

Flags



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The NATS server has many flags to customize its behavior without having to write a configuration file.

The configuration flags revolve around:

- Server Options
- Logging
- Authorization
- TLS Security
- Clustering
- Information

Server Options

Flag	Description
<code>-a</code> , <code>--addr</code> , <code>--net</code>	Host address to bind to (default: <code>0.0.0.0</code> - all interfaces).
<code>-p</code> , <code>--port</code>	NATS client port (default: 4222).
<code>-n</code> , <code>--name</code> , <code>--server_name</code>	Server name (default auto).
<code>-P</code> , <code>--pid</code>	File to store the process ID (PID).
<code>-m</code> , <code>--http_port</code>	HTTP port for monitoring dashboard (exclusive of <code>--https_port</code>).

Flag	Description
<code>-ms</code> , <code>--https_port</code>	HTTPS port monitoring for monitoring dashboard (exclusive of <code>--http_port</code>).
<code>-c</code> , <code>--config</code>	Path to NATS server configuration file.
<code>-sl</code> , <code>--signal</code>	Send a signal to nats-server process. See process signaling .
<code>--client_advertise</code>	Client HostPort to advertise to other servers.
<code>-t</code>	Test configuration and exit
<code>--ports_file_dir</code>	Creates a ports file in the specified directory (<executable_name>_ports).

JetStream Options

Flag	Description
<code>-js</code> , <code>--jetstream</code>	Enable JetStream functionality.
<code>-sd</code> , <code>--store_dir</code>	Set the storage directory.

Authentication Options

The following options control straightforward authentication:

Flag	Description
<code>--user</code>	Required <i>username</i> for connections (exclusive of <code>--auth</code>).
<code>--pass</code>	Required <i>password</i> for connections (exclusive of <code>--auth</code>).
<code>--auth</code>	Required <i>authorization token</i> for connections (exclusive of <code>--user</code> and <code>--password</code>).

See [token authentication](#), and [username/password](#) for more information.

Logging Options

The following flags are available on the server to configure logging:

Flag	Description
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<code>-l</code> , <code>--log</code>	File to redirect log output
<code>-T</code> , <code>--logtime</code>	Specify <code>-T=false</code> to disable timestamping log entries
<code>-s</code> , <code>--syslog</code>	Log to syslog or windows event log
<code>-r</code> , <code>--remote_syslog</code>	The syslog server address, like <code>udp://localhost:514</code>
<code>-D</code> , <code>--debug</code>	Enable debugging output
<code>-V</code> , <code>--trace</code>	Enable protocol trace log messages
<code>-VV</code>	Verbose trace (traces system account as well)
<code>-DV</code>	Enable both debug and protocol trace messages
<code>-DVV</code>	Debug and verbose trace (traces system account as well)
<code>--max_traced_msg_len</code>	Maximum printable length for traced messages. 0 for unlimited
<code>--max_traced_msg_len</code>	Maximum printable length for traced messages (default: unlimited)

You can read more about [logging configuration here](#).

TLS Options

Flag	Description
<code>--tls</code>	Enable TLS, do not verify clients
<code>--tlscert</code>	Server certificate file
<code>--tlskey</code>	Private key for server certificate
<code>--tlsverify</code>	Enable client TLS certificate verification
<code>--tlscacert</code>	Client certificate CA for verification

You can read more about [tls configuration here](#).

Cluster Options

The following flags are available on the server to configure clustering:

Flag	Description
<code>--routes</code>	Comma-separated list of cluster URLs to solicit and connect

Flag	Description
--cluster	Cluster URL for clustering requests
--no_advertise	Do not advertise known cluster information to clients
--cluster_advertise	Cluster URL to advertise to other servers
--connect_retries	For implicit routes, number of connect retries
--cluster_listen	Cluster url from which members can solicit routes

You can read more about [clustering configuration here](#).

Common Options

Flag	Description
-h, --help	Show this message
-v, --version	Show version
--help_tls	TLS help

📄	#3	
📄	cocobook-sync	📄 2026-10-28 11:13:18 UTC
📄	cocobook-sync	📄 2026-10-29 01:42:37 UTC