

Red Hat JBoss Fuse 6.1 Cloud Computing with Fabric

Centrally configure and provision assets in the cloud

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Abstract

This guide describes how to use the Fuse Fabric cloud APIs to provision, configure, and deploy applications into cloud environments.

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CHAPTER 1. AMAZON EC2

Abstract

This section explains how to get started in the cloud using Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) and the Red Hat JBoss Fuse Fabric technology. You use JBoss Fuse Fabric to provision containers in the cloud.

1.1. OVERVIEW

Basic technologies

Amazon EC2 deployment is based on the following technology stack:

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2-Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud provides puts a variety of hardware and operating systems at your disposal, including Red Hat, Ubuntu, SUSE, and Windows. Operating systems are made available as Amazon Machine Images (AMIs).
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux O/S—we use a RHEL 6.0 AMI for this tutorial, which is available in Amazon's free usage tier.
- JDK 1.6—the Java software is automatically installed by Fuse Fabric, after a compute instance is created.
- Red Hat JBoss Fuse OSGi container—the container runtime is automatically installed by Fuse Fabric.
- Fuse Fabric-provides the infrastructure for creating, configuring, and administering a collection of containers in the cloud.
- Profiles—a Fuse profile is the natural way to package your applications in the context of Fuse Fabric. A profile consists of a collection of OSGi bundles and Karaf features. When a profile is deployed, the specified components are downloaded from Maven repositories and installed into the container.

JClouds library

JClouds is an open-source library that enables you to administer cloud providers remotely. It provides modules for communicating with a great variety of cloud providers. FuseSource supports only the Amazon and Rackspace providers, however, which can be accessed by installing the following JClouds features in your container:

```
jclouds-aws-ec2
jclouds-cloudservers-us
jclouds-cloudservers-uk
```

Fabric commands

The Fabric commands provide another layer on top of the JClouds library, providing commands that integrate container administration and cloud administration. You can get access to the Fabric commands by installing the following Karaf features into your container:

fabric-jclouds
fabric-commands

Alternatively, if your local container is managed by Fabric, you can get access to the requisite commands by adding the following profile to your local container:

cloud-aws.ec2

1.2. CREATE AN AMAZON EC2 ACCOUNT

Signing up

You can sign up to Amazon Web Services (AWS) by navigating to the following page, http://aws.amazon.com/, and following the sign-up instructions.

Free usage tier

For the first year of membership, Amazon offers a free usage tier. Free usage is subject to a number of restrictions—in particular, you can only use the smallest hardware configuration, t1.micro on Linux. For full details of what is allowed in the free usage tier, see: http://aws.amazon.com/free.



IMPORTANT

You will be charged for any services you use that do not lie within the scope of the free usage tier. Always terminate compute instances to minimize charges.

1.3. SET UP AN SSH KEY PAIR

Why do you need an SSH key pair?

After creating a compute instance on the cloud, logging in through the SSH protocol is the primary way of accessing the instance. The SSH protocol uses a key pair for authentication, where the public key is installed in the remote instance and the private key is installed on your local machine.

Creating key pairs in AWS

AWS supports the following approaches to creating SSH key pairs:

- Download a private key—in this case, you use the AWS Management Console to generate a key
 pair and you download the private key to your local machine. AWS keeps a copy of the public
 key, which is then automatically installed into new compute instances.
- Upload a public key—in this case, you generate the SSH key pair yourself and upload the public key to AWS (actually, the Fabric console commands will upload the public key for you).

Advantages of uploading a public key

Uploading a public key has several advantages over downloading a private key:

• It is more secure, because the private key never gets sent across the Internet.

- You can easily upload the same public key to instances in different provider regions and even use the same public key with different providers.
- You have more control over the parameters of the key pair, because you generate it yourself.

Default key location

The ssh command and the Fabric console commands automatically look for the private key in the default key location. It is recommended that you install your key in the default location, because it saves you the trouble of specifying the location explicitly.

On a *NIX operating system, the default locations for an RSA key pair are:

```
~/.ssh/id_rsa
~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

On a Windows operating system, the default locations for an RSA key pair are:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\Username\.ssh\id_rsa
C:\Documents and Settings\Username\.ssh\id_rsa.pub
```



NOTE

AWS only supports RSA keys. DSA keys do not work.

Creating a new SSH key pair

Generate an RSA key pair using the ssh-keygen utility. Open a new command prompt and enter the following command:

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 2048
```

The preceding command generates an RSA key with a key length of 2048 bits. You will then be prompted to specify the file name for the key pair:

```
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/Users/Username/.ssh/id_rsa):
```

Type return to save the key pair in the default location. You will then be prompted for a pass phrase:

```
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
```

Type return twice to select no pass phrase. This means that the private key is not encrypted.



IMPORTANT

The Fabric console commands are not compatible with an encrypted private key. Hence, you must ensure that the private key is not encrypted (to protect the private key file, you should change its permissions to ensure that it can be read only by you).

Troubleshooting

Setting up an SSH key pair can sometimes be tricky. Here are a couple of hints to help with troubleshooting:

If you get the following error when you try to invoke a JClouds or Fabric console command:

IOException: Invalid DER: length field too big (186)

It probably means you are using an encrypted private key. The Fabric console commands support only *unencrypted* private keys, however.

- If you are having trouble with a particular SSH key pair and you want to try a different one, you
 must first unregister the cloud provider using the fabric:cloud-provider-remove
 console command, and then re-register the cloud provider using the fabric:cloudprovider-add console command (this forces Fabric to reread the SSH private key).
- Make sure you are using an RSA key. DSA format is not supported.

1.4. INITIALIZE YOUR LOCAL CONTAINER

Prerequisites

This tutorial assumes you have a fresh installation of Red Hat JBoss Fuse on your local machine (see Installation Guide). If you have previously experimented with the local container instance, it might be a good idea to perform a cold start before you proceed.

Forcing a cold start

(Optional) If you are not sure what state your local container is in or if you have previously used your local container in the context of a fabric, it is a good idea to force a *cold start* before you continue. This ensures that your container is in a known state (a plain, unmanaged container) and makes it more likely that you will be able to follow the tutorial steps without any problems.

To force a cold start, perform the following steps:

1. If the container is currently running, shut it down by entering the following console command:

JBossFuse:karaf@root> shutdown -f



NOTE

If your container has any child instances running, you must also shut the child instances down. On *NIX systems, you could use the command ps -ef | grep karaf to discover any child instances.

2. Delete the *InstallDir*/data/directory.



WARNING

This will completely wipe the state of the container (apart from the configuration settings stored under *InstallDir*/etc/).



NOTE

If your container has any child instances, you must also delete the *InstallDir*/instances/ directory, which contains the data for the child instances.

3. Start the container by entering the following commands:

cd *InstallDir/*bin ./fuse

Create a fabric on your local container

To access the necessary Fabric functionality and Fabric commands, you need to create a fabric on your local container. Perform the following steps:

 Any existing users in the InstallDir/etc/users.properties file are automatically used to initialize the fabric's user data, when you create the fabric. You can populate the users.properties file, by adding one or more lines of the following form:

Username=Password[,RoleA][,RoleB]...

But there must *not* be any users in this file that have the admin role. If the *InstallDir*/etc/users.properties already contains users with the admin role, you should *delete those users* before creating the fabric.



WARNING

If you leave some administrator credentials in the users.properties file, this represents a security risk because the file could potentially be accessed by other containers in the fabric.



NOTE

The initialization of user data from users.properties happens only once, at the time the fabric is created. After the fabric has been created, any changes you make to users.properties will have no effect on the fabric's user data.

2. To create the fabric container, enter the following console command:

JBossFuse:karaf@root> fabric:create --new-user *AdminUser* --new-user-password *AdminPass*

--zookeeper-password ZooPass --wait-for-provisioning

The --new-user and --new-user-password options specify the credentials for a new administrator user. The *ZooPass* password specifies the password that is used to protect the Zookeeper registry.



NOTE

If you use a VPN (virtual private network) on your local machine, it is advisable to log off VPN before you create the fabric and to stay logged off while you are using the local container. A local Fabric Server is permanently associated with a fixed IP address or hostname. If VPN is enabled when you create the fabric, the underlying Java runtime is liable to detect and use the VPN hostname instead of your permanent local hostname. This can also be an issue with multi-homed machines. To be absolutely sure about the hostname, you could specify the IP address explicitly—see chapter "Creating a New Fabric" in "Fabric Guide".

Install JClouds and Fabric commands on the local container

After a cold start, the container does not have the required cloud commands installed by default. To enable support for accessing and administering the AWS EC2 provider, deploy the cloud-aws.ec2 profile into your local container, as follows:

JBossFuse:karaf@root> fabric:container-add-profile root cloud-aws.ec2

1.5. REGISTER THE AMAZON EC2 PROVIDER

What is the purpose of registering the provider?

Instead of administering your compute instances directly through the AWS Console, Amazon provides a Web service that enables you to administer your compute instances remotely (for example, using the JClouds utilities). Registering the Amazon EC2 provider consists essentially of caching your AWS login credentials in the container, so that the JClouds library and the Fabric console commands can administer the provider.

Create a new Access Key

If you do not already have an AWS Access Key (which consists of an *Access Key ID* and a *Secret Access Key*), create a new Access Key as follows:

- 1. Use your Web browser to navigate to http://aws.amazon.com/
- 2. Move your mouse to the **My Account/Console** drop-down menu and select the **Security Credentials** menu item.



- 3. If you are not already logged on to AWS, you are now prompted to log on using the account details you specified in Section 1.2, "Create an Amazon EC2 Account".
- 4. Expand the Access Keys section and click Create New Access Key.



5. The Create Access Key Dialog appears. Click Download Key File and save the downloaded file, rootkey.csv, to a secure location on your filesystem.





NOTE

This is the only chance you get to download the Secret Access Key from AWS. If you lose the key at this point, you cannot retrieve it later (you would then need to create a new Access Key).

Registering the Amazon EC2 provider

To register the Amazon EC2 provider, perform the following steps:

- 1. Open the file containing your Access Key (usually named **rootkey.csv**), so that you can read the Access Key ID an the Secret Access Key for your Amazon account.
- 2. In your local container, register the Amazon EC2 provider by entering the following console command:

JBossFuse:karaf@root> fabric:cloud-service-add --name aws-ec2 --provider aws-ec2

--identity AccessKeyID --credential SecretAccessKey

This command can take a minute or two to complete. If it is successful, you should see some output like the following:

Waiting for aws-ec2 service to initialize.

1.6. CREATE A FABRIC SERVER ON EC2

What is a Fabric Server?

The first step in creating a new fabric in the cloud is to create a Fabric Server instance. A Fabric Server is a container with a Fabric Registry Agent deployed inside it (there must be at least one Fabric Server in a fabric). You can think of it as a seed for the rest of the fabric.

What happens when you create a Fabric Server?

The fabric:container-create-cloud console command, which creates the Fabric Server, is a powerful command that does a lot of things:

- 1. Using the JClouds library, it connects to the AWS and creates a new compute instance in the cloud.
- 2. It uploads your SSH public key to the compute instance.
- 3. It installs all of the basic prerequisites for provisioning and running a Red Hat JBoss Fuse container in the compute instance (for example, by installing JDK 1.6).
- 4. It installs JBoss Fuse in the compute instance.
- 5. It starts up the JBoss Fuse container and deploys a Fabric Registry Agent into the container, so that it functions as a Fabric Server.
- 6. It modifies the EC2 firewall settings for the compute instance (if necessary, creating a new EC2 security group).

Creating a Fabric Server on a micro instance

To create a Fabric Server on a micro instance, t1.micro (in Amazon's free usage tier) using a Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 6.4 image, enter the following console command:

```
JBossFuse:karaf@root> fabric:container-create-cloud --name aws-ec2 --
ensemble-server
--new-user admin --new-user-password admin --zookeeper-password admin
--hardwareId t1.micro --os-family rhel --os-version 6.4 registry
```

This command creates a container called **registry** and the **--ensemble-server** option makes the new container a Fabric Server. This command can take a minute or two to complete. If it is successfully, you should see output like the following:

```
Looking up for compute service.

Creating 1 nodes on aws-ec2. It may take a while ...

Node fabric-dcfaa2fd has been succesfully created.

Installing fabric agent on container registry. It may take a while...

Overriding resolver to publichostname.
```

TIP

In a production environment, you would need to allocate a permanent IP address to the Fabric Server. By default, when you restart an instance in EC2, the IP address is automatically re-allocated.

Creating a Fabric Server on a small instance

The amount of memory available in a micro instance is a bit limited for a Red Hat JBoss Fuse container instance. If you want to create a fabric for a production deployment, it is typically better to use at least a small instance, m1.small. You can create a small instance, as follows:

```
JBossFuse:karaf@root> fabric:container-create-cloud --name aws-ec2 --
ensemble-server
--new-user admin --new-user-password admin --zookeeper-password admin
--hardwareId m1.small --os-family rhel --os-version 6.4 registry
```



IMPORTANT

An m1. small instance is not covered by the Amazon free usage tier and incurs an hourly usage charge (until the instance is terminated).

SSH login to the new instance

It should now be possible to log on to the new compute instance using SSH. Open a new command prompt and enter the following command:

```
ssh 50.19.18.91
```

Where you provide the compute instance's public IP address as the argument to the ssh command (you could also use the compute instance's public hostname). The ssh command uses the default RSA private key as credentials.

If you did not put your SSH key pair in the default location, you can specify the private key location explicitly, as follows:

```
ssh -i PrivateKeyFile 50.19.18.91
```

Hardware list

If you want to see all of the hardware options available, use the jclouds: hardware-list console command:

hi1.4xlarge	61952	35.0	16.0
hs1.8xlarge	119808	35.0	16.0
g2.2xlarge	15360	26.0	8.0
t1.micro	630	1.0	1.0
c1.medium	1740	5.0	2.0
c1.xlarge	7168	20.0	8.0
c3.xlarge	7168	14.0	4.0
c3.2xlarge	15360	28.0	8.0
c3.4xlarge	30720	55.0	16.0
c3.8xlarge	61440	108.0	32.0
i2.xlarge	31232	14.0	4.0
i2.2xlarge	62464	27.0	8.0
i2.4xlarge	124928	53.0	16.0
i2.8xlarge	249856	104.0	32.0
m1.large	7680	4.0	2.0
m1.small	1740	1.0	1.0
m1.medium	3750	2.0	1.0
m1.xlarge	15360	8.0	4.0
m2.xlarge	17510	6.5	2.0
m2.2xlarge	35020	13.0	4.0
m2.4xlarge	70041	26.0	8.0
m3.medium	3840	3.0	1.0
m3.large	7680	6.5	2.0
m3.xlarge	15360	13.0	4.0
m3.2xlarge	30720	26.0	8.0

Image list

If you want to find out what machine images are available on Amazon EC2, enter the following console command:

JBossFuse:karaf@root> jclouds:image-list

Groups and security

Fabric automatically configures an Amazon EC2 security group for the new containers (default is the <code>jclouds#fabric</code> security group). All of the containers in a fabric should belong to the same security group. By default, Fabric adds all of the cloud containers to the <code>fabric</code> group. If necessary, you can specify the group explicitly by specifying the <code>--group</code> option on the <code>fabric:container-create-cloud</code> command.

1.7. INITIALIZE THE FABRIC SERVER ON EC2

Overview

Now that you have a Fabric Server in the cloud, you need to set it up so that it is capable of expanding. You can initialize the Fabric Server so that it is capable of creating and provisioning new managed containers in the cloud.

Steps to initialize the Fabric Server

To initialize the Fabric Server on EC2, perform the following steps:

Log on to the remote Fabric Server using the command-line client. In the *InstallDir/bin* directory there is a client utility, which you can use to get console access to the remote Fabric Server. Enter the following at the command line:

```
cd InstallDir/bin ./client -u admin -p admin -h 50.19.18.91
```

Where **50.19.18.91** should be replaced by the public IP address of the registry container that you created in the previous section. If this command is successful, you should see the following client console:

2. Deploy the cloud-aws.ec2 profile, to gain access to the cloud console commands:

Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:container-add-profile registry cloud-aws.ec2



NOTE

During re-deployment, you will automatically be logged out of the client!

3. Log back on to the Fabric Server using the client utility:

```
./client -u admin -p admin -h 50.19.18.91
```

4. Register the Amazon EC2 provider, by entering the following console command:

```
Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:cloud-service-add --name aws-ec2 --provider aws-ec2 --identity AccessKeyID --credential SecretAccessKey
```

5. You can check that the aws-ec2 service has been registered, by entering the following command:

Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:cloud-service-list

Which should display output like the following:

```
Compute APIs:
                                       [local services]
                          [type]
[id]
[fabric services]
ec2
                                                                 Γ
                          compute
                                       1
                                       [ ]
                                                                 [ ]
stub
                          compute
Compute Providers:
                          [type]
                                       [local services]
[id]
[fabric services]
                                       [ ]
                                                                 Γ
aws-ec2
                          compute
aws-ec2
```

1.8. PROVISION CONTAINERS

Provisioning containers

All of the prerequisites are now in place for provisioning Red Hat JBoss Fuse containers in the cloud. After joining your local container to the fabric (which enables you to administer the fabric remotely), you can provision a new container in the cloud by entering a single console command.

Create container and deploy profile in one step

If you already know what profiles you want to deploy in the new containers, the most efficient approach is to create the compute instances and specify the profiles all in the same command.

For example, to create a new compute instances as part of the current fabric, and to deploy the profiles mq-default and fabric into it, perform the following steps:

1. Log on to the Fabric Server on EC2 using the client utility:

```
./client -u admin -p admin -h 50.19.18.91
```

2. Enter the following console command:

```
Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:container-create-cloud --name aws-ec2 --hardwareId t1.micro --os-family rhel --os-version 6.4 --profile mq-default --profile fabric mqserver
```

Note how you can deploy multiple profiles, by specifying the --provider option multiple times.

The preceding fabric:container-create-cloud command produces output like the following:

```
Looking up for compute service.
Creating 1 nodes on aws-ec2. It may take a while ...
Node fabric-72d5f553 has been succesfully created.
```

```
Installing fabric agent on container mqserver. It may take a while...

Overriding resolver to publichostname.

[id] [container] [public addresses]

[status]

us-east-1/i-72d5f553 mqserver [54.81.141.252]

success
```

Create container and deploy profile in two steps

You can create containers and deploy profiles in separate steps, as follows:

1. Log on to the Fabric Server on EC2 using the client utility:

```
./client -u admin -p admin -h 50.19.18.91
```

2. Create a new Fabric container, mqserver, as follows:

```
Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:container-create-cloud --name aws-ec2 --hardwareId t1.micro --os-family rhel --os-version 6.4 mqserver
```

3. Deploy the profiles mq-default and fabric into the new container, as follows:

```
Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:container-change-profile mqserver mq-default fabric
```

Check the provision status

After creating and deploying, you can test the provision status of the new containers using the fabric:container-list command, as follows:

```
Fabric8:admin@registrygt container-list
[id] [version] [connected] [profiles]
[provision status]
mqserver 1.0 true mq-default, fabric
success
registry* 1.0 true fabric, fabric-ensemble-0000-1, cloud-aws.ec2 success
```

1.9. TERMINATE INSTANCES

Terminating EC2 instances

Terminating an EC2 compute instance means that the instance is completely destroyed and the hardware resources are returned to the pool. In contrast, stopping an instance (which is possible for some machine images) merely shuts down the processes running on the instance, preserving any data and software on the instance.

You can use either of the following approaches to terminate instances on Amazon EC2:

- the section called "Terminate individual instances"
- the section called "Terminate all containers"



IMPORTANT

You should always terminate instances when you are finished with them, in order to minimize usage charges. Stopping an instance is *not* the same as terminating an instance

Terminate individual instances

The cleanest way to terminate an individual compute instance is to use the **fabric:container-delete** console command, as follows:

1. Log on to the remote Fabric Server on EC2, using the client utility:

```
./client -u admin -p admin -h 50.19.18.91
```

2. Enter the following console command:

Fabric8:admin@registry> fabric:container-delete mqserver

The advantage of this command is that all of the corresponding entries in the Fabric Registry are cleaned up, before the container's compute instance is terminated.

Terminate all containers

You can quickly terminate *all* of your compute instances on the EC2 cloud using the <code>jclouds:node-destroy-all</code> command, as follows:

1. Start up your local container:

```
./fuse
```

2. Enter the following console command:

JBossFuse:karaf@root> jclouds:node-destroy-all



NOTE

This example assumes that your entire fabric is hosted in the cloud, so that you do not need to worry about the consistency of registry entries when you delete it. This approach would *not* be appropriate, however, if you have a fabric that overlaps with host machines outside the cloud.