ALFRESCO INTEGRATION WITH CISCO SPARK

Introduction

What is **Cisco Spark**?
Cisco Spark is a complete business collaboration service from the **Cisco** cloud that enables you to message, meet, or call anyone, anywhere, anytime. More information about Cisco Spark can be found here.

What is **Alfresco**?
Alfresco is an enterprise document management system. More information can be found here.

What is the **integration**?
This integration is a way of following what happens on Alfresco by getting messages on Cisco Spark. You set a folder on Alfresco you want to follow specific events from. These specific events are:

- file created (or moved in)
- file updated
- file deleted (or moved out)

Then you set a room on Cisco Spark you want to receive notifications in and you are ready. This brings a huge benefit by easily following what's going on Alfresco without monitoring it all the time. It's a great way of converting active monitoring to passive.

What you need to know before you can use the integration

1. **NO PROXY SERVER CONFIGURATION –** Your computer/network configuration is not behind a proxy server

   If you don't have proxy setup just follow instructions on how to **INSTALL AND SET UP**

2. **WITH PROXY SERVER CONFIGURATION -** Your computer/network configuration has proxy settings

   If there are proxy settings set up in your network, you need to contact your IT or anyone responsible for installing/maintaining Alfresco and go through the install and setup process together. **Be aware** - Alfresco needs to be set up properly in order to work behind a **Proxy server**, as your company probably has one!

   Why Alfresco needs to know about existing Proxy server?
   Alfresco will have to communicate with Cisco Spark to send appropriate notifications. In order for this to happen it has to be able to open up a connection to Cisco Spark. If there is a proxy, Alfresco needs to know about it so it can properly send requests.

INSTALL AND SET UP

INSTALL AND RUN ALFRESCO

Note: In order to execute these commands you have to have Java installed. You can download it from here

1. Download and install Alfresco software

Download and install a fresh copy of Alfresco from their official website. We used Alfresco Community edition which can be downloaded here. Installation is fairly simple, pick everything with default values. Don't forget to remember the password you provide since you will need to login later. **At the end of the install process uncheck Lunch Alfresco**, because we have to set some things first.

2. Install our Alfresco extension

With this documentation, we provide you with two files that have .amp extensions. These are our extensions for Alfresco. In order to install them you should go to folder where you installed Alfresco and then go to bin folder. Once there, open command line and run

```
java -jar alfresco-mmt.jar install <notification-service-repo.amp
location>
<alfresco.war location>

java -jar alfresco-mmt.jar install <notification-service-share.amp
location> <share.war location>
```

If Alfresco (in step 1) was installed correctly, path to alfresco.war and share.war should be here: `<alfresco install folder>\tomcat\webapps\.`

We can check if extension for alfresco.war was installed correctly by running in command line

```
java -jar alfresco-mmt.jar list <alfresco.war location>
```

This command should print all amp files installed to alfresco.war file. On this list you should see **notification-service-repo** amp. We can do the same for share.war.

3. Setting property file for Alfresco

In order for Alfresco to communicate and send notification to Cisco Spark we have to set some properties.

Property file that we want to change is :

```
<alfresco install folder>\tomcat\shared\classes\alfresco-global.properties
```

in this file we have to set access token that we'll be using for authenticating with Cisco Spark. If you don't have Cisco Spark account you can sign up here for 30 days free trial. When you login on this page, click on your profile image (upper right corner), there you can obtain your access token.
When you have your access token at the end of mentioned property file add this entry:

```
cisco.spark.access-token = your-access-token
```

By default our extension will target https://api.ciscospark.com/v1. If you would like to change address or version of Cisco Spark API, you can set these property values for each of them:

```
cisco.spark.ip-address = custom-api-ip-address
cisco.spark.api-version = custom-version
```

Be careful when changing API version, because if existing API calls were changed in newer version, our extension might not work.

Note: By default we have set to get notification even if you upload or create empty files. If you don't want this behavior add this property value:

```
policy.content.update.ignoreEmpty=true
```

4. Run Alfresco

Easiest way to run alfresco is to go to Alfresco install folder, open command line (**as administrator**) and run this command:

```
servicerun.bat START
```

Check this page if you are not using Windows. It can take some time for Alfresco to be up online.

5. Login to Alfresco

Once you can access Alfresco at localhost:8080/share.
Login with credentials:
Username: admin
Password: the one you entered during install

Note : Communication with Cisco Spark, with this setup, will work if you are **not behind a proxy server**. In order for Alfresco to successfully connect to Cisco Spark, when behind proxy, it needs further setup which is not included here.

Note : Installation and running process is for **Windows**. For other operating systems most of the setup process is the same with correct OS commands and file locations. (e.g. servicerun.bat in Windows would be servicerun.sh in Linux)

SETUP A ROOM ON CISCO SPARK

Before we move on we have to have a room on Cisco Spark. If you have a room you can skip this part. Otherwise, visit this page on how to create a room on Cisco Spark. You can also visit this page to see how to create a team and how to create a room within a team.

SETUP FOLDER IN ALFRESCO TO GET NOTIFICATIONS ON CISCO SPARK

1. **Create a Site**
   Once you are logged in you will see Sites on the top bar. Create a site there named Demo Site with other values default. When created, Alfresco will automatically redirect you to your new site.

2. **Create a Folder inside a Demo Site**
   Once on your site, go to **Document Library**. It's located just below the search bar on the right. When you get redirected to Document Library you will see an option to create a folder. Create it with a name Demo Folder.

3. **Add aspect to our Demo Folder**
   When you hover over Demo Folder you will see different options on your right. Click on **more**, then on **Manage Aspects**. A pop-up will appear with all available aspects. Scroll down and add **Follow on Cisco Spark (spark:follow)**.

4. **Set cisco room name for Demo Folder**
   Once again hover over our demo folder and on the right select edit properties. When pop-up appears select **All Properties**. When all properties appear you will see a mandatory field **Cisco Room Name**. There enter your room where you want to see notifications. **Be sure that you have a Room defined on your Cisco Spark account. If not, check previous section.**

   Note: If you don't set your cisco room name, you won't receive notifications on Cisco Spark.

USE CASES

When a change happens you will get a notification on Cisco Spark about it **inside** a folder which was setup like in the **previous section**. Notifications will be received for:

1. **Creating a folder/file**
2. **Updating a folder/file**
3. **Deleting a folder/file**
4. **Moving in/Moving out file/folder**

Notification has a general format but a bit specific, depending on the action that triggered it general format looks like this:

1. What happened and where it happened
2. What changed
3. When did the change occur
4. Who made the change
5. Link to the file that changed

For example, if in our **Demo Folder** (from previous section) we created a **Test Folder** we would get this notification from it:

New created content in folder: **Demo Folder**
New folder: **Test Folder**
Created on: **Date**
Created by: **admin**
Link to folder: **Link**

REQUIREMENTS

- ALFRESCO versions that support installing amp extensions, has enabled creation of custom rules and custom aspect listeners, with correct proxy/no proxy settings configured

- CISCO SPARK able to accept notifications through API as per instructions above

INSTALL GUIDE & INSTALL FILES

https://github.com/illusi0n/Alfresco-integration-with-Cisco-Spark