

Running Cassandra

Startup of a Cassandra node is handled by the `bin/cassandra` shell script. Options used by `bin/cassandra` are taken from a shell snippet, `bin/cassandra.in.sh` by default.

You can override the options script to use with `CASSANDRA_INCLUDE`. E.g.,

```
$ cp bin/cassandra.in.sh /tmp/new.in.sh
$ vi /tmp/new.in.sh
$ CASSANDRA_INCLUDE=/tmp/new.in.sh bin/cassandra
```

Among other things, the defaults in `bin/cassandra.in.sh` include a maximum heap size (`-Xmx`) of 1GB, which you'll almost certainly want to consider tailoring for your environment. The port to access Cassandra's [JmxInterface](#) is also configured here through the `com.sun.management.jmxremote.port` property and defaults to 8080 (7199 starting in v0.8.0-beta1).

Additionally, the script recognizes a number of command line arguments, invoking the script with the `-h` option prints a brief summary of them.

```
$ bin/cassandra -h
Usage: bin/cassandra [-f] [-h] [-p pidfile]
$
```

The `-f` argument will prevent Cassandra from daemonizing and force it to run in the foreground. The `-p <pidfile>` argument causes the process ID to be written to the named file (useful for shutdown ala `kill $(cat pidfile)`).

Note: The Debian package makes use of an init script and [jsvc](#) to start and stop Cassandra. Startup options should be configured in `/etc/default/cassandra` (not `/usr/share/cassandra/cassandra.in.sh`) on Debian systems.

See also [Operations](#)

(startup file for Cassandra on Mac OS X 10.6.x)

```
$ cat /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/org.apache.cassandra.plist

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
    <key>Label</key>
    <string>org.apache.cassandra</string>
    <key>RunAtLoad</key>
    <true/>
    <key>Disabled</key>
    <false/>
    <key>GroupName</key>
    <string>wheel</string>
    <key>UserName</key>
    <string>root</string>
    <key>ProgramArguments</key>
    <array>
        <string>/opt/local/bin/cassandra</string>
        <string>-f</string>
    </array>
    <key>KeepAlive</key>
    <true/>
    <key>StandardErrorPath</key>
    <string>/opt/local/var/log/cassandra/stderr.log</string>
    <key>StandardOutPath</key>
    <string>/opt/local/var/log/cassandra/stdout.log</string>
</dict>
</plist>
```