Configuration Introduction

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How the Magic Happens {: .subtitle }

Configuration in Traefik can refer to two different things:

- The install (startup) configuration (formerly known as the *static configuration*)
- The routing configuration (formerly known as the *dynamic configuration*)

Elements in the *install configuration* set up connections to providers and define the entrypoints Traefik will listen to (these elements don't change often).

The *routing configuration* contains everything that defines how the requests are handled by your system. This configuration can change and is seamlessly hot-reloaded, without any request interruption or connection loss.

!!! warning "Incompatible Configuration" Please be aware that the old configurations for Traefik v1.x are NOT compatible with the v2.x config as of now. If you are running v2, please ensure you are using a v2 configuration.

The Routing Configuration

Traefik gets its *routing configuration* from providers: whether an orchestrator, a service registry, or a plain old configuration file.

Since this configuration is specific to your infrastructure choices, we invite you to refer to the dedicated section of this documentation.

!!! info ""

```
In the [Quick Start example](./docker.md), the whoami application routing configuration comes
from docker in the form of a label attached to the whoami container.
```

!!! info "HTTPS Certificates also belong to the routing configuration."

```
You can add / update / remove them without restarting your Traefik instance.
```

The Install Configuration

There are three different, **mutually exclusive** (i.e. you can use only one at the same time), ways to define install configuration options in Traefik:

1. In a configuration file
2. In the command-line arguments
3. As environment variables

These ways are evaluated in the order listed above.

If no value was provided for a given option, a default value applies. Moreover, if an option has sub-options, and any of these sub-options is not specified, a default value will apply as well.

For example, the `--providers.docker` option is enough by itself to enable the docker provider, even though sub-options like `--providers.docker.endpoint` exist. Once positioned, this option sets (and resets) all the default values of the sub-options of `--providers.docker`.

Configuration File

At startup, Traefik searches for install configuration in a file named `traefik.yml` (or `traefik.yaml` or `traefik.toml`) in:

- `/etc/traefik/`
- `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/`
- `$HOME/.config/`
- `.` (*the working directory*).

You can override this using the `configFile` argument.

```
traefik --configFile=foo/bar/myconfigfile.yml
```

Arguments

To get the list of all available arguments:

```
traefik --help

# or

docker run traefik[:version] --help
# ex: docker run traefik:v3.8 --help
```

Check the CLI reference for an overview about all available arguments.

Environment Variables

All available environment variables can be found in the install configuration environment overview.

Available Configuration Options

All the configuration options are documented in their related section.

You can browse the available features in the menu, the providers, or the routing section to see them in action.

{% include-markdown "includes/traefik-for-business-applications.md" %}

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