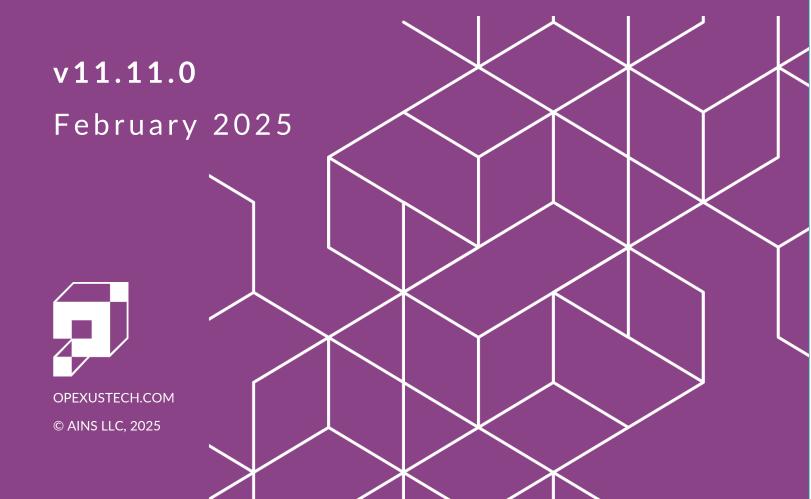
FOIAXpress

Collaboration Deployment Manual



FOIAXpress v11.11.0 Collaboration Deployment Manual

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Version History

Date	Revision Summary
10/10/2024	 Updated for v11.8.0: Added new prerequisites, see section 2.3 - Account Permissions.



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1 FOIAXpress Collaboration Deployment Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide instructions for deploying Collaboration within your FOIAXpress environment.

The FOIAXpress Collaboration facilitates document reviews with users outside of your FOIAXpress environment. With Collaboration, FX users can send document requests to outside users, and responsive documentation provided in response can be added to your FX Document Management and in subsequent request responses.

1.1 Important Notes for v11.8.0 Upgrades

We've made significant changes to the deployment process for Collaboration v11.8.0. These changes apply to new and upgrading customers.

- The inputs.json file used for previous installations CANNOT be used to upgrade to v11.8.0. There is a new file for this deployment included in the installation package. You must use this new file for the upgrade, however you can copy data over from a previously used file to the new one as needed.
- If your organization is using the new Document Management features, a few additional configuration steps are required. You'll need to manually create and configure the PNG cache location (Administration > System Administration > System Settings), and add all the required system jobs to the scheduler (Administration > System Administration > Scheduler Configuration).

1.2 About This Document

This manual is intended to guide system administrators through the required steps to deploy FOIAXpress Collaboration within their organization, including both new installations and upgrades.

1.3 FOIAXpress Collaboration Installation Package

The FOIAXpress installation package is a zip file containing all the files needed to install FOIAXpress Collaboration. Your customized installation is driven by the values set in the *Inputs. Json* file located at the root of directory where the zip file is extracted.

Contact OPEXUS support at support@opexustech.com for your installation package.



1.4 Deployment Procedure

Deploying FOIAXpress Collaboration follows the procedure outlined below. Each step is covered in the subsections in this manual.

- 1. Download and verify the installation package, then extract the files.
- 2. Update the Inputs.json file with your deployment details.
- 3. Run Install.ps1



2 Collaboration Installation Prerequisites

2.1 Deployment System Requirements

The installation package must be deployed from the application server, which must meet the requirements outlined below:

Requirement	Description
Location	Deployment scripts can be executed from Application server. The script must be executed from application server if the Application or Scheduler are installed.
User Permissions	The logged-in user should have the local administrator permissions.
Operating System Requirements	Windows 2016/2019/2022
URL Rewrite	Install the Microsoft IIS URL Rewrite extension, available via https://www.iis.net/downloads/microsoft/url-rewrite
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.8 Runtime	Microsoft .NET Framework 4.8 Runtime must be downloaded and installed. It can be downloaded and installed from the following location: https://dotnet.microsoft.com/en-us/download/dotnet-framework/net48



Requirement	Description
SqlPackage	The SqlPackage must be downloaded and installed. It can be downloaded and installed from the following location: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/tools/sqlpackage/sqlpackage-download?view=sql-server-ver16#windows-net-framework
SqlServer	The SqlServer module must be downloaded and installed on the application server. See the <i>Install SQL Server Module</i> section for steps.
PowerShell Version	PowerShell 5.1.22621.963 must be installed for deployment using auto deployment. https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=54616
Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable	The Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable must be downloaded and installed on the application server for all new FX installs. (!!) Note: Both executables below must be downloaded and installed. https://download.microsoft.com/download/1/6/5/165255E7-1014-4D0A-B094-B6A430A6BFFC/vcredist_x86.exe https://download.microsoft.com/download/1/6/B/16B06F60-3B20-4FF2-B699-5E9B7962F9AE/VSU_4/vcredist_x86.exe

2.2 Install SQL Server Module

Follow the steps below to install the SQL Server Module on the application server:

- 1. Navigate to the following link: https://www.powershellgallery.com/packages/Sqlserver/21.1.18256
- 2. Under Installation Options, select Manual Download:



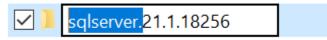
✓ Installation Options

Install Module Azure Automation Manual Download

Manually download the .nupkg file to your system's default download location. Note that the file won't be unpacked, and won't include any dependencies. Learn More

Download the raw nupkg file

- 3. Click **Download the raw nupk file**. The SQLserver .nupkg file downloads.
- 4. Locate the downloaded "SQLserver" file, then right click it and select **Properties**.
- 5. On the *General* tab, select **Unblock**, then click **Apply**.
- 6. Next, edit the "SQLserver" file extension from .nupkg to .zip.
- 7. Extract the .zip package in the downloaded location. After the folder is extracted, remove "sqlserver." from the folder name:



- 8. Navigate to C:\ProgramFiles\WindowsPowerShell\Modules and create a folder called **SqlServer**.
- 9. Copy the renamed .zip folder from the downloaded location to the SqlServer folder created in the previous step (C:\ProgramFiles\WindowsPowerShell\Modules\SqlServer)

2.3 Account Permissions

Ensure the following accounts are granted full permissions as outlined below:

Account	Description
Application App Pool Account	This is the account used for app pool of the application in IIS.
Scheduler Service Account	This is the account used as the service account for Scheduler Windows service.



The above accounts must have full access to the file share path configured as the file repository location. The following folders will be created by the deployment tool under this file repository location (for on-prem deployments only). For AWS and Azure, the following folders should be manually created in the file repository location before running the deployment tool.

The following table summarizes the permissions required on the subfolders in the file repository location.

Location	Access Type	Comments
\AFXWDOCS	Modify, Read & Execute, List Folder Contents, Read, Write	All FOIAXpress original are stored in this location.
\AFXWCORL	Modify, Read & Execute, List Folder Contents, Read, Write	All FOIAXpress correspondence documents are stored in this location.
\AFXWDOFL	Modify, Read & Execute, List Folder Contents, Read, Write	All FOIAXpress web download documents are stored in this location.
\AFXWERR	Modify, Read & Execute, List Folder Contents, Read, Write	All FOIAXpress electronic reading room documents are stored in this location.

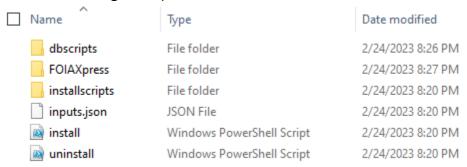


3 Download the Installation Package

The Collaboration installation package contains the files needed to install FOIAXpress and its associated components. Contact OPEXUS support at support@opexustech.com for your installation package.

After downloading the package, follow the steps below to unzip the file:

- 1. Locate the downloaded .zip file, then right click it and select **Properties**.
- 2. On the General tab, select **Unblock**, then click **Apply**.
- 3. Next, unzip the contents of the folder. The contents of the package appear as shown in the following example:



3.1 Verify the Integrity of the Installation Package

Steps to verify the integrity of the installation package.

- 1. Open Windows Powershell ISE.
- 2. Use the command below to verify the integrity of installation package:

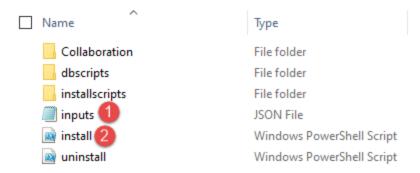
 Test-FileCatalog -CatalogFilePath "<<catalog file path(with extension of .cat) from downloaded artifact>>" -Path "<< folder that should be validated against the catalog file >>"
- 3. It will show as valid, as shown in the following example:





3.2 About the Installation Package

There are two primary files you'll interact with during installation:



- 1. *Inputs.json*: Drives the installation of the Collaboration components. The file is in a standard json format and needs to remain a valid json file for successful installation.
- 2. *Install.ps*1: The executable file you will run to deploy the installation package with the parameters configured in the Inputs.json file.



4 Inputs. Json Settings for Installation

4.1 About the Inputs.json File

The Inputs.json file located in the root directory of the extracted deployment package zip file drives the installation of the different components of FOIAXpress Collaboration. The file is in a standard json format and needs to remain a valid json file post updates prior to the installation.

The settings are grouped into sections, each addressing settings which may or may not require configuration, depending on your specific installation. The following subsections in this chapter describe each section of the Inputs. Json file.

The parent node is the 'inputs' section. This section appears as follows:

```
{
    "inputs": {
        "InstallType": {
            "New": "N",
            "Upgrade": "Y"
        },
        "Components": {
            "APP": "Y",
            "DB": "N"
        },
}
```

Each section has parameters you can adjust to configure your installation. An example section is shown below, with an explanation for how it works:

Each (1) Section ("InstallType" in this example) includes various (2) Settings ("New" in this example) to configure.

For each (A) Setting ("Upgrade" here), you can edit the (B) text in quotations ("N" here to indicate "No") to configure the settings for your installation. This might include adding a file path, user name, password, or simply a "Y" or "N" depending on the field you are configuring.



The first section under the parent node is the Install Type. See the following section for details on configuring your install type, with the remaining sections following in the order they appear in the Inputs file.

4.2 Install Type

Use the "InstallType" section to determine if this is a new installation, or an upgrade for an existing system:

```
"inputs": {
    "InstallType": {
        "New": "Y",|
        "Upgrade": "N"
```

Setting	Description	
New	Determine whether this is a new installation. For new installations this should be a "Y" value.	
Upgrade	Determine whether this is an upgrade for an existing application. For new installations this should be a "N" value.	

4.3 Install Components

The "Components" section allows you to determine which components to include with this installation. To include a component with your installation, be sure to assign the component a "Y" value on the corresponding line.:

```
"Components": {
   "APP": "Y",
   "SCHEDULER": "Y",
   "DB": "N"
```



Setting	Description
APP	Include the FOIAXpress Collaboration in this installation procedure. This should be a "Y" value for new installations and upgrades if the applications needs to be installed or upgraded respectively.
SCHEDULER	Include the FOIAXpress Collaboration Scheduler in this installation procedure. This should be a "Y" value for new installations and upgrades if the scheduler needs to be newly installed or upgraded respectively.
DB	Include the FOIAXpress Collaboration Database in this installation procedure. This should be a "Y" value for new installations and upgrades if the database needs to be newly installed or upgraded respectively.

4.4 Application and Scheduler

The "APPANDSCHEDULER" section has settings related to Collaboration application and scheduler installations. A value must be set for all values in this section to successfully install the application:

(!!) Note: any files paths specified must have two backslashes where a path in windows explorer requires a single backslash.

```
"APPANDSCHEDULER": {
    "InstallLocation": "C:\\Program Files (x86)",
    "BackupLocation": "C:\\temp\\backup",
    "CollabSSLCert": {
        "SSLPort": "443",
        "CertPath": "<<CERTIFICATE PATH>>",
        "CertPassword": "<<CERTIFICATE PASSWORD>>",
        "DNSName": "Collaboration"
    },
    "AppPool": "CollabAppPool"
```



Setting	Description
InstallLocation	Specify a path for the Collaboration installation. Note this must be a file path for the .json file the execute.
BackupLocation	Specify a path for the Collaboration backup location. Note this must be a file path for the .json file the execute.
SSLCert	The following lines contain the SSL Certificate information. No data is required on this line. This is the grouping for SSL Certification settings to be used for the installation.
SSLPort	The network port designated for your application's secure communications using SSL.
CertPath	Specify a path where the .pfx certificate file is located. Note this must a file path for the .json file to execute.
CertPassword	Enter the password associated with the certificate linked in the "CertPath" field.
DNSName	Enter the Domain Name System (DNS) name for the domain associated with the application.
AppPool	Enter the name of the application pool associated with your FOIAXpress Collaboration.

4.5 Database Settings

The "DB" section contains the settings for installing or upgrading your Collaboration database. In case of a new installation, an agent account will be created.



```
"DB": {
   "DBServer": "<<DATABASE SERVER NAME>>",
   "DBName": "<<DATABASE NAME>>",
   "CreaterDBUserId": "<<DB CREATER USER ID>>",
   "CreaterDBUserPassword": "<<DB CREATER USER ID PASSWORD>>",
   "IntegratedSecurity": "N",
   "AgentAccount": "<<AGENT NAME TO CONNECT COLLAB DB>>",
   "AgentAccountPassword": "<<AGENT PWD>>",
   "AgentAccountIntegratedSecurity": "N"
```

Setting	Description
DBServer	Name assigned to the server responsible for storing, retrieving, and managing Collaboration data.
DBName	Name given to the specific database used for FOIAXpress Collaboration.
CreaterDBUserID	Database User ID to be used for this installation. The CreaterDBUserId should have admin rights with the ability to create a new database or database object on the specified Database server.
CreaterDBUserPassword	Password associated with the account used in the "CreaterDBUserID" field.
IntegratedSecurity	The Integrated Security property instructs the SQL Client to connect to SQL Server using Windows Authentication through the Security Support Provider Interface (SSPI). Use "Y" or "N" to determine if you are using Integrated Security in this installation.
AgentAccount	The SQL server login account to be created in case of a new database install or the login already setup for the database being upgraded.



Setting	Description
AgentAccountPassword	The SQL server Agent Account password specified in the AgentAcount setting.
AgentAccountIntegratedSecurity	Whether integrated security should be used when connecting to the database, default is "N".

4.6 File Repository Settings

The "FileRepository" section contains the setting for different file paths used by Collaboration to store files.

```
"FileRepository": {
   "Documents": "<<Documents Path>>",
   "Correspondence": "<<Correspondence Path>>"
```

Setting	Description
Documents	Enter the file path location for the Documents repository.
Correspondence	Enter the file path location for the Correspondence repository.

4.7 Authentication Settings

The "Authentication" section contains settings needed for FOIAXpress to authenticate using FORMS authentication after the application is installed:



```
"Authentication": {
    "Type": "FORMS",
    "//Type Comment": "Type can be one of these FORMS,SSO,EAUTHENTICATION",
    "Forms": {
        "MembershipProvider": "DATABASE",
        "//MembershipProvider Comments": "MemberProvider can be one of these DATABASE,LDAP",
        "LdapAccountUsername": "",
        "LdapAccountPassword": "",
        "LdapUrl": "",
        "LdapSynchronizeAdUsersUserName": "",
        "LdapSynchronizeAdUsersPassword": "",
        "LdapSynchronizeAdUsersUrl": ""
},
    "eAuthenication": {
        "eAuthenticationLogoutUrl": ""
```

Setting	Description
Туре	Enter the type of authentication used. Options include FORMS, SSO, and EAUTHENTICATION.
Type Comment	Lists the authentication Types that can be entered in the field above (FORMS, SSO, and EAUTHENTICATION).
Forms	The Forms authentication fields are listed in this subsection. These only need to be filled in if using FORMS authentication.
Membership Provider	Enter the membership provider type. Options include DATABASE or LDAP.
MembershipProvider Comments	Lists the membership provider types that can be entered in the field above (DATABASE or LDAP).
LdapAccountUsername	Username associated with the LDAP account used for authentication.



Setting	Description
LdapAccountPassword	Password associated with the LDAP account username used in the field above.
LdapUrl	URL associated with the LDAP server
LdapSynchronizeAdUsersUserName	LDAP User Name
LdapSynchronizeAdUsersPassword	LDAP Password
LdapSynchronizeAdUsersUrl	LDAP URL
eAuthentication	eAuthentication details are included in this subsection (if eAuthentication is the selected authentication type).
eAuthenticationLogoutUrl	Redirect URL for users when logged out using eAuthentication.

4.8 SMTP Server Settings

The "SMTPServer" section contains setting for the application's mail server:

```
"SMTPServer": {
    "Address": "0.0.0.0",
    "PortNo": "25"
```

Setting	Description
Address	Address of the server responsible for sending email messages from the FOIAXpress application.



Setting	Description
PortNo	Port number associated with the SMTP server entered in the "Address" setting.

4.9 Configuration

The "Configuration" section contains settings for initial install configuration, setting up the basic details required to log in and get started in Collaboration. This account is the primary administrator account for the application:

```
"Configuration": {
    "AdminUser": {
        "Login": "Admin",
        "Password": "<<PASSWORD>>",
        "FirstName": "Admin",
        "LastName": "Admin",
        "Email": "<<EMAIL ID>>"
    },
    "Organization": {
        "Name": "<<ORGANIZATION NAME>>",
        "OfficeName": "<<OFFICE NAME>>",
        "OfficeCode": "<<OFFICE CODE>>"
    "FiscalYear": {
        "CurrentFY": "2023",
        "Starts": "10/01/2022",
        "Ends": "09/30/2023"
   },
    "ActType": {
        "ATIAPA": "N",
        "FOIP": "N",
        "FIPPA": "N"
```

Setting	Description
AdminUser	This subsection allows you to configure the basic details and sign in information for the initial Admin user account you'd like to create in the system.



Setting	Description
Login	Enter the username you'd like to assign for the first Admin application user.
Password	Enter a password for the Admin account associated with the username you entered above.
FirstName	Enter the first name you'd like to associate with this Admin account.
LastName	Enter the last name you'd like to associate with this Admin account.
Email	Enter an email address for this Admin account.
Organization	Use this subsection to provide your basic organization details.
Name	Enter a name for your organization, as it should appear in the system.
OfficeName	Provide an initial office name for an organization office. You'll be able to add more offices in the application configuration.
OfficeCode	Enter a system code assigned to this office, to assist with request identification and assignment.
FiscalYear	Use this subsection to configure the fiscal year details for your application.
CurrentFY	Enter the current fiscal year used in your application in "YYYY" format (e.g., "2023").



Inputs.json Settings for New Installations

Setting	Description
Starts	Provide a start date for your fiscal year in MM/DD/YYYY format (e.g., "01/01/2023").
Ends	Provide an end date for your fiscal year in MM/DD/YYYY format (e.g., "12/31/2023")
ActType	This field is not applicable for FOIAXpress. Do not edit or remove this field.
ATIAPA	This field is not applicable for FOIAXpress. Do not edit or remove this field.
FOIP	This field is not applicable for FOIAXpress. Do not edit or remove this field.
FIPPA	This field is not applicable for FOIAXpress. Do not edit or remove this field.



5 Inputs.json Settings for Upgrade

This section discusses the inputs.json settings used when upgrading an existing FX Collaboration. For information on using the inputs.json file, see the *About the Inputs.json File* section of this manual.

(!!) Note: Some fields that would be required for a new installation should be left as-is for an upgrade. It is important to not edit or remove these fields as this could compromise the integrity of the inputs.json file. These are described where appropriate in the following sections.

5.1 Install Type

Use the "InstallType" section to determine if this is a new installation, or an upgrade for an existing system:

```
"inputs": {
    "InstallType": {
        "New": "N",
        "Upgrade": "Y"
```

Setting	Description
New	Determine whether this is a new installation. For upgrades this should be a "N" value.
Upgrade	Determine whether this is an upgrade for an existing application. For upgrades this should be a "Y" value.

5.2 Components

The "Components" section allows you to determine which components to include with this upgrade. If you included a component in your previous installation, be sure to assign the component a "Y" value on the corresponding line:



```
"Components": {
   "APP": "Y",
   "SCHEDULER": "Y",
   "DB": "N"
```

Setting	Description
APP	Include the Collaboration application in this upgrade procedure. This should be a "Y" value for upgrades.
SCHEDULER	Include the Scheduler in this upgrade procedure. This should be a "Y" value for upgrades if the scheduler needs to be upgraded.
DB	Include the Database in this upgrade procedure. This should be a "Y" value for upgrades.

5.3 Application and Scheduler

The "APPANDSCHEDULER" section only requires input in the InstallLocation and BackupLocation fields.

(!!) Note: All fields not listed above can remain as-is during an upgrade.

```
"APPANDSCHEDULER": {
    "InstallLocation": "C:\\Program Files (x86)",
    "BackupLocation": "C:\\temp\\backup",
    "CollabSSLCert": {
        "SSLPort": "443",
        "CertPath": "<<CERTIFICATE PATH>>",
        "CertPassword": "<<CERTIFICATE PASSWORD>>",
        "DNSName": "Collaboration"
    },
    "AppPool": "CollabAppPool"
```

Setting	Description
InstallLocation	Specify a path for the application installation. Note this must be a file path for the .json file the execute.



Setting	Description
BackupLocation	Specify a path for the application backup location. Note this must be a file path for the .json file the execute. (!!) Note: The BackupLocation must exist in the specified file path

5.4 Database Settings

The "DB" section contains the settings for installing or upgrading your Collaboration database.

(!!) Note: You do not need to edit the AgentAccount fields during an upgrade, these can remain as-is.

```
"DB": {
   "DBServer": "<<DATABASE SERVER NAME>>",
   "DBName": "<<DATABASE NAME>>",
   "CreaterDBUserId": "<<DB CREATER USER ID>>",
   "CreaterDBUserPassword": "<<DB CREATER USER ID PASSWORD>>",
   "IntegratedSecurity": "N",
   "AgentAccount": "<<AGENT NAME TO CONNECT COLLAB DB>>",
   "AgentAccountPassword": "<<AGENT PWD>>",
   "AgentAccountIntegratedSecurity": "N"
```

Setting	Description
DBServer	Name assigned to the server responsible for storing, retrieving, and managing Collaboration data
DBName	Name given to the specific database used for Collaboration.
CreaterDBUserID	Database User ID to be used for this installation. The CreaterDBUserId should have admin rights with the ability to create a new database or database object on the specified Database server



Setting	Description
CreaterDBUserPassword	Password associated with the account used in the "CreaterDBUserID" field.
IntegratedSecurity	Use "Y" or "N" to determine if you are using integrated security in this installation.

5.5 File Repository Settings

The "FileRepository" section contains the setting for different file paths used by the FOIAXpress application to store files.

(!!) Note: These fields can remain as-is during the upgrade.

5.6 Authentication Settings

The "Authentication" section contains settings needed for FOIAXpress to authenticate using FORMS authentication after the application is installed. These fields can remain as-is during the upgrade.

(!!) Note: These fields can remain as-is during the upgrade.

5.7 SMTP Server Settings

The "SMTPServer" section contains setting for the application's mail server. These fields can remain as-is during the upgrade.

(!!) Note: These fields can remain as-is during the upgrade.

5.8 Configuration

The "Configuration" section contains settings for initial install application configuration, setting up the basic details required to log in and get started in the application. This account is the primary administrator account for the application.

(!!) Note: These fields can remain as-is during the upgrade.



6 Install Collaboration

Before you are ready to run the Install.ps1 file, review the steps below to verify you've completed all the steps to this point:

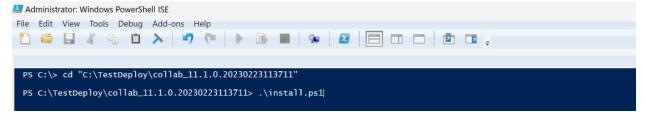
- Ensure your system meets the minimum requirements.
- Make sure you have connectivity to the servers where the software is being installed.
- Download, verify, and extract the Collaboration Installation package.
- Configure the Inputs. json file for your installation.

Once the above prerequisites are complete, follow the steps below to deploy the Collaboration Installation package.

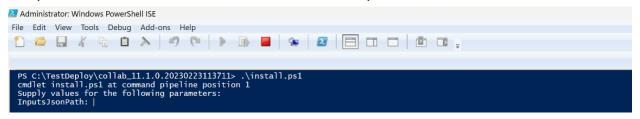
- 1. Open Windows Powershell ISE.
- 2. Use PowerShell to navigate to the location where you extracted the installation package:



3. Type .\install.ps1 for either install or upgrade



4. If the inputs.json file is in same location as the extracted installation files, simply click enter to execute the installation. Alternatively, if you have file in different location provide this file location, then execute the script.



The installation procedure executes. See the following section for post-installation procedures to verify the application deployed successfully.



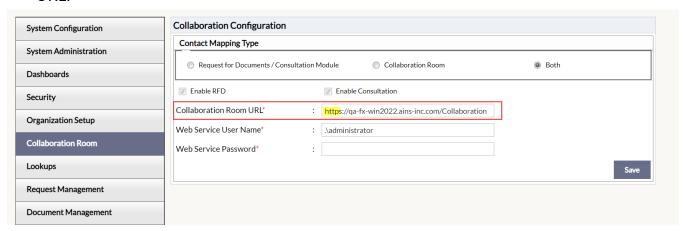
7 Post-Deployment Configuration

After deploying Collaboration either via new installation or an upgrade of an existing environment, please review the following sections to ensure the post-deployment configuration actions are completed.

7.1 Set HTTPS-enabled URL

The Collaboration URL requires an HTTPS endpoint.

- (!!) Note: Use a fully qualified domain name while configuring the HTTPS endpoint in the Collaboration Room URL. Follow the steps below to update the endpoint to HTTPS:
- 1. Access your FOIAXpress application as an Administrator.
- 2. Click the **Administration** option from the top toolbar.
- 3. Under Administration, select the **Collaboration Room** option to open the *Collaboration Configuration* screen.
- 4. Locate the Collaboration Room URL field, and update the URL to your HTTPS-enabled URL:



5. Click **Save** to save the changes.

7.2 Add DNS Binding

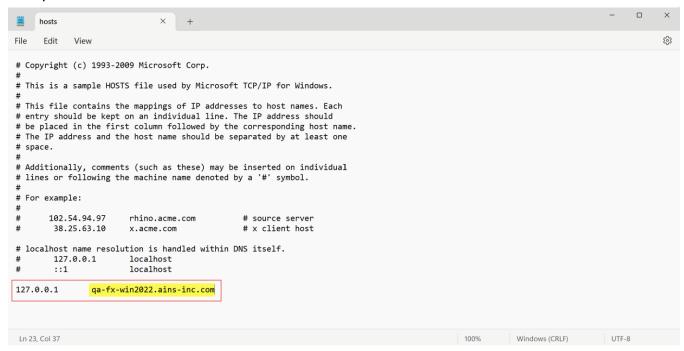
For non-public Collaboration environments, you are also required to add a DNS binding to allow Collaboration to function correctly.



7.2.1 Add Binding (Single Server)

If your Collaboration resides on the same server as your FOIAXpress application, you must add a DNS binding to the "hosts" file. Follow the steps below to add this binding.

- 1. On the application server, locate and open the "hosts" file (C:\Windows\system32\drivers\etc\).
- 2. In the "hosts" file, add the text shown below, replacing the highlighted portion with your qualified DNS name for the Collaboration site:



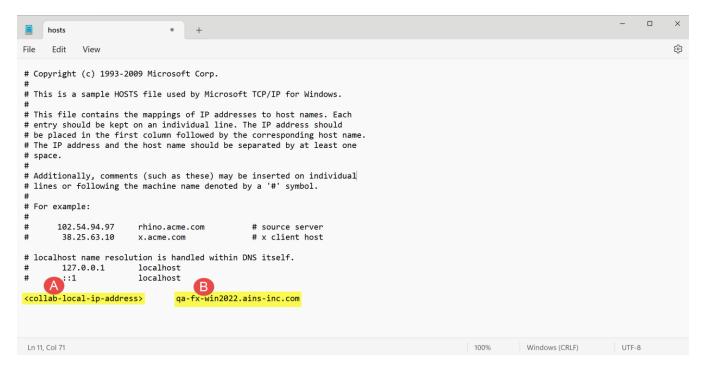
3. Save and close the "hosts" file.

7.2.2 Add Binding (Separate Collaboration and Application Servers)

If your Collaboration and application reside on separate servers as your FOIAXpress application, you must add a DNS binding to the "hosts" file as described below:

- 1. On the FOIAXpress application server, locate and open the "hosts" file (C:\Windows\system32\drivers\etc\).
- 2. In the "hosts" file, add the text shown below, replacing the part (A) with your Collaboration site's local IP address, and part (B) with your qualified DNS name for the Collaboration site:

Post-Deployment Configuration



3. Save and close the "hosts" file.