

Building Nextcloud Flow

Ambition

Flexible user-defined event-based
task automation



Status Quo (up to Nextcloud 17)

- Limited to files
- Limited to administrators
- Scattered, app-centered settings

Goals

- Unified UI with good UX
- Empower regular users to set up Flows
- Backwards compatible configuration
- More available triggers and actions
- Easily extendable for developers

- Personal info
- Security
- Activity
- Mobile & desktop
- Accessibility
- Sharing
- Flows**
- Privacy

Available flows

Automated tagging
Automated tagging of files

Add new flow

PDF conversion
Convert documents into the PDF format on upload and write.

Add new flow

Write to conversation
Writes event information into a conversation of your choice

Add new flow

+

More flows
Browse the app store

Your flows

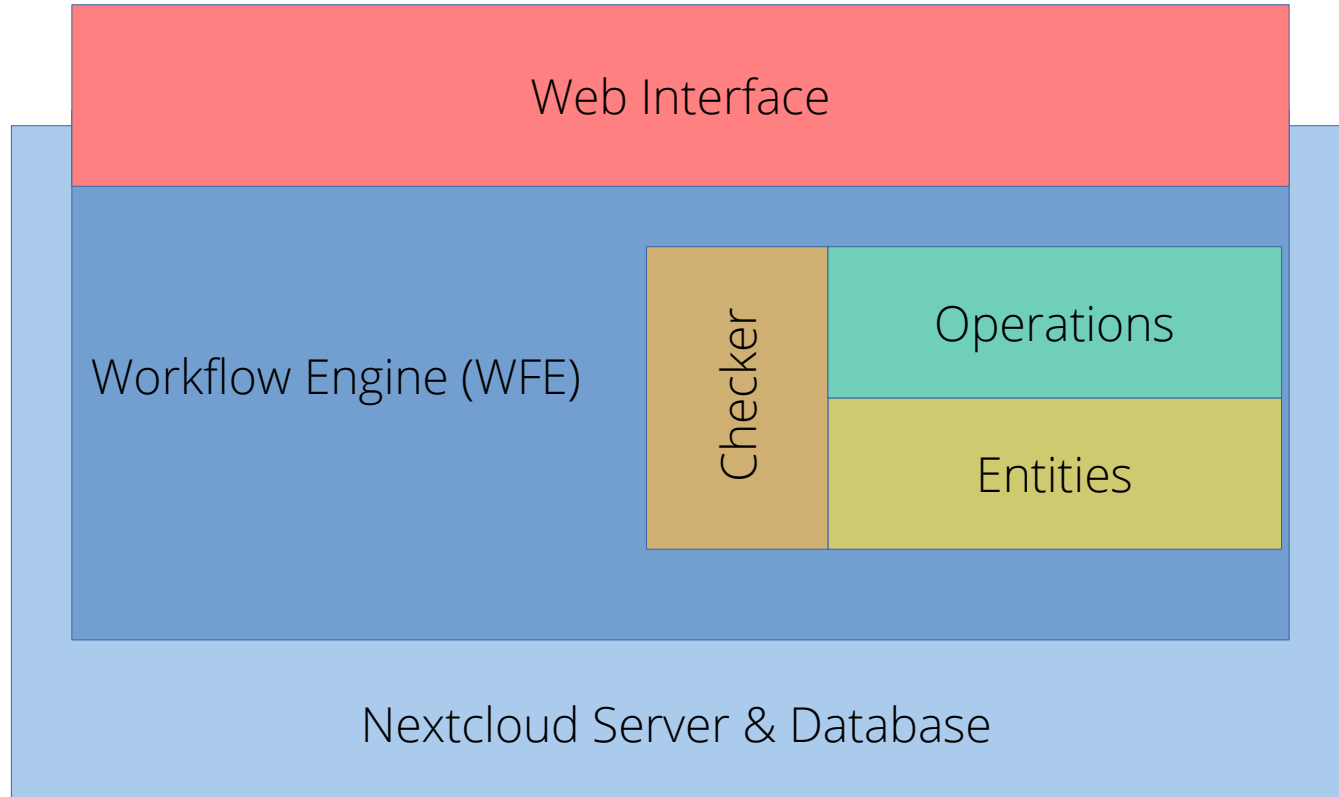
When **File created**

and is tagged with

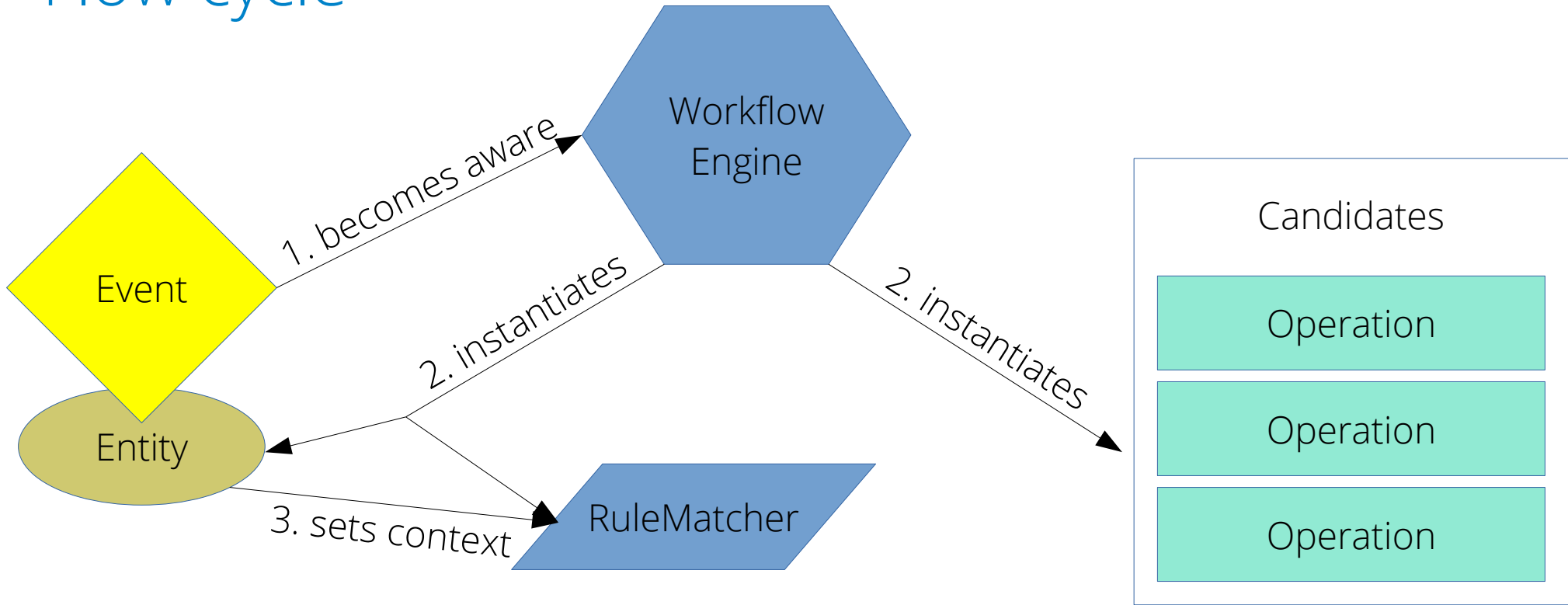
→ **Write to conversation**
Writes event information into a conversation of your choice

Delete Active

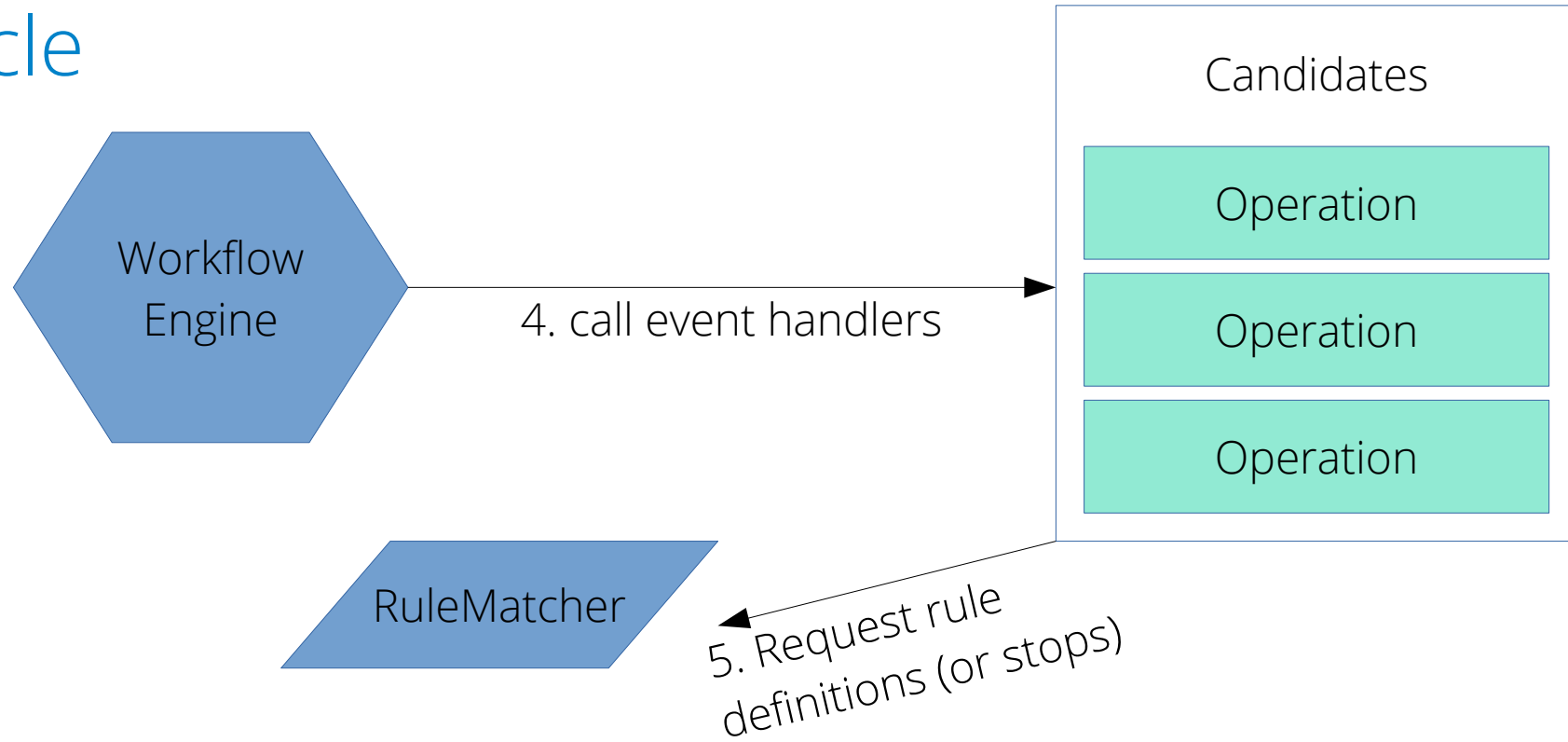
Components



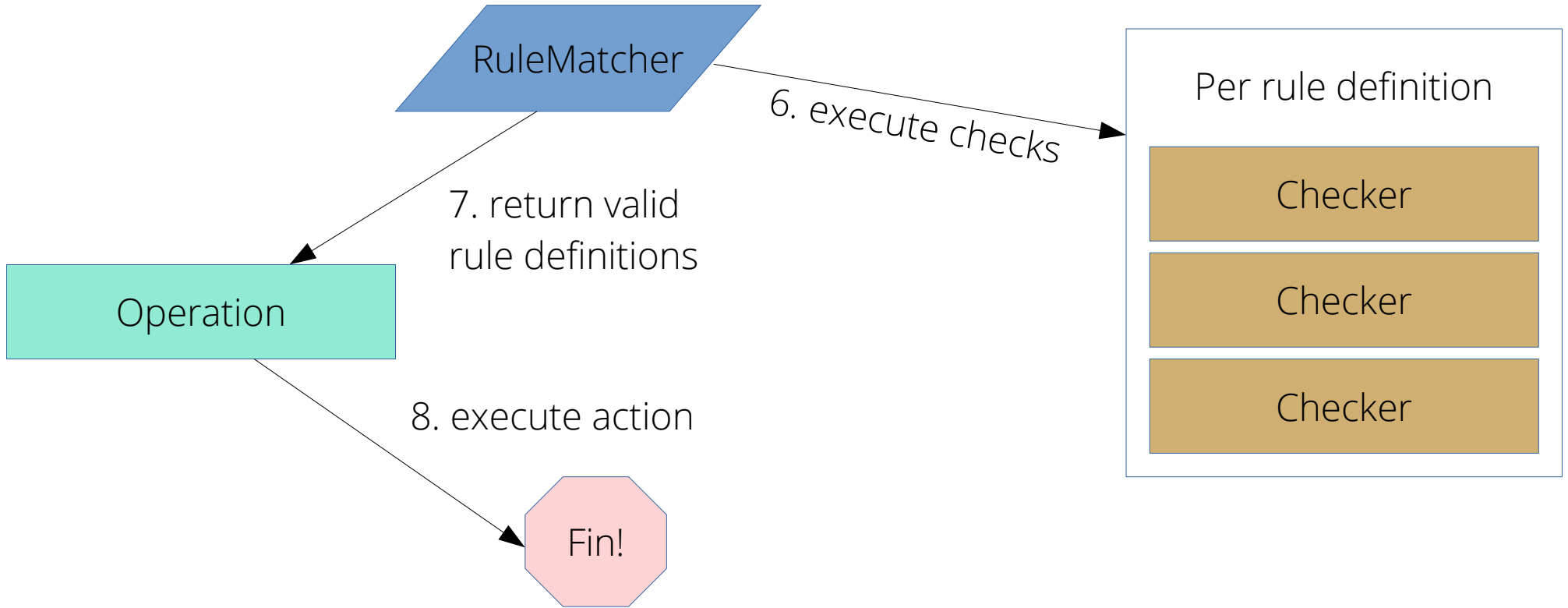
Flow cycle



Flow cycle



Flow cycle



The Engine

- Accepts **registrations of components**
- Sets up event listeners, forwards to **Operations**
- **Provides information** to the user interface
- Manages rules in the **database**

What should be done?

- OCP\WorkflowEngine**IOperation**
 - User facing information
 - Scope
 - Validation
 - Event handler
- **ISpecificOperation** – limited to specific events
- **IComplexOperation** – own listening logic

Example: convert to PDF

```
public function getDisplayName(): string {
    return $this->l->t( text: 'PDF conversion');
}

public function getDescription(): string {
    return $this->l->t( text: 'Convert documents into the PDF format on upload and write. ');
}

public function getIcon(): string {
    return \OC::$server->getURLGenerator()->imagePath( appName: 'workflow_pdf_converter', file: 'app.svg');
}
```

Example: convert to PDF contd.

```
public function isAvailableForScope(int $scope): bool {  
    return true;  
}
```

```
interface IManager {
```

```
    const SCOPE_ADMIN = 0;  
    const SCOPE_USER = 1;
```

Example: convert to PDF contd.

```
/**
 * @throws \UnexpectedValueException
 * @since 9.1
 */
public function validateOperation(string $name, array $checks, string $operation): void {
    if(!in_array($operation, haystack: Operation::MODES)) {
        throw new \UnexpectedValueException($this->l->t( text: 'Please choose a mode. '));
    }
}
```

```
MODES = [
    'keep;preserve',
    'keep;overwrite',
    'delete;preserve',
    'delete;overwrite',
]: array
```

Example: convert to PDF contd.

```
public function onEvent(string $eventName, Event $event, IRuleMatcher $ruleMatcher): void {
    // .. skipped some precondition check left out
    try {
        // .. skipped some trivial info gathering and sanity checking
        $matches = $ruleMatcher->getFlows( returnFirstMatchingOperationOnly: false);
        $originalFileMode = $targetPdfMode = null;
        foreach($matches as $match) {
            $fileModes = explode( delimiter: ';', $match['operation']);
            if($originalFileMode !== 'keep') {...}
            if($targetPdfMode !== 'preserve') {...}
            if($originalFileMode === 'keep' && $targetPdfMode === 'preserve') {...}
        }
        if(!empty($originalFileMode) && !empty($targetPdfMode)) {
            $this->jobList->add( job: Convert::class, [
                'path' => $node->getPath(),
                'originalFileMode' => $originalFileMode,
                'targetPdfMode' => $targetPdfMode,
            ]);
        }
    } catch(\OCP\Files\NotFoundException $e) {
    }
}
```

PDF Converter is an ISpecificOperation

```
public function getEntityId(): string {  
class File implements OCP\WorkflowEngine\Entity  
    return File::class;  
}
```


Accesscontrol is an IComplexOperation

```
public function getTriggerHint(): string {  
    return $this->l->t( text: 'File is accessed');  
}  
  
public function onEvent(string $eventName, GenericEvent $event, IRuleMatcher $ruleMatcher): void {  
    // Noop  
}
```

... registers event listeners itself

```
public function registerHooksAndListeners() {  
    Util::connectHook( signalClass: 'OC_FileSystem', signalName: 'preSetup', $this, slotName: 'addStorageWrapper');  
    \OC::$server->getEventDispatcher()->addListener(...);  
}
```

Operations have to register to the WFE

```
public static function register(IEventDispatcher $dispatcher): void {  
    $dispatcher->addListener( eventName: FlowManager::EVENT_NAME_REG_OPERATION, function (GenericEvent $event) {  
        $operation = \OC::$server->query( name: Operation::class);  
        $event->getSubject()->registerOperation($operation);  
        Util::addScript( application: 'spread', file: 'flow');  
    });  
}
```

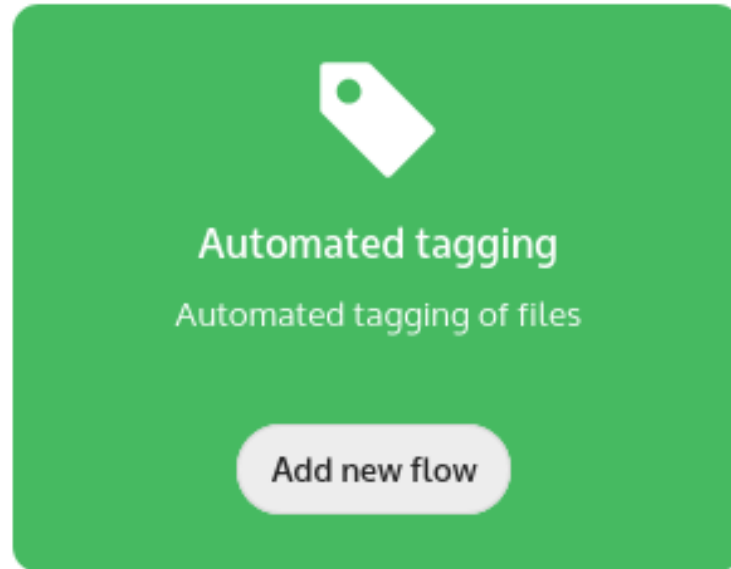
Register a new Operation in the frontend

- Checks by default have a standard input field
- Different operators can be specified
- They can have additional validation in the frontend
- Custom placeholders
- Provide a custom vue component

Register a new Operation in the frontend

```
window.OCA.WorkflowEngine.registerOperator({  
  id: 'OCA\\FilesAutomatedTagging\\Operation',  
  icon-class: 'icon-tag-white',  
  color: 'var(--color-success)',  
})
```

Frontend: Register a new Operation



Frontend: Register a new Operation

```
window.OCA.WorkflowEngine.registerOperator({  
  id: 'OCA\\FilesAutomatedTagging\\Operation',  
  icon-class: 'icon-tag-white',  
  color: 'var(--color-success)',  
  operation: '',  
  options: Tag  
})
```

Frontend: Register a new Operation



Automated tagging

Automated tagging of files

Cancel

→ Save

When should it be done?

- OCP\WorkflowEngine**IEntity**
 - User facing information
 - Announce available events
 - Providing event context

Example: File entity

```
public function getName(): string {  
    return $this->l10n->t( text: 'File');  
}  
  
public function getIcon(): string {  
    return $this->urlGenerator->imagePath( appName: 'core', file: 'categories/files.svg');  
}
```

Example: File entity contd.

```
public function getEvents(): array {
    $namespace = '\OCP\Files::';
    return [
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File created' ), eventName: $namespace . 'postCreate' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File updated' ), eventName: $namespace . 'postWrite' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File renamed' ), eventName: $namespace . 'postRename' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File deleted' ), eventName: $namespace . 'postDelete' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File accessed' ), eventName: $namespace . 'postTouch' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'File copied' ), eventName: $namespace . 'postCopy' ),
        new GenericEntityEvent($this->l10n->t( text: 'Tag assigned' ), eventName: MapperEvent::EVENT_ASSIGN ),
    ];
}
```

Describing Events

```
/** Interface IEntityEvent ...*/  
interface IEntityEvent {  
    /** returns a translated name to be presented in the web interface. ...*/  
    public function getDisplayName(): string;  
  
    /** returns the event name that is emitted by the EventDispatcher, e.g.: ...*/  
    public function getEventName(): string;  
}
```

- Implementation in \OCP\WorkflowEngine**GenericEntityEvent**
- Requires EventDispatcher mechanism

Example: File entity contd.

```
public function prepareRuleMatcher(IRuleMatcher $ruleMatcher, string $eventName, Event $event): void {
    if (!$event instanceof GenericEvent && !$event instanceof MapperEvent) {
        return;
    }
    $this->eventName = $eventName;
    $this->event = $event;
    try {
        $node = $this->getNode();
        $ruleMatcher->setEntitySubject($this, $node);
        $ruleMatcher->setFileInfo($node->getStorage(), $node->getInternalPath());
    } catch (NotFoundException $e) {
        // pass
    }
}
```

Legitimation check

```
public function isLegitimatedForUserId(string $uid): bool {
    try {
        $node = $this->getNode();
        if($node->getOwner()->getUID() === $uid) {
            return true;
        }
        $acl = $this->shareManager->getAccessList($node, recursive: true, currentAccess: true);
        return array_key_exists($uid, $acl['users']);
    } catch (NotFoundException $e) {
        return false;
    }
}
```

Provide additional information

- Entity knows best about the subject to give proper hints
- OCP\WorkflowEngine\EntityContext**IDisplayName**,
IDisplayText, **IIcon**, **IUrl**

```
public function getUrl(): string {
    try {
        return $this->urlGenerator->linkToRouteAbsolute( routeName: 'files.viewcontroller.showFile', ['fileid' =>
$this->getNode()->getId()]);
    } catch (InvalidPathException $e) {...} catch (NotFoundException $e) {...}
}
```

How to narrow down events?

- OCP\WorkflowEngine**ICheck**
 - No user facing info – has its own UI component
 - Scope
 - Supported Entities (can be any)
 - Validation method
 - Execution method

Examples

```
public function supportedEntities(): array {  
    return [ File::class ];  
}
```

```
public function isAvailableForScope(int $scope): bool {  
    return true;  
}
```

```
public function supportedEntities(): array {  
    return [];  
}
```

```
public function isAvailableForScope(int $scope): bool {  
    return $scope === IManager::SCOPE_ADMIN;  
}
```

Example validator

```
public function validateCheck($operator, $value) {
    if (!in_array($operator, ['is', '!is'])) {
        throw new \UnexpectedValueException($this->l->t( text: 'The given operator is invalid'), code: 1);
    }

    if (!$this->groupManager->groupExists($value)) {
        throw new \UnexpectedValueException($this->l->t( text: 'The given group does not exist'), code: 2);
    }
}
```

Example executor

```
public function executeCheck($operator, $value) {
    $user = $this->userSession->getUser();

    if ($user instanceof IUser) {
        $groupIds = $this->getUserGroups($user);
        return ($operator === 'is') === in_array($value, $groupIds);
    } else {
        return $operator !== 'is';
    }
}
```

Register a new check in the frontend


- Checks by default have a standard input field
- Different operators can be specified
- They can have additional validation in the frontend
- Custom placeholders
- Provide a custom Vue.js component

Register a new check in the frontend

```
window.OCA.WorkflowEngine.registerCheck({
  class: 'OCA\\WorkflowEngine\\Check\\FileSize',
  name: t('workflowengine', 'File size (upload)'),
  operators: [
    { operator: 'less', name: t('workflowengine', 'less') },
    { operator: '!greater', name: t('workflowengine', 'less or equals') },
    { operator: '!less', name: t('workflowengine', 'greater or equals') },
    { operator: 'greater', name: t('workflowengine', 'greater') }
  ],
  placeholder: (check) => '5 MB',
  validate: (check) => check.value ? check.value.match(/^([0-9]+[ ]?[kmgT]?
b$/i) !== null : false
},)
```

Basic check with validation

When **File created** ▼

and File size (upload) | Select a comparator | 5 MB 

Add a new filter

- less
- less or equals
- greater or equals
- greater

Register a new check with a custom component

```
window.OCA.WorkflowEngine.registerCheck({
  class: 'OCA\\WorkflowEngine\\Check\\FileSystemTags',
  name: t('workflowengine', 'File system tag'),
  operators: [
    { operator: 'is', name: 'is tagged with' },
    { operator: '!is', name: 'is not tagged with' }
  ],
  component: FileSystemTag
})
```

Check with a custom component

When **File created** ▼

and

File system tag	is tagged with	Select a tag	🗑️
Add a new filter		restricted test	



Keep your data secure and under your control

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