# Managing Cluster Configuration Settings

## Objectives

After completing this section, you should be able to identify and configure the primary settings for the overall Red Hat Ceph Storage cluster.

## Ceph Cluster Configuration Overview

All Red Hat Ceph Storage cluster configurations contain these required definitions:

- Cluster network configuration
- Cluster monitor (MON) configuration and bootstrap options
- Cluster authentication configuration
- Daemon configuration options

Ceph configuration settings use unique names that consist of lowercase character words connected with underscores.

> **Note**
> Configuration settings might contain dash or space characters when using some configuration methods. However, using underscores in configuration naming is a consistent, recommended practice.

Every Ceph daemon, process, and library accesses its configuration from one of these sources:

- The compiled-in default value
- The centralized configuration database
- A configuration file that is stored on the local host
- Environment variables
- Command-line arguments
- Runtime overrides

> **Important**
> Later settings override those found in earlier sources when multiple setting sources are present. The configuration file configures the daemons when they start. Configuration file settings override those stored in the central database.

The monitor (MON) nodes manage a centralized configuration database. On startup, Ceph daemons parse configuration options that are provided via command-line options, environment variables, and the local cluster configuration file. The daemons then contact the MON cluster to retrieve configuration settings that are stored in the centralized configuration database.

Red Hat Ceph Storage 5 deprecates the `ceph.conf` cluster configuration file, making the centralized configuration database the preferred way to store configuration settings.