

# Getting Started / Configuration



The first thing XNAT Populate does is resolve dependencies, so it may appear to be hanging for a couple minutes when running it for the first time.



XNAT Populate is very much a new project, and there is very little error handling. If something goes wrong, the script will likely terminate and print a stack trace out to the command line.

XNAT Populate is a groovy project to push data into an XNAT (XNAT 1.7 required!) instance. Its main uses would be to push a lot of data into an XNAT if the data can be organized according to the desired YAML structure, or to populate a demo/sandbox server with a variety of data. The script uses groovy with dependencies managed by Grape, so the only prerequisite is a recent groovy installation. Then, simply invoke it on the command line by:

```
groovy PopulateXnat.groovy <parameters>
```

The script has the following parameters:

Short parameter name	Long parameter name	Required?	Takes argument?	Description
-u	--user	yes	yes	Specifies the XNAT user to upload data. For full functionality, the user should be an admin, but this is not strictly required to use only parts of the features.
-p	--pass	yes	yes	The password for the user specified above.
-s	--url	yes	yes	The site URL for your XNAT instance to populate.
-d	--data	yes	yes	This specifies a text file which defines the data to upload (separated by newlines). See <a href="#">Populate Data</a> for more information about available data. Alternatively, instead of specifying a file, you can enter a comma-separated list of projects here.
-g	--config	no	yes	Specifies a YAML file as defined in <a href="#">Site Configuration</a> to set site level properties.
-c	--clean	no	no	<b>DANGEROUS.</b> Add this flag to delete preexisting XNAT projects matching the data list. <b>Don't use in production. Also, always back up your data just in case something goes wrong.</b>
-r	--refresh-data	no	no	<b>Semi-dangerous.</b> Add this flag to clear out the data folder on startup. Useful to grab updated copies of data.
-y	--refresh-yaml	no	no	Add this flag to delete all YAML files in data folder on startup. Useful to grab updated configuration YAML.
-k	--insecure	no	no	Add this flag to ignore SSL errors on https sites. Useful for dev/test environments.
-su	--secure-users	no	no	Add this flag to only add existing XNAT users to created projects. Users that are specified in project configurations will not be created (to prevent insecure user accounts).
-e	--export-mode	no	no	Add this flag to use XNAT Populate to export data *from* your XNAT to the local file system in a format that it can understand (can then be used to send to a different XNAT).
-w	--delay	no	yes	Optional delay (in milliseconds) after each session import. Useful if rapid session imports is degrading performance on the server in constrained memory situations.
-m	--prompt	no	no	Add this flag to allow XNAT Populate to prompt you for your password instead of including it in the arguments.