Engine Deep Dive
- Demo
- Next Steps

Cisco CloudCenter Suite Overview

CloudCenter Suite

Multicloud Management Platform
Securely Design, Deploy, and Optimize Anywhere





docker
SUGARCRM
Jenkins
Cassandra
ORACLE
splunk>

Data Center
kubernetes
vmware vSphere

Private Cloud
redhat
openstack
PRIVATE
kubernetes
vmware vSphere
Windows Azure Pack

Public Cloud
IBM Cloud
Alibaba Cloud
PUBLIC
kubernetes
amazon web services
Google Cloud Platform
Azure

Container as Service
CONTAINER
kubernetes

End to End Lifecycle

One Integrated Platform

New and Existing Applications

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CloudCenter Suite

Workload Manager

Provides existing CloudCenter functionality

Cost Optimizer

Provides public and private cloud cost visibility and optimization

Action Orchestrator

Enables workflow process orchestration and automation

Suite Admin

Administers modules, manages tenancy, licensing, logging, RBAC, monitoring, authentication

Modular, microservices architecture

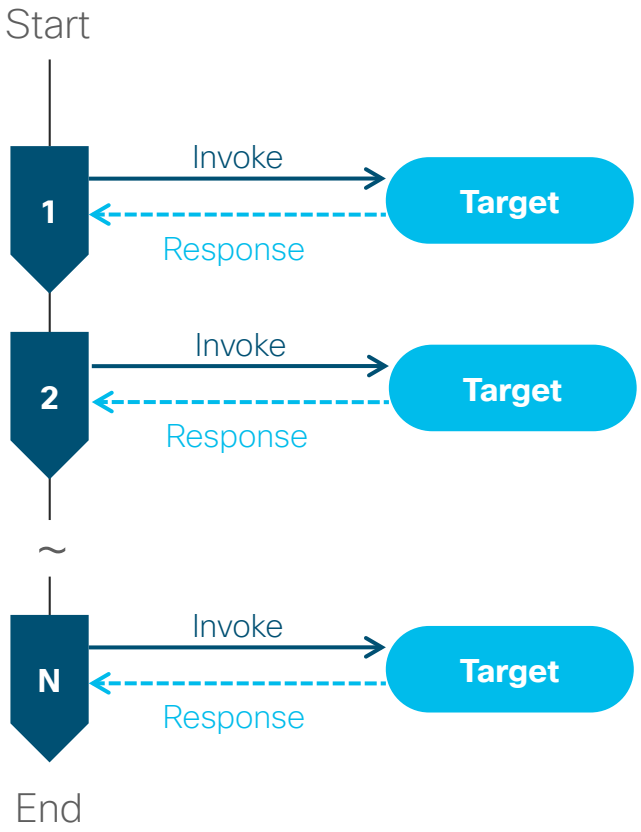
Cisco Action Orchestrator Deep Dive

Action Orchestrator

Ecosystem integration standardized using adapters and workflows

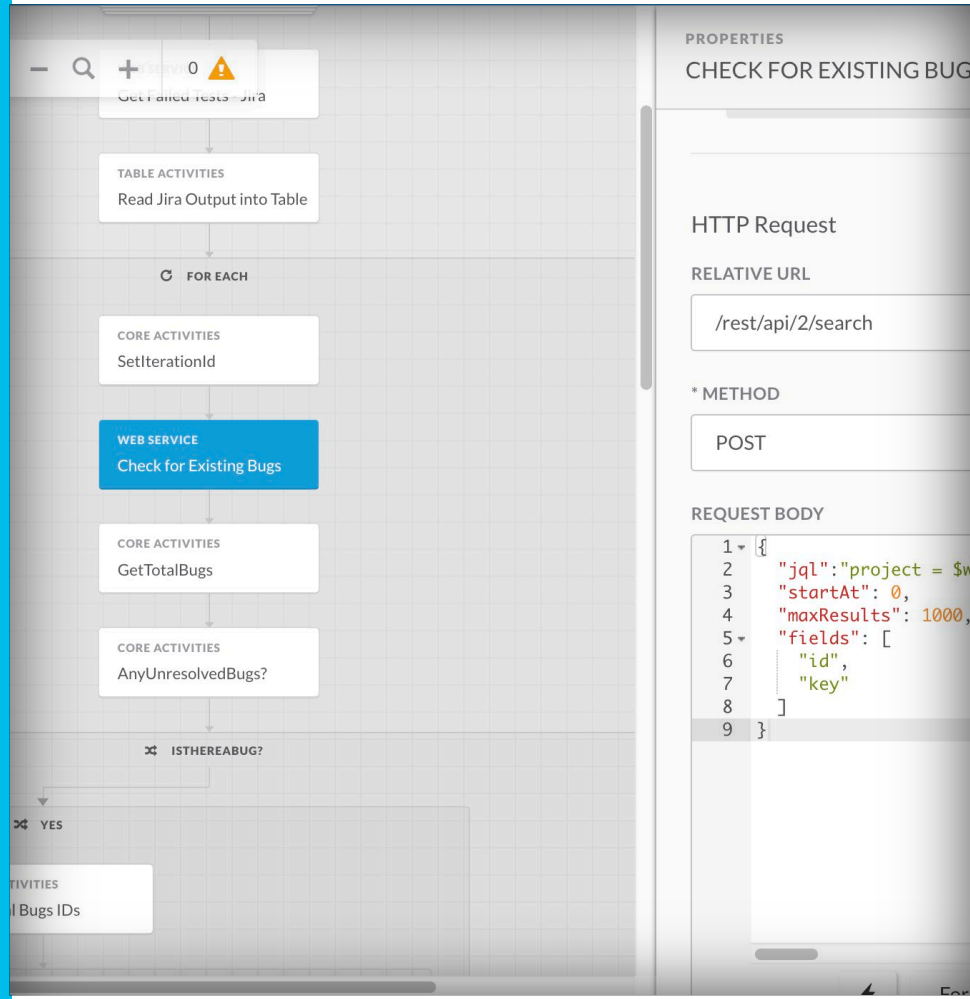
- Extend Workload Manager services and actions
- Execute workflows with business and technical logic
- Use included adapters or create custom adapters

Benefits: Eliminate repetitive tasks and broaden scope of cloud orchestration, simplify business process and reduce human error



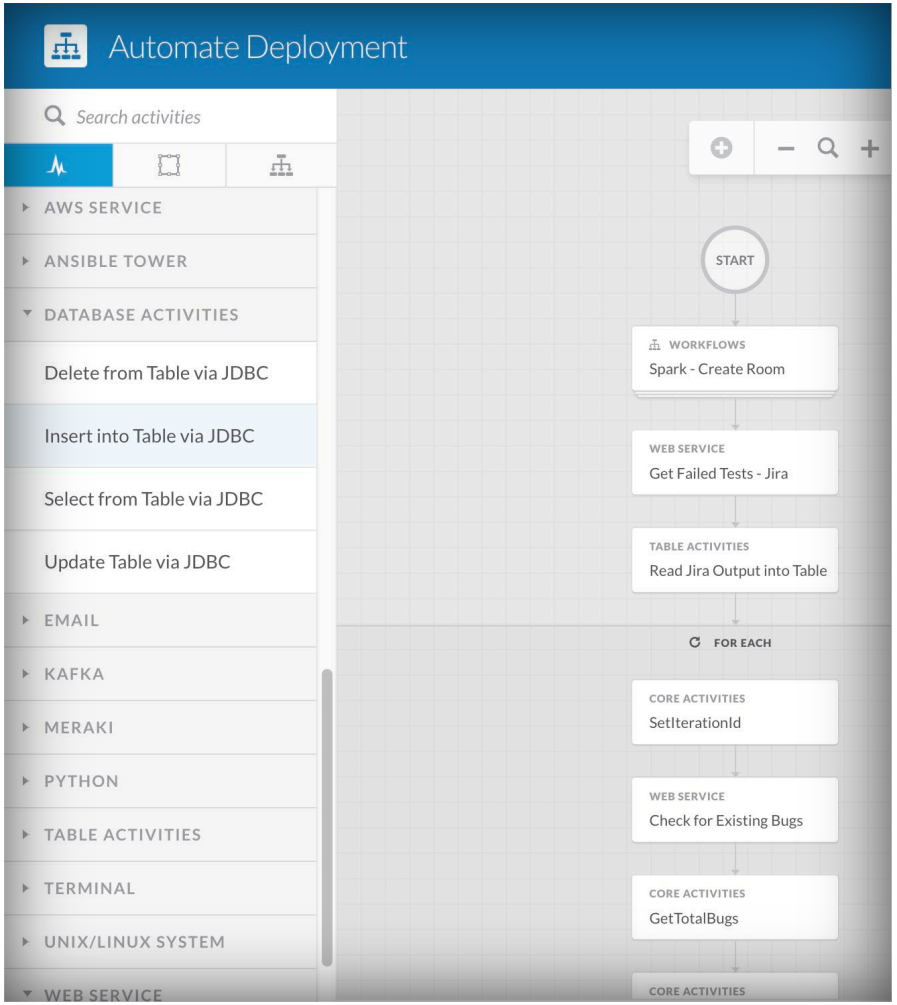
Action Orchestrator Overview

- Create actions to drive or be triggered seamlessly from other CCS products
- Combine flexible out of the box adapters to create new integrations
- Automate tasks according to schedules or external events



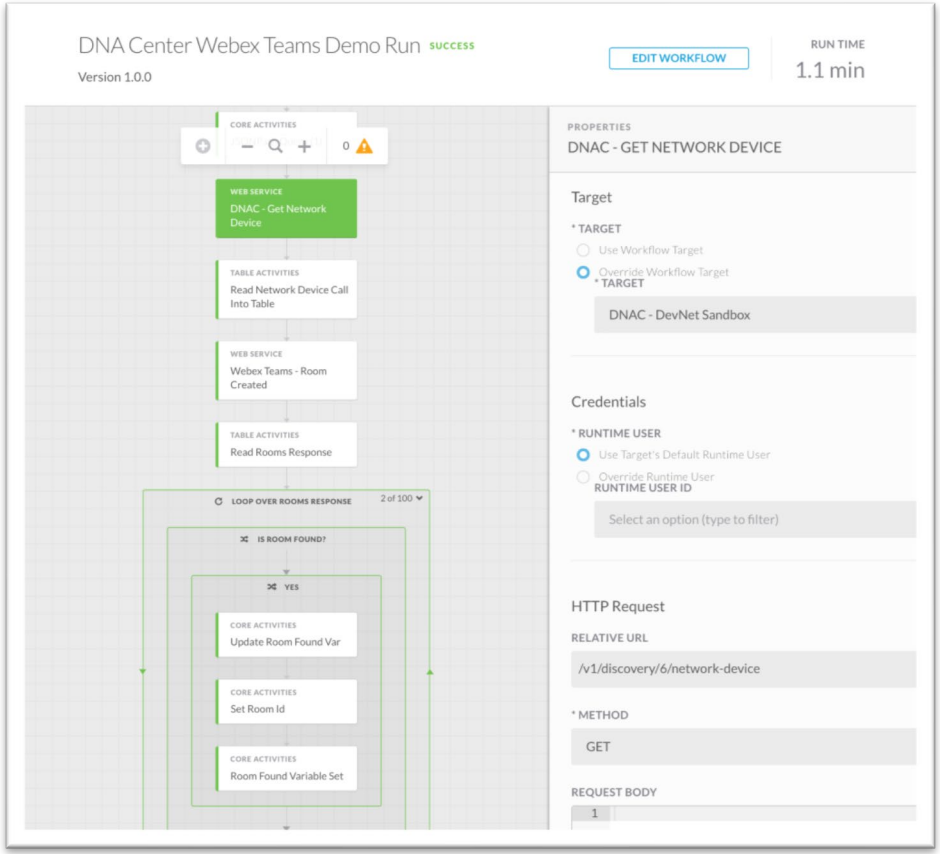
Action Orchestrator Overview

- 100% REST API support
- Import/Export/Version workflows and adapters via Git
- Design modular processes with sub workflows
- Read and publish events and approvals
- Create custom variable types
- Scripting interface support



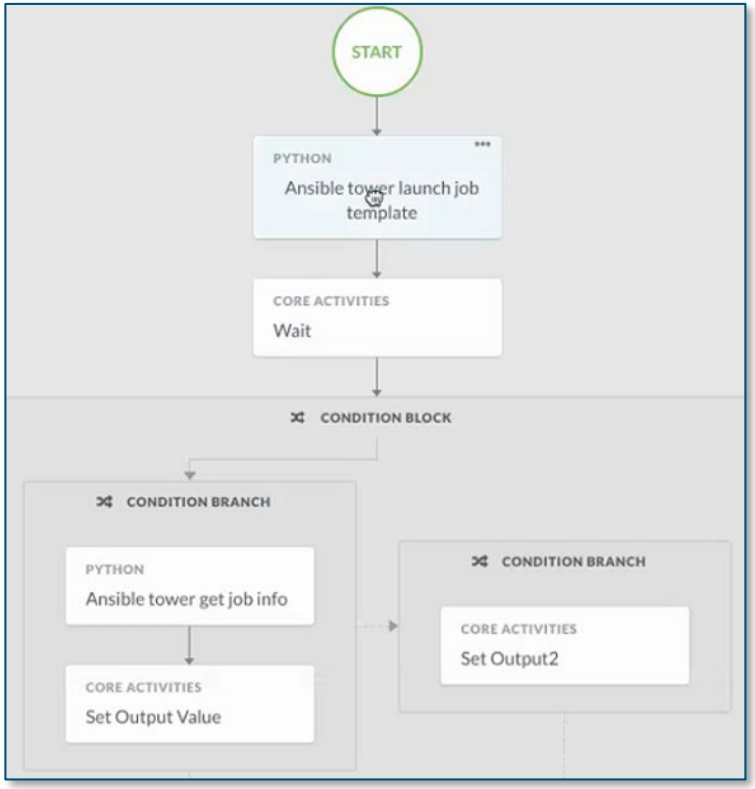
Automation Made Easy

- Graphical interface
- Visual workflow
- No coding required
- Built-in adapters for common systems and activities



Automation Made Easy

- Advanced workflow control
- Data Flow – reference data input/output between activities
- Events and Triggers – from email, Spark, AMQP, Kafka, web hooks…
- Child workflows
- Nested workflows



AO Components

Basic Concepts

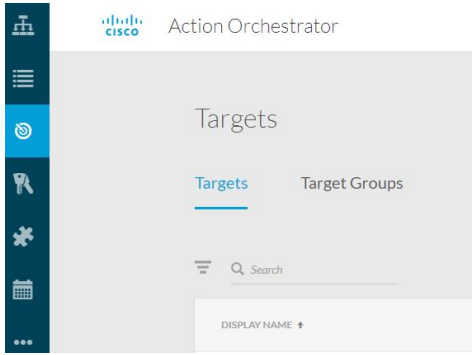
- ✓ **Workflow** : Sequence of activities or actions
- ✓ **Activity**: can be a REST call, Run Terminal, Send Email etc., It is the lowest “level” in AO and is a call to do some action against some endpoint or component
- ✓ **Adapter**: Adapter is like an Interface, it defines one or more Activities that can be run to achieve a particular outcome
- ✓ **Target Type**: identifies the type of Targets that can be defined and used by Activities
- ✓ **Targets**: Identifies the host/endpoint that an action or workflow will use when executing
- ✓ **Runtime User Type**: Identifies the type of Runtime Users(Account Keys) that can be used by Targets
- ✓ **Runtime Users**: Defined set of user credentials, **e.g.** userid and password, that will be used to login into one or more Targets. Also called Account Keys

Basic Concepts

- ✓ **Variable support**: User can define local, input, output, global and custom variables (For e.g. Table Type) for workflow execution
- ✓ **Control Flow**
  - ✓ Condition block
  - ✓ Start Point
  - ✓ For-Each Loop
  - ✓ While Loop
  - ✓ Parallel block
  - ✓ Pause & Resume
- ✓ **Data Flow**: Reference data (input, output) between actions.
- ✓ **Triggers** : Schedule (cron), Events

Targets

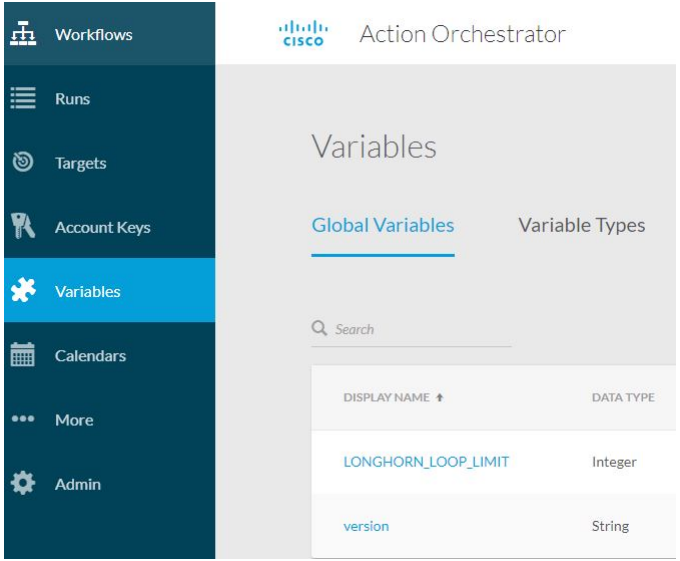
- ✓ Component automation is executed against
- ✓ Current Targets: AWS, Amazon Device, Ansible Tower, CloudCenter, Git, Google Cloud Endpoint, HTTP Endpoint, JDBC Database, Kafka, Meraki, Microsoft Windows, POP3, SMTP , Terminal Endpoint, Terraform, Unix/Linux, Azure, DNA Center, Kubernetes, ServiceNow, Vmware, etc..
- ✓ Compiled vs “Atomic” Adapters
- ✓ Custom CX Adapters: Intersight, Webex Teams, CSOne, MongoDB
- ✓ Connection information varies per connection
- ✓ Runtime User or Account Keys give access and authority for target
- ✓ Target Groups – Allow execution of automations against groups of targets based on target type. Can also add individual targets into group
- ✓ Anything else you can think of and build!

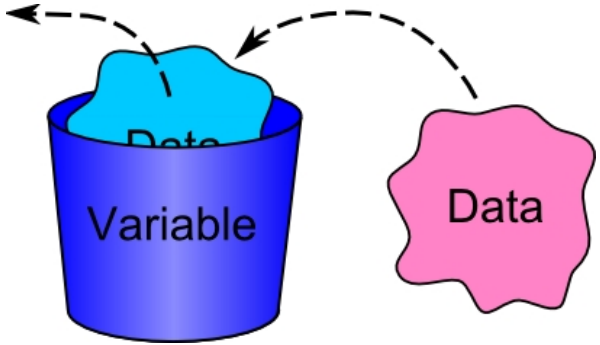


splunk>

Variables - Scope

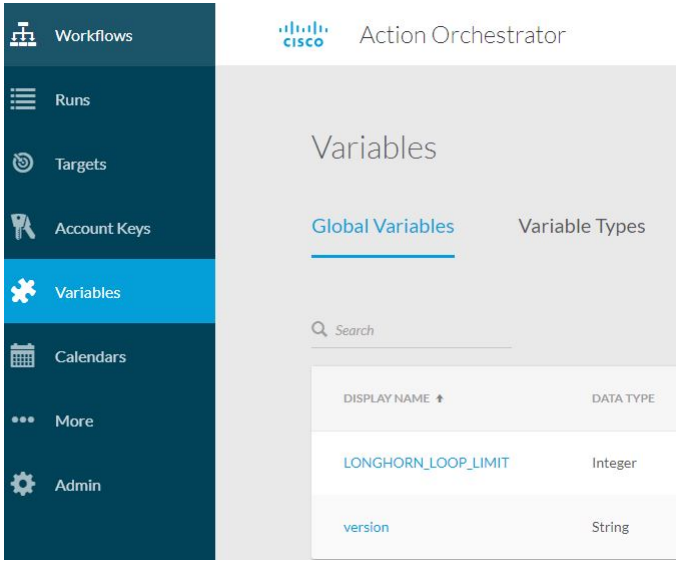
- Scopes
  - Global – Accessible Anywhere
  - Environment – Settings for system
  - Process – Part of process only
    - Local – value destroy after runtime
    - Input – Inputs to the process
    - Outputs – outputs from the process
    - Static – like local but value retained

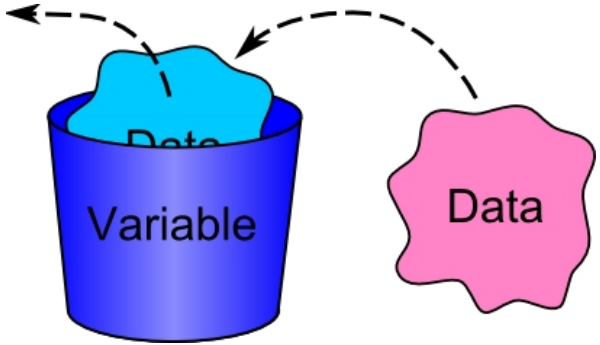




Variables - Types

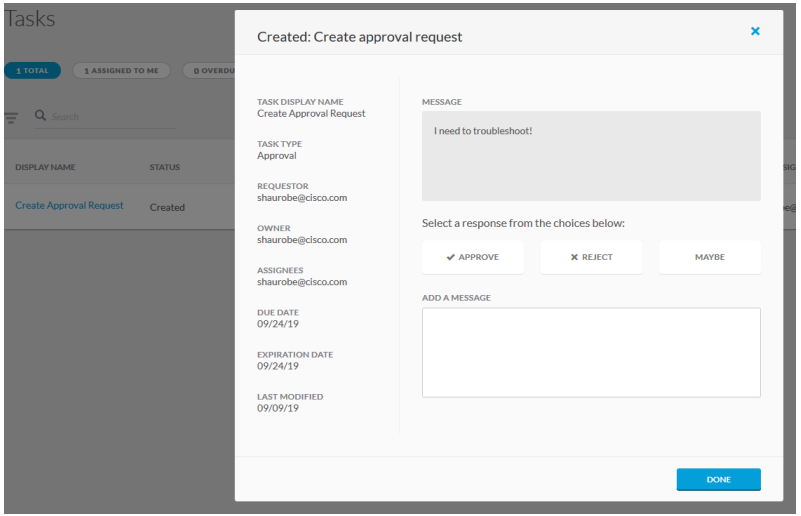
- Types
  - Basic
    - Boolean – True/False
    - DateTime – Time and Date
    - Decimal – Floating point number
    - Integer – Whole numbers
    - Secure String – String encrypted in the database and UI
    - String – array of characters
  - Advanced
    - Tables – Multi-dimensional array
    - Self Defined – Objects of Table Types

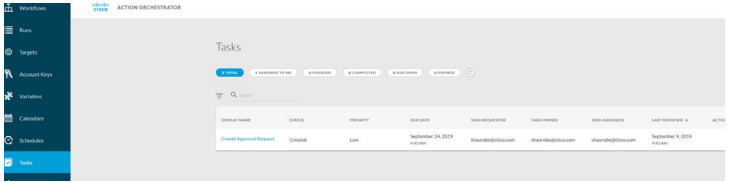




Tasks

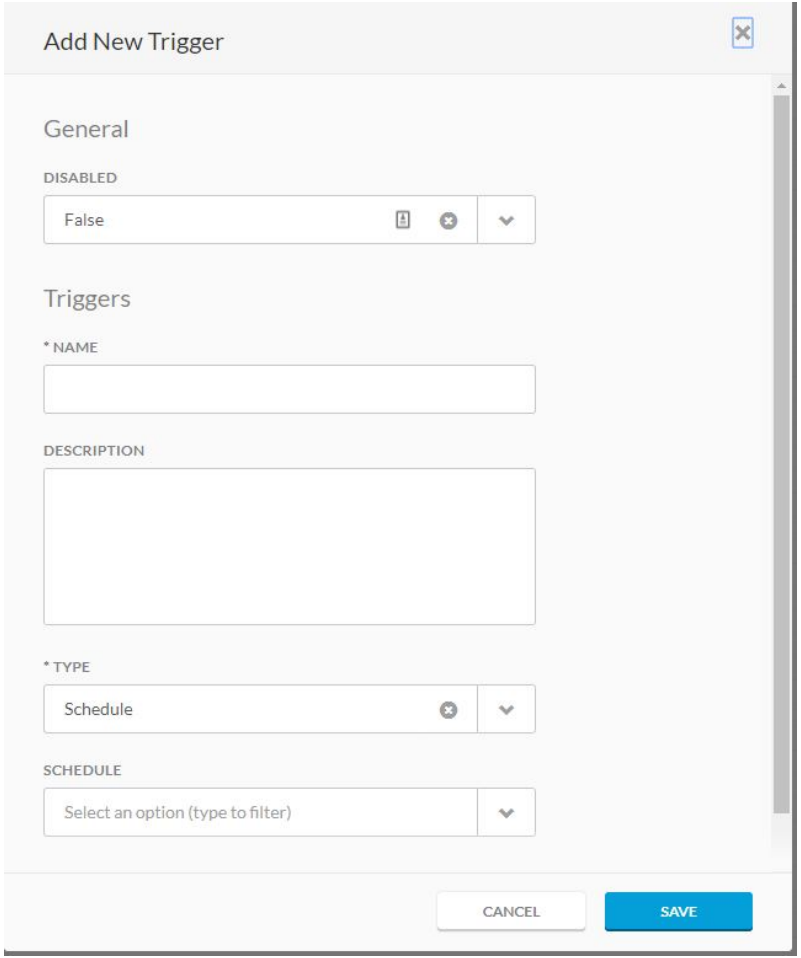
- Added in 5.1
- Allows human interaction with workflows
- Can pause/hold workflows
- Can have numerous inputs and options
- Can trigger other workflows





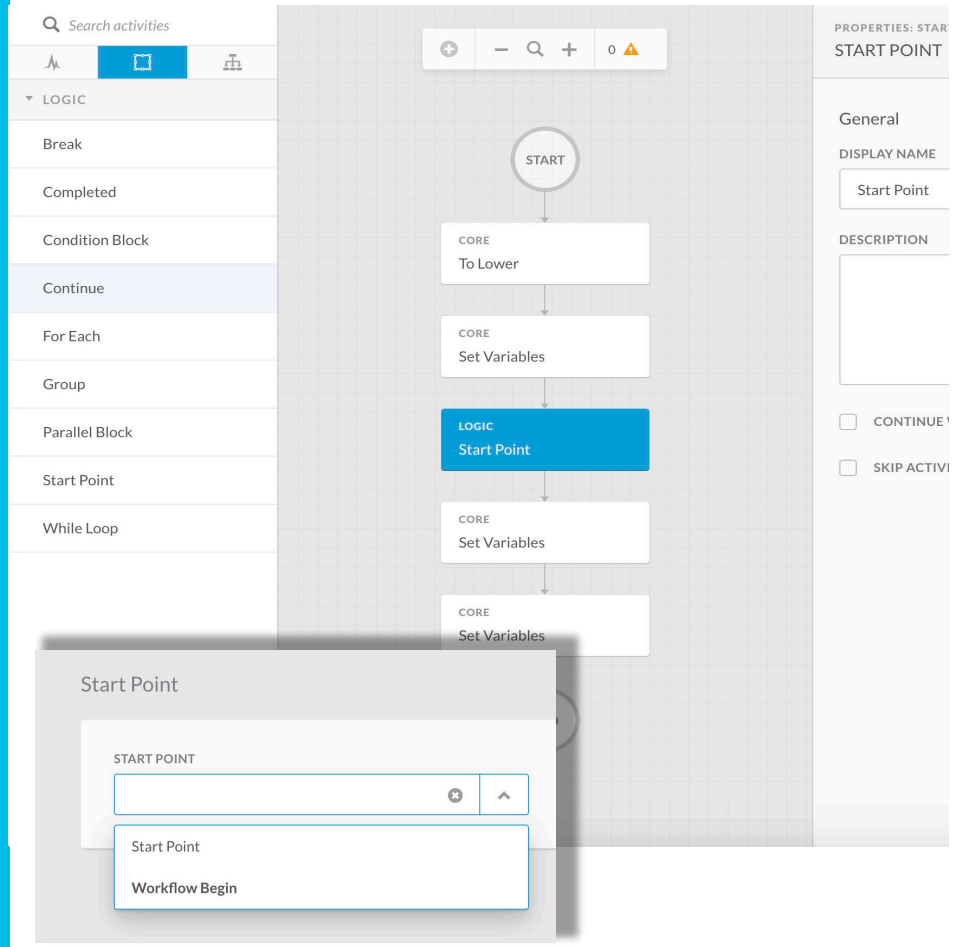
Triggers

- Drive automation in the system
- Types
  - Schedule – Repeatable based on time
  - Events – Some event in another system
    - Kafka
    - AMQP
    - Email
    - Task
- Can be turned on and off
- Most basic is Ad-Hoc



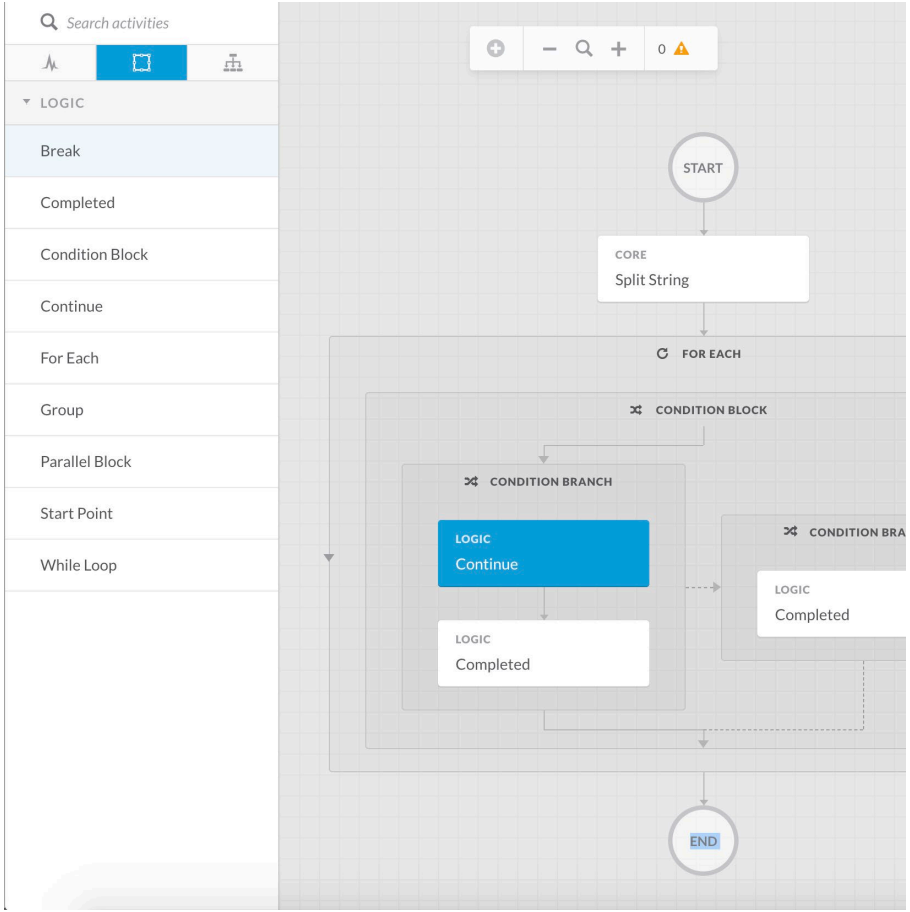
Start Point

- Allows designer to define different start points for a workflow
- Allows user to select different start points when running a workflow as inputs
- Activities before start point selected are not run
- Can be used to create logical workflow branching via input



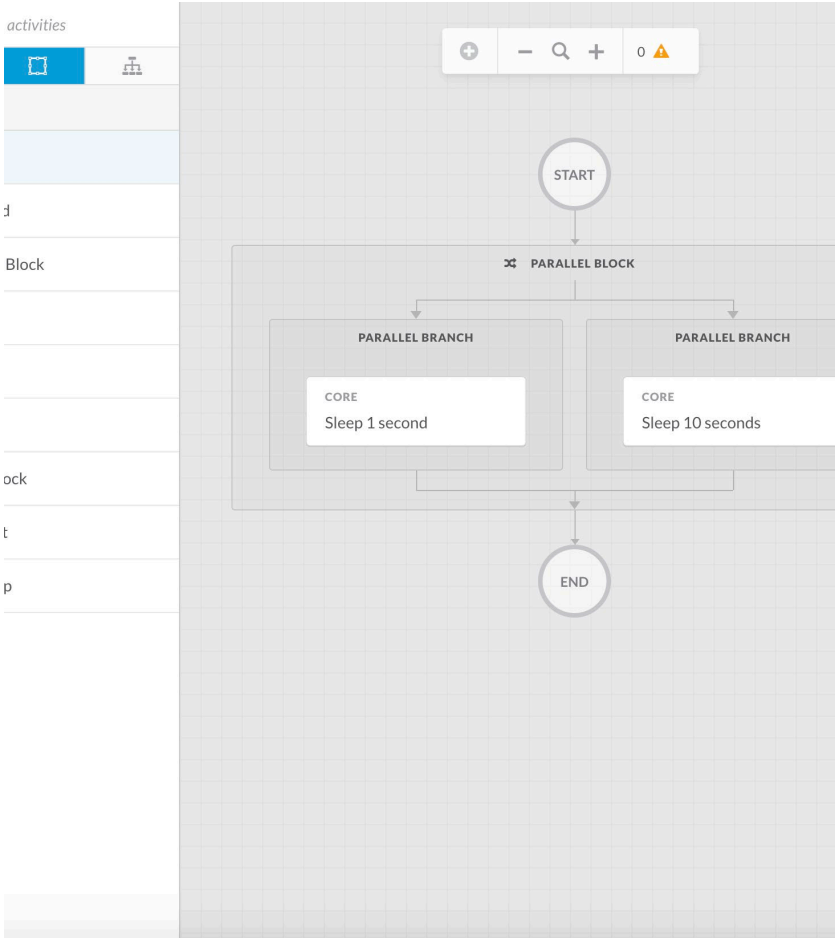
Continue

- Used for interrupting an iteration of a loop and moving to the next iteration – for example, if a condition is met inside of a loop, rather than execute the rest of the loop, move on to next loop iteration
- Works the same as “continue” concepts in most conventional programming languages
- Differs from ”break” in that it will allow the loop to continue, while “break” ends the loop entirely



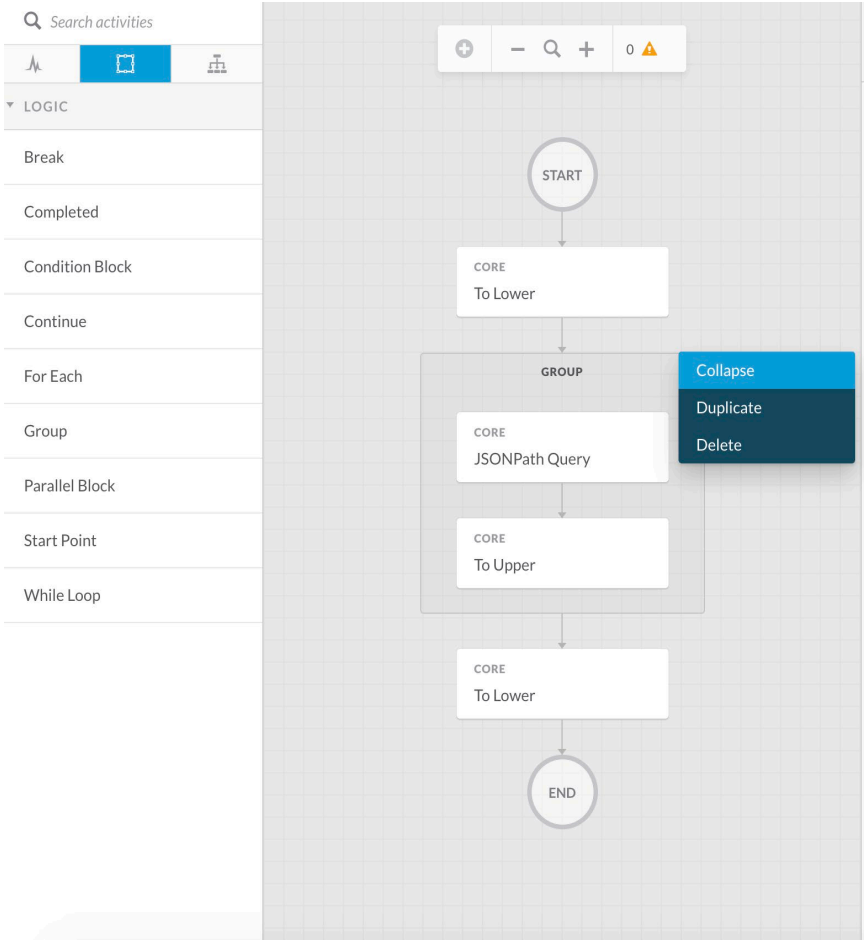
Parallel Block

- Allows a workflow designer to split execution into a number of blocks that execute all at the same time
- Used for processing ”thread safe” actions at the same time
- Blocks will rejoin the workflow together when all blocks are completed, regardless of status of the individual blocks – ie one block fails, however a failure in any of the blocks will fail the workflow when all blocks complete and rejoin
- Blocks cannot refer to each other when running in parallel



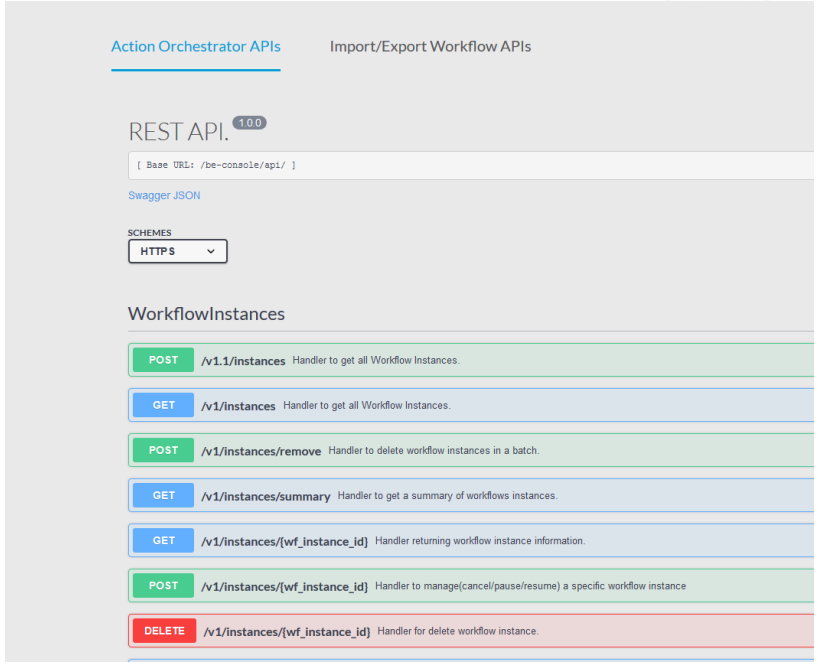
Group

- Allows a workflow designer to create arbitrary grouping of activities
- Allows designer to take action on the groups such as deleting or duplicating
- Allows designer to collapse group if desired to assist with readability of workflow layout
- Allows designer to query downstream of group start/end/elapsed time of group
- Allows designer to catch success/fail of activities within group for the purpose of error handling



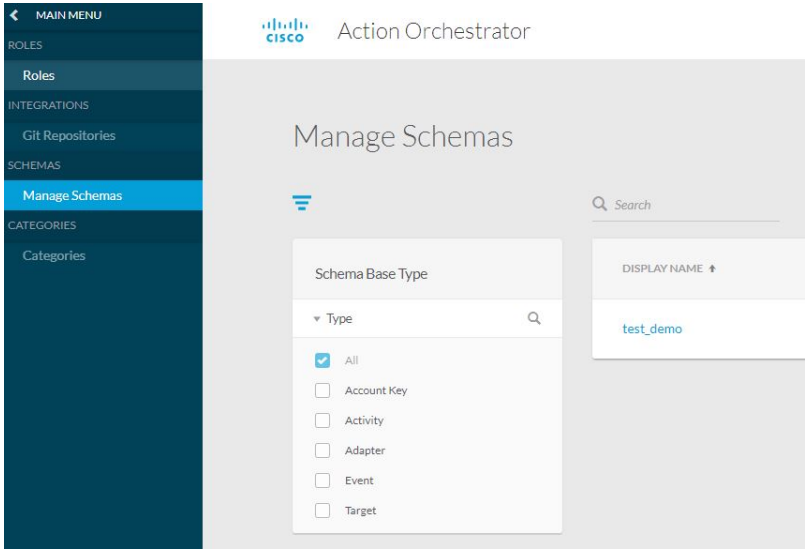
Rest API

- Everything is API driven
- Built-in Swagger
- AO APIs and Import/Export APIs
  - AO APIs Endpoint: https://<server>:<port>/be-console/api/v1
  - Import/Export APIs Endpoint: https://<server>:<port>/be-importexport/api/v1
- AO Only Endpoint: https://<server>:<port>/api/v1 where the port is the exposed port of the BE-CONSOLE pod or BE-IMPORTEXPORT



Administration

- Roles – Definitions of security profiles
- Git – integration with repos for exporting/importing of code
- Schema Management – allows create/edit/delete of schemas for your custom adapters, targets, users, and actions
- Categories – Help organize content



Creating a Usecase workflow

Scenario

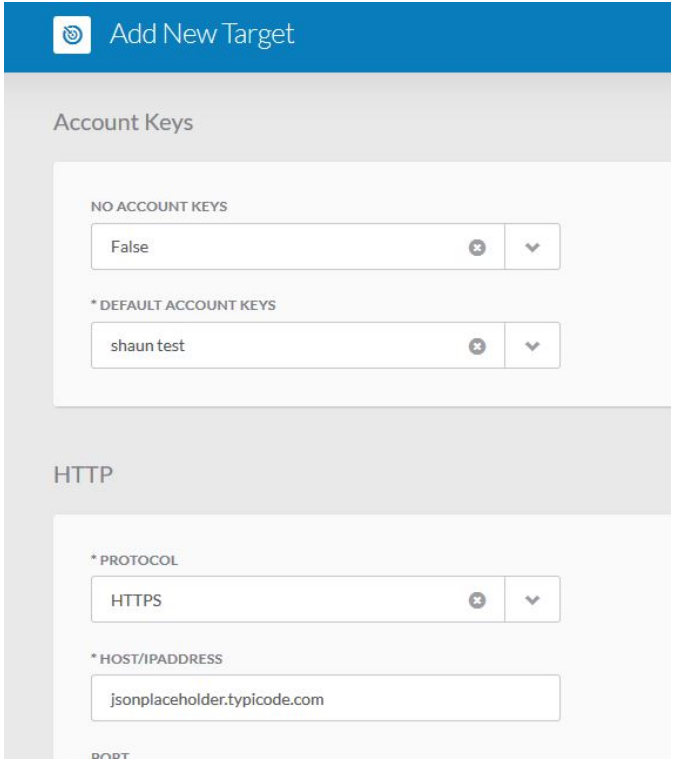
- Write a workflow process that will...
  - Query an API
  - Parse the Data
  - Run conditionals on it
  - Run every hour
  - Email results

What components do we need?

- API Endpoint
- JSON/XML Path
- User with access to endpoint
- Email Server
- Some way to parse data
- Can you think of what these would be in AO?

Setup

- Create a category – Best Practice and helps Organize
- Create the Runtime user
  - Gives access to API
  - HTTP Basic Authentication
- Create the Target
  - What is executed against
  - HTTP Endpoint
- Create SMTP Target
  - Name/Target=smtp.gmail.com
  - Default Account key = your email
  - SMTP Server = smtp.gmail.com
  - Port = 465

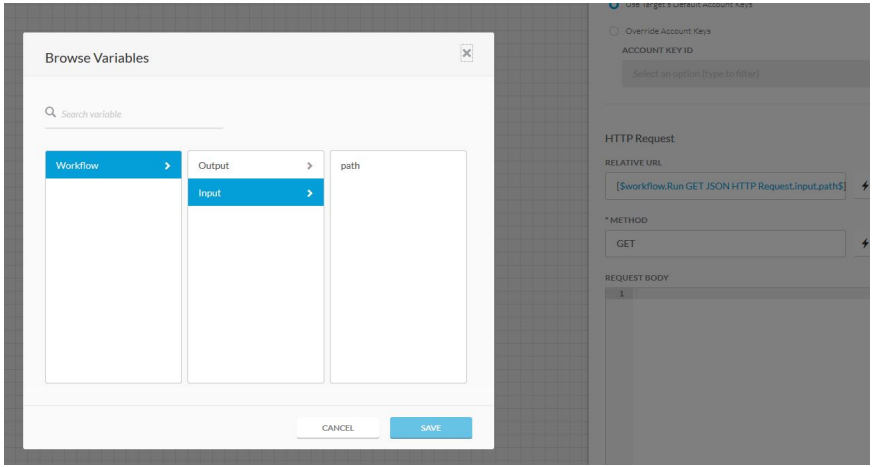


A New Workflow

- Create a single workflow
- Name it “Run GET AWS HTTP Request”
- Select the category
- Add input as “URL”, make it required
- Add Output as “instanceList”
- Select “AWS endpoint as target type”
- Select “Execute on this Target”, Select your target
- Search for the Sleep activity and drag and drop it
- Set it to 30 seconds. Validate the workflow.

Make it work

- Remove the sleep activity
- Add Generic AWS API Request activity
- Add URL variable to relative URL
  - Click insert variable reference icon
  - Select Workflow->Input->URL
  - Click Save
- Set method to “GET”
- Set content type to “JSON”
- Leave rest the same, validate
- Run it… what happens?
- Inspect your results!

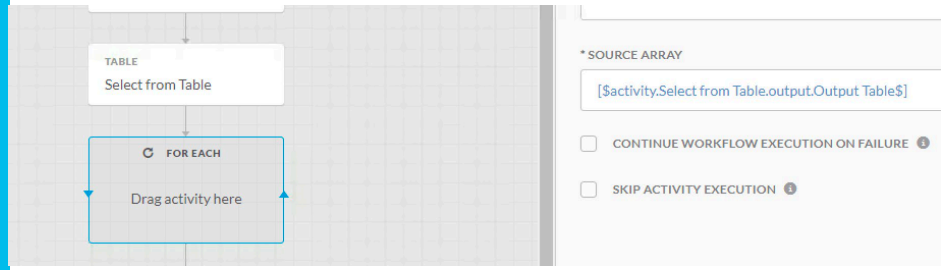


Handle the output

- Add “Read table from XML” after Web Call
- Set Source XML to the output of the web call
- Set XML Path and columns to read
- Add “Select From Table” activity
  - Set the Input XML to the output of “Read table from XML” activity
  - Select All in the result column
  - Sort by vpcId and Order By Ascending
- Validate and Run Workflow!

For each

- Add a For Each block
  - For Source Array set it to the output of Select From Table activity



Conditionals

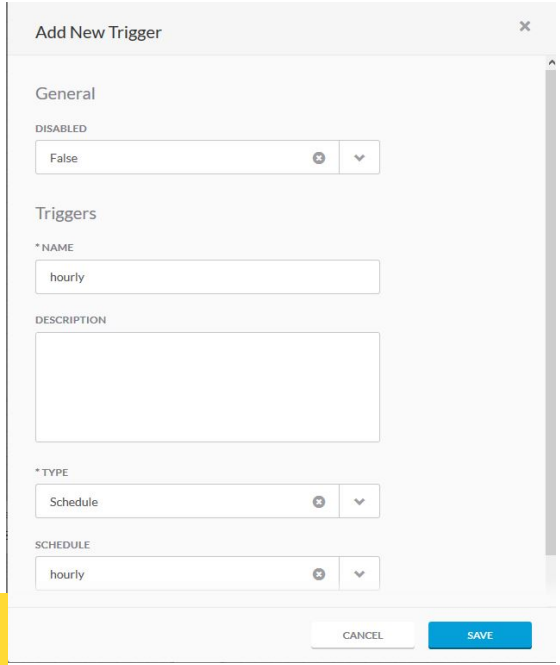
- Add a conditional block
  - On Left side, set conditional to check if the InstanceState is NOT in running state
    - Click Lightning icon on first field of condition and select Activities->For Each->Source Array->Items->instanceState
    - Set Second field to “Does not match wildcard”
    - Type in running*
  - Drag Set Variables activity into the conditional block
    - Add the output variable to the “variables to update” field
    - In the “Variable New Value, add InstanceId, InstanceType and InstanceState fields
  - Delete Right Side conditional block

Email

- Add Email Activity
  - Select Override Workflow Target and select your SMTP server
  - Set “TO” your email
  - Set Message to be “There are non-active EC2 instances: <add the output value>
- Click Validate and Run. Did it email you?

Schedule

- Create a schedule
  - Go to Schedule
  - Call it “hourly”
  - Select Daily Calendar, UTC time
  - Start time=12:00am. Times = 23, interval =1
- Create a trigger
  - Edit workflow and add a trigger
  - Call it “hourly”
  - Select schedule type, of hourly schedule



Bringing your workflow to the masses

- AO supports Import/Export via Github or Bitbucket
- Create a workflow repo
  - Go to
  - Click New repository or the plus sign->new repository
  - Call it “ao-workflows” and make it public
  - Create a blank README file
- Setup the integration
  - In AO, go to Admin->integrations->Git Repositories
  - Click NEW GIT REPOSITORY, give it a name
  - Create an account key with user/pass
  - Protocol = HTTPS
  - Type = GitHub
  - REST API = wwwin-github.cisco.com/api/v3/repos/<your userID>/ao-workflows
  - Branch = Master
  - Save

Export it

- Export your workflow
  - Go to your workflow
  - Under the “VERSION” header, select your new repo in the Git Repository drop-down
  - Click VALIDATE, then click COMMIT and give it a commitment message and submit
- Check it out in your repo
  - Refresh your repo page and look for your workflow
  - Click on it and drill into it, what format is it saved as?
  - Go review your workflow and check out the Git Version information!

Demo

Recap

- Action Orchestrator (AO) can be used by developers, non-developers, and everyone a like
- You can develop in AO by just dragging and dropping Activities or Actions to a canvas and executing it
- AO is an enterprise application that can handle anything you wish to throw at it
- The Sky is the limit
- Any additional questions?

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