ElectricFlow 5.0 User Guide

Electric Cloud, Inc. www.electric-cloud.com

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Introduction to ElectricFlow

ElectricFlow is a continuous delivery solution that you can use for software release management and production deployment. You can automate DevOps processes and provide continuous delivery of your product.

With ElectricFlow, you can implement *deploy automation* and ensure that your DevOps process run continuously and automatically. You can model applications with processes from development to production and set up workflows to automatically run them.

ElectricFlow consists of two main layers:

· User interface for automation

You can set DevOps processes.

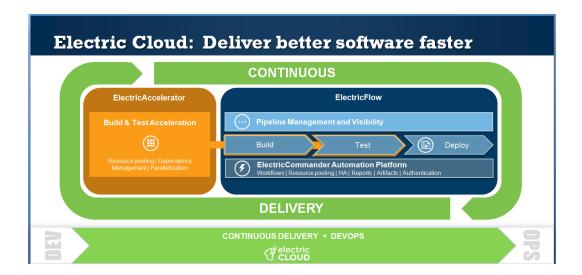
You can create the applications to run automatically.

You can monitor applications as they run.

• ElectricCommander platform

You can configure workflows, manage resources and artifacts, run reports, see the job status, and create server clusters.

The following diagram shows how ElectricFlow provides continuous delivery.



Getting Started with ElectricFlow

Before performing the tasks in this section, make sure that ElectricFlow is installed and running properly. For more information, see the installation guide:

http://docs.electric-cloud.com/commander_doc/5_0/HTML5/Install/CommanderInstallHTML.htm.

To start using ElectricFlow, do the following:

1. Access and log into ElectricFlow.

For information about the Home page, see Home Page.

2. Configure ElectricFlow and model your applications.

If you want to implement deploy automation, see Scenario: Basic Continuous Delivery Solution.

If you want to evaluate ElectricFlow, see Evaluating ElectricFlow.

For all other use cases, see the "Getting Started with Commander" section in the "Online Help" part of the *Commander Help* guide:

http://docs.electric-cloud.com/commander_doc/5_0/HTML5/Help/commanderhelp.htm.

The "Getting Started" section has scenarios to configure the ElectricCommander automation platform.

ElectricFlow Terminology

These are some of the objects in ElectricFlow.

• Application - Software program that lead to a result when the application is run.

In ElectricFlow, an application can have application processes, components, and component processes. Only application processes and components are required.

If you want ElectricFlow to run an application, it must have one of these combinations:

- Application processes and components
- Application processes and component with component processes.
- Application Process Group of steps or actions that lead to a result when an application is run.

A process can be re-used and rerun multiple times.

For example, an application process can be preflight, unit test, back up, or upgrade.

Application Tier - Logical grouping of components in an application.

For example, an application can have tiers for different kinds of servers:

- · Web server
- Test server
- Database server
- Component Part of an application.

• **Component Process** - Group of steps or actions that are defined for a component, which is part of an application.

When the application runs, it runs the application and component processes, leading to a result.

A process can be reused and rerun multiple times.

For example, a component process can be backing up the server configuration, saving the database, or upgrading the server.

- Environment Tier Logical grouping of resources in an environment.
- Process Group of steps or actions that perform a specific task.

A process can be reused and rerun multiple tilmes.

- **Resource** An agent machine configured to communicate with the automation platform (ElectricCommander).
- Templates Basic predefined format of information for continuous delivery.
- **Tier** Logical group of objects, such as components in an application tier or resources in an environment tier.
- Version An iteration of the application.

Accessing ElectricFlow

1. Enter http://<commander-server>/flow in a browser window, where <commander-server> is the ElectricCommander server IP address or host name.

For example, when you go to https://123.123.1.222/flow/, the login screen appears.



Login

Password

Sign in

IMPORTANT: For a new installation, the default admin account user name is *admin* and the password is *changeme*. You should change the default admin account as soon as possible.

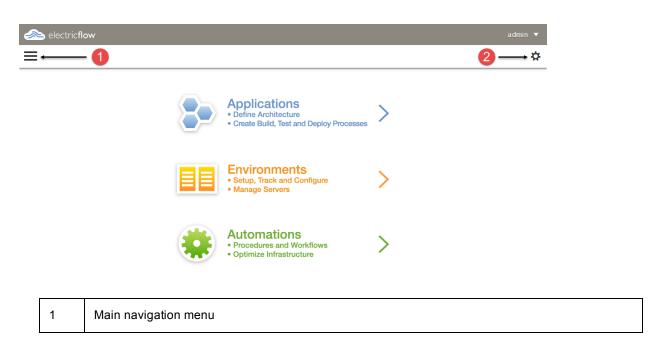
- 2. Enter a user name and password.
- 3. Click Login.

The ElectricFlow home page opens.



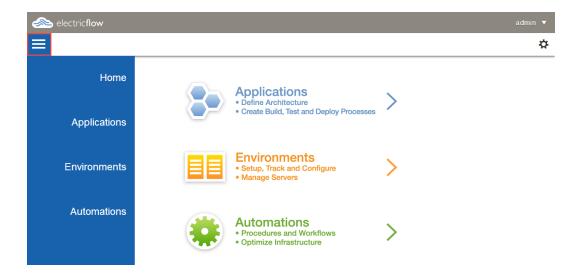
Home Page

After you log into ElectricFlow, the Home page opens.



2 Administrative settings

When you click on the main menu icon, several options appear that match the options on the Home page.



For example, if you want to create a new application or see the list of configured applications, you can click **Applications** on the Home page or click **Applications** in the list.

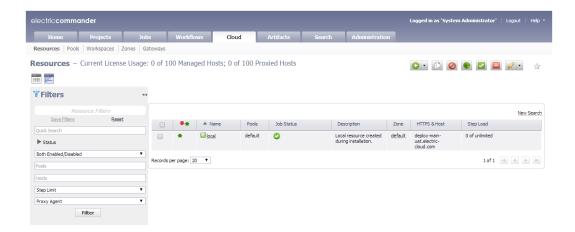
For information about the pages that appear when you click Applications, see Creating Applications.

For information about the pages that appear when you click Environments, see Creating Environments.

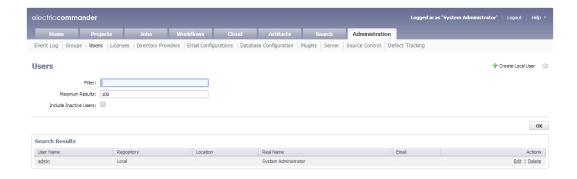
When you click on the Administrative Settings icon, the Administrative Settings menu appears that enables to configure the product installation .



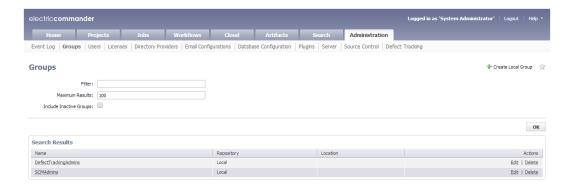
When you click **Resources**, you go to the ElectricCommander platform page to view and manage ElectricFlow resources. For more information about the Resources page, see the "Resources" section in the *ElectricCommander User Guide*.



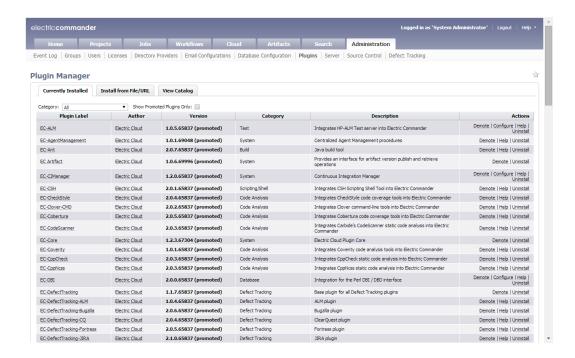
When you click **Users**, you go to the ElectricCommander platform page to view and manage ElectricFlow users. For more information about the Users page, see the "Users and Groups" section in the *ElectricCommander User Guide*.



When you click **Groups**, you go to the ElectricCommander platform page to view and manage ElectricFlow groups. For more information about the Groups page, see the "Users and Groups" section in the *ElectricCommander User Guide*.



When you click **Plugins**, you go to the ElectricCommander platform to view and manage ElectricFlow plugins. For more information about the Plugin Manager, see the "Plugins Manager" section in the *ElectricCommander User Guide*.



When you click **Administration**, you go to the ElectricCommander platform Administration. The following shows the Event Log. For more information about the Event Log, see the "Event Log" section in the *ElectricCommander User Guide*.

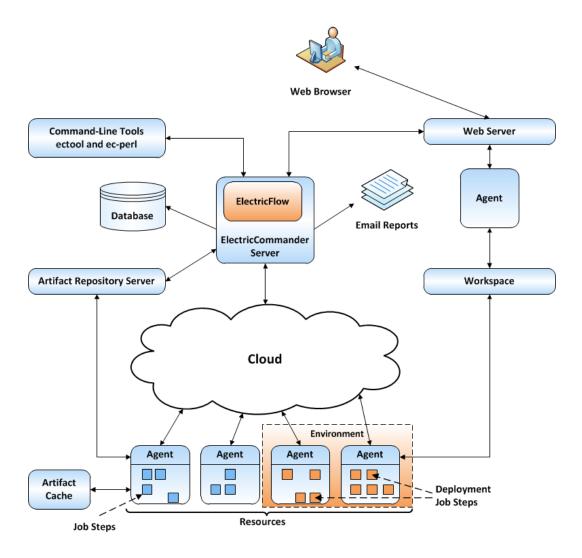


ElectricFlow System

This section describes a local ElectricFlow system.

Topics:

ElectricFlow System



In this local configuration:

- The ElectricCommander server manages resources, issues commands, and generates reports.
- · Application, components, environments, and deployment job steps are defined in ElectricFlow.
- Deployment job steps are executed on resources in the defined deployment environments.
- An underlying database stores commands, metadata, and log files.

If you are only evaluating ElectricFlow, the ElectricFlow software, the database, the ElectricCommander server, the web server, and the repository server can reside on the same machine. In a production environment, the database should reside on a separate machine from the ElectricCommander server to prevent performance issues. It is acceptable for the Commander server, web server, and repository server to reside on the same machine in a local configuration, but not required.

ElectricFlow Scenarios and Examples

This section has scenarios and examples to create continuous delivery solutions.

IMPORTANT: Do not delete the default project.

If the default project is deleted and not recreated, ElectricFlow is no longer available. To use it again, you must re-install ElectricFlow.

Scenario: Basic Application Deployment

A basic application deployment has the following objects:

- An application to build, test, and deploy processes for your product
- Application processes that make up the application. For example, deploy, rollback, backup, or upgrade.
- Components that are parts of the application. For example, a database, server, or a collection of logs and reports.
- Component processes for the components. For example, a process that backs up a database or a server, a process that upgrades at database or a server, or a process to print logs to a specific location.
- An environment to which resources are assigned and the application is mapped. An application must be mapped to an environment in a tier map to run the application.

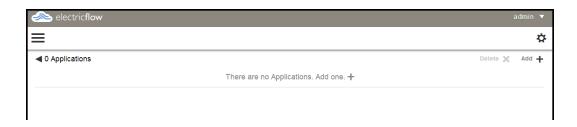
The applications in the following scenario have application processes and components with component processes. The scenario has these major steps:

- Create applications with component processes and application processes.
- · Create environments to which resources are assigned.
- Create a tier map between an application tier and an environment tier.
- · Run the job.

For examples of the results when processes are run, see

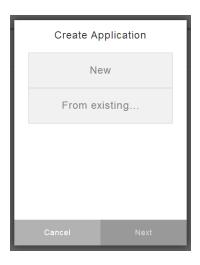
- Example: Process with Successful Results
- Example: Process That Fails
- 1. Click **Applications** on the ElectricFlow Home page.

The Applications page appears.



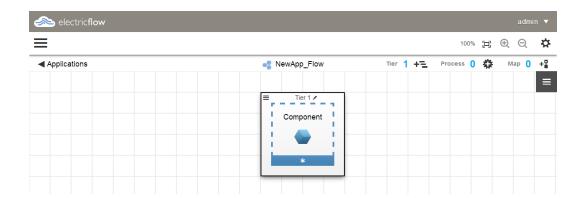
2. To add an application, click on the plus sign next to Add.

The Create Application dialog box opens.



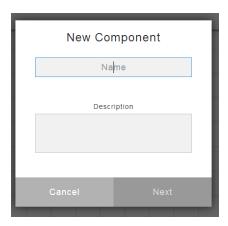
3. Click **New** or **From existing** and then click **Next**. Configure the application as described in the subsequent dialog boxes. Go to Creating Applications for more information.

After you configure the application, the Applications page appears. The following example shows the Applications page with one component. You can edit the name of the component tier by clicking pencil icon next to the tier name (Tier 1).

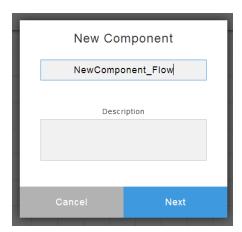


4. To create a component, click the icon (similar to an asterik) in the tier.

The New Component dialog box appears.

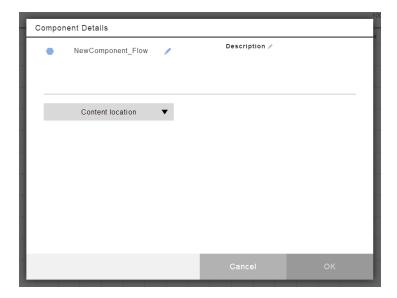


- 5. Enter the name of the component in the Name field.
- 6. (Optional) Enter a description of the component in the Description field.



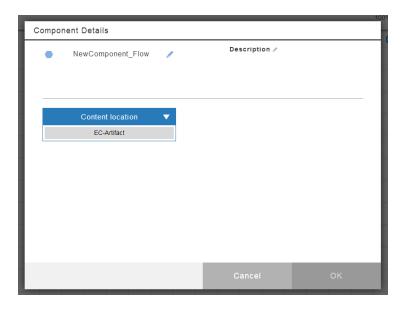
7. Click Next.

The Component Details dialog box appears.



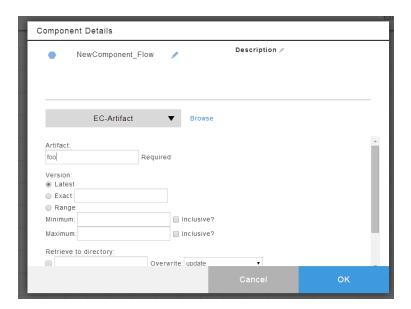
8. Click the down arrow in the Current Location box.

The supported options appear.

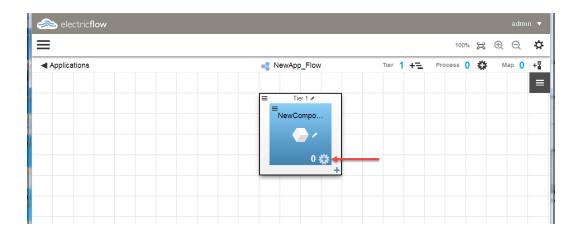


9. Select an option.

10. Enter information about the option, and then click **OK**.



The Applications page appears with the updated component.



11. To create a component process, click the Process icon in the component.

The Component Process Details dialog box appears.



- 12. Enter the name of the process in the Name field.
- 13. Select the process type:

Deploy - Use inventory tracking. The ElectricCommander server tracks the artifacts deployed to environments.

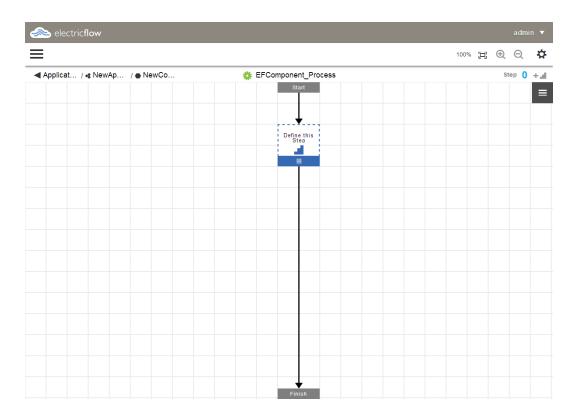
Undeploy - The next time that the deploy process is run, the ElectricCommander server removes information about the artifacts deployed to environments.

Other - Do not use inventory tracking

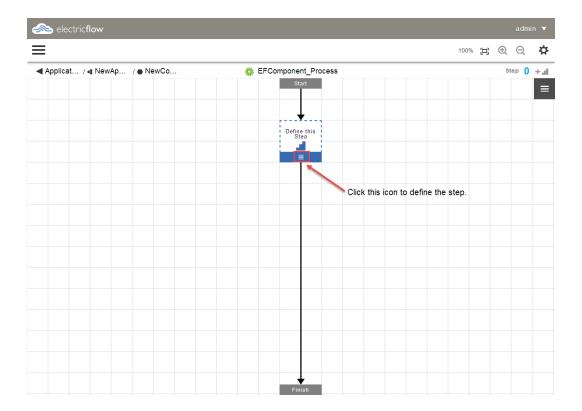


14. (Optional) Enter a description of the process.

The Component Process page opens.



15. Click the icon in the step to define it.

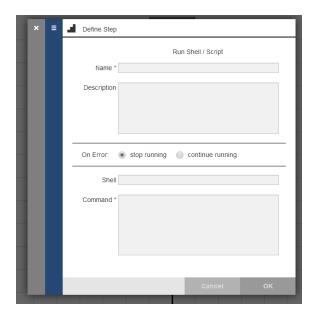


The list of ways to define the step appears.



16. In this scenario, select the **Command** option.

The Define Step dialog box with shell and command fields opens.



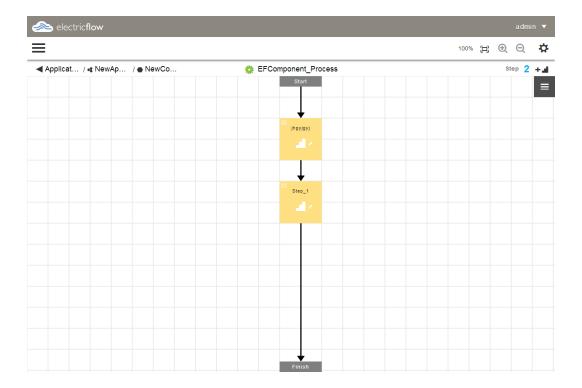
- 17. Enter the name of the step in the Name field.
- 18. (Optional) Enter a description of the step in the Description field.
- 19. Select stop running or continue running as the On Error option.

When you select stop running, ElectricFlow stops the job if an error occurs.

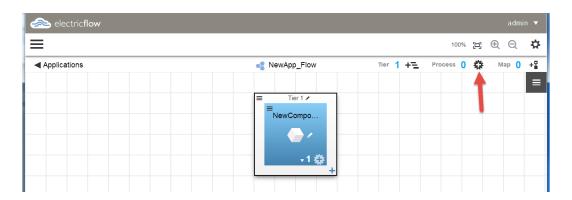
When you select continue running, ElectricFlow continues to run the job if an error occurs.

20. Click **OK**.

The Component Process page appears with the new information.



- 21. Go to the Applications page for the application that you created.
- 22. Click the Process icon to create an application process.



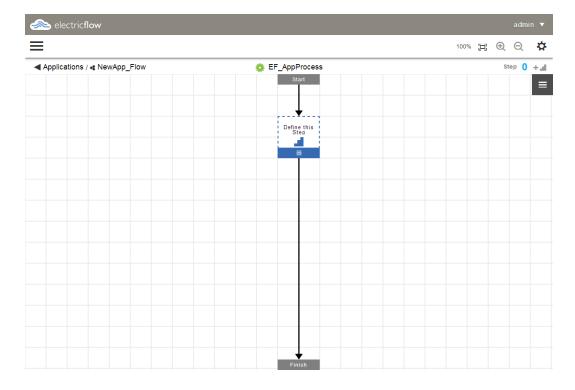
The Application Process Details dialog box appears.

23. Enter the name of the process in the Name field.



- 24. (Optional) Enter the description of the process in the Description field.
- 25. Click **OK**.

The Application Process Architecture page appears.



26. Click the icon in the step to define it.

The list of ways to define the step appears.

27. In this scenario, select the **Components** option.

The list of supported components appears.



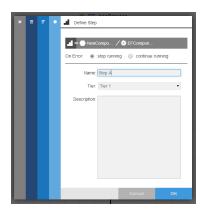
28. Select the component that you created.

A dialog box showing the component processes for that component appears.



29. Select a component process.

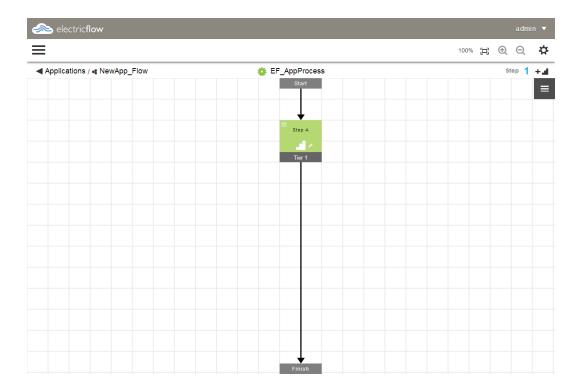
The Define Step dialog box with the component process details appears.



30. Enter the name of the step on the Name field, and select the On Error option.

- 31. (Optional) Enter the description of the step in the Description field.
- 32. Click **OK**.

The Component Process Architecture page appears with the new step information.



33. Go the Applications page that shows the applications in your ElectricFlow system.



34. Go to the Environments page.



35. Click the plus sign next to Add to create an environment.

The Create Environment dialog box appears.



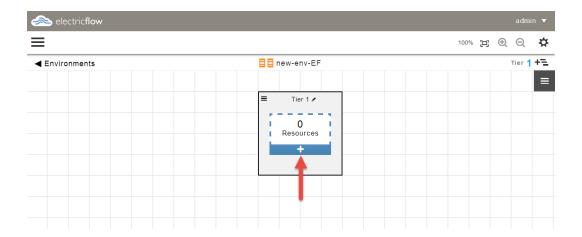
36. Select **New** or **From application**. Configure the environment as described in the subsequent dialog boxes. Go to Creating Environments for more information.

The Environments page appears with the new environment.

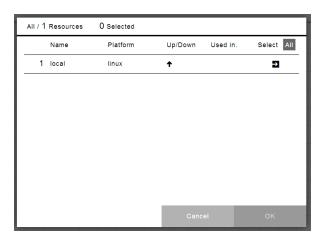


37. Go to the Environments page.

38. Click on the plus sign in the Tier 1 box.



The Environments inventory dialog box opens.



39. Select a resource and click OK.

The Environments page appears with the new resource information.



40. In the Applications page, click the Map icon to create a tier map.



The Select Environment dialog box opens.



41. Select the environment that you created, and click **OK**.

The Tier Mapping dialog box opens.

42. Click in the Environment field.



The available tiers for the environment appear.



43. Select the tier that will be mapped to the application tier.

The Tier Mapping dialog box shows the application tier-to-environment tier mapping.



44. Click **OK**.

45. Go to the Applications page.



46. Click on the Run Process icon to start the process.

The Run Application Process dialog box opens.



47. Click the down arrow in the Select Process field and select the application process that you configured.



48. Click the down arrow in the Select Environment field and select the environment that you configured.



49. Click OK.



The process runs.

You can also run processes with applications that do not have component processes.

Example: Application Process with Successful Results

This example shows how to run an application process and check the results. The process is successfully run.

The application process is configured as follows:

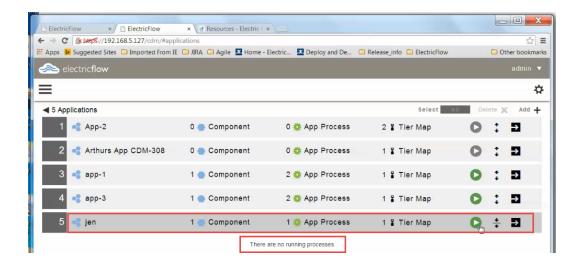
- There is a tier map between the application and an environment.
- The application process is called jen.
- The environment to which the process is mapped is called jen-env.



1. Go to the Application List page.

This page shows an application called jen that is ready to run.

When you mouse over the Expansion icon, this message appears: There are no running processes



2. Click the green run-process icon.

The Run Application Process dialog box appears.



3. In the Select Process field, select jenappProcess.



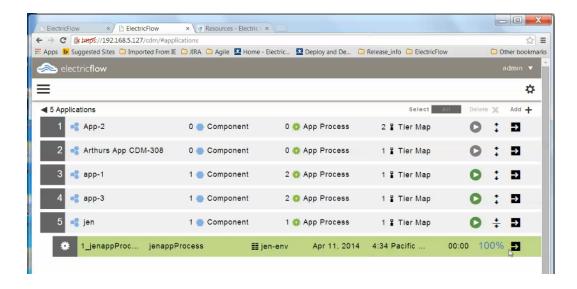
4. In the Select Environment field, select jen-env.



5. Click OK.

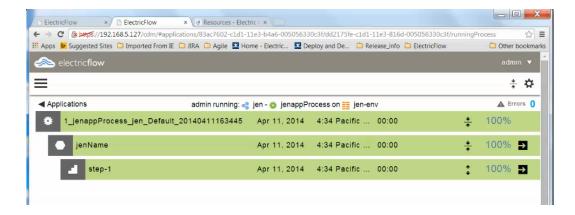
The process runs.

The Application List shows that the process was completed.



6. In the row for the application called jen, click on the arrow on the left to see more details.

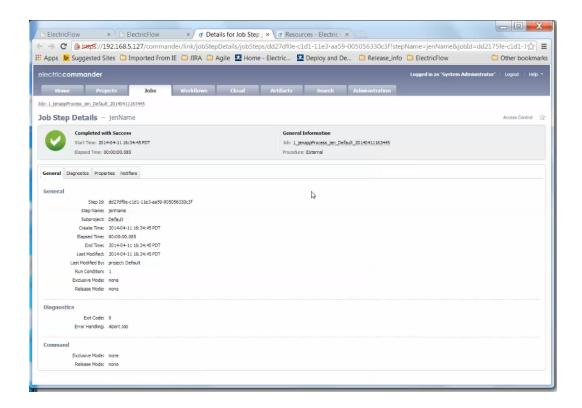
The Application List shows the details of the process as it ran.



The percentage complete is 100% for the jenappProcess process with the jenName component that has the step-1 step.

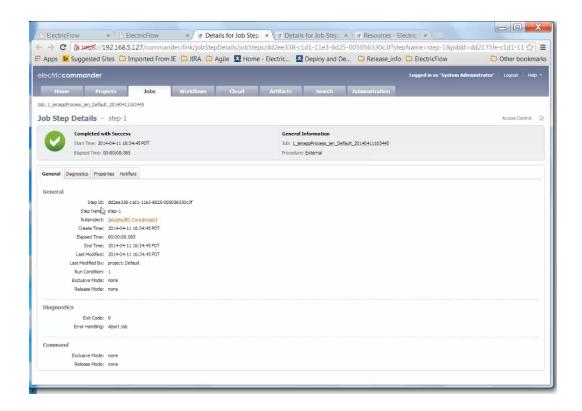
7. In the row for the jenName component, click on the right arrow to go to the Job Step Details page for jenName in ElectricCommander.

It shows what happened to the component when the job ran.

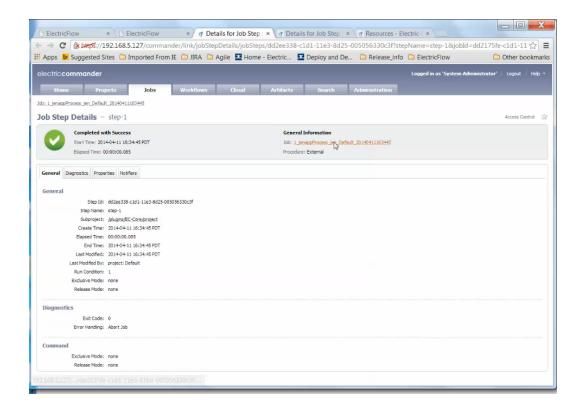


8. Return to ElectricFlow.

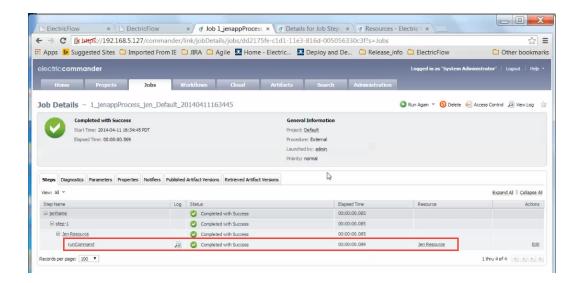
In the step row, click on the right arrow to go to the Job Step Details page in ElectricCommander.
This page shows what happened to the step when the job ran.



10. For more information about the job, click on the job link in the General Information section.



The Job Details page opens and shows more information about the job.



11. In the runCommand row, click on the magnifying glass icon to see the results of the process.

The Workspace File opens and shows the output from the component process, which is "Helllo word from Jen's process component" printed on the screen.



Example: Application Process That Fails

This example shows how to run an application process and check the results. The process fails.

The application process is configured as follows:

- There is a tier map between the application and an environment.
- The application process is called JenAppProcessWithoutComp.
- The environment to which the process is mapped is called jen-env.
- 1. Go to the Application List.

This page shows an application called jen that is ready to run.



2. Click the green run-process icon.

The Run Application Process dialog box opens.



3. In the Select Process field, select JenAppProcessWithoutComp.



4. In the Select Environment field, select jen-env.



5. Click OK.

The process starts.

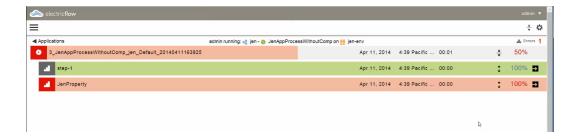
The Application List appears showing the progress of the process.



6. Click the right arrow in the 3_JenAppProcessWithoutComp row to see the details.

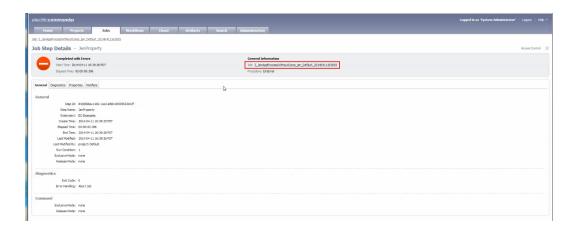
The Application List now shows the details as the process runs.

The step-1 step passed, but the process has one error and the JenPropery step failed.



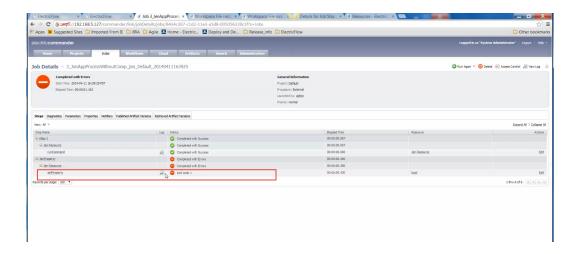
7. Click the right arrow in the JenProperty row.

The Job Step Details page opens.



8. Click the link to the job.

The Job Details page for the process appears.



9. In the setProperty row, click on the magnifying glass icon to see the log file.

The Workspace File opens and shows error messages.



This step seems to have failed because the "Property is blank."

More About ElectricFlow

This section has more information and icons about the ElectricFlow user interface.

Creating Applications

The Create Application dialog box opens when you click the plus sign next to Add in the Applications page.

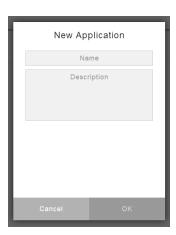
You can select either New or From existing.



If you click **New** in the Create Application dialog box, do the following:

1. Click New and then Next.

The New Application dialog box opens.



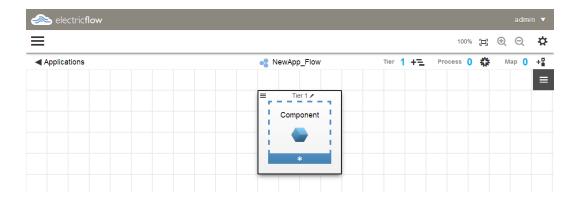
2. Enter the name of the application in the Name field.

3. (Optional) Enter a description of the application in the Description field.



4. Click OK.

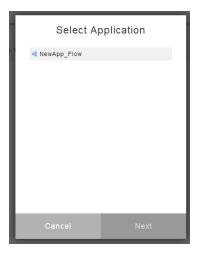
The Applications page appears.



If you click **From existing**, do the following:

1. Click From existing and then Next.

The Select Application dialog box opens.



2. Select an existing application and then click Next.

The New Application dialog box opens.

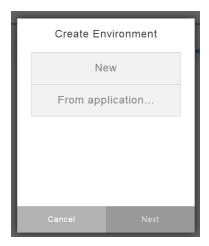
- 3. Enter the name of the application in the Name field.
- 4. (Optional) Enter a description of the application in the Description field.
- 5. Click OK.

The Applications page appears.

Creating Environments

The Create Environments dialog box opens when you click the plus sign next to Add in the Environment page.

You can select either New or From application



If you click **New** in the Create Environment dialog box, do the following:

1. Click **New** and then **Next**.

The New Environment dialog box opens.

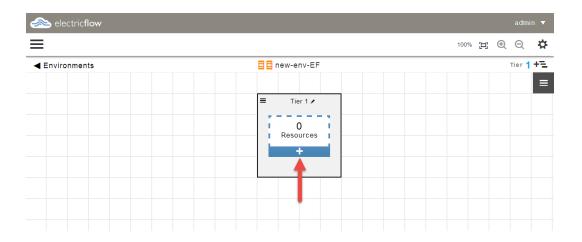


- 2. Enter the name of the environment in the Name field.
- 3. (Optional) Enter a description of the environment in the Description field.



4. Click OK.

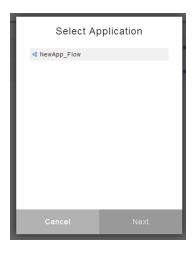
The Environments page appears.



If you click From application, do the following:

1. Click From application and then Next.

The Select Application dialog box opens.



2. Select an existing application and then click Next.

The New Environment dialog box opens.

- 3. Enter the name of the environment in the Name field.
- 4. (Optional) Enter a description of the environment in the Description field.
- 5. Click OK.

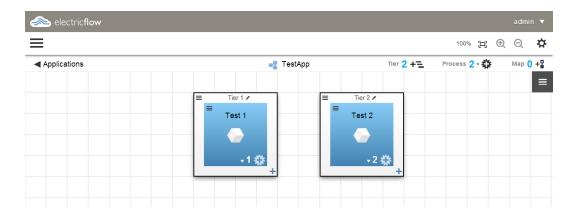
The Applications page appears.

Example: Process Steps Defined with Component Operations

This example shows how to define a process step with a component operation.

The following steps show how to define an application process step.

1. In the Applications page for an application, click the Process icon in the upper right corner next to the number of application processes.



The Application Process Details dialog box opens.

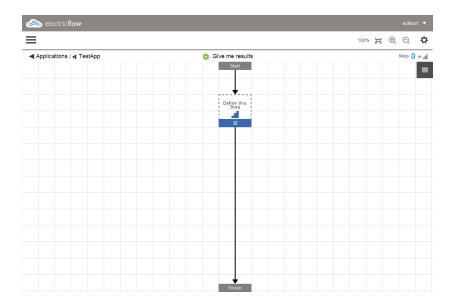
2. Enter the name of the process in the Name field, and select the process type.



3. (Optional) You can also enter a description of the process in the Description field.

4. Click OK.

The Application Process page opens.



5. Click the icon below the step icon in the process step.

The list of ways to define the steps appears.



6. Select Component Operations.

A list of components in the application appears.



7. Select an component.

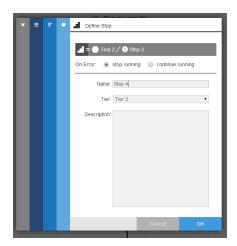
The list of processes for the selected component appear.

If Step 2 is selected, the following list of component processes appears:



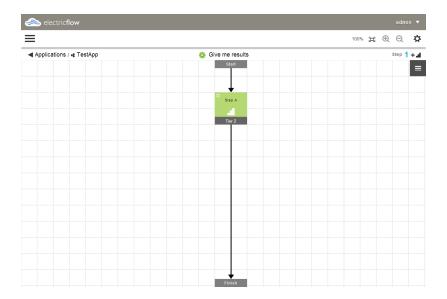
8. Select a component process.

If Step 2 is selected, the following dialog box to define the step appears:



9. Click OK.

The Component Process page is updated.

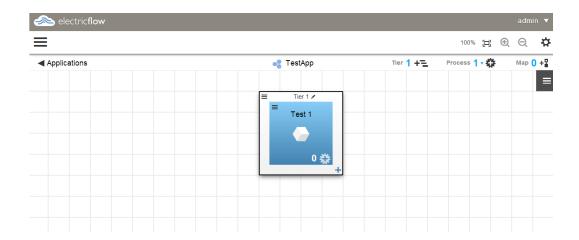


Example: Process Steps Defined with Procedures

This example shows how to define a process step with a procedure.

The following steps show how to define an application process step.

1. In the Applications page for an application, click the Process icon in the upper right corner next to the number of application processes.



The Application Process Details dialog box opens.

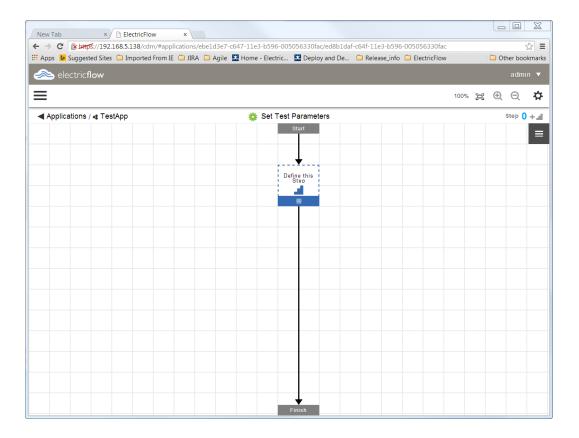
2. Enter the name of the process in the Name field.



3. (Optional) You can also enter a description of the process in the Description field.

4. Click OK.

The Application Process page opens.



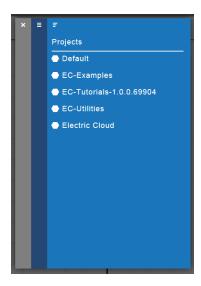
5. Click the icon below the step icon in the process step.

The list of ways to define the steps appears.



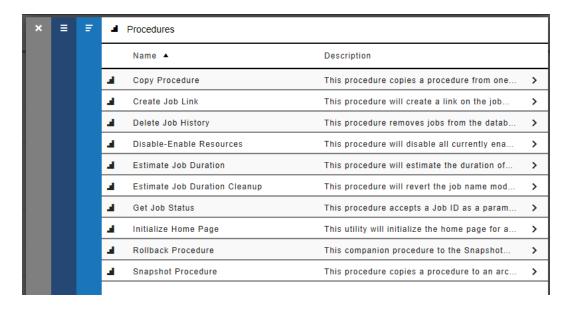
6. Select Procedure.

A list of procedure categories appears.



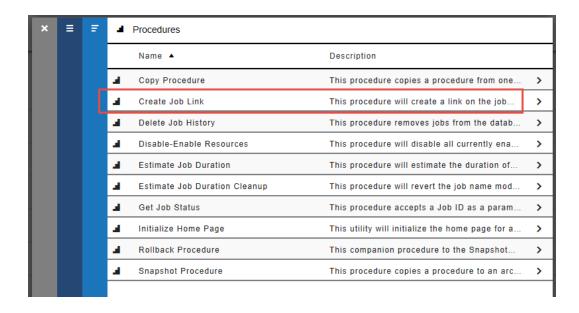
7. Select a category.

A list of procedures appears.

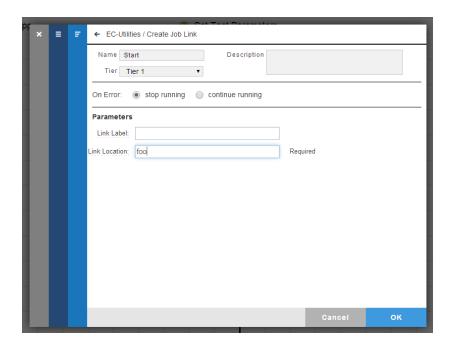


8. Select a procedure, suc as EC-Utilities.

The procedure settings and parameters appear.

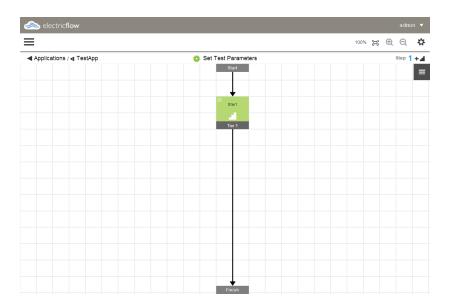


9. Enter the settings and parameters.



10. Click **OK**.

The Application Process page is updated.

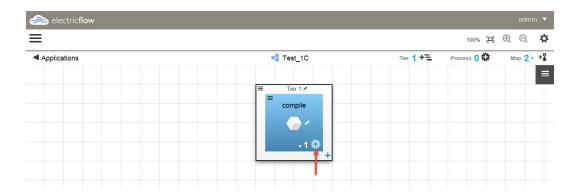


Example: Process Steps Defined with Plugins

This example shows how to define a process step with a plugin.

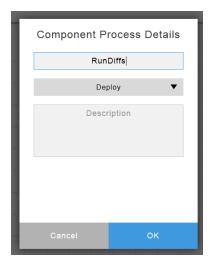
The following steps show how to define a component process step.

1. In the Applications page for an application, click the Process icon in the component.



The Component Process Details dialog box opens.

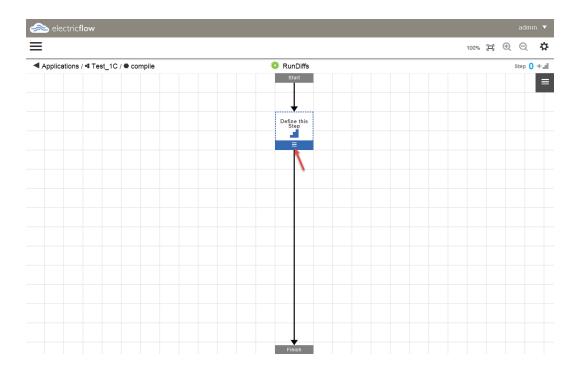
2. Enter the name of the process in the Name field, and select the process type.



3. (Optional) You can also enter a description of the process in the Description field.

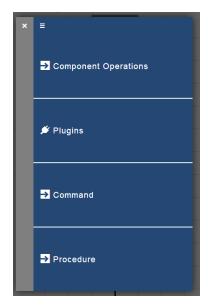
4. Click OK.

The Component Process page opens.



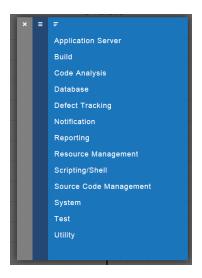
5. Click the icon below the step icon in the process step.

The list of ways to define the steps appears.



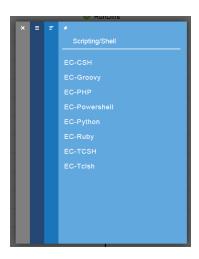
6. Select Plugins.

A list of plugin categories appears.



7. Select a category.

A list of subcategories appears.



8. Select a subcategory.

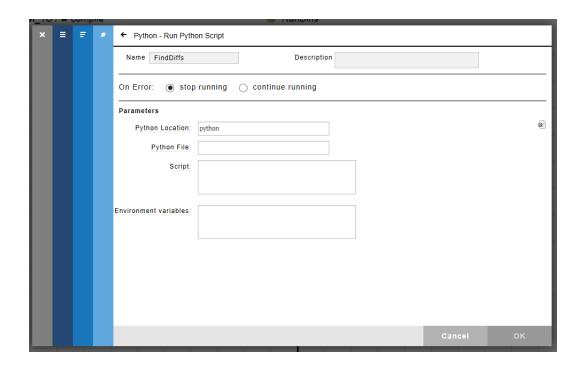
A list of plugins appears.



9. Select a plugin.

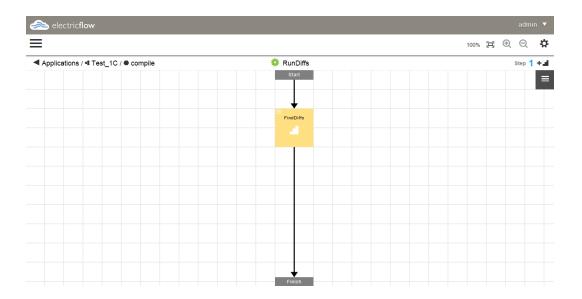
The plugin settings and parameters appear.

10. Enter the settings and parameters.



11. Click **OK**.

The Component Process page is updated.



Configuring Plugins

When you want to use a plugin to define your application or component process step, all of the supported plugins appear. However, you want to see only the list of plugins that apply to your group or organization, such as Apache Subversion (SVN) and Git plugins.

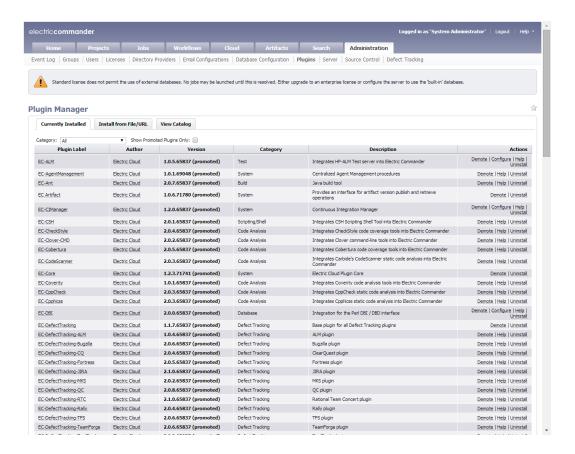
To edit the list of plugins:

1. In the Home page, click the settings icon and then click **Administration**.

The Administration tab in ElectricCommander appears.

2. Click on Plugins.

The Plugin Manager appears.



- 3. Select a plugin in the list.
- 4. In the Actions column for the selected plugin, click **Demote**. The page refreshes and the plugin no longer appears on it.

The next time that you define a step with a plugin, only the plugins for your group or organization appear.

Example: Tier Maps

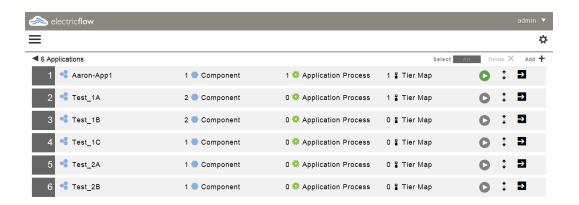
A tier map is a mapping of application tiers to environment tiers. You must configure a tier map before you run an application process in ElectricFlow. You can set tier maps between an application tier and more than one environment tier.

You can create tier maps as you configure your deployment solution, or you can create them just before you run your process. We recommend that you set tiers as you configure ElectricFlow.

This example shows how to create tier maps between an application and more than one environment. You can repeat these steps for the other applications in your solution.

1. To see the applications and environments configured for your deployment solution, do the following:

Click Applications on the Home page to open the Application List.



Click **Environments** on the Home page to open the Environments List.



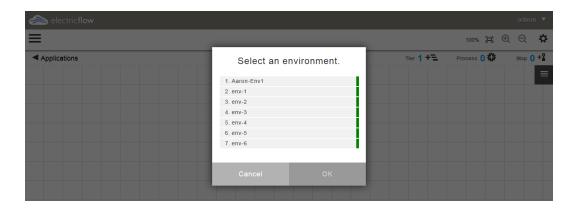
In the Application List, select an application and click on the application name, such as Test_1C.
The Applications page opens.

There are no tier maps configured for the selected application. The number next to the Tier Map icon in the upper right corner is zero.



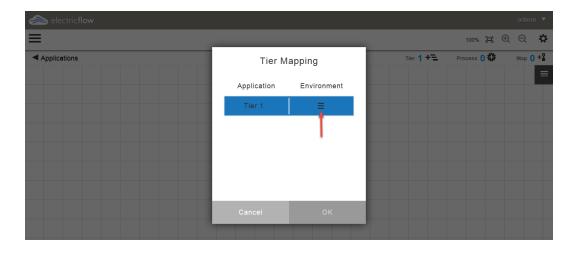
3. Click on the Tier Map icon.

The "Select an environment" dialog box opens.



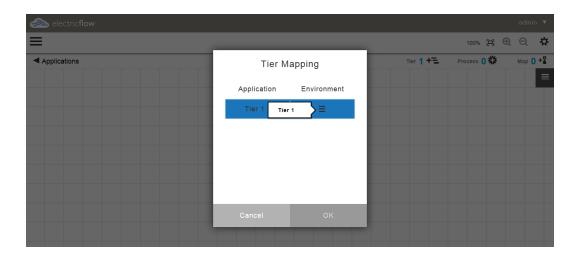
- 4. Select an environment, such as env-2.
- 5. Click OK.

The Tier Mapping dialog box opens.



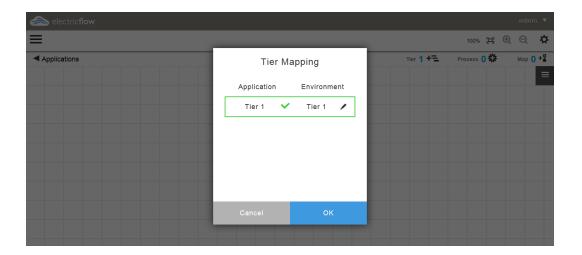
6. Click in the cell in the Environment that corresponds to the application tier.

A list of tiers for the environment (env-2) appears.



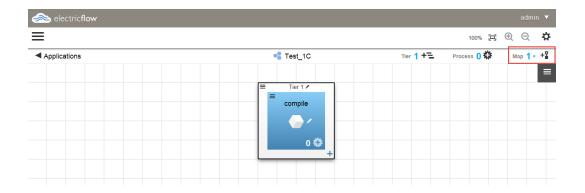
7. Select one of the tiers.

The Tier Mapping dialog box is updated.



8. Click OK.

The Applications page appears and now shows there is one tier map instead of zero.



9. Click on the Tier Map icon.

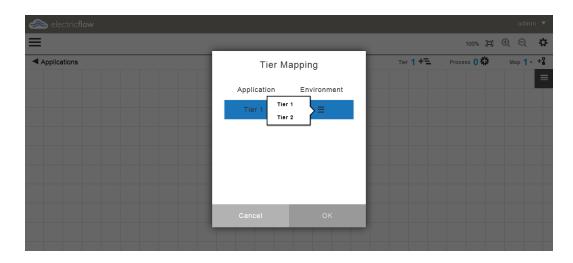
The "Select an environment" dialog box opens.

- 10. Select an environment, such as env-6.
- 11. Click **OK**.

The Tier Mapping dialog box opens.

12. Click in the cell in the Environment that corresponds to the application tier.

A list of tiers for the environment (env-6) appears.

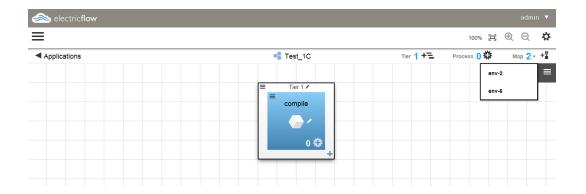


13. Select one of the tiers, such as Tier 2.

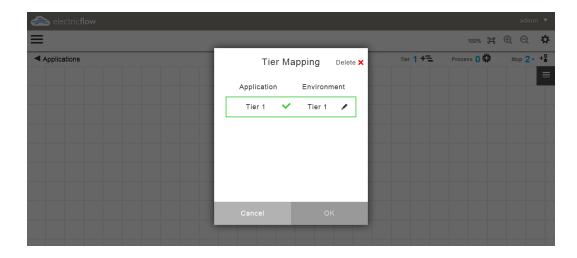
The Tier Mapping dialog box is updated.

14. Click **OK**.

The Application Archtitecure page appears and now shows there is two tier maps instead of one.



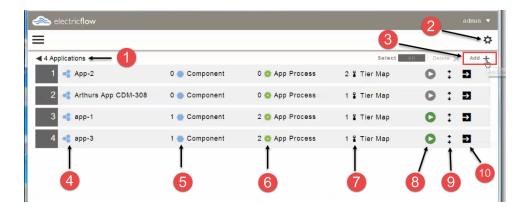
- 15. Click on the down arrow next to the number of tier maps to see the list of environments to which the application is mapped.
- 16. Click on an environment name, such as env-2, to see the application-to-environment tier mapping.



17. Repeat the previous steps to set tier maps for the other applications in the Application List.

Application List Page

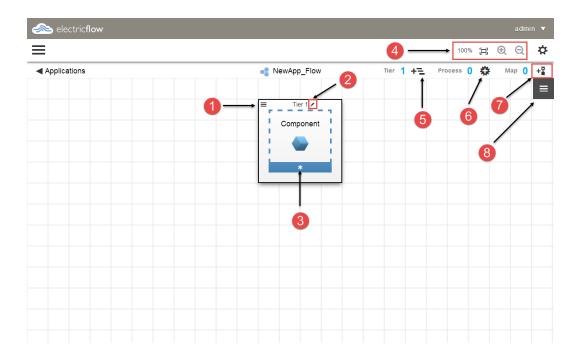
The following information is on this page.



1	List of applications icon
2	Settings icon
3	Click the plus sign to add an application.
4	Application icon
5	Component icon
6	Process icon
7	Map icon
8	Run-process icon
	You can run the process when the button is green.
9	Expansion icon to see more details.
	On this page, click this icon to see the details of the running process.
	<u>↓</u>
	After you click the icon, it changes to .
10	Click this icon to go to the next page.
	On this page, click the icon to go to the Applications page.

Applications Page

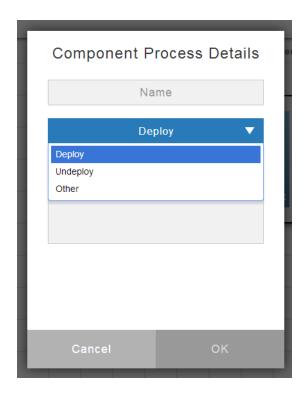
The following information is on this page.



1	Details icon for the component.
	Click this icon to see the component details.
2	Click this icon to change the information about the tier.
3	Click this icon to create a component.
4	This information is view only. ElectricFlow adjusts the page settings to show all the tiers in the application.
	For example, if all the tiers do not fit on the page at 100% magnification, ElectricFlow reduces the magnification until all the tiers appear on the page.
5	Tier icon
	Click this icon to add a tier to the application.
6	Process icon
	Click this icon to add an application process to the application.
7	Map icon
	Click this icon to add an application-to-environment tier mapping for the application.
8	Details icon for the application.
	Click this icon to see the application details.

Component Process Details Dialog Box

To configure a component process, you have to set the name and process type of the component.



Select one of these options for the process type:

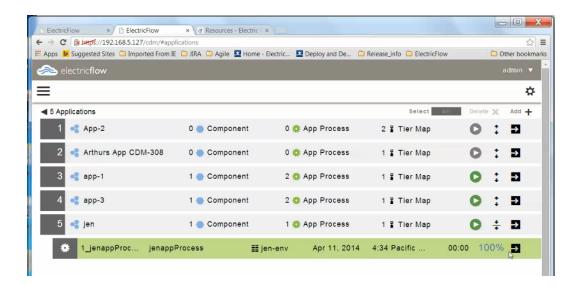
- **Deploy** Use inventory tracking. The ElectricCommander server tracks the artifacts deployed to environments.
- **Undeploy** The next time that the deploy process is run, the ElectricCommander server removes information about the artifacts deployed to environments.
- Other Do not use inventory tracking

Inventory Tracking

Inventory tracking is a way to track what is in the continuous delivery solution that you created and implemented. ElectricFlow has inventory lists for applications and environments.

Application Inventory Tracking

When you configure and run an application, the Application list shows the status. The following shows that the application was successfully run.

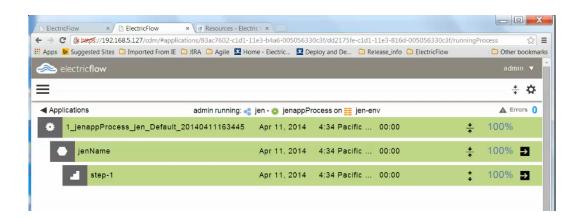


To see what objects belong to the application, click on the arrow on the right side of the process row.

The details about the application appear.

The jenappProcess has these objects:

- A component called jenName.
- A component process with one step called step-1.



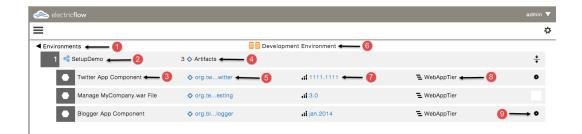
Environment Inventory Tracking

When you configure an environment, assign resources to it, and configure the resources, you can access the Environment Inventory list from the Environment List (see the Environment List and Environment Inventory).

The Environment Inventory list appears.

The environment has these objects:

- An application called SetupDemo.
- Three components defined for the application. Each component artifact and version number. Each component also is a tier called WebAppTier.

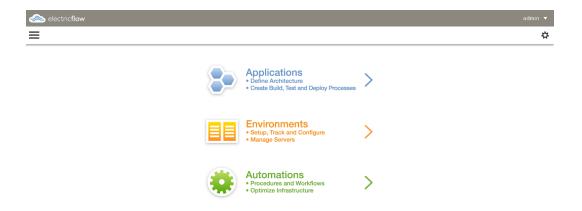


1	Breadcrumb
2	Application name
3	Component
4	Artifact count
5	Artifact name
6	Environment name
7	Version number
8	Tier name
9	View artifact details in Commander

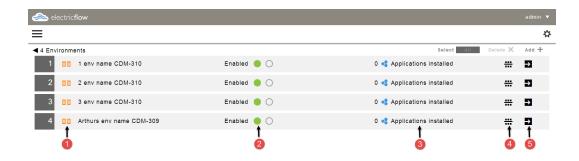
Environment List

You can access the Environment List from the Home page.

ElectricFlow



When you click **Environments** on the Home page, the Environment List opens. You can use this list to track the environments in your software deployment solution.



1	Environment icon
2	Status
3	Application count
4	View inventory
5	View Details

Environment Inventory

The environment inventory allows you to quickly see what applications and components are deployed to an



environment. Go the Environments page and click on

To get to the Environment Inventory page, you see details about the component, artifact name, artifact version, environment tier, time when it was deployed, and the error count if there are any errors.



You can click on the process icon

to see more details about the process run.