Getting started with the web console in OpenShift Container Platform
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Abstract

This document provides instructions for accessing and customizing the OpenShift Container Platform web console.
Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1. WEB CONSOLE OVERVIEW .............................................. 3
  1.1. ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATOR PERSPECTIVE IN THE WEB CONSOLE 3
  1.1.1. Accessing the Administrator perspective 3
  1.2. ABOUT THE DEVELOPER PERSPECTIVE IN THE WEB CONSOLE 4
  1.2.1. Accessing the Developer perspective 4

CHAPTER 2. ACCESSING THE WEB CONSOLE ...................................... 6
  2.1. PREREQUISITES 6
  2.2. UNDERSTANDING AND ACCESSING THE WEB CONSOLE 6

CHAPTER 3. USING THE OPENSSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM DASHBOARD TO GET CLUSTER INFORMATION .................................................. 7
  3.1. ABOUT THE OPENSSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM DASHBOARDS PAGE 7

CHAPTER 4. CONFIGURING THE WEB CONSOLE IN OPENSSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM ................................................................. 9
  4.1. PREREQUISITES 9
  4.2. CONFIGURING THE WEB CONSOLE 9

CHAPTER 5. CUSTOMIZING THE WEB CONSOLE IN OPENSSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM ............................................................... 10
  5.1. ADDING A CUSTOM LOGO AND PRODUCT NAME 10
  5.2. CREATING CUSTOM LINKS IN THE WEB CONSOLE 11
  5.3. CUSTOMIZING THE WEB CONSOLE URL 12
  5.4. CUSTOMIZING THE LOGIN PAGE 13
  5.5. DEFINING A TEMPLATE FOR AN EXTERNAL LOG LINK 14
  5.6. CREATING CUSTOM NOTIFICATION BANNERS 15
  5.7. CUSTOMIZING CLI DOWNLOADS 15
  5.8. ADDING YAML EXAMPLES TO KUBERNETES RESOURCES 16

CHAPTER 6. ABOUT THE WEB TERMINAL IN THE WEB CONSOLE ............... 18
  6.1. INSTALLING THE WEB TERMINAL 18
  6.2. USING THE WEB TERMINAL 19
  6.3. UNINSTALLING THE WEB TERMINAL 19
    6.3.1. Deleting the web terminal components and custom resources 20
    6.3.2. Uninstalling the Operator using the web console 21

CHAPTER 7. DISABLING THE WEB CONSOLE IN OPENSSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM ............................................................... 22
  7.1. PREREQUISITES 22
  7.2. DISABLING THE WEB CONSOLE 22
CHAPTER 1. WEB CONSOLE OVERVIEW

The Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform web console provides a graphical user interface to visualize your project data and perform administrative, management, and troubleshooting tasks. The web console runs as pods on the control plane nodes in the openshift-console project. It is managed by a console-operator pod. Both Administrator and Developer perspectives are supported.

Both Administrator and Developer perspectives enable you to create quick start tutorials for OpenShift Container Platform. A quick start is a guided tutorial with user tasks and is useful for getting oriented with an application, Operator, or other product offering.

1.1. ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATOR PERSPECTIVE IN THE WEB CONSOLE

The Administrator perspective enables you to view the cluster inventory, capacity, general and specific utilization information, and the stream of important events, all of which help you to simplify planning and troubleshooting tasks. Both project administrators and cluster administrators can view the Administrator perspective.

Cluster administrators can also open an embedded command line terminal instance with the web terminal Operator in OpenShift Container Platform 4.7 and later.

NOTE

The default web console perspective that is shown depends on the role of the user. The Administrator perspective is displayed by default if the user is recognized as an administrator.

The Administrator perspective provides workflows specific to administrator use cases, such as the ability to:

- Manage workload, storage, networking, and cluster settings.
- Install and manage Operators using the Operator Hub.
- Add identity providers that allow users to log in and manage user access through roles and role bindings.
- View and manage a variety of advanced settings such as cluster updates, partial cluster updates, cluster Operators, custom resource definitions (CRDs), role bindings, and resource quotas.
- Access and manage monitoring features such as metrics, alerts, and monitoring dashboards.
- View and manage logging, metrics, and high-status information about the cluster.
- Visually interact with applications, components, and services associated with the Administrator perspective in OpenShift Container Platform.

Additional resources

See About the web terminal in the web console for more information on the web terminal Operator.

1.1.1. Accessing the Administrator perspective
The **Administrator** perspective in the OpenShift Container Platform web console provides workflows specific to administrator use cases. You can access the **Administrator** perspective from the web console as follows:

**Procedure**

- Log in to the OpenShift Container Platform web console using your login credentials to access the **Administrator** perspective.

### 1.2. ABOUT THE DEVELOPER PERSPECTIVE IN THE WEB CONSOLE

The **Developer** perspective offers several built-in ways to deploy applications, services, and databases. In the **Developer** perspective, you can:

- View real-time visualization of rolling and recreating rollouts on the component.
- View the application status, resource utilization, project event streaming, and quota consumption.
- Share your project with others.
- Troubleshoot problems with your applications by running Prometheus Query Language (PromQL) queries on your project and examining the metrics visualized on a plot. The metrics provide information about the state of a cluster and any user-defined workloads that you are monitoring.

Cluster administrators can also open an embedded command line terminal instance in the web console in OpenShift Container Platform 4.7 and later.

**NOTE**

The default web console perspective that is shown depends on the role of the user. The **Developer** perspective is displayed by default if the user is recognised as a developer.

The **Developer** perspective provides workflows specific to developer use cases, such as the ability to:

- Create and deploy applications on OpenShift Container Platform by importing existing codebases, images, and container files.
- Visually interact with applications, components, and services associated with them within a project and monitor their deployment and build status.
- Group components within an application and connect the components within and across applications.
- Integrate serverless capabilities (Technology Preview).
- Create workspaces to edit your application code using Eclipse Che.

#### 1.2.1. Accessing the Developer perspective

The **Developer** perspective in the OpenShift Container Platform web console provides workflows specific to developer use cases.

You can access the **Developer** perspective from the web console as follows:
Prerequisites

To access the **Developer** perspective, ensure that you have logged in to the web console. The default view for the OpenShift Container Platform web console is the **Developer** perspective.

Procedure

1. Use the perspective switcher to switch to the **Developer** perspective. The **Topology** view with a list of all the projects in your cluster is displayed.

   ![Figure 1.1. Developer perspective](image)

2. Select an existing project from the list or use the **Project** drop-down list to create a new project.

   If you have no workloads or applications in the project, the **Topology** view displays the available options to create applications. If you have existing workloads, the **Topology** view graphically displays your workload nodes.

Additional resources

- Viewing cluster information
- Configuring the web console
- Customizing the web console
- Launching an embedded command line terminal instance in the web console
- Disabling the web console
CHAPTER 2. ACCESSING THE WEB CONSOLE

The OpenShift Container Platform web console is a user interface accessible from a web browser. Developers can use the web console to visualize, browse, and manage the contents of projects.

2.1. PREREQUISITES

- JavaScript must be enabled to use the web console. For the best experience, use a web browser that supports WebSockets.

- Review the OpenShift Container Platform 4.x Tested Integrations page before you create the supporting infrastructure for your cluster.

2.2. UNDERSTANDING AND ACCESSING THE WEB CONSOLE

The web console runs as a pod on the master. The static assets required to run the web console are served by the pod. Once OpenShift Container Platform is successfully installed using openshift-install create cluster, find the URL for the web console and login credentials for your installed cluster in the CLI output of the installation program. For example:

Example output

INFO Install complete!
INFO Run 'export KUBECONFIG=<your working directory>/auth/kubeconfig' to manage the cluster with 'oc', the OpenShift CLI.
INFO The cluster is ready when 'oc login -u kubeadmin -p <provided>' succeeds (wait a few minutes).
INFO Access the OpenShift web-console here: https://console-openshift-console.apps.demo1.openshift4-beta-abcorp.com
INFO Login to the console with user: kubeadmin, password: <provided>

Use those details to log in and access the web console.

For existing clusters that you did not install, you can use oc whoami --show-console to see the web console URL.
CHAPTER 3. USING THE OPENSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM DASHBOARD TO GET CLUSTER INFORMATION

Access the OpenShift Container Platform dashboard, which captures high-level information about the cluster, by navigating to Home → Dashboards → Overview from the OpenShift Container Platform web console.

The OpenShift Container Platform dashboard provides various cluster information, captured in individual dashboard cards.

3.1. ABOUT THE OPENSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM DASHBOARDS PAGE

The OpenShift Container Platform dashboard consists of the following cards:

- **Details** provides a brief overview of informational cluster details. Status include ok, error, warning, in progress, and unknown. Resources can add custom status names.
  - Cluster ID
  - Provider
  - Version

- **Cluster Inventory** details number of resources and associated statuses. It is helpful when intervention is required to resolve problems, including information about:
  - Number of nodes
  - Number of pods
  - Persistent storage volume claims
  - Bare metal hosts in the cluster, listed according to their state (only available in metal3 environment).

- **Cluster Capacity** charts help administrators understand when additional resources are required in the cluster. The charts contain an inner ring that displays current consumption, while an outer ring displays thresholds configured for the resource, including information about:
  - CPU time
  - Memory allocation
  - Storage consumed
  - Network resources consumed

- **Cluster Utilization** shows the capacity of various resources over a specified period of time, to help administrators understand the scale and frequency of high resource consumption.

- **Events** lists messages related to recent activity in the cluster, such as pod creation or virtual machine migration to another host.
- **Top Consumers** helps administrators understand how cluster resources are consumed. Click on a resource to jump to a detailed page listing pods and nodes that consume the largest amount of the specified cluster resource (CPU, memory, or storage).
CHAPTER 4. CONFIGURING THE WEB CONSOLE IN OPENSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM

You can modify the OpenShift Container Platform web console to set a logout redirect URL or disable the console.

4.1. PREREQUISITES

- Deploy an OpenShift Container Platform cluster.

4.2. CONFIGURING THE WEB CONSOLE

You can configure the web console settings by editing the `console.config.openshift.io` resource.

- Edit the `console.config.openshift.io` resource:

  ```bash
  oc edit console.config.openshift.io cluster
  ```

  The following example displays the sample resource definition for the console:

  ```yaml
  apiVersion: config.openshift.io/v1
  kind: Console
  metadata:
    name: cluster
  spec:
    authentication:
      logoutRedirect: ""
  status:
    consoleURL: ""
  ```

  1 Specify the URL of the page to load when a user logs out of the web console. If you do not specify a value, the user returns to the login page for the web console. Specifying a `logoutRedirect` URL allows your users to perform single logout (SLO) through the identity provider to destroy their single sign-on session.

  2 The web console URL. To update this to a custom value, see Customizing the web console URL.
CHAPTER 5. CUSTOMIZING THE WEB CONSOLE IN OPENSHIFT CONTAINER PLATFORM

You can customize the OpenShift Container Platform web console to set a custom logo, product name, links, notifications, and command line downloads. This is especially helpful if you need to tailor the web console to meet specific corporate or government requirements.

5.1. ADDING A CUSTOM LOGO AND PRODUCT NAME

You can create custom branding by adding a custom logo or custom product name. You can set both or one without the other, as these settings are independent of each other.

Prerequisites

- You must have administrator privileges.
- Create a file of the logo that you want to use. The logo can be a file in any common image format, including GIF, JPG, PNG, or SVG, and is constrained to a max-height of 60px.

Procedure

1. Import your logo file into a config map in the openshift-config namespace:

   ```
   $ oc create configmap console-custom-logo --from-file /path/to/console-custom-logo.png -n openshift-config
   ```

   Provide a valid base64 encoded logo.

2. Edit the web console’s Operator configuration to include customLogoFile and customProductName:

   ```
   $ oc edit consoles.operator.openshift.io cluster
   ```

   ```
   apiVersion: operator.openshift.io/v1
   kind: Console
   metadata:
     name: cluster
   spec:
     customization:
       customLogoFile:
         key: console-custom-logo.png
         name: console-custom-logo
       customProductName: My Console
   ```
Once the Operator configuration is updated, it will sync the custom logo config map into the console namespace, mount it to the console pod, and redeploy.

3. Check for success. If there are any issues, the console cluster Operator will report a **Degraded** status, and the console Operator configuration will also report a **CustomLogoDegraded** status, but with reasons like **KeyOrFilenameInvalid** or **NoImageProvided**.

   To check the **clusteroperator**, run:

   ```
   $ oc get clusteroperator console -o yaml
   ```

   To check the console Operator configuration, run:

   ```
   $ oc get consoles.operator.openshift.io -o yaml
   ```

### 5.2. CREATING CUSTOM LINKS IN THE WEB CONSOLE

**Prerequisites**

- You must have administrator privileges.

**Procedure**

1. From **Administration → Custom Resource Definitions**, click on **ConsoleLink**.

2. Select **Instances** tab

3. Click **Create Console Link** and edit the file:

   ```
   apiVersion: console.openshift.io/v1
   kind: ConsoleLink
   metadata:
     name: example
   spec:
     href: 'https://www.example.com'
     location: HelpMenu
   text: Link
   ```

   Valid location settings are **HelpMenu**, **UserMenu**, **ApplicationMenu**, and **NamespaceDashboard**.

   To make the custom link appear in all namespaces, follow this example:

   ```
   apiVersion: console.openshift.io/v1
   kind: ConsoleLink
   metadata:
     name: namespaced-dashboard-link-for-all-namespaces
   spec:
     href: 'https://www.example.com'
     location: NamespaceDashboard
   text: This appears in all namespaces
   ```

   To make the custom link appear in only some namespaces, follow this example:
To make the custom link appear in the application menu, follow this example:

```
apiVersion: console.openshift.io/v1
kind: ConsoleLink
metadata:
  name: application-menu-link-1
spec:
  href: 'https://www.example.com'
location: ApplicationMenu
text: Link
applicationMenu:
  section: My New Section
  # image that is 24x24 in size
  imageURL: https://via.placeholder.com/24
```

4. Click Save to apply your changes.

### 5.3. CUSTOMIZING THE WEB CONSOLE URL

You can update the web console URL, `consoleURL`, to a custom value.

**Procedure**

1. Modify the cluster instance created by default during installation in the `consoles.operator.openshift.io` custom resource:

   ```
   $ oc patch consoles.operator.openshift.io cluster --patch '{"spec":{"route":{"hostname":"console.example.com"}}}'} --type=merge
   ```

2. Update the consoleURL field in the `consoles.operator.openshift.io` custom resource:

   ```
   apiVersion: operator.openshift.io/v1
kind: Console
metadata:
  name: cluster
spec:
  route:
    hostname: 'console.example.com'
```
2. If you specify a custom certificate, you must create a secret in the `openshift-config` namespace that has the key and certificate. For example:

```
$ oc create secret tls console-tls --key=key.pem --cert=cert.pem -n openshift-config
```

```yaml
apiVersion: v1
kind: Secret
metadata:
  name: console-tls
  namespace: openshift-config
type: kubernetes.io/tls
data:
  tls.crt: >-
    <base64-encoded_cert> ...
  tls.key: >-
    <base64-encoded_key> ...
```

1. Provide a valid TLS certificate.
2. Provide a valid TLS key.

Then, edit the web console’s Operator configuration:

```
$ oc edit consoles.operator.openshift.io cluster
```

Add the following stanza to the configuration resource:

```yaml
spec:
  route:
    hostname: console.example.com
  secret:
    name: console-tls
```

### 5.4. CUSTOMIZING THE LOGIN PAGE

Create Terms of Service information with custom login pages. Custom login pages can also be helpful if you use a third-party login provider, such as GitHub or Google, to show users a branded page that they trust and expect before being redirected to the authentication provider. You can also render custom error pages during the authentication process.

**NOTE**

Customizing the error template is limited to identity providers (IDPs) that use redirects, such as request header and OIDC-based IDPs. It does not have an effect on IDPs that use direct password authentication, such as LDAP and HTPasswd.

**Prerequisites**

- You must have administrator privileges.

**Procedure**
1. Run the following commands to create templates you can modify:

$ oc adm create-login-template > login.html
$ oc adm create-provider-selection-template > providers.html
$ oc adm create-error-template > errors.html

2. Create the secrets:

$ oc create secret generic login-template --from-file=login.html -n openshift-config
$ oc create secret generic providers-template --from-file=providers.html -n openshift-config
$ oc create secret generic error-template --from-file=errors.html -n openshift-config

3. Run:

$ oc edit oauths cluster

4. Update the specification:

```yaml
spec:
  templates:
    error:
      name: error-template
    login:
      name: login-template
    providerSelection:
      name: providers-template
```

Run `oc explain oauths.spec.templates` to understand the options.

5.5. DEFINING A TEMPLATE FOR AN EXTERNAL LOG LINK

If you are connected to a service that helps you browse your logs, but you need to generate URLs in a
particular way, then you can define a template for your link.

**Prerequisites**

- You must have administrator privileges.

**Procedure**

1. From Administration → Custom Resource Definitions click on **ConsoleExternalLogLink**.

2. Select **Instances** tab

3. Click **Create Console External Log Link** and edit the file:

```yaml
apiVersion: console.openshift.io/v1
kind: ConsoleExternalLogLink
```
5.6. CREATING CUSTOM NOTIFICATION BANNERS

Prerequisites

- You must have administrator privileges.

Procedure

1. From Administration → Custom Resource Definitions, click on ConsoleNotification.
2. Select Instances tab
3. Click Create Console Notification and edit the file:

```yaml
metadata:
  name: example
spec:
  hrefTemplate: ->
  https://example.com/logs?
  resourceName=${resourceName}&containerName=${containerName}&resourceNamespace=${resourceNamespace}&podLabels=${podLabels}
  text: Example Logs

---

location: BannerTop

Valid location settings are BannerTop, BannerBottom, and BannerTopBottom.

4. Click Create to apply your changes.

5.7. CUSTOMIZING CLI DOWNLOADS

You can configure links for downloading the CLI with custom link text and URLs, which can point directly to file packages or to an external page that provides the packages.

Prerequisites

- You must have administrator privileges.

Procedure

1. Navigate to Administration → Custom Resource Definitions
2. Select **ConsoleCLIDownload** from the list of Custom Resource Definitions (CRDs).

3. Click the **YAML** tab, and then make your edits:

```yaml
apiVersion: console.openshift.io/v1
kind: ConsoleCLIDownload
metadata:
  name: example-cli-download-links-for-foo
spec:
  description: |
    This is an example of download links for foo
  displayName: example-foo
  links:
    text: foo for linux
    text: foo for mac
    text: foo for windows
```

4. Click the **Save** button.

### 5.8. ADDING YAML EXAMPLES TO KUBERNETES RESOURCES

You can dynamically add YAML examples to any Kubernetes resources at any time.

**Prerequisites**

- You must have cluster administrator privileges.

**Procedure**

1. From **Administration → Custom Resource Definitions** click on **ConsoleYAMLSample**.

2. Click **YAML** and edit the file:

```yaml
apiVersion: console.openshift.io/v1
kind: ConsoleYAMLSample
metadata:
  name: example
spec:
targetResource:
  apiVersion: batch/v1
  kind: Job
  title: Example Job
  description: An example Job YAML sample
  yaml: |
    apiVersion: batch/v1
    kind: Job
    metadata:
      name: countdown
    spec:
      template:
        metadata:
          name: countdown
```
Use **spec.snippet** to indicate that the YAML sample is not the full YAML resource definition, but a fragment that can be inserted into the existing YAML document at the user’s cursor.

3. Click **Save**.
CHAPTER 6. ABOUT THE WEB TERMINAL IN THE WEB CONSOLE

You can launch an embedded command line terminal instance in the OpenShift web console. You must first install the Web Terminal Operator to use the web terminal.

NOTE

Cluster administrators can access the web terminal in OpenShift Container Platform 4.7 and later.

This terminal instance is preinstalled with common CLI tools for interacting with the cluster, such as oc, kubectl, odo, kn, tkn, helm, kubens, subctl, and kubectx. It also has the context of the project you are working on and automatically logs you in using your credentials.

IMPORTANT

Web terminal is a Technology Preview feature only. Technology Preview features are not supported with Red Hat production service level agreements (SLAs) and might not be functionally complete. Red Hat does not recommend using them in production. These features provide early access to upcoming product features, enabling customers to test functionality and provide feedback during the development process.

For more information about the support scope of Red Hat Technology Preview features, see https://access.redhat.com/support/offerings/techpreview/.

6.1. INSTALLING THE WEB TERMINAL

You can install the web terminal using the Web Terminal Operator listed in the OpenShift Container Platform OperatorHub. When you install the Web Terminal Operator, the custom resource definitions (CRDs) that are required for the command line configuration, such as the DevWorkspace CRD, are automatically installed. The web console creates the required resources when you open the web terminal.

Prerequisites

- Access to an OpenShift Container Platform cluster using an account with cluster-admin permissions.

Procedure

1. In the Administrator perspective of the web console, navigate to Operators → OperatorHub.

2. Use the Filter by keyword box to search for the Web Terminal Operator in the catalog, and then click the Web Terminal tile.

3. Read the brief description about the Operator on the Web Terminal page, and then click Install.

4. On the Install Operator page, retain the default values for all fields.

   - The alpha option in the Update Channel menu enables installation of the latest release of the Web Terminal Operator.
The **All namespaces on the cluster** option in the **Installation Mode** menu enables the Operator to watch and be available to all namespaces in the cluster.

The **openshift-operators** option in the **Installed Namespace** menu installs the Operator in the default **openshift-operators** namespace.

The **Automatic** option in the **Approval Strategy** menu ensures that the future upgrades to the Operator are handled automatically by the Operator Lifecycle Manager.

5. Click **Install**.

6. In the **Installed Operators** page, click the **View operator** to verify that the Operator is listed on the **Installed Operators** page.

7. After the Operator is installed, refresh your page to see the command line terminal icon on the upper right of the console.

### 6.2. USING THE WEB TERMINAL

After the Web Terminal Operator is installed, you can use the web terminal as follows:

1. To launch the web terminal, click the command line terminal icon ( ) on the upper right of the console. A web terminal instance is displayed in the **Command line terminal** pane. This instance is automatically logged in with your credentials.

2. Select the project where the **DevWorkspace** CR must be created from the **Project** drop-down list. By default, the current project is selected.

   **NOTE**

   - The **DevWorkspace** CR is created only if it does not already exist.
   - The **openshift-terminal** project is the default project used for cluster administrators. They do not have the option to choose another project.

3. Click **Start** to initialize the web terminal using the selected project.

   After the web terminal is initialized, you can use the preinstalled CLI tools like `oc`, `kubectl`, `odo`, `kn`, `tkn`, `helm`, `kubens`, `subctl`, and `kubectx` in the web terminal.

### 6.3. UNINSTALLING THE WEB TERMINAL

Uninstalling the web terminal is a two-step process:

1. Delete the components and custom resources (CRs) that were added when you installed the Operator.

2. Uninstall the Web Terminal Operator.

Uninstalling the Web Terminal Operator does not remove any of its custom resource definitions (CRDs) or managed resources that are created when the Operator is installed. These components must be manually uninstalled for security purposes. Removing these components also allows you to save cluster resources by ensuring that terminals do not idle when the Operator is uninstalled.
**Prerequisites**

- Access to an OpenShift Container Platform cluster using an account with `cluster-admin` permissions.

**6.3.1. Deleting the web terminal components and custom resources**

Use the CLI to delete the CRs that are created during installation of the Web Terminal Operator.

**Procedure**

1. Run the following commands to ensure that all **DevWorkspace** CRs are removed along with their related Kubernetes objects, such as deployments.

   ```
   $ oc delete devworkspaces.workspace.devfile.io --all-namespaces --all --wait
   $ oc delete workspaceroutings.controller.devfile.io --all-namespaces --all --wait
   $ oc delete components.controller.devfile.io --all-namespaces --all --wait
   ```

   **WARNING**

   If this step is not complete, finalizers make it difficult to fully uninstall the Operator easily.

2. Run the following commands to remove the CRDs:

   ```
   $ oc delete customresourcedefinitions.apiextensions.k8s.io workspaceroutings.controller.devfile.io
   $ oc delete customresourcedefinitions.apiextensions.k8s.io components.controller.devfile.io
   $ oc delete customresourcedefinitions.apiextensions.k8s.io devworkspaces.workspace.devfile.io
   ```

3. Remove the **DevWorkspace-Webhook-Server** deployment:

   ```
   $ oc delete deployment/devworkspace-webhook-server -n openshift-operators
   ```

   **NOTE**

   When you run this and the following steps, you cannot use the `oc exec` commands to run commands in a container. After you remove the webhooks you will be able to use the `oc exec` commands again.

4. Run the following commands to remove any lingering services, secrets, and config maps:
5. Run the following commands to remove mutating or validating webhook configurations:

   $ oc delete all --selector app.kubernetes.io/part-of=devworkspace-operator,app.kubernetes.io/name=devworkspace-webhook-server
   $ oc delete serviceaccounts devworkspace-webhook-server -n openshift-operators
   $ oc delete configmap devworkspace-controller -n openshift-operators
   $ oc delete clusterrole devworkspace-webhook-server
   $ oc delete clusterrolebinding devworkspace-webhook-server

6.3.2. Uninstalling the Operator using the web console

Procedure

1. In the Administrator perspective of the web console, navigate to Operators → Installed Operators.

2. Scroll the filter list or type a keyword into the Filter by name box to find the Web Terminal Operator.

3. Click the Options menu for the Web Terminal Operator, and then select Uninstall Operator.

4. In the Uninstall Operator confirmation dialog box, click Uninstall to remove the Operator, Operator deployments, and pods from the cluster. The Operator stops running and no longer receives updates.
CHAPTER 7. DISABLING THE WEB CONSOLE IN OPENS Shift CONTAINER PLATFORM

You can disable the OpenShift Container Platform web console.

7.1. PREREQUISITES

- Deploy an OpenShift Container Platform cluster.

7.2. DISABLING THE WEB CONSOLE

You can disable the web console by editing the consoles.operator.openshift.io resource:

- Edit the consoles.operator.openshift.io resource:

  
  $ oc edit consoles.operator.openshift.io cluster

  
  The following example displays the parameters from this resource that you can modify:

  ```yaml
  apiVersion: config.openshift.io/v1
  kind: Console
  metadata:
    name: cluster
  spec:
    managementState: Removed
  ```

  Set the managementState parameter value to Removed to disable the web console. The other valid values for this parameter are Managed, which enables the console under the cluster’s control, and Unmanaged, which means that you are taking control of web console management.