Exercise: Build a Basic Automation

Learning Objectives

- Create an Automation.
- Use a Manual Trigger in an Automation.
- Use the Run Workspace action in an Automation.
- Start an Automation and view its triggered jobs.

Resources

- earthquakesextrusion.fmw (C:\FMEData2022\Workspaces\CreateDataIntegrationApps\earthquakesextrusion.fmw)
- example.geojson (a GeoJSON file of earthquake locations. This file can be used in the unlikely event the USGS Earthquake API goes down. C:\FMEData2022\Resources\CreateDataIntegrationApps\example.geojson)
- You will need Google Earth Pro installed to view the results of the Server App. You can download it for free here.
    - If you are taking an official Safe Software training course, it is already installed on your training machine.
- Complete FME Server project (C:\FMEData2022\Workspaces\AutomateWorkflows\exercise-build-a-basic-automation-complete.fsproject)

Introduction

You have been tasked with creating a system to automatically generate a Google Earth KML file with a 3D visualization of recent earthquakes around the world, using data from the United States Geological Survey. Eventually, you hope to run this workspace

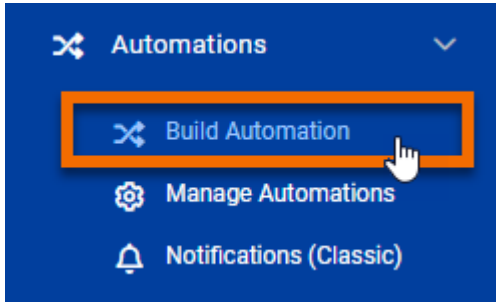
on a schedule and in response to external triggers. But for this first iteration, you just want to test building an Automation that runs using a Manual Trigger.

1) Create a New Automation

To create your new Automation, the first step is to log in to FME Server.

If you are taking an official Safe Software training course, you can log in with the user name `admin` and the password `FMElearnings`.

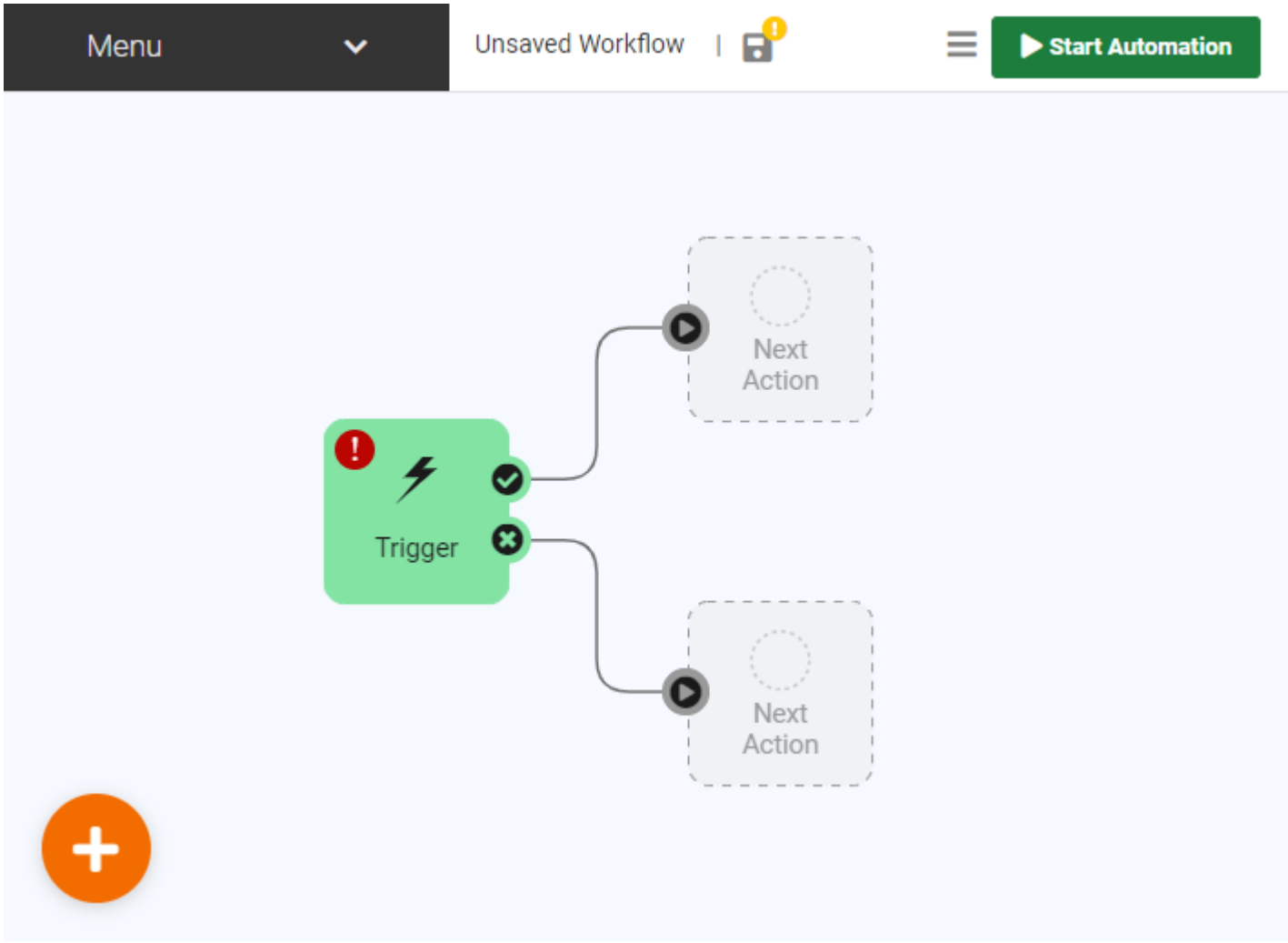
After logging in, click Automations > Build Automation on the left-hand navigation menu:



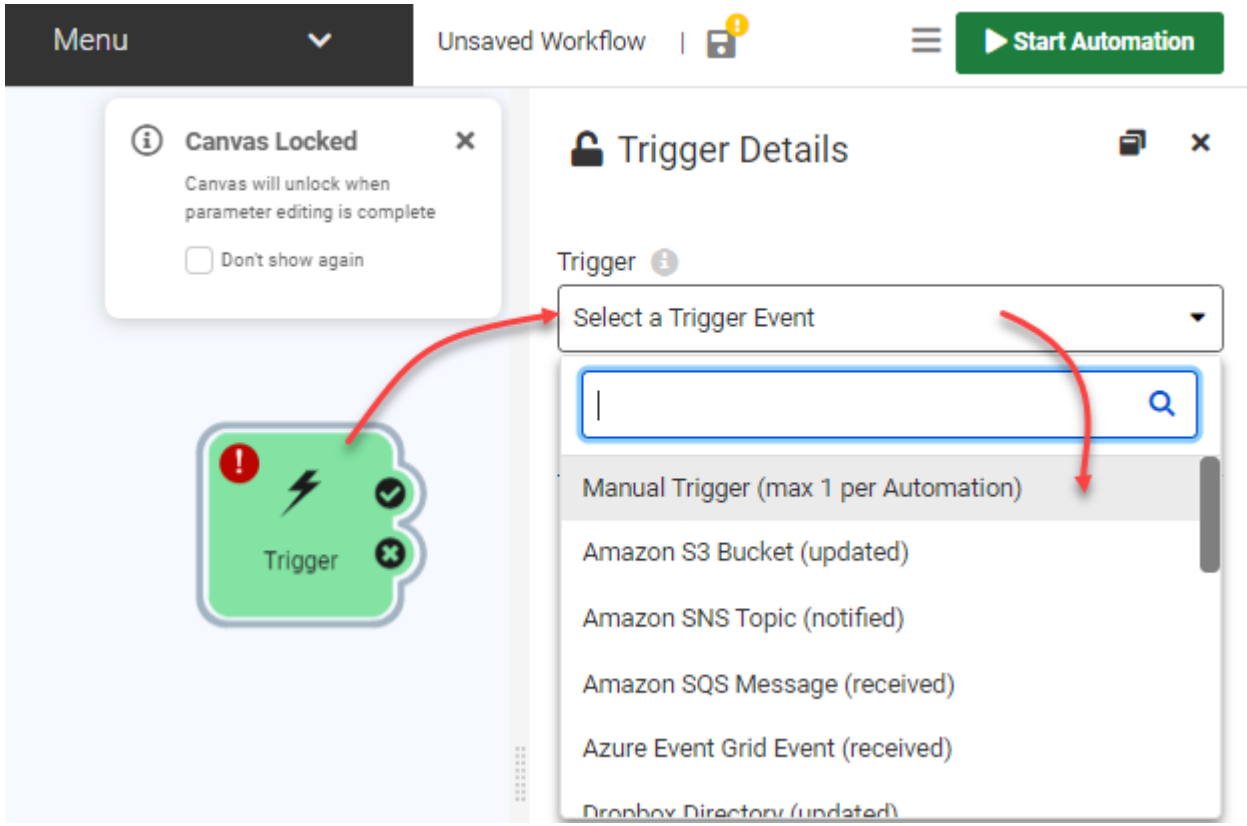
2) Add a Manual Trigger

If this is your first time building an Automation on this FME Server, the Get Started box will appear. You can click Close, as we'll explore these steps ourselves right now.

You will see a new blank Automation, with a starting Trigger and two possible Next Action objects already added:

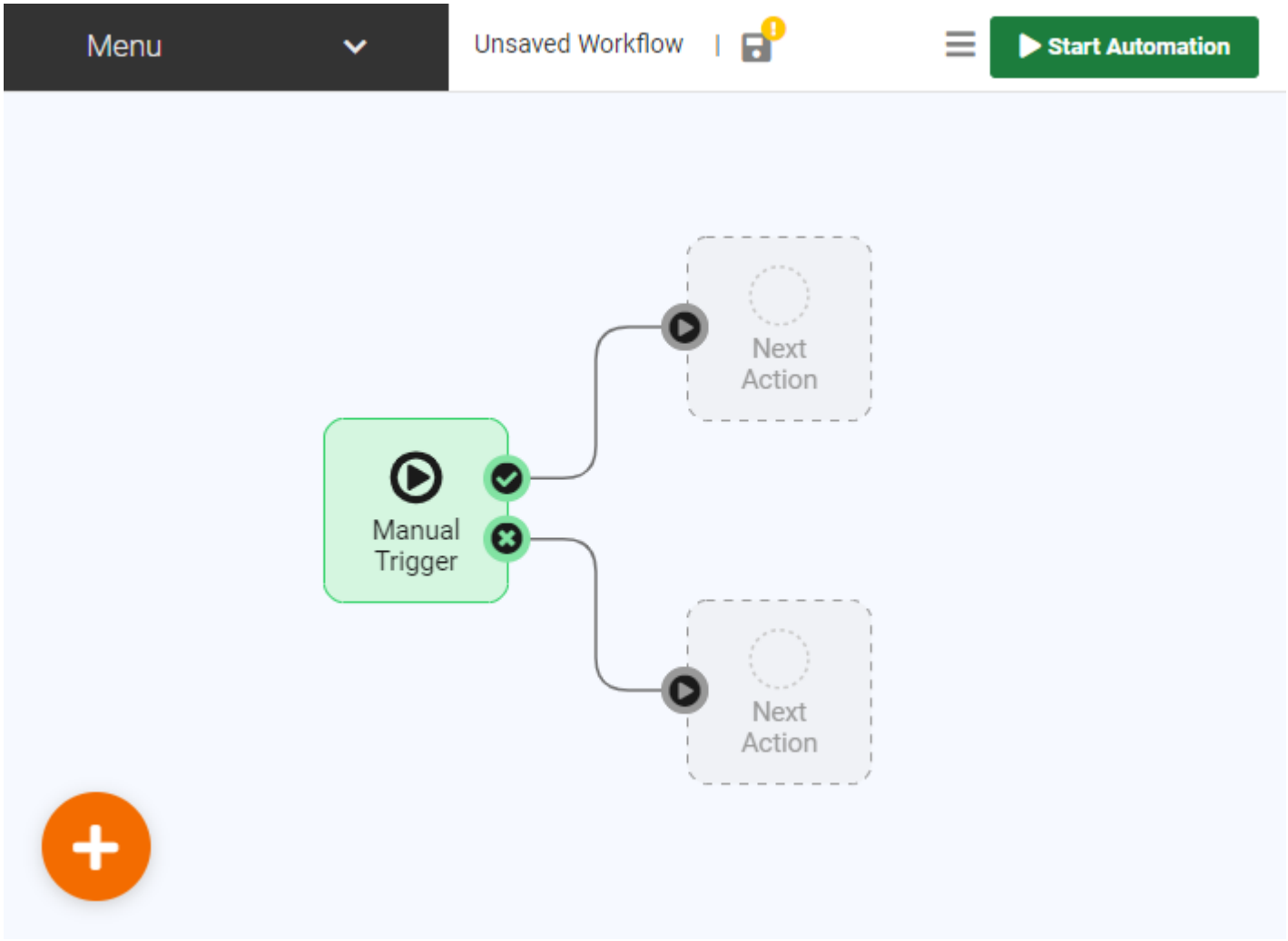


Let's turn that starting Trigger into a Manual Trigger. Click the lightning bolt icon on the Trigger, then click Select a Trigger Event and choose Manual Trigger (max 1 per Automation):



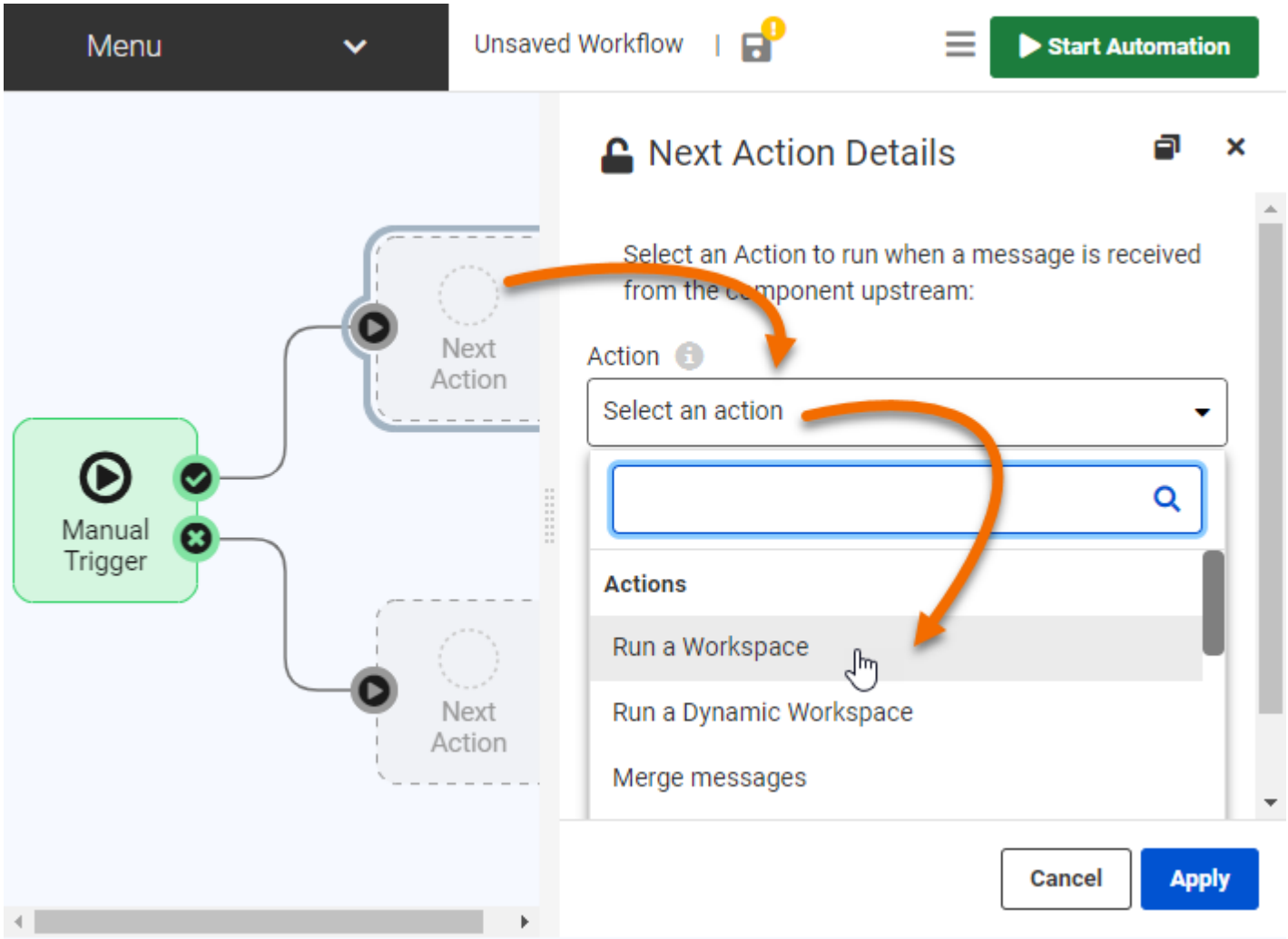
Disable Prompt for JSON on Trigger. This option lets you supply input keys for the Automation, but we don't need that ability for this Automation.

Click Apply. The Trigger will turn into a Manual Trigger:



3) Add a Run Workspace Action

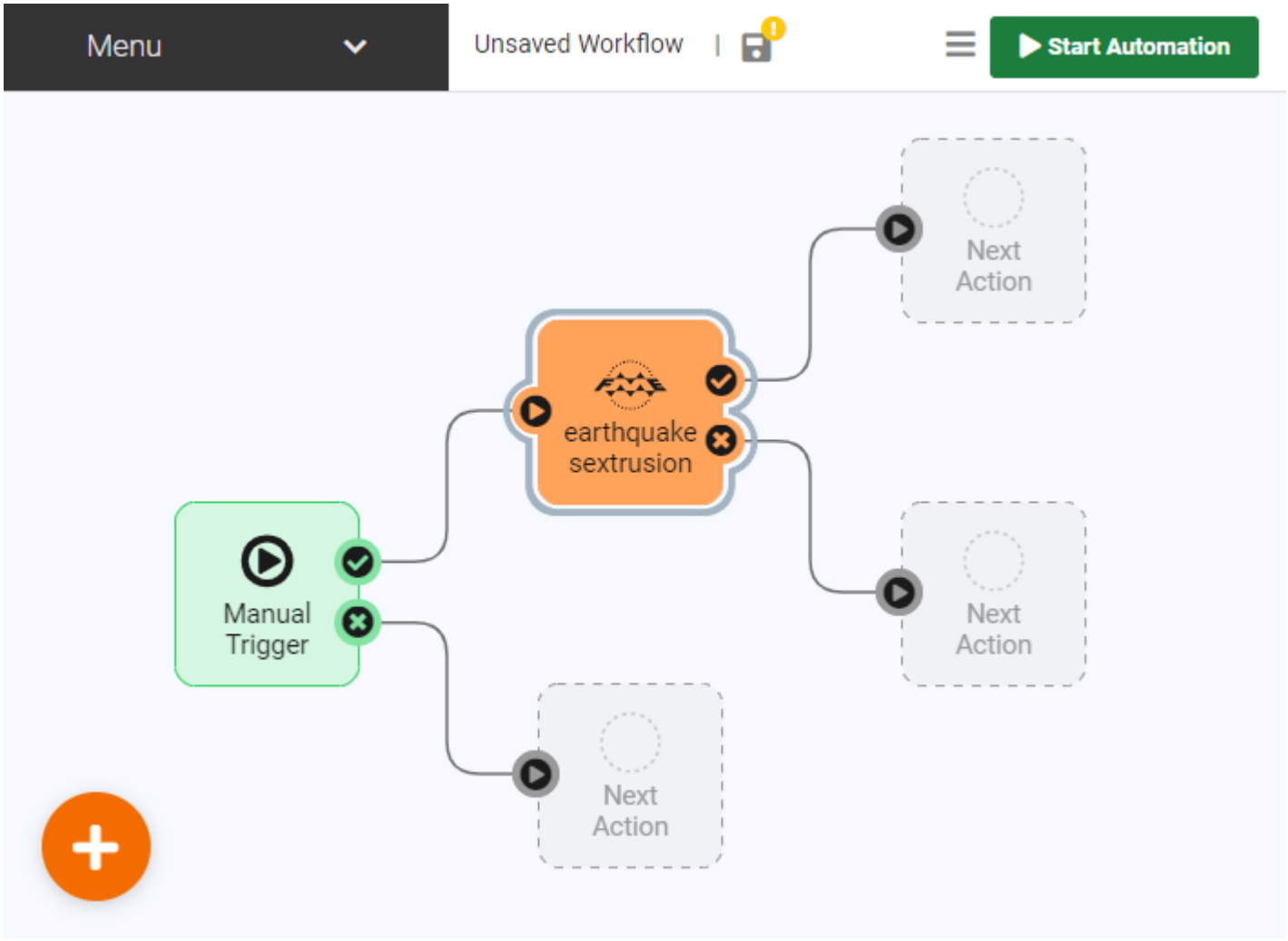
Click the circle icon above the top Next Action block. Then click Select an action and then choose Run a Workspace:



Select the Samples repository and the earthquakesextrusion.fmw workspace. Click Apply.

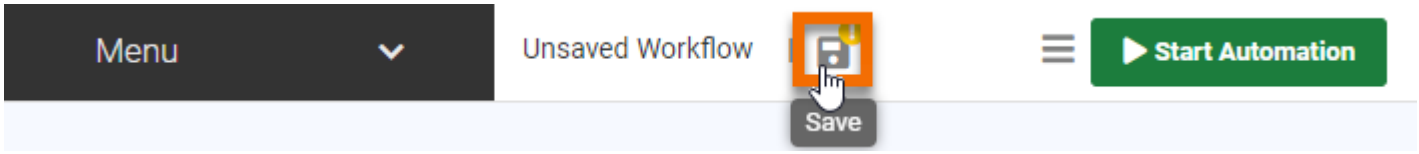
If you don't have the earthquakesextrusion.fmw workspace on your FME Server (it should be there by default), you can download it here: earthquakesextrusion.fmw. If you are using a Safe Software training machine or downloaded FMEData, you can use `C:\FMEData2022\Workspaces\CreateDataIntegrationApps\earthquakesextrusion.fmw`.

The earthquakeextrusion.fmw workspace action should now appear on the canvas:

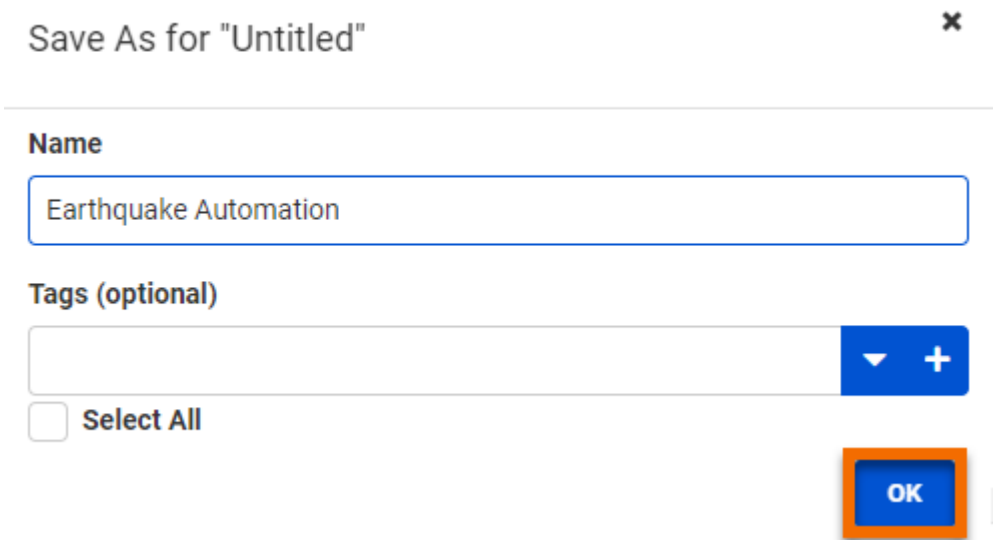


4) Save and Start the Automation

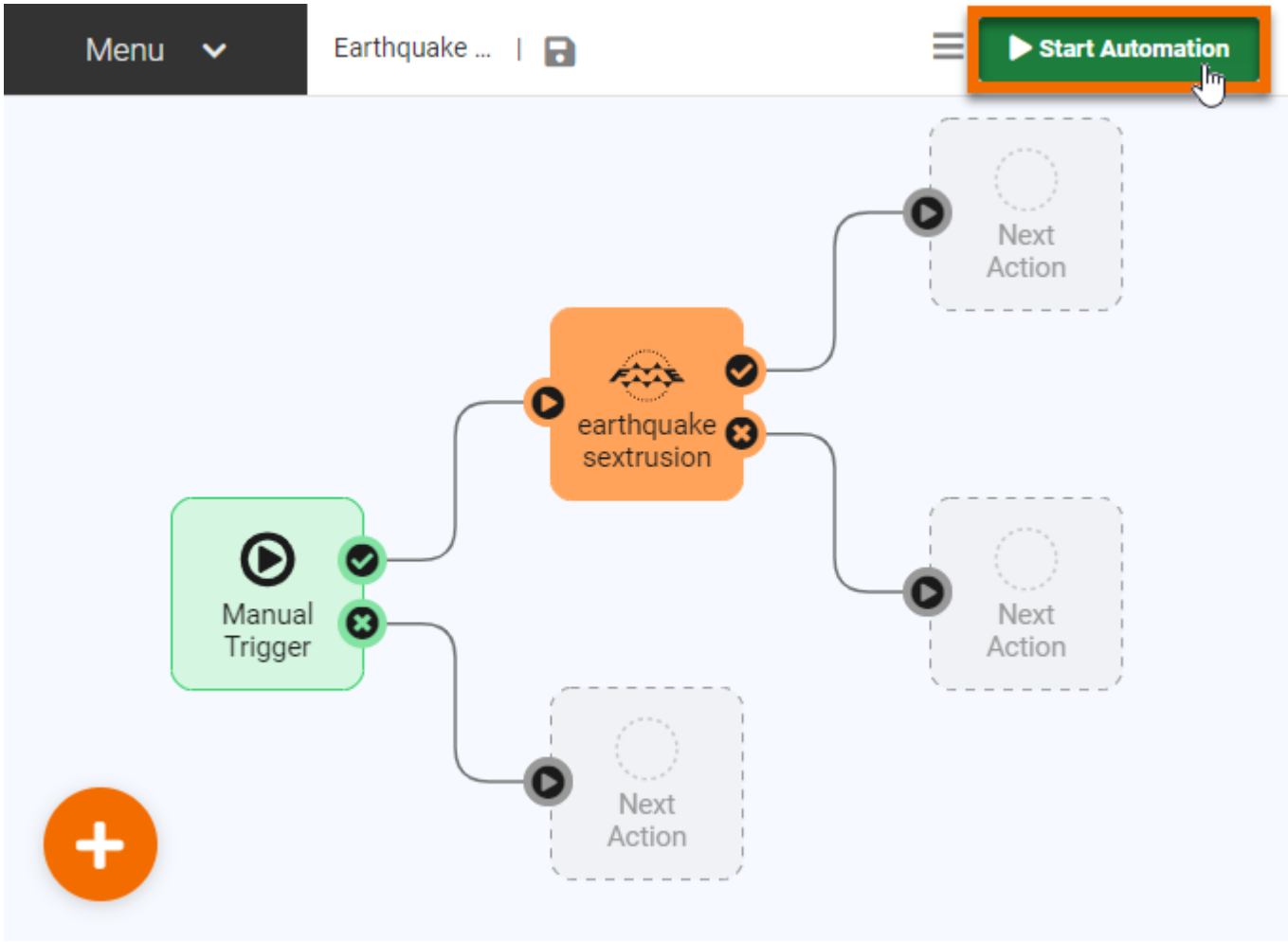
We now have a basic Automation that will run the earthquakeextrusion.fmw workspace when manually triggered. Before starting it, we need to save it. Click the Save icon:



Call your workspace Earthquake Automation and click OK:

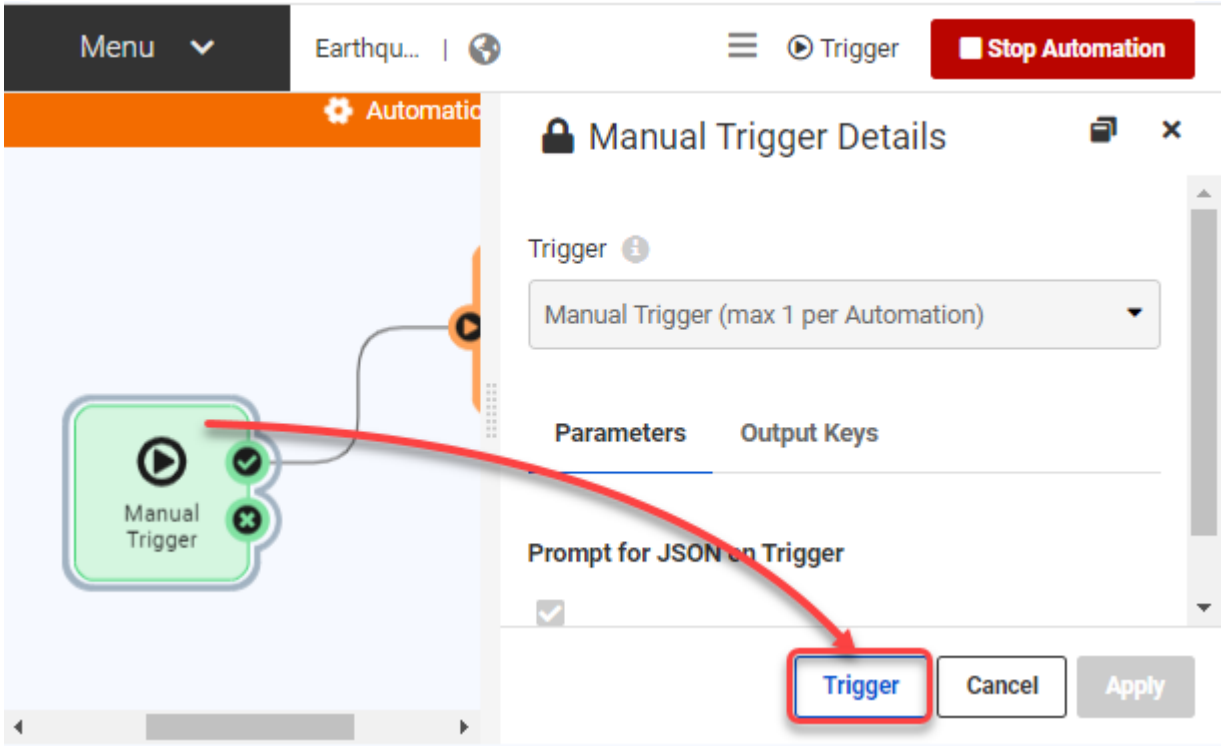


Now that the Automation has been saved, we have to start it. Click Start Automation:



5) Trigger the Automation to Run

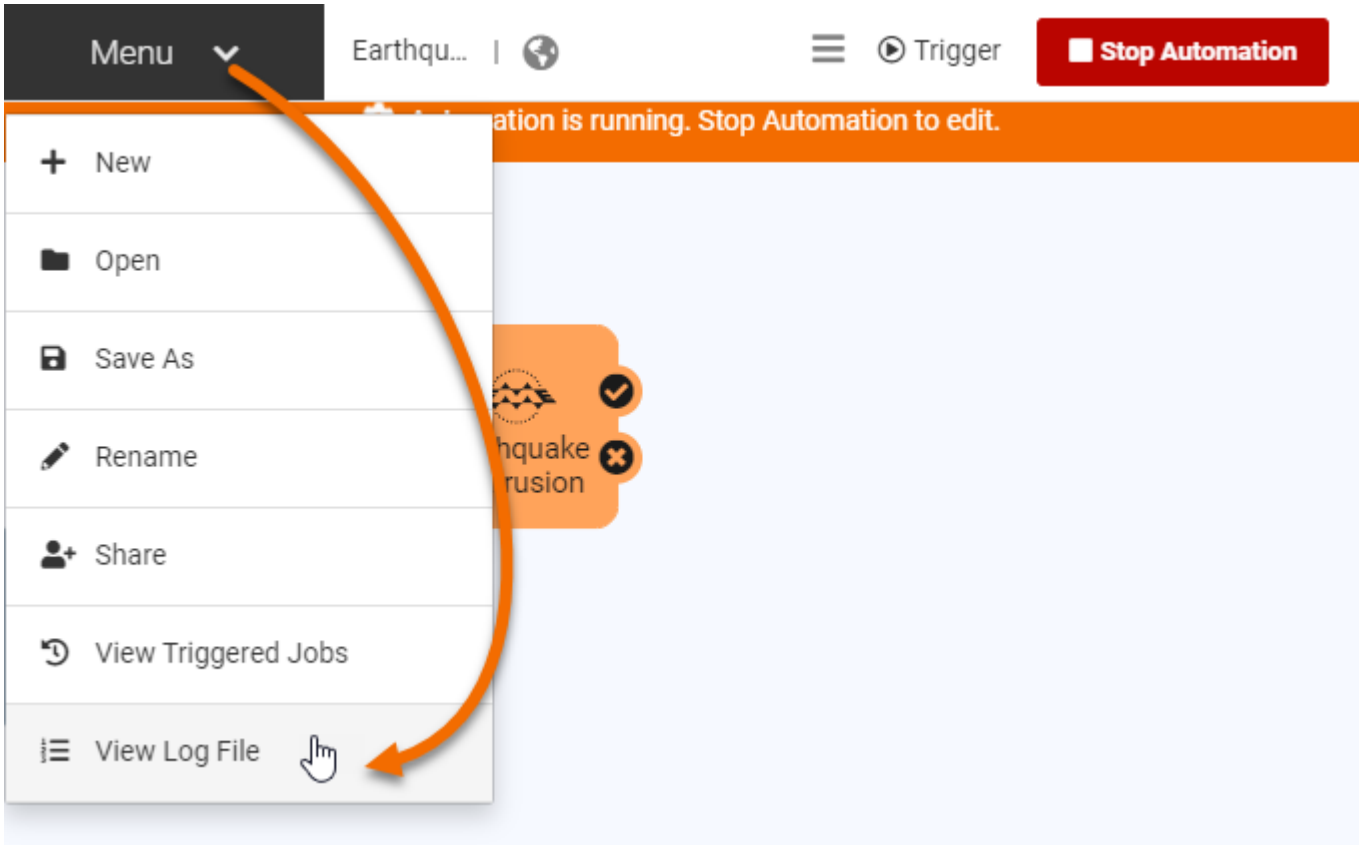
After starting the Automation, you can no longer edit it. However, you can manually trigger the Automation. Click the play button icon on the Manual Trigger to open its Details pane. Then click Trigger to manually start the Automation:



The Automation will run.

6) View the Automation Log

You can confirm the Automation was manually triggered by clicking the Menu, then View Log File:



You will see the Automation Log, which reports the Automation's activities. You should see a line that looks something like this:

```
2022-05-24T15:08:13-07:00 | 410160 : (Automations) Automation successfully triggered
```

Copy

A few more lines will report on the running job. If your Automation and workspace were configured properly, you should eventually see a line something like this:

```
2022-05-24T15:08:14-07:00 | 402623 : Job 23: Translation was successful.
```

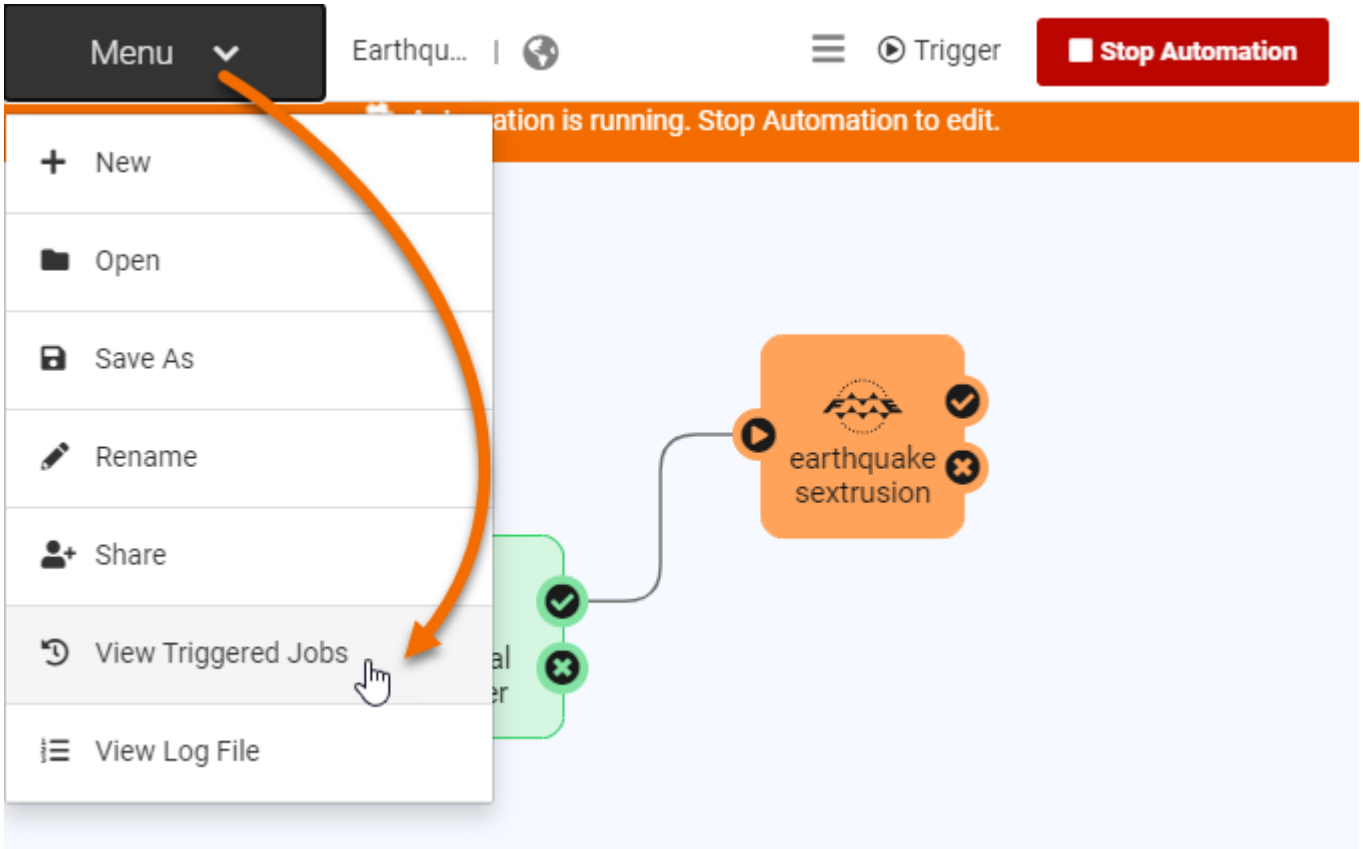
Copy

We've confirmed the Automation's Manual Trigger successfully ran a Job.

If you noticed your job failed, the USGS Earthquake API might be unavailable. Instead, you can try replacing the Source GeoJSON File or URL parameter in your Run Workspace Action with this example: example.geojson. If you are using a Safe Software training machine or downloaded FMEData, you can use `C:\FMEData2022\Resources\CreateDataIntegrationApps\example.geojson`.

7) View Triggered Jobs

You can browse or search through the Automation Log to find all the jobs triggered by an Automation. However, it can often be easier to view the list of triggered jobs directly. To do this, click your browser's back button to return to your Automation. Then click Menu > View Triggered Jobs:



This will open the Completed Jobs page automatically filtered to only show Jobs triggered by this Automation. You should see the Job you manually triggered:

Id	Workspace	Repository	Username	Status	Logs	Started	Finished	Source Name	Source Type
23	earthquakesextrusion.fmw	Samples	admin	✓	⚠ 1	Today at 15:08:13	Today at 15:08:14	Earthquake Automation	Automations

Congratulations! You successfully built a simple Automation that can be manually triggered.

You can learn to build more complex Automations in the Build Versatile Automations module.