IBM Connections

IBM Connections Plug-In for Microsoft Outlook
Installation Help

IBM

Edition Notice

Note: Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in "Notices."

This edition applies to version 5.5 of IBM Connections and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

Notices

This information was developed for products and services offered in the U.S.A. IBM may not offer the products, services, or features discussed in this document in other countries. Consult your local IBM representative for information on the products and services currently available in your area. Any reference to an IBM product, program, or service is not intended to state or imply that only that IBM product, program, or service may be used. Any functionally equivalent product, program, or service that does not infringe any IBM intellectual property right may be used instead. However, it is the user's responsibility to evaluate and verify the operation of any non-IBM product, program, or service.

IBM may have patents or pending patent applications covering subject matter described in this document. The furnishing of this document does not grant you any license to these patents. You can send license inquiries, in writing, to:

IBM Director of Licensing
IBM Corporation
North Castle
Drive Armonk,
NY 10504-1785
U.S.A.

For license inquiries regarding double-byte (DBCS) information, contact the IBM Intellectual Property Department in your country or send inquiries, in writing, to:

Intellectual Property

Licensing Legal and

Intellectual Property Law

IBM Japan, Ltd.

19-21, Nihonbashi-Hakozakicho, Chuo-ku

Tokyo 103-8510, Japan

This information could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. Changes are periodically made to the information herein; these changes will be incorporated in new editions of the publication. IBM may make improvements and/or changes in the product(s) and/or the program(s) described in this publication at any time without notice.

Any references in this information to non-IBM Web sites are provided for convenience only and do not in any manner serve as an endorsement of those Web sites. The materials at those Web sites are not part of the materials for this IBM product and use of those Web sites is at your own risk. IBM may use or distribute any of the information you supply in any way it believes appropriate without incurring any obligation to you. Licensees of this program who wish to have information about it for the purpose of enabling: (i) the exchange of information between independently created programs and other programs (including this one) and (ii) the mutual use of the information which has been exchanged.

Contents

Install and configure the IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook

Installation instructions

These instructions describe how to install the IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook®, an Outlook email sidebar application that provides easy, full-featured access to IBM Connections content. You can collaborate on files, share email using IBM Connections, view communities' content, and socialize with your colleagues from the convenience of your email client.

Note: To prevent data leakage, Connections Visitor (external) users cannot login to the server using the IBM Connections Plug-in.

To install the plug-in:

1. [Download](#) the setup package.
2. Run the setup package and follow the on-screen instructions.

To repair or remove the plug-in:

You can repair or remove the plug-in like any other Windows program. Follow these steps:

1. Open Windows' **Control Panel** and select **Programs and Features** > **Uninstall or change a program**.
2. Select **IBM Connections plug-in for Microsoft Outlook** and click **Uninstall** or **Change**.
3. Follow the uninstall / repair process.

Perform a silent installation
Administrators can silently install the IBM® Connections Plug-in for Microsoft™ Outlook™ from the command prompt. User notifications are disabled during the silent installation, except in error cases such as notification of failed prerequisites.

Procedure
1. Download the IBM® Connections Plug-in.
2. Open a command prompt and navigate to the directory where you saved
   `IBMConnectionsForOutlookSetup.x[86|64].msi`.
3. Run
   `msiexec /option(s) IBMConnectionsForOutlookSetup.x[86|64].msi [parameter=value]`
   The options and parameters are listed in the following tables:

Option	Description
/i	Installs the plugin
/x	Uninstalls the plugin
/qn	Silent installation
/norestart	If reboot is necessary, do not reboot the machine automatically.

Parameter	Description
TARGETDIR	Set the installation directory.
ALLUSERS	When set to none ("") installs the plugin for the current user only. No administrator rights are needed.

Examples

Running installation as administrator for 'All Users'

```
msiexec /qn /i IBMConnectionsForOutlookSetup.x[86|64].msi
```

Note: Launch the command prompt with **Run as administrator**.

Running uninstall as administrator for 'All Users'

```
msiexec /qn /x IBMConnectionsForOutlookSetup.x[86|64].msi
```

Note: Launch the command prompt with **Run as administrator**.

Perform a central installation

Administrators can centrally and remotely install the IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook, via Active Directory, and other desktop management software. See the Customizing the installation section to learn how to deploy the plug-in for a specific user or to a specific directory. To deploy a set of Connections sites in the plug-in, see Client usage metrics

The IBM Connections Plug-in posts usage metrics to the IBM Connections server in these scenarios:

- Each time that a user opens a new view (for example, My Files, Community Files).

- First time that a user opens the properties window.

Provision the IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook.

Before the plug-in can be to automatically distributed to client computers or specific users, make sure that:

- The client computer is connected to the domain.
- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 or later is installed on the client machine.

To install the plug-in on a remote client computer, follow these steps:

1. Create a **Group Policy Object** in your domain properties using Active Directory on the server, which will be used to remotely install the plug-in. In the **Security** tab of the Group Policy Object's properties, select the groups for which you want to install the plug-in.
2. In the console tree, open your domain's properties, and from the **Group Policy** tab, edit the Group Policy Object you created above.
3. Right-click **Computer Configuration** > **Software Settings** > **Software Installation** and select **New** > **Package**.
4. In the **Open** dialog box, enter the UNC path to the plug-in installation file on a shared network folder. Do not use the **Browse** button to access the location.
5. From the **Deployment** tab, set **Deployment type** to **Assigned**, set **Installation user interface options** to **Basic** and click **OK**.
6. Close the Group Policy snap-in, click **OK**, and then quit the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in.
7. When the client computer starts, the managed software package is automatically installed.

More details on how to deploy software using Active Directory are available in the Microsoft knowledge base article How to use Group Policy to remotely install software in Windows Server 2003.

Notes:

- When installing, you must use the **Basic** user interface option.

- To install the plug-in for **specific users** on a computer, you need to edit the MSI package prior to remote installation. Follow the instructions in the customizing the installation section.

Customizing the installation

To customize the plug-in installation to use a different directory, or to be deployed for specific users:

1. Install [Orca](#).
2. Open the IBM Connections Plug-in MSI package with Orca.
3. Set the installation folder in the MSI package in **Tables** > **CustomAction** > **Actions** > **DIRCA_TARGETDIR**. If you need to deploy the plug-in to specific users you should set the installation folder to `"[LocalAppDataFolder][Manufacturer][ProductName]"`. This changes the installation folder from `"C:\Program Files\IBM\Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook"` to a specific user location `"C:\Users\AppData\Roaming\ IBM\Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook \"`
4. Save the changes to the MSI package.
5. Follow the steps described in the Microsoft knowledge base article [How to use Group Policy to remotely install software in Windows Server 2003](#).

Client usage metrics
The IBM Connections Plug-in posts usage metrics to the IBM Connections server in these scenarios:

- Each time that a user opens a new view (for example, My Files, Community Files).

- First time that a user opens the properties window.

Provision the IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook

Administrators can centrally and remotely provision the IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook.

What can be centrally provisioned?

1. **Connections options**:
    a. Connections site.
    b. Visible columns.

2. **Advanced options**: proxy settings, drag and drop and more.

An administrator can:

1. [Set default startup values](), that the user can later change.
2. [Force values for the user](), which disables them in the plug-in, preventing the user from changing them.

How is provisioning done?

Provisioning is done by adding keys to the plug-in registry tree. There are 2 methods to do that:

1. By centrally updating registry keys. Windows provides a few methods for that. Read [Distributing Registry Changes]() to learn how.
2. By adding the keys to an MSI transform file (for instance, using [Orca]()) and bundling it with the installation. Read [Perform a central installation]() to learn how.

To set default values:

IBM Connections Plug-in root key:

The root key under which the administrator should add the plug-in keys is:

1. To provision the product for the current user only: `HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Mainsoft\Prefs\`.
2. To provision the product for all users on the machine, the exact location is different for each operating system, as shown in the following table:

Operating system	Key
32-bit	`HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Mainsoft\Prefs\`
64-bit running 32-bit Office	`HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Wow6432Node\Mainsoft\Prefs\`
64-bit running 64-bit Office	`HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Mainsoft\Prefs\`

IBM Connections Plug-in registry keys

The following table lists the optional registry keys that can be added to set default values for the users.

Key Name	(Default) Value Data	Description
Connections options:		
Sites		The key under this node is the provisioned site.
Sites\\<*site title*>	<URL>	Site root URL. **This value is mandatory**. <site title> is any key you want to use as the server title. <URL> is the URL for the Connections server. See directions for [provisioning URLs]().
Sites\\<*site title*>\\ServerType	**IBMConnections**	Sets the server type to IBM Connections. **This value is mandatory**.
Sites\\<*site title*>\\IntegratedSecurity	**True** to use the user's Windows credentials.	Controls the authentication against the site. If not defined, the user is prompted for credentials the first time he opens the site in the plug-in.
SavePassword	**True** to save the Connections password, or	Controls saving the password for the IBM Connections site.

False to prompt the user
for the password on every
launch of the plug-in.

Key Name	(Default) Value Data	Description
Disabling features:		
IBMConnections\HideCommunities	**True** to hide all Communities features, or **False** (default) not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding Communities features.
IBMConnections\HideActivities	**True** to hide all Activities features, or **False** (default) not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding Activities features.
IBMConnections\HideWikis	**True** to hide all Wikis features, or **False** (default) not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding Wikis features.
IBMConnections\HideActivitiesUpdates	**True** to hide activity updates, or **False** not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding activity updates. Defaults to the value in the **HideActivities** key.
IBMConnections\HideBlogsUpdates	**True** to hide blog updates, or **False** (default) not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding blog updates.
IBMConnections\HideBookmarksUpdates	**True** to hide bookmark updates, or **False** (default) not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding bookmark updates.
IBMConnections\HideForumsUpdates	**True** to hide forum updates, or **False** (default) not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding forum updates.
IBMConnections\HideWikisUpdates	**True** to hide Wiki updates, or **False** not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding Wiki updates. Defaults to the value in the **HideWikis** key.

IBMConnections\HideCommunitiesUpdates	**True** to hide community updates, or **False** not to hide.	Controls showing/hiding community updates. Defaults to the value in the **HideCommunities** key.
Advanced options:		
DragFilesInsteadOfLinks	**True** to drag physical files, or **False** to drag links to the file.	Controls dragging files from the plug-in sidebar to Outlook.
MoveEmailOnDrag	**True** to move e-mails to Connections, or **False** to copy.	Controls moving/copying e-mail messages to Connections. If set to True, e-mail messages are deleted from the e-mail folder after being uploaded to Connections using drag and drop.
OpenFilesInBrowser	**True** to open files in browser, or **False** to download and open files with the associated local app (default), or **ext1,ext2,…** to open files of these extension in browser. Example: **.docx,.xlsx**	Sets what to do when double clicking or opening a file. When set to True or to file extension, an **Open in App** command menu is added to the file.
CopyBrowserLink	**True** to create a link that opens in browser, or **False** to create a link that opens in the associated local app (default), or **ext1,ext2,…** to create a link that opens in browser for	Sets how to create the file link when dragging and dropping a file from the sidebar to an email message, or using **Copy** > **Link** or **Copy** > **Address**. When set to True or to file extension, a Copy > **App**

	files of the specified extensions. Example: **.docx,.xlsx**.	**Address** command menu is added to the file.
ActivitiesInterval	**#** of minutes between fetching the activities updates from the Connections server, or **0** to stop automatic updates.	Sets how often the Updates view updates, or stops automatic updates.
SidebarInitialState	**0** to load the plug-in in the last state, or **1** to load the plug-in minimized, or **2** to load the plug-in minimized and open the sidebar once it is fully loaded.	Controls the default state the plug-in will load when Outlook starts.
StoreConfigurationOnlyInRoamingProfile	**True** to store the plug-in's database in the local profile, or **False** to store the database in the roaming profile.	Controls whether to store the plug-in's database in the roaming profile or in the local profile. The plug-in's database includes the contacts, recent activities, and suggested colleagues. Configuration options are always stored in the roaming profile. Log files are always stored in the local profile.
SupportedSSLProtocols	**SSLv3, TLSv1, TLSv1.1, TLSv1.2**.	Sets the supported SSL protocols to connect to secured Connections sites. You can define several values,

		delimited by commas. If not set, the plug-in uses the .NET runtime's default protocol. **Notes**: • To activate TLSv1.2, .NET Framework version 4.5 or later must be installed. For Windows 10 this version is installed by default. If working with Windows 7, you must install SP1 or later to work with TLSv1.2, install .NET Framework 4.5 and set the **PreferredCLRVersion** to v4.0. • SSL protocols defined in this key must be supported by the .NET runtime and OS. • Unsupported protocols will not be used for establishing a connection with Connections servers.
PreferredCLRVersion	**v#.#** (from v2.0 to v4.x).	Sets the CLR version that the IBM Connections Plug-in will load and use. If not set, the plug-in will load the

		lowest .NET runtime version that is installed.
BrowserAuthentication\always-remove-wininet-cookies	**True** to always clear cookies, or **False** to allow browser to keep the cookies from previous authentication attempts.	This option should be used only if Browser Authentication option is defined for the site **with** single sign-on (i.e., the user is not prompted for credentials during the browser authentication).
MaxNumberOfFullBusinessCardActivities	#	Maximum number of updates shown in full business cards. Default is 100.
MaxNumberOfActivities	#	Maximum number of updates and communities shown in the Updates tab and in the Community tab. Default is 100.
GetAllMaxLimit	#	If there are more than 500 items in the **My Files** or **Pinned Files** views, the first 500 items are shown and a link appears at the bottom of the sidebar, saying **Show x items**. This registry key sets the value of x. Default is 5000.
PostTextMaxLength	#	Maximum number of characters in posted status updates and comments. Default is 1000.
FlagTextMaxLength	#	Maximum number of characters in the reason of flagging a file or a file comment as inappropriate. Default is

		4000.
ChangeCommentTextMaxLength	#	Maximum number of characters in the Change summary text box, which appears when adding a new version to an existing file. Default is 2049.
IBMConnections\DisableConnectCloud	**True** to disable the option to connect to **Cloud**, or **False** to enable it.	Use to disable the option to connect to the Cloud. To use when there are only on-premise sites.
IBMConnections\ShareLinksOnSend	**True** to share links when sending emails, or **False** (default) not to share.	Use to disable the feature of automatically sharing file links with email recipients which are Connections users.
IBMConnections\ShareOnSendPrompts	**True** to allow prompts, or **False** (default) to disable prompts and, instead, show notifications in the system tray.	Controls issuing prompts, such as email recipient is not a Connections user, when sharing file links with email recipients.
FailInvalidCerts	**True** to fail when site does not have a valid certificate, or **False** (default) to warn on invalid certificate.	Sets what to do when user connects to an IBM Connections server that has an invalid, expired, or missing certificate.
plugins\MsgToEmlPlugin	**MsgToEmlPlugin.dll**	Use this key to save Outlook emails in IBM Connections with .eml format instead of .msg. This enables opening email messages with other mail applications, for example with Lotus Notes.

Branding		
Branding		
Branding\ProductName		
Branding\ProductName\Full	<full product name>	Full product name (default: IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook).
Branding\ProductName\Short	<short product name>	Short product name (default: IBM Connections).
Branding\AboutDialog\Description	<description>	Description of product for the About dialog (default: IBM Connections Plug-in for Microsoft Outlook).
Branding\Logo\83x14	<Full path to image>	Image, in png format, for the logo displayed at the top of the sidebar. Image size: 83x14.
Branding\ProductURL\Help	<URL>	URL to your product help.
Branding\DataFolders\Local	<folder>	Location for saving IBM Connections local files, such as log files and disc caches. Set to the full path of an existing folder. Environment variables, such as %LOCAL_DIR%, can be used in the path.
Branding\DataFolders\Roaming	<folder>	Location for saving IBM Connections roaming data, such as configuration files. Set to the full path of an existing folder. Environment variables,

		such as %LOCAL_DIR%, can be used in the path.
Branding\DataFolders\Temp	\<folder\>	Location for saving IBM Connections temporary files. Set to the full path of an existing folder. Environment variables, such as %LOCAL_DIR%, can be used in the path.
Setting IBM Connections end-points		
IBMConnections\EndpointFiles	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **files**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom files end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointSearch	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **search**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom search end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointCommunities	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **communities**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom communities end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointProfiles	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **profiles**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom profiles end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointActivities	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **activities**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom activities end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointWikis	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **wikis**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom wikis end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointBlogs	**\<files endpoint\>** (default: **blogs**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom blogs

		end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointForums	**<files endpoint>** (default: **forums**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom forums end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointHomePage	**<files endpoint>** (default: **homepage**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom homepage end-point.
IBMConnections\EndpointOpenSocial	**<files endpoint>** (default: **connections/opensocial**)	Configure the plug-in to issue requests to a custom open social end-point.

To force values for users:

To force a value for the users, and disable it in the plug-in Options dialog, add a new value to any of the plug-in keys listed above:

Key Name	Value Name	Value Type	Value Data
< any >	**Force**	DWORD	**1**

Note: The default for setting Sites is Force=1. If you define the Sites registry keys the user cannot remove or reconfigure the Connections site. To let the user remove or reconfigure the Connections site, set Force=0.

To provision URLs:

Use one of these URL formats for provisioning the Connections site:

- http://<server>
- https://<server>

Notes: Do not specify aspx pages or query parameters.

Tip: You can open the Connections location using the plug-in, right-click it and select **Copy** > **Address** to get the exact URL.

Example: To define the Connections site with the Title MyConnectionsSite, and the URL https://greenhouse.lotus.com, set these keys:

Key Name	(Default) Value Data
Sites	
Sites\MyConnectionsSite	https://greenhouse.lotus.com
Sites\MyConnectionsSite\ ServerType	IBMConnections
SavePassword	True

How are administrator and user preferences combined?

Administrator preferences, set in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, do not take precedence over user preferences, unless the administrator defines forced values. Specifically, if the user changed his preferences, and the administrator provisioned the product afterwards, the user preferences are not replaced.

Administrator preferences set in HKEY_CURRENT_USER, do replace the preferences set by the user. Unless the administrator defined forced values, the user can overwrite the preferences using the plug-in Options dialog.