# **Configuring Advanced Security Options for Apache Ranger**

Date published: 2019-11-01

Date modified:



# **Legal Notice**

© Cloudera Inc. 2025. All rights reserved.

The documentation is and contains Cloudera proprietary information protected by copyright and other intellectual property rights. No license under copyright or any other intellectual property right is granted herein.

Unless otherwise noted, scripts and sample code are licensed under the Apache License, Version 2.0.

Copyright information for Cloudera software may be found within the documentation accompanying each component in a particular release.

Cloudera software includes software from various open source or other third party projects, and may be released under the Apache Software License 2.0 ("ASLv2"), the Affero General Public License version 3 (AGPLv3), or other license terms. Other software included may be released under the terms of alternative open source licenses. Please review the license and notice files accompanying the software for additional licensing information.

Please visit the Cloudera software product page for more information on Cloudera software. For more information on Cloudera support services, please visit either the Support or Sales page. Feel free to contact us directly to discuss your specific needs.

Cloudera reserves the right to change any products at any time, and without notice. Cloudera assumes no responsibility nor liability arising from the use of products, except as expressly agreed to in writing by Cloudera.

Cloudera, Cloudera Altus, HUE, Impala, Cloudera Impala, and other Cloudera marks are registered or unregistered trademarks in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Disclaimer: EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED IN A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH CLOUDERA, CLOUDERA DOES NOT MAKE NOR GIVE ANY REPRESENTATION, WARRANTY, NOR COVENANT OF ANY KIND, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN CONNECTION WITH CLOUDERA TECHNOLOGY OR RELATED SUPPORT PROVIDED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. CLOUDERA DOES NOT WARRANT THAT CLOUDERA PRODUCTS NOR SOFTWARE WILL OPERATE UNINTERRUPTED NOR THAT IT WILL BE FREE FROM DEFECTS NOR ERRORS, THAT IT WILL PROTECT YOUR DATA FROM LOSS, CORRUPTION NOR UNAVAILABILITY, NOR THAT IT WILL MEET ALL OF CUSTOMER'S BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS. WITHOUT LIMITING THE FOREGOING, AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, CLOUDERA EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, QUALITY, NON-INFRINGEMENT, TITLE, AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND ANY REPRESENTATION, WARRANTY, OR COVENANT BASED ON COURSE OF DEALING OR USAGE IN TRADE.

# **Contents**

| Configure Kerberos authentication for Apache Ranger           |    |
|---|----|
| Configure TLS/SSL for Apache Ranger                           | 4  |
| Configuring Apache Ranger High Availability                   | 7  |
| Configure Ranger Admin High Availability                      |    |
| Configure Ranger Admin High Availability with a Load Balancer | 11 |
| How to pass JVM options to Ranger services                    | 17 |
| How to pass JVM options to Ranger KMS services                | 19 |

# **Configure Kerberos authentication for Apache Ranger**

How to configure Kerberos Authentication for Apache Ranger

#### About this task

Kerberos authentication for Apache Ranger is automatically configured when HDFS Kerberos authentication is configured in Cloudera Manager (typically using the Cloudera Manager Kerberos Wizard). In this way, the actions that Ranger authorizes are sure to be requested by authenticated users.

Specifically, Ranger depends on the HDFS hadoop.security.authentication property to enable or disable Kerberos authentication. When the hadoop.security.authentication property is updated, the Ranger service gets a restart indicator for the core-site.xml file that resides inside the Ranger service conf directory generated by Cloudera Manager.



**Important:** Authorization through Apache Ranger is just one element of a secure production cluster: Cloudera supports Ranger only when it runs on a cluster where Kerberos is enabled to authenticate users.

Ranger Kerberos authentication is automatically enabled when HDFS Kerberos authentication is enabled.

To enable Kerberos Authentication for CDP, read the related information.

**Related Information** 

**Enabling Kerberos Authentication for CDP** 

# **Configure TLS/SSL for Apache Ranger**

How to configure TLS/SSL for Apache Ranger

### **About this task**

#### **Procedure**

- 1. In Cloudera Manager, select Ranger, then click the Configuration tab.
- 2. Under Category, select Security.
- 3. Set the following properties.

**Table 1: Apache Ranger TLS/SSL Settings** 

| Configuration Property   | Description   |
|--|---|
| Enable TLS/SSL for Ranger Admin ranger.service.https.attrib.ssl.enabled                          | Select this check box to encrypt communication between clients and Ranger Admin using Transport Layer Security (TLS) (formerly known as Secure Socket Layer (SSL)).                                 |
| Ranger Admin TLS/SSL Server JKS Keystore File Location ranger.https.attrib.keystore.file         | The path to the TLS/SSL keystore file containing the server certificate and private key used for TLS/SSL. Used when Ranger Admin is acting as a TLS/SSL server. The keystore must be in JKS format. |
| Ranger Admin TLS/SSL Server JKS Keystore File Password ranger.service.https.attrib.keystore.pass | The password for the Ranger Admin JKS keystore file.  |

| Configuration Property  | Description   |
|---|---|
| Ranger Admin TLS/SSL Client Trust Store File ranger.truststore.file                                     | The location on disk of the trust store, in .jks format, used to confirm the authenticity of TLS/SSL servers that Ranger Admin might connect to. This is used when Ranger Admin is the client in a TLS/SSL connection. This trust store must contain the certificate(s) used to sign the connected service(s). If this parameter is not provided, the default list of well known certificate authorities is used.       |
| Ranger Admin TLS/SSL Client Trust Store Password ranger.truststore.password                             | The password for the Ranger Admin TLS/SSL Certificate trust store file. This password is not required to access the trust store; this field can be left blank. This password provides optional integrity checking of the file. The contents of trust stores are certificates, and certificates are public information.  |
| Enable TLS/SSL for Ranger Tagsync   | Select this check box to encrypt communication between clients and Ranger Tagsync using Transport Layer Security (TLS) (formerly known as Secure Socket Layer (SSL)).   |
| Ranger Tagsync TLS/SSL Server JKS Keystore File Location xasecure.policymgr.clientssl.keystore          | The path to the TLS/SSL keystore file containing the server certificate and private key used for TLS/SSL. Used when Ranger Tagsync is acting as a TLS/SSL server. The keystore must be in JKS format.   |
| Ranger Tagsync TLS/SSL Server JKS Keystore File Password xasecure.policymgr.clientssl.keystore.password | The password for the Ranger Tagsync JKS keystore file.  |
| Ranger Tagsync TLS/SSL Client Trust Store Password xasecure.policymgr.clientssl.truststore.password     | The password for the Ranger Tagsync TLS/SSL Certificate trust store file. This password is not required to access the trust store; this field can be left blank. This password provides optional integrity checking of the file. The contents of trust stores are certificates, and certificates are public information.  |
| Ranger Usersync TLS/SSL Client Trust Store File ranger.usersync.truststore.file                         | The location on disk of the trust store, in .jks format, used to confirm the authenticity of TLS/SSL servers that Ranger Usersync might connect to. This is used when Ranger Usersync is the client in a TLS/SSL connection. This trust store must contain the certificate(s) used to sign the connected service(s). If this parameter is not provided, the default list of well known certificate authorities is used. |
| Ranger Usersync TLS/SSL Client Trust Store Password ranger.usersync.truststore.password                 | The password for the Ranger Usersync TLS/SSL certificate trust store File. This password is not required to access the trust store; this field can be left blank. This password provides optional integrity checking of the file. The contents of trust stores are certificates, and certificates are public information.   |

### 4. Click Save Changes.

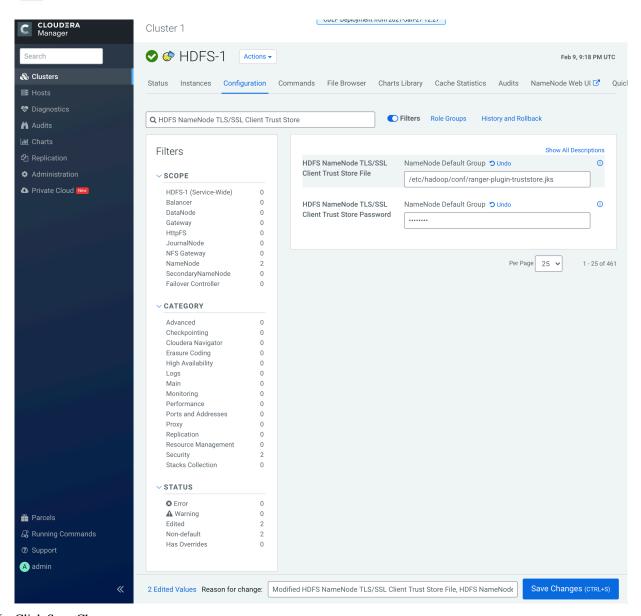
- **5.** In order for services to communicate successfully with Ranger, you must set the following properties in each service that has Ranger authorization enabled to ensure that the Ranger Admin certificate is imported into the trust store.
  - TLS/SSL Client Trust Store File
  - TLS/SSL Client Trust Store Password

For example, for HDFS select HDFS > Configuration in Cloudera Manager, then search for "HDFS NameNode TLS/SSL Client Trust Store", or use the Security Category to find and set the following properties:

- HDFS NameNode TLS/SSL Client Trust Store File
- HDFS NameNode TLS/SSL Client Trust Store Password



Important: Repeat this procedure for all services that have Ranger authorization enabled.



6. Click Save Changes.

# **Configuring Apache Ranger High Availability**

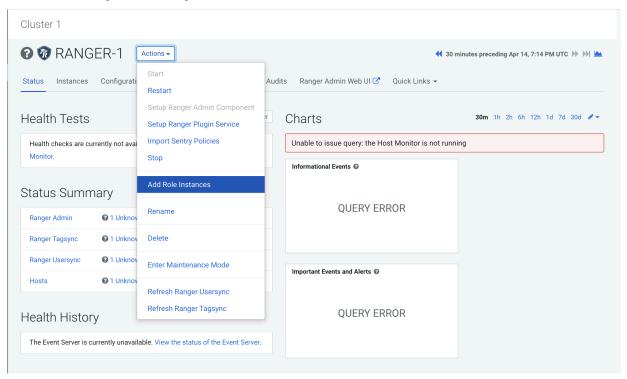
How to configure High Availability (HA) for Apache Ranger.

### **Configure Ranger Admin High Availability**

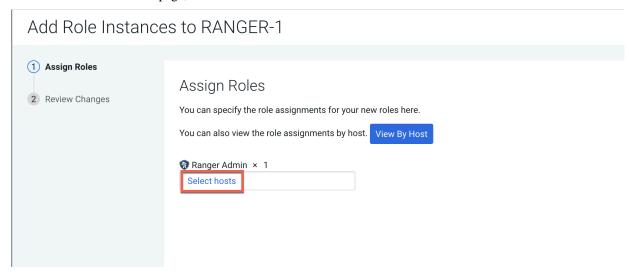
How to configure Ranger Admin High Availability (HA) by adding additional Ranger Admin role instances.

### **Procedure**

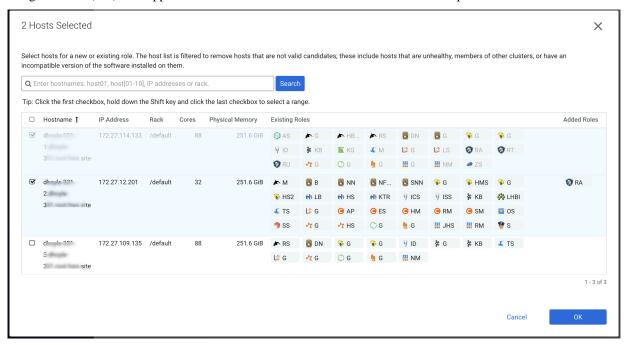
1. In Cloudera Manager, select Ranger, then select Actions > Add Role Instances.



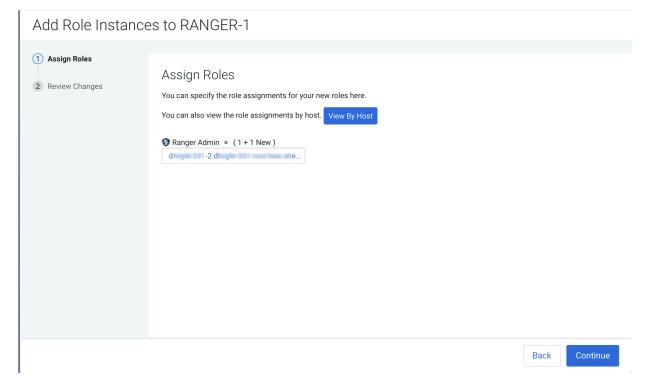
2. On the Add Role Instances page, click Select hosts.



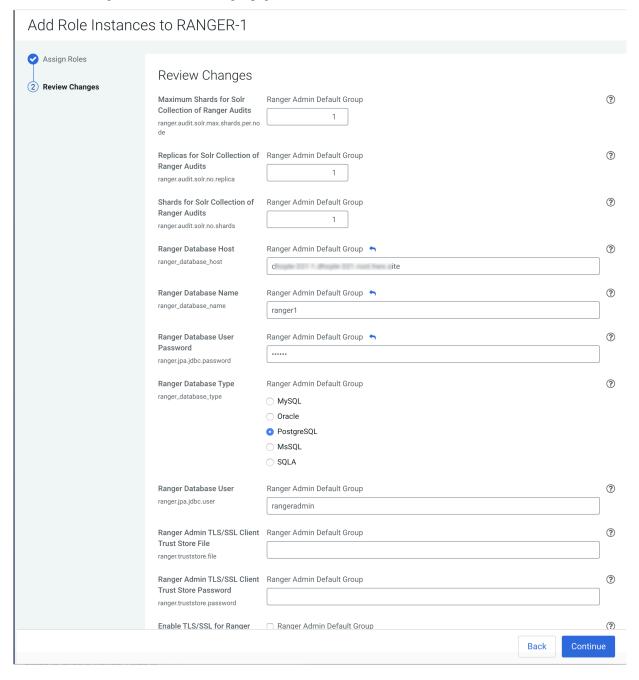
**3.** On the selected hosts page, the primary Ranger Admin host is selected by default. Select a backup Ranger host. A Ranger Admin (RA) icon appears in the Added Roles column for the selected backup host. Click OK to continue.



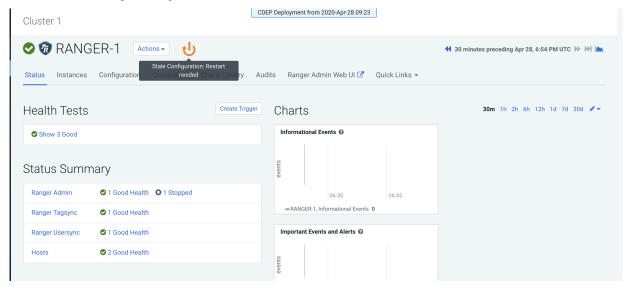
4. The Add Role Instances page is redisplayed with the new backup host. Click Continue.



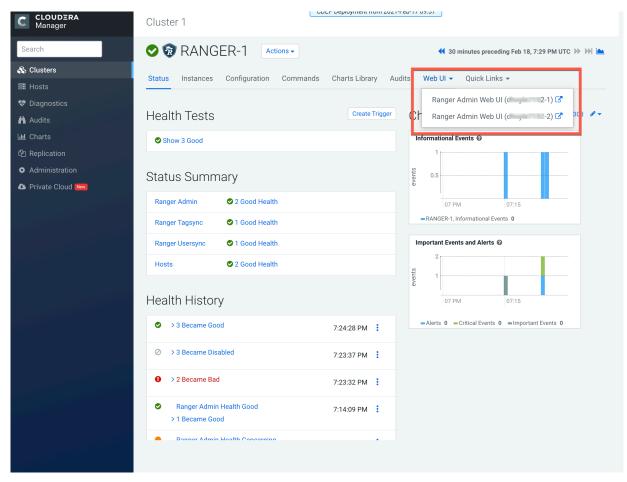
5. Review the settings on the Review Changes page, then click Continue.



**6.** Restart the stale Ranger configuration, then click Finish.



- 7. After restart you will see two URLs for the Ranger Admin Web UI.
  - Requests are distributed to the multiple Ranger Admin instances in a round-robin fashion.
  - If a connection is refused (indicating a failure), requests are automatically rerouted to the alternate Ranger Admin instance. However, you must manually switch to the alternate Ranger Admin Web UI.
  - For all services that have the Ranger plugin enabled, the value of the ranger.plugin.<service>.policy.rest.url property changes to http://<RANGER-ADMIN-1>:6080,http://<RANGER-ADMIN-2>:6080.

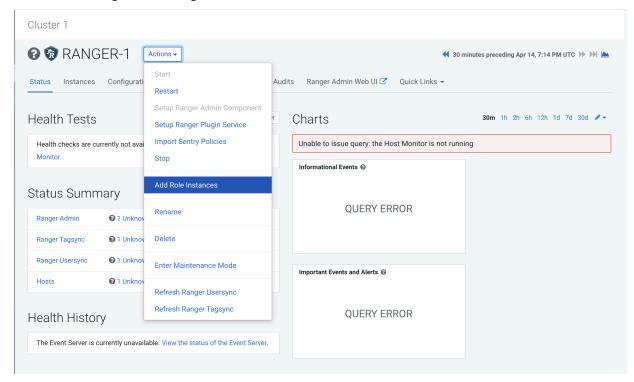


### Configure Ranger Admin High Availability with a Load Balancer

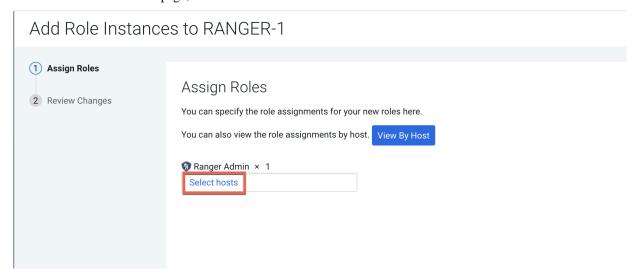
For clusters that have multiple users and production availability requirements, you may want to configure Ranger high availability (HA) with a load-balancing proxy server to relay requests to and from Ranger.

#### **Procedure**

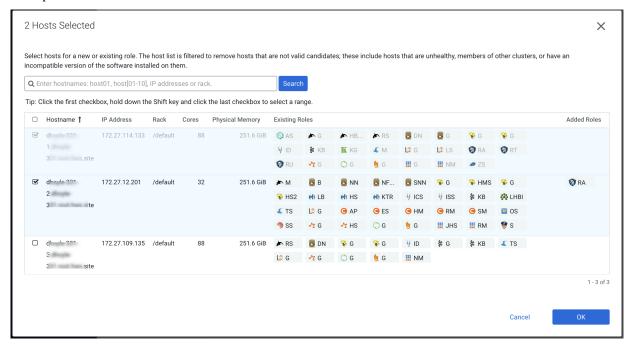
- 1. Configure an external load balancer to use with Ranger HA.
- 2. In Cloudera Manager, select Ranger, then select Actions > Add Role Instances.



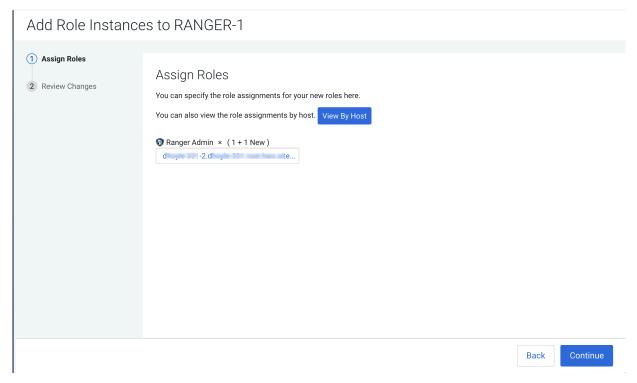
3. On the Add Role Instances page, click Select hosts.



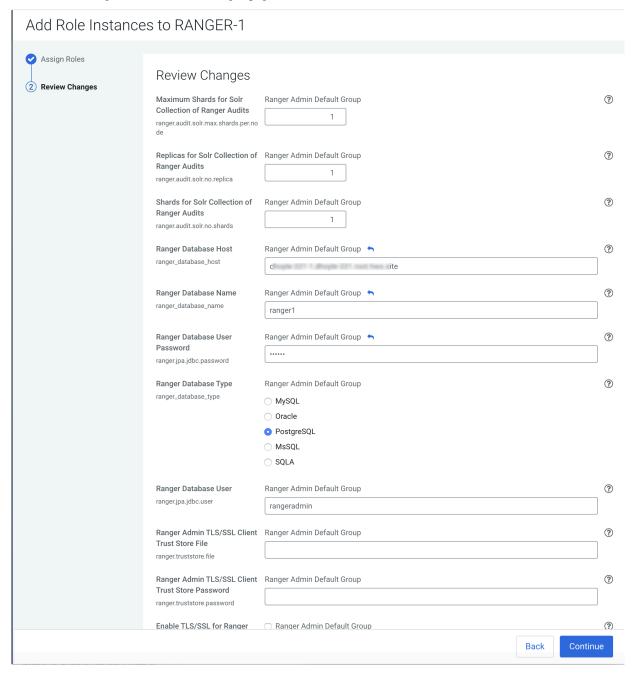
**4.** On the selected hosts page, the primary Ranger Admin host is selected by default. Select your configured backup Ranger host (ranger-host2-fqdn). A Ranger Admin (RA) icon appears in the Added Roles column for the selected backup host. Click OK to continue.



5. The Add Role Instances page is redisplayed with the new backup host. Click Continue.



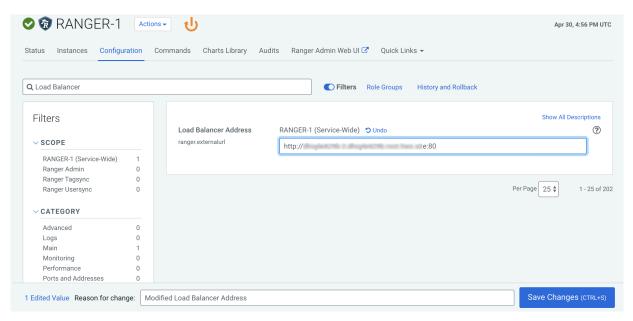
**6.** Review the settings on the Review Changes page, then click Continue.



7. Update the Ranger Load Balancer Address property (ranger.externalurl) with the load balancer host URL and port, then click Save Changes.



**Note:** Do not use a trailing slash in the the load balancer host URL when updating the Ranger Load Balancer Address property.



**8.** If Kerberos is configured on your cluster, use SSH to connect to the KDC server host. Use the kadmin.local command to access the Kerberos CLI, then check the list of principals for each domain where Ranger Admin and the load-balancer are installed.



**Note:** This step assumes you are using an MIT KDC (and kadmin.local). This step will be different if you are using AD or IPA.

```
kadmin.local
kadmin.local: list_principals
```

For example, if Ranger Admin is installed on <host1> and <host2>, and the load-balancer is installed on <host3>, the list returned should include the following entries:

```
HTTP/ <host3>@EXAMPLE.COM
HTTP/ <host2>@EXAMPLE.COM
HTTP/ <host1>@EXAMPLE.COM
```

If the HTTP principal for any of these hosts is not listed, use the following command to add the principal:

```
kadmin.local: addprinc -randkey HTTP/<host3>@EXAMPLE.COM
```



#### Note:

This step will need to be performed each time the Spnego keytab is regenerated.

9. If Kerberos is configured on your cluster, complete the following steps to create a composite keytab.



**Note:** These steps assume you are using an MIT KDC (and kadmin.local). These steps will be different if you are using AD or IPA.

a) SSH into the Ranger Admin host, then create a keytabs directory.

mkdir /etc/security/keytabs/

b) Copy the ranger.keytab from the current running process.

cp /var/run/cloudera-scm-agent/process/<current-ranger-process/ranger.k
eytab /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab</pre>

c) Run the following command to invoke kadmin.local.

kadmin.local

d) Run the following command to add the SPNEGO principal entry on the load balancer node.

ktadd -norandkey -kt /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab HTTP/load-ba lancer-host@EXAMPLE.COM



#### Note:

As shown above, the domain portion of the URL must be in capital letters. You can use list\_principals \* to view a list of all of the principals.

e) Run the following command to add the SPNEGO principal entry on the node where the first Ranger Admin is installed.

ktadd -norandkey -kt /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab HTTP/rangeradmin-host1@EXAMPLE.COM

f) Run the following command to add the SPNEGO principal entry on the node where the second Ranger Admin is installed.

ktadd -norandkey -kt /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab HTTP/rangeradmin-host2@EXAMPLE.COM

g) Run the following command to exit kadmin.local.

exit

h) Run the following command to verify that the /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab file has entries for all of the required SPNEGO principals.

klist -kt /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab

i) On the backup (ranger-admin-host2) Ranger Admin node, run the following command to create a keytabs folder.

mkdir /etc/security/keytabs/

j) Copy the ranger.ha.keytab file from the primary Ranger Admin node (ranger-admin-host1) to the backup (rang er-admin-host2) Ranger Admin node.

scp /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab root@ranger-host2-fqdn:/etc/s
ecurity/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab

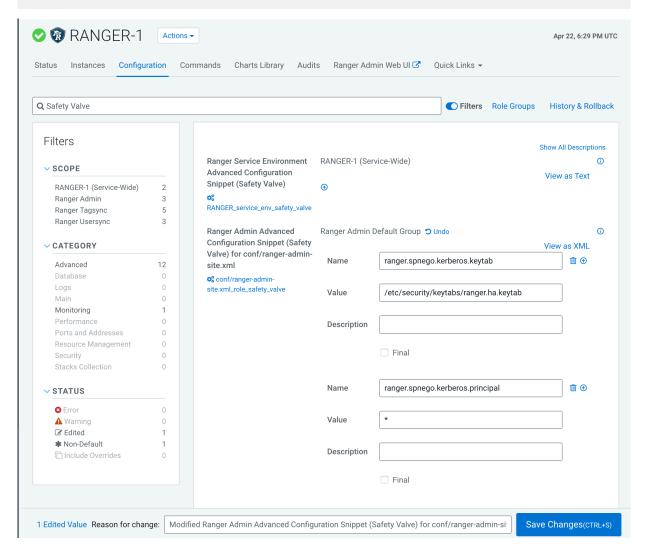
k) Run the following commands on all of the Ranger Admin nodes.

chmod 440 /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab

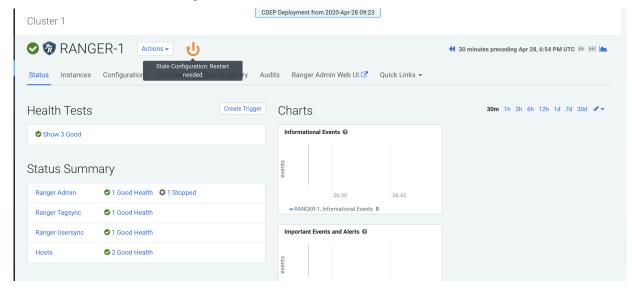
chown ranger:hadoop /etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab

10. Update the following ranger-admin-site.xml configuration settings using the Safety Valve.

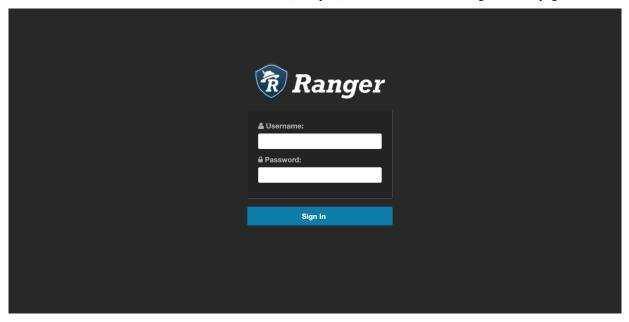
ranger.spnego.kerberos.keytab=/etc/security/keytabs/ranger.ha.keytab
ranger.spnego.kerberos.principal=\*



11. Restart all cluster services that require a restart, then click Finish.



12. Use a browser to check the load-balancer host URL (with port). You should see the Ranger Admin page.



# How to pass JVM options to Ranger services

You can pass JVM options to Ranger, service-wide or to a specific Ranger role.

#### **About this task**

Adding key/value pairs to the Ranger Service Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet (Safety Valve) applies the values across all roles in the Ranger service except client configurations. To pass JVM Options to a specific role level, search and edit the following configurations:

### Ranger Admin Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet

applies configurations to the Ranger Admin Default Group role only

### Ranger Tagsync Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet

applies configurations to the Ranger Tagsync Default Group role only

### Ranger Usersync Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet

applies configurations to the Ranger Usersync Default Group role only

#### **Procedure**

- 1. In Cloudera Manager Home, select Ranger, then choose Configuration.
- 2. On Configuration, in Search, type Ranger Service Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet.
- **3.** In RANGER\_service\_env\_safety\_valve, click + (Add).
- **4.** Add a key-value pair that configures a JVM option for Ranger.

#### Key

JAVA\_OPTS

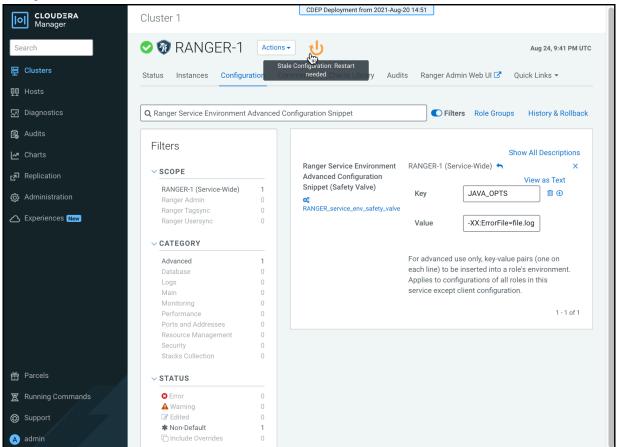
#### Value

-XX:ErrorFile=file.log

You can pass multiple JVM Options, each separated by a space, in the Value field. -XX:MetaspaceSize=100m - XX:MaxMetaspaceSize=200m represent default JVM options passed to the Ranger service.

**5.** Click Save Changes.

After saving changes, the Stale Configuration icon appears on the Cloudera Manager UI. Optionally, click Stale Configuration to view details.



6. Select Actions Restart.

# How to pass JVM options to Ranger KMS services

You can pass JVM options to Ranger KMS, service-wide or to a specific role within Ranger KMS service.

#### **About this task**

Adding key/value pairs to the Ranger Service Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet (Safety Valve) applies the values across all roles in the Ranger service except client configurations. To pass JVM Options to a specific role level, search and edit the following configurations:

#### Ranger KMS Server Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet

applies configurations to the Ranger KMS Server Admin Default Group role only

### **Procedure**

- 1. In Cloudera Manager Home, select Ranger\_KMS, then choose Configuration.
- 2. On Configuration, in Search, type Ranger KMS Service Environment Advanced Configuration Snippet.
- **3.** In RANGER\_KMS\_service\_env\_safety\_valve, click + (Add).
- **4.** Add a key-value pair that configures a JVM option for Ranger.

Key

JAVA\_OPTS

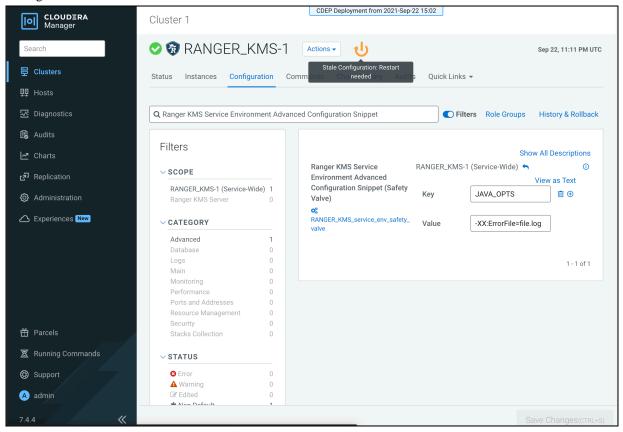
Value

-XX:ErrorFile=file.log

You can pass multiple JVM Options, each separated by a space, in the Value field. -XX:MetaspaceSize=100m - XX:MaxMetaspaceSize=200m represent default JVM options passed to the Ranger service.

### **5.** Click Save Changes.

After saving changes, the Stale Configuration icon appears on the Cloudera Manager UI. Optionally, click Stale Configuration to view details.



6. Select Actions Restart.