

Upgrade STEP from Java 7 to Java 8

End of java 7 support

As announced with STEP 7.3, when Java 8 became the recommended platform for STEP, the support for Java 7 has ended with the release of STEP 7.4 (aka. the November release), this means:

- The workbench can only run if the client has java 8 installed, though java web start will take care of this if the the user is sufficiently privileged.
- Old sidecars continue to function with java 7, though upgrading sidecars to java 8 is highly recommended.
- New sidecars can only be deployed using java 8.
- The web ui is unchanged and continues to run entirely in the browser.
- The server can only run if java 8 is installed, this is solved by using the Java version included with STEP, which is what the rest of this page is about.

Upgrading the STEP server to 7.4 or newer

From the November 2015 release of STEP, aka. 7.4, STEP comes bundled with the latest released Java JDK from Oracle, the upgrade is largely, but not entirely, automatic.

- When applying the recipe with spot, add the `--stopped` option, so your command ends up looking like this: **spot --stopped --apply=to:step/trailblazer/example.spr**
- Find **Standalone.JavaHome** in `config.properties` and remove it or comment it out.
- Run: **spot --config** to check the configuration and correct any errors reported.
- Run: **spot --start** to start STEP.

Note: The version of java shipped along with STEP is an entirely unaltered and complete copy of the latest official release by Oracle at the time the STEP release was made.

Variations

- If the system is clustered this approach will work, though editing and checking the configuration file is needed on each host before starting the cluster
- If the system is a clustered windows system, then the `sshd` service needs to be reinstalled too.
- If the STEP system already runs with java 8, then the procedure is the same, as STEP prefers to run with the bundled java version.

Failing to follow these instructions

If the administrator fails to use these instructions, then an error will be reported by spot when running configure:

```
Standalone.JavaHome=/opt/jdk1.7.0_60/
```

```
Source /home/ff/projects/test-stable-28/config.properties
```

```
Aliases: Betty.JavaHome
```

The java home directory used when starting STEP in Standalone, this must be a supported 64 bit JVM. The java executable must be located at bin/java relative to the value of this property.

Error: The java installation is not the default one that is shipped by STEP,
please remove Standalone.JavaHome from the configuration file to use:

```
/home/ff/projects/test-stable-28/resources/jdk/8.66.3-linux
```

If you have a specific reason to keep using the non-default java version, set:

```
Standalone.JavaHome.NonDefault=/home/ff/projects/nodelock-old/resources/jdk/8.66.3-linux
```

in stead, this will disable the error until the next time java is upgraded by STEP

In this case the administrator must:

- Remove the **Standalone.JavaHome** property from config.properties
- Run **spot --config** to check the configuration
- Run **spot --start** to start STEP