DEV-1268: IBM Connections Adminblast

Nico Meisenzahl, panagenda
Christoph Stoettner, panagenda

Connect
2017

IBM

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Nico Meisenzahl

- Consultant at panagenda
- IBM Connections since version 3.0 / 2010
- IBM Notes / Domino since 2008
- Focusing in ICS
  - Deployment & consulting
  - Optimization and migration
- "panagendian" since 2016
- First time IBM Champion

@nmeisenzahl
 linkedin.com/in/nicomeisenzahl
 meisenzahl.org
 nico.meisenzahl
 +49 170 7355081
 nico.meisenzahl@panagenda.com

IBM**CHAMPION**

Christoph Stoettner

 @stoeps
 linkedin.com/in/christophstoettner
 www.stoeps.de
 christophstoettner
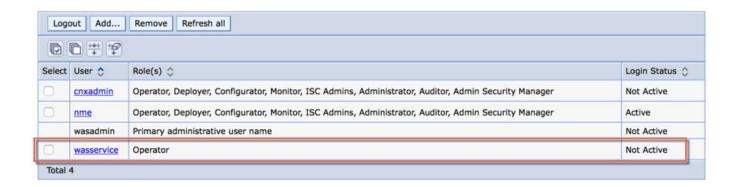 +49 173 8588719
 christoph.stoettner@panagenda.com

- Senior Consultant – panagenda
  - IBM Notes / Domino since 1999
  - IBM Connections since version 2.5 / 2009
- Experience in:
  - Migrations
  - Administration and Install
  - Performance Analysis
- Focusing in:
  - IBM Connections deployment und optimization
  - IBM Connections monitoring
- Husband of one & father of two, Bavarian
- Beer or Wine? ... Depends

Let's get started!

#1 Use custom user for WebSphere services

- Stopping WebSphere requires a user and password
  - soap.client.props
  - Service definition (/etc/init.d/ or Windows registry)
- Increase security
  - Use different passwords
    - Plain password on Linux
    - Encoded (not encrypted) on Windows
  - Create a local WebSphere user with "operator" access level
    - WebSphere service user only needs access level to start/stop/restart the environment

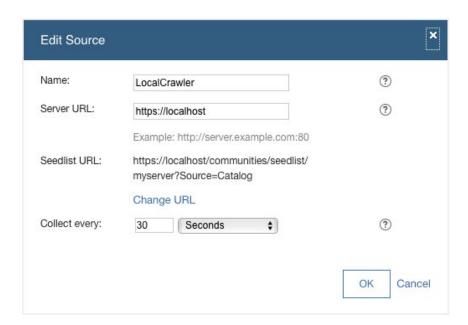# #2 *globalSenderEmailAddress* is not working completely

- *<property name="globalSenderEmailAddress">mail@mail.com</property>*
  <property name="alwaysUseGlobalSender">true</property>
  <property name="globalSenderName">Connections Newsletter</property>
- If you use globalSenderEmailAddress (notification-config.xml)
  - Mails contain reply-to address "news-admin@example.com"
  - So replies of users can't be delivered
- You need to configure all mail addresses one by one

#3 Do not change the Community catalog seedlist url

- Using *https://cnx.pana.local*
  - Connections will try to access seedlists using HTTPS on host *cnx.pana.local*
  - Does not support TLS 1.2
- Using *https://localhost*
  - This is the default value which will do something complete different
  - Connections will use a internal (not HTTPS) request to access the seedlists
  - Supports multi-node environments

#4 WAS & 4096-bit SSL keys

- Will not work out of the box if using 4096-bit key
  - On IBM HTTP Server
  - With any third-party integration (iNotes, …)
- You need to copy the unrestricted java policy to every node
  - Download here
    ⏻https://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/iwm/web/preLogin.do?source=jcesdk
  - Copy to <was_home>/java/jre/lib/security
  - You need to redo this every WebSphere Java update ;-)
- WAS is now able to connect to those hosts

- You can use JVM generic properties instead of the *application.conf* file
  - *-Dephox.allowed-origins.origins.0=https://cnx.pana.local*
    -Dephox.allowed-origins.origins.1=http://cnx.pana.local
    -Dephox.allowed-origins.url=https://cnx.pana.local/ephox-allowed-origins/cors
  - Skip the last line for 5.5 CR2 and later

#6 Do not trigger seedlist validation regularly

- Seedlist validation does NOT delete temp files
  - New seedlist data will be created every time
  - Could cause full disk space
    - *<localdata>/search/persistence/seedlist*.attempted.xml*
    - Amount depends on environment
- Happens when
  - Accessing */search/serverStatus*
  - Calling *SearchService.validateSeedlist("")*

#7 Tuning your database

- Heavily increase performance by running DB2 maintenance tasks
- Scripts available within *<cnxroot>/xkit/connections.sql/*
- Run in following order:
  - *Runstat*
  - *Reorg*
  - *Runstat*
- Run them regularly
- You need to build own scripts for custom databases
  - I will post some insights on ⏻ https://meisenzahl.org in the next weeks

- If so, some of your users may be unable to use SSO
  - Users with many group memberships
  - Mostly VIPs ;-)
- SPNEGO authentication header can have up to 12392 bytes
  - Default LimitRequestFieldSize size is 8192 bytes
- Add *LimitRequestFieldSize 16384* into your *httpd.conf*
  - Will prevent: *HTTP 400 - Bad Request (Request header too long)*
  - The whole group membership is stored within the header

#9 "TLS 1.2 only" environments

- Possible, but you need:
  - Connections 5.5 CR2 including latest Textbox.io, FEB
  - WebSphere 8.5.5.9
- FileNet Config Manager will not work
- Docs/Viewer will need a *httpd.conf* customization
  - RewriteCond %{HTTPS} !=on
    RewriteCond %{Request_URI} !/docs
    RewriteCond %{Request_URI} !/conversion
    RewriteCond %{Request_URI} !/viewer
    https://%{SERVER_NAME}/$1 [NE,R,L]
- You need to configure some more stuff
- Please do not try this with a previous Connections version!
  - You will find the whole story here ⏻ https://meisenzahl.org/2016/10/26/using-tls-1-2-only-configuration-with-ibm-connections/

#10 Tuning search index

- Only use one search dictionary!
  – Issues since Connections 2.5
- Enable "Accent-insensitive search"
  – You will find "René" when searching for "Rene"
- Enable "1 to 2 matching"
  – You will find "Stoettner" when searching for "Stöttner"
- Include Connections type ahead search (Apache Solr)
- "Ignore Punctuation" setting is not working
  – Searching for "IBM" will not display "I.B.M" within results

#11 Do not use IBM JRE for Apache Solr

- Apache Solr is needed for Connections type ahead search
- IBM JRE will break some Solr Dashboard Widgets
- More information (thanks Ben!)
  - ⏻ https://collaborationben.com/2016/06/22/which-jre-to-use-with-ibm-connections-solr/
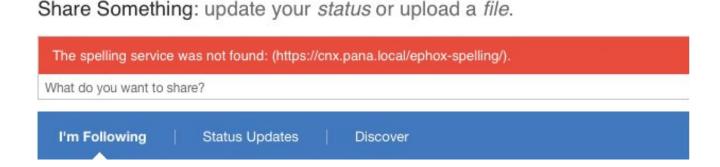
- Export all user mail addresses using a SQL export
- Change role using a wsadmin call
  - ProfilesService.setBatchRole(EMPLOYEE_EXTENDED, "mail.txt")
- More information
  - ⏻ http://www.stoeps.de/adding-employee_extended-to-all-users/
- Changing role directly within the database is not supported!

#13 Using Textbox.io spellchecking service with Chrome
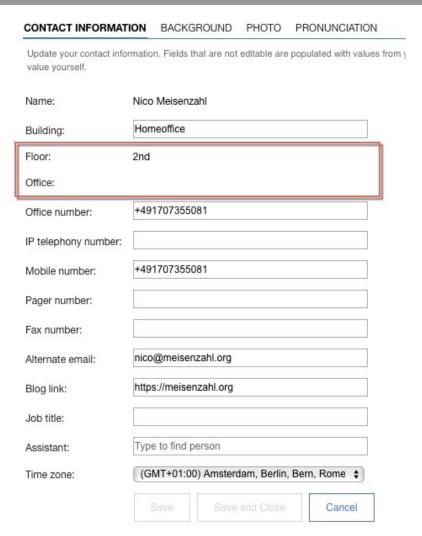
- You need to import your SSL chain into the WebSphere cacerts store
  - cacerts store is located in *<was_home>/java/jre/lib/security*
  - You need to redo this every WebSphere Java update
- If not, you will get a HTTP 500 for https://<url>/ephox-spelling/1/correction
- More information (thanks Michael!)
  - ⏻ https://www.urspringer.de/2016/02/16/ssl-certificate-issue-with-ephox-textbox-io-editor-in-ibm-connections-5-5/

Share Something: update your *status* or upload a *file*.

The spelling service was not found: (https://cnx.pana.local/ephox-spelling/).

What do you want to share?

I'm Following | Status Updates | Discover

#14 Read-only and read-write profile fields

- Synced profile fields should be read-only!
- Please recheck your configuration
  - We have seen this too many times!
- Customize *profiles-type.xml* as needed
  - *readwrite*
  - *read*

- Thumbnail file path is stored within database
  - Hard coded, no variables are used
- You need to manually adjust them after changing the Connections shared directory path
- More Information
  - ⏻ https://meisenzahl.org/2016/06/28/url-preview-pictures-not-displayed-migration/

#16 ACCE (FileNet Admin Interface) login isn't working

- Exclude */acce* from mod_deflate (httpd.conf)
  - *SetEnvIf Request_URI ^/acce(.*) no-gzip dont-vary*
- Use English as browser language

#17 Extend SPNEGO exclusion filter

- Prevent issues with some widgets
  - *request-url!=/profiles/widget-catalog/;request-url!=/Calendar.xml;request-url!=/Recomm.xml*
- When using Docs or/and Viewer
  - *request-url!=/docs/;request-url!=/conversion/;request-url!=/viewer*
- When using Mac Connections Plugin
  - *request-url!=/files/serviceconfigs*
- Tip: Save krb5.conf and keytab outsize the WebSphere java folder

#18 FEB browser setup isn't working

- Launches on new installation or upgrade when access */forms*
- Will not work with non-English browser languages
  - UI is only available in English
- Tip: Use portable Firefox

- Delete temp directories after every iFix or CR update
  - <appsrv-profile>/temp/*
  - <appsrv-profile>/wstemp/*
- If not, you will get nice UI bugs ;-)

#20 Wiki images are missing after 5.5 GA upgrade

- Short mod_rewrite rule will fix this issue
  - *RewriteRule "^/library/(.*)" "/wikis/form/api/library/$1" [R,L]*
- Do not use the fix IBM provided
  - Insecure mod_proxy configuration!
- Fixed with 5.5 CR1
- More information
  - ⏻ http://www.stoeps.de/missing-images-in-wikis-after-migration-to-ibm-connections-5-5/

- Why? You have issues on startup or you are unable to access /acce
- Add debug settings using JVM generic properties
  - *-DskipTLC=true -Dlog4j.configuration=file://log4j.xml*
- More information
  - ⏻ https://meisenzahl.org/2015/12/13/debugging-filenet-issues-without-using-acce/

- LoadModule deflate_module modules/mod_deflate.so
- DeflateCompressionLevel 6
- AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/atom+xml
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/atomcat+xml
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/javascript
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/json
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/octet-stream
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/x-javascript
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/xhtml+xml
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/xml
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/css
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/html
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/javascript
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/plain
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/xml
  AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/xsl
- SetEnvIf Request_URI ^/acce(.*) no-gzip dont-vary
  SetEnvIfNoCase Request_URI \\.(zip|exe|jar|gz|jpe?g|png)$ no-gzip dont-vary
  Header append Vary User-Agent env=!dont-vary

#23 When doing a FileNet or Docs upgrade…

- …do not forget to remap applications
  - FileNet & Navigator
  - Docs, Viewer & Conversion
- Without they will not be accessible through IHS

#24 Recheck */docs* and */viewer* interservice URL

- There were some issues in previous versions
  - Missing interservice URLs
  - Double entries
- Some stuff isn't working properly without
  - CCM integration
  - Access file preview via Activity Stream

#25 How-to: Delete Communities using REST

- First REST call will put the Community into the trash
- Second call will purge the Community completely
- Tip: When creating Communities within monitoring checks you should execute the REST call twice!
- More information
  - ⏻ https://www-10.lotus.com/ldd/lcwiki.nsf/xpAPIViewer.xsp?lookupName=IBM+Connections+5.5+API+Documentation#action=openDocument&res_title=Deleting_communities_programmatically_ic55&content=apicontent

- Recheck NUMDB value after every Connections database upgrade
  - *db2 get dbm cfg | grep NUMDB*
- SQL update scripts sometimes include NUMDB settings
- If not, you will get issues when using integrations like Docs, FEB or third-party

- Oracle database users are created through the Connections Wizard SQL scripts
- Oracle default user password expiration value is 365 days
  - *ALTER PROFILE DEFAULT LIMIT PASSWORD_LIFE_TIME UNLIMITED*

#28 Debug user synchronization

- Profile & user synchronization (<tdisol>/etc/profiles_tdi.properties)
  - source_ldap_debug=true
  - debug_update_profile=true
  - debug_collect=true
- TDI issues (<tdisol>/etc/log4j.properties)
  - log4j.rootCategory=DEBUG, Default
- sync_updates_clean_temp_files=false
  - This will force TDI not to delete the temp files
    - LDAP export
    - Database export

- Recheck your configuration after installing Connections or Docs UNC share access
  - WebSphere variables - Slashes have to be forward slashes
  - *sib-engine.xml* - Slashes have to be backward slashes
    - Alternatively use *${MESSAGE_STORE_PATH}*
- More information (Thanks Victor!)
  - ⏻ https://notesbusters.com/2016/02/22/connections-5-5-install-problem-for-websphere-cluster-settings-with-unc-shares/

- DB2 will work 90 days without a license
- You can check your license status using *db2licm −I*
  - *Expiry date: "Permanent"*
- Tip: You will need a new TSAMP license when using DB2 HADR with TSAMP after upgrading to DB2 10.5 FP8

#31 Debug Windows Connections plugin

- Launch *DITrace.exe (<installpath>/Connections Desktop Plugins*)
- Reproduce issues
- Save traces using *DITrace.exe*
- More information
  - ⏻ https://www-01.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21681420

#32 Strong ciphers configuration (SSL LABS A)

- SSLCipherSpec ALL NONE
- SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
  SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
- Notes 8.5.x and < TLS 1.2 support (SSL LABS A-)
  - SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA
  - SSLCipherSpec ALL +TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA

- Required versions
  - Connections 5.5 CR2
  - Docs 2 CR1
- You need to customize *viewer-config.json* and include some MIME types
- Editing macro enabled files will work out of the box
- More information
  - ⏻ https://meisenzahl.org/2017/01/01/preview-xlsm-files-within-ibm-connections/

#34 Reimport Highway settings after 5.5 migration

- Otherwise, Activity Streams (Homepage, Profiles) will not work
  - Access issues caused by missing permissions
- Copy "00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000.json"
  - From *<cnxshared>/configuration/*
  - To *<cnxshared>/configuration/update*
- *execfile("highwayAdmin.py")*
  HighwayService.updateSettingsFromFile()
- *More information (Thanks Michele!)*
  - ⏻ https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/community/blogs/4021cbfe-77ed-4a39-89de-59b2fd63adb5/entry/IBM_Connections_5_5_403_error_for_the_Activity_Stream_in_Profiles_after_migration?lang=en

#35 Connections 5.5 browser push notification

- New App: PushNotification
- Based on long-polling requests
  - Client sends POST request to */push/form/comet/connect*
  - Server holds the request open and waits until response information becomes available
  - Server responses or timeout kills the request
  - Client sends new POST request...
- Recheck your threads configuration on IHS and WAS
  - *ThreadLimit* in *httpd.conf*
  - Web Container Thread Pool for every App-Server

- WAS: Customize JVM generic properties for all JVMs
  - *-Duser.language=en -Duser.region=US*
  - Non-English logs are causing issues
- TDI: Customize ibmdisrv.sh/bat
  - *LOG_4J="-Dlog4j.configuration=file:etc/log4j.properties" -Duser.language=en -Duser.region=US*

- LoadModule proxy_module modules/mod_proxy.so
LoadModule proxy_http_module modules/mod_proxy_http.so
- ProxyRequests Off
- <Proxy *>
    Order deny,allow
    Allow from all
</Proxy>
- ProxyPass /abc http://<fqdn>/abc
ProxyPassReverse /abc http://<fqdn>/abc

#38 Monitoring WAS

- **Using PMI**
  - Analyze WebSphere related stuff (Connections pool size, Heap size)
  - Included
  - More information
    - ⏻http://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/SS7K4U_8.5.5/com.ibm.websphere.nd.multiplatform.doc/ae/cprf_pmidata.html

- **Using Health Center**
  - Full stack (CPU, I/O, Java runtime, Threads)
  - Eclipse IDE Plugin
  - More information
    - ⏻http://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/SS3KLZ/com.ibm.java.diagnostics.healthcenter.doc/topics/introduction.html

#39 Configure log rotation

- WAS
  - Within JVM settings
  - Don't forget to configure all JVMs
  - Issues within Connections installer
    - Recheck settings after installation!
- DB2
  - *db2 update dbm cfg using diagsize 256*
  - Delete logs after X days (crontab, scheduled task)
- TDI
  - Customize *<tdisol>/etc/log4j.properties*
    - log4j.appender.Default=org.apache.log4j.RollingFileAppender
      log4j.appender.Default.MaxFileSize=10MB
      log4j.appender.Default.MaxBackupIndex=10
- IHS
  - Customize *httpd.conf*
    - ErrorLog "|/<ihsroot>/bin/rotatelog −l /opt/IBM/HTTPServer/log/error_log.%Y.%m.%d 10M"
    - CustomLog"|/<ihsroot>/bin/rotatelog −l /opt/IBM/HTTPServer/log/access_log.%Y.%m.%d 10M" common
  - Delete logs after X days (crontab, scheduled task)

- Why?
  - Customize displayed/available profile fields
  - Enable or disable profile widgets
- Configure "profileType" within *map_dbrepos_from_source.properties*
- Customize profiles-types.xml
- Customize widgets-config.xml
  - <layout resourceSubType="<customprofile>"

    …

    </layout>

#41 How-to: Configure mobile push using forward proxy

- Connections environment is unable to connect to Apple/Google push gateway directly
- Customize *mobile-config.xml*
  - \<ProxyHost\> \</ProxyHost\>
    \<ProxyPort\> \</ProxyPort\>
- Configure authentication alias if needed
  - proxyMobilePushNotificationJAASAuth

#42 WebSphere & DH key size

- WAS supports only 2048 bit or less
- Enforce a specific DH key size
  - *<washome>/java/jre/lib/security/java.security*
    - jdk.tls.disabledAlgorithms=DH keySize <768
- Define DH key size on Domino
  - Default DH key size was increased to 4096 bit with Domino 9.0.1 FP4 IF2
  - SSL_DH_KEYSIZE=2048 (notes.ini)
    - Requires at least Domino 9.0.1 FP3 IF2
  - Mail integration!
- More information (Thanks Ben!)
  - ⏻ https://collaborationben.com/2016/07/12/ibm-connections-mail-and-ephemeral-diffie-hellman-key-size-error/

#43 Post-upgrade task: CR2 Surveys

- Rewrite */forms* to prevent broken links/bookmarks
  - RewriteRule ^/forms/(.*)$ https://%{SERVER_NAME}/surveys/$1 [NE,L,R]

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#44 Extend wsadmin on Linux

- *rlwrap* will allow you to use command history and arrow keys within *wsadmin*
  - ⏻ https://github.com/hanslub42/rlwrap
- *rlwrap ./wsadmin −lang jython*
- This is also working for other command line based tools
  - *db2*
  - *SQLPLUS*

#45 Include mobile links in notification mails

- Allows users to access content using Connections mobile apps
- notification-config.xml
  - <includeMobileLinksInNotifications>true</includeMobileLinksInNotifications>

- Customize *httpd.conf*
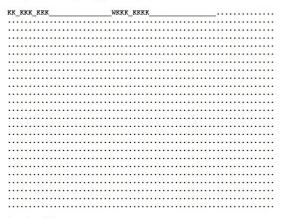 - LoadModule status_module modules/mod_status.so
  - <IfModule mod_status.c>
    ExtendedStatus On
    <Location /server-status>
        SetHandler server-status
        Order deny, allow
        Allow from 127.0.0.1
    </Location>
    </IfModule>
- Access using */server-status*

Apache Server Status for cnx.pana.local

Server Version: IBM_HTTP_Server/8.5.5.9 (Unix)
Server Built: Nov 24 2015 16:02:09

Current Time: Monday, 16-Jan-2017 17:07:15 CET
Restart Time: Monday, 16-Jan-2017 17:06:18 CET
Parent Server Generation: 3
Server uptime: 56 seconds
Total accesses: 111 - Total Traffic: 2.4 MB
CPU Usage: u.3 s.3 cu0 cs0 - 1.07% CPU load
1.98 requests/sec - 44.0 kB/second - 22.2 kB/request
16 requests currently being processed, 34 idle workers

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KK_KKK_KKK_____WKKK_KKKK_____..............
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```

Scoreboard Key:
"_" Waiting for Connection, "s" Starting up, "ʀ" Reading Request,
"ᴡ" Sending Reply, "ᴋ" Keepalive (read), "ᴅ" DNS Lookup,
"c" Closing connection, "ʟ" Logging, "ɢ" Gracefully finishing,
"ɪ" Idle cleanup of worker, "." Open slot with no current process

Srv	PID	Acc	M	CPU	SS	Req	Conn	Child	Slot	Client	VHost
0-3	35067	8/8/8	K	0.23	1	5	259.7	0.25	0.25	192.168.9.55	cnx.pana.local POST /connections/resources
0-3	35067	3/3/3	K	0.03	7	3	0.4	0.00	0.00	192.168.9.55	cnx.pana.local GET /homepage/ HTTP/1.1
0-3	35067	0/6/6	_	0.02	34	1	0.0	0.01	0.01	192.168.9.55	cnx.pana.local NULL
0-3	35067	17/17/17	K	0.23	1	2	105.6	0.10	0.10	192.168.9.55	cnx.pana.local GET /connections/resources/
0-3	35067	8/8/8	K	0.15	6	65	91.8	0.09	0.09	192.168.9.55	cnx.pana.local GET /activities/service/atom2
0-3	35067	2/2/2	K	0.19	1	65	1.4	0.00	0.00	192.168.9.210	cnx.pana.local GET /connections/resources/
0-3	35067	0/2/2	_	0.17	2	5	0.0	0.00	0.00	192.168.9.210	cnx.pana.local GET /homepage/web/itemset
0-3	35067	1/1/1	K	0.19	2	16	0.3	0.00	0.00	192.168.9.210	cnx.pana.local GET /connections/resources/
0-3	35067	1/1/1	K	0.19	2	8	2.4	0.00	0.00	192.168.9.210	cnx.pana.local GET /connections/resources/
0-3	35067	1/1/1	K	0.19	1	24	0.4	0.00	0.00	192.168.9.210	cnx.pana.local GET /connections/resources/

- Enable your Connections environment to use more than one Domino directory
  - Internal and external users
  - Special directory topology
- Define your repositories with their Base DN
- You need to edit the *wimconfig.xml*
  - These changes are not supported within ISC
- Customize following lines (one line for every repository)
  - OLD: <config:baseEntries name="o=pana" nameInRepository="o=pana"/>
    NEW: <config:baseEntries name="o=pana" nameInRepository=""/>
  - No need to customize other lines!
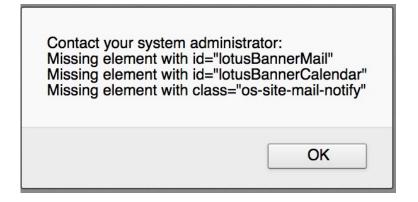
#48 *connectionsAdmin* J2C role

- Do not use a local WebSphere repository user
- Many problems are related to this
  - Thumbnail generation in Gallery (3.0)
  - CCM and Docs stop working after some time (5.5)
  - Easier CCM migration (side-by-side)
- Changing the *connectionsAdmin* user is possible
  - ⏻ https://www-10.lotus.com/ldd/lcwiki.nsf/dx/Change_password_of_connectionsAdmin

- Mail Integration should be deactivated for all external users by default
  - *header.jsp* script is not working correctly
  - *ROLE_mail-user* Cookie is set to *true*
- Use LDAP group instead of "All authenticated in Application's Realm" to prevent errors
  - *mail-user* role needs to be changed in following Apps
    - Common
    - WidgetContainer

Contact your system administrator:
Missing element with id="lotusBannerMail"
Missing element with id="lotusBannerCalendar"
Missing element with class="os-site-mail-notify"

OK

#50: Use variables in widgets-config.xml

- Widget documentations often show path names in widgets-config.xml
- Or even worse copies files to application ear
- Better move the files to {CONNECTIONS_CUSTOMIZATION_PATH}/communities
- Use {communitiesSvcRef} as a replacement in widgets-config.xml
- If you want to change the PATH, just change the WebSphere variable

Questions?

 @nmeisenzahl
 linkedin.com/in/nicomeisenzahl
 meisenzahl.org
 nico.meisenzahl
 +49 170 7355081
 nico.meisenzahl@panagenda.com

 @stoeps
 linkedin.com/in/christophstoettner
 www.stoeps.de
 christophstoettner
 +49 173 8588719
 christoph.stoettner@panagenda.com

Presentation will be available soon:
 https://goo.gl/xJlwX2

Headquarters, Austria:
panagenda GmbH (Ltd.)
Schreyvogelgasse 3/10
AT 1010 Vienna

Phone: +43 1 89 012 89
Fax: +43 1 89 012 89-15
E-Mail: info@panagenda.com

Headquarters, Germany:
panagenda GmbH (Ltd.)
Lahnstraße 17
DE 64646 Heppenheim

Phone: +49 6252 67 939-00
Fax: +49 6252 67 939-16
E-Mail: info@panagenda.com

USA:
panagenda Inc.
60 State Street, Suite 700
MA 02109 Boston

Phone: +1 617 855 5961
Fax: +1 617 488 2292
E-Mail: info@panagenda.com

Germany:
panagenda Consulting GmbH (Ltd.)
Donnersbergstraße 1
DE 64646 Heppenheim

Phone: +49 6252 67 939-86
Fax: +49 6252 67 939-16
E-Mail: info@panagenda.com

The Netherlands:
Trust Factory B.V.
11th Floor,
Koningin Julianaplein 10
NL 2595 AA The Hague

Phone: +31 70 80 801 96
E-Mail: info@trust-factory.com

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Thank you