Adobe CQ Help / CQ5.X: How to Debug a CQ5 App Using Eclipse

Question

How do we debug our application running in a remote (or local) CQ5 server?

Answer, Resolution

To debug a CQ5 application, you can use java remote debugging.

WARNING: Do not enable remote debugging in your production environment unless it necessary as it may greatly affect your application performance.

Step 1: Add the Remote Debugging JVM Parameter

1. To use remote debugging you must start CQ5 with this JVM parameter:
   `-agentlib:jdwp=transport=dt_socket,address=8000,server=y,suspend=n`

The parameter can be added by:

- Starting your server like this `crx-quickstart/bin/start -d --debug-port 8000`. The `-d` parameter will add the jvm parameter to the CQ5 java process.
- Adding it to your `crx-quickstart/bin/start` script `CQ_JVM_OPTS` environment variable (so your server always starts in debug mode).
- Including it as a parameter when starting CQ5 with `java -jar` directly. For example, `java -Xmx512m -agentlib:jdwp=transport=dt_socket,address=8000,server=y,suspend=n -jar cq-author-4502.jar`

Note: if needed, you can change the port defined under "...,address=8000,..." from 8000 to something that works better in your environment.

Note 2 : Starting CQ 5.5, using the last solution, when Quickstart forks a new process it does not start the JVM with the debug options. You can prevent forking by specifying the -nofork command line option.

Note 3 : the start script is located under crx-quickstart/server for CQ versions < 5.5

Step 2: Start a Remote Debugging Session
To start a remote debugging session from Eclipse then do the following:

1. Open Eclipse
2. Go to **Run** -> **Debug Configurations**
3. Right click "Remote Java Applications" and select "New"
4. Select your CQ5 project under "Project"
5. Type in the port from the "address" configuration of the jvm parameter defined above, in my example it is port 8000 (and the hostname of the machine you are connecting to, most likely localhost)
6. To start a debugging session then double click your new configuration in the "Debug Configurations" screen after saving it

Applies to

CQ5.X

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