VDAB Flow Types

VDAB processes data in discreet programs called flows. These flows are similar in that they consist of processing nodes that receive events, create events or more typically, do both. VDAB identifies five major flow patterns or types that are best suited for different types of processing tasks.

Before This	You should have reviewed the Visual Dataflow Introduction tutorial or documentation.

Related Documentation

The following document and tutorials either are a) available or b) being developed to further support this subject.

Those available are highlighted in blue while those under development are not highlighted.

Related Guides	Details
Visual Dataflow Concepts	This reference document provides a glossary and introduction to the key visual dataflow concepts.

Related Tutorial	Details
Visual Dataflow Introduction	This tutorial introduces the key types of components used by VDAB and demonstrates how to create simple data flows.

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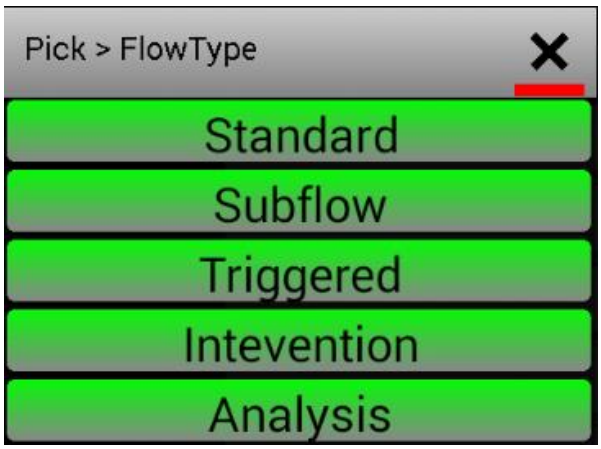
Overview of the major flow types

While you create a flow using VDAB, you are asked to pick a flow type. These flow types correspond to the way the flow is used and what required components to have. Currently VDAB allows you to pick one of five flow types:



While the Standard flow is a blank canvas that allows you to build any type of flow, the other flow types add specific initial nodes appropriate for the nodes usage.

Flow Type	Description
Standard Flow	A general purpose flow. When created it does not include any nodes. Typically source or service nodes are added to create events to start the processing.
Sub Flow	A Subflow is a flow that is triggered by receiving an event from another flow. They serve as a function or subroutine that can exist in the container of the calling flow or from a flow on a remote container. They start with an event input node and return data in an event output node.
Triggered Flow	A trigger is just a signal to a flow to execute that doesn't contain any other event data. A trigger can be used to create an executable flow that can be executed from the VDAB console or from another flow.
Intervention Flow	An intervention flow is subflow that is specially designed to receive alerts from the container. They can be used to provide manual or automated intervention responding to an alert.
Analysis Flow	An analysis flow is different from other flows in that its primary purpose is to interactively retrieve event data and replay the events for further processing. It may be invoked to calculate statistics from the events previously received.

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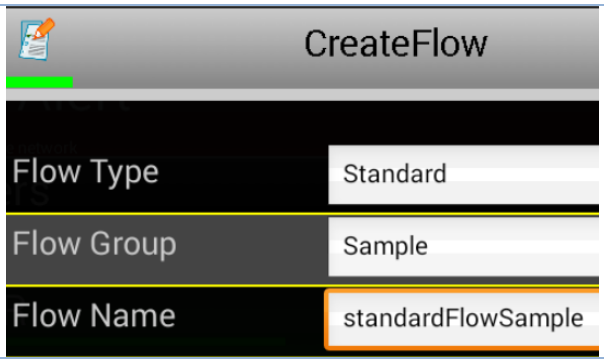
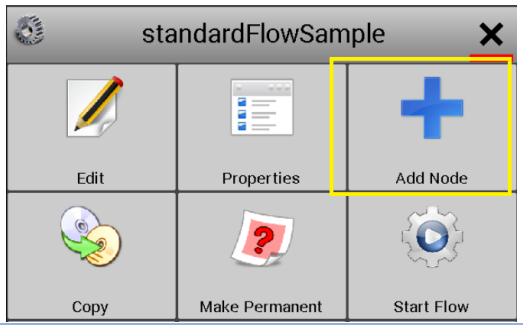
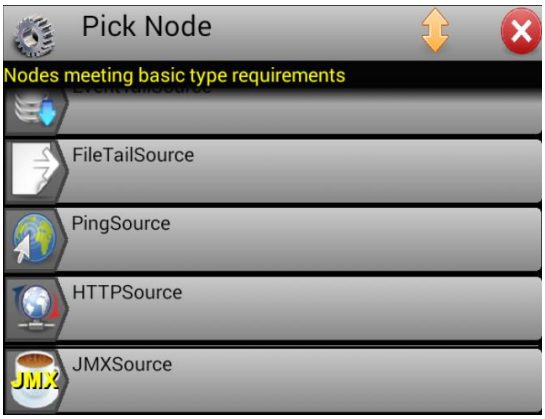
Using a Standard Flow

Standard flow types do not include any mandatory node types and are a blank canvas for building a flow. They often begin with a Source flow that generates events.

1. Create a standard flow by selecting the standard flow type from the Create Flow command.	
2. After the flow is created, select the Add Node option	
3. Pick a node type that originates the types of events that you are interested in processing. Source node and many service modes can be the first node in a flow.	
4. Add processing nodes to the first node as appropriate for the flow you are building.	

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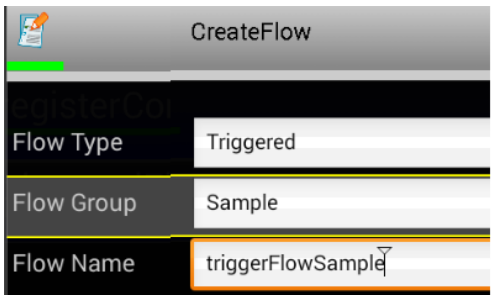
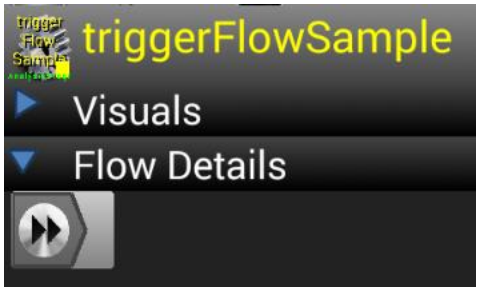
Using a Triggered Flow

A triggered flow is a flow that can be run by a) running the flow directly with the run admin command, b) calling it from a subflow or c) clicking the trigger icon on the flow.

1. Create a triggered flow by selecting the triggered flow type from the Create Flow command.



2. The triggered flow then includes a trigger which is invoked when the flow is run or whenever the trigger icon is clicked.



3. Any node that can accept a trigger can be added to the trigger and when the trigger fires that node will process. For example you can invoke a command script or perform a database query when the flow is triggered.

4. Trigger flows can be run one time in the same way you would run a batch file.

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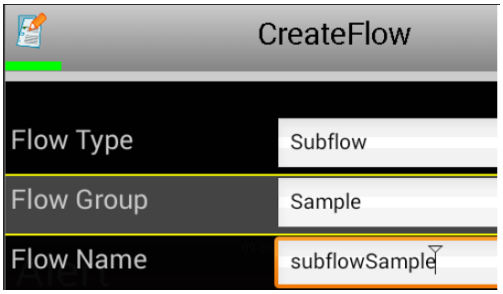
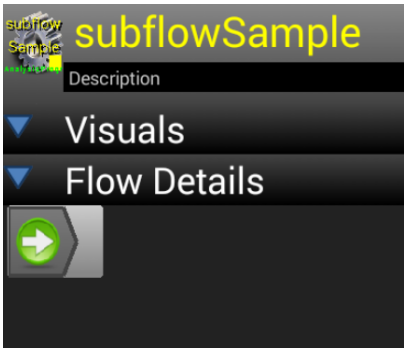
Create a Subflow

A Subflow is a flow designed to be called from another flow. They can be called from the same container or any remote container and can be used to both break up work into different steps and to distribute the work in different containers.

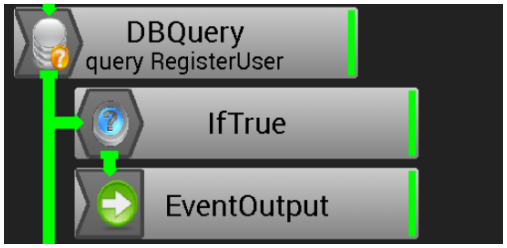
1. Create a subflow flow by selecting the Subflow flow type from the Create Flow command.



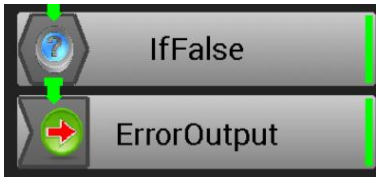
2. The subflow always begins with a *EventInput* node



3. Attach other nodes to process the alert either the *AlertInput* node or the *GetEventTime* nodes. If data needs to be returned to the calling flow, add *EventOutput* nodes that will return event data they receive to the caller.



4. If you need to return an Error condition from the flow use the *ErrorOutput* node.



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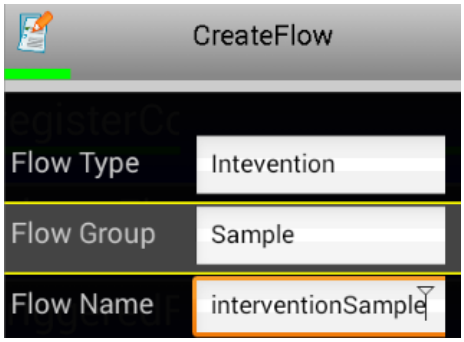
Using a Intervention Flow

An intervention flow is a specialized flow which is designed to respond to an alert event.

1. Create an intervention flow by selecting the intervention flowtype from the Create Flow command.



2. The intervention flow includes an *AlertInput* node followed by a *GetEventTime* which can be used to retrieve metric or log data associated with the alert event.

3. Attach other nodes to process the alert either the *AlertInput* node or the *GetEventTime* nodes

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