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`* [`signature_verification`](../../dev-guide/api/conda/trust/signature_verification/index.html)`

`* [`utils`](../../dev-guide/api/conda/utils/index.html)`

- * [`conda_env`](../../dev-guide/api/conda_env/index.html) __`
- * [`cli`](../../dev-guide/api/conda_env/cli/index.html)`
- * [`installers`](../../dev-guide/api/conda_env/installers/index.html)`

- * [`__](../../index.html)`
- * [User guide](../index.html)
- * [Configuration](index.html)
- * Administerin...

Administering a multi-user conda installation#

By default, conda and all of the packages it installs are installed locally with a user-specific configuration. Administrative privileges are not required, and no upstream files or other users are affected by the installation.

You can make conda and any number of packages available to a group of one or more users, while preventing these users from installing unwanted packages with conda:

1. Install conda and the allowed packages, if any, in a location that is under administrator control and accessible to users.

2. Create a [`.condarc` system configuration file](use-condarc.html) in the root directory of the installation. This system-level configuration file will override any user-level configuration files installed by the user.

Each user accesses the central conda installation, which reads settings from the user ``.condarc`` configuration file located in their home directory. The path to the user file is the same as the root environment prefix displayed by ``conda info``, as shown in User configuration file below. The user ``.condarc`` file is limited by the system ``.condarc`` file.

System configuration settings are commonly used in a system ``.condarc`` file but may also be used in a user ``.condarc`` file. All user configuration settings may also be used in a system ``.condarc`` file.

For information about settings in the ``.condarc`` file, see [Using the ``.condarc`` conda configuration file](use-condarc.html).

Example administrator-controlled installation#

The following example describes how to view the system configuration file, review the settings, compare it to a user's configuration file, and determine what happens when the user attempts to access a file from a blocked channel. It then describes how the user must modify their configuration file to access the channels allowed by the administrator.

System configuration file#

1. The system configuration file must be in the top-level conda installation directory. Check the path where ``conda`` is located, e.g. in a miniconda installation

\$ which conda

/tmp/miniconda/bin/conda

2. View the contents of the `.condarc` file in the administrator's directory:

```
cat /tmp/miniconda/.condarc
```

The following administrative `.condarc` file uses the `#!final` flag to specify the channels, default channels, and `channel_alias` available to the user.

```
$ cat /tmp/miniconda/.condarc
```

```
channels:                                #!final
```

```
- admin
```

```
channel_alias: https://conda.anaconda.org/ #!final
```

The `#!final` flag is very similar to the `!important` rule in CSS; any parameter within the `.condarc` that is trailed by the `#!final` cannot be overwritten by any other `.condarc` source. For more information on this flag, see the [Anaconda Blog](<https://www.anaconda.com/blog/conda-configuration-engine-power-users>) on the subject.

Because the `#!final` flag has been used and the channel defaults are not explicitly specified, users are disallowed from downloading packages from the default channels. You can check this in the next procedure.

User configuration file#

1. Check the location of the user's conda installation:

```
$ conda info
```

Current conda install:

...

channel URLs : <https://repo.anaconda.com/pkg/free/osx-64/>

<https://repo.anaconda.com/pkg/pro/osx-64/>

config file : /Users/username/.condarc

The `conda info` command shows that conda is using the user's `.condarc` file, located at `/Users/username/.condarc` and that the default channels such as `repo.anaconda.com` are listed as channel URLs.

2. View the contents of the administrative `.condarc` file in the directory that was located in step 1:

```
$ cat ~/.condarc
```

channels:

- defaults

This user's `.condarc` file specifies only the default channels, but the administrator config file has blocked default channels by specifying that only `admin` is allowed. If this user attempts to search for a package in the default channels, they get a message telling them what channels are allowed:

```
$ conda search flask
```

```
Fetching package metadata:
```

```
Error: URL 'http://repo.anaconda.com/pkgsg/pro/osx-64/' not  
in allowed channels.
```

```
Allowed channels are:
```

```
- https://conda.anaconda.org/admin/osx-64/
```

This error message tells the user to add the `admin` channel to their configuration file.

3. The user must edit their local `.condarc` configuration file to access the package through the admin channel:

```
channels:
```

```
- admin
```

The user can now search for packages in the allowed `admin` channel.

___On this page

- * Example administrator-controlled installation
- * System configuration file
- * User configuration file

[__Edit on GitHub](<https://github.com/conda/conda/edit/main/docs/source/user-guide/configuration/admin-multi-user-install.rst>)

[__Show Source]([./../_sources/user-guide/configuration/admin-multi-user-install.rst.txt](https://github.com/conda/conda/blob/main/docs/source/user-guide/configuration/admin-multi-user-install.rst.txt))

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