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IBM WebSphere Application Server Feature Pack for Communications Enabled Applications

Configuring application routing



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This presentation describes the options available for configuring a JSR 289 application router with the IBM WebSphere® Application Server Feature Pack for CEA and shows examples of how to do router configuration.

Agenda

- Application router configuration overview
- How to configure an application router

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Configuring application routing

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The first section of this presentation gives an overview of the different ways you can configure an application router, and the second section shows several examples of how to configure application routing using the administrative console.

Section

Application router configuration overview



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This section provides an overview of application router and the three types of routing policies that are available – application startup order, a properties-based default application router, and a custom application router implementation.

Application routing overview

- Application servers that support the SIP servlet specification often rely on many applications to provide a complete SIP-based service
- Application routing enables deployers to build complex services out of modular components
- The application router:
 - ▶ Determines which application to invoke based on an incoming request
 - ▶ Can access external information (database, subscriber service) to help choose the appropriate application
 - ▶ Is only responsible for routing and does not implement any application logic



SIP servlet application servers are typically provisioned with many different applications. Each application provides specific functionality, but, by invoking multiple applications to service a call, the deployer can build a complex and complete service. This modular and compositional approach makes it easier for application developers to develop new applications and for the deployer to combine applications from different sources and manage feature interaction. A typical example from traditional telephony is a call-screening application and a call-forwarding application. If the application server receives an incoming INVITE destined to a callee who subscribes to both services, both applications should be invoked.

The application router is a separate component, outside of the SIP container. The container receives initial requests, calls the application router to determine which application to invoke, and then the container calls that application. Once the container has called into an application, that application calls into the appropriate servlet to handle the request, based on the application's configuration – for example, using mappings defined in the application's deployment descriptor. By default, WebSphere Application Server uses application startup weights to define the routing order. The JSR 289 specification also defines a Default Application Router (DAR) properties file format and a custom application router application format to describe application routing.

Application routing policies

- **Use application startup order**
 - ▶ Order can be configured from the administrative console
 - ▶ This is the default behavior if no other router options are specified, and is the same as the behavior in previous releases of the application server
- **Use a default application router (DAR) properties file**
- **Use a custom application router JAR file**



The default application routing policy is a basic application routing order based on application startup order. Startup order is typically determined by the order in which applications are installed, but the ordering can be changed later in the administrative console. Applications with the lowest number in the startup order get called first in the application chain. If a request gets proxied, it keeps going through the application chain defined by the ordering. This basic routing configuration offers the same behavior that was available in WebSphere Application Server V6.1.

Application routing policies

- Use application startup order
- **Use a default application router (DAR) properties file**
 - ▶ Use a system property (configured in wsadmin or the administrative console) to identify the location of the DAR file
 - javax.servlet.sip.ar.dar.configuration
 - ▶ Import a DAR properties file in the administrative console
 - ▶ Use the DAR wizard in the administrative console to create routing rules
- Use a custom application router JAR file



A default application router, or DAR, properties file can also be used to configure routing order. The rules for formatting the DAR properties file are defined in the JSR 289 specification. You can define a DAR properties-based router in three ways. First, you can define a system property, using wsadmin or the administrative console, to identify the location of the DAR file. This is the configuration option that is specified in and required by JSR 289. The Feature Pack for CEA also offers some new administrative console panels for working with a DAR properties file configuration. You can import a DAR properties file directly into your configuration from the console, or you can use a special wizard to define application routing rules.

Application routing policies

- Use application startup order
- Use a default application router (DAR) properties file
- **Use a custom application router JAR file**
 - ▶ Use a system property (configured in wsadmin or the administrative console) to identify the JAR location
 - javax.servlet.sip.ar.spi.SipApplicationRouterProvider
 - ▶ Configure the custom router in the administrative console



A custom application router is the most advanced application routing configuration available. A custom application router is a JAR file that contains your application router implementation. This application contains the routing rules for your environment and can reference external sources to pull in relevant user data to help determine the appropriate routing path. A custom application router can be defined using a system property or through the administrative console.

Section

How to configure an application router



This section of the presentation includes several examples of how to configure an application router from the administrative console.

Configuring application startup order

Go to **Environment > SIP application routers**, and click the link for **DefaultSIPApplicationRouter**

The screenshot shows the IBM WebSphere Application Server Administration Console interface. On the left, there is a navigation tree under the 'View: All tasks' dropdown. The 'Environment' section is expanded, and the 'SIP application routers' item is selected and highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this selection to the main content area.

The main content area has a title bar 'Cell=AIMCP019Node01Cell profile=AppSrv01' and 'SIP application routers > DefaultSIPApplicationRouter'. Below this is a descriptive text: 'Use this page to view or modify the targets associated with the default application router (DAR). You can specify the order in which SIP applications are executed at an initial SIP request for each associated target.' There is a 'Configuration' tab and a 'General Properties' panel.

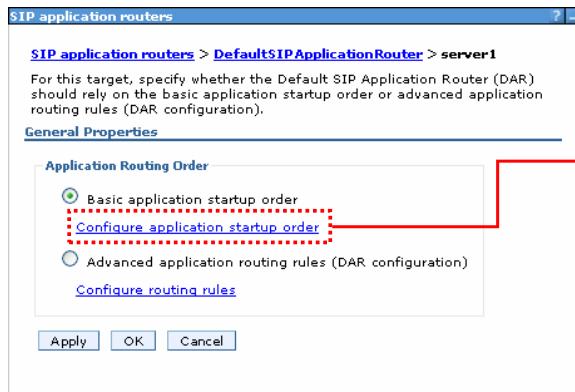
In the 'General Properties' panel, the 'SIP application router name' is set to 'DefaultSIPApplicationRouter'. Under the 'Targets' section, there is a 'Move to Application Router' dropdown and a 'Select: Target Full Name' input field. An option 'server1' is listed, with a red box around it and a red arrow pointing to it from the left side. A 'Done' button is at the bottom of the panel.

On the right side of the main content area, there is a callout box with the text: 'Click the link for the target that you want to modify the default routing settings on, in this case, **server1**'.

At the bottom of the screen, there is a decorative footer bar with various icons and the text 'Configuring application routing' and '© 2009 IBM Corporation'.

Application startup order is a basic form of application routing that is used by default in the feature pack. You can change the startup order of the applications in your server under the DefaultSIPApplicationRouter. Expand environment and go into the SIP application routers section. Click the link for the DefaultSIPApplicationRouter, and then you will see a panel similar to the one shown here that lists the targets defined in your environment. A target is something like a server or a cluster that you want to define a set of routing rules for. In this case, there is only one server defined in this profile, so that is the only target available. Click the name of the target you want to configure.

Configuring application startup order



Application startup order defines the order in which application routing will take place; click **Configure application startup order** to set the startup weights



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There are two options for the DefaultSIPApplicationRouter configuration object – either the basic application startup order, or application routing rules defined in a DAR properties configuration. To enable basic application routing using startup order, be sure that the radio button next to that option is selected (this option is selected by default). To modify the startup weights, click the text **Configure application startup order**.

Configuring application startup order

The screenshot shows a web-based administrative interface for managing application startup orders. The title bar reads "SIP application routers". Below it, the breadcrumb navigation shows "SIP application routers > DefaultSIPApplicationRouter > server1 > Startup order". A note states: "Specify the application startup order weights, which will in turn define the order in which SIP requests are routed to applications. Note: This page and the application level Startup behavior pages modify the same underlying application startup order values." A "Preferences" link is present. The main content area contains a table with two columns: "Startup order weight" and "Application name". The table has two rows: one for "1" (with value "ivtApp") and one for "4" (with value "query"). A red dashed box highlights the "Startup order weight" column, and a red bracket points from this box to the explanatory text below.

Enter the required application weights on this panel and click the **Update** button to update your configuration; lower numbers mean the application starts earlier



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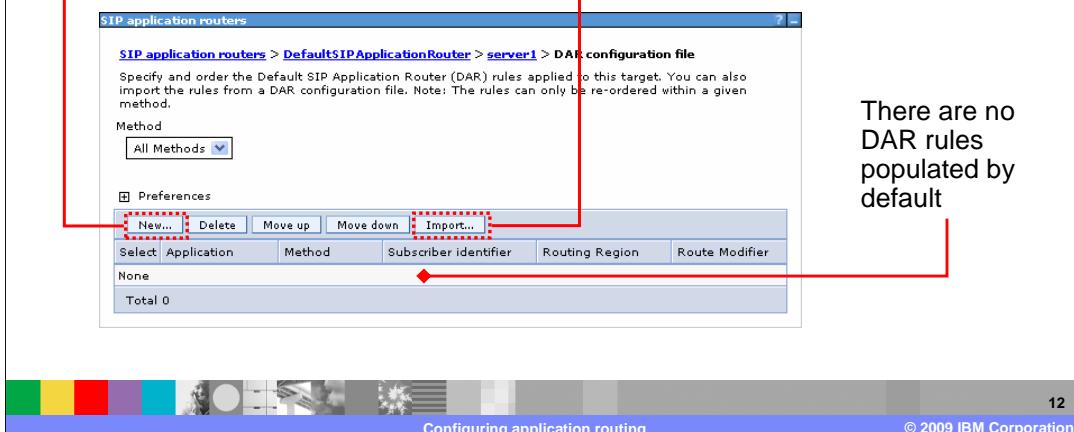
The application startup order panel lists all of the applications installed on this target and their current startup order. To change the startup order, type a number into a field on the left of the table, then click the Update button. Many fields can be changed and updated at the same time. Applications with lower numbers start earlier.

Configuring DAR routing rules

Access the DAR configuration file page under **SIP application routers > DefaultSIPApplicationRouter**, then click the link for the appropriate target and select **Configure routing rules**

Use the **New** button to create a new routing rule

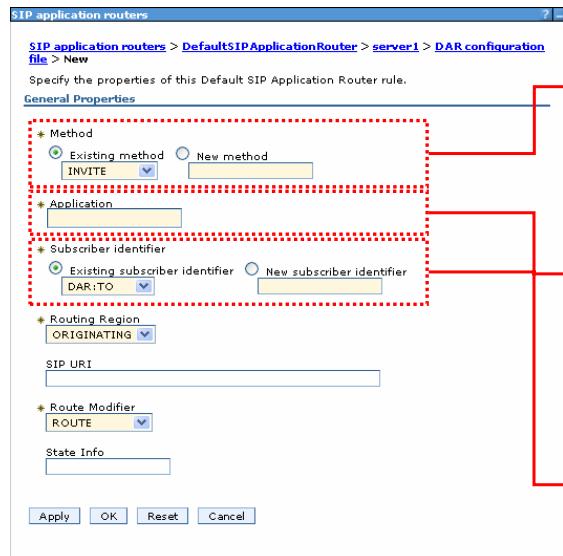
Use the **Import** button to import a DAR properties file that contains rules for this target



DAR configuration properties are also configured on the DefaultSIPApplicationRouter object. Only one DefaultSIPApplicationRouter object is defined per target, so a target cannot use both startup order and DAR configuration rules at the same time.

To work with DAR routing rules, go to the DefaultSIPApplicationRouter page in the console, select the target you want to configure routing rules for, and then click the Configure routing rules text. In order for the rules you define to take affect, you also need to select the radio button next to DAR configuration. The DAR configuration file page does not contain any routing rules by default – you need to define them. You can define them one at a time by clicking the **New** button to create a routing rule, or, you can import a DAR properties file into your configuration by clicking the **Import** button then providing the location of the properties file.

Adding a routing rule



Specifies the method being used in the request; can use standard SIP methods or custom text

Indicates the name of SIP application module, as known to the container, that requests corresponding to this rule are routed to

Provides the identity of the subscriber that the router returns – can come from a SIP message header or custom text



The administrative console provides a panel that includes all of the fields associated with defining an application routing rule. The method field specifies the method being used in the request that this rule is designed to process. The method can be either an existing method (the dropdown menu contains a list of standard SIP method names) or some other custom text that represents a method in your application. The application name field indicates name of SIP application module, as known to the container, that requests corresponding to this rule are routed to. This might be different than the name of the application. If the console detects any installed SIP modules on the server, this field will become a drop down list, populated with the module names. If no SIP modules are found, you are given a text field. The subscriber identifier field provides the identity of the subscriber that the router returns. This can be based on a SIP message header or can be any custom text.

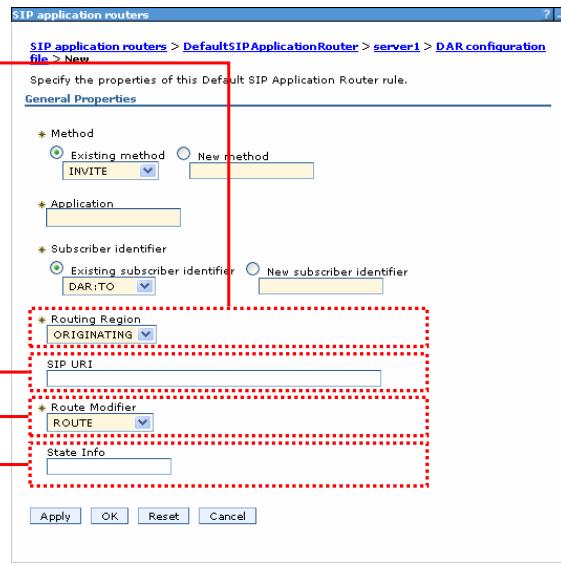
Adding a routing rule

Indicates the routing region for this rule: ORIGINATING, NEUTRAL, TERMINATING

Specifies the SIP URI that indicates the route as returned by the application router – can be an empty string

Contains the route modifier: ROUTE, ROUTE_BACK, NO_ROUTE

Provides state information, for internal use by the router only



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The routing region field indicates the routing region for this rule – either ORIGINATING, NEUTRAL, or TERMINATING. These regions are defined in the JSR 289 specification and are the only options available. The SIP URI field specifies the SIP URI that indicates the route, as returned by the application router. This is an optional field. The route modifier field can be either ROUTE, ROUTE_BACK, or NO_ROUTE – like with the routing region, these values are defined by the specification. The state info field is optional and can contain any other state information that the router might need to use.

Configuring a custom application router

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Application Router allows a user to select which order the SIP applications are executed at an initial SIP request. Once the application is chosen, the SIP Container utilizes the deployment descriptor or annotations to choose the appropriate servlet to execute within that application. Users are able to either utilize the WebSphere default application router or specify their own Application Router adhering to the SIP Servlet specification. The WebSphere default application router allows the user to specify a basic ordering of SIP applications or a properties file based configuration as outlined in the SIP Servlet specification.

SIP application routers

Select: SIP Application Router Name ▾

You can administer the following resources:

- DefaultSIPApplicationRouter
- MyCustomApplicationRouter

Total 2

Go to Environment > SIP Application Routers, and click the **New** button to add a new custom application router implementation

A custom application router configuration is easy to define in the administrative console. Start by going to the SIP application routers page, then click the **New** button to add a new custom application router implementation to your configuration repository.

Configuring a custom application router

The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Application Router allows a user to select which order the SIP applications are executed at an initial SIP request. Once the application is chosen, the SIP Container utilizes the deployment descriptor or annotations to choose the appropriate servlet to execute within that application. Users are able to either utilize the WebSphere default application router or specify their own Application Router adhering to the SIP Servlet specification. The WebSphere default application router allows the user to specify a basic ordering of SIP applications or a properties file based configuration as outlined in the SIP Servlet specification.

Configuration

General Properties

* SIP application router name
* Full path to SIP application router JAR file

Apply OK Reset Cancel

Provide a name for the application router and the full path to the application router JAR file, click **OK** and then **Save** the changes on the next page



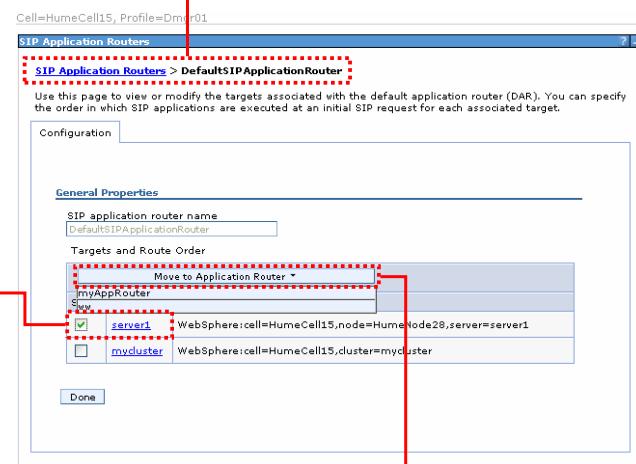
A custom application router is an application, packaged in a JAR file, that defines how application routing needs to work for your application set. The application structure and packaging is defined in the JSR 289 specification. On this panel, provide the name of the application router and the full path to the application router JAR file. This JAR also needs to be included in the classpath for the server.

Configuring an application router target

Go to **Environment > SIP application routers** and choose the application router that is associated with the target you want to change

Select the target you want to change from the list of targets

Use the **Move to Application Router** menu to choose the application router to associate with the target



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The target for an application router can be changed after the router is created. To move a target to a new application router, go to the **SIP application routers** page and choose the router that's currently associated with the target that you want to modify. This will take you to a panel similar to the one shown on this page. Select the box next to the target you want to move, then click **Move to Application Router**. This brings up a list of application routers that are defined in your environment. Choose the application router that you want to associate with the selected target, then click the **Done** button.

Using properties to configure a router

In the administrative console, expand **Servers > WebSphere Application Servers** and click the link for your server name

The screenshot shows the 'Application servers' configuration page for 'server1'. The 'Runtime' tab is selected. In the 'Container Settings' section, the 'Session management' node is expanded, revealing the 'SIP Container Settings' node, which is also highlighted with a red dotted border.

Expand the SIP Container Settings section and choose SIP container

In addition to using the new graphical configuration panels in the administrative console to configure your application router, you can also use the system properties defined in the JSR 289 specification to add either a DAR properties-based router or a custom application router to your configuration. The next few pages show how to define these system properties from the console. Start by opening the page for your server and going to the SIP container page under SIP Container Settings.

Using properties to configure a router

The screenshot shows two application server configuration windows:

- Application servers > server1 > SIP container**: This window displays general properties like Maximum application sessions (120000), Maximum messages per averaging period (5000), and Maximum dispatch queue size (3200 events). A red box highlights the "Custom properties" link under Additional Properties.
- Application servers > server1 > SIP container > Custom properties**: This window allows adding new custom properties. A red box highlights the "New" button in the toolbar.

Annotations on the left side of the interface:

- A red box surrounds the "Custom properties" link in the first window, with the text: "From the SIP container page, click Custom properties".
- A red box surrounds the "New" button in the second window, with the text: "Click New to add a property for your router".

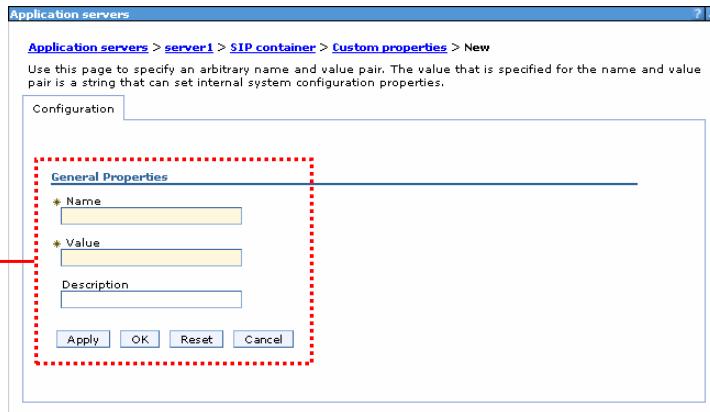
Bottom right corner of the interface: 19 | Configuring application routing | © 2009 IBM Corporation

From the SIP container page, click Custom properties, then click the New button to add a property to define the location of your router.

Using properties to configure a router

Provide the property name and value, then click **Apply** and **Save** your changes

Restart the application server for the changes to take effect



Custom router property name: javax.servlet.sip.ar.spi.SipApplicationRouterProvider
Custom router property value: Fully qualified class name of router implementation

DAR properties router property name: javax.servlet.sip.ar.dar.configuration
DAR properties router property value: Location of the DAR properties file containing the routing rules



The JSR 289 specification defines two system properties for application routers – one for a DAR properties file router and one for a custom application router implementation file. Provide the name and value for the property you need to define then apply and save your changes. If you are defining a custom application router, the JAR file that contains the implementation also needs to be in your server's classpath. You need to restart your server for these application router configuration changes to take effect.

Section

Summary and reference



Configuring application routing

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This section contains a summary and reference.

Summary

- Application routing can be configured using:
 - ▶ Application startup order
 - ▶ Default application router properties
 - ▶ Custom application router implementation
- New panels in the administrative console enable application router configuration



Configuring application routing

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Application routing is a new capability defined in JSR 289 that allows you to create end-to-end services by chaining together many SIP applications. Application routing can be defined in three ways using the Feature Pack for CEA – using basic application startup order, a default application router properties file, or a custom application router implementation. There are new panels in the administrative console to enable application router configuration.

Reference

- JSR 289 specification
 - ▶ <http://jcp.org/aboutJava/communityprocess/final/jsr289/index.html>



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