



## CHAPTER 15

# Using Configuration Building Blocks

---

**Date:** 12/14/09

Building blocks allow authorized users to create and design reusable configuration attributes which can then be applied to virtual contexts. The ANM also allows you to extract the configuration of an existing virtual context and tag it as a building block.

In many cases, the same configuration settings can be used in several virtual contexts (for example, it can offer the same service bundle to many customers). To avoid repeating virtual context configuration and testing each time you create a virtual context, you can create a building block of many configuration attributes that can be applied to virtual contexts as appropriate or as needed.

With building blocks, you can also create a variety of configurations that address customers' differing needs. The ability to customize configurations to customer needs also allows you to use network resources most efficiently.

Benefits of configuration building blocks include:

- You can establish baseline versions of working configurations.
- Users can make real-time changes to configurations and roll back to a previously working configuration, if needed.
- Building blocks can be extracted from proven, working configurations.
- Building blocks can be placed under version control, with tagged versions that cannot be modified.

[Table 15-1](#) lists the configuration options that are available for each building block type and provides links to related topics. For descriptive information about the menu options, see [“Configuring Virtual Contexts” section on page 5-7](#).

**Table 15-1 Building Block Configuration Options**

Menu Option	Building Block Type		Related Topic
	ACE 2.0	ACE 4710 Appliance	
<b>System</b>			
Primary Attributes	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Building Block Primary Attributes, page 15-7</a>
Syslog	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Virtual Context Syslog Settings, page 5-17</a>
SNMP	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring SNMP for Virtual Contexts, page 5-25</a>
Global Policies	X	X	<a href="#">Applying a Policy Map Globally to All VLAN Interfaces, page 5-33</a>
Licenses			
Application Acceleration and Optimization			
Resource Classes			
Checkpoints			
Backup/Restore <sup>1</sup>			
<b>Load Balancing</b>			
Virtual Servers			
Real Servers	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Real Servers, page 7-4</a>
Server Farms	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Server Farms, page 7-14</a>
Health Monitoring	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Health Monitoring for Real Servers, page 7-30</a>
Stickiness	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Sticky Groups, page 8-6</a>
HTTP Parameter Map	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring HTTP Parameter Maps, page 9-9</a>
Connection Parameter Maps	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Connection Parameter Maps, page 9-3</a>
Optimization Parameter Maps		X	<a href="#">Configuring Optimization Parameter Maps, page 9-11</a>
Generic Parameter Maps	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Generic Parameter Maps, page 9-8</a>
RTSP Parameter Maps	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring RTSP Parameter Maps, page 9-20</a>
SIP Parameter Maps	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring SIP Parameter Maps, page 9-21</a>
Skinny Parameter Maps	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Skinny Parameter Maps, page 9-23</a>
DNS Parameter Maps	X	X	
Secure KAL-AP	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Secure KAL-AP, page 7-54</a>
<b>SSL</b>			
Setup Sequence			
Certificates			
Keys	X	X	<a href="#">Using SSL Keys, page 10-9</a>
Parameter Maps	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring SSL Parameter Maps, page 10-17</a>
Chain Group Parameters			
CSR Parameters	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring SSL CSR Parameters, page 10-22</a>

**Table 15-1 Building Block Configuration Options (continued)**

Menu Option	Building Block Type		Related Topic
	ACE 2.0	ACE 4710 Appliance	
Proxy Service			
Auth Group Parameters	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring SSL Authentication Groups, page 10-28</a>
Certificate Revocation Lists (CSL)	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring CRLs for Client Authentication, page 10-29</a>
<b>Security</b>			
ACLs	X	X	<a href="#">Creating ACLs, page 5-68</a>
Object Groups	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Object Groups, page 5-78</a>
<b>Network</b>			
Port Channel			
Gigabit Ethernet Interfaces			
VLAN Interfaces	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring VLAN Interfaces, page 11-5</a>
BVI Interfaces	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Virtual Context BVI Interfaces, page 11-13</a>
NAT Pools <sup>2</sup>	X		<a href="#">Configuring VLAN Interface NAT Pools, page 11-17</a>
Static Routes	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Virtual Context Static Routes, page 11-18</a>
Global IP DHCP	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Global IP DHCP, page 11-20</a>
Static NAT Overwrite	X		<a href="#">Configuring Static VLANs for Over 8000 Static NAT Configurations, page 11-21</a>
<b>High Availability</b>			
Setup			
<b>HA Tracking and Failure Detection</b>			
Interfaces			
Hosts			
HSRP Groups			
<b>Role-Based Access Control</b>			
Users	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Device RBAC Users, page 4-45</a>
Roles	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Device RBAC Roles, page 4-49</a>
Domains	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Device RBAC Domains, page 4-53</a>
<b>Expert</b>			
Class Map	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Virtual Context Class Maps, page 13-6</a>
Policy Map	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring Virtual Context Policy Maps, page 13-31</a>
HTTP Header Modify Action Lists	X	X	<a href="#">Configuring an HTTP Header Modify Action List, page 13-83</a>
Optimization Action Lists		X	<a href="#">Configuring an HTTP Optimization Action List, page 14-3</a>
Building Block Audit			

1. Backup/Restore is only supported for software version A2(3.0) and higher for the ACE module.

- NAT pools as a selection under Network is only supported for software version A2(3.0) and higher for the ACE module.

**Related Topics**

- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Applying Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Displaying Building Block Use, page 15-10](#)

## Building Block Versions and Tagging

The ANM maintains version history for the building blocks that you create, design, and tag. You can tag a working building block version at any point during design or configuration, and reuse any tagged version of a building block.

A building block is not available for deployment until it has been *tagged*. When you tag a building block, the ANM publishes it with a version tag, such as 1.0 or 1.1.

You cannot edit tagged versions of a building block. After a building block is tagged, it is “frozen” and can no longer be modified in any way. When you open a tagged building block for editing, the ANM does not modify the tagged version, but instead creates a new working copy of the building block for you to work in. Any changes you make to the working copy are not available for deployment until you tag the building block under a new version tag.

**Related Topics**

- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Applying Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Displaying Building Block Use, page 15-10](#)

## Creating Building Blocks

Use this procedure to create a building block without using an existing configuration.

To create a building block from an existing virtual context, see [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#).

### Procedure

---

- Step 1** Choose **Config > Global > All Building Blocks**.  
The All Building Blocks table appears.
- Step 2** In the All Building Blocks table, click **Add**.  
The New Building Block window appears.
- Step 3** In the Name field of the New Building Block window, enter a unique name for this building block.
- Step 4** In the Type field, choose the type of building block to create:
- **ACE v2.0**—For use with virtual contexts on ACE modules.
  - **ACE4710A3**—For use with virtual contexts on ACE appliances, release A3(1.0) and later.
- See [Table 15-1](#) for a list of the available configuration options for each building block type.
- Step 5** In the Description field, enter a brief description for this building block.
- Step 6** Do one of the following:
- Click **Save** to save your entries and to continue with building block configuration. The Primary Attributes configuration window appears.
  - Click **Cancel** to exit this procedure without saving your entries and to return to the All Building Blocks table.
  - Click **Tag** to save your entries and tag the building block. After you tag a building block, the window refreshes and provides fields for applying the building block. For more information, see [Applying Building Blocks, page 15-8](#).
- 

### Related Topics

- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Applying Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Displaying Building Block Use, page 15-10](#)

## Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts

An alternative to creating a new configuration building block and configuring each attribute individually is to extract a configuration building block from an existing virtual context. By extracting a building block from a virtual context, you can reduce the time you spend configuring and testing the configuration.

Use this procedure to create a working building block from a virtual context configuration.

### Procedure

- 
- Step 1** Choose **Config > Devices**.  
The device tree appears.
- Step 2** In the device tree, choose the ACE with the virtual context whose configuration you want to use as a building block.  
The Virtual Contexts table appears.
- Step 3** In the Virtual Contexts table, choose the context with the configuration that you want to extract, and click **Extract Building Block**.  
A popup window appears, asking for a building block name.
- Step 4** In the Name field of the popup window, enter a name for this building block, and click **OK**. The window refreshes with the Primary Attributes window for the newly created building block (Config > Global > *building\_block*).
- Step 5** Modify the building block as desired using the information in [Table 15-1](#), or tag and deploy it as described in “[Tagging Building Blocks](#)” section on page 15-8 and “[Applying Building Blocks](#)” section on page 15-8).
- 

### Related Topics

- [Applying Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Displaying Building Block Use, page 15-10](#)

## Configuring Building Blocks

You can modify a working version of a configuration building block.



**Note** You can modify only working versions of building blocks; you cannot modify tagged versions of building blocks. If you select a tagged building block version, and then select a configuration option (such as **Load Balancing > Health Monitoring**), you can view the entries for that tagged version, but you cannot modify them.

---

### Procedure

- 
- Step 1** Choose **Config > Global > All Building Blocks**.

The All Building Blocks table appears.

- Step 2** Choose the working version of the building block that you want to modify, then choose the attributes that you want to configure. For information about building block configuration options, see [Table 15-1](#).



**Note** While it is possible to configure VLAN and BVI interfaces in a building block, we recommend that you do not do so. Applying a building block with these attributes configured to a virtual context with different settings can disrupt network traffic.

- Step 3** To apply this building block, tag it, and deploy it as described in “[Tagging Building Blocks](#)” section on page 15-8 and “[Applying Building Blocks](#)” section on page 15-8.

#### Related Topics

- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Displaying Building Block Use, page 15-10](#)

## Configuring Building Block Primary Attributes

Use this procedure to change the description of a configuration building block.

#### Procedure

- Step 1** Choose **Config > Global > All Building Blocks**.
- The All Building Blocks table appears.
- Step 2** In the All Building Blocks table, choose the building block that you want to modify, and choose **System > Primary Attributes**.
- The Primary Attributes window appears.
- Step 3** In the Description field of the Primary Attributes window, modify the description as desired.
- Step 4** Do one of the following:
- Click **Save** to save your entries. The window refreshes with the saved information.
  - Click **Tag** to tag the building block. To deploy the tagged building block, see “[Applying Building Blocks](#)” section on page 15-8.

#### Related Topics

- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)
- [Configuring Building Blocks, page 15-6](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)

# Tagging Building Blocks

You can tag a working copy of a building block. After creating a building block, you must tag it before you can apply it to virtual contexts.

## Procedure

---

**Step 1** Choose **Config > Global > All Building Blocks**.

The All Building Blocks table appears.

**Step 2** In the All Building Blocks table, choose the working copy of the building block that you want to tag, and click **Tag**.

The All Building Blocks table refreshes with the newly tagged building block identified by its version, such as 1.2 or 1.3. A working copy of the building block remains available so that you can use it for future building block versions.

To apply the tagged building block to virtual contexts on your network, see [“Applying Building Blocks” section on page 15-8](#).

---

## Related Topics

- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)
- [Applying Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Displaying Building Block Use, page 15-10](#)

# Applying Building Blocks

You can apply building blocks in two ways:

- By selecting a virtual context, then applying the building block. See [“Applying a Building Block to a Single Virtual Context” section on page 15-9](#).
- By selecting the tagged building block, then applying it to one or more virtual contexts. See [“Applying a Building Block to Multiple Virtual Contexts” section on page 15-9](#).



## Applying a Building Block to a Single Virtual Context

You can apply a tagged building block to a virtual context using virtual context configuration screens.

**Note**

Before applying a building block to a virtual context, confirm that the VLAN and BVI interfaces are defined correctly for the virtual context. If needed, remove VLAN and BVI interface configuration information from the building block and then apply it.

**Procedure**

- Step 1** Choose **Config > Devices > All Devices**.  
The device tree appears.
- Step 2** Choose the virtual context that you want to apply a building block to, and choose **System > Primary Attributes**.  
The Primary Attributes window appears.
- Step 3** In the Tagged Building Block to Apply field, choose the building block you want to apply to the virtual context.
- Step 4** Click **Deploy Now**.

**Related Topics**

- [Applying a Building Block to Multiple Virtual Contexts, page 15-9](#)
- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)

## Applying a Building Block to Multiple Virtual Contexts

You can apply a tagged building block to one or more contexts by using the building block configuration screens.

**Note**

Before applying a building block to a virtual context, confirm that the VLAN and BVI interfaces are defined correctly for the virtual context. If needed, remove VLAN and BVI interface configuration information from the building block and then apply it.

**Procedure**

- Step 1** Choose **Config > Global > All Building Blocks**.  
The All Building Blocks table appears.
- Step 2** In the All Building Blocks table, choose the tagged building block that you want to apply to one or more virtual contexts.

**Step 3** Choose **System > Primary Attributes**.

The Primary Attributes configuration window appears.

**Step 4** In the Push Building Block to VCs field of the Primary Attributes configuration window, choose the contexts that you want to apply the building block to in the Available Items list, and click **Add**.

They appear in the Selected Items list.

To remove contexts that you do not want to apply the building block to, choose them in the Selected Items list, then click **Remove**. They items appear in the Available Items list.

**Step 5** Click **Save**. A progress bar reports status and the window refreshes when the operation is complete.

#### Related Topics

- [Applying a Building Block to a Single Virtual Context, page 15-9](#)
- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)

## Displaying Building Block Use

You can identify the virtual contexts using a building block.

#### Procedure

**Step 1** Choose **Config > Devices**.

The device tree appears.

**Step 2** In the device tree, choose **All VC**.

The Virtual Contexts table appears.

**Step 3** In the Virtual Contexts table, use one of the following methods to display the building blocks being used:

- For a small number of contexts, scan the Building Block column to see which building blocks are in use on virtual contexts.
- For a large number of contexts, click **Filter**. The window refreshes so that you can enter search criteria. In the field beneath the Building Block column heading, enter a building block name or search string, then click **Go**. The table refreshes with entries that match the search criteria.

#### Related Topics

- [Using Configuration Building Blocks, page 15-1](#)
- [Building Block Versions and Tagging, page 15-4](#)
- [Creating Building Blocks, page 15-5](#)
- [Extracting Building Blocks from Virtual Contexts, page 15-6](#)
- [Tagging Building Blocks, page 15-8](#)