

Getting Started with Activiti

Activiti is a BPM platform not a consumer toy (yet), so we're going to assume if you got this far then you know your way around a computer.

You've downloaded the Alfresco Activiti bundle and now you want some instant gratification. Who can blame you! The quickest way is to unzip the contents of the download, open a terminal or command window and navigate to the unzipped folder. You need to have Java installed and JAVA_HOME set correctly (Google is your friend). Then start the demo server and test instances through one of the following incantations.

On Linux / Unix / OS X:

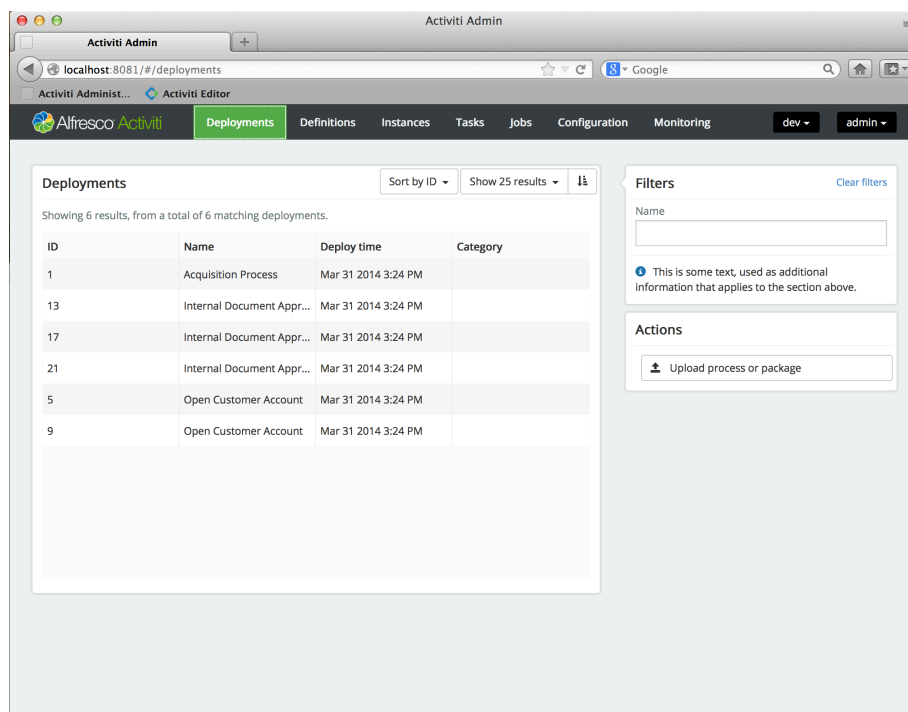
```
sh ./start-activiti.sh
```

On Windows:

```
start /B start-activiti.bat
```

(or just double-click the start-activiti.bat file)

Now point your favorite browser at <http://localhost:8080/activiti-admin> and the Activiti Administrator app sign in page should appear. Sign in using 'admin' and password 'admin'. At this juncture, you are allowed to let out a quiet gasp of wonderment as the Administrator app is displayed, looking something like this.



Let's Cluster

Before we dive into a summary of all the information and features available in the Activiti Administrator, let's get some more Activiti Engine nodes running in

the same cluster. Navigate into the 'jars' folder (cd jars) and run the following script as many times as you want nodes in your test cluster.

On Linux / Unix / OS X:

```
sh ./start-activiti-testapp.sh
```

On Windows:

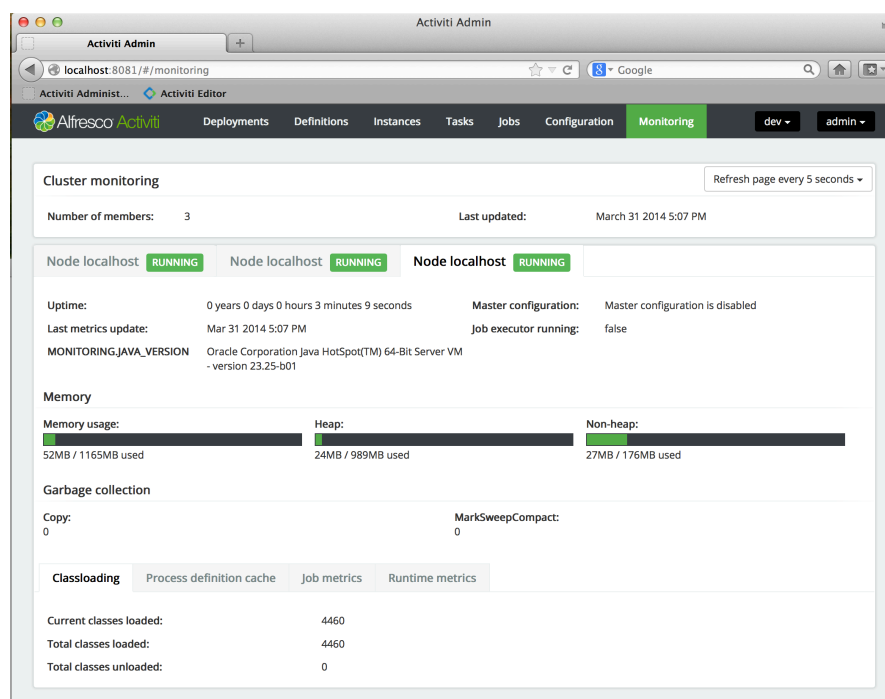
start "Another Activiti Node" start-activiti-testapp.bat
(or just double-click the start-activiti-testapp.bat file)

The Activiti Administrator

Go to the Activiti Administrator view in your browser and select the 'Monitoring' tab from the menu bar.

Monitoring View

You should see a view with a summary of the test 'dev' cluster, with a tab for each Activiti Engine node, looking something like the screen below. The dropdown menu next to your user name in the menu bar tells you which cluster you're looking at, and also allows you to switch to a different cluster if you have configured one. There's only the 'dev' cluster set up with the default testapp.



You can adjust the refresh frequency of the page from the option in the top right of the view. For each node in the cluster there is a summary of it's status, plus additional data under the tabs in the lower part of the view, including Classloading, Process definition cache, Job metrics, and Runtime metrics.

Wait a few minutes for the testapp to run some test processes and build up some data for us to explore. If you get bored at anytime, you can sign off from the Administrator app using the dropdown on your user name in the top menu bar.

Deployments View

There are 6 deployed processes or packages with the default testapp that are listed here. You can sort the view on ID or Name, also choose how many results should be displayed, and sort the results in ascending or descending order.

There is also a live Filter zone that you can use to only list deployments that match the text you enter.

To find more information about any given Deployment, click the appropriate row in the list – choose one of the ‘Open Customer Account’ rows. This gives you a list of all the Process Definitions that were in that Deployment. In the default testapp, there is only one Process Definition in each Deployment. You can return to the Deployment list using the ‘<- Return to list’ link, or, as we’re going to do now, drill into a Process Definition by clicking on its row in the list.

Definitions View

You will now be switched to the Definitions tab, with all the information about that specific Process Definition, including lists of any Process Instances of it that are running or have run, and a list of any Jobs associated with the Process Definition. From this page you can also do a couple of actions, including displaying the process diagram and editing the Category for the Definition. Select the link to ‘Show process diagram’ to take a look at the process flow, then close the view to continue.

If you have defined a process model using the Activiti Editor in the cloud, you can bring the definition into the current cluster using the ‘Upload from Activiti Editor’ action.

At this point, select the ‘<- Return to list’ link and you will stay on the Definitions tab, but now with a list of all Process Definitions. Here you have the same sorting options as before, plus a Filter zone. The default filter is based on the ID, but you can add additional filter elements by electing the ‘+’ at the top of filter zone. If you add more filters, you can always reset them using the ‘Clear filter’ link.

From the list of Process Instances listed for a Customer Account Opening definition, click one of the instance rows.

Instances View

If you’ve been paying attention, then you won’t be surprised to find yourself in the Instances tab. Again, lots of data about the instances is available for inspection, but before you click on anything else, let’s look at one of the coolest features here: click on the ‘Show process diagram’.

You will see the same basic diagram as for the definition, except that parts of it are color-coded to show you the flow taken by this instance (blue) and the current state (green). This allows you to get a quick overview of what this particular process has been up to. That was cool, wasn’t it?

If you wanted to kill this Process Instance, you can also do that from the Instance view using the 'Terminate process instance' link. When you do this you are prompted to confirm the termination and also record a reason for killing it in the process audit trail.

You can see all Process Instances by clicking on Instances in the top menu bar, or by selecting the '<- Return to list' link if you're already viewing a specific Instance. Find an Instance that has some Tasks listed in its Instance view and click one of the Tasks.

Tasks View

Yes, Einstein, we're now in the Tasks view. You will now see a bunch of data about that Task. If you've selected an active Task, you will see a number of different actions you can perform on it, including Editing, Assigning, Delegating or Completing it. If the task has already completed, the only action you have it to delete it.

Jobs View

If you come across any Jobs listed in any of the Process Definitions, Instances or Tasks views, you could click through to the Jobs tab. With the default testapp there won't be too many of these, so just click on Jobs in the top menu bar.

Guess what you'll see – yes, a list of Jobs that you can drill into to find further details and cancel or run the jobs. With the testapp there will be jobs starting and completing, so you may need to refresh the view to keep up to the second on what's running.

Configuration View

Finally, we have the Configuration menu item, where you can choose to configure an Engine or Users. Choose the Engine option and you will see the details of the 'dev' cluster setup by the testapp. There's all the actions you need here to define new nodes or clusters and administer them. That's a topic that you can look into at your leisure, as that's the end of our quick tour.

Want to Design a Process?

It can't get much easier than pointing your browser at <http://activiti.alfresco.com> and registering for a trial account if you don't already have one. To guide you through this, follow the **Getting Started with Activiti Editor** guide.

I Just Wanted the WAR Files

I'm sure you will have already found them in the 'wars' folder in the unzipped bundle. There are separate downloads for the WAR files if you only want them next time.

Further Reading