

# How to run and explore the Cocoon samples (2.1 legacy document)

## Table of contents

1 Comments.....	4
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## Table of contents

1 Overview.....	3
2 Purpose.....	3
3 Intended Audience.....	3
4 Prerequisites.....	3
5 Steps.....	3
5.1 1. Get Cocoon.....	3
5.2 2. Build and start Cocoon.....	3
5.3 3. Access the samples.....	3
5.4 4. Study the samples.....	4
6 Conclusion.....	4
7 Comments.....	4

**Warning:**

This document was copied as is from the Cocoon 2.1 documentation, but has not yet been fully reviewed or moved to its new home.

## 1. Overview

This How-To shows you how to run and explore the Cocoon samples. It requires no prior knowledge of Cocoon.

## 2. Purpose

You will learn how install and run Cocoon in the simplest way, in order to run the Cocoon samples, and also how to study the samples from the inside to see how their are built.

## 3. Intended Audience

Beginning Cocoon users or people evaluating Cocoon for the first time.

## 4. Prerequisites

You only need a JDK (1.3 or later) installed on your computer, and an Internet connection to download Cocoon.

## 5. Steps

Here's how to proceed.

### 5.1. 1. Get Cocoon

Download Cocoon from the location listed on the [cocoon.apache.org](http://cocoon.apache.org) web site.

If you want the latest bleeding edge version, you can get it from CVS, this is described on the site as well, but more complicated if you're not familiar with CVS.

### 5.2. 2. Build and start Cocoon

Unpack the Cocoon distribution and follow the instructions found in the *INSTALL.txt* file to build Cocoon.

If you have done this previously, make sure to remove any local.\* configuration files that you might have created. You usually want to activate all Cocoon components to look at the samples, and local.\* files might disable some components or even disable the samples. Also, if you have already built Cocoon with a different configuration before, you might need to do a "build clean" first, to prevent any conflicts between different configurations.

The *INSTALL.txt* file also contains instructions for starting Cocoon with the *cocoon.sh* or *cocoon.bat* script, which is the simplest way and is sufficient to explore the samples.

### 5.3. 3. Access the samples

Once Cocoon starts (and assuming you have kept the standard configuration), point your browser at <http://localhost:8888>, this should show the "Welcome to Apache Cocoon" page. On this page, click the *samples* link.

You should now see a page with links to many samples ( *Hello World!*, etc.), which show you what Cocoon is about. Note that there are several categories of samples: do not forget to look at the *blocks with samples* page, which contains samples based on components which are not part of the Cocoon core.

Another category is the *scratchpad* samples , these are based on experimental components that might or might not be included later in the Cocoon core or in a Cocoon block.

#### 5.4. 4. Study the samples

Now comes the interesting part: looking at the samples innards to find out how they are built.

This is fairly simple as the directory structure of the samples is similar to the URLs used to access the samples. These simple rules should help you find out much more about the samples:

- If using the standard build configuration, samples are found under the *build/webapp/samples* directory. That's where you want to look to find out how a particular sample works.
- Under this directory, the pathnames are the same than after the *http://localhost:8888/samples* base URL. The midi block samples, for example, are accessed from *http://localhost:8888/samples/midi* and the corresponding files are found under *build/webapp/samples/midi*.
- When studying how a sample is built, it is recommended to first study its *sitemap.xmap* files, which map incoming requests to pipelines.

## 6. Conclusion

We hope that this How-To will help you explore the samples yourself, as this is probably the best way of learning about Cocoon.

Do not forget to look at the reference documentation though, once you have found out which Cocoon components you need for your application.

## 7. Comments

Care to comment on this How-To? Help keep this document relevant by passing along any constructive feedback to the [cocoon-docs](#) mailing list.

### 1. Comments

add your comments