

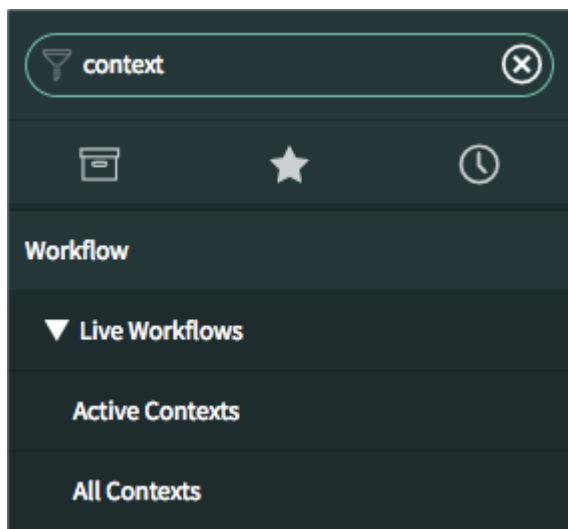
ServiceNow Application Developer

Workflow > Workflow Contexts

A context is a workflow's runtime environment. A context is created when a workflow is launched. A context loads the workflow definition at time of launch. Regardless of the number of changes to a workflow definition, contexts continue to run using the workflow definition at the time of launch. In addition to loading a workflow, contexts also know which record the workflow was launched for.




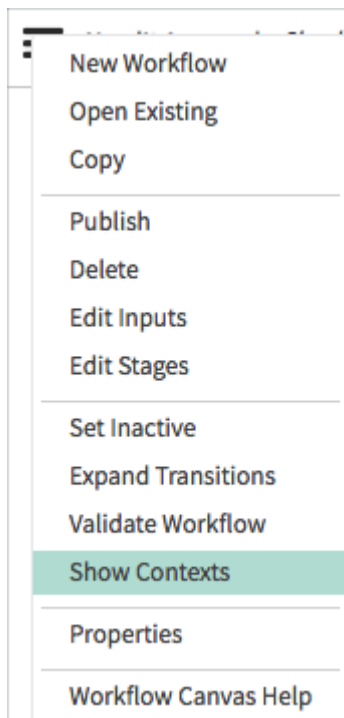
Use the Application Navigator in the main ServiceNow browser window to access the context modules:



- **Active Contexts:** A list of currently executing contexts
- **All Contexts:** A list of running, finished, and canceled contexts

OR

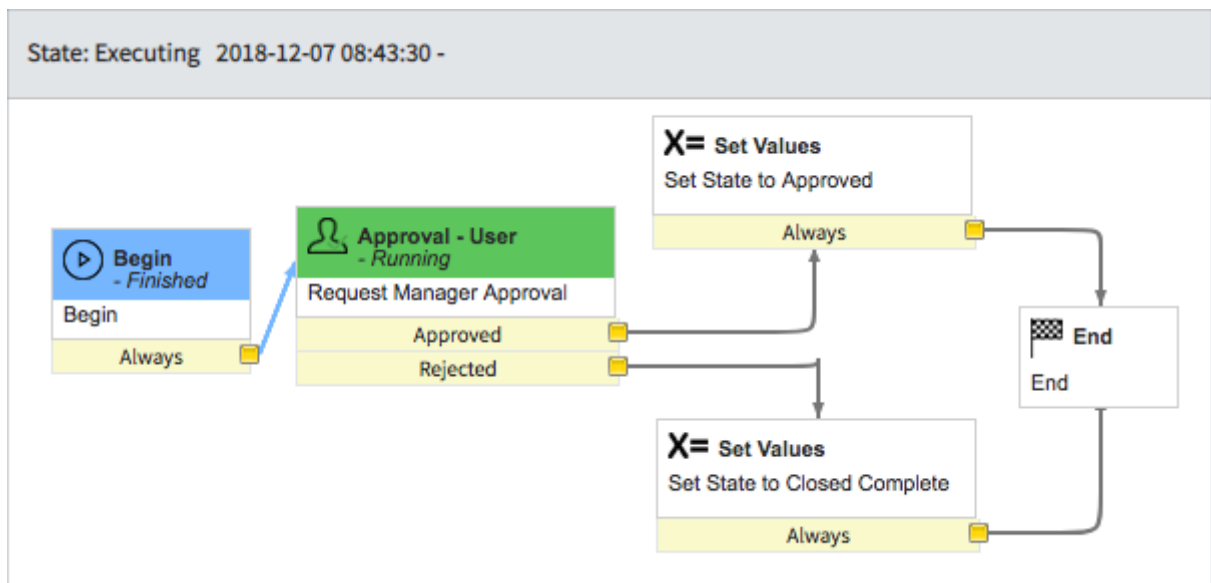
Select the **Workflow Actions** button () in Workflow Editor and choose the **Show Contexts** menu item.



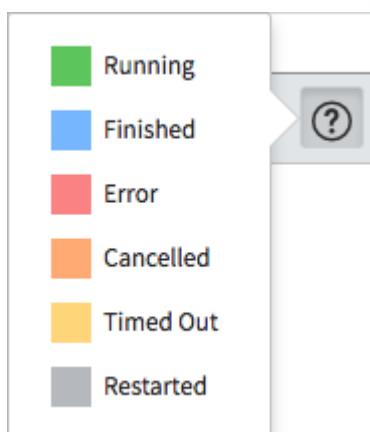
Click the *Started* **timestamp** to open a context.

Workflow contexts	Search	Started	Search	
All > Active = true				
Started	Workflow version	Related record	State	
2018-12-07 07:22:30	NeedIt Approval	NeedIt: NI002005	Executing	

In the Related Links, click the **Show Workflow** link. A new tab opens with a color-coded representation of the workflow in the runtime environment. The current state of each activity is listed under the activity type and denoted by color.




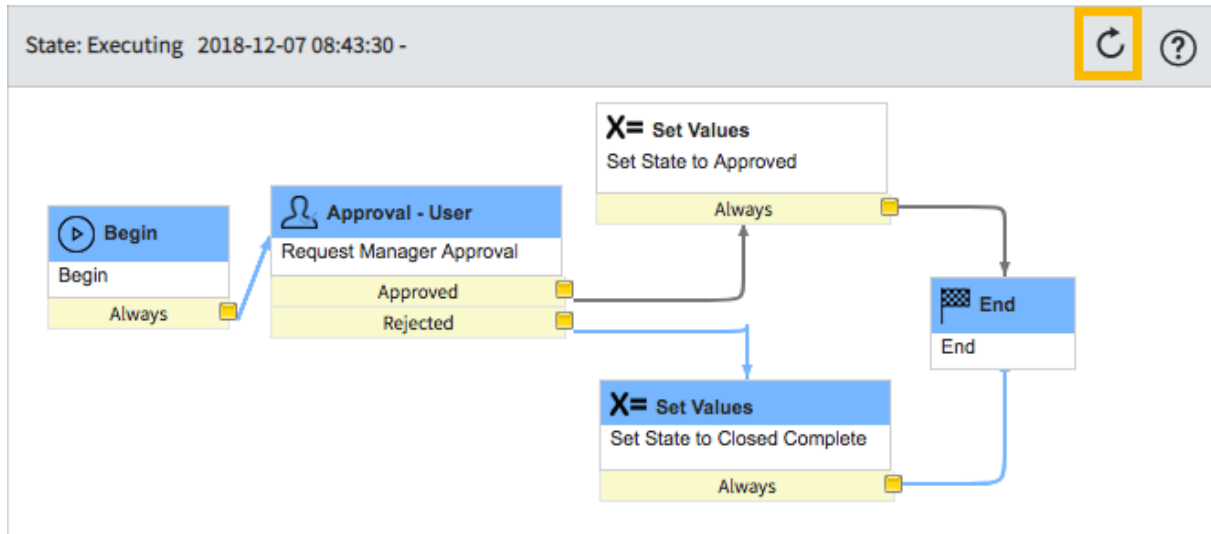
Click the **Help** button in the workflow context header to see the color code.



Hover over an activity to find more information.

In the example, the *Begin* activity is finished and the *Approval - User* activity is the running activity. The workflow stays on the *Approval - User* activity until the *Requested for's* manager has either approved or rejected the request.

Click the **Refresh** button () in the workflow context header to update the diagram with the current status of the workflow.



In this case, the *Requested for's* manager rejected the *NeedIt* request. The workflow followed the *Rejected* transition out of the *Approval - User* activity. The *End* activity is blue, which means the workflow has completed execution and the workflow context is no longer active.

Workflow contexts are useful for debugging workflows.