



Integrate Chef with Embotics vCommander to Provision and Manage Chef nodes

by **Helen Abbott**, on Dec 22, 2015 8:00:00 AM

Integrate Chef with Embotics® vCommander™ to provision and manage Chef nodes

If you use **Chef** as your IT automation platform, you can seamlessly integrate Chef with Embotics® vCommander™ to provision and manage Chef nodes. With vCommander, you can predefine your Chef node configuration right in the service catalog. Requested VMs can be automatically deployed and configured as Chef nodes.

Multi-tenant support

You can integrate multiple Chef servers or multiple Chef organizations with vCommander, depending on how you're using Chef. This multi-tenant support extends throughout vCommander's automated provisioning, including the service catalog, request forms, workflows and workflow variables. For example, if you have one Chef organization for Linux and one for Windows, you can add both of these as separate integrations, so that vCommander is aware of the two distinct sets of users, cookbooks, recipes and roles. You can set the Chef organization in the service catalog blueprint, which means that you can easily configure the service definition for use by a specific tenant.

Synchronize with Chef to retrieve roles, recipes and environments

When you integrate a Chef server or a Chef organization, vCommander synchronizes with Chef to retrieve all of the configured roles, recipes and environments. Synchronization also matches any VMs

currently managed by vCommander to nodes registered with the Chef server. The synchronization task runs every night by default, but you can run it manually, and edit the synchronization schedule.

Type	Sev	Ti	Us	Description
Chef	Info	2015	su	Synchronized Chef configuration with "https://chef.pv.embotics.com:443/organizations/dev" - found 2 new nodes
Chef	Info	2015	su	Synchronized Chef configuration with "https://chef.pv.embotics.com:443/organizations/dev" - read 558 recipes.
Chef	Info	2015	su	Synchronized Chef configuration with "https://chef.pv.embotics.com:443/organizations/dev" - read 2 roles.
Chef	Info	2015	su	Synchronized Chef configuration with "https://chef.pv.embotics.com:443/organizations/dev" - read 3 environments

Integrating with Chef retrieves roles, recipes, environments and nodes

Configure Chef information in the service catalog

You can specify the default Chef organization, environment, recipes and roles for a component in the service catalog blueprint. Workflow variables allow you to return the specified values.

The screenshot shows a configuration page for a service catalog blueprint. At the top, there are tabs for 'Infrastructure', 'Resources', 'Attributes', 'Chef', and 'Form', with 'Chef' currently selected. Below the tabs, a heading reads 'Set Chef configuration for this component. On the Form tab, you can allow requesters to modify the recipe and role defaults.' The configuration is organized into sections: 'Chef Organization' with a dropdown set to 'dev'; 'Chef Environment' with a dropdown set to 'jd-env-1'; 'Property' and 'Default Value' sections. Under 'Property', 'Chef Recipes' is listed with a note 'Ctrl-click to select multiple values' and a list of recipes: '7-zip', 'apache2', 'apache2::god_monitor', and 'apache2::iptables'. Under 'Default Value', 'Chef Roles' is listed with a note 'Ctrl-click to select multiple values' and a list of roles: 'linux' and 'windows'. On the right side, there is a 'Did You Know?' callout box with a lightbulb icon, containing the text: 'You must create a completion workflow to send the request settings to the Chef server. [Learn More](#)'. A 'Hide Did You Know?' link is located at the bottom right of the callout box.

Configure default Chef information in the vCommander service catalog blueprint

Allow users to configure Chef information when requesting VMs

If you want to allow users to specify Chef roles and/or recipes when requesting a new service, you can configure this in the service catalog blueprint as well. You can then use the form selections as input to a VM completion workflow or command workflow.

Allow requesters to modify the default component settings configured on the other tabs.

Allow users to specify Chef roles and recipes on the request form

If you want to allow requesters to select the Chef environment on the form, you can create a list-type custom attribute and add it to the blueprint form.

Infrastructure Resources Attributes **Chef** Form

Assign metadata with custom attributes. On the Form tab, you can allow requesters to set values for these attributes.

Attribute Name	Default Value
Chef Environment	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;"> ▼ </div> <div style="padding: 2px;"> development testing staging production </div> </div> 🗑️


[+ Add Attributes](#)

Allow users to specify the Chef environment for new VMs

Example completion workflow provided

vCommander includes two example Chef workflows for you to customize — one for Linux and one for Windows. These example workflows create the Chef node, install and configure the Chef client on the VM, and configure the Chef server. And once you've customized a completion workflow, you can copy it and make modifications for other operating systems.

Configure Chef Step Details

 This step configures the Chef Server

Step Name:	<input type="text" value="Create Node"/>
Step Execution:	Always execute <input type="button" value="Edit"/>
Organization:	Automatic
Action:	Create Node
Node:	<code>#{target.dnsName}</code> <input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="#{.}"/>
Environment:	<code>#{target.settings.chef.environment}</code> <input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="#{.}"/>
Recipes:	<code>#{target.settings.chef.recipes}</code> <input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="#{.}"/>
Roles:	<code>#{target.settings.chef.roles}</code> <input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="#{.}"/>

Create a Chef node with a completion workflow


View Chef node configuration

When vCommander identifies a VM as a Chef node, a Chef tab is added to the Guest OS Details pane for the VM.

Summary | **Guest OS Details** | Performance Charts | Performance Summary

PV-Sanity-Chef-W2K8

OS Details | Applications | Services | Hot Fixes | **Chef**

 **Node Configuration for winjune22.PV.embotics.com**

Environment
jd-env-1

Roles
linux

Recipes
apache2
apache2::god_monitor

Service Portal users can view the configuration for a Chef node

Automatically decommission Chef nodes

You can easily configure a decommissioning completion workflow that configures the Chef server to delete the Chef node, powers off the node and deletes the node from disk. You can also create a command workflow that can be run on individual VMs, using these same steps.

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