

Learn Mode and Inspectors

VDAB includes specific features that assist you in creating a desired flow.

Learn Mode	Allows nodes to sample data coming from nodes earlier in the flow and assists in configuring the node. Data is never published from the node while “learning” to avoid taking actions not desirable during testing. (You may not want to send an email alert or write to a DB while you are constructing the flow.)
Event Counters	Counts the number of incoming and outgoing events for each node
Event Inspectors	Displays the event data being published by a flow
Trace Logging	Trace level logging can be enabled and may provide additional details to assist in configuring the node.

This document details how to use the Learn Mode, Counters and Inspectors to assist in developing flows.

Before This

- You should have reviewed the VDAB introductory tutorial and documentation to understand how to create basic flows from nodes.

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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 green while those under development are currently grey.

Related Guides	Details

Related Tutorial	Details

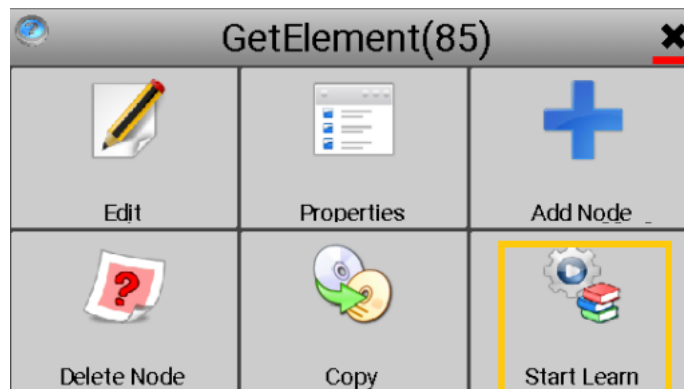
Enabling the Learn Mode

During the process of assembling a flow you may wish to enable learning to assist you in successfully configuring the flow.

Key things regarding enabling learning:

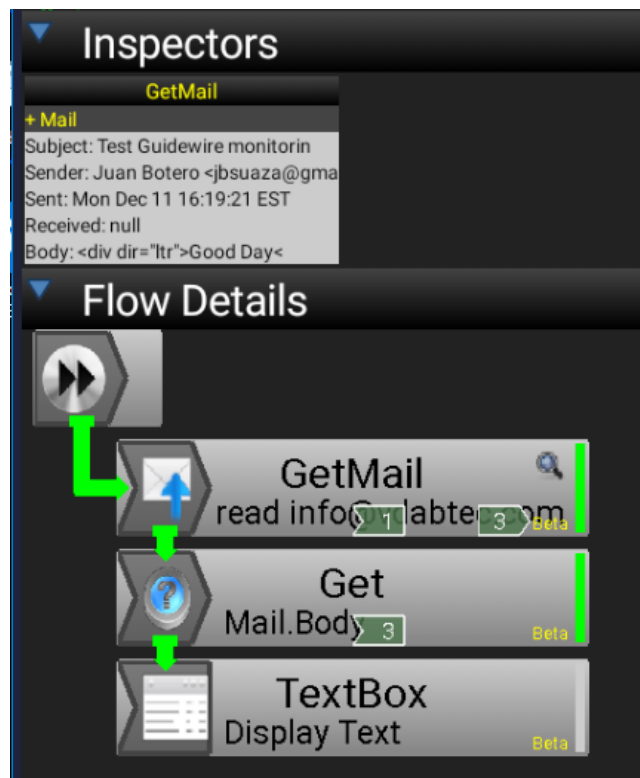
- Learning is always enabled for each Node. The act of starting learning on a Node will cause preceding nodes to be activated.
- You can only start learning for a node when the flow is not currently running.
- In order to “learn” the preceding nodes must be properly configured.

Learning for a node is started by selecting and clicking on the desired node followed by selecting the *Start Learn* action.

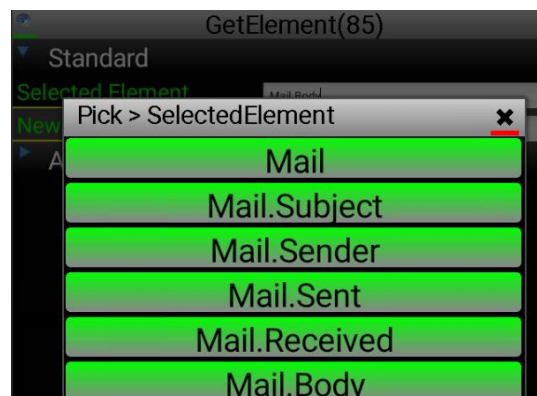


Once learning is started, all the nodes that precede that node will be started if they are properly configured will send events to the node that is learning. In the example below the *Get* node is in the learn mode and receive 3 events from the *GetMail* node.

When learning is enabled, counters are added to all nodes and an inspector is attached to the previous node to aid in configuration.



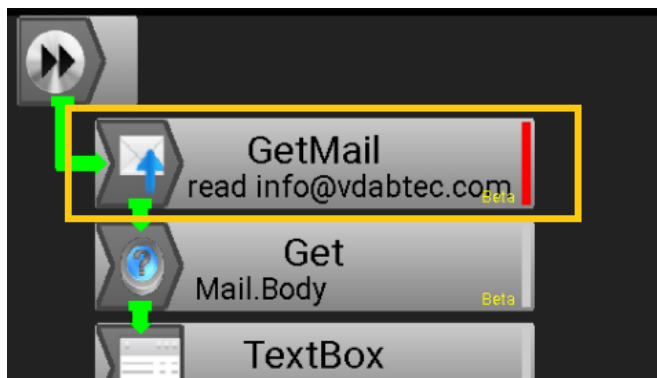
The data path of event data coming into the learning node will then be available to assist in selecting the appropriate incoming event element for the learning node.



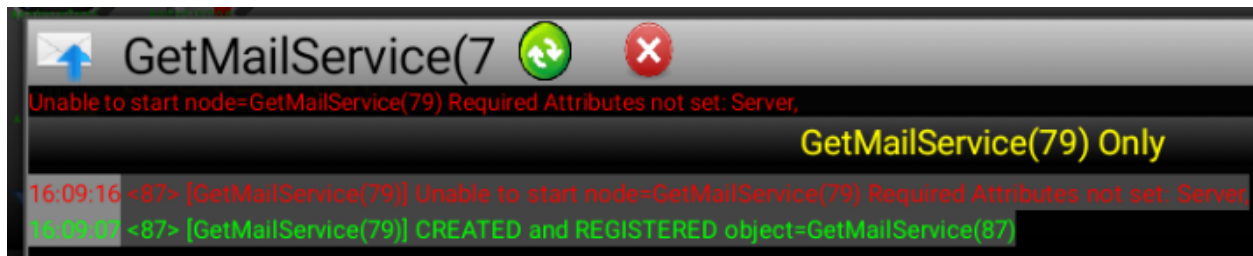
Fixing Errors after Starting Learning

For a node to successfully “learn”, all the preceding nodes that send it events must be completely configured.

If learning is started on the Get node but the GetMail node does not have all necessary attributes set, the Learn Mode will not start and the incompletely configured node will be in an error state.



Click on the *Display Error* action on the *GetMail* node to receive more details regarding the configuration problem. Correct the problem and reset the node.



Once you have corrected all problems with the preceding node, you can start learning on the current node.

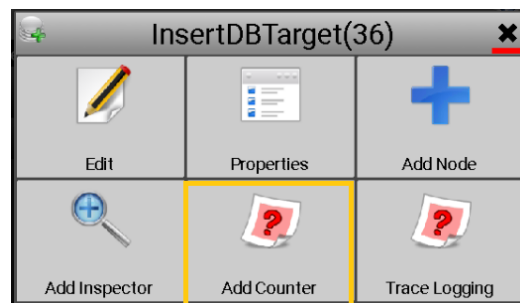
Stopping the Learn Mode

Use the Stop flow control to stop the Learn Mode. Once stopped the flow can be started or learning re-enabled.

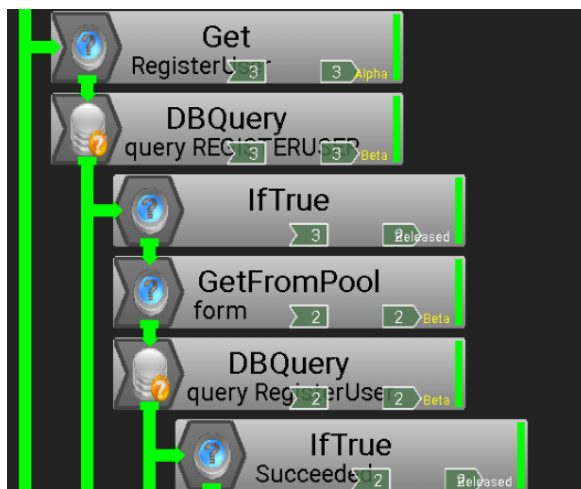


Adding Counters

Anytime a flow is running (or learning) a counter can be added to assist in identifying how many events are moving through the flow paths.



Counters can also be left in a production flow to provide insight into usage.



Adding Inspectors

Anytime a flow is running (or learning) an inspector can be added to any of the nodes. Select the Node and click on the Add Inspector action.



While the inspector provides some details of the event data, it is most applicable to data that is limited in size. The data hierarchy can be opened or closed by clicking on the “+” and “-” symbols.



Trace Logging

In situations where it is not clear why a flow isn't working properly, the log can provide significant insights. Select the Trace Logging action to enable logging all available information for a node.

