

2021 - All about



Setting up your own Collabora Online

By Aron Budea

QA Engineer  Collabora
Online

aron.budea@collabora.com

Starting resources

Download and install CODE

<https://www.collaboraoffice.com/code>

Read instructions and SDK documentation

<https://sdk.collaboraonline.com/>

Build Collabora Online yourself

<https://collaboraonline.github.io/>

Starting out simple

- Install the CODE packages
 - Available for various distros
- Set up certificate/reverse proxy
- Have a WOPI host ready

Thank you, that's all...!

Configuration (/etc/loolwsd/loolwsd.xml)

Essentials

- Allowed WOPI host(s) ('<storage>/<wopi>/<host>')
- SSL/certificate settings (various elements under '<ssl>')

Useful settings

- Log level ('<logging>/<level>', can be increased while troubleshooting)
- Enabled dictionaries ('<allowed_languages>', may require additional packages)
- Notebookbar ('<user_interface>/<mode>' set to 'notebookbar', already enabled in CODE 6.4)
- Admin console (under '<admin_console>', use 'loolconfig' utility to set password)

...and more in the self-documented configuration file

Customizing the setup

- Don't forget the brand package, for a sleek UI (code-brand / CODE-brand)
- Add preferred language packs/dictionaries
 - Eg. for German on Debian-based systems: 'apt install collaboraoffice*de'
 - Dictionaries may need to be enabled in 'loolwsd.xml'
 - Under '<allowed_languages>'
- Additional fonts
 - Install on your system
 - Regenerate systemtemplate
 - Systemtemplate = template of chroot jails of minimal systems running Collabora Office backend for each session
 - With 'loolwsd-systemtemplate-setup' tool

Docker container

- Single, self-contained image
- Runs in virtualized environment
- Important settings available via parameters
 - Custom configuration file can be copied into container
- Requires reverse proxy
- Build a custom image yourself
 - Scripts: <https://github.com/CollaboraOnline/online/tree/master/docker>

Reverse proxy & load balancing

Reverse proxy

- Forwards loolwsd to a standard port (ie. 443)
- Takes care of certificate handling
- Translates between secure & normal HTTP
- Sample configuration for Apache and Nginx

Load balancing

- When more than a single loolwsd instance needed to handle the load
- Balance on WOPISrc URL parameter
 - Same file should be opened on the same loolwsd server
- Sample configuration for HAProxy and Nginx

Verifying running service

- `http(s)://<server name>:9980/`
 - returns "OK"
- `http(s)://<server name>(:9980)/hosting/discovery`
 - returns discovery XML
 - host and protocol in the XML should match

← → ↻ 🔒 demo.eu.collaboraonline.com/hosting/discovery

This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below.

```
▼ <wopi-discovery>
  ▼ <net-zone name="external-http">
    <!-- Writer documents -->
    ▼ <app favIconUrl="https://demo.eu.collaboraonline.com/loleaflet/a937747/images/x-office-document.svg" name="writer">
      <action default="true" ext="sxd" name="view" urlsrc="https://demo.eu.collaboraonline.com/loleaflet/a937747/loleaflet.html?"/>
      <action default="true" ext="odt" name="edit" urlsrc="https://demo.eu.collaboraonline.com/loleaflet/a937747/loleaflet.html?"/>
      <action default="true" ext="fodt" name="edit" urlsrc="https://demo.eu.collaboraonline.com/loleaflet/a937747/loleaflet.html?"/>
    <!-- Text template documents -->
```


Troubleshooting

Failures

- Service fails to start
- Connection problems
 - Between client and loolwsd
 - Between loolwsd and WOPI host
- Certain functions fail (eg. save)

Where to look for clues

- loolwsd service status and logs
 - Usually errors (ERR) are interesting
 - For the big picture, more granular logs might be needed (level: trace)
- Logs from other involved services
 - WOPI host, reverse proxy etc.
- Browser console
- Another approach: go for simplified setup, add complexity step-by-step

Troubleshooting (2.)

Service fails to start

- Usually exits with code 70
- Logs show failure point
- Most common: certificate files missing or inaccessible
 - '`<config> / <ssl> / <cert_file_path>`', '`<key_file_path>`' and '`<ca_file_path>`'

Connection problems

- User thrown back to file list (Nextcloud-specific)
 - COOL is inaccessible
- Grey, static UI
 - Often a Content Security Policy violation
 - Browser console may show the error

Troubleshooting (3.) – connection problems

Connection problems continued

- How far does it get connecting?
- Endless bouncing logo
- Various error messages
 - Eg. “Failed to read document from storage. Please contact your storage server administrator.”
- In general, cross-check logs between COOL and WOPI host
 - Timeout, error on either side etc.
- Try accessing WOPI URL from COOL host using ‘curl’ tool
 - For file access errors
 - Find WOPI URL in the loolwsd logs

Questions, issues

- Ask in our forums – <https://forum.collaboraonline.com/>
- Report bugs – <https://github.com/CollaboraOnline/online/issues>
- We offer support to partners and customers

Join the community

- Help with answering questions, triaging bugs
- Share your interesting setup
- Try your hands at an easy-hack
- Make your feature happen

2021 - All about



Collabora Online

Thanks!



Collabora
Online

By Aron Budea

@CollaboraOffice
hello@collaboraoffice.com
Collaboraoffice.com