



# Answer Server

Software Version: 11.6.0

## Release Notes

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# New in this Release

This section lists the enhancements to Answer Server version 11.6.0.

## General

- You can now use an Answer Server action to generate natural language sentences from parts of speech. You can use this option, for example, to generate user-friendly responses in a programmatic way. The new NLG (natural language generation) action accepts a JSON specification containing the parts of the sentence, and returns the generated sentence.

To use NLG, you must update your license to include it, and you must configure Answer Server to enable it. For more information, refer to the *Answer Server Administration Guide*.

- Answer Server supports the following new Lua functions:
  - `deleteFieldByPath`, which you can call on a `LuaDocument` or `LuaField` object to delete fields or sub-fields that match a specified path.
  - `getFieldsByRegex`, which you can call on a `LuaDocument` or `LuaField` object to get fields or sub-fields where the name or path of the field or sub-field matches a regular expression.
- You can now configure your authorization role `SSLIdentities` to identify clients by using an email address in the certificate `subjectAltName`. You can use an optional tag for each SSL identity to specify whether it is a **dns** or **email** type identity. If there is no tag, the server treats it as **dns** type. For example:

```
SSLIdentities=email:user@example.com,dns:admin.example.com,webapp.example.com
```

- When using GSS security, you can now configure the service to allow clients to authenticate to any service principal in the service's keytab, rather than requiring a single principal. You use this option by setting the `GSSServiceName` configuration parameter to an asterisk (\*).

## Conversation

- Conversation module now has improved disambiguation for answers returned from Fact Bank. This change can lead to multiple stages of disambiguation in some cases.
- You can now set session variables in a conversation when you start the conversation session by using the `ManageResources` action. The add conversation session operation now accepts a `session_variables` property, which accepts an array of objects to set session variables for the conversation. For example, you can use this to provide the name of a logged in user to the conversation.
- You can now configure a Lua script function to use to determine the message to return to user when some user input triggers multiple tasks. This function can change the default prompt to return, and the possible responses and tasks that they route to. For more information, refer to the *Answer server Administration Guide*.

- You can now configure the messages to return when an Ask action sent from a conversation returns multiple answers. For more information, refer to the *Answer server Administration Guide*.
- You can now retrieve a complete conversation transcript for a conversation session by sending the `GetResources` action with `Type` set to `Transcript` and `IDs` set to the ID of the conversation session.
- You can now retrieve a transcript in a Lua script by using the new `getTranscript()` method. This method returns an enumerated table of history stage objects, which you can inspect by using the additional `userInput()` and `responsePrompts()` methods to retrieve user text and Answer Server response prompts from a particular stage of the conversation.
- When a conversation requests answers from another answer system, the `Converse` action now returns the answers as action metadata. If the server asks for a disambiguation response, you can now select a specific answer by using the string `ANSWER_NUM_N` in the `Converse` action `Text` parameter.
- On Windows, you can now use the ZeroBrane Studio IDE to debug a conversation Lua script. The Answer Server installation now includes Lua IDE files, which make it possible to debug individual Lua functions. For more information, refer to the *Answer server Administration Guide*.

## Fact Bank

- There is now a Fact Bank grammar available in German.

## Resolved Issues

This section lists the resolved issues in Answer Server version 11.6.0.

- Responses to ambiguous questions sometimes repeated prompts from earlier in the conversation.
- Facts in the fact store database with empty values could cause Answer Server to exit unexpectedly.
- License related messages in the event log would appear from a different source to other messages.
- The LogSysLog logging configuration option did not output event logs.

# Documentation

The following documentation was updated for this release.

- *Answer Server Reference*
- *Answer Server Administration Guide*