CHAPTER 1

Introduction to WebSphere Administration

This book continues the series on WebSphere® Application Server Version 5 by focusing on the details of system administration for the product. Once you have developed your J2EE application, and ensured the quality of your application through testing, you are ready to put it into production and use the information from this book to deploy, monitor, tune, and manage your application and the WebSphere Application Server Version 5 environment in which it runs.

IBM® WebSphere® Application Server (hereafter called Application Server) Version 5 provides enhancements to scalability, reliability, Web services, J2EE™ 1.3 certification, and many other areas. Version 5 also provides a completely rewritten infrastructure for you to manage and administer your servers and applications. An open-standards-based management framework, Java™ Management Extensions (JMX), is at the core of the Version 5 management capabilities. New administration tool sets built for Version 5 take advantage of this framework. You can also use the Version 5 administration tool capabilities for your own custom administration programs.

This system administration book discusses a variety of ways to use the Application Server Version 5 management features. Chapter 1 introduces the basic system administration concepts needed to understand Version 5 features. The first important concept to grasp is the new packaging structure for Application Server 5. To understand Application Server administration, you also need to familiarize yourself with the following concepts: servers, nodes and node agents, cells, and the Deployment Manager. It is important that you understand the various processes in the administrative topology and the operating environment in which they apply. Chapter 1 also introduces the four administrative tool sets that are shipped as part of the WebSphere Application Server product.

Chapter 2 completes the foundation concepts needed throughout the rest of the book by delving into the details of the Application Server process internals, distributed administration service product features, administrative security, and the structure of the product configuration files.

Chapter 3 provides a complete reference to the Application Server command-line tools. Each tool is discussed, along with the details of its command-line options.

Chapter 4 is a reference for the Administrative Console program, a sophisticated J2EE Web application that provides the graphical management console for the product. All of the various tasks exposed in the console are covered. This chapter also introduces a set of scenarios for typical administration functions that are carried over to the subsequent chapters for scripting and programmatic administration. These scenarios provide a comparison between how a function can be accomplished through the console, through scripting , and using Java programming interfaces.

Chapter 5 covers the powerful administrative scripting capabilities built into WebSphere Version 5. The `wsadmin` scripting program supports three operating modes, multiple languages, full extensibility, and complete access to all of the WebSphere Version 5 administration functions.

Chapter 6 delves into the details surrounding programmatic administration, such as writing your own custom management program, extending the Application Server administration system, and using the same Java administrative programming interfaces (APIs) as are used to build all of the other tools shipped with the product.

WebSphere Application Server Structure

Application Server Version 5 provides an entirely new packaging structure. Several installation images build on one another to incrementally expand the features available to you. Start with the base product installation, and then add features (e.g., extended programming model enhancements or multi-node network deployment capabilities) as you need them. The two basic packages are Base Application Server and Network Deployment.

The WebSphere Version 5 product for z/OS and OS/390 includes both packages, along with an interactive configuration wizard, called the Customization Dialog, with which the WebSphere for z/OS user can configure base application servers and add network deployment functions.

The Base Application Server Package

A Base WebSphere Application Server installation includes everything needed for a single Application Server instance. Additional server definitions can be logically grouped into

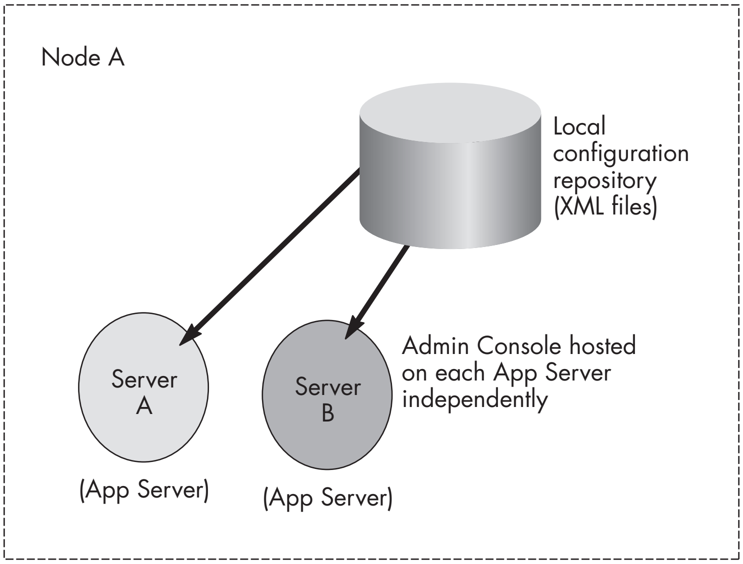

Node A
Local configuration repository (XML files)
Server A
(App Server)
Server B
(App Server)
Admin Console hosted on each App Server independently

Figure 1.1
Basic Application Server environment.

nodes. A node can contain many servers, but cannot span multiple computer systems. A single computer system can have multiple nodes installed on it, each with multiple managed servers. For example, multiple nodes defined on a large multiuser enterprise server computer makes better use of the system resources, and can isolate projects from one another. Figure 1.1 depicts the base environment.

A limitation of this package on its own is that it does not support the coordination between Application Server instances. Administration is limited to a single server at a time. Although you can create new server definitions from the Base console, you cannot use the console that is running in one server to start, stop, or otherwise manage a different server. The Network Deployment package extends the Base Application Server with capabilities for multiprocess, multinode configuration and control.

The Network Deployment Package

A Network Deployment installation can support a network of computer systems that are configured to run collaborating instances of the Base Application Server installation. The Network Deployment package provides centralized administration and workload management for a set of nodes, referred to as a *cell*. A cell has a master administrative repository that stores the configuration data for all of the nodes in the cell. Figure 1.2 depicts multiple systems in a Network Deployment cell, and shows that a base server can be added to a Network Deployment cell.

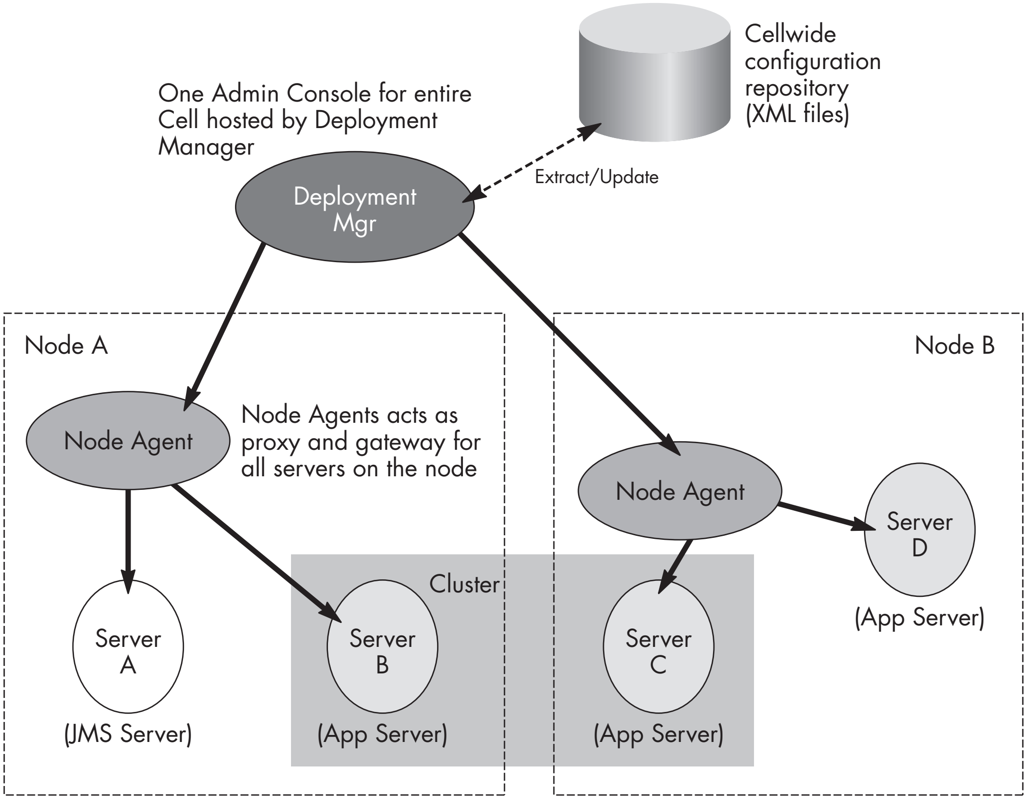

Cellwide configuration repository (XML files)
One Admin Console for entire Cell hosted by Deployment Manager
Extract/Update
Deployment Mgr
Node A
Node B
Node Agent
Node Agents acts as proxy and gateway for all servers on the node
Node Agent
Server D
Cluster
(App Server)
Server A
Server B
Server C
(JMS Server)
(App Server)
(App Server)

Figure 1.2
Network Deployment environment.

One computer system is designated as the central Deployment Manager machine onto which the Network Deployment package is installed. The central Deployment Manager program that is included in this package manages all of the nodes in the cell. Note that the same computer system that supports the Deployment Manager program can also support one or more federated Base Application Server nodes. The issue of whether or not to configure the Deployment Manager onto a separate computer system is more of a best practice concept pertinent to the subject of availability. For instance, large-scale customers such as those on z/OS enterprise servers might be unwilling to dedicate an entire logical partition (LPAR) to running the Deployment Manager alone. They might want to share system resources of that LPAR with other application server nodes. As with many aspects of Application Server Version 5, the choice of location for the Deployment Manager node and other application server nodes is one for each customer to make based on particular environment and operational policies.

To add a Base Application Server installation to the cell, run the `addNode` program on the base installation (the `addNode` program is fully described in Chapter 3 of this book). After this is completed, a separate node agent administrative server is created that serves as an intermediary between the application servers on the node and the Deployment Manager. Administrative logic that runs in the node agent keeps the configuration data for a node synchronized with the master configuration data for the cell.

Besides grouping servers into nodes, another logical grouping of servers is the *cluster*. A cluster can contain servers on different nodes. All of the servers in a cluster must have the identical application deployment configuration, because the purpose of a cluster is to define servers that collaborate for workload balancing and failover capabilities.

Comparison of the Administration in Versions 4 and 5

Before getting into the details of Application Server 5, it is useful to compare the implementation of system administration in Version 5 with Version 4. Those familiar with Version 4 administration, especially with Version 4 Advanced Edition, will be pleasantly surprised by all of the new management features in Version 5.

There are significant differences between how you would handle administration in Application Server Versions 4 and 5. One of the main differences is that the Version 4 Advanced Edition (AE) requires a database to hold configuration data, whereas no edition of Version 5 requires a database. Version 4 AE administration is based on J2EE Enterprise Java Beans (EJBs) and all of the Version 4 administrative programs are EJB client programs. Version 5 does not use EJBs to store configuration data; therefore, none of the Version 4 administration programs, such as the Swing console, wscp scripting (smapi for v4 on z/OS), and XMLConfig, are compatible with Version 5. Instead, Version 5 relies on Extensible Markup Language (XML) configuration files and industry-standard JMX components to handle management functions.

The Version 4 administration program is a single AdminServer program that serves several functions simultaneously. In Version 4, the AdminServer runs on every node, and every instance of the AdminServer is equivalent to any other. In Version 5, the same functions that were combined in the Version 4 AdminServer have been separated into different specialized administrative programs. The node agent program discussed earlier runs on every node and is specialized to perform node-specific administration functions, such as server monitoring, configuration synchronization, file transfer, and request routing. The single Deployment Manager program manages the entire cell, coordinating with the node agents for the various nodes in the cell.

Unlike Version 4, all administrative functions and programs are applicable to all editions of the product in Version 5. The same scripting program, `wsadmin`, that works for the Version 5 WebSphere Express edition also works for the full Enterprise package, even on the enterprise-class zSeries server machines. The same Administrative Console program, a J2EE Web application based on Java Server Pages (JSPs) and the Jakarta struts framework, works for all editions of Application Server Version 5.

Table 1.1 provides summary comparisons of some of the administrative features between Version 4 AE and Version 5.

Table 1.1 Comparison of Version 4 and Version 5 Administration

Administrative Function	Application Server Version 4 AE	Application Server Version 5
Administrative processes	AdminServer	Node Agent and Deployment Manager
Location of repository data	Relational database	XML configuration files
Graphical interface	“Fat” Swing client	“Thin” Web application
Scripting program	wscp (Tcl syntax) (REXX on z/OS)	wsadmin (Tcl syntax)
Backup of repository data to XML	XMLConfig (different format on z/OS)	None (already in XML)
Debugging utility	DrAdmin (IPCS on z/OS)	wsadmin
Java API	WscpCommand (Part of SMAPI on z/OS)	AdminClient
Program to start the server process	startServer (MVS START command on z/OS)	startServer
Install images	One	Two: Base install and ND install (except for z/OS which is a single image on tape)
Application binary distribution	None	On by default

Overview of Administration Tools for Version 5

System administration provides a variety of tools for managing WebSphere Application Server. These tools can be categorized into four general tool sets that are available with most editions of the product:

- Command-line tools
- Administrative Console
- Scripting tool
- Java programming APIs

Individual chapters of this book focus on in-depth details of each of these tool sets, but the following overview provides an introduction to the intended usage for the different tools.

Command-Line Tools

Command-line tools are simple programs that you run from a command prompt to perform specific tasks. Using the command-line tools, you can start and stop application servers, check server status, add or remove nodes, and complete similar tasks. The command-line tools provided with Application Server Version 5 are restricted for use on a single local node.

All of the command-line tools are Java programs that use the same Application Server Version 5 administration APIs as the console and the `wsadmin` tool, which are discussed in the next section. Chapter 3 provides a full list of the command-line tools available with Application Server v5.

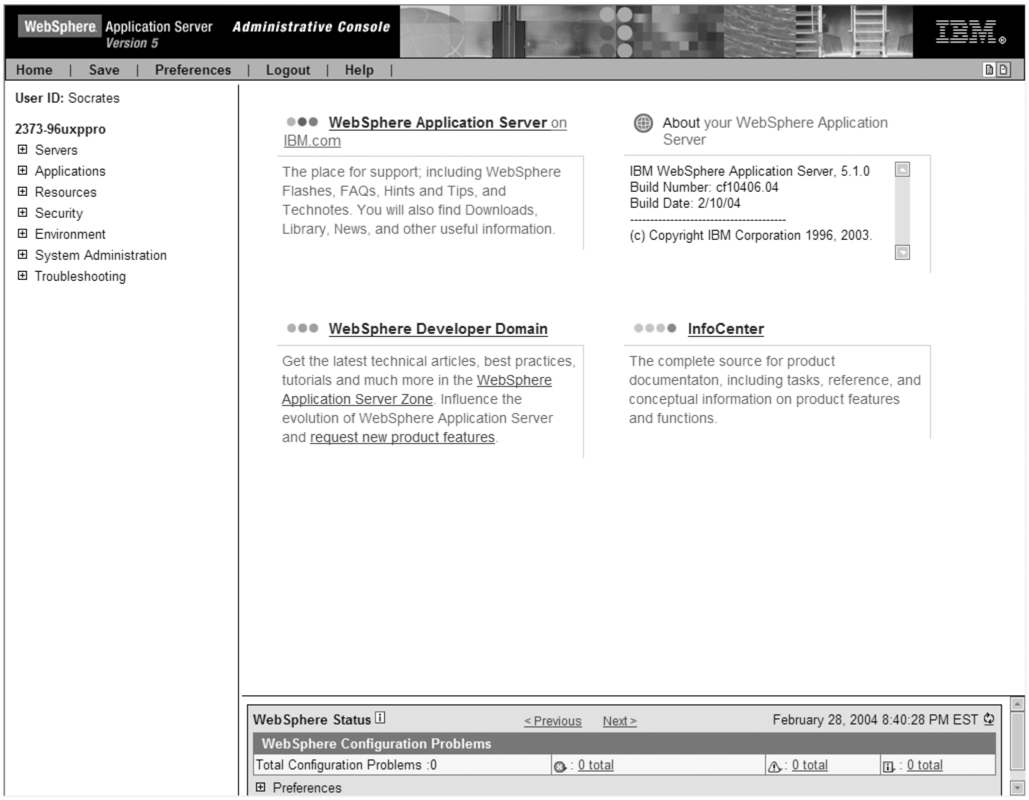
Most of the command-line tools print a usage syntax statement if you invoke them with the help option (by entering either `-?` or `-help` as part of the command). Most command-line tools also log their activity under the logs directory for the product. All command-line tools require authentication data when product security is enabled.

Administrative Console

The Administrative Console is a graphical interface that provides many features to guide you through deployment and systems administration tasks. It is extremely useful for helping you start exploring the available management options. Various wizards guide you through the more complicated processes. The Administrative Console program is documented in the Application Server Version 5 InfoCenter. Figure 1.3 shows the WebSphere Administrative Console home page.

The separation of run-time operations from configuration changes is an important concept in Version 5. Run-time requests are delivered to the running server components through JMX operations and take effect immediately. These run-time attribute changes are transient in nature and do not survive a server restart. Configuration changes, which are made in the XML configuration files for the server, are persistent across server restarts. Configuration changes do not take effect immediately; you must restart the server for the new values in the XML configuration files to be picked up.

Most run-time attributes have corresponding persistent configuration settings. However, there are considerably more configuration settings stored in the XML files than there are run-time attributes available for dynamic modification on managed objects while they are running in a server. Separating the two functions makes the distinction clear when you are changing something that will take effect immediately, but is transient as opposed to when


WebSphere Application Server Administrative Console
Version 5
IBM
Home | Save | Preferences | Logout | Help |
User ID: Socrates
2373-96uxppro
⊞ Servers
⊞ Applications
⊞ Resources
⊞ Security
⊞ Environment
⊞ System Administration
⊞ Troubleshooting
WebSphere Application Server on IBM.com
About your WebSphere Application Server
WebSphere Developer Domain
InfoCenter
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Build Number: cf10406.04
Build Date: 2/10/04
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February 28, 2004 8:40:28 PM EST

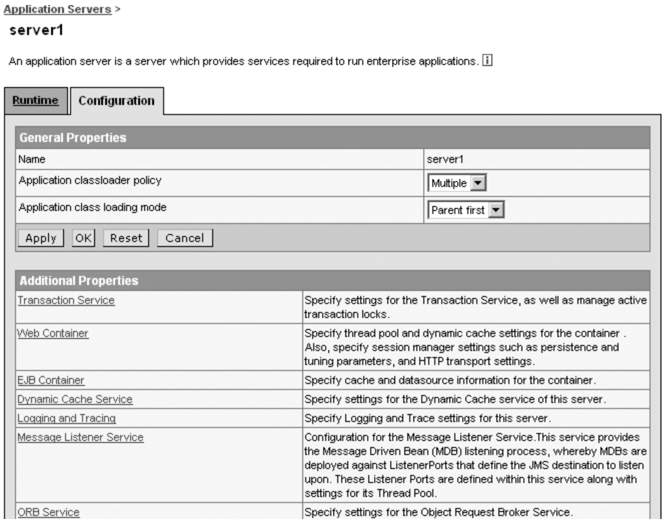
WebSphere Configuration Problems

Total Configuration Problems :0	: 0 total	: 0 total	: 0 total

Figure 1.3
WebSphere Administrative Console.

you are making a persistent change. If you want both an immediate run-time change and a persistent configuration change, you need to perform both operations. Figure 1.4 shows a server page in the Administrative Console displaying both the server Runtime and Configuration tab views.

The Base Application Server version of the Administrative Console provides single-server administration capabilities. This Web application runs in the same server that it manages in the base environment. In a Network Deployment environment, the Administrative Console executes in the Deployment Manager server. This lets the console create server clusters that span multiple nodes and manage any process configured on any node within the cell. The Network Deployment environment allows you to manage multiple servers across multiple nodes whether they are clustered or not.



Application Servers >

server1

An application server is a server which provides services required to run enterprise applications.

General Properties	
Name	server1
Application classloader policy	Multiple
Application class loading mode	Parent first

Additional Properties	
Transaction Service	Specify settings for the Transaction Service, as well as manage active transaction locks.
Web Container	Specify thread pool and dynamic cache settings for the container . Also, specify session manager settings such as persistence and tuning parameters, and HTTP transport settings.
EJB Container	Specify cache and datasource information for the container.
Dynamic Cache Service	Specify settings for the Dynamic Cache service of this server.
Logging and Tracing	Specify Logging and Trace settings for this server.
Message Listener Service	Configuration for the Message Listener Service.This service provides the Message Driven Bean (MDB) listening process, whereby MDBs are deployed against ListenerPorts that define the JMS destination to listen upon. These Listener Ports are defined within this service along with settings for its Thread Pool.
ORB Service	Specify settings for the Object Request Broker Service.

Figure 1.4
Server page in WebSphere Administrative Console.

Use the Administrative Console client program to become familiar with the product and all of its capabilities. You can explore all of the various aspects of the environment in a graphical presentation. Once you have learned many of the details of Application Server Version 5 using the graphical console application, you might find that some of the other administrative tools provide faster access for day-to-day activities.

Scripting Tool

The Application Server administrative scripting program, `wsadmin`, is a powerful, non-graphical command interpreter environment that lets you execute administrative operations interactively or from a script file. The `wsadmin` tool is intended for production environments and unattended operations. The `wsadmin` tool is documented in the Application Server Version 5 InfoCenter. It is built on top of the Bean Scripting Framework that ships with Version 5. This lets the program support several languages for scripting Application Server administrative functions. The initial Version 5 release only supported the Tcl syntax, but additional scripting language support was added in release 5.1 when the Jython syntax was supported.

The `wsadmin` scripting tool has three modes of operation:

- **Interactive mode.** This lets the user enter commands and view the response on a command-line prompt. This mode is useful for learning the scripting tool and its capabilities. It is also useful for prototyping command syntax to verify the options before building a larger script.

- **Batch mode.** This lets the user supply a set of script commands in a file that the tool executes as a program.
- **Command mode.** This lets the user enter a single command from the regular operating system command window and executes this one command, returning control to the operating system command shell.

The `wsadmin` tool is most often executed as a client attached to a running server. You can also run it in a "local" execution mode where a running server is not required. In this mode, however, the function is limited to only configuration changes because a server run-time is not available to receive operational requests.

The `wsadmin` tool is primarily intended for rapidly assembling small control programs using the available Application Server administrative functions. You can develop more sophisticated administration programs using the Java API for Application Server administration (described next). However, the combination of full scripting language constructs, such as loops and variable evaluation, along with Application Server administration functions, provides powerful capabilities.

Java Programming API

Application Server v5 supports a Java programming interface for developing administrative programs. All of the administrative tools supplied with the product are written according to the API, which is based on the industry-standard JMX specification.

Using the administrative programming API, you can do the following:

- Write your own custom administration client to perform specific administration functions. The command-line tools available with Application Server Version 5, including the `wsadmin` tool and the console, are client programs that use the public administration APIs to carry out their tasks. Custom administration client programs can be simple or extremely complex. For example, you could write a client that only lets you start and stop clusters. You could also write a specialized administration client program to monitor certain metrics in the server and adjust configuration settings if the metrics exceed some threshold.
- Extend the basic Application Server administration system with your own custom MBeans that expose the management interface specifically aligned for your requirements. For example, your application might have its own run-time properties that you can adjust to tune the application while it is executing. Your application can implement a JMX MBean that exposes these attributes and other useful operational requests. Using the Version 5 administration programming interfaces, you can add your MBean to the set provided with Application Server, and control your application, along with the rest of the system, using the `wsadmin` scripting client.

> You can even write a custom server extension and expose its functionality to the Application Server administration system as a JMX MBean.

The Application Server administration programming API is fully documented in the javadoc, which is provided with every installation (it is located in the `web/apidocs` directory under Application Server's root installation directory). The Application Server administration API is based on standard JMX interfaces and classes, and the JMX javadoc is also provided with each installation. The `com.ibm.websphere.management` package contains the public Application Server management interface.

Many helper classes and interface definitions are associated with the Version 5 administrative programming APIs. If you plan to create custom administration code, you should familiarize yourself with the public javadoc for the product. Chapter 6 in this book explores the details of how to use this administration programming API, and provides detailed examples of custom administration programs and system extensions.