

Deploying Plugins in XNAT

Installing plugins in XNAT 1.7 is as simple as installing a properly formatted jar in the XNAT plugins folder.



Make sure no one is logged in and using your XNAT before taking these steps. See [Administering Users](#) for notes on how to view active user sessions.

Step-by-step guide

This presumes you have a valid plugin jar to install. Unless the documentation for a specific plugin tells you otherwise, the standard way to create a jar for an XNAT plugin is to navigate to the root folder of the plugin code and run the following:

```
$ ./gradlew jar
```

After this process completes, a jar file will be created in the **build/libs** subdirectory.

Step 1: Shut Down Tomcat

If your web application is currently running, shut it down. SSH into your XNAT web application, then execute the following:

```
$ sudo service tomcat7 stop
```

Step 2: Install Your Plugin JAR file

Copy your plugin jar file into the folder `$(xnat.home)/plugins`. The location of `xnat.home` depends on your system configuration. In the default XNAT Vagrant machine, this is located in `/data/xnat/home`.

Step 3: Start Up Tomcat

Start Tomcat back up.

```
$ sudo service tomcat7 start
```

XNAT will take a moment to unpack and incorporate the new plugin before the application comes back online. You can monitor the progress of the application as it builds by following the `catalina.out` log file.

```
$ tail -f /var/lib/tomcat7/logs/catalina.out
```

When you see a message in the log file like **INFO: Server Startup in 105462 ms**, your XNAT is ready to use again.



An XNAT plugin can consist of a number of different components, including:

- Data types in the form of XSD files
- Velocity templates
- JavaScript files
- CSS style sheets
- Java code for REST services, Velocity screen or action classes, Spring MVC controllers, services, database entities, and more