System Requirements

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Hardware Recommendations

You can install and run VIVO on most modern PC, laptop, or server hardware. Whilst the application layer needs a reasonable amount of memory, the majority of the workload is placed on the storage layers, which as a semantic web application means the triple store. As VIVO aims to be agnostic to the triple store, the precise requirements will depend on your choice of triple store. However, the default configuration is to use Jena SDB backed by MySQL - in this setup, it is recommended that you have very high IO bandwidth for the file system used by MySQL, and significant memory for caching layers of the database engine.

Minimum Specification

2 core x64 processor, 2GB RAM, 100GB HDD

Recommended Specification

4 core x64 processor, 16GB RAM, 500GB SSD

Note: I/O performance for MySQL is critical to the responsiveness of the application. The fastest SSD you can specify will help, as will having direct (e.g. not virtualised) access to it.

Software Requirements

Operating System

VIVO is largely agnostic to the OS that it is running on - as a Java application, it is dependent on having a Java Virtual Machine and a Tomcat servlet container. It should be possible to install and run VIVO on any OS where you are able to provide all of the other software requirements.

However, most sites will run their installations on a Linux server, and you may find that it is easier to follow the installation instructions on a Linux / UNIX variant. Notably, if you are running Windows, you may need to stop running processes (e.g. Tomcat) in order to complete some of the instructions, due to file locking semantics on Windows.

Java 7 or 8

The minimum requirement is Java 7, however 8 is preferred for performance. Both OpenJDK and Oracle JVMs are compatible. Other JVMs that meet the JDK 7 specification may work, but have not been tested.

If you are using a release prior to 7u40, then it is recommended that you add the following option to your JAVA_OPTS / CATALINA_OPTS for improved performance of the visualizations:

```
-XX:StringTableSize=100003
```

Note that you need to have the full Java Development Kit installed in order for Tomcat to operate correctly - the runtime alone is not sufficient.

Warning

Java 8 will be required for version 1.10.x and beyond.

Maven 3.0.3 or later

The installation mechanism uses Maven to package and deploy the VIVO application and other necessary files. Additionally, the development environment also uses Maven to compile the and package the code.

The minimum version of Maven required is 3.0.3, although it is better to use a more recent version of the 3.x releases where possible.

Maven can be downloaded from the following location: http://maven.apache.org/download.html, although you may use a version supplied by your operating system / package manager, providing it meets the minimum requirements.

Configuring a Proxy

You can configure a proxy to use for some or all of your HTTP requests in Maven. The username and password are only required if your proxy requires basic authentication (note that later releases may support storing your passwords in a secured keystore, in the mean time, please ensure your *settings.xml* file (usually *${user.home}/.m2/settings.xml*) is secured with permissions appropriate for your operating system).

Example:

```
<settings>
  .
  .
  <proxies>
   <proxy>
      <active>true</active>
      <protocol>http</protocol>
      <host>proxy.somewhere.com</host>
      <port>8080</port>
      <username>proxyuser</username>
      <password>somepassword</password>
      <nonProxyHosts>www.google.com|*.somewhere.com</nonProxyHosts>
    </proxy>
  </proxies>
  .
  .
</settings>
```

MySQL / MariaDB 5.5 or later (or any other supported by Jena SDB)

Jena SDB requires an SQL database to operate. By default, VIVO relies on MySQL - or the open source fork MariaDB, which is provided by most Linux distributions in place of MySQL.

Once installed, you only need to create a user and schema - see Installing VIVO. VIVO will create the necessary tables and load the default data on startup.

Alternative databases: Jena SDB supports other databases - including PostgreSQL and Oracle. If you wish to use a different database, you will need to add the appropriate Java libraries to the application, and configure the VitroConnection.DataSource.* settings in runtime.properties so that Jena knows what database it is operating with.

Tomcat 7 or later

VIVO is a web application, which requires a servlet engine to host. It has been tested with Tomcat 7 and Tomcat 8. The applications make use of Tomcat context.xml configuration files - if you wish to use an alternative servlet engine, you will need to make the appropriate adjustments.

You may use Tomcat as supplied by your operating system / package manager providing is meets the minimum requirements, or you can download it from: http://tomcat.apache.org/download-80.cgi

Tomcat User: When running, Tomcat is usually launched under an unprivileged user account. As VIVO needs to be able to read and write to the home directory, you must ensure that permissions are set on the home directory correctly. This is most easily achieved by assigning ownership to the user that Tomcat is running as.