**Al Jazeera VOD Application**

Management Guide

Ver 1, October 30, 2013 by Brian Franklin

# Overview

This document describes the management of the Al Jazeera VOD application through the application’s configuration XML files and localization files as well as the editorial process for managing the content that displays in VOD categories via Video Cloud.

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# Common Scenarios

The following are common management scenarios such as adding. removing, or changing content in the VOD. The files noted here are explained in further detail in the VOD Technical Guide.

### Change the contents of a channel’s featured carousel

Each channel’s featured videos are stored in a Brightcove manual playlist in Video Cloud.

1. Navigate to videocloud.brightcove.com
2. Select the media module in the top menu
3. Select “All Playlists”
4. Find the appropriate featured playlist and double-click it
5. Click the “Add Videos” button at the bottom of the video list view to select videos to add to the playlist
6. There should be fewer than ten items in the playlist, but ideally five or fewer will give the best experience. Remove unnecessary videos, and reorder as desired. The carousel will display in the order that the videos are present in the playlist.
7. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Add a video to a show’s clips section

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to add to a show’s clips section
3. Double-click the video or click the settings button
4. Select the Custom Fields tab
5. Ensure that the Video Type custom field value is “programme clip”
6. Ensure that the Programme custom field value is the value of the show you want to add the video to
7. Ensure that the Channel custom field value is accurate
8. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Add a topic to a channel

Topics are defined in the channel-config.xml file for each channel. To add a topic:

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”Topic”>. This XML node contains an <item> for each topic in the channel
5. Copy an existing topic item, or add a new one following the same format. The following fields are present in topics:
   1. key will be used to generate topic URLs
   2. name will be displayed in the VOD topic tile and on the topic page
   3. description will be displayed in the topic page beneath the topic name
   4. logoImageURL will be used for the tile icon or image
   5. group should be set to NewsClip if the given topic should appear in News Clips as well
   6. customFieldValue should be the value used in Video Cloud to mark a video as a member of the given topic. This is the value found in a video’s Category custom field.
6. If using a new image or icon for your topic, ensure that the image file is located where your logoImageURL points. You may need to add a new image to /src/main/webapp/resources/images/menu-items. These images should ideally be 205px by 169px PNG files with transparent backgrounds.
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Remove a topic from a channel

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”Topic”>.
5. Find the child item that you want to remove
6. Delete the entire XML item node for that topic
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Change a topic in a channel

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”Topic”>.
5. Find the child item that you want to change
6. Edit the topic’s values as necessary
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Add a show to a channel

Shows are defined in the channel-config.xml file for each channel. To add a show:

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”ShowGenre”>.
5. ShowGenre contains items that define genres (as displayed on the All Shows page). Select a genre item or add a new genre item by following the format of the other genres in the file.
6. Within the genre item node, you will find a <children type=”Show”> node, within this node are a number of show items.
7. Add or copy the show item format to create a new show. Each show has the following XML nodes:
   1. key will be used to generate show URLs
   2. name will display on the show page
   3. description will display on the show page beneath the nam
   4. logoImageURL should be a path to an image that will be shown in the show carousels on the All Shows page.
   5. customFieldValue should be the value used in the Programme custom field on videos in Video Cloud. Videos containing the value specified in the customFieldValue node will be shown on this show’s page.
8. If using a new image for your show, ensure that the image file is located where your logoImageURL points. You may need to add a new image to /src/main/webapp/resources/images/show-images/xxx where xxx is the selected channel ID. These images should be 300px by 300px JPG files with transparent backgrounds.
9. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Remove a show from a channel

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”ShowGenre”>.
5. Find the child genre or show item that you want to remove
6. Delete the entire XML item node for that show
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Change a show in a channel

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”ShowGenre”>.
5. Find the child genre or show item that you want to remove
6. Edit the show’s values as necessary
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Add or remove a video from a show

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to include in a show
3. Select the video and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
4. Select the Custom Fields tab
5. Ensure that the correct Video Type value is selected (episodes should be marked as Programme)
6. Ensure that the correct value for the Programme custom field is selected. This value should match the customFieldValue node’s value found in the channel-config.xml where your show details are defined
7. If the video should appear as part of a show genre as well, select the appropriate genre in the Programme Type custom field drop-down
8. Ensure that the correct Channel custom field value is set. The channel should match the channel that your channel-config.xml defines (eg; if the target show is defined in the English channel-config.xml, you should select “eng” from the Channel custom field options)
9. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Add a region to a channel

Regions are defined in the channel-config.xml file for each channel. To add a region:

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”Region”>. This XML node contains an <item> for each region in the channel
5. Copy an existing region item, or add a new one following the same format. The following fields are present in regions:
   1. key will be used to generate region URLs
   2. name will be displayed in the VOD region tile and on the region page
   3. description will be displayed in the region page beneath the region name
   4. logoImageURL will be used for the tile icon or image
   5. customFieldValue should be the value used in Video Cloud to mark a video as a member of the given region. This is the value found in a video’s Region custom field.
6. If using a new image or icon for your region, ensure that the image file is located where your logoImageURL points. You may need to add a new image to /src/main/webapp/resources/images/menu-items. These images should ideally be 205px by 169px PNG files with transparent backgrounds.
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Remove a region from a channel

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”Region”>.
5. Find the child item that you want to remove
6. Delete the entire XML item node for that region
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Change a region in a channel

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Enter the directory for the target channel
3. Open channel-config.xml
4. Search for <children type=”Region”>.
5. Find the child item that you want to change
6. Edit the region’s values as necessary
7. Save changes and rebuild the WAR file

### Add a video to a region

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to include in a show
3. Select the video and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
4. Select the Custom Fields tab
5. Ensure that the correct Region custom field value is set
6. Ensure that the correct Channel custom field value is set. The channel should match the channel that your channel-config.xml defines (eg; if the target region is defined in the English channel-config.xml, you should select “eng” from the Channel custom field options)
7. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Add an event to Time Machine or add a video to an event

Time Machine gives Al Jazeera the means to associate a number of videos with events, allowing those videos to be played back sequentially in a timeline view. Events are defined using custom fields in Video Cloud. By setting a video’s event custom fields, a Time Machine event is implicitly created, so adding videos to an event and defining a new event follow the same workflow:

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to include in an event
3. Select the video and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
4. Select the Custom Fields tab
5. In the Event Date field, enter a date for the specific video being edited in the format YYYYMMDD (eg; 20131031 would represent October 31, 2013).
6. In the Event Name field, enter a name for the Time Machine event that this video is part of. All videos that share the same Event Name value will be seen by the VOD as being part of the same event.
7. On **one** video in an event, the Event Hero value should be set to true and an Event Description value should be entered. The event description is shown on the Time Machine page, and the Event Hero value tells the VOD to use this video’s image as the event thumbnail. As such, the video that most represents a given event should be used as the Event Hero. All other videos in the event should have an Event Hero value of false, or the field should not be set.
8. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Remove a video from Time Machine

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to remove from an event
3. Select the video and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
4. Select the Custom Fields tab
5. Clear the values of Event Name, Event Date, and Event Description
6. If set, select false for Event Hero
7. Note that if the video had an Event Hero value of true and you don’t want to remove the event completely from Time Machine, you will have to select another video from the event and set its Event Hero value to true
8. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Change a Time Machine event description

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Click the advanced search option
3. Perform a search where Event Hero is true and Event Name is the name of the event you want to modify
4. Your search results should present one video. Select it and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
5. Select the Custom Fields tab
6. Modify the value in the Event Description field
7. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Change a Time Machine video’s date

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to modify
3. Select the video and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
4. Select the Custom Fields tab
5. In the Event Date field, enter a date for the video in the format YYYYMMDD (eg; 20131031 would represent October 31, 2013).
6. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Remove an event from Time Machine

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Click the advanced search option
3. Perform a search where Event Hero is true and Event Name is the name of the event you want to modify
4. Your search results should present one video. Select it and click the settings button (or double-click the video)
5. Select the Custom Fields tab
6. Change the value of Event Hero to be false
7. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Add a new channel to the VOD

Each channel in the VOD has a number of configuration parameters. These parameters are specified in the channel’s channel-config.xml file. To create a new channel:

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/channels
2. Create a directory. The directory name should be three lowercase characters (such as “eng” and “ara”) and it should be the same three-letter identifier that is used in Video Cloud as a channel custom field value
3. Copy an existing channel configuration file (/src/main/resources/channels/eng/channel-config.xml) into your new directory to act as a starting point
4. Open the newly copied file
5. You’ll notice a number of XML nodes in this file. The top portion of the file defines the channel itself, while the majority of the file defines shows, topics, and regions within the channel.
6. Change the value of the <key> node to match the name of the directory you created in step 2
7. Give your channel a name and description by editing the <name> and <description> values. The name value will appear on a home page tile, in the channel selector drop-down, and on channel-specific header areas.
8. Enter the two-character language code for a language supported by the VOD in the <language> node. Each channel is bound to a specific language. For more information on defining new languages, please see the next section of this document.
9. Ignore the logoImageURL, backgroundImageURL, and customFieldName nodes
10. Edit the <customFieldValue> value to match the three-letter identifier from step 2
11. Edit the <featuredPlaylistId> field and enter the ID of a Video Cloud playlist. To create a new feature playlist in Video Cloud:
    1. Navigate to videocloud.brightcove.com
    2. Choose the media module in the top menu
    3. Click the “New Playlist” button in the bottom left corner
    4. Select manual playlist and enter a name to indicate that this playlist is used as a featured playlist in the VOD (eg; “AJ Arabic Featured Playlist”)
    5. Click the “Create Playlist” button
    6. Double click the new playlist in the playlist list
    7. Copy the value at the top of the page for “Playlist ID.” This value will be used in your channel-config.xml file
12. Edit the <epgFeedUrl> value to be a valid Al Jazeera EPG feed for the language that your channel will use.
13. Add <channel> nodes to the relatedChannel list for each channel you want to appear when the user clicks the channel selector while in the new channel.
14. Edit the values of the <config> node. Their purposes are defined below:
    1. **googleAccount** is the Google Analytics site ID to use in the analytics snippet for the channel
    2. **twitterAccountName** will be displayed on the live page beside the Twitter feed
    3. **twitterWidgetID** should be the ID of a widget created on twitter.com
    4. **liveAssetID** should be a Video Cloud media ID for a live stream. This stream will be used on the live page for this channel
    5. **locale** is the xx\_XX formatted locale code that this channel’s content targets
    6. **playerId** is the ID of a Video Cloud player
    7. **playerKey** is the key value of a Video Cloud player (used for generating valid smart player embed code)
    8. **hideLive** should be true or false depending on whether this channel should hide the live menu item from users
    9. **hideEvents** should be true or false depending on whether this channel should hide the Time Machine menu item from users
    10. **gigyaToken** should be a valid access token from Al Jazeera’s Gigya account.
    11. **gigyaChannel** should be a valid channel ID from Al Jazeera’s Gigya account. Note that gigyaToken and gigyaChannel configuration are performed by Al Jazeera in the Al Jazeera Gigya dashboard. The existing aj-vod-en and aj-vod-ar channels can be used for reference.
15. Update the topics, regions, and shows defined in the file by following the applicable sections of this document.
16. Save all changes and rebuild the WAR file.

### Add a new language to the VOD

Languages differ from channels in that multiple channels may utilize the same language. For instance, two channels may both be in English, and the language files are separated from channel configuration to promote language reuse. Each language has three files; a terms file, a timezones file, and a countries file. To create a new language, follow these steps:

1. Navigate to /src/main/resources/localization
2. Copy terms.properties to terms\_xx.properties where xx is the lowercase two-character language code for your new language
3. Copy timezones.properties to timezones\_xx.properties where xx is the lowercase two-character language code for your new language
4. Copy countries.properties to countries\_xx.properties where xx is the lowercase two-character language code for your new language
5. Edit these three files to update the static text as desired
6. Open /src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/spring/appServlet/servlet-context.xml
7. Search the file for <beans:property name=”supportedLanguages”>
8. This XML node contains a list of languages the VOD knows it can support, add a value to the list by copying the format of one of the existing languages such as <beans:value>xx</beans:value> where xx is the same two-character code used in creating your localization files.
9. Copy or add a logo file to /src/main/webapp/resources/images. This file should be named logo-xx.png where xx is the same two-character language code from your previous additions. Logos should be 300px by 62px PNG images with transparent backgrounds.
10. Save all changes and rebuild the WAR file.

### Alter static text in the VOD

Localized text values for the VOD are stored in terms files (such as terms.properties or terms\_ar.properties). These files follow the format:

key = value

key2 = value2

In this format, each key represents a known article of text that the VOD can use when templating against a localization. To change a specific piece of text in the VOD, open the appropriate terms file and find the line that should be altered. Change the value without changing the key used to reference it. Save your changes to the terms file. Note that the values in this file must be encoded if they are non-ASCII characters. This means that Arabic and other UTF-8 languages should be run through a tool such as [JEscape](http://0xcc.net/jsescape/) or an editor that automatically encodes strings to an escaped \uXXXX format.

Once terms files have been modified, they should be saved and the VOD WAR file should be rebuilt and deployed.

### Change channel configuration settings

Follow steps 6 - 14 of “Add a channel to the VOD” in this document for details on modifying a channel’s configuration values.

### Change a show’s image

1. Acquire a new show image. Show images should be 300px by 300px JPG files.
2. Navigate to /src/main/webapp/resources/images/show-images
3. Open the directory for the channel you want to update
4. Place your show image file in this directory
5. Open /src/main/resources/channels/xxx/channel-config.xml (where xxx is the ID of the channel directory you just placed your image in)
6. Search for the show you want to modify
7. Change the logoImageURL value to reference your newly copied logo filename
8. Save all changes and rebuild the WAR file.

### Create and apply a Twitter widget to a live page

1. Log in to Twitter.com with valid Twitter credentials
2. Click the gear icon on the Twitter homepage and choose “Settings”
3. In the left menu, choose “Widgets”
4. Click “Create new”
5. You can select from “User timeline”, “Favorites”, “List”, and “Search” widget types by selecting the appropriate tab. User timeline is used by default for the VOD (configured to point at a specific live Twitter account for each channel). The search widget type allows for arbitrary text or hash tag feeds rather than user account feeds.
6. Enter the specific configuration options you would like your widget to use. The VOD has been optimized for use with default height and a theme option of “Dark” with a link color of “C9CADE”
7. Click “Create widget”
8. An embed code will be created for you. In this embed code, there is an <a> node and a <script> node. In the <a> node, you’ll find a “data-widget-id” value. This value will be a 64 bit integer. Make note of this number, it is your widget ID.
9. Open /src/main/resources/channels/xxx/channel-config.xml (where xxx is the ID of the channel’s live page that you want to apply the widget to)
10. Find the twitterWidgetID node in the config section
11. Replace the value with the number you copied in step 8
12. Save all changes and rebuild the WAR file.

### Override Twitter details via Video Cloud

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Click the Media Module icon in the page header (the folder with a film strip in it)
3. Select the live stream video you want to change the Twitter details for
4. Click the “Edit” button and select the “Custom Fields” tab
5. You’ll see text boxes labeled “twitterAccountName” and “twitterWidgetID”. To change the widget that will display for this stream, enter the value you copied from the Twitter widget embed code above. The VOD displays a “Follow @SomeAccount” call to action above the Twitter widget on live pages. To optionally change the account name used for this call to action, you can update the “twitterAccountName” custom field to be any valid Twitter username.
6. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

### Change a tile image

1. Acquire a tile image. Tile images should be 205px by 169px PNG files with transparent backgrounds.
2. Navigate to /src/main/webapp/resources/images/menu-icons
3. Place your show image file in this directory. Be sure not to overwrite images unless intentional
4. Open /src/main/resources/channels/xxx/channel-config.xml (where xxx is the ID of the channel you want to modify)
5. Search for the topic or region you want to modify
6. Change the logoImageURL value to reference your newly copied logo filename
7. Save all changes and rebuild the WAR file.

### Change the VOD logo

1. Acquire new logo files. Logos should be 300px by 62px PNG images with transparent backgrounds. Each channel has its own copy of the VOD logo file, localized in addition to a default file to be shown on non-localized pages or when a language for a user can’t be determined. Logo files should be named logo-xx.png (where xx is the lowercase two-character language code that the logo applies to). The default non-language logo should be named logo-.png
2. Navigate to /src/main/webapp/resources/images
3. Place your logo files into this directory
4. Rebuild the WAR file.

### Change a video’s metadata

1. Navigate to Video Cloud (videocloud.brightcove.com)
2. Find the video you want to edit
3. Double-click the video or click the settings button
4. In the Basic tab, modify the video’s name, short description, and long description
5. Optionally edit or add related link text and a related link. These are shown alongside the video and can provide calls to action to users
6. Do not edit the reference ID field. The value of this field is populated by an Al Jazeera syndication task and its value being accurate is critical to the video displaying in the VOD as expected
7. Change the video thumnail and still image as desired
8. Save changes. It is not necessary to rebuild the WAR file when changes occur in Video Cloud. They will automatically be represented in the VOD. This may take a number of minutes as caches expire.

**Deploying Changes**

# The Al Jazeera VOD application is compiled from source to a Java WAR file for deployment on Tomcat servers. When a change occurs to one or more of the configuration files, a new WAR will have to be built and deployed. This process is detailed in the Back-End section of the Al Jazeera VOD Technical Guide. When a new WAR is generated, that file must be deployed. This process is detailed in the Al Jazeera VOD Infrastructure & Deployment Guide.