



BUILDING BLOCKS / Node / start-end-node

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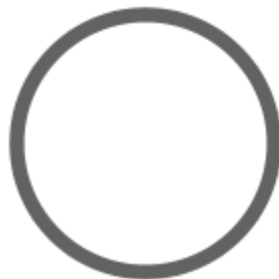
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BUILDING BLOCKS / Node / Start/End nodes

Let's go through all the options for configuring start and end nodes for a process definition.

Start node

The start node represents the beginning of a process and it is mandatory to add one when creating a process.



A process can have one or more start nodes. If you defined multiple start nodes, each should have a start condition value configured. When starting a new process instance the desired start condition should be used.

The screenshot shows the 'Node Config' tab for a node named 'Start Node Example' (ID: 538601). The interface includes a search bar at the top right with the placeholder 'Search by node name'. On the left, there is a sidebar with icons for settings, user, add, and delete. The main configuration area is divided into sections: 'General Config' with a 'Node name' field containing 'Start Node Example', a 'Can go back?' toggle switch which is turned on, a 'Swimlane' dropdown menu set to 'Default', and a 'Stage' dropdown menu. A blue 'Save' button is located at the bottom right of the configuration area.

Configuring a start node

Node configuration is done by accessing the **Node Config** tab. You have the following configuration options for a **start node**:

- **General Config**
- **Start condition**

General Config

- **Node name** - the name of the node
- **Can go back** - switching this option to true will allow users to return to this step after completing it

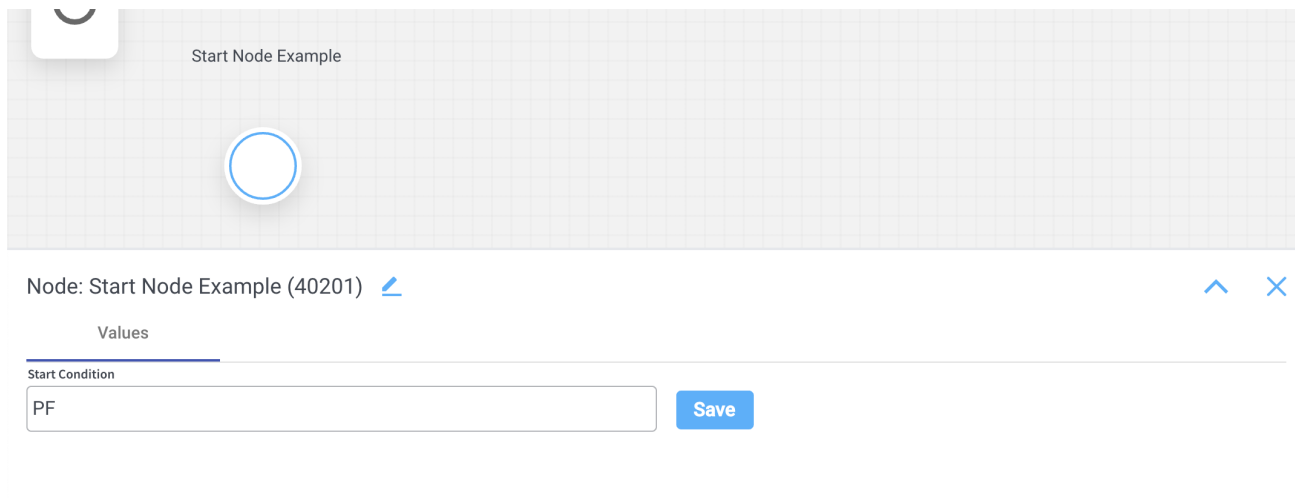


When encountering a step with `canGoBack` switched to false, all steps found behind it will become unavailable.

- **Swimlane** - choose a swimlane (if there are multiple swimlanes on the process) to make sure only certain user roles have access only for certain process nodes- if there are no multiple swimlanes, the value is **Default**
- **Stage** - assign a stage to the node

Start condition

The start condition should be set as a string value. This string value will need to be set on the payload for the start process request on the `startCondition` key.



The screenshot shows a web interface for configuring a 'Start Node Example'. At the top, there's a title 'Start Node Example' and a blue circular icon. Below this, the node is identified as 'Node: Start Node Example (40201)'. Under the 'Values' section, there is a 'Start Condition' field with the value 'PF' entered. A blue 'Save' button is located to the right of the input field.

To test the start condition, we can send a start request via REST:

```
POST {{processUrl}}/api/process/{{processName}}/start
{
  "startCondition": "PF"
}
```

Error handling on start condition

If a request is made to start a process with a start condition that does not match any start node, an error will be generated. Let's take the previous example and assume we send an incorrect value for the start condition:

```
POST {{processUrl}}/api/process/{{processName}}/start
{
  "startCondition": "PJ"
}
```

A response with the error code `bad request` and title `Start node for process definition not found` will be sent in this case:

```
{
  "entityName": "ai.flowx.process.definition.domain.NodeDefinition",
  "defaultMessage": "Start node for process definition not found",
  "errorKey": "error.validation.process_instance.start_node_for_process_definition",
  "error.validation.process_instance.start_node_for_process_definition": {
    "type": "https://www.jhipster.tech/problem/problem-with-message",
    "title": "Start node for process definition not found.",
    "status": 400,
    "message": "Start node for process definition not found."
  },
  "error.validation.process_instance.start_node_for_process_definition.params": "ai.flowx.process.definition.domain.NodeDefinition"
}
```

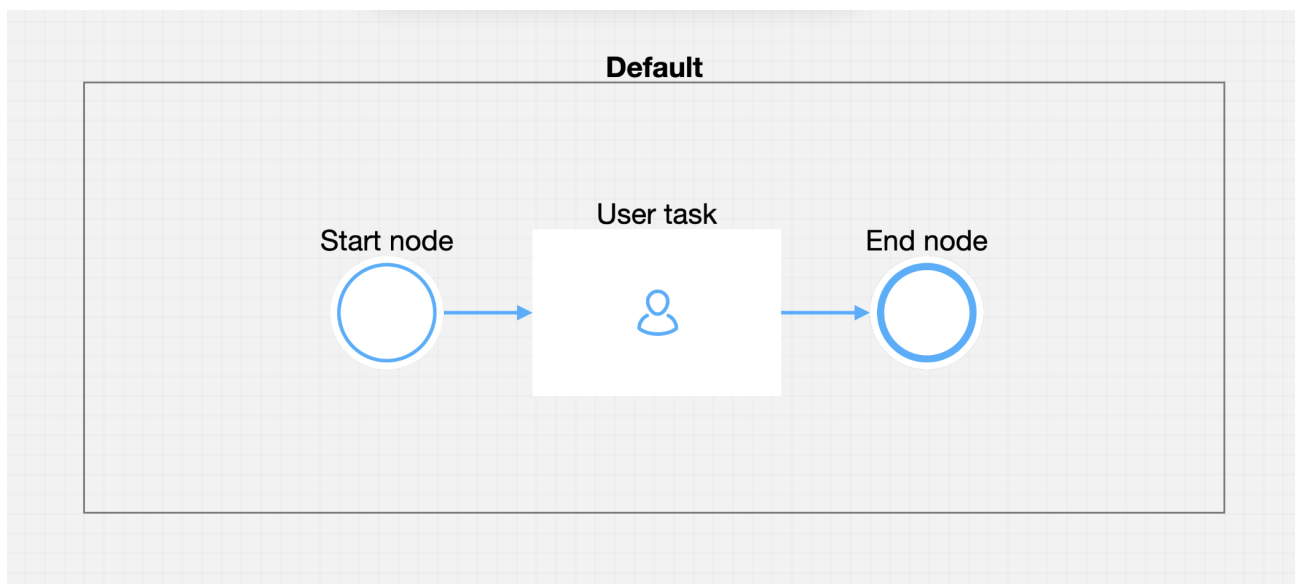
End node



An end node is used to mark where the process finishes. When the process reaches this node, the process is considered completed and its status will be set to **Finished**.

Configuring an end node

Multiple end nodes can be used to show different end states. The configuration is similar to the start node.



Was this page helpful?