PALO Reader in IBM Bob



Connect the MCP server

Configure your workspace, try six read-only tools and check the record behind a governance answer.

Connect PALO Reader

Sign in to IBM Bob. The public Reader endpoint uses Streamable HTTP and requires no API key.

1 Open the Bob MCP settings

Open the workspace, then choose the gear icon in the Bob chat panel and select **MCP**. On macOS, Option + Command + B opens the chat panel.

2 Add the Reader to this workspace

Select **+**, choose the current workspace and open its configuration file. Save the JSON as `.bob/mcp.json`. If the file already has servers, merge this entry into `mcpServers`.

```
{
  "mcpServers": {
    "palo-reader-public": {
      "type": "streamable-http",
      "url": "https://guide-api.paloframework.org/mcp-public",
      "protocolNegotiation": "legacy",
      "alwaysAllow": []
    }
  }
}
```

3 Check the connection

Return to **Bob Settings > MCP**, refresh and confirm that **palo-reader-public** shows **Connected**. Keep MCP enabled for new tasks.

4 Make one call at a time

Start a fresh task in **Ask** mode. Paste a prompt and approve the matching tool once. To isolate it, expand the server in MCP settings and enable just that tool before opening a new task.

`legacy` starts the standard MCP handshake. With `alwaysAllow: []`, the workspace configuration grants no automatic tool approval.

Explain and route

Paste one prompt at a time in Bob and check the name on the approval card.

01 Explain the framework

`palo_explain_framework`

Explain PALO's canonical lifecycle and retrieve relevant guidance.

GENERAL EXAMPLE

Use only palo_explain_framework from palo-reader-public. Explain what PALO is and what its lifecycle is used for.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Use only palo_explain_framework from palo-reader-public. List the six canonical PALO phases in order. Explain what Frame and Classify ask a team to document for a pilot chatbot that answers questions from public documents.

Show in Bob The tool card and the six phase names. Zoom in on how Bob explains Frame and Classify for the pilot.

02 Suggest a governance route

`palo_infer_governance_route`

Turn known facts about a use case into starting review steps and open questions.

GENERAL EXAMPLE

Use only palo_infer_governance_route from palo-reader-public. Suggest where an organisation should start when reviewing a fictional read-only help desk assistant.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Use only palo_infer_governance_route from palo-reader-public. A fictional internal chatbot summarises public documentation for engineers. It is a pilot that uses an LLM and retrieval, with read-only access and no ability to take actions. Show the starting route, one reason and one open question.

Show in Bob The ordered route, a reason for one step and an unanswered governance question.

Plan and inspect

Paste one prompt at a time in Bob and check the name on the approval card.

03 Plan an integration

`palo_plan_product_integration`

Return an integration class, topology, trust boundaries and implementation steps.

GENERAL EXAMPLE

Use only palo_plan_product_integration from palo-reader-public. Sketch a read-only MCP integration for a fictional documentation assistant.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Use only palo_plan_product_integration from palo-reader-public. Plan a read-only Streamable HTTP connection from IBM Bob to the public PALO Reader. Identify the integration class, one trust boundary and the first setup step.

Show in Bob The integration class, transport and one named trust boundary. Compare the first step with the actual Bob settings.

04 Inspect the source catalogues

`palo_list_knowledge_sources`

Enumerate the released source catalogues the Reader can use. This tool takes no inputs.

GENERAL EXAMPLE

Use only palo_list_knowledge_sources from palo-reader-public. List the canonical source catalogues available to this Reader.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Use only palo_list_knowledge_sources from palo-reader-public. Count the catalogues, then highlight semantic-spine and source-registry with their source paths. Do the highlighting in your summary.

Show in Bob The total catalogue count and the difference between the semantic spine and the source registry. The highlighting is done by Bob after the call.

Search and retrieve

Paste one prompt at a time in Bob and check the name on the approval card.

05 Find relevant records

`palo_search_knowledge`

Search released canonical records by topic and return identifiers and source paths.

GENERAL EXAMPLE

Use only palo_search_knowledge from palo-reader-public. Find up to three canonical records about human oversight and show their titles and source paths.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Use only palo_search_knowledge from palo-reader-public. Search for PALO External Agentic Evidence Contract with a limit of three. Show each matching title with its recordId and sourcePath.

Show in Bob The matching records and their metadata. Copy the ID of PALO External Agentic Evidence Contract for the next clip.

06 Retrieve the exact record

`palo_get_knowledge_record`

Retrieve a single canonical record by its stable identifier.

GENERAL EXAMPLE

Use only palo_get_knowledge_record from palo-reader-public. Retrieve the record with the ID I paste. Show its title, source path and authority boundary.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Use only palo_get_knowledge_record from palo-reader-public. Retrieve source-registry:src-palo-external-evidence-contract. Show its title, exact recordId, sourcePath and authority boundary.

Show in Bob The exact ID, the title and data/source-registry.json. Read the authority boundary aloud to show how the record can be used.

Continue online

A live connection was visible in IBM Bob IDE 2.3.0. Six out of six tool calls succeeded in authenticated Bob Shell on 18 November 2026 with PALO release 3.1.0 and synthetic input.

PALO Reader in IBM Bob

Online setup, the six tools, the downloadable guide and help with connection issues.

PALO Guide Agent and MCP Integration

Tool contracts, source semantics and the boundaries of PALO guidance.

IBM Bob MCP configuration

Workspace configuration, Streamable HTTP and per-tool controls.

IBM Bob tool approvals

Approval cards, one-time approval and task permissions.

MCP Inspector

Choose and invoke a tool directly to inspect its structured output.

PALO Reader support

For Reader issues, email info@paloframework.org with the Bob version, tool name and a redacted error.

This guide covers manual configuration for the public Reader. IBM Bob is an IBM product. Use canonical records as input to human review and verify their applicability before relying on them.