Forgejo Actions administrator guide

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Forgejo Actions provides continuous integration driven from the files found in the `.forgejo/workflows` directory of a repository. Note that Forgejo does not run the jobs, it relies on the Forgejo Runner to do so.

Forgejo Runner

The Forgejo Runner is a program that fetches workflows to run from a Forgejo instance and executes them. It is installed and configured separately from Forgejo.

To get started with Forgejo Runner:

1. Install Forgejo Runner
   - using a binary installation, or
   - using a Docker container, or
   - using Linux distribution packaged binaries.
2. Register Forgejo Runner to connect it to Forgejo,
3. Configure Forgejo Runner to define what jobs it executes and how it operates.
   - Choosing labels for the runner is the minimum required configuration.

A single Forgejo Runner can be connected to multiple Forgejo instances, or different users, organizations, or repositories within a single instance. Multiple Forgejo Runner installations can be connected to a single Forgejo instance to distribute jobs over a cluster of available compute resources.

Forgejo Runner performs remote code execution. That poses significant security threats for the host and network that it operates upon. Securing Forgejo Actions Deployments walks through the security considerations and choices that an administrator should be aware of.

To build container images in workflows or run actions that use Docker, additional configuration is required.

Forgejo Settings

Enabling/Disabling

As of `Forgejo v1.21`, Actions is enabled by default. It can be disabled by adding the following to `app.ini`:

```
[actions]
ENABLED = false
```

Default Actions URL

In a workflow, when `uses:` does not specify an absolute URL, the value of `DEFAULT_ACTIONS_URL` is prepended to it.

```
[actions]
ENABLED = true
DEFAULT_ACTIONS_URL = https://data.forgejo.org
```

The actions published at https://data.forgejo.org are:

- known to work with Forgejo Actions
- published under a Free Software license

They can be found in organizations such as actions for general purpose actions, docker for those related to Docker and so on.

When setting `DEFAULT_ACTIONS_URL` to a Forgejo instance with an open registration, **care must be taken to avoid name conflicts**. For instance if an action has `uses: foo/bar@main` it will clone and try to run the action found at `DEFAULT_ACTIONS_URL/foo/bar` if it exists, even if it provides something different than what is expected.

Storage

The logs and artifacts are stored in Forgejo. The cache is stored by the runner itself and never sent to Forgejo.

`job` logs

The logs of each `job` run is stored by the Forgejo server and expire after a delay that defaults to 365 days and can be configured as follows:

```
[actions]
LOG_RETENTION_DAYS = 365
```

The location where these files are stored is configured in the `storage.actions_log` section of `app.ini` as explained in in the storage documentation.

`artifacts` logs

The artifacts uploaded by a job are stored by the Forgejo server and expire after a delay that defaults to 90 days and can be configured as follows:

```
[actions]
ARTIFACT_RETENTION_DAYS = 90
```

The location where these artifacts are stored is configured in the `storage.artifacts` section of `app.ini` as explained in in the storage documentation.

The `admin/monitor/cron` administration web interface can be used to manually trigger the `Cleanup actions expired logs and artifacts` task instead of waiting for the scheduled task to happen.

Other runners

It is possible to use other runners instead of Forgejo Runner. As long as they can connect to a Forgejo instance using the same protocol, they will be given tasks to run.

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