

Building Nextcloud Flow

# Ambition

Flexible user-defined event-based  
task automation



# Status Quo (up to Nextcloud 17)

- Limited to files
- Limited to administrators
- Scattered, app-centered settings



# Goals

- Unified UI with good UX
- Empower regular users to set up Flows
- Backwards compatible configuration
- More available triggers and actions
- Easily extendable for developers





- Personal info
- Security
- Activity
- Mobile & desktop
- Accessibility
- Sharing
- Flow**
- Privacy

## Available flows

**Automated tagging**  
Automated tagging of files  
**Add new flow**

**PDF conversion**  
Convert documents into the PDF format on upload and write.  
**Add new flow**

**Write to conversation**  
Writes event information into a conversation of your choice  
**Add new flow**



More flows

Browse the app store

## Your flows

When **File created**

and

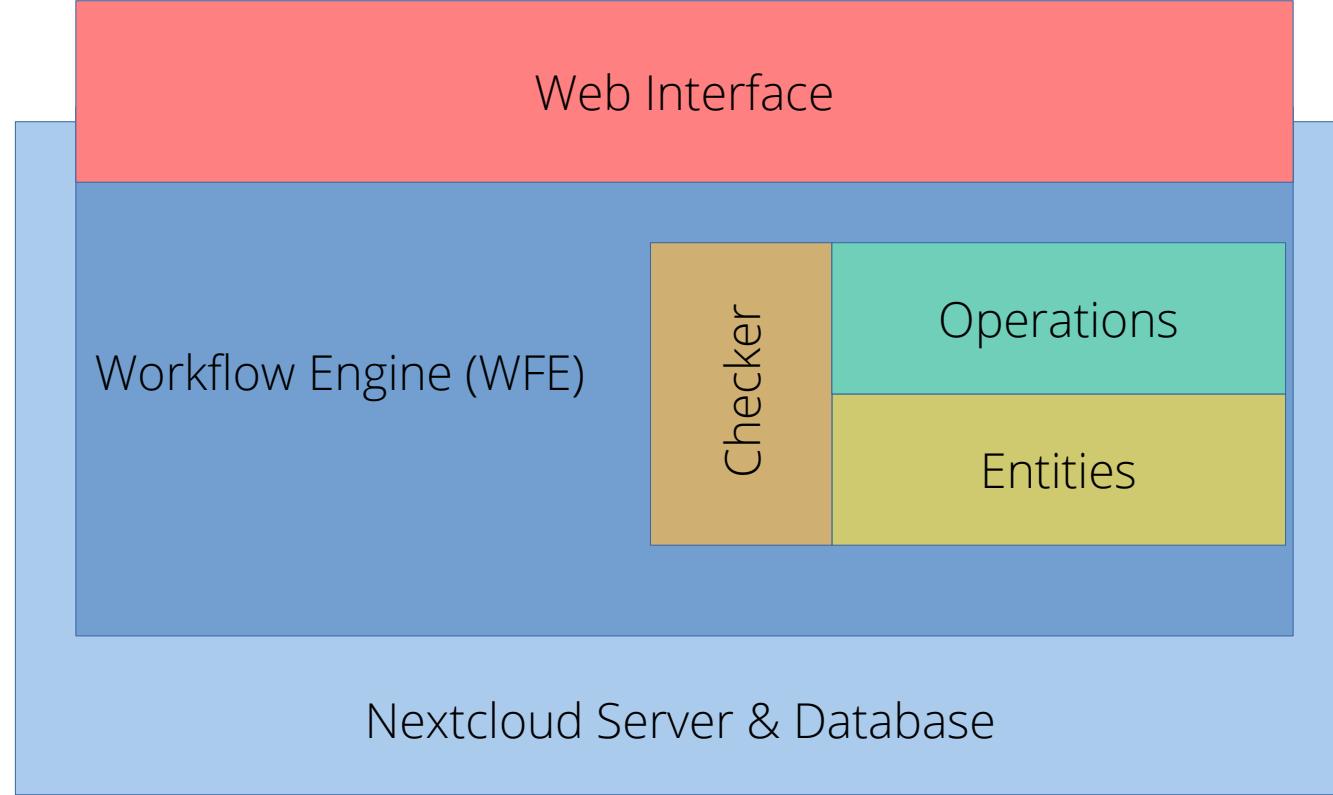


**Write to conversation**

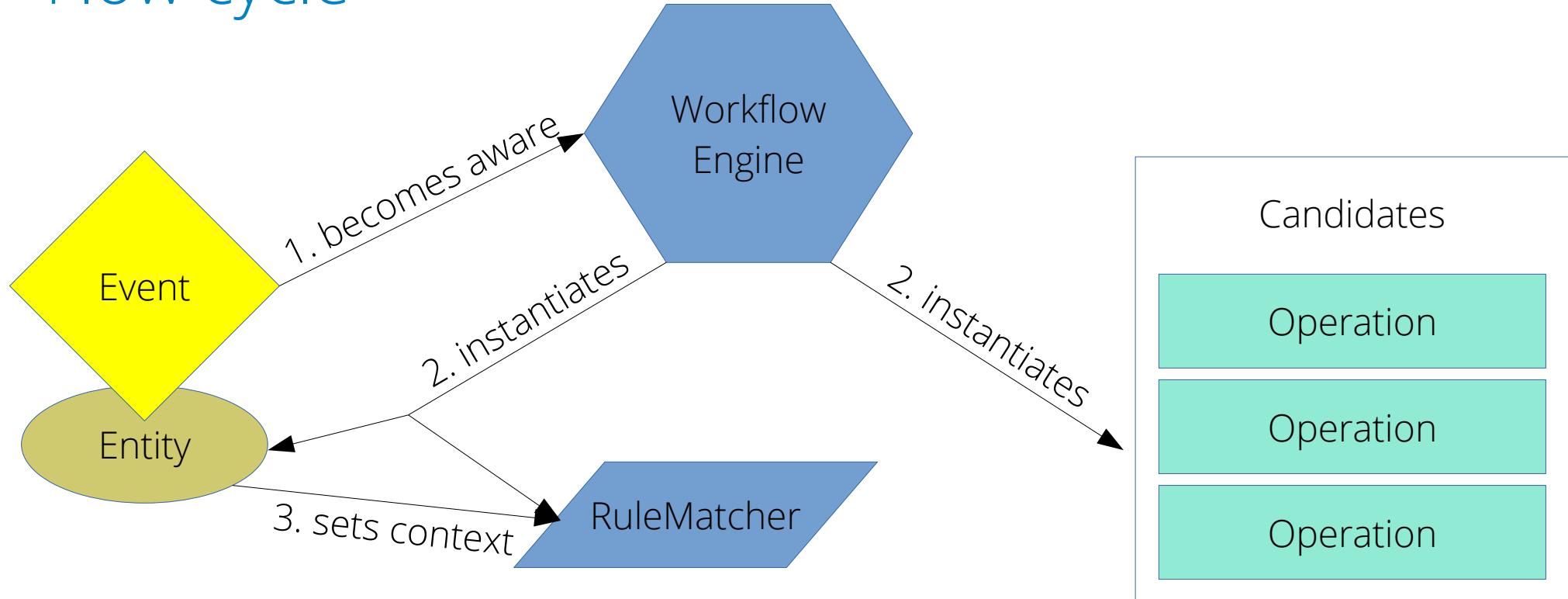
Writes event information into a conversation of your choice



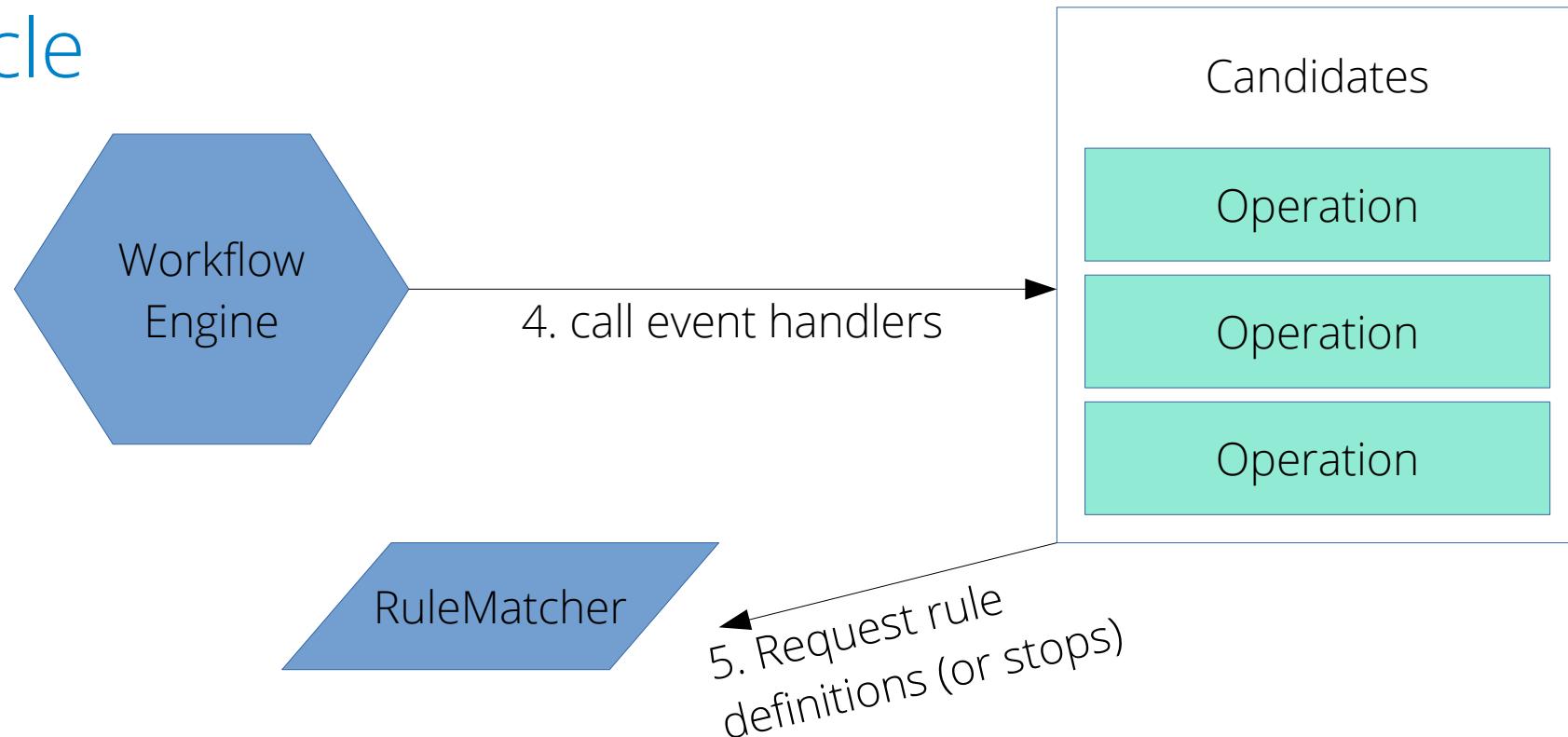
# Components



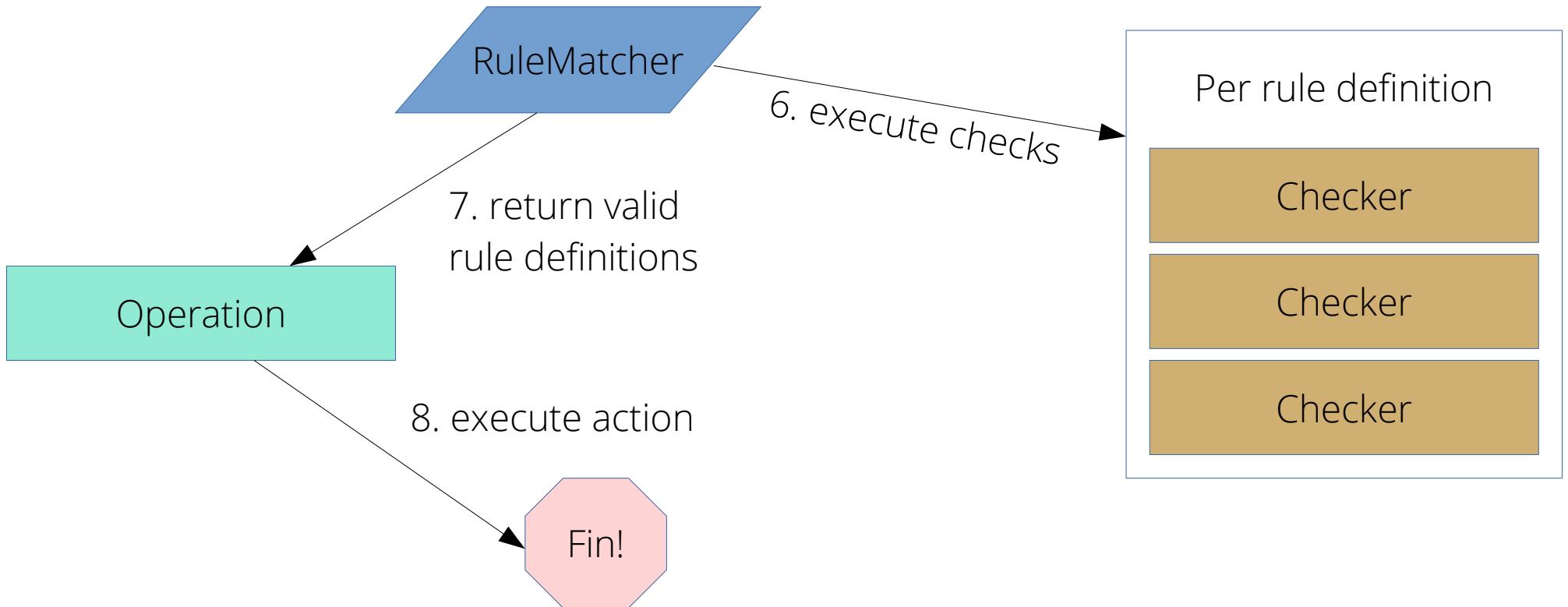
# Flow cycle



# Flow cycle



# Flow cycle



# The Engine

- Accepts **registrations of components**
- Sets up event listeners, forwards to **Operations**
- **Provides information** to the user interface
- Manages rules in the **database**



# What should be done?

- OCP\WorkflowEngine\IOperation
  - User facing information
  - Scope
  - Validation
  - Event handler
- ISpecificOperation – limited to specific events
- IComplexOperation – own listening logic



# Example: convert to PDF

```
public function getDisplayName(): string {
    return $this->l->t( text: 'PDF conversion');
}

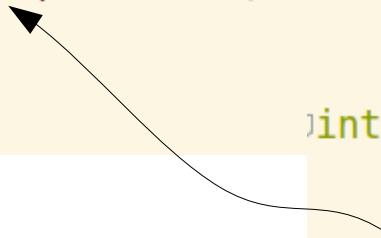
public function getDescription(): string {
    return $this->l->t( text: 'Convert documents into the PDF format on upload and write.');
}

public function getIcon(): string {
    return \OC::$server->getURLGenerator()->imagePath( appName: 'workflow_pdf_converter', file: 'app.svg');
}
```



# Example: convert to PDF contd.

```
public function isAvailableForScope(int $scope): bool {  
    return true;  
}
```



```
interface IManager {  
  
    const SCOPE_ADMIN = 0;  
    const SCOPE_USER = 1;  
}
```

# Example: convert to PDF contd.

```
/**  
 * @throws \UnexpectedValueException  
 * @since 9.1  
 */  
public function validateOperation(string $name, array $checks, string $operation): void {  
    if(!in_array($operation, haystack: Operation::MODES)) {  
        throw new \UnexpectedValueException($this->l->t( text: 'Please choose a mode.'));  
    }  
}
```

MODES = [  
 'keep;preserve',  
 'keep;overwrite',  
 'delete;preserve',  
 'delete;overwrite',  
] : array



# Example: convert to PDF contd.

```
public function onEvent(string $eventName, Event $event, IRuleMatcher $ruleMatcher): void {
    // .. skipped some precondition check left out
    try {
        // .. skipped some trivial info gathering and sanity checking
        $matches = $ruleMatcher->getFlows( returnFirstMatchingOperationOnly: false );
        $original FileMode = $targetPdfMode = null;
        foreach($matches as $match) {
            $fileModes = explode( delimiter: ';', $match['operation']);
            if($original FileMode !== 'keep') {...}
            if($targetPdfMode !== 'preserve') {...}
            if($original FileMode === 'keep' && $targetPdfMode === 'preserve') {...}
        }
        if(!empty($original FileMode) && !empty($targetPdfMode)) {
            $this->jobList->add( job: Convert::class,
                [
                    'path' => $node->getPath(),
                    'original FileMode' => $original FileMode,
                    'targetPdfMode' => $targetPdfMode,
                ]);
        }
    } catch(\OCP\Files\NotFoundException $e) {
    }
}
```



# PDF Converter is an ISpecificOperation

```
public function getEntityId(): string {  
    class File implements OCP\WorkflowEngine\IEntity  
    {  
        return File::class;  
    }  
}
```



# Accesscontrol is an IComplexOperation

```
public function getTriggerHint(): string {
    return $this->l->t( text: 'File is accessed');
}

public function onEvent(string $eventName, GenericEvent $event, IRuleMatcher $ruleMatcher): void {
    // Noop
}
```



# ... registers event listeners itself

```
public function registerHooksAndListeners() {
    Util::connectHook( signalClass: 'OC_Filesystem', signalName: 'preSetup', $this, slotName: 'addStorageWrapper' );
    \OC::$server->getEventDispatcher()->addListener(...);
}
```



# Operations have to register to the WFE

```
public static function register(IEventDispatcher $dispatcher): void {
    $dispatcher->addListener( eventName: FlowManager::EVENT_NAME_REG_OPERATION, function (GenericEvent $event) {
        $operation = \OC::$server->query( name: Operation::class);
        $event->getSubject()->registerOperation($operation);
        Util::addScript( application: 'spread', file: 'flow');
    });
}
```



# Register a new Operation in the frontend

- Checks by default have a standard input field
- Different operators can be specified
- They can have additional validation in the frontend
- Custom placeholders
- Provide a custom vue component

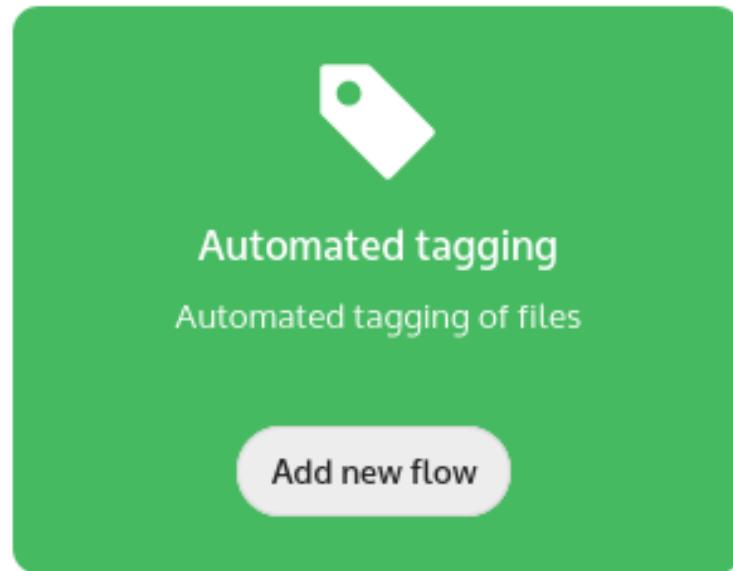


# Register a new Operation in the frontend

```
window.OCApp.WorkflowEngine.registerOperator({  
  id: 'OCA\\FilesAutomatedTagging\\Operation',  
  icon-class: 'icon-tag-white',  
  color: 'var(--color-success)',  
})
```



# Frontend: Register a new Operation



# Frontend: Register a new Operation

```
window.OCA.WorkflowEngine.registerOperator({  
    id: 'OCA\\FilesAutomatedTagging\\Operation',  
    icon-class: 'icon-tag-white',  
    color: 'var(--color-success)',  
    operation: '',  
    options: Tag  
})
```



# Frontend: Register a new Operation



Automated tagging

Automated tagging of files

Select a tag

Cancel

→ Save

# When should it be done?

- OCP\WorkflowEngine\IEntity
  - User facing information
  - Announce available events
  - Providing event context



# Example: File entity

```
public function getName(): string {
    return $this->l10n->t( text: 'File' );
}

public function getIcon(): string {
    return $this->urlGenerator->imagePath( appName: 'core' , file: 'categories/files.svg' );
}
```



# Example: File entity contd.

```
public function getEvents(): array {
    $namespace = '\OCP\Files::';
    return [
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File created'), eventName: $namespace . 'postCreate' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File updated'), eventName: $namespace . 'postWrite' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File renamed'), eventName: $namespace . 'postRename' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File deleted'), eventName: $namespace . 'postDelete' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File accessed'), eventName: $namespace . 'postTouch' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File copied'), eventName: $namespace . 'postCopy' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'Tag assigned'), eventName: MapperEvent::EVENT_ASSIGN ),
    ];
}
```



# Describing Events

```
/** Interface IEntityEvent ...*/
interface IEntityEvent {
    /** returns a translated name to be presented in the web interface. ...*/
    public function getDisplayName(): string;

    /** returns the event name that is emitted by the EventDispatcher, e.g.: ...*/
    public function getEventName(): string;
}
```

- Implementation in \OCP\WorkflowEngine\GenericEntityEvent
- Requires EventDispatcher mechanism



# Example: File entity contd.

```
public function prepareRuleMatcher(IRuleMatcher $ruleMatcher, string $eventName, Event $event): void {  
    if (!$event instanceof GenericEvent && !$event instanceof MapperEvent) {  
        return;  
    }  
    $this->eventName = $eventName;  
    $this->event = $event;  
    try {  
        $node = $this->getNode();  
        $ruleMatcher->setEntitySubject($this, $node);  
        $ruleMatcher->setFileInfo($node->getStorage(), $node->getInternalPath());  
    } catch (NotFoundException $e) {  
        // pass  
    }  
}
```



# Legitimation check

```
public function isLegitimatedForUserId(string $uid): bool {  
    try {  
        $node = $this->getNode();  
        if($node->getOwner()->getUID() === $uid) {  
            return true;  
        }  
        $acl = $this->shareManager->getAccessList($node, recursive: true, currentAccess: true);  
        return array_key_exists($uid, $acl['users']);  
    } catch (NotFoundException $e) {  
        return false;  
    }  
}
```



# Provide additional information

- Entity knows best about the subject to give proper hints
- OCP\WorkflowEngine\EntityContext\IDisplayName, IDisplayText, IIcon, IUrl

```
public function getUrl(): string {
    try {
        return $this->urlGenerator->linkToRouteAbsolute( routeName: 'files.viewcontroller.showFile', ['fileid' =>
$this->getNode()->getId()]);
    } catch (InvalidPathException $e) {...} catch (NotFoundException $e) {...}
}
```



# How to narrow down events?

- OCP\WorkflowEngine\ICheck
  - No user facing info – has its own UI component
  - Scope
  - Supported Entities (can be any)
  - Validation method
  - Execution method



# Examples

```
public function supportedEntities(): array {
    return [ File::class ];
}

public function isAvailableForScope(int $scope): bool {
    return true;
}

public function supportedEntities(): array {
    return [];
}

public function isAvailableForScope(int $scope): bool {
    return $scope === IManager::SCOPE_ADMIN;
}
```



# Example validator

```
public function validateCheck($operator, $value) {
    if (!in_array($operator, ['is', '!is'])) {
        throw new \UnexpectedValueException($this->l->t( text: 'The given operator is invalid'), code: 1);
    }

    if (!$this->groupManager->groupExists($value)) {
        throw new \UnexpectedValueException($this->l->t( text: 'The given group does not exist'), code: 2);
    }
}
```



# Example executor

```
public function executeCheck($operator, $value) {
    $user = $this->userSession->getUser();

    if ($user instanceof IUser) {
        $groupIds = $this->getUserGroups($user);
        return ($operator === 'is') === in_array($value, $groupIds);
    } else {
        return $operator !== 'is';
    }
}
```



# Register a new check in the frontend

- Checks by default have a standard input field
- Different operators can be specified
- They can have additional validation in the frontend
- Custom placeholders
- Provide a custom Vue.js component



# Register a new check in the frontend

```
window.OCWorkflowEngine.registerCheck({  
    class: 'OCWorkflowEngine\\Check\\FileSize',  
    name: t('workflowengine', 'File size (upload)'),  
    operators: [  
        { operator: 'less', name: t('workflowengine', 'less') },  
        { operator: '!greater', name: t('workflowengine', 'less or equals') },  
        { operator: '!less', name: t('workflowengine', 'greater or equals') },  
        { operator: 'greater', name: t('workflowengine', 'greater') }  
    ],  
    placeholder: (check) => '5 MB',  
    validate: (check) => check.value ? check.value.match(/^[0-9]+[ ]?[kmgt]?)?  
b$/i) !== null : false  
},)
```



# Basic check with validation

When **File created**

and **File size (upload)**

Select a comparator

**5 MB**

**less**

less or equals

greater or equals

greater

```
graph LR; When[When File created] -- "and" --> FileSize[File size (upload)]; FileSize -- "Select a comparator" --> Less[less]; Less -- "5 MB" --> Trash[trash]; Less -- "less or equals" --> Equals[less or equals]; Equals -- "greater or equals" --> GreaterOrEqual[greater or equals]; Equals -- "greater" --> Greater[greater]
```



# Register a new check with a custom component

```
window.OCALWorkflowEngine.registerCheck({  
    class: 'OCAL\WorkflowEngine\Check\FileSystemTags',  
    name: t('workflowengine', 'File system tag'),  
    operators: [  
        { operator: 'is', name: 'is tagged with' },  
        { operator: '!is', name: 'is not tagged with' }  
    ],  
    component: FileSystemTag  
})
```



# Check with a custom component

When  **File created** ▾

and  is tagged with  





Keep your data secure and under your control

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