Zoho Corporation

Adding apps - Overview

General Info: The Free plan allows you to add only up to 3 non-Zoho apps.

Zoho Directory supports adding and managing five different types of apps:

Directory apps	These are pre-integrated SSO apps available in the app directory.
SAML custom apps (Security Assertion Markup Language)	On-prem SAML apps, or cloud SAML apps not available in the app directory can be added to Zoho Directory as SAML custom apps. These apps will require you to manually set up the SAML configuration.
OIDC custom apps (OpenID Connect)	Similar to SAML, on-prem OIDC apps, or cloud OIDC apps not available in the app directory can be added to Zoho Directory as OIDC custom apps. These apps will require you to manually set up the OIDC configuration.
Associated custom apps	If multiple apps (not available in the app directory) use the same authentication server, they can be added as associated custom apps.
Bookmarked custom apps	URLs or web pages that do not need authentication can be added as bookmarked custom apps.

Directory apps

Directory apps are pre-integrated enterprise cloud apps. You can add them to Zoho Directory in a few simple steps, without any SSO expertise. We have over 250 apps in our app directory. Browse the directory, or [request a missing app](#).

Directory apps have the following features:

- **One-click SSO:** Your users can access these apps from Zoho Directory with a single click.
- **Conditional assignment:** You can set up conditions to automatically assign these apps to new users matching predefined criteria.
- **User account provisioning (only for Zoho apps and JIT-enabled apps):** When the app is assigned to a user in Zoho Directory, a user account will automatically be created in the app. You don't have to add the user in both places, making Zoho Directory a one-stop management solution.
- **In-app user privileges (only for Zoho apps):** When provisioning user accounts, you can also choose the roles and privileges to be assigned to the user. For example, you can assign Zoho CRM to a user, and appoint them as an *Administrator* inside CRM.

[Learn how to add a directory app.](#)

SAML custom apps

If the SAML app you need is not available in the app directory, you can manually configure a SAML connection between Zoho Directory and your app. Any app that can implement SAML 2.0 can be added in Zoho Directory as a SAML custom app.

SAML custom apps have the following features:

- **One-click SSO:** Your users can access these apps from Zoho Directory with a single click.
- **Conditional assignment:** You can set up conditions to automatically assign these apps to new users matching predefined criteria.

[Learn how to add a SAML custom app.](#)

OIDC custom apps

In Zoho Directory, OIDC custom apps are third-party apps that support OIDC authentication protocol and has to be manually integrated with us. OIDC protocol authorizes the users using Oauth 2.0 protocol and in addition, it authenticates the user by verifying their identity. [Know more about OIDC](#).

OIDC custom apps have the following features:

- **One-click SSO**: Your users can access these apps from Zoho Directory with a single click.

- **Conditional assignment**: You can set up conditions to automatically assign these apps to new users matching predefined criteria.

Similar to SAML app, if the OIDC app you need is not available in the app directory, you can manually configure an OIDC connection between Zoho Directory and your app.
[Learn how to add an OIDC custom app](#)

Associated custom apps

Apps sharing the same authentication server can be added as associated custom apps. For example, all individual Zoho apps use accounts.zoho.com for authentication. To set up SSO for Zoho, you can add Zoho Accounts as a *SAML custom app,* then add the individual apps as *Associated custom apps*. You will only have to configure SAML for Zoho Accounts. You can then associate the other apps with Zoho Accounts, and they will inherit the SAML configuration automatically.

This also simplifies user access—you won't have to assign users or set up Conditional Assignment for these apps separately. The users who have been granted access to the parent app will automatically be able to view and access the associated apps as well.

Associated custom apps have the following features:

- **One-click SSO:** Your users can access these apps from Zoho Directory with a single click.
- **Easy configuration:** You won't need to configure anything. Just choose an existing app, and its configuration will be inherited.

[Learn how to add an associated custom app.](#)

Bookmarked custom apps

URLs or webpages that do not need authentication can be added as bookmarked custom apps. Bookmarked apps act like browser bookmarks. They do not provide SSO or perform any authentication service. They merely provide users easy access to specific webpages from Zoho Directory.

For example, you might have intranet pages that can only be accessed when a user is connected to your local area network (LAN), but do not need any authentication. Alternatively, you may need to give your mobile developers access to a publicly hosted resource, such as Google's Android Developer Best Practices guide. Rather than asking users to bookmark these in their browsers, you can create bookmarked apps and display them to the users who may need them.

Bookmarked custom apps have the following features:

- **Easy access:** Users can find everything they need for work in a single place—Zoho Directory.

- **Conditional assignment:** You can set up conditions to automatically assign these apps to new users matching predefined criteria.
- **Administrative convenience:** You can ensure the right users always have the right resources, reducing user tickets.

[Learn how to add a bookmarked custom app.](https://help.zoho.com/portal/en/kb/directory/admin-guide/add-apps/articles/apps-overview)