



syslog-ng Premium Edition 7.0.11

Windows Event Collector Administration Guide

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4 Polaris Way
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Legend

-  **WARNING:** A WARNING icon indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.
-  **CAUTION:** A CAUTION icon indicates potential damage to hardware or loss of data if instructions are not followed.
-  **IMPORTANT, NOTE, TIP, MOBILE, or VIDEO:** An information icon indicates supporting information.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 5 |
| Install the Windows Event Collector | 7 |
| Generate SSL certificates for Windows Event Collector | 8 |
| Configure event source computers | 13 |
| Configure Windows Event Collector | 17 |
| Configure syslog-ng PE | 23 |
| Start/stop Windows Event Collector | 25 |
| Message format in Windows Event Collector for syslog-ng PE | 26 |
| Flow control | 27 |
| Performance | 28 |
| Limitations | 29 |
| Troubleshoot Windows Event Collector | 30 |
| WEC configuration example | 32 |
| About us | 33 |
| Contacting us | 33 |
| Technical support resources | 33 |
| Third-party contributions | 34 |
| GNU General Public License | 34 |
| Preamble | 34 |
| TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COPYING, DISTRIBUTION AND MODIFICATION | 35 |
| Section 0 | 35 |
| Section 1 | 36 |
| Section 2 | 36 |
| Section 3 | 37 |
| Section 4 | 37 |
| Section 5 | 37 |
| Section 6 | 38 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Section 7 | 38 |
| Section 8 | 38 |
| Section 9 | 39 |
| Section 10 | 39 |
| NO WARRANTY Section 11 | 39 |
| Section 12 | 39 |
| How to Apply These Terms to Your New Programs | 40 |
| GNU Lesser General Public License | 41 |
| Preamble | 41 |
| TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COPYING, DISTRIBUTION AND MODIFICATION | 43 |
| Section 0 | 43 |
| Section 1 | 43 |
| Section 2 | 44 |
| Section 3 | 44 |
| Section 4 | 45 |
| Section 5 | 45 |
| Section 6 | 46 |
| Section 7 | 47 |
| Section 8 | 47 |
| Section 9 | 47 |
| Section 10 | 47 |
| Section 11 | 48 |
| Section 12 | 48 |
| Section 13 | 48 |
| Section 14 | 49 |
| NO WARRANTY Section 15 | 49 |
| NO WARRANTY Section 16 | 49 |
| How to Apply These Terms to Your New Libraries | 49 |
| License attributions | 50 |

Introduction

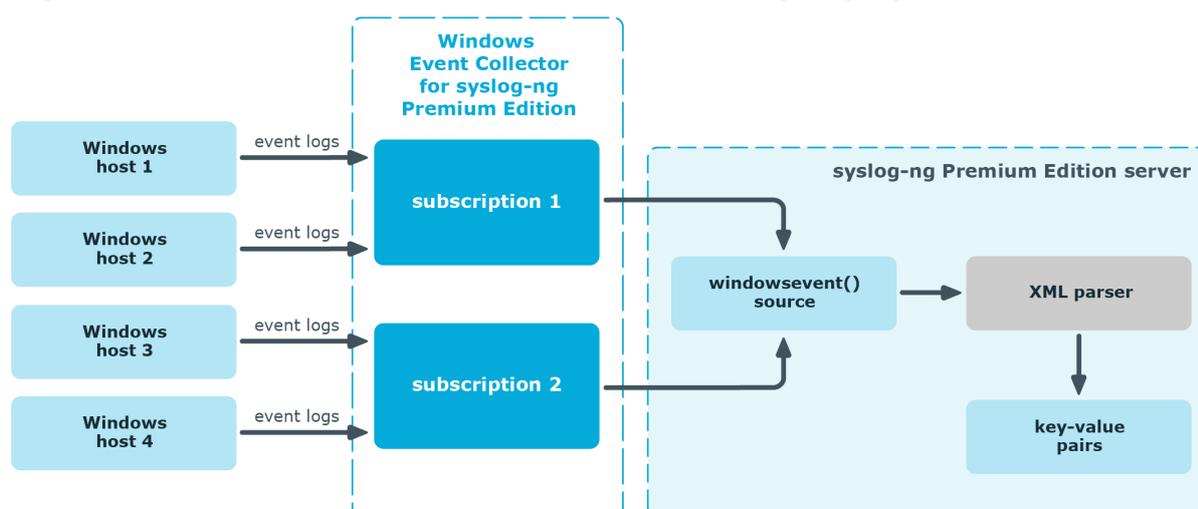
The Windows Event Collector (WEC) acts as a log collector and forwarder tool for the Microsoft Windows platform. It collects the log messages of Windows-based hosts over HTTPS (using TLS encryption and mutual authentication), and forwards them to a syslog-ng PE server. In Windows terminology, this tool allows you to define source-initiated push subscriptions, and have them forwarded to a syslog-ng PE server. For details on the limitations of WEC, see [Limitations](#)

Unlike the [syslog-ng Agent for Windows](#), the Windows Event Collector is a standalone tool that does not require installing on the Windows-based host itself. This can be an advantage when your organization's policies restrict or do not allow the installation of third-party tools.

Another difference between the Windows Event Collector tool and syslog-ng Agent for Windows is that WEC forwards logs only about Windows events, while syslog-ng Agent forwards both Windows event logs as well as files from Windows hosts to the syslog-ng PE server.

The Windows Event Collector sits between your Windows hosts and your syslog-ng Premium Edition server, accepting log messages from the remote Windows side with WinRM and feeding them to syslog-ng Premium Edition 7.0.

Figure 1: How Windows Event Collector works in syslog-ng PE 7.0



At a high level, this is how you can get Windows event logs to be forwarded to your syslog-ng Premium Edition server using the WEC tool:

1. Configure Windows event source computers.

For details on how to configure your Windows hosts, see [Configure event source computers](#).

2. Set up the Windows Event Collector as the server that collects and forwards event logs.

For details on how to set up and configure the Windows Event Collector tool, see [Install the Windows Event Collector](#), [Generate SSL certificates for Windows Event Collector](#), and [Configure Windows Event Collector](#).

3. The Windows Event Collector accepts incoming event log subscription requests from the Windows hosts.

4. The Windows Event Collector handshakes the event forwarding settings with the Windows hosts, for example, which events to forward.

5. The Windows Event Collector accepts the forwarded event logs, and writes the raw logs to a Unix datagram socket.

6. syslog-ng PE reads the Unix datagram socket using a source called `windowsevent()`.

For details on how to configure your syslog-ng PE server, see [Configure syslog-ng PE](#).

7. syslog-ng PE parses the logs into key-value pairs using the XML parser.

For details on the XML parser, see ["The XML parser" in the Administration Guide](#).

Install the Windows Event Collector

Prerequisites:

- syslog-ng PE version 7.0.6 or newer
- glibc version 2.12 or newer

glibc version 2.12 is available on all platforms supported by syslog-ng Premium Edition 7.0. However, in the case of Red Hat Enterprise Linux, an upgrade to version 6.9 or newer is required.

Purpose:

The Windows Event Collector is bundled into the syslog-ng PE installers from version 7.0.6 onward. A SysV init script and a systemd service file are provided and installed automatically, so by installing syslog-ng PE, you also install WEC. However, syslog-ng-wec is not registered to start at boot.

Steps:

1. To start syslog-ng-wec at boot, register the init script using the following commands:
 - *On systemd-based systems:* `systemctl enable syslog-ng-wec`
 - *On SysV-based systems:* `chkconfig` or `update-rc.d`

For details on how to start syslog-ng-wec manually, see [Start/stop Windows Event Collector](#).

Generate SSL certificates for Windows Event Collector

Purpose:

When the Windows-based host and the Windows Event Collector start communicating for the first time, they authenticate each other by exchanging and verifying each other's certificates. The process begins with the Windows host requesting and verifying the WEC tool's certificates. After successful verification, the Windows host sends its own certificates for verification to WEC.

TIP:

If the Windows host fails to authenticate the WEC tool's certificates for some reason, check the Windows event logs for details.

For details on which event logs to look at, see [Troubleshoot Windows Event Collector](#).

The example described in this section uses OpenSSL for certificate generation. Note, however, that you can generate certificates using the Windows Public Key Infrastructure (PKI).

To generate the SSL certificates for WEC, complete the following steps:

Steps:

1. Create two certificate template files for both the server and the client(s).

NOTE:

The templates shown here are examples only. Not all elements of the example *opts.cnf files are mandatory, for example, you do not need to define two DNS instances.

The contents of server-certopts.cnf:

```
[req]
default_bits = 4096
default_md = sha256
```

```

req_extensions = req_ext
keyUsage = keyEncipherment,dataEncipherment
basicConstraints = CA:FALSE
distinguished_name = dn

[ req_ext ]
subjectAltName = @alt_names
extendedKeyUsage = serverAuth,clientAuth

[ alt_names ]
DNS.1 = <1st DNS hostname of server (preferably FQDN)>
...
DNS.<N> = <Nth DNS hostname of server (preferably FQDN)>
IP.1 = <1st IP of server>
...
IP.<N> = <Nth IP of server>

[dn]

```

For example:

```

[req]
default_bits = 4096
default_md = sha256
req_extensions = req_ext
keyUsage = keyEncipherment,dataEncipherment
basicConstraints = CA:FALSE
distinguished_name = dn

[ req_ext ]
subjectAltName = @alt_names
extendedKeyUsage = serverAuth,clientAuth

[ alt_names ]
DNS.1 = windowseventcollector.widgits
DNS.2 = wec.widgits
IP.1 = 10.64.10.2

[dn]

```

The contents of client-certopts.cnf:

```

[req]
default_bits = 4096
default_md = sha256
req_extensions = req_ext
keyUsage = keyEncipherment,dataEncipherment
basicConstraints = CA:FALSE
distinguished_name = dn

```

```
[ req_ext ]
subjectAltName = @alt_names
extendedKeyUsage = serverAuth,clientAuth

[ alt_names ]
DNS.1 = <1st DNS hostname of client (preferably FQDN)>
...
DNS.<N> = <Nth DNS hostname of client (preferably FQDN)>
IP.1 = <1st IP of client>
...
IP.<N> = <Nth IP of client>
```

[dn]

For example:

```
[req]
default_bits = 4096
default_md = sha256
req_extensions = req_ext
keyUsage = keyEncipherment,dataEncipherment
basicConstraints = CA:FALSE
distinguished_name = dn
```

```
[ req_ext ]
subjectAltName = @alt_names
extendedKeyUsage = serverAuth,clientAuth
```

```
[ alt_names ]
DNS.1 = windowsclient01.widgits
DNS.2 = client01.widgits
IP.1 = 10.64.10.11
```

[dn]

2. Generate the certificate authority (CA):

```
$ openssl genrsa -out ca.key 4096
```

```
$ openssl req -x509 -new -nodes -key ca.key -days 3650 -out ca.crt -subj
'<subject name for CA cert (must be formatted as
/type0=value0/type1=value1/type2=..., characters may be escaped by \
(backslash), no spaces are skipped)>'
```

For example:

```
$ openssl genrsa -out ca.key 4096
```

```
$ openssl req -x509 -new -nodes -key ca.key -days 3650 -out ca.crt -subj
```

```
'/C=AU/ST=Victoria/L=Melbourne/O=Internet Widgits Pty  
Ltd/OU=Operations/CN=Operations Root CA'
```

Place a copy of the `ca.crt` file in a directory of your choice. Take a note of the directory because you need to reference it in the `cadir` option of the WEC configuration file.

3. use the CA thumbprint you saved earlier

Save the thumbprint of the CA:

```
$ openssl x509 -in ca.crt -fingerprint -sha1 -noout | sed -e 's/\\://g'
```

4. Create the server certificate:

NOTE:

The Common Name must be the FQDN (or IP address) of the Windows Event Collector server.

```
$ openssl req -new -newkey rsa:4096 -nodes -out server.csr -keyout server.key -  
subj '<subject name for server cert (must be formatted as  
/type0=value0/type1=value1/type2=..., characters may be escaped by \  
(backslash), no spaces are skipped)>'
```

```
$ openssl x509 -req -in server.csr -out server.crt -CA ca.crt -CAkey ca.key -  
CAcreateserial -extfile server-certopts.cnf -extensions req_ext -days 365
```

For example:

```
$ openssl req -new -newkey rsa:4096 -nodes -out server.csr -keyout server.key -  
subj '/C=AU/ST=Victoria/L=Melbourne/O=Internet Widgits Pty  
Ltd/OU=Operations/CN=windowseventcollector.widgits'
```

```
$ openssl x509 -req -in server.csr -out server.crt -CA ca.crt -CAkey ca.key -  
CAcreateserial -extfile server-certopts.cnf -extensions req_ext -days 365
```

5. Create client(s) certificates:

NOTE:

The Common Name must be the FQDN (or IP address) of the client.

```
$ openssl req -new -newkey rsa:4096 -nodes -out client.csr -keyout client.key -  
subj '<subject name for client cert (must be formatted as  
/type0=value0/type1=value1/type2=..., characters may be escaped by \  
(backslash), no spaces are skipped)>'
```

```
$ openssl x509 -req -in client.csr -out client.crt -CA ca.crt -CAkey ca.key -  
CAcreateserial -extfile client-certopts.cnf -extensions req_ext -days 365
```

For example:

```
$ openssl req -new -newkey rsa:4096 -nodes -out client.csr -keyout client.key -  
subj '/C=AU/ST=Victoria/L=Melbourne/O=Internet Widgits Pty
```

```
Ltd/OU=Operations/CN=windowsclient01.widgits'
```

```
$ openssl x509 -req -in client.csr -out client.crt -CA ca.crt -CAkey ca.key -  
CAcreateserial -extfile client-certopts.cnf -extensions req_ext -days 365
```

6. Export the client(s) certificate(s) to the format recognized by the Windows Certificate Manager tool.

```
$ openssl pkcs12 -export -inkey client.key -in client.crt -certfile ca.crt -  
out client.p12
```

Configure event source computers

Prerequisites:

- Microsoft Windows 7 or newer

Purpose:

When collecting event logs from Windows hosts, the Windows clients sending logs act as the event source computers. The WEC tool collects and forwards messages from the standard Windows eventlog containers.

There is no restriction on the number of Windows hosts that can connect to the Windows Event Collector.

To configure your event sources, complete the following steps.

Steps:

1. Open the **Microsoft Management Console** (`mmc.exe`), select **File > Add/Remove Snap-ins**, and add the **Certificates** snap-in.
2. Select **Computer Account**.
3. Right-click the **Personal** node, and select **All Tasks > Import**.
4. Find and select the client certificate (`client*.p12`) and import this file.
5. The PKCS #12 archive contains the CA certificate as well. Move the CA certificate to the **Trusted Root Certification Authorities** node after the import.

NOTE:

Make sure that you only move the CA certificate and not the client certificate.

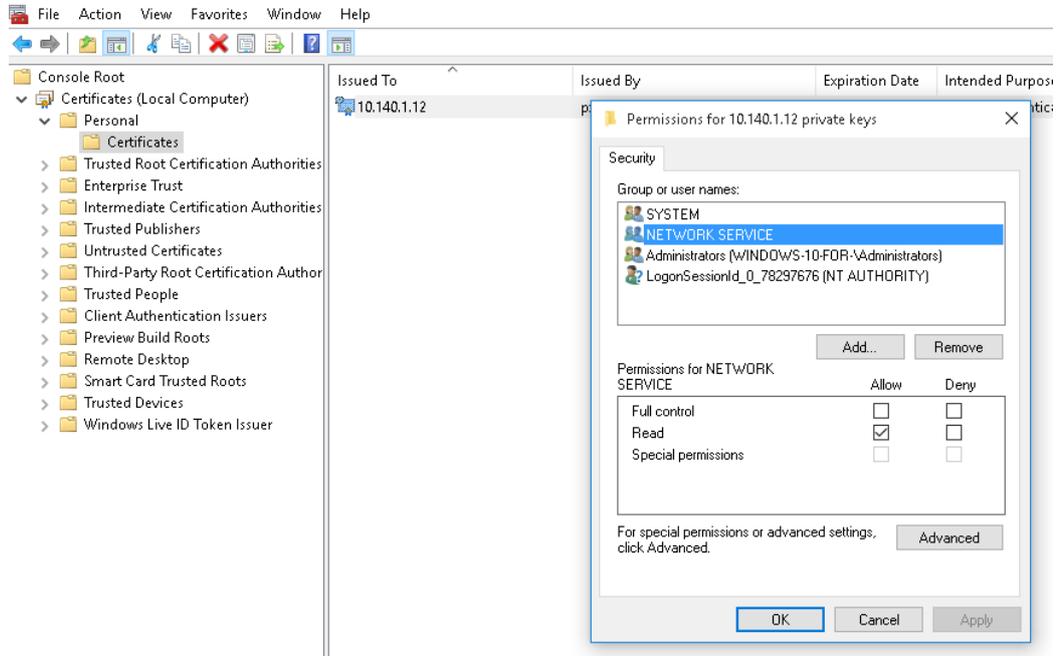
6. Give NetworkService access to the private key file of the client authentication certificate:

NOTE:

Make sure that you modify the access rights of only the private key file of the client certificate and not the CA certificate.

- a. In certmgr, right-click the client certificate, select **All Tasks > Manage Private Keys....**
- b. Add read permission to "NETWORK SERVICE".

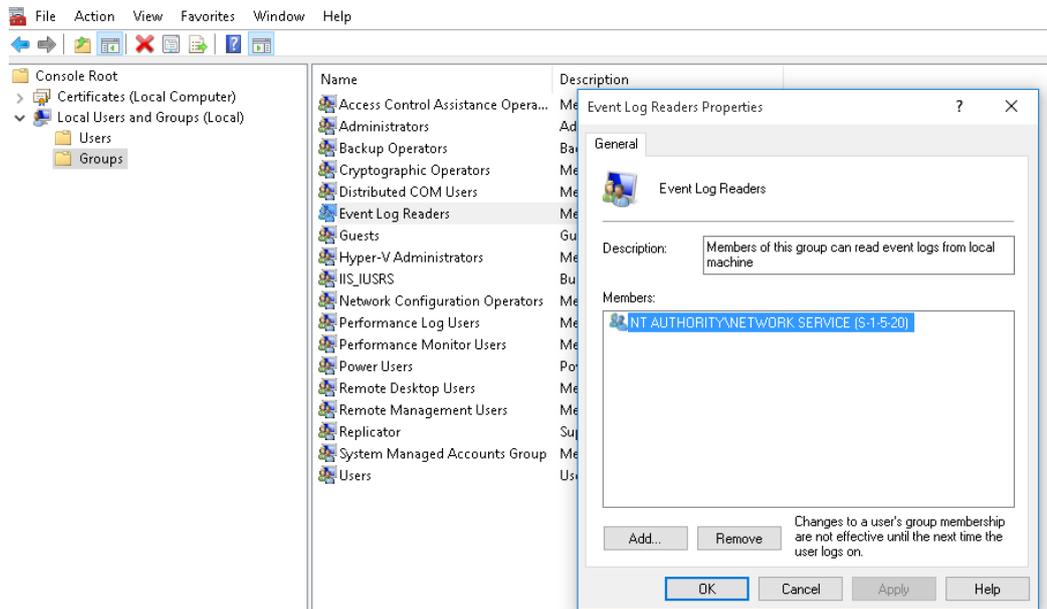
Figure 2: Adding read permission to "NETWORK SERVICE"



7. To forward security logs:

- a. In CompMgmt.msc, under **Local Users and Groups**, click **Groups > Event Log Readers** to open **Event Log Readers Properties**.
- b. Add the "NETWORK SERVICE" account to the **Event Log Readers** group.

Figure 3: Adding the "Network Service" account to the Event Log Readers group.



c. Reboot the client computer.

8. Run the following commands from an elevated privilege command prompt:

```
winrm qc -q
winrm set winrm/config/client/auth @{Certificate="true"}
```

9. Open gpedit.msc.

10. Under the **Computer Configuration** node, expand the **Administrative Templates** node, then expand the **Windows Components** node, and then select the **Event Forwarding** node.

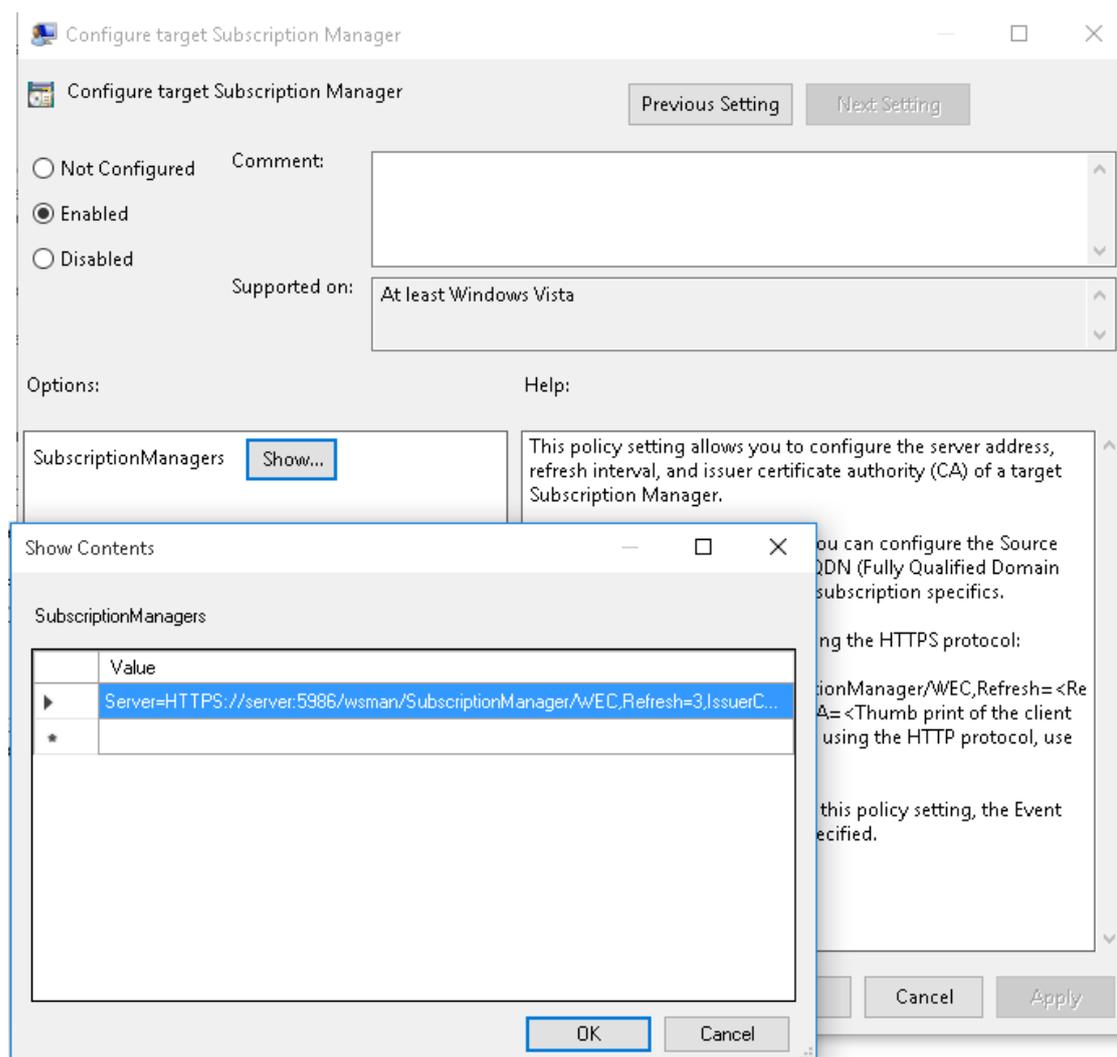
11. Select the **SubscriptionManagers** setting and enable it. Click the **Show** button to add a subscription (use the CA thumbprint you saved earlier Save the thumbprint of the CA: \$ openssl x509 -in ca.crt -fingerprint -sha1 -noout | sed -e 's/\://g'):

```
Server=https://<FQDN of the collector>:5986/wsman/SubscriptionManager/WEC,Refresh=<Refresh interval in seconds>,IssuerCA=<Thumbprint of the root CA>
```

For example:

```
Server=HTTPS://wec.balabit:5986/wsman/SubscriptionManager/WEC,Refresh=60,IssuerCA=A814E609311FD3A89FFD0297974524E4F2D2BA9D
```

Figure 4: Adding the subscription in SubscriptionManagers



NOTE:

If you wish to set up multiple subscriptions because you want to forward Windows events to multiple event collectors (such as WEC), then you can do that here.

Configure Windows Event Collector

Purpose:

Once you have configured your event source computer(s), the next step is to configure your event collector, in this case, the Windows Event Collector for syslog-ng PE.



NOTE:

The configuration file of WEC is YAML based. Note that YAML uses spaces, not tabs, for indentation.

To configure WEC, use the following options.

For an example `wec.yaml` file, see [WEC configuration example](#).

server

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Type: | string |
|-------|--------|

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Default: | N/A |
|----------|-----|

Description: The hostname, IP address, or FQDN of the server where WEC is running. It must match the Common Name of the SSL certificate.

port

| | |
|-------|---------|
| Type: | integer |
|-------|---------|

| | |
|----------|------|
| Default: | 5986 |
|----------|------|

Description: The port where the server running WEC is listening.

keyfile

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Type: | string |
|-------|--------|

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Default: | N/A |
|----------|-----|

Description: The path to the file that contains the unencrypted private key of the server running WEC. The file is in PEM format.

certfile

Type: string

Default: N/A

Description: The path to the file that contains the X.509 certificate of the server running WEC. The file is in PEM format.

cadir

Type: string

Default: N/A

Description: The path to the directory that contains the trusted CA certificates in PEM format.

log

Type: map

Default: N/A

Description: The options to specify how to handle the internal logs of WEC:

- [level](#)
- [file](#)

WEC sends internal log messages to stderr. You can also optionally specify a [file](#) to send logs to (in parallel with stderr). If you are using a systemd platform and start WEC using `systemctl`, then stderr is redirected to `systemd-journal`, and this is where you will find the internal logs of WEC.

level

Type: debug|info

Default: info

Description: The application log level of WEC.

Possible values are:

- `debug`: Information with the most details, useful when debugging WEC and

diagnosing issues.

- `info`: Basic information about the initialization of WEC. Following initialization, no information is displayed on screen, unless an issue occurs.

file

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Type: | string |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: The path to the file where WEC should write internal log messages. The log file is automatically created by syslog-ng PE.

You can send this file to syslog-ng using a `file()` source.

eventdestination

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Type: | map |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: The options to specify how to store the event logs that are forwarded to WEC:

- [file](#)
- [unixdatagram](#)
- [queuesize](#)

file

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Type: | string |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: The path to the file where WEC should write the events received from the Windows host(s). Use this option for debug purposes only, when you wish to check what WEC is sending to syslog-ng PE.

It is possible to log both to a file and a Unix datagram socket in parallel.

unixdatagram

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Type: | string |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: The path to the Unix datagram socket receiving the Windows events. WEC writes the received events to the Unix datagram socket specified here. The listening socket is automatically created by syslog-ng PE.

It is possible to log both to a file and a Unix datagram socket in parallel.

queuesize

| | |
|-------|---------|
| Type: | integer |
|-------|---------|

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Default: | 10000 |
|----------|-------|

Description: The number of events that the destination memory queue can store. Note that the main purpose of `queuesize` is to speed up the writing of data into memory and smooth out peaks.

It is recommended to use the default value for this option.

For more information about flow control, see [Flow control](#).

subscriptions

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Type: | map |
|-------|-----|

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Default: | N/A |
|----------|-----|

Description: The options related to the subscriptions you have set up on WEC:

- [name](#)
- [computers](#)
- [contentformat](#)
- [heartbeats](#)
- [connectionretry](#)
- [batchsizelimit](#)
- [batchtimeoutlimit](#)
- [queries](#)
- [readexistingevents](#)

i NOTE:

You can set up multiple subscriptions to events coming from the same Windows host. If an event matches more than one subscription, the event log comes in to WEC as many times as there is a match.

name

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Type: | string |
|-------|--------|

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Default: | N/A |
|----------|-----|

Description: The unique name of the subscription in WEC.

computers

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Type: | list of strings |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: A list of strings that specifies the DNS names of the non-domain computers that are allowed to initiate subscriptions. Specifies the Windows hosts from which you want WEC to receive event logs.

The names can be specified using the * and ? wildcards, for example "*.mydomain.com" or "**".

contentformat

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Type: | Events RenderedText |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: A value that specifies the format of the returned events.

Possible values are:

- RenderedText: Events are returned with the localized strings (such as event description strings) attached to the events
- Events: Events are returned without any of the localized strings

One Identity recommends setting this option to RenderedText.

heartbeats

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Type: | integer |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: A value that specifies the heartbeat interval for the subscription in seconds.

connectionretry

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Type: | integer |
| Default: | N/A |

Description: WEC attempts to reconnect to the Windows host(s) at the specified interval of time in seconds.

batchsizelimit

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Type: | integer |
| Default: | 0 (meaning that there is no limit) |

Description: Specifies the maximum number of items for batched delivery in the event subscription.

Set this value to 1 if you wish to perform tests or debugging.

NOTE:

This option is not enforced on the Windows host side. Windows is handling this value only as a recommendation. The only exception is the value 1.

batchtimeoutlimit

Type: integer

Default: N/A

Description: Specifies the maximum latency allowed in delivering a batch of events (in seconds).

NOTE:

This option is not enforced on the Windows host side. Windows is handling this value only as a recommendation.

queries

Type: string

Default: N/A

Description: Specifies the query string for the subscription.

You can:

- type this value manually, or
- copy this value from the **XML** tab of the **Create Custom View** pop-up window in Windows

For examples of queries, check the following Windows blog posts:

- Microsoft TechNet blog post [Advanced XML filtering in the Windows Event Viewer](#)
- Microsoft Developer Network article [Wecutil.exe](#)

readexistingevents

Type: true|false

Default: false

Description: When the value is `true`, all existing events are read from the subscription event source if the subscription in question has not been read yet. When the value is `false`, only future (arriving) events are delivered. If the subscription has a state in the persist file, this option will have no effect.

Configure syslog-ng PE

Prerequisites:

syslog-ng Premium Edition version 7.0.6

Purpose:

To enable syslog-ng PE to read and accept Windows events, you need to configure a source called `windowsevent()` for this purpose.

Steps:

1. Ensure that the default 5986 TCP port is accessible from WEC, as it is the Windows Event Collector that will initiate the event forwarding subscription toward the syslog-ng PE server.
2. Configure the `windowsevent()` source.

```
source s_wec {  
    windowsevent();  
};
```

The `windowsevent()` source takes the following options:

- `unix-domain-socket()`: The path to the Unix domain socket to read messages from.

The default value is `/opt/syslog-ng/var/run/wec.sock`.

- `prefix()`: The prefix that you wish to append to the key-value pairs.

The default value is `".windowsevent."`.

If you want to send Windows event logs to SDATA, then set `prefix(".SDATA.")`. This can be useful, for example, when you forward Windows event logs to a syslog-ng Store Box.

For more information on the `windowsevent()` source, see ["windowsevent: Collecting Windows event logs" in the Administration Guide](#).

3. Define a complete log path in `syslog-ng.conf` to enable the `windowsevent()` source, `s_wec`. Otherwise, the WEC process will not run (connection refused).

For example:

```
source s_wec {
    windowsevent();
};

log {
    source(s_wec);
    destination {
        file("/var/log/example.log"
            template("${format-json --scope dot-nv-pairs}\n")
        );
    };
};
```

Start/stop Windows Event Collector

To start and stop the Windows Event Collector tool manually, use the following commands:

systemd service for systemd-based systems:

- Start WEC: `systemctl start syslog-ng-wec`
- Stop WEC: `systemctl stop syslog-ng-wec`

SysV init for SysV-based systems:

- Start WEC: `/etc/init.d/syslog-ng-wec start`
- Stop WEC: `/etc/init.d/syslog-ng-wec stop`

To start WEC in the foreground, execute:

```
wec -c /path/to/wec.yaml
```

Message format in Windows Event Collector for syslog-ng PE

The Windows Event Collector for syslog-ng PE is supported for Windows 7 or newer platforms. Starting with Windows 7, event logging is XML-based, meaning that event log messages reach WEC in XML format. When these are forwarded to the syslog-ng PE server, syslog-ng PE parses them into key-value pairs using the XML parser.

Once event log data is available in syslog-ng PE, you have the flexibility to modify and format data any way you want, using macros and rewrite rules.

Note that while event log data as processed by the WEC tool may differ from the data collected and made available by the syslog-ng Agent for Windows, the Windows Event Collector tool provides you with greater freedom and flexibility when it comes to manipulating your raw data.

Flow control

The Windows Event Collector tool applies flow control to minimize event log loss.

WEC regularly (in every second) polls the datagram socket that will receive the Windows events to check whether it exists already. Once the socket has been created (syslog-ng PE has started up), WEC connects to the socket and accepts the incoming connections from the Windows hosts. If the datagram socket does not exist, WEC refuses the incoming connections.

If the socket exists (syslog-ng PE is running) but syslog-ng PE does not read the Unix datagram socket, WEC fills up the kernel buffer of the datagram socket and stores `queuesize` amounts of log messages in the memory. When all buffers are full, WEC stops reading messages from the HTTP connections to prevent message loss.

The buffer size of a datagram socket is determined by certain Linux kernel parameters: the value of `rmem_*` (max/default) and the count of `net.unix.max_dgram_q1en`.

Reliability

WEC flags a message as delivered once it has put the message in the socket buffer. If syslog-ng PE does not read the socket for some reason (for example, because it is still flow-controlled) and syslog-ng PE is stopped, the contents of this socket (that is, the messages that are in the kernel buffer, unread by syslog-ng PE) will be lost.

This is why in cases when a restart is necessary, it is recommended to stop the Windows Event Collector and syslog-ng PE in the following order:

1. Windows Event Collector
2. syslog-ng PE

While it is not guaranteed that syslog-ng PE has read all sockets by the time you stop it, at least you can maximize the chances that it has.

Performance

Performance is dependent on the number of event log messages that the Windows hosts send to WEC and the capabilities of the XML parser.

Our performance measurements indicate that syslog-ng PE's XML parser is capable of parsing 15,000-20,000 events/second. The exact capacity of the XML parser depends on the complexity of the Windows log messages, as well as the performance of the hardware that syslog-ng PE and WEC are running on. When the limit of 15,000-20,000 events/seconds is reached, a workaround is recommended.

As the value set in the `batchsizelimit` parameter is treated only as a recommendation by the Windows hosts, there is no direct way to control the amount of messages arriving from the event source computers.

A possible workaround is to launch multiple WEC servers and create multiple `windowsevent` () sources in syslog-ng PE. That way, you can distribute your Windows hosts across multiple WEC and syslog-ng PE servers, decreasing the load on individual servers.

To run multiple WEC services per syslog-ng PE service, you need to create your own init script. This is because the init script that comes with WEC enables you to run only a single WEC service per syslog-ng PE service.

Limitations

The Windows Event Collector for syslog-ng PE currently has the following limitations:

- Only source-initiated push subscriptions are supported (Windows hosts connect to the WEC server).

An advantage of this, however, is that this requires less firewall rules.

- Only HTTPS and SSL certificate based authentication are supported. Kerberos authentication is not supported at the moment.
- The compression of events is not supported.
- The `batchsizelimit` and `batchtimeoutlimit` options are not enforced on the Windows host side: Windows is handling these values only as a recommendation.
- On Windows 7 and Windows 2008 platforms, there is a known issue. After several reconnects (if WEC is restarted quickly), the remote sender can stop forwarding the logs for a certain period of time. In this case, restarting the Windows RM service can help.

This issue can also occur between two Windows machines. It has been reported to Microsoft and is awaiting resolution.

Troubleshoot Windows Event Collector

When you experience issues while using WEC, run WEC in debug mode to get detailed log messages.

1. Set the log level to debug:

```
log:  
  level: "debug"
```

2. Start WEC.

At every refresh interval, the following debug messages should be displayed:

```
DEBUG  subscriptionEndpoint  {"clientAddress": "..."}  
DEBUG  actionHandler  {"messageID": "...", "action":  
"http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/ws/2004/09/enumeration/Enumerate"}  
DEBUG  enumerate
```

This means that the client has connected and requested the subscription list.

3. If you cannot see these messages within the refresh interval, you should check the following channels in the client's event viewer:
 - Applications and Services Logs\Microsoft\Windows\Eventlog-ForwardingPlugin
 - Applications and Services Logs\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Remote Management

Some common error codes and their explanations:

- **5004**: A channel specified in the query XML does not exist or cannot be read on the Windows client. This can be caused by the "Network Service" not having permission to read the security log.

Add the "Network Service" account to the **Event Log Readers** group, and restart the computer for changes to take effect.

- **15008**: The query XML of the subscription is invalid.
- **995 (HTTP error 12186)**: The "Network Service" does not have permission to read the client certificate.
- **HTTP error 403**: If everything is set correctly, then it might be possible that a proxy is set and the forwarder tries to connect to the proxy instead of WEC.

TIP:

Sometimes proxy settings are not displayed in any GUI window. Check them using `netsh winhttp show proxy`. To reset proxy settings, use `netsh winhttp reset proxy`.

WEC configuration example

```
server: "wec.mydomain"
port: 5986
keyfile: "/opt/syslog-ng/etc/server.key"
certfile: "/opt/syslog-ng/etc/server.crt"
cadir: "/opt/syslog-ng/etc/cadir"

log:
  level: "info"
  file: "/opt/syslog-ng/var/wec.log"

eventdestination:
  unixdatagram: "/opt/syslog-ng/var/run/wec.sock"

subscriptions:
- name: "ExampleDefaultSubscription"
  computers:
    - "windowsdc.mydomain.com"
    - "*.trusteddomain.com"

contentformat: "RenderedText"
heartbeats: 900.000
connectionretry: 60.0
batchtimeoutlimit: 900.000
queries: |
  <QueryList>
    <Query Id="0">
      <Select Path="Application">*</Select>
      <Select Path="Security">*</Select>
      <Select Path="System">*</Select>
    </Query>
  </QueryList>
```

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This option is useful when you wish to copy part of the code of the Library into a program that is not a library.

Section 4

You may copy and distribute the Library (or a portion or derivative of it, under [Section 2](#)) in object code or executable form under the terms of [Section 1](#) and [Section 2](#) above provided that you accompany it with the complete corresponding machine-readable source code, which must be distributed under the terms of [Section 1](#) and [Section 2](#) above on a medium customarily used for software interchange.

If distribution of object code is made by offering access to copy from a designated place, then offering equivalent access to copy the source code from the same place satisfies the requirement to distribute the source code, even though third parties are not compelled to copy the source along with the object code.

Section 5

A program that contains no derivative of any portion of the Library, but is designed to work with the Library by being compiled or linked with it, is called a "work that uses the Library". Such a work, in isolation, is not a derivative work of the Library, and therefore falls outside the scope of this License.

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When a "work that uses the Library" uses material from a header file that is part of the Library, the object code for the work may be a derivative work of the Library even though the source code is not. Whether this is true is especially significant if the work can be linked without the Library, or if the work is itself a library. The threshold for this to be true is not precisely defined by law.

If such an object file uses only numerical parameters, data structure layouts and accessors, and small macros and small inline functions (ten lines or less in length), then the use of the object file is unrestricted, regardless of whether it is legally a derivative work. (Executables containing this object code plus portions of the Library will still fall under [Section 6](#).)

Otherwise, if the work is a derivative of the Library, you may distribute the object code for the work under the terms of [Section 6](#). Any executables containing that work also fall under [Section 6](#), whether or not they are linked directly with the Library itself.

Section 6

As an exception to the Sections above, you may also combine or link a "work that uses the Library" with the Library to produce a work containing portions of the Library, and distribute that work under terms of your choice, provided that the terms permit modification of the work for the customer's own use and reverse engineering for debugging such modifications.

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- a. Accompany the work with the complete corresponding machine-readable source code for the Library including whatever changes were used in the work (which must be distributed under [Section 1](#) and [Section 2](#) above); and, if the work is an executable linked with the Library, with the complete machine-readable "work that uses the Library", as object code and/or source code, so that the user can modify the Library and then relink to produce a modified executable containing the modified Library. (It is understood that the user who changes the contents of definitions files in the Library will not necessarily be able to recompile the application to use the modified definitions.)
- b. Use a suitable shared library mechanism for linking with the Library. A suitable mechanism is one that (1) uses at run time a copy of the library already present on the user's computer system, rather than copying library functions into the executable, and (2) will operate properly with a modified version of the library, if the user installs one, as long as the modified version is interface-compatible with the version that the work was made with.
- c. Accompany the work with a written offer, valid for at least three years, to give the same user the materials specified in [Subsection 6a](#), above, for a charge no more than the cost of performing this distribution.
- d. If distribution of the work is made by offering access to copy from a designated place, offer equivalent access to copy the above specified materials from the same place.
- e. Verify that the user has already received a copy of these materials or that you have already sent this user a copy.

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