

appNG Platform Administration Guide

Matthias Müller

Version 1.24.6-SNAPSHOT created on 2022-07-14

Table of Contents

1. Scope	1
2. Setup	1
2.1. Requirements	1
2.2. Separating <code>{appngData}</code>	1
3. Clustering	1
3.1. Using Multicast	1
3.2. Using Hazelcast	1
3.3. Using RabbitMQ	2
3.4. Using Redis	2
4. Caching	2
4.1. Platform configuration	2
4.2. Site configuration	3
5. User Management	4
5.1. User Types	4
5.2. LDAP Connectivity	5
5.3. Password Policies	5
6. Command Line Interface (CLI)	6
7. appNGizer	8
8. Monitoring	8
8.1. Configuration	8
8.2. Services	8
8.2.1. Site health	8
8.2.2. Platform JARs	10
8.2.3. Site JARs	10
8.2.4. System environment	10
8.3. System properties	10

1. Scope

2. Setup

2.1. Requirements

2.2. Separating `${appngData}`

3. Clustering

To enable clustering you need to have

- at least two appNG Nodes
- a load balancer that is able to distribute requests between several nodes, for example [HAProxy](#)
- set the [platform property](#) `messagingEnabled` to `true`
- configure the details for the chosen message exchange

There are currently three techniques for appNG to exchange messages between nodes in a cluster:

- [Multicast](#)
- [Hazelcast](#)
- [Redis](#)
- [RabbitMQ](#)

3.1. Using Multicast

The following platform-properties need to be configured when using multicast:

- set `messagingReceiver` to `org.appng.core.controller.messaging.MulticastReceiver` (this is the default)
- set `messagingGroupAddress` to an appropriate value (default: `224.2.2.4`)
- set `messagingGroupPort` to an appropriate value (default: `4000`)

3.2. Using Hazelcast

With [Hazelcast](#), a [Reliable Topic](#) is used to publish and subscribe cluster events.

The following platform-properties need to be configured:

- set `messagingReceiver` to `org.appng.core.controller.messaging.HazelCastReceiver`
- `hazelcastTopicName`: The name of the topic (default: `appng-messaging`)

3.3. Using RabbitMQ

With [RabbitMQ](#), appNG uses a queue based publish/subscribe mechanism for cluster communication. The following platform-properties need to be configured:

- set `messagingReceiver` to `org.appng.core.controller.messaging.RabbitMQReceiver`
- `rabbitMQAddresses`: A comma separated list of <host>:<port> for RabbitMQ server(s) (default: `localhost:5672`):
- `rabbitMQUser`: Username (default: `guest`)
- `rabbitMQPassword`: Password (default: `guest`)
- `rabbitMQExchange`: Name of the exchange where the receiver binds its messaging queue on. Be aware that this name must be different among different clusters using the same RabbitMQ server (default: `appng-messaging`).
- `rabbitMQAutoDeleteQueue`: If the queue to create should be marked as auto-delete (default: `true`).
- `rabbitMQDurableQueue`: If the queue to create should be marked as durable (default: `false`).
- `rabbitMQExclusiveQueue`: If the queue to create should be marked as exclusive (default: `true`).

3.4. Using Redis

With [Redis](#), cluster communication is based on a publish/subscribe mechanism that works on a messaging channel. The following platform-properties need to be configured:

- set `messagingReceiver` to `org.appng.core.controller.messaging.JedisReceiver`
- `redisMessagingHost`: Host of the Redis server (default: `localhost`).
- `redisMessagingPort`: Port of the Redis server (default: `6379`).
- `redisMessagingPassword`: Password of the Redis server (no default).
- `redisMessagingTimeout`: Timeout is optional. If not defined, Redis default is used (no default).
- `redisMessagingChannel`: Channel where all cluster nodes should publish and subscribe. Be aware that this name must be different among different clusters using the same Redis server (default: `appng-messaging`).

4. Caching

4.1. Platform configuration

Caching is provided by [Hazelcast](#).

A central configuration file is used to configure Hazelcast. The location of this file is specified by the platform property `cacheConfig` (see [Platform properties](#)).

Usually, `cacheConfig` points to `WEB-INF/conf/hazelcast.xml`, which might look as follows for multicast replication:

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!--suppress XmlDefaultAttributeValue -->
<hazelcast xmlns="http://www.hazelcast.com/schema/config" xmlns:xsi=
"http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.hazelcast.com/schema/config
    http://www.hazelcast.com/schema/config/hazelcast-config-5.0.xsd">

  <properties>
    <property name="hazelcast.logging.type">slf4j</property>
  </properties>
  <cluster-name>appNG</cluster-name>
  <instance-name>dev</instance-name>
  <management-center />
  <network>
    <port auto-increment="true" port-count="100">5701</port>
    <outbound-ports>
      <ports>0</ports>
    </outbound-ports>
    <join>
      <auto-detection enabled="false" />
      <multicast enabled="false">
        <multicast-group>224.2.2.3</multicast-group>
        <multicast-port>54327</multicast-port>
      </multicast>
      <tcp-ip enabled="false" />
      <aws enabled="false" />
      <gcp enabled="false" />
      <azure enabled="false" />
      <kubernetes enabled="false" />
      <eureka enabled="false" />
      <discovery-strategies />
    </join>
    <interfaces enabled="false" />
    <ssl enabled="false" />
    <socket-interceptor enabled="false" />
    <failure-detector>
      <icmp enabled="false" />
    </failure-detector>
  </network>
</hazelcast>

```

For further details about configuring Hazelcast, check out its [Reference Manual](#).

Also check out the section about caching in the [Manager User Manual](#).

4.2. Site configuration

There are several site-scoped properties to configure caching.

- **cacheEnabled**
Set to **true** to enable caching for the site.
- **cacheExceptions**
URL path prefixes which are never cached, as a multiline value. Contains one prefix per line.
Example:

```
/service/appng/my-application
/service/my-site
```

- **cacheTimeouts**
The path specific cache timeouts, as a multiline value. The format is **path-prefix = TTL in seconds**. Contains one path-prefix per line.

Example:

```
/service/appng/cached-application = 7200
/service/thesite = 3600
```

- **cacheTimeoutsAntStyle**
When set to **true**, the path-prefixes defined in **cacheTimeouts** can use [Ant-style path matching](#).
- **cacheTimeToLive**
The default TTL for a cache entry in seconds, if there's no matching path defined in **cacheTimeouts**.
- **cacheStatistics**
Set to **true** to enable caching statistics
- **cacheWatchRepository**
Set to **true** to watch the repository folder for changes and invalidate cache elements, if necessary.
- **cacheWatcherRuleSourceSuffix**
The suffix to be removed from a **<from>**-rule element when parsing the rules from **urlrewrite.xml** for the repository watchers. See also the [Beautifying URLs](#) section from the developer's guide,
- **cacheClearOnShutdown**
Set to **true** to clear the cache on a site shutdown/reload.

5. User Management

AppNG offers extensive possibilities for user administration.

5.1. User Types

In general a distinction is made between **local users**, **single LDAP users** and **LDAP groups**.

For local users, you have full control over all the user's details, like if he may or must (not) change

his password.

With setting the platform properties

- `forceChangePassword` to `true`
- `passwordMaxValidity` to a value greater zero (unit: days)

a local user can be forced to change his password after a certain time.

By setting the platform property `inactiveLockPeriod` to a value greater zero (unit: days), users can be locked automatically due to inactivity.

5.2. LDAP Connectivity

It's possible to configure LDAP connectivity on a site level.

For details, check out the [appNG Manager User Guide](#).

5.3. Password Policies

Using the multiline platform property `configurablePasswordPolicy`, it is possible to exactly define how a valid password must be built upon.

These are available settings to do so:

- `minLowerCase` (default: 1)
The minimum number of lowercase letters (a-z).
- `minUpperCase` (default: 1)
The minimum number of uppercase letters (A-Z).
- `minDigits` (default: 1)
The minimum number of digits (0-9).
- `minSpecialChars` (default: 1)
The minimum number of special characters (see `allowedSpecialChars`).
- `allowedSpecialChars` (default: `!"#$%&'()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\\]^_`{|}~`)`
The allowed special characters,
- `minLength` (default: 8)
The minimum length of the password.
- `maxLength` (default: 255)
The maximum length of the password.
- `useHistory` (default: `true`)
When changing the password, make sure it differs from the current one.
- `useUsername` (default: `true`)
Make sure the password does not contain the username, also in reverse order and ignoring case.
- `numCharacterGroups` (default: 4)

The minimum number of different character groups that must be used for a password.

- **allowOtherCharacters** (default: **false**)
Whether or not to allow other characters than letters, digits and the defined special characters.
- **allowWhiteSpace** (default: **false**)
Whether or not to allow whitespaces.
- **generateLength** (default: **8**)
The length of a generated password.
- **generateLowerCase** (default: **3**)
The number of lowercase letters (a-z) for a generated password.
- **generateUppercase** (default: **3**)
The number of uppercase letters (A-Z) for a generated password.
- **generateDigits** (default: **1**)
The number of digits (0-9) for a generated password.
- **generateSpecialChars** (default: **1**)
The number of special characters for a generated password.

Consequently, the implicit default configuration looks as follows:

```
minLowerCase = 1
minUppercase = 1
minDigits = 1
minSpecialChars = 1
allowedSpecialChars = !"#$%&'()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\\]^_`{|}~
minLength = 8
maxLength = 255
useHistory = true
useUsername = true
numCharacterGroups = 4
allowOtherCharacters = false
allowWhiteSpace = false
generateLength = 8
generateLowerCase = 3
generateUppercase = 3
generateDigits = 1
generateSpecialChars = 1
```

6. Command Line Interface (CLI)

There is a comprehensive set of CLI Commands that can be used to configure the appNG Platform.

- Sites
 - [list-sites](#)
 - [create-site](#)
 - [check-site](#)

- [delete-site](#)
- [site-setactive](#)
- [reload-site](#)
- Applications
 - [list-applications](#)
 - [install-application](#)
 - [activate-application](#)
 - [deactivate-application](#)
 - [delete-application](#)
- Users
 - [list-subjects](#)
 - [create-subject](#)
 - [delete-subject](#)
- Groups
 - [list-groups](#)
 - [create-group](#)
 - [add-group](#)
 - [delete-group](#)
- Roles
 - [list-roles](#)
 - [add-role](#)
- Permissions
 - [list-permissions](#)
 - [add-permission](#)
 - [remove-permission](#)
- Repositories
 - [list-repositories](#)
 - [create-repository](#)
 - [delete-repository](#)
- Templates
 - [install-template](#)
 - [delete-template](#)
- Properties
 - [list-properties](#)
 - [create-property](#)

- [update-property](#)
- [delete-property](#)
- Others
 - [batch](#)
 - [heartbeat](#)

7. appNGizer

A REST-style API for configuring the platform is provided by appNGizer.

Check out the following resources:

- [appNGizer User Manual](#)
- [appNGizer Setup Guide](#)
- [appNGizer Platform installation guide](#)

8. Monitoring

The appNG platform offers some built-in monitoring services to check the state of a site and to give some information about the system appNG is running on.

8.1. Configuration

The path to health monitoring can be configured with the platform property `monitoringPath`, using the default value `/health`.

The monitoring path is secured with basic authentication.

The user name is `monitoring`. The password can be defined using the platform property `monitoringPassword`. If not defined, the platform's `sharedSecret` is used.

8.2. Services

Monitoring offers different services, as listed here. All of them use `application/json` as a content-type, making it easy for load balancers like [nginx](#) or [HAProxy](#) to make use of them.

8.2.1. Site health

Shows the current site, including its state (one of: `STARTED`, `STARTING`, `STOPPING`, `STOPPED`, `INACTIVE`), applications and properties.

Path: `/health`

Example Response:

```

{
  "name" : "manager",
  "state" : "STARTED",
  "host" : "localhost",
  "domain" : "http://localhost:8080",
  "startupTime" : "2019-12-10T10:46:52.792+01:00",
  "uptimeSeconds" : 2132133465,
  "applications" : {
    "appng-scheduler" : {
      "version" : "1.12.0",
      "description" : "Scheduling using Quartz Scheduler",
      "hidden" : false,
      "privileged" : true,
      "filebased" : true,
      "jars" : [ {
        "name" : "/home/appng/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/cache/platform/manager/appng-
scheduler/lib/appng-scheduler-1.12.0.jar",
        "lastModified" : "2019-12-10T10:46:36+01:00"
      } ]
    },
    "appng-manager" : {
      "version" : "1.16.0",
      "description" : "Global appNG administration",
      "hidden" : false,
      "privileged" : true,
      "filebased" : true,
      "jars" : [ {
        "name" : "/home/appng/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/cache/platform/manager/appng-
manager/lib/appng-manager-1.17.0-SNAPSHOT.jar",
        "lastModified" : "2019-12-10T10:46:38+01:00"
      } ]
    },
    "appng-authentication" : {
      "version" : "1.12.0",
      "description" : "Authentication Application",
      "hidden" : true,
      "privileged" : true,
      "filebased" : true,
      "jars" : [ {
        "name" : "/home/appng/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/cache/platform/manager/appng-
authentication/lib/appng-authentication-1.12.1-SNAPSHOT.jar",
        "lastModified" : "2019-12-10T10:46:36+01:00"
      } ]
    }
  },
  "props" : {
    ...
  }
}

```

8.2.2. Platform JARs

Shows a list of all Jars offered by the platform.

Path: `/health/platform`

8.2.3. Site JARs

Shows a list of all Jars that the site's classloader is built from.

Path: `/health/jars`

8.2.4. System environment

Shows the system's environment as returned by `System.getenv()`.

Path: `/health/environment`

8.3. System properties

Shows the system's properties as returned by `System.getProperties()`.

Path: `/health/system`