Nodes

# Nodes#

Nodes are the key building blocks of a workflow. They perform a range of actions, including:

• Starting the workflow.

• Fetching and sending data.

• Processing and manipulating data.

n8n provides a collection of built-in nodes, as well as the ability to create your own nodes. Refer to:

• Built-in integrations to browse the node library.

• Community nodes for guidance on finding and installing community-created nodes.

• Creating nodes to start building your own nodes.

## Add a node to your workflow#

### Add a node to an empty workflow#

• Select Add first step. n8n opens the nodes panel, where you can search or browse trigger nodes.

• Select the trigger you want to use.  
  
Choose the correct app event  
  
If you select On App Event, n8n shows a list of all the supported services. Use this list to browse n8n's integrations and trigger a workflow in response to an event in your chosen service. Not all integrations have triggers. To see which ones you can use as a trigger, select the node. If a trigger is available, you'll see it at the top of the available operations list.  
  
For example, this is the trigger for Asana:

Select the trigger you want to use.

Choose the correct app event

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For example, this is the trigger for Asana:

### Add a node to an existing workflow#

Select the Add node connector. n8n opens the nodes panel, where you can search or browse all nodes.

## Node operations: Triggers and Actions#

When you add a node to a workflow, n8n displays a list of available operations. An operation is something a node does, such as getting or sending data.

There are two types of operation:

• Triggers start a workflow in response to specific events or conditions in your services. When you select a Trigger, n8n adds a trigger node to your workflow, with the Trigger operation you chose pre-selected. When you search for a node in n8n, Trigger operations have a bolt icon .

• Actions are operations that represent specific tasks within a workflow, which you can use to manipulate data, perform operations on external systems, and trigger events in other systems as part of your workflows. When you select an Action, n8n adds a node to your workflow, with the Action operation you chose pre-selected.

## Node controls#

To view node controls, hover over the node on the canvas:

• Test step : Run the node.

• Deactivate : Deactivate the node.

• Delete : Delete the node.

• Node context menu : Select node actions. Available actions:  
Open node  
Test step  
Rename node  
Deactivate node  
Pin node  
Copy node  
Duplicate node  
Select all  
Clear selection  
Delete node

• Open node

• Test step

• Rename node

• Deactivate node

• Pin node

• Copy node

• Duplicate node

• Select all

• Clear selection

• Delete node

## Node settings#

The node settings under the Settings tab allow you to control node behaviors and add node notes.

When active or set, they do the following:

• Request Options: Select Add Option to view and select these options.  
Batching: Control how to batch large numbers of input items.  
Ignore SSL Issues: Download the response even if SSL validation isn't possible.  
Proxy: Use this if you need to specify an HTTP proxy.  
Timeout: Set a timeout for the request in ms.

• Batching: Control how to batch large numbers of input items.

• Ignore SSL Issues: Download the response even if SSL validation isn't possible.

• Proxy: Use this if you need to specify an HTTP proxy.

• Timeout: Set a timeout for the request in ms.

• Always Output Data: The node returns an empty item even if the node returns no data during execution. Be careful setting this on IF nodes, as it could cause an infinite loop.

• Execute Once: The node executes once, with data from the first item it receives. It doesn't process any extra items.

• Retry On Fail: When an execution fails, the node reruns until it succeeds.

• On Error:  
Stop Workflow: Halts the entire workflow when an error occurs, preventing further node execution.  
Continue: Proceeds to the next node despite the error, using the last valid data.  
Continue (using error output): Continues workflow execution, passing error information to the next node for potential handling.

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You can document your workflow using node notes:

• Notes: Note to save with the node.

• Display note in flow: If active, n8n displays the note in the workflow as a subtitle.