

# **BEA** WebLogic Integration™

**Using the File Plug-In** 

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#### Using the File Plug-In

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# **About This Document**

This document explains how to use the File Plug-In.

The document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1, "Using the File Plug-In," provides information for using the File Plug-In.
- Chapter 2, "An Example of Using the File Plug-In," provides a step-by-step example for using the File Plug-In to FTP a file to a remote file system.

# What You Need to Know

This document is intended for workflow designers and system integrators who develop client interfaces between file systems and other applications.

#### e-docs Web Site

BEA product documentation is available on the BEA corporate Web site. From the BEA Home page, click on Product Documentation or go directly to the "e-docs" Product Documentation page at http://e-docs.beasys.com.

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A PDF version of this document is available on the WebLogic Integration documentation Home page on the e-docs Web site (and also on the documentation CD). You can open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat Reader and print the entire document (or a portion of it) in book format. To access the PDFs, open the WebLogic Integration documentation Home page, click the PDF files button, and select the document you want to print.

If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can get it for free from the Adobe Web site at http://www.adobe.com/.

## **Related Information**

The following WebLogic Integration documents contain information that is relevant to using this product.

- Learning to Use BPM with WebLogic Integration
- Using the WebLogic Integration Studio

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When contacting Customer Support, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name, e-mail address, phone number, and fax number
- Your company name and company address
- Your machine type and authorization codes
- The name and version of the product you are using
- A description of the problem and the content of pertinent error messages

## **Documentation Conventions**

The following documentation conventions are used throughout this document.

Convention	Item
Ctrl+Tab	Indicates that you must press two or more keys simultaneously.
italics	Indicates emphasis or book titles.

Convention	Item
monospace text	Indicates code samples, commands and their options, data structures and their members, data types, directories, and filenames and their extensions. Monospace text also indicates text that you must enter from the keyboard. <i>Examples</i> :
	-
	<pre>#include <iostream.h> void main ( ) the pointer psz chmod u+w *</iostream.h></pre>
	\tux\data\ap
	.doc
	tux.doc
	BITMAP float
	iioat
monospace	Identifies variables in code.
italic text	Example:
LEAL	String expr
UPPERCASE	Indicates device names, environment variables, and logical operators.
TEXT	Examples:
	LPT1
	SIGNON
	OR
{}	Indicates a set of choices in a syntax line. The braces themselves should never be typed.
[]	Indicates optional items in a syntax line. The brackets themselves should never be typed.
	Example:
	<pre>buildobjclient [-v] [-o name] [-f file-list] [-l file-list]</pre>
	Separates mutually exclusive choices in a syntax line. The symbol itself should never be typed.

Convention	Item	
	. Indicates one of the following in a command line:	
<ul> <li>That an argument can be repeated several times in a command lin</li> </ul>		
	■ That the statement omits additional optional arguments.	
	■ That you can enter additional parameters, values, or other information.	
	The ellipsis itself should never be typed.	
	Example:	
	<pre>buildobjclient [-v] [-o name] [-f file-list] [-l file-list]</pre>	
	Indicates the omission of items from a code example or from a syntax line.	
	The vertical ellipsis itself should never be typed.	
•		

# 1 Using the File Plug-In

The File Plug-In extends the functionality of BEA WebLogic Integration Business Process Management (BPM). It provides additional functionality to the WebLogic Integration BPM Studio. Specifically, the File Plug-In provides basic actions for working with files and transferring files between local and remote file systems. Actions are the basic unit of work performed during business process management functions; they define workflow and task behavior.

This section includes the following information:

- About the File Plug-In
- Using the File Plug-In
- Configuring File Plug-In for a Migrated Domain

# About the File Plug-In

This section includes information on the following topics:

- What the File Plug-In Does
- Using the File Plug-In or Adapter for File?
- What You Need to Know
- File Plug-In and the Plug-in Framework

#### What the File Plug-In Does

The File Plug-In has the following functionality:

- Read files and assign the content to workflow variables.
- Write the content of a workflow variable to a file.
- Delete files
- Start or resume a workflow based on the creation of a file.
- Transfer files to and from a remote file system via FTP.

When using the File Plug-In, you should keep the following in mind:

- The File Plug-In does not have a file locking service. You should prevent multiple threads from modifying the same file at the same time.
- The File Plug-In actions are not transactional and do not have a built-in mechanism to automatically roll back transactional file operations. To perform file operation rollbacks, use compensational actions with exception handlers. Exception handlers have commit and rollback processing paths. For more information about exception handlers, see "Handling Workflow Exceptions" in *Using the WebLogic Integration Studio*.
- The Data Integration Plug-In provides the BinaryData type and file transformation capabilities used in the File Plug-In for read and write operations. The Data Integration Plug-in is automatically loaded with WebLogic Integration server.

# Using the File Plug-In or Adapter for File?

In general, use the File Plug-In for basic file actions, such as reading, writing, and deleting files or transferring files between local and remote systems. If you require more capability, use the WebLogic Adapter for File. The WebLogic Adapter for File performs additional file operations and can also read and write Excel spreadsheet contents and Comma Separated Variable (CSV) formats. For more information about File System Adaptor, see the BEA WebLogic Adapter for File.

#### What You Need to Know

This document is written for workflow designers and system integrators who develop client interfaces between file systems and other applications. The information provided in this document requires that you are have in-depth knowledge of workflow design and workflow templates, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and WebLogic Integration Studio. Additionally, it is assumed that you know Web technologies and have a general understanding of Microsoft Windows and UNIX systems.

If you do not have the required knowledge of workflows or the WebLogic Integration Studio, see the following documents:

- Using the WebLogic Integration Studio at http://edocs.bea.com/wli/docs70/studio/index.htm.
- Learning to Use BPM with WebLogic Integration at http://edocs.bea.com/wli/docs70/bpmtutor/index.htm.

# File Plug-In and the Plug-in Framework

Like other plug-ins, the File Plug-In extends BPM functionality. It adheres to the BPM Plug-In specification. For more information, see *Programming BPM Plug-Ins for WebLogic Integration* at <a href="http://e-docs.bea.com/wli/docs70/devplug/index.htm">http://e-docs.bea.com/wli/docs70/devplug/index.htm</a>. The Plug-in Configurations window displays the plug-ins and their status, as shown in Figure 1-1.

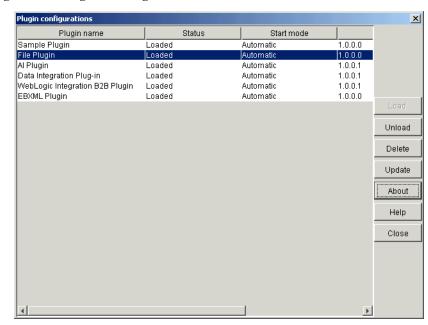


Figure 1-1 Plug-ins Configurations Window

# **Using the File Plug-In**

The following sections provide information about using the File Plug-In. These sections do *not* contain step-by-step instructions for setting up File Plug-In actions and assume that you are knowledgeable about designing WebLogic Integration workflows. For a step-by-step example, see Chapter 2, "An Example of Using the File Plug-In."

# **Overview of File Plug-In Actions**

This section provides general information for using the File Plug-In. It shows the Studio features needed for setting up File Plug-In actions. Figure 1-2 shows the Studio with a Workflow Design window open.

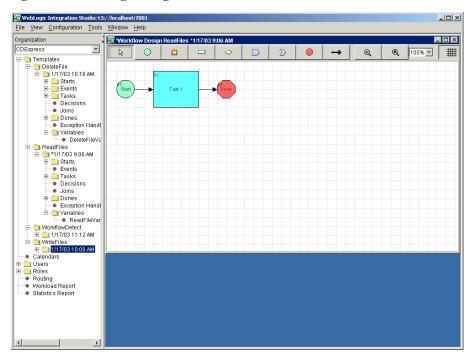
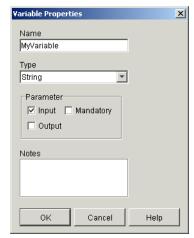


Figure 1-2 WebLogic Integration Studio

The Workflow Design window allows you construct workflows and access the properties that define workflows.

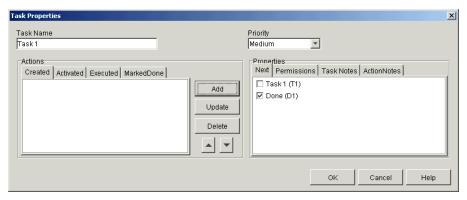
Most File Plug-In actions require a variable to hold file content. Use the Variable Properties window to define the variables used by the workflow actions, as shown in Figure 1-3.

Figure 1-3 Variable Properties



In the Workflow Design window, right-click a task node to open the Task Properties windows, where you can define workflow properties, as shown in Figure 1-4.

Figure 1-4 Task Properties



Click the Add button to open the Add Actions window. In the Add Action window, you can access many File Plug-In actions, as shown in Figure 1-5.

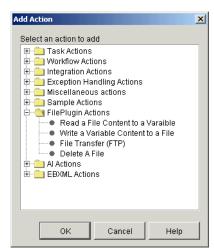


Figure 1-5 Add Action Window

The actions available in the File Plug-In windows and other Studio windows are discussed in the sections that follow.

#### **Workflow Expressions**

Wherever you see the Expression button next to a field in a Studio window, the field requires that an entry formulated in the workflow expression language. In File Plug-In actions (with the exception of starting a workflow upon file creation), the following properties may require expressions:

- File Name
- Directory Name
- Time Interval—Must use an integer.
- Archive Directory
- FTP Server Name
- Remote File Name
- Local File Name

Values for these properties can be obtained from the Expression Builder and XPath Wizard, which returns a string value. The following values are available:

- Constant strings, such as "d:\\read\\read.xml"
- Workflow variables in String type, such as \$file\_name
- Complex expressions that return string values, such as \$a+\$b+\$c+"a.txt"

**Note:** The string value for the file or directory name must contain the full path to the file or directory. Two formats for the path are available:

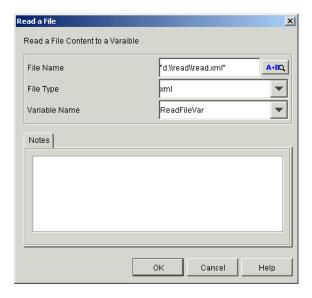
- DOS, such as "d:\\read\\read.xml"
- UNIX, such as "/home/workflow/input.txt"

For more information about expressions, see "Using Workflow Expressions" in *Using the WebLogic Integration Studio*.

## **Reading Files**

Use the File Plug-In to read a file and assign the content to a workflow variable. Figure 1-6 shows the window for defining the reading files action.

Figure 1-6 Read a File Window



#### **Template Definitions**

Set the following properties to read a file:

**Note:** Before defining the workflow's task properties, you must define a workflow variable; the file content is bounded to a workflow variable.

- Node: Any node that allows a workflow action, such as a Task node.
- Add Action window—FilePlugin Actions—Read a File Content to a Variable.
- Read a File window (Figure 1-6):
  - File Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name (see "Workflow Expressions" on page 1-8).

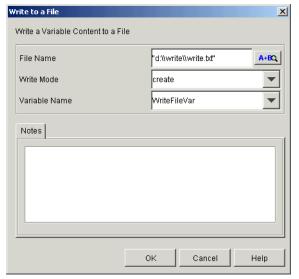
- File Type: XML, text, or binary.
- Variable Name: Variable holding the content.

**Caution:** Reading the same file by multiple workflow instances is allowed. You should prevent multiple threads from modifying the same file at the same time.

#### Write File

Use the File Plug-In to a define task that can write variable's contents to a specified file. This action has the ability to create a new file, append content to an existing file, or overwrite an existing file. Figure 1-7 shows the window for defining write file actions

Figure 1-7 Write a File Window



Set the following properties to write a file:

**Note:** Before defining the workflow's task properties, you must define a workflow variable; the file content is bounded to a workflow variable.

■ Node: Any node that allows a workflow action, such as a Task node.

- Add Action window—FilePlugin Actions—Write a Variable Content to a File.
- Write a File window (Figure 1-7):
  - File Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name (see "Workflow Expressions" on page 1-8).

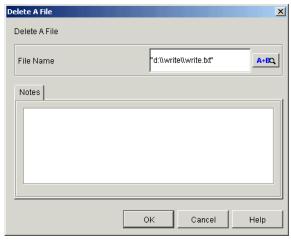
    The available file types are text, XML, and binary.
  - Write Mode: Create, append, or overwrite.
  - Variable Name: Variable holding the content.

**Caution:** Multiple threads cannot update the same file. You should prevent multiple threads from modifying the same file at the same time.

#### **Delete File**

Use the File Plug-In to define workflows that can delete files. Figure 1-8 shows the action window for deleting a file.

Figure 1-8 Delete a File



Set the following properties to delete a file:

■ Node: Any node that allows a workflow action, such as a Task node.

- FilePlugin Actions—Delete a File.
- Delete a File window (Figure 1-8):

File Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name (see "Workflow Expressions" on page 1-8).

#### Resume Workflow on File Detection

Use the File Plug-In to define an event node so that when a workflow instance reaches that node, the workflow checks for the existence of a specified file. If the file exists, the workflow reads the content of the file and then moves on. If the file does not exist, the workflow waits for the file to be created. Figure 1-13 shows the window for defining the event node.

**Note:** Only one file can only resume one workflow instance.

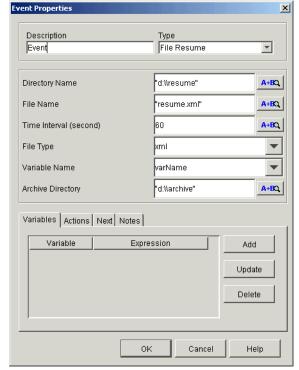


Figure 1-9 Event Properties Window for File Resume

Set the following properties for File Resume:

**Note:** Before defining the workflow's task properties, you must define a workflow variable; the file content is bounded to a workflow variable.

- Node: Event—Event Properties—Type drop-list—File Resume.
- Event Properties window (Figure 1-9):
  - Directory Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name.
  - File Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name. No wild card matching allowed.
  - Time Interval: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language. Seconds must be an integer value.
  - File Type: Text, XML, or binary.

• Archive Directory: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name.

**Note:** For more information about workflow expressions, see "Workflow Expressions" on page 1-8.

After the properties are set, the Event Node indicates the action setting, as shown in Figure 1-10.

Figure 1-10 Event Node with File Action



#### Start Workflow on Detection of File Creation

Use the File Plug-in to start a workflow when a file is created. Figure 1-11 shows the window for defining the Start node.

**Note:** One file can start only one workflow instance.

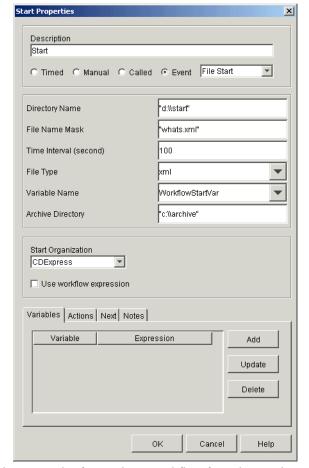


Figure 1-11 Start Properties Window for File Start

Set the following properties for starting a workflow from the creation of a file:

**Note:** Before defining the workflow's task properties, you must define a workflow variable; the file content is bounded to a workflow variable.

■ Node: Start—Event radio button—Event drop-list—File Start.

**Note:** After selecting the Event radio button in the Start Properties window, the Event drop-list appears. When you select File Start from the drop-list, the Start Properties window changes to show the File Start properties.

- Start Properties window (Figure 1-11):
  - Directory Name: Full path name. For example, "d:\\start\\workflow.xml".
  - File Name Mask: Name of file. No wild card matching allowed.
  - Time Interval: Set the polling interval in integer seconds.
  - File Type: Text, XML, or binary.
  - Variable Name: Variable holding the content.
  - Archive Directory: Full path name. For example, "d:\\jan03\\archive".

After the properties are set, the Start Node indicates the action setting, as shown in Figure 1-12.

Figure 1-12 Start Node with File Action



## **Get and Put Files Using FTP**

Use the File Plug-In to move files between a local system and a remote system.

Use *Get Files* to retrieve a file from a remote system for additional processing, such as starting a workflow, triggering an event, or reading information into a workflow.

Use *Put Files* to move a file from a local system to a remote system for archiving or triggering an application on the remote system.

Figure 1-13 shows the window for defining the Get and Put actions.

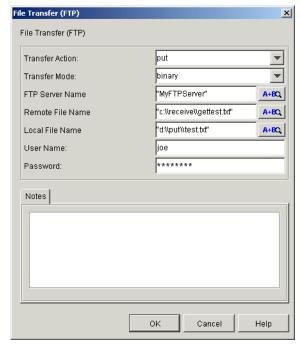


Figure 1-13 File Transfer (FTP) Window

Set the following properties for transferring files between systems:

**Note:** Before defining the transfer action, you must define an action to read the file, as described in "Reading Files" on page 1-9. As required by the Reading Files action, you must also define a workflow variable; the file content is bounded to a workflow variable.

- Node: Any node that allows a workflow action, such as a Task node.
- Add Action window—FilePlugin Actions—File Transfer (FTP).
- File Transfer window (Figure 1-13):
  - Transfer Action: Put or get.
  - Transfer Mode: ASCII or binary.
  - FTP Server Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name.

- Remote File Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name.
- Local File Name: Entry must be formulated in the workflow expression language and include the full path name.
- User Name: The name needed to log on to your FTP server.
- Password: The password needed to log on to your FTP server.

**Caution:** Get overwrites a file if the same file name exists in local system and Put overwrites a file if the same file name exists in remote system.

**Note:** For more information about workflow expressions, see "Workflow Expressions" on page 1-8.

# **Configuring File Plug-In for a Migrated Domain**

This section tells you how to update your database schema and configure the File Plug-In for a single server domain and a cluster domain.

## **Updating the BPM Database Table**

The File Plug-in uses a new database table called FILEPOLL. To update the BPM database with this table, run the following script:

BEA\_HOME\weblogic700\integration\dbscripts\<database\_type>\migr
ate\BPM 70-70SP2.sq1

In the preceding line BEA\_HOME represents the WebLogic Platform home.

#### Migrating to a Single Server Domain

To configure the File Plug-In for a single server domain, edit the domain's config.xml file as follows:

1. To deploy the fileplugin-ejb.jar as one component of WebLogic Integration application, add the following:

```
<EJBComponent Name="WLI-BPM File Plug-in"
Targets="<Customer_Server_Name>" URI="fileplugin-ejb.jar"/>
```

2. To add the JMS queue for the File Plug-In, add the following:

```
<JMSQueue JNDIName="com.bea.wli.bpm.FilePluginQueue"
Name="WLI_BPM_FP" Template="WLI_JMSTemplate"/>
```

#### Migrating to a Clustered Domain

To configure File Plug-In for a clustered domain, edit the cluster's config.xml file as follows:

**Note:** This example shows a cluster system (mycluster) with one manager server (myserver) and two managed server (c1, c2)

1. To deploy fileplugin-ejb.jar on cluster server, add the following:

```
<EJBComponent Name="WLI BPM File Plug-in"
Targets="mycluster"
URI="fileplugin-ejb.jar"/>
```

2. To configure the JMS Queue for File Plug-In, add the following:

```
<JMSDistributedQueue Name="WLI_BPM_FP"
   JNDIName="com.bea.wli.bpm.FilePluginQueue"
   Targets="mycluster">

<JMSDistributedQueueMember Name="WLI_BPM_FP-c1"
        JMSQueue="WLI_BPM_FP-c1"
        Weight="1"/>

<JMSDistributedQueueMember Name="WLI_BPM_FP-c2"
        JMSQueue="WLI_BPM_FP-c2"
        Weight="1"/>

<JMSTemplate Name="WLI_BPM_FP"/>
```

</JMSDistributedQueue>

3. On the cluster node c1 JMS server, add the following:

```
<JMSQueue Name="WLI_BPM_FP-c1"
JNDIName="com.bea.wli.bpm.FilePluginQueue-c1"
StoreEnabled="true"
Template="WLI_JMSTemplate-c1"/>
```

4. On the cluster node c2 JMS server, add the following:

```
<JMSQueue Name="WLI_BPM_FP-c2"
JNDIName="com.bea.wli.bpm.FilePluginQueue-c2"
StoreEnabled="true"
Template="WLI_JMSTemplate-c2"/>
```

# 2 An Example of Using the File Plug-In

This section provides an example of how to use the File Plug-In to transfer a file to a remote server via FTP. The first part of the example tells you how to set up a workflow in the WebLogic Integration Studio to FTP a file when the workflow is executed. The second part of the example tells you how to use the JSP Worklist to start the workflow, resulting in the transfer of a text file.

**Note:** This example uses the WebLogic Integration Samples Domain. For more information, see "Configuring and Starting the Samples Domain" in *Starting, Stopping, and Customizing BEA WebLogic Integration*.

# Setting Up the Workflow

To set up a workflow in Studio to FTP a file, complete the following steps:

**Note:** For more information about using WebLogic Integration Studio, see *Learning* to Use BEA WebLogic Integration at <a href="http://e-docs.bea.com/wli/docs70/bpmtutor/index.htm">http://e-docs.bea.com/wli/docs70/bpmtutor/index.htm</a>.

- 1. Start the WebLogic Integration server.
  - On Windows, choose Start—Programs—BEA WebLogic Platform 7.0—WebLogic—Integration Examples—Start Server.

On UNIX, run

BEA HOME/weblogic700/samples/integration/config/samples/star tWebLogic.sh.

In the preceding line, BEA HOME represents the WebLogic Platform home directory.

- 2. After the server is running, open the WebLogic Integration Studio:
  - On Windows, choose Start—BEA WebLogic Platform 7.0—WebLogic Integration 7.0—Studio.
  - On UNIX, run:

BEA HOME/weblogic700/integration/bin/studio.sh

- 3. Log on to the WebLogic Integration Studio with the following parameters: (See Figure 2-1.)
  - User Name: joe
  - Password: password
  - Server URL: t3://localhost:7001

Figure 2-1 Logon to WebLogic Integration Studio



- 4. After WebLogic Integration Studio opens, select CDExpress from the Organization drop-down list.
- 5. Right-click the Templates node and select Create Template. The Template Properties window opens, as shown in Figure 2-2.

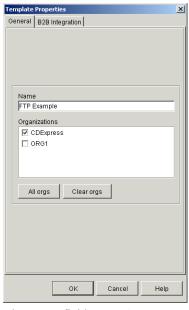


Figure 2-2 Template Properties Window

- 6. On the General tab, in the Name field, enter "FTP Example" and then click OK.
- 7. In the Organization tree, right-click the FTP Example Template node, and then select Create Template Definition.
- 8. In the Template Definition FTP Example window, click OK. The Workflow Design window opens in the right pane, as shown in Figure 2-3.

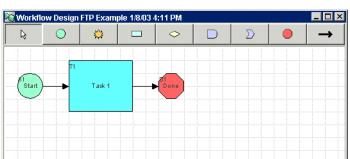
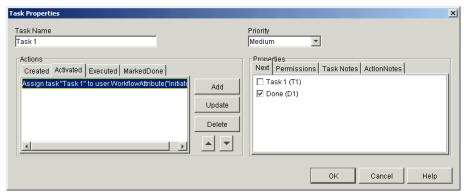


Figure 2-3 Workflow Design – FTP Example

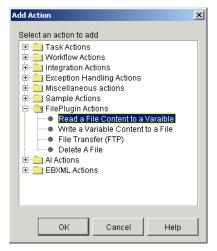
9. Right-click Task 1 and select Properties. The Task Properties window opens, as shown in Figure 2-4.

Figure 2-4 Task Properties Window



- 10. Make sure the Activated tab is selected. (This is the run-time state.)
- 11. Click Add. The Add Action window opens, as shown in Figure 2-5.

Figure 2-5 Add Action Window



12. Open the FilePlugin Actions folder, select Read a File Content to a Variable, and then click OK. The Read a File window opens, as shown in Figure 2-6.

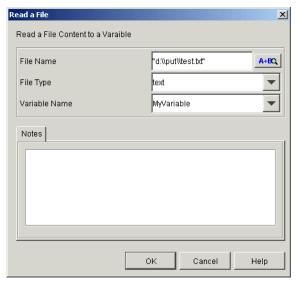


Figure 2-6 Read a File Window

- 13. Set the Read a File actions as follows:
  - File Name: "d:\\put\\test.txt" (enter full path including quotes)
  - File Type: text
  - Variable Name: My Variable

Note: Use two backslashes for Window systems.

- 14. In the Task Properties window, select the Executed tab, and then click Add. The Add Action dialog box opens.
- 15. Open the FilePlugin Actions folder, select the File Transfer (FTP) node, and then click OK. The File Transfer window opens, as shown in Figure 2-7.

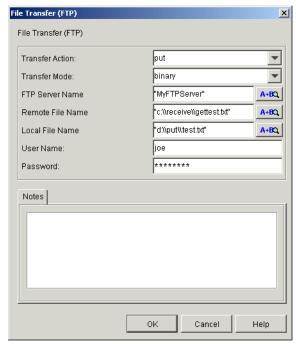


Figure 2-7 File Transfer Window

- 16. Set the File Transfer actions as follows:
  - Transfer Action: put.
  - Transfer Mode: binary.
  - FTP Server Name: "Name of your FTP server" including quotes.
  - Remote File Name: "c:\receive\\gettest.txt" including quotes.
  - Local File Name "d:\\put\\test.txt" including quotes.
  - User Name: The name needed to log on to your FTP server.
  - Password: The password needed to log on to your FTP server.
- 17. In the Task Properties window, select File Transfer (FTP), click the Up arrow, and then click OK. See Figure 2-8.

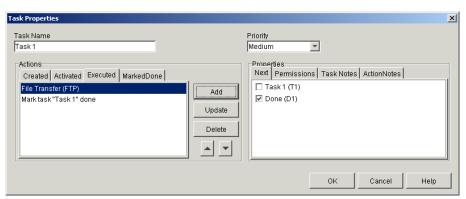
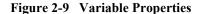
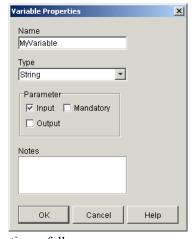


Figure 2-8 Task Properties – Move File Transfer Task

18. In the Organization tree, right-click the Variables Node, and then select Create Variable. The Variable Properties window opens, as shown in Figure 2-9.





19. Set the variable properties as follows:

• Name: My Variable

Type: String

Parameter: Input

- 20. Right-click the Template Definition Folder and select Properties.
- 21. Select the Active check box and click OK.

22. Right-click the Template folder and select Save.

**Note:** An asterisk by the folder indicates that the changes have not been saved.

23. In your file system, create a text file corresponding to the Local File Name you created in the File Transfer window.

# **Activating the Workflow**

In this part of the example, the JSP Worklist executes the workflow, resulting in the transfer of the text file to the remote file system.

For more information about the JSP Worklist, see *Using the WebLogic Integration JSP Worklist*.

- 1. To start the JSP Worklist, do one of the following:
  - On a Windows system, choose Start—Programs—BEA WebLogic Platform 7.0—WebLogic Integration 7.0—Worklist.
  - On a UNIX system, open a browser and enter the following URL:

```
http://localhost:7001/worklist
```

The Login page displays, as shown in Figure 2-10.

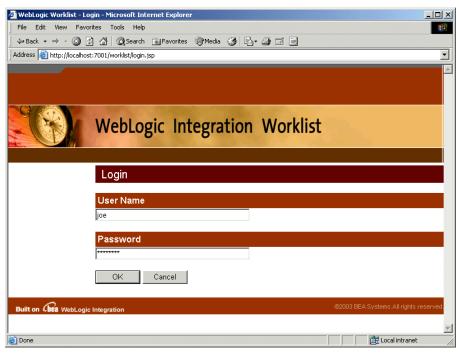


Figure 2-10 Login to WebLogic Integration JSP Worklist

- 2. Enter joe in the User Name field.
- 3. Enter password in the Password field.
- 4. Click the OK button. The JSP Worklist displays, as shown in Figure 2-10.

WebLogic Worklist - Microsoft Internet Explorer \_ | X File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Address (a) http://localhost:7001/worklist/worklist.jsp T WebLogic Integration Worklist Worklist for joe Start Workflow Options Last Updated: 1/8/03 5:18 PM Organization ORG1 **√** Go No Tasks Execute Task Workflow Workflow Label Due Started View ▶joe AdminRole Role1 Role2 Built on bea WebLogic Integration Done **E** Local intranet

Figure 2-11 JSP Worklist Main Page

- 5. Select CDExpress from the Organization drop-list.
- 6. Click Start Workflow. The Start Workflow page opens, as shown in Figure 2-12.



Figure 2-12 Start Workflow Page

7. In Select Workflow to Start list, select FTP Example, and then click OK. The Worklist opens showing the task, as shown in Figure 2-13.

Figure 2-13 Worklist with New Task

- 8. Click Execute. The file is transferred to its target directory and the task disappears from the worklist.
- 9. Check your target directory to see the transferred file.

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