

103 - Work with data and create automatic alerts

103 Agenda

- Work with data to save time and money
 - Save results
 - Use caching
 - Create artifacts to communicate insights
- Learn about user management in Prefect Cloud
- Set up automatic notifications for workflow states



Results



Results

The data returned by a flow or a task

```
@task
def my_task():
    return 1
```


1 is the result



Passing results

Pass results from one task to another so Prefect can discover dependency relationships at runtime

```
def pipeline(lat: float = 38.9, lon: float = -77.0):  
    temp = fetch_weather(lat, lon)  
    result = save_weather(temp)  
    return result
```



Results

👉 By default, Prefect returns a result that is ***not*** persisted to disk. It is only stored in memory.



Persist results with *`persist_result=True`*

```
from prefect import flow, task
import pandas as pd

@task(persist_result=True)
def my_task():
    df = pd.DataFrame(dict(a=[2, 3], b=[4, 5]))
    return df

@flow
def my_flow():
    res = my_task()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    my_flow()
```



Persisted results

- Stored in **.PREFECT/storage** folder by default
- Pickled by default 🥒
- You can use other serializer or compress

```

└─ .PREFECT
   └─ storage
      └─ {} c65d28dcc374424ba7212a39dd19418b
         ├── memo_store.toml
         ├── prefect.db
         └── profiles.toml

storage > {} c65d28dcc374424ba7212a39dd19418b > ...
1  {"serializer": {"type": "pickle", "picklelib": "cloudpickle", "picklelib_version": "2.2.1"},
2  "data": "gAWVxwIAAAAAACMEXBhbmRhcy5jb3JlLmZyYW1lIiwJRGF0YUZyYW1lJ0UKYGUfZQojARfbWdy\nIwec
3  "prefect_version": "2.10.3"}
4
5
6
```



Results - remote data storage

Store results in cloud provider storage - use a block

```
from prefect import flow, task
import pandas as pd
from prefect_gcp.cloud_storage import GCSBucket

# install module with: pip install prefect-gcp
# register block type
# create block

@task(persist_result=True)
def my_task():
    df = pd.DataFrame(dict(a=[2, 3], b=[4, 5]))
    return df

@flow(result_storage=GCSBucket.load("my-bucket-block"))
def my_flow():
    df = my_task()
```



Working with big data

Read and write data to cloud provider without passing the data around.

See discussion of options:

docs.prefect.io/latest/resources/big-data



Caching



Caching

What?

Why?

⚠ task only

Requires persisting results (so must be serializable)



cache_policy - for computing cache keys

INPUTS - rerun only if inputs change

```
from prefect import task
from prefect.cache_policies import INPUTS

@task(cache_policy=INPUTS, log_prints=True)
def my_cached_task(x: int):
    print(f"Result is: {x + 42}")

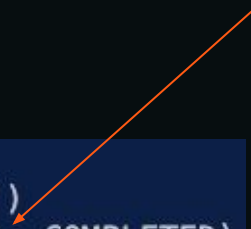
my_cached_task(8)    # Task runs
my_cached_task(8)    # Task doesn't run, uses the cached result
my_cached_task(33)   # Task runs
```



Caching with *INPUTS* policy

Task runs two times:

```
12:51:32.389 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Result is: 50
12:51:32.398 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Finished in state Completed()
12:51:32.416 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Finished in state Cached(type=COMPLETED)
12:51:32.441 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Result is: 75
12:51:32.443 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Finished in state Completed()
```



What happens if run the task again with same three inputs?



Caching

```
12:53:48.663 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Finished in state Cached(type=COMPLETED)
12:53:48.684 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Finished in state Cached(type=COMPLETED)
12:53:48.702 | INFO | Task run 'my_cached_task' - Finished in state Cached(type=COMPLETED)
```

If you delete the cached result (the file stored in `~/.prefect/storage` by default) and rerun the flow, the task will run.



Cache policy options

DEFAULT: task inputs, code definition, and current flow run ID.

INPUTS: only task inputs.

TASK_SOURCE: only task code definition.

FLOW_PARAMETERS: only parameter values provided to parent flow run.

Can be combined and can create customized functions.



Caching: *cache_expiration*

```
from datetime import timedelta
from time import sleep
from prefect import flow, task
from prefect.cache_policies import INPUTS

@task(cache_policy=INPUTS, cache_expiration=timedelta(minutes=1))
def hello_task(name_input):
    print(f"Hello {name_input}")

@flow(log_prints=True)
def hello_flow(name_input: str):
    hello_task(name_input)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    hello_flow(name_input="world")
    sleep(100)
    hello_flow(name_input="world")
```

Transaction rollbacks



Transactions

- Can roll back a side effect if code fails
- Like an undo button to return to previous state

docs.prefect.io/latest/develop/transactions



Transactions

In a flow, call tasks using a *with transaction():* context block

```
@flow
def pipeline(contents: str):
    with transaction():
        write_file(contents)
        quality_test()
```



Transactions

- Can specify action to take if an error is raised
- Decorate a function with *my_task.on_rollback()*

```
@write_file.on_rollback
def del_file(transaction):
    "Deletes file."
    os.unlink("side-effect.txt")
```



Transactions

```
from prefect import task, flow
from prefect.transactions import transaction

@task
def write_file(contents: str):
    "Writes to a file."
    with open("side-effect.txt", "w") as f:
        f.write(contents)

@write_file.on_rollback
def del_file(transaction):
    "Deletes file."
    os.unlink("side-effect.txt")

@task
def quality_test():
    "Checks contents of file."
    with open("side-effect.txt", "r") as f:
        data = f.readlines()

    if len(data) < 2:
        raise ValueError("Not enough data!")

@flow
def pipeline(contents: str):
    with transaction():
        write_file(contents)
        quality_test()
```



Transaction lifecycle stages

Each transaction goes through at most four lifecycle stages:

- **BEGIN:** transaction's key is computed and looked up. If a record already exists at the key location the transaction considers itself committed.
- **STAGE:** stages a piece of data to be committed to its result location.
- **ROLLBACK:** if the transaction encounters *any* error after staging, it rolls itself back and does not commit anything.
- **COMMIT:** the transaction writes its record to its configured location.



Artifacts



Artifacts

Communicate with team members through persisted outputs such as Markdown, tables, images, and links



Artifacts

- Meant for human consumption
- Examples:
 - Model scores
 - Data quality checks
 - Reports
- Stored in database & shown in UI
- Custom RBAC can limit user access (Enterprise)



Artifacts - Markdown example of weather report

```
import httpx
from prefect import flow, task
from prefect.artifacts import create_markdown_artifact

@task
def report(temp):
    markdown_report = f"""# Weather Report

## Recent weather



| Time          | Temperature |
|---------------|-------------|
| Temp Forecast | {temp}      |


"""

    create_markdown_artifact(
        key="weather-report",
        markdown=markdown_report,
        description="Very scientific weather report",
    )
```



Artifacts - Markdown example of weather report

Access from UI: *Runs* timeline

Key
⊖ weather-report

Description
Very scientific weather report

Weather Report

Recent weather

Time	Temperature
Temp Forecast	25.9




Artifacts are versioned


Artifacts / latest-damage-report-car-1

Latest damage report for car 1

05:55 PM
Jun 12th, 2024

f2e1bb10
Flow run  Process Damage Report for Car 1
Task run  submit_damage_report-0

04:43 PM
Jun 12th, 2024

b77853ad
Flow run  Process Damage Report for Car 1
Task run  submit_damage_report-0

03:20 PM
May 23rd, 2024

eeba6b03
Flow run  Process Damage Report for Car 1
Task run  submit_damage_report-0

12:49 PM
May 23rd, 2024

048980b2
Flow run  Process Damage Report for Car 1
Task run  submit_damage_report-0

 Created latest-damage-report-car-1



Prefect Cloud



Prefect Cloud

- Prefect takes care of the server
- User account management (some at higher tiers)
 - Workspaces
 - Service accounts
 - RBAC
 - SSO
 - Audit logs
- Additional features



Prefect Cloud workspaces

- Paid plans can have multiple workspaces
- Each workspace is self-contained



Prefect Cloud - Default Roles (Pro + Enterprise)

Account level

- Owner
- Admin
- Member

Workspace level

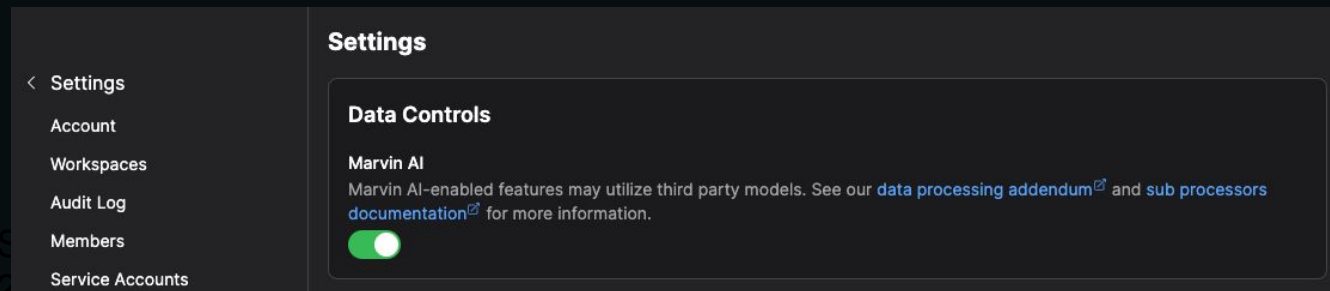
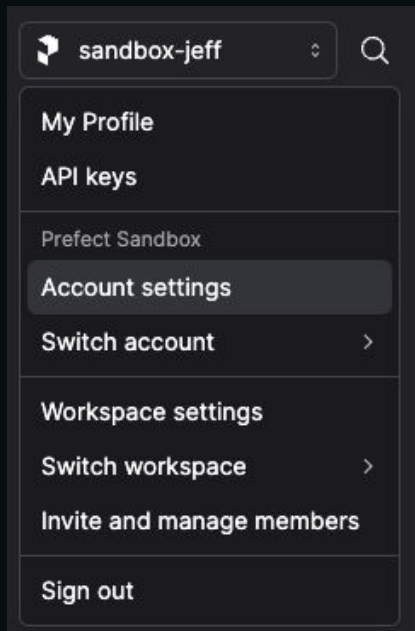
- Owner
- Developer
- Runner
- Viewer
- Worker








Error summaries by Marvin AI












Error summaries by Marvin AI



Error summaries by Marvin AI

☐ **get-info** > **zircon-tapir**
 **Failed**  2023/09/25 03:29:38 PM  1s  None
 Failed due to a `IndexError` in the `get_info` task; range object index out of range.

☐ **ml-flow** > **translucent-pogona**
 **Failed**  2023/09/25 03:16:42 PM  1s  1 task run
 Failed due to a `ZeroDivisionError` in the `compute` task with message 'division by zero'.

☐ **ml-flow** > **wealthy-firefly**
 **Completed**  2023/09/25 03:16:25 PM  2s  1 task run



Events



Events

- Record of what happened

Represent:

- API calls
- State transitions
- Changes in environment



Event feed

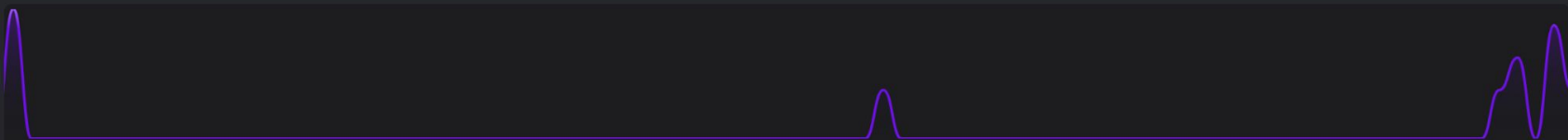
Workspace Events

Resource

All resources

Events

All events



Past day



08:49:29 AM

May 21st, 2024



Automation deleted

prefect-cloud.automation.deleted

Resource

prefect-cloud.automation.9e091fa8-29dc-4754-9452-699d1deb6c0e

Related Resources

prefect-cloud.actor.9d33d732-99f5-4330-b9dd-3f95a6154afa prefect-cloud.account.9b649228-0419-40e1-9e0d-44954b5c0ab6

prefect-cloud.workspace.d137367a-5055-44ff-b91c-6f7366c9e4c4



Events

Power several Cloud features:

- Flow run logs
- Audit logs
- Automations (triggers)



Automations







Automations

Flexible framework

- If *Trigger* happens, do *Action*
- If *Trigger* doesn't happen in a time period, do *Action*



Automation examples

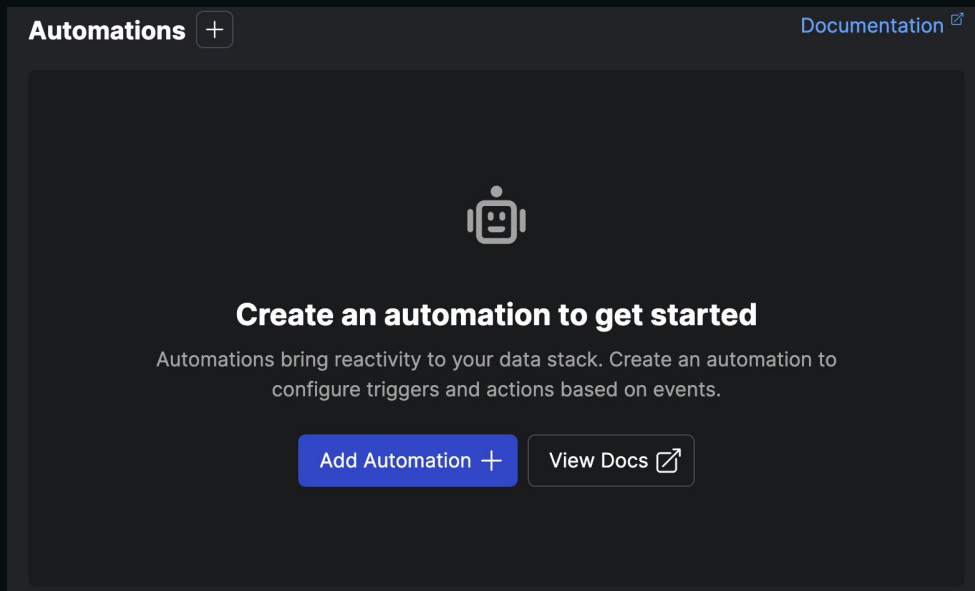
- If a flow run with tag **prod** fails, send an email 
- If a data quality check fails, run a deployment to fetch more data 
- If a work pool changes state to *Not Ready*, call a webhook  



Send an email when a flow run fails with an Automation

Trigger: Flow run failure

Action: Send an email



Automation trigger: *Flow run state*

Automations / Create[Documentation](#)

01 Trigger

02 Actions

03 Details

Trigger Type

Flow run state

FormJSON

Flows

All flows

Flow Run Tags

All tags

Flow Run

Enters


All run states

Cancel

Previous

Next

Related Events



Apr 28th, 2024
12:00 AM

May 4th, 2024
11:59 PM



Automation action: *Send an email*

✓ Trigger

02 Actions

03 Details

Action 1

Action Type

Send an email

Emails

jeff@prefect.io ×

Subject

Prefect flow run notification

Body

Flow run {{ flow.name }}/{{ flow_run.name }} observed in state '{{ flow_run.state.name }}' at {{ flow_run.state.timestamp }}.
Flow ID: {{ flow_run.flow_id }}
Flow run ID: {{ flow_run.id }}
Flow run URL: {{ flow_run.ui_url }}
State message: {{ flow_run.state.message }}

1

In addition to any fields present on the triggering event, the following objects can be used in notification templates: `flow`, `deployment`, `flow_run`, `work_pool`, `work_queue`, and `metric`.

+ Add Action

Cancel

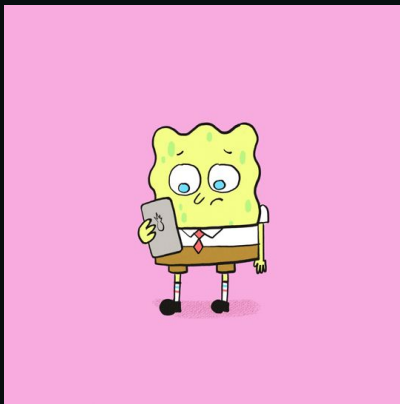
Previous

Next



Name and save your automation

You'll receive an email when a flow run fails!



👉 You can toggle automations off and on


More automation action options (e.g. Slack): *Send a notification*

Create a block with **notify** capability

Blocks / Choose a Block

If you don't see a block for the service you're using, check out our [Collections Catalog](#) to view a list of integrations and their corresponding blocks.

10 Blocks Capability: notify ▾




Discord Webhook

Enables sending notifications via a provided Discord webhook.

notify

Add +




Email

Block that allows an email to be sent to a list of email addresses via Sendgrid. This block is only available for use within automations and cann...

notify

Add +



Mattermost Webhook

Enables sending notifications via a provided Mattermost webhook.

notify

Add +



103 Recap

You've learned about

- Working with data
- Prefect Cloud
- Events
- Automations



Lab 103



103 Lab

- In the UI, make an email automation that fires when flow runs complete
- Then toggle it off
- See the event feed in the UI
- Create a Markdown artifact that prints a weather forecast in a nicely formatted table
- Stretch 1: Create a flow that contains a task that uses caching
- Stretch 2: Change the cache policy, does the task run or not run as you expect?

