WildFly Domain and Standalone Modes

In this appendix, you will learn about the following:

- Domain mode and server groups
- Understanding the structure of domain.xml
- Understanding the structure of host.xml
- ▶ Understanding the structure of standalone.xml

Domain mode and server groups

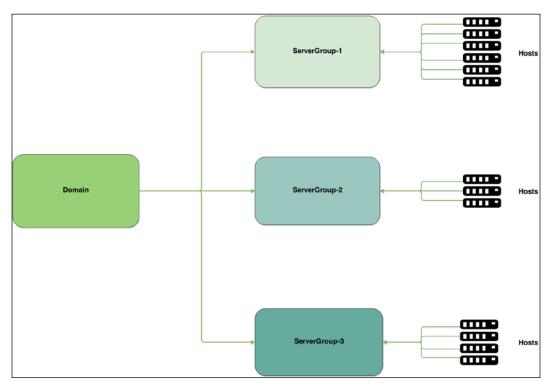
WildFly comes with two operational modes: standalone and domain. You can think of the standalone mode as a WildFly instance running on its own. Every WildFly standalone instance has its own management interface and configuration; thus, you can manage one instance at a time. The standalone mode is governed by the standalone.xml file.

On the other hand, WildFly instances running in the domain mode share the same main management interface called domain controller. Their management interfaces are still active but only available for the domain controller. Within the domain controller, you can issue commands on all running WildFly instances. The domain mode is governed by the domain. xml and host.xml files. The first one comprises of all the profiles and server groups, configured. The second one comprises of all servers that belong to the server groups defined in the domain.xml.

Without going any deeper, let's start with the three main concepts:

- ▶ Domain
- Server groups
- Hosts

Now let's summarize them in a diagram:



Domain, server groups, and hosts

That is, you define a list of server groups within your domain.xml file, and then within the host. xml file, you define which hosts (called server in the configuration file) belong to which server group.

Domain

The domain is a JVM process, actually called the **domain controller** (**DC**), and is the entry point to your WildFly management system. In this book, and even outside the book (articles, blogs, and so on), we will be referring to the DC as the master. It is responsible for pushing out configuration to all its slaves; they are the host controllers, as we will see shortly.

From a design point of view, the DC should be running in a separate server (virtual or physical), without any running WildFly instances. This is just to prevent having a machine doing too many things—we will go deep into it in *Chapter 3*, *Running WildFly in Domain Mode*.

Server group

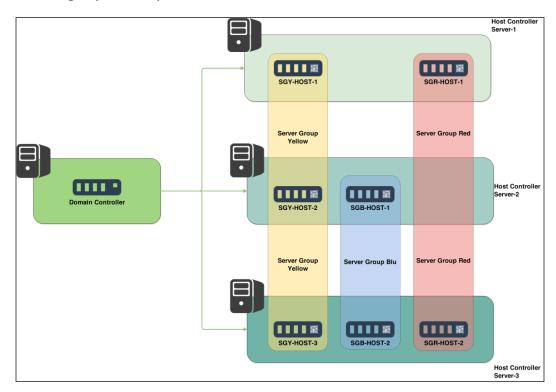
A **server group** (**SG**) is a logical representation of the WildFly configuration. It is composed of one or more server instances called hosts. Each host that belongs to an SG shares the same configuration from both the profile and the deployments point of view.

Host

The host is a JVM process, actually called the **host controller** (**HC**). It is the entry point to your WildFly management system, but specific for the hosts that belong to that host controller. We will be referring to the HC as the slave. The DC will communicate with the HC to push new configuration out to the relative hosts.

Both the domain controller and the host controller are responsible for remote management.

The previous diagram just explained the hierarchy by which you can manage your server groups and hosts. Instead, the following diagram tries to explain how you can really design and configure your WildFly instances in the domain mode.



An example of a WildFly server group

We can deduce the following from the preceding diagram:

- There is a server that acts as the domain controller and does not have any running host on it (the green one on the left)
- ► There are three distinct server groups named: Server Group Yellow (SGY), Server Group Blu (SGB), and Server Group Red (SGR)
- ► The domain controller communicates with three HCs: Host Controller Server-1, Host Controller Server-2, and Host Controller Server-3
 - **SGY** is composed of three hosts spanning three different machines
 - SGB is composed of two hosts spanning two different machines
 - SGR is composed of two hosts spanning two different machines

As you can see, all your server groups and hosts can be organized as you like, depending on your requirements and the available resources (that is, RAM, CPUs, and so on).

In the domain mode, you have two main configuration files:

- ▶ domain.xml: Here you describe profiles and the server groups
- host.xml: Here you define how server groups are composed, that is, the number of hosts

Understanding the structure of domain.xml

We are now going to look at the structure of domain.xml and understand it.

In Chapter 2, Running WildFly in Standalone Mode, which was dedicated to the standalone mode, we saw that WildFly installation comes with different standalone.xml files, each one relative to a profile: default, ha, full, and full-ha. If you skipped that chapter, we will recap the profiles in the following table:

Profile	Description
default	This is the default profile, which provides all technologies to run the Java EE 7 Web Profile Certified application. With this profile, you can use logging, DataSource, JNDI lookups, Servlet & JSP, mail services, webservices (SOAP and REST), JSF, JPA 2, EJB 3.2, CDI 1.1, and Batch.
ha	This is the same as default, except that it offers and provides high-availability (just HA balancing) and failover (clustering) capabilities to your application. It does this within WildFly; all you have to do is design and develop an application which will be running on multiple servers. We will talk more about it in the chapters dedicated to HA and clustering.
full	This is the same as default, except that it offers and provides messaging capabilities. In fact, it supports the JMS 2.0 Java EE 7 specification providing the HornetQ specification.
full-ha	This is the sum of all the previous profiles. It has HA and clustering capabilities plus messaging.

In the domain mode, we have exactly the same profiles, but all within the domain.xml file.

Open the domain.xml file into your preferred XML editor and you will notice that there are seven default main XML tags:

- ▶ <extensions/>
- <system-properties/>
- ▶ <management/>
- ▶ <profiles/>
- <interfaces/>
- <socket-binding-groups/>
- <server-groups/>

These tags can be viewed in the following screenshot:

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
  <domain xmlns="urn:jboss:domain:3.0">
                         <extensions> ---
                        </extensions>
                         <system-properties> ...
                        </system-properties>
                        <management> ...
</management>
                                              ofiles>
<profile name="default">
</profile>
<profile name="ha">
</profile>
<profile name="full">
</profile>
<profile>
<profile>
<profile name="full-ha">
</profile>
</profile>
</profile>
                         </profiles>
                        <interfaces> ...
                        </interfaces>
                      <socket-binding-groups>
    <socket-binding-group name="standard-sockets" default-interface="public"> m
    </socket-binding-group>
    <socket-binding-group name="ha-sockets" default-interface="public"> m
    </socket-binding-group>
    <socket-binding-group name="full-sockets" default-interface="public"> m
    </socket-binding-group>
    <socket-binding-group name="full-ha-sockets" default-interface="public"> m
    </socket-binding-group>
    </socket-binding-group>
</socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket-binding-groups></socket
                         </socket-binding-groups>
                      </domain>
```

Domain.xml structure

Let's look at each tag in detail.

<extensions/>

With regard to the structure of standalone.xml, the meaning of the tag and its single extension is the same. Each extension corresponds to a module.

A module is a logical unit composed of one or more Java archives and/or resources (that is, properties file). Each module can declare a dependency with another module. All WildFly modules are located in its installation directory at modules/system/layers/base/.

<system-properties/>

We've already talked about properties in *Chapter 2*, *Running WildFly in Standalone Mode*. However, in the domain mode, properties are treated a little differently. System properties defined in domain.xml are considered global, so they are inherited by each server group that is spread to each host. Furthermore, these properties can be overridden at SG or host level. The last one wins over all.

We will have a deeper insight into properties in a dedicated recipe later on in this chapter.

<management/>

This section in the domain.xml file is about defining a fine-grained access control for the WildFly Web Console. This feature is called **Role-based access control** (**RBAC**).

In short, you may create users and groups to map to the WildFly roles. Doing so, you will be able to create management users that can only deploy or view certain information about your server. Furthermore, you can integrate the Role-based access control feature with an LDAP or Active Directory systems to filter and map users. Security realms, audit log, and management interface section are defined in host.xml.

ofiles/>

This is a collection of profiles. In the standalone mode, you just have one instance running; thus, only one profile can be chosen. In the domain mode, you can have different instances running, sharing the same domain controller but providing different features, and thus, profiles.

Profiles in domain.xml

<interfaces/>

Interfaces refers to your server network interfaces. Typically, you will have to set the management interface used to interact with the Admin Console and the CLI, and the public interface where you want your WildFly instance to be available at. Following is the default configuration:

Default interfaces

You can set any interface by giving the IP, or by giving wildcards or physical names like this:

- <any-address/>
- <any-ipv4-address/>
- <any-ipv6-address/>
- <nic name="eth0"/>

<socket-binding-groups/>

This is a collection of socket-binding-group, each one dedicated to a profile. Same principle of the standalone mode holds true here: you configure the IPs and port numbers of the various services.

<server-groups/>

This is where you define your server groups. You can define one or more server group, each one with its own configuration, as follows:

Server groups in domain.xml

As you can see, to define a server group, you need to specify its name and the services it provides, that is, the profile. Also, you have to reference the socket-binding. Additionally, you can define the JVM settings.

Understanding the structure of host.xml

The host.xml file is where you design your server groups, defined in the domain.xml file. Other than that, there are other fine-grained configurations relative to management services, such as management (which includes security-realms, audit-log, and management-interfaces), interfaces, and the type and location of the domain controller.

Open the host.xml file in your preferred XML editor and you will notice that there are five default main XML tags:

- ► <management/>
- ▶ <domain-controller/>
- <interfaces/>
- ▶ <jvms/>
- <servers/>

You can see them in the following screenshot:

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<host name="master" xmlns="urn:jboss:domain:3.0">
 <extensions>
    <extension module="org.jboss.as.jmx"/>
</extensions>
 <domain-controller>
  <local/>
 <jvm name="default"> ==
</jvm>
  </jvms>
   </profile>
```

The host.xml file

Let's see each tag in detail.

<management/>

In the XML tag named management you define the security realms, audit log, management interfaces, and access control for your WildFly instance.

Management configuration

Security realms are about securing WildFly. In ManagementRealm you can define all those users that are able to manage the instance itself. Every realm should provide an authentication and authorization process; in this case, ManagementRealm makes use of two properties files:

- mgmt-users.properties: To bind the user and password
- ▶ mgmt-users.properties: To bind the user's roles

These files are located in the jboss.domain.config.dir directory, which means that they are in the configuration directory of the WildFly server, in the domain folder. You will find those files at the following location: \$WILDFLY_HOME/domain/configuration.

WildFly Domain and Standalone Modes -

The ApplicationRealm should be used only during the development phase to provide an easy mechanism for the protection of your applications. To better secure your application, you should define the security domain with a proper login-module inside the security subsystem of your profile in the domain.xml. We will talk about it later in the book.

Audit log, as the name suggests, is about auditing. Every operation that alters the WildFly configuration can be traced. By default, the audit is not enabled. To enable this feature, just change the logger's attribute name, enable, to the value of true.

A management interface, as the name suggests, is the place where you can configure your management interfaces, which are HTTP and native, used by the Web Console and the CLI respectively. By default, the HTTP interface is protected by ManagementRealm.

<domain-controller/>

This tag defines how to connect to domain-controller. At boot time, each host-controller tells the domain-controller who and where it is.

Within this tag, you can define a local domain-controller, so you have the DC and the host-controller running in the same machine. You can also define a remote DC by specifying the IP and the port number.

Domain controller definition in host.xml

The preceding image shows both domain-controller locators: local and remote. You will have to choose just one.

<interfaces/>

The interfaces tag refers to your server network interfaces. Typically, you will have to set the management interface used to interact with the Web Console and the CLI, and the public interface where you want your WildFly instance to be available at. The following screenshot depicts the default configuration:

Default interfaces

You can set any interface giving the IP address, or by setting wildcards or physical names such as this:

- <any-address/>
- <any-ipv4-address/>
- <any-ipv6-address/>
- <nic name="eth0"/>: Which is only available in Linux systems

<jvms/>

Here you can define a set of JVMs, each one tuned for its specific server group and/or host.

JVM declaration in host.xml

<servers/>

This is a set of servers and hosts referencing the corresponding server group, declared in the domain.xml file.

Servers declared in host.xml

All servers declared within this tag will run on the same machine, so you will have to pay attention to bind each service to its unique IP/Port pairs.

Understanding the structure of the standalone.xml

As mentioned in the first chapter, the standalone configuration folder comes with four pre-configured files, each representing its relative profile. Let's recap them all:

- ▶ standalone.xml: This is the default profile, which provides all technologies to run the Java EE 7 Web Profile Certified application. With this profile you can use logging, DataSource, JNDI lookups, Servlet & JSP, mail services, WebServices, RESTfull WebServices, JSF, JPA 2, EJB 3.2, CDI 1.1, and Batch.
- ▶ standalone-ha.xml: This is the same as default, except that it offers and provides high availability (HA—balancing) and failover (clustering) capabilities to your application. It does this within WildFly; all you have to do is design and develop an application which will be running on multiple servers. We will talk more about it in the chapters dedicated to HA and clustering.
- standalone-full.xml: This is the same as default, except that it offers and provides messaging capabilities. In fact, it supports the JMS 2.0 Java EE 7 specification providing the HornetQ implementation.
- ▶ standalone-full-ha.xml: This is the sum of all previous profiles. It has HA and clustering capabilities plus messaging.



Briefly, when you hear about the ha profile within WildFly, it means balancing and clustering. When you hear about full profile, it means messaging; this could be implemented by HornetQ, ActiveMQ, or any other JMS 2.0 implementation via resource adapters.

How do you choose the right profile?

- ► First and foremost, it depends on your design and application requirements. The default profile typically fits standard web application development, where high availability and failover characteristics are not required.
- ► If you are developing an application that provides JMS Queues and/or Topic features, you cannot leave aside the full profile.
- ▶ If you are running your application on multiple WildFly instances and you want consistency among them, you cannot prescind from the ha profile.

If you are running your application on multiple WildFly instances and you want consistency among them, and the applications you provide use JMS technology, then you need the full-ha profile.

Open the standalone.xml file in your preferred XML editor and you will notice that there are macro configuration XML tags inside the first one, which is <server/>; they are shown in the following screenshot:

Standalone.xml initial XML tags

Each of the tags is explained in detail in the upcoming subsections.

<extensions/>

Under the tag named extensions, all the extensions that provide a Java EE 7 specification for the current profile are present:

```
<extension module="org.jboss.as.clustering.infinispan"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.clustering.jgroups"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.connector"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.deployment-scanner"/>
      <tension module="org.jboss.as.ee"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.ejb3"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.jaxrs"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.jdr"/>
      <tension module="org.jboss.as.jmx"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.jpa"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.jsf"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.jsr77"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.logging"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.mail"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.messaging"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.modcluster"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.naming"/>
      ctension module="org.jboss.as.pojo"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.remoting"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.sar"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.security"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.transactions"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.webservices"/>
   <extension module="org.jboss.as.weld"/>
   <extension module="org.wildfly.extension.batch"/>
   <extension module="org.wildfly.extension.bean-validation"/>
      <tension module="org.wildfly.extension.io"/>
   <extension module="org.wildfly.extension.request-controller"/>
   <extension module="org.wildfly.extension.security.manager"/>
   <extension module="org.wildfly.extension.undertow"/>
   <extension module="org.wildfly.iiop-openjdk"/>
</extensions>
```

Extensions for default profile

Each extension corresponds to a module.



A module is a logical unit composed of one or more Java archives and/or resources (that is, properties file). Each module can declare a dependency with another module. All WildFly modules are located in its installation directory at modules/system/layers/base/.

For example, the module named org.jboss.as.ejb3 will be located in the folder modules/system/layers/base/org/jboss/as/ejb3. The dot notation of the name corresponds to the relative file system path. Let's look at the following example:

```
[wildfly@foogaro WFC]$ cd wildfly
[wildfly@foogaro wildfly]$ cd modules/system/layers/base/
[wildfly@foogaro base]$ ls -la
total 56
drwxr-xr-x 26 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54
drwxr-xr-x
                    wildfly cookbook
                                             4096 Apr
                                                               09:54
                    wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54 asm
drwxr-xr-x
drwxr-xr-x 4 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
drwxr-xr-x 12 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
                                                               09:54 ch
                                                           12 09:54 com
                                                           12 09:54 gnu
12 09:54 ibm
                    wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
drwxr-xr-x
                 4
                    wildfly cookbook 4096
drwxr-xr-x
                                                     Apr
                                                               09:54
                                                           12 09:54 io
                    wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
drwxr-xr-x 6
                                                               09:54 javaee
09:54 javax
drwxr-xr-x
                 4
                    wildfly cookbook
                                              4096
                                                     Apr
                                                           12
drwxr-xr-x 58 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
                                                           12 09:54
                 4 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
4 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr
                                                           12 09:54 net
drwxr-xr-x
                                                           12 09:54 nu
drwxr-xr-x 56 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54 nu drwxr-xr-x 56 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54 org drwxr-xr-x 6 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54 sun [wildfly@foogaro base]$ cd org/jboss/as/ejb3/ [wildfly@foogaro ejb3]$ ls -la total 12
drwxr-xr-x
drwxr-xr-x 4 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54 . drwxr-xr-x 118 wildfly cookbook 4096 Apr 12 09:54 .
drwxr-xr-x 4 wildfly cookbook
                                               4096 Apr 12 09:54 main
[wildfly@foogaro ejb3]$ cd main
[wildfly@foogaro main]$ ls -la
total 1584
                                                 4096 Apr 12 09:54 .
4096 Apr 12 09:54 ..
drwxr-xr-x 4 wildfly cookbook
drwxr-xr-x 4 wildfly cookbook
-rw-r--r- 1 wildfly cookbook
drwxr-xr-x 2 wildfly cookbook
                                                             27 13:57 module.xml
12 09:54 timers
                                                 4880 Mar
                                                 4096 Apr
-rw-r--r- 1 wildfly cookbook 1598862 Mar 27 13:57 wildfly-ejb3-9.0.0.Beta2.jar
[wildfly@foogaro main]$
```

Module's folder

Inside the ejb folder, you may have more then one directory, each one representing a particular version. The default version is named main; all the others should represent the indicating version number. In this case, on entering the main folder version, we will see the module itself composed of its configuration file module.xml and all its JAR and resources (yes, even folders).

Let's take a look at the configuration file:

Example of module.xml

As you can see, in the configuration file you will specify its name, possible properties, its resources, and dependencies. Within the chapter dedicated to the development point of view, we will see how to specify module dependency in your application.

Let's go back to our standalone.xml file and follow the other elements that it is composed of.

<management/>

In the XML tag named management, you define security realms, audit log, management interfaces, and the access control for your WildFly instance.

Management for default profile

Security realms are about securing WildFly. In ManagementRealm you can define all users who are able to manage the instance itself. We have already seen this while adding the management user in our first chapter. Every realm should provide an authentication and authorization process; in this case ManagementRealm makes use of two properties files:

- One to bind the user and the password (mgmt-users.properties)
- ▶ One to bind the user's roles (mgmt-users.properties)

These files are located in jboss.server.config.dir. This means that they are in the configuration directory of the WildFly server which, in this case, is a standalone server. If you have followed all the installation steps as mentioned in the first chapter, you will find those files at the following location: \$WILDFLY HOME/standalone/configuration.

The ApplicationRealm realm should be used only while developing the applications to provide an easy mechanism for their protection. To better secure your application, you should define security-domain with a proper login-module inside the security subsystem of your standalone.xml. We will talk about it later in the book.

Audit log, as the name suggests, is about auditing. Every operation that alters the WildFly configuration can be traced. By default, the audit is not enabled. To enable this feature, just change the logger's attribute name enable to the value of true. We will have a recipe about it later in the book.



A management interface is the place where you can configure your management interfaces, which are HTTP and native, used by the Web Console and the CLI respectively. By default, the HTTP interface is protected by ManagementRealm.

Access control is a new feature that comes with WildFly 8. Basically, you may create users and groups to map to the WildFly roles. In doing so, you will be able to create management users that can only deploy or view certain information about your server. Furthermore, you can integrate the **Role-based access control** (**RBAC**) feature with an LDAP or Active Directory systems to filter and map the users.

ofile/>

This is actually where your entire standalone configuration resides. Inside it, you will find lots of subsystems, each corresponding to its relative extension. The following screenshot depicts all the subsystems that belong to the default profile configuration:

```
</profile>
```

Default profile subsystems

<interfaces/>

The interfaces tag refers to your server network interfaces. Typically, you will have to set the management interface used to interact with the Web Console and the CLI, and the public interface where you want your WildFly instance to be available. The following screenshot depicts the default configuration:

Default interfaces

You can set any interface giving the IP, or by setting wildcards or physical names such as this:

- <any-address/>
- <any-ipv4-address/>
- <any-ipv6-address/>
- <nic name="eth0"/>: This is only available on Linux systems

<socket-binding-group/>

This is the place where you define most of the ports used by the various interfaces and connectors. The following screenshot denotes the default configuration:

Default socket-binding-group configuration