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# BEL Commons Documentation

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**CHAPTER  
ONE**

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## **INSTALLATION**

This application runs on Python 3.7+.

### **1.1 Database**

For production, it is preferred to use a multi-threading relational database management system. PyBEL has been best tested on PostgreSQL, so this is preferred for now.

### **1.2 Message Broker**

This application uses [Celery](#) as a task management system to support asynchronous parsing of BEL documents, running of analyses, and other slow operations.

RabbitMQ, or any other message queue supported by Celery are appropriate.

### **1.3 Server**

Because this application is built with Flask, it can be run with the WSGI protocol. Running on a single machine is possible with either the built-in `werkzeug` test server or something easy to install like `gunicorn`.

For production, `uwsgi` seems to work pretty well.



## RUNNING WITH DOCKER

Docker is very powerful as a general way to specify how things should be installed, but has a steep learning curve. After installing and running docker-machine and docker-compose, BEL Commons can be run with a few simple commands.

### 2.1 Dockerfile

A simple Dockerfile is included at the root-level of the repository. This Dockerfile is inspired by the tutorials from [Container Tutorials](#) and [Digital Ocean](#).

**Warning:**

- The virtual machine needs at least 2GB memory for the worker container
- The database needs a packet size big enough to accommodate large BEL files (>10 mb)



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**CHAPTER  
THREE**

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**PAGES**

This module contains the user interface blueprint for the application.



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**CHAPTER  
FOUR**

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## **CONFIGURATION**

Default configuration can be found in the module `bel_commons.config`.

By default, PyBEL searches for a configuration file called `config.json` in `~/.config/pybel/`. This directory can be modified with the environment variable `PYBEL_CONFIG_DIRECTORY`. Additionally, the location of another custom configuration can be specified by the environment variable `BEL_COMMONS_CONFIG_JSON`.

In `config.json` add an entry `PYBEL_MERGE_SERVER_PREFIX` for the address of the server. Example: `http://lisa:5000` with no trailing backslash. This is necessary since celery has a problem with flask's url builder function `flask.url_for`.

Add an entry `PYBEL_CONNECTION` with the database connection string to either a local SQLite database or a proper relational database management system. It's suggested to `pip install psycopg2-binary` in combination with MySQL since it enables multi-threading.

For a deployment with a local instance of RabbitMQ, the default configuration already contains a setting for `amqp://localhost`. Otherwise, an entry `CELERY_BROKER_URL` can be set.

```
class bel_commons.config.BELCommonsConfig(SECRET_KEY: str, BUTLER_PASSWORD: str, BUTLER_EMAIL: str = 'butler', BUTLER_NAME: str = 'BEL Commons Butler', DEBUG: bool = False, TESTING: bool = False, JSONIFY_PRETTYPRINT_REGULAR: bool = True, SQLALCHEMY_TRACK_MODIFICATIONS: bool = False, SQLALCHEMY_DATABASE_URI: str = <factory>, DISALLOW_PRIVATE: bool = True, LOCKDOWN: bool = False, USE_CELERY: bool = True, CELERY_BROKER_URL: str = 'amqp://localhost', CELERY_BACKEND_URL: str = 'redis://localhost', SECURITY_REGISTERABLE: bool = True, SECURITY_CONFIRMABLE: bool = False, SECURITY_SEND_REGISTER_EMAIL: bool = False, SECURITY_RECOVERABLE: bool = False, SECURITY_PASSWORD_HASH: str = 'pbkdf2_sha512', SECURITY_PASSWORD_SALT: str = 'default.Please_override', MAIL_SERVER: Optional[str] = None, MAIL_DEFAULT_SENDER_NAME: str = 'BEL Commons', MAIL_DEFAULT_SENDER_EMAIL: Optional[str] = None, REGISTER_EXAMPLES: bool = False, REGISTER_USERS: Optional[str] = None, REGISTER_ADMIN: bool = True, REGISTER_TRANSFORMATIONS: bool = True, WRITE_REPORTS: bool = False, ENABLE_UPLOADER: bool = False, ENABLE_PARSER: bool = False, ENABLE_ANALYSIS: bool = False, ENABLE_CURACTION: bool = False, SWAGGER_CONFIG: Mapping[str, Any] = <factory>)
```

Configuration for BEL Commons.

It assumes you have:

- SQLite for the PyBEL Cache on localhost
- RabbitMQ or another message broker supporting the AMQP protocol running on localhost

**SECRET\_KEY: str**

The Flask app secret key.

**BUTLER\_PASSWORD: str**

Password for the butler account

**DEBUG: bool = False**

Flask app debug mode

**TESTING: bool = False**

Flask app testing mode

**JSONIFY\_PRETTYPRINT\_REGULAR: bool = True**

Database and SQLAlchemy settings

**DISALLOW\_PRIVATE: bool = True**

Should private network uploads be allowed?

**LOCKDOWN: bool = False**

Should all endpoints require authentication?

**USE\_CELERY: bool = True**

Should celery be used?

**CELERY\_BACKEND\_URL: str = 'redis://localhost'**

Celery backend url

**SECURITY\_PASSWORD\_HASH: str = 'pbkdf2\_sha512'**

What hash algorithm should we use for passwords

**SECURITY\_PASSWORD\_SALT: str = 'default\_please\_override'**

What salt should to use to hash passwords

**REGISTER\_EXAMPLES: bool = False**

Should example graphs be automatically included?

**REGISTER\_USERS: Optional[str] = None**

Path to user manifest file

**REGISTER\_ADMIN: bool = True**

Register the Flask-Admin interface

**WRITE\_REPORTS: bool = False**

Which parts of BEL Commons should run?

**classmethod load\_dict() → Mapping[str, Any]**

Get configuration as a dictionary.



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**CHAPTER  
FIVE**

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