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What Is Amazon CloudWatch Logs?

You can use Amazon CloudWatch Logs to monitor, store, and access your log files from Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances, AWS CloudTrail, Route 53, and other sources.

CloudWatch Logs enables you to centralize the logs from all of your systems, applications, and AWS services that you use, in a single, highly scalable service. You can then easily view them, search them for specific error codes or patterns, filter them based on specific fields, or archive them securely for future analysis. CloudWatch Logs enables you to see all of your logs, regardless of their source, as a single and consistent flow of events ordered by time, and you can query them and sort them based on other dimensions, group them by specific fields, create custom computations with a powerful query language, and visualize log data in dashboards.

Features

- **Query Your Log Data** – You can use CloudWatch Logs Insights to interactively search and analyze your log data. You can perform queries to help you more efficiently and effectively respond to operational issues. CloudWatch Logs Insights includes a purpose-built query language with a few simple but powerful commands. We provide sample queries, command descriptions, query autocompletion, and log field discovery to help you get started. Sample queries are included for several types of AWS service logs. To get started, see Analyzing Log Data with CloudWatch Logs Insights (p. 33).

- **Monitor Logs from Amazon EC2 Instances** – You can use CloudWatch Logs to monitor applications and systems using log data. For example, CloudWatch Logs can track the number of errors that occur in your application logs and send you a notification whenever the rate of errors exceeds a threshold you specify. CloudWatch Logs uses your log data for monitoring; so, no code changes are required. For example, you can monitor application logs for specific literal terms (such as "NullReferenceException") or count the number of occurrences of a literal term at a particular position in log data (such as "404" status codes in an Apache access log). When the term you are searching for is found, CloudWatch Logs reports the data to a CloudWatch metric that you specify. Log data is encrypted while in transit and while it is at rest. To get started, see Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs (p. 5).

- **Monitor AWS CloudTrail Logged Events** – You can create alarms in CloudWatch and receive notifications of particular API activity as captured by CloudTrail and use the notification to perform troubleshooting. To get started, see Sending CloudTrail Events to CloudWatch Logs in the AWS CloudTrail User Guide.

- **Log Retention** – By default, logs are kept indefinitely and never expire. You can adjust the retention policy for each log group, keeping the indefinite retention, or choosing a retention period between 10 years and one day.

- **Archive Log Data** – You can use CloudWatch Logs to store your log data in highly durable storage. The CloudWatch Logs agent makes it easy to quickly send both rotated and non-rotated log data off of a host and into the log service. You can then access the raw log data when you need it.

- **Log Route 53 DNS Queries** – You can use CloudWatch Logs to log information about the DNS queries that Route 53 receives. For more information, see Logging DNS Queries in the Amazon Route 53 Developer Guide.

Related AWS Services

The following services are used in conjunction with CloudWatch Logs:
• **AWS CloudTrail** is a web service that enables you to monitor the calls made to the CloudWatch Logs API for your account, including calls made by the AWS Management Console, AWS Command Line Interface (AWS CLI), and other services. When CloudTrail logging is turned on, CloudTrail captures API calls in your account and delivers the log files to the Amazon S3 bucket that you specify. Each log file can contain one or more records, depending on how many actions must be performed to satisfy a request. For more information about AWS CloudTrail, see What Is AWS CloudTrail? in the AWS CloudTrail User Guide. For an example of the type of data that CloudWatch writes into CloudTrail log files, see Logging Amazon CloudWatch Logs API Calls in AWS CloudTrail (p. 129).

• **AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)** is a web service that helps you securely control access to AWS resources for your users. Use IAM to control who can use your AWS resources (authentication) and what resources they can use in which ways (authorization). For more information, see What Is IAM? in the IAM User Guide.

• **Amazon Kinesis Data Streams** is a web service you can use for rapid and continuous data intake and aggregation. The type of data used includes IT infrastructure log data, application logs, social media, market data feeds, and web clickstream data. Because the response time for the data intake and processing is in real time, processing is typically lightweight. For more information, see What is Amazon Kinesis Data Streams? in the Amazon Kinesis Data Streams Developer Guide.

• **AWS Lambda** is a web service you can use to build applications that respond quickly to new information. Upload your application code as Lambda functions and Lambda runs your code on high-availability compute infrastructure and performs all the administration of the compute resources, including server and operating system maintenance, capacity provisioning and automatic scaling, code and security patch deployment, and code monitoring and logging. All you need to do is supply your code in one of the languages that Lambda supports. For more information, see What is AWS Lambda? in the AWS Lambda Developer Guide.

### Pricing

When you sign up for AWS, you can get started with CloudWatch Logs for free using the AWS Free Tier.

Standard rates apply for logs stored by other services using CloudWatch Logs (for example, Amazon VPC flow logs and Lambda logs).

For more information, see Amazon CloudWatch Pricing.

### Amazon CloudWatch Logs Concepts

The terminology and concepts that are central to your understanding and use of CloudWatch Logs are described below.

**Log events**

A log event is a record of some activity recorded by the application or resource being monitored. The log event record that CloudWatch Logs understands contains two properties: the timestamp of when the event occurred, and the raw event message. Event messages must be UTF-8 encoded.

**Log streams**

A log stream is a sequence of log events that share the same source. More specifically, a log stream is generally intended to represent the sequence of events coming from the application instance or resource being monitored. For example, a log stream may be associated with an Apache access log on a specific host. When you no longer need a log stream, you can delete it using the `aws logs delete-log-stream` command. In addition, AWS may delete empty log streams that are over 2 months old.
Log groups

Log groups define groups of log streams that share the same retention, monitoring, and access control settings. Each log stream has to belong to one log group. For example, if you have a separate log stream for the Apache access logs from each host, you could group those log streams into a single log group called `MyWebsite.com/Apache/access_log`.

There is no limit on the number of log streams that can belong to one log group.

Metric filters

You can use metric filters to extract metric observations from ingested events and transform them to data points in a CloudWatch metric. Metric filters are assigned to log groups, and all of the filters assigned to a log group are applied to their log streams.

Retention settings

Retention settings can be used to specify how long log events are kept in CloudWatch Logs. Expired log events get deleted automatically. Just like metric filters, retention settings are also assigned to log groups, and the retention assigned to a log group is applied to their log streams.
Getting Set Up

To use Amazon CloudWatch Logs you need an AWS account. Your AWS account allows you to use services (for example, Amazon EC2) to generate logs that you can view in the CloudWatch console, a web-based interface. In addition, you can install and configure the AWS Command Line Interface (AWS CLI).

Sign Up for Amazon Web Services (AWS)

When you create an AWS account, we automatically sign up your account for all AWS services. You pay only for the services that you use.

If you have an AWS account already, skip to the next step. If you don't have an AWS account, use the following procedure to create one.

**To sign up for an AWS account**

2. Follow the online instructions.

   Part of the sign-up procedure involves receiving a phone call and entering a verification code on the phone keypad.

Sign in to the Amazon CloudWatch Console

**To sign in to the Amazon CloudWatch console**

1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the CloudWatch console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/cloudwatch/.
2. If necessary, change the region. From the navigation bar, choose the region where you have your AWS resources.
3. In the navigation pane, choose Logs.

Set Up the Command Line Interface

You can use the AWS CLI to perform CloudWatch Logs operations.

For information about how to install and configure the AWS CLI, see Getting Set Up with the AWS Command Line Interface in the AWS Command Line Interface User Guide.
Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs

To collect logs from your Amazon EC2 instances and on-premises servers into CloudWatch Logs, AWS offers two options:

- **Recommended** – The unified CloudWatch agent. It enables you to collect both logs and advanced metrics with one agent. It offers support across operating systems, including servers running Windows Server. This agent also provides better performance.

  If you’re using the unified agent to collect CloudWatch metrics, it enables the collection of additional system metrics, for in-guest visibility. It also supports collecting custom metrics using StatsD or collectd.

  For more information, see Installing the CloudWatch Agent in the *Amazon CloudWatch User Guide*.

- **Supported, but on the path to deprecation** – The older CloudWatch Logs agent, which supports the collection of logs from only servers running Linux. If you’re already using that agent, you may continue to do so.

  If you want to migrate from the CloudWatch Logs agent to the unified CloudWatch agent, the unified agent’s configuration wizard can read your current CloudWatch Logs agent configuration file and set up the new agent to collect the same logs. For more information about the wizard, see Create the CloudWatch Agent Configuration File with the Wizard in the *Amazon CloudWatch User Guide*.

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- Use the Unified CloudWatch Agent to Get Started With CloudWatch Logs (p. 5)
- Use the Previous CloudWatch Logs Agent to Get Started With CloudWatch Logs (p. 6)
- Quick Start: Use AWS CloudFormation to Get Started With CloudWatch Logs (p. 31)

Use the Unified CloudWatch Agent to Get Started With CloudWatch Logs

For more information about using the unified CloudWatch agent to get started with CloudWatch Logs, see Collect Metrics and Logs from Amazon EC2 Instances and On-Premises Servers with the CloudWatch Agent in the *Amazon CloudWatch User Guide*. You complete the steps listed in this section to install, configure, and start the agent. If you are not using the agent to also collect CloudWatch metrics, you can ignore any sections that refer to metrics.

If you are currently using the older CloudWatch Logs agent and want to migrate to using the new unified agent, we recommend that you use the wizard included in the new agent package. This wizard can read your current CloudWatch Logs agent configuration file and set up the CloudWatch agent to collect the same logs. For more information about the wizard, see Create the CloudWatch Agent Configuration File with the Wizard in the *Amazon CloudWatch User Guide*.
Use the Previous CloudWatch Logs Agent to Get Started With CloudWatch Logs

Using the CloudWatch Logs agent, you can publish log data from Amazon EC2 instances running Linux or Windows Server, and logged events from AWS CloudTrail. We recommend instead using the CloudWatch unified agent to publish your log data. For more information about the new agent, see Collect Metrics and Logs from Amazon EC2 Instances and On-Premises Servers with the CloudWatch Agent in the Amazon CloudWatch User Guide. Alternatively, you can continue using the previous CloudWatch Logs agent.

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- CloudWatch Logs Agent Prerequisites (p. 6)
- Quick Start: Install and Configure the CloudWatch Logs Agent on a Running EC2 Linux Instance (p. 6)
- Quick Start: Install and Configure the CloudWatch Logs Agent on an EC2 Linux Instance at Launch (p. 10)
- Quick Start: Enable Your Amazon EC2 Instances Running Windows Server 2016 to Send Logs to CloudWatch Logs Using the CloudWatch Logs Agent (p. 13)
- Quick Start: Enable Your Amazon EC2 Instances Running Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2008 to Send logs to CloudWatch Logs (p. 20)
- Quick Start: Install the CloudWatch Logs Agent Using AWS OpsWorks and Chef (p. 26)
- Report the CloudWatch Logs Agent Status (p. 30)
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CloudWatch Logs Agent Prerequisites

The CloudWatch Logs agent requires Python version 2.7, 3.0, or 3.3, and any of the following versions of Linux:

- Amazon Linux version 2014.03.02 or later. Amazon Linux 2 is not supported
- Ubuntu Server version 12.04, 14.04, or 16.04
- CentOS version 6, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, or 7.0
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) version 6.5 or 7.0
- Debian 8.0

Quick Start: Install and Configure the CloudWatch Logs Agent on a Running EC2 Linux Instance

Tip
CloudWatch includes a new unified agent that can collect both logs and metrics from EC2 instances and on-premises servers. If you are not already using the older CloudWatch Logs agent, we recommend that you use the newer unified CloudWatch agent. For more information, see Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs (p. 5). The rest of this section explains the use of the older CloudWatch Logs agent.
Configure the Older CloudWatch Logs Agent on a Running EC2 Linux Instance

You can use the CloudWatch Logs agent installer on an existing EC2 instance to install and configure the CloudWatch Logs agent. After installation is complete, logs automatically flow from the instance to the log stream you create while installing the agent. The agent confirms that it has started and it stays running until you disable it.

In addition to using the agent, you can also publish log data using the AWS CLI, CloudWatch Logs SDK, or the CloudWatch Logs API. The AWS CLI is best suited for publishing data at the command line or through scripts. The CloudWatch Logs SDK is best suited for publishing log data directly from applications or building your own log publishing application.

Step 1: Configure Your IAM Role or User for CloudWatch Logs

The CloudWatch Logs agent supports IAM roles and users. If your instance already has an IAM role associated with it, make sure that you include the IAM policy below. If you don't already have an IAM role assigned to your instance, you can use your IAM credentials for the next steps or you can assign an IAM role to that instance. For more information, see Attaching an IAM Role to an Instance.

To configure your IAM role or user for CloudWatch Logs

1. Open the IAM console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/
2. In the navigation pane, choose Roles.
3. Choose the role by selecting the role name (do not select the check box next to the name).

A new browser tab or window opens.
5. Choose the JSON tab and type the following JSON policy document.

```json
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": [
        "logs:CreateLogGroup",
        "logs:CreateLogStream",
        "logs:PutLogEvents",
        "logs:DescribeLogStreams"
      ],
      "Resource": ["*"
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

6. When you are finished, choose Review policy. The Policy Validator reports any syntax errors.
7. On the Review Policy page, type a Name and a Description (optional) for the policy that you are creating. Review the policy Summary to see the permissions that are granted by your policy. Then choose Create policy to save your work.
8. Close the browser tab or window, and return to the Add permissions page for your role. Choose Refresh, and then choose the new policy to attach it to your role.
9. Choose Attach Policy.
Step 2: Install and Configure CloudWatch Logs on an Existing Amazon EC2 Instance

The process for installing the CloudWatch Logs agent differs depending on whether your Amazon EC2 instance is running Amazon Linux, Ubuntu, CentOS, or Red Hat. Use the steps appropriate for the version of Linux on your instance.

To install and configure CloudWatch Logs on an existing Amazon Linux instance

Starting with Amazon Linux AMI 2014.09, the CloudWatch Logs agent is available as an RPM installation with the awslogs package. Earlier versions of Amazon Linux can access the awslogs package by updating their instance with the `sudo yum update -y` command. By installing the awslogs package as an RPM instead of using the CloudWatch Logs installer, your instance receives regular package updates and patches from AWS without having to manually reinstall the CloudWatch Logs agent.

Warning
Do not update the CloudWatch Logs agent using the RPM installation method if you previously used the Python script to install the agent. Doing so may cause configuration issues that prevent the CloudWatch Logs agent from sending your logs to CloudWatch.

1. Connect to your Amazon Linux instance. For more information, see Connect to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
   For more information about connection issues, see Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
2. Update your Amazon Linux instance to pick up the latest changes in the package repositories.
   ```bash
   sudo yum update -y
   ```
3. Install the `awslogs` package. This is the recommended method for installing awslogs on Amazon Linux instances.
   ```bash
   sudo yum install -y awslogs
   ```
4. Edit the `/etc/awslogs/awslogs.conf` file to configure the logs to track. For more information about editing this file, see CloudWatch Logs Agent Reference (p. 132).
5. By default, the `/etc/awslogs/awscli.conf` points to the us-east-1 region. To push your logs to a different region, edit the `awscli.conf` file and specify that region.
6. Start the `awslogs` service.
   ```bash
   sudo service awslogs start
   ```
   If you are running Amazon Linux 2, start the `awslogs` service with the following command.
   ```bash
   sudo systemctl start awslogsd
   ```
7. (Optional) Check the `/var/log/awslogs.log` file for errors logged when starting the service.
8. (Optional) Run the following command to start the `awslogs` service at each system boot.
   ```bash
   sudo chkconfig awslogs on
   ```
   If you are running Amazon Linux 2, use the following command to start the service at each system boot.
   ```bash
   sudo systemctl enable awslogsd.service
   ```
9. You should see the newly created log group and log stream in the CloudWatch console after the agent has been running for a few moments.

For more information, see View Log Data Sent to CloudWatch Logs (p. 54).

To install and configure CloudWatch Logs on an existing Ubuntu Server, CentOS, or Red Hat instance

If you're using an AMI running Ubuntu Server, CentOS, or Red Hat, use the following procedure to manually install the CloudWatch Logs agent on your instance.

1. Connect to your EC2 instance. For more information, see Connect to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.

For more information about connection issues, see Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.

2. Run the CloudWatch Logs agent installer using one of two options. You can run it directly from the internet, or download the files and run it standalone.

   **Note**
   If you are running CentOS 6.x, Red Hat 6.x, or Ubuntu 12.04, use the steps for downloading and running the installer standalone. Installing the CloudWatch Logs agent directly from the internet is not supported on these systems.

   **Note**
   On Ubuntu, run `apt-get update` before running the commands below.

To run it directly from the internet, use the following commands and follow the prompts:

```

  sudo python ./awslogs-agent-setup.py --region us-east-1
```

If the preceding command does not work, try the following:

```
  sudo python3 ./awslogs-agent-setup.py --region us-east-1
```

To download and run it standalone, use the following commands and follow the prompts:

```

  curl https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws-cloudwatch/downloads/latest/AgentDependencies.tar.gz -O

  tar xvf AgentDependencies.tar.gz -C /tmp/

  sudo python ./awslogs-agent-setup.py --region us-east-1 --dependency-path /tmp/AgentDependencies
```

You can install the CloudWatch Logs agent by specifying the us-east-1, us-west-1, us-west-2, ap-south-1, ap-northeast-2, ap-southeast-1, ap-southeast-2, ap-northeast-1, eu-central-1, eu-west-1, or sa-east-1 regions.
The CloudWatch Logs agent installer requires certain information during setup. Before you start, you need to know which log file to monitor and its timestamp format. You should also have the following information ready.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWS access key ID</td>
<td>Press Enter if using an IAM role. Otherwise, enter your AWS access key ID.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS secret access key</td>
<td>Press Enter if using an IAM role. Otherwise, enter your AWS secret access key.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default region name</td>
<td>Press Enter. The default is us-east-2. You can set this to us-east-1, us-west-1, us-west-2, ap-south-1, ap-northeast-2, ap-southeast-1, ap-southeast-2, ap-northeast-1, eu-central-1, eu-west-1, or sa-east-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default output format</td>
<td>Leave blank and press Enter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path of log file to upload</td>
<td>The location of the file that contains the log data to send. The installer suggests a path for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination Log Group name</td>
<td>The name for your log group. The installer suggests a log group name for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination Log Stream name</td>
<td>By default, this is the name of the host. The installer suggests a host name for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timestamp format</td>
<td>Specify the format of the timestamp within the specified log file. Choose custom to specify your own format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial position</td>
<td>How data is uploaded. Set this to start_of_file to upload everything in the data file. Set to end_of_file to upload only newly appended data.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After you have completed these steps, the installer asks about configuring another log file. You can run the process as many times as you like for each log file. If you have no more log files to monitor, choose N when prompted by the installer to set up another log. For more information about the settings in the agent configuration file, see CloudWatch Logs Agent Reference (p. 132).

Note
Configuring multiple log sources to send data to a single log stream is not supported.

3. You should see the newly created log group and log stream in the CloudWatch console after the agent has been running for a few moments.

For more information, see View Log Data Sent to CloudWatch Logs (p. 54).
agent, we recommend that you use the newer unified CloudWatch agent. For more information, see Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs (p. 5).

The rest of this section explains the use of the older CloudWatch Logs agent.

**Installing the older CloudWatch Logs Agent on an EC2 Linux Instance at Launch**

You can use Amazon EC2 user data, a feature of Amazon EC2 that allows parametric information to be passed to the instance on launch, to install and configure the CloudWatch Logs agent on that instance. To pass the CloudWatch Logs agent installation and configuration information to Amazon EC2, you can provide the configuration file in a network location such as an Amazon S3 bucket.

Configuring multiple log sources to send data to a single log stream is not supported.

**Prerequisite**

Create an agent configuration file that describes all your log groups and log streams. This is a text file that describes the log files to monitor as well as the log groups and log streams to upload them to. The agent consumes this configuration file and starts monitoring and uploading all the log files described in it. For more information about the settings in the agent configuration file, see CloudWatch Logs Agent Reference (p. 132).

The following is a sample agent configuration file for Amazon Linux

```
[generic]
state_file = /var/awslogs/state/agent-state

[/var/log/messages]
file = /var/log/messages
log_group_name = /var/log/messages
log_stream_name = {instance_id}
datetime_format = %b %d %H:%M:%S
```

The following is a sample agent configuration file for Ubuntu

```
[generic]
state_file = /var/awslogs/state/agent-state

[/var/log/syslog]
file = /var/log/syslog
log_group_name = /var/log/syslog
log_stream_name = {instance_id}
datetime_format = %b %d %H:%M:%S
```

**To configure your IAM role**

1. Open the IAM console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/.
2. In the navigation pane, choose Policies, Create Policy.
3. On the Create Policy page, for Create Your Own Policy, choose Select. For more information about creating custom policies, see IAM Policies for Amazon EC2 in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
4. On the Review Policy page, for Policy Name, type a name for the policy.
5. For Policy Document, paste in the following policy:

```
{
    "Version": "2012-10-17",
```
"Statement": [  
  {  
    "Effect": "Allow",  
    "Action": [ 
      "logs:CreateLogGroup",  
      "logs:CreateLogStream",  
      "logs:PutLogEvents",  
      "logs:DescribeLogStreams"
    ],  
    "Resource": [  
      "arn:aws:logs:*:*:*"
    ]
  },  
  {  
    "Effect": "Allow",  
    "Action": [  
      "s3:GetObject"
    ],  
    "Resource": [  
      "arn:aws:s3:::myawsbucket/*"
    ]
  }
]

6. Choose **Create Policy**.
7. In the navigation pane, choose **Roles, Create New Role**.
8. On the **Set Role Name** page, type a name for the role and then choose **Next Step**.
9. On the **Select Role Type** page, choose **Select** next to **Amazon EC2**.
10. On the **Attach Policy** page, in the table header, choose **Policy Type, Customer Managed**.
11. Select the IAM policy that you created and then choose **Next Step**.
12. Choose **Create Role**.

   For more information about IAM users and policies, see IAM Users and Groups and Managing IAM Policies in the IAM User Guide.

**To launch a new instance and enable CloudWatch Logs**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. Choose **Launch Instance**.

   For more information, see Launching an Instance in Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
3. On the **Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)** page, select the Linux instance type to launch, and then on the **Step 2: Choose an Instance Type** page, choose **Next: Configure Instance Details**.

   Make sure that cloud-init is included in your Amazon Machine Image (AMI). Amazon Linux AMIs, and AMIs for Ubuntu and RHEL already include cloud-init, but CentOS and other AMIs in the AWS Marketplace might not.
4. On the **Step 3: Configure Instance Details** page, for **IAM role**, select the IAM role that you created.
5. Under **Advanced Details**, for **User data**, paste the following script into the box. Then update that script by changing the value of the -c option to the location of your agent configuration file:

```
#!/bin/bash

chmod +x ./awslogs-agent-setup.py
./awslogs-agent-setup.py -n -r us-east-1 -c s3://aws-s3-bucket1/my-config-file
```
Quick Start: Use CloudWatch Logs with Windows Server 2016 instances

6. Make any other changes to the instance, review your launch settings, and then choose Launch.
7. You should see the newly created log group and log stream in the CloudWatch console after the agent has been running for a few moments.

For more information, see View Log Data Sent to CloudWatch Logs (p. 54).

Quick Start: Enable Your Amazon EC2 Instances Running Windows Server 2016 to Send Logs to CloudWatch Logs Using the CloudWatch Logs Agent

Tip
CloudWatch includes a new unified agent that can collect both logs and metrics from EC2 instances and on-premises servers. We recommend that you use the newer unified CloudWatch agent. For more information, see Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs (p. 5). The rest of this section explains the use of the older CloudWatch Logs agent.

Enable Your Amazon EC2 Instances Running Windows Server 2016 to Send Logs to CloudWatch Logs Using the older CloudWatch Logs Agent

There are multiple methods you can use to enable instances running Windows Server 2016 to send logs to CloudWatch Logs. The steps in this section use Systems Manager Run Command. For information about the other possible methods, see Sending Logs, Events, and Performance Counters to Amazon CloudWatch.

Steps
- Download the Sample Configuration File (p. 13)
- Configure the JSON File for CloudWatch (p. 13)
- Create an IAM User and Role for Systems Manager (p. 19)
- Verify Systems Manager Prerequisites (p. 19)
- Verify Internet Access (p. 19)
- Enable CloudWatch Logs Using Systems Manager Run Command (p. 19)

Download the Sample Configuration File

Download the following sample file to your computer: AWS.EC2.Windows.CloudWatch.json.

Configure the JSON File for CloudWatch

You determine which logs to send to CloudWatch by specifying your choices in a configuration file. The process of creating this file and specifying your choices can take 30 minutes or more to complete. After you have completed this task once, you can reuse the configuration file on all of your instances.

Steps
- Step 1: Enable CloudWatch Logs (p. 14)
- Step 2: Configure Settings for CloudWatch (p. 14)
- Step 3: Configure the Data to Send (p. 14)
- Step 4: Configure Flow Control (p. 18)
- Step 5: Save JSON Content (p. 19)
Step 1: Enable CloudWatch Logs

At the top of the JSON file, change "false" to "true" for IsEnabled:

```
"IsEnabled": true,
```

Step 2: Configure Settings for CloudWatch

Specify credentials, region, a log group name, and a log stream namespace. This enables the instance to send log data to CloudWatch Logs. To send the same log data to different locations, you can add additional sections with unique IDs (for example, "CloudWatchLogs2" and CloudWatchLogs3") and a different region for each ID.

**To configure settings to send log data to CloudWatch Logs**

1. In the JSON file, locate the CloudWatchLogs section.

   ```json
   {
     "Id": "CloudWatchLogs",
     "Parameters": {
       "AccessKey": "",
       "SecretKey": "",
       "Region": "us-east-1",
       "LogGroup": "Default-Log-Group",
       "LogStream": "{instance_id}"}
   },
   ```

2. Leave the AccessKey and SecretKey field blank. You configure credentials using an IAM role.
3. For Region, type the region to which to send log data (for example, us-east-2).
4. For LogGroup, type the name for your log group. This name appears on the Log Groups screen in the CloudWatch console.
5. For LogStream, type the destination log stream. This name appears on the Log Groups > Streams screen in the CloudWatch console.

   If you use \{instance_id\}, the default, the log stream name is the instance ID of this instance.

   If you specify a log stream name that doesn't already exist, CloudWatch Logs automatically creates it for you. You can define a log stream name using a literal string, the predefined variables \{instance_id\}, \{hostname\}, and \{ip_address\}, or a combination of these.

Step 3: Configure the Data to Send

You can send event log data, Event Tracing for Windows (ETW) data, and other log data to CloudWatch Logs.

To send Windows application event log data to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the ApplicationEventLog section.

   ```json
   {
     "Id": "ApplicationEventLog",
     "Parameters": {
       "LogName": "Application",
       "Levels": "1"
     }
   },
   ```
2. For **Levels**, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:

- **1** - Upload only error messages.
- **2** - Upload only warning messages.
- **4** - Upload only information messages.

You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of **3** uploads error messages (**1**) and warning messages (**2**). A value of **7** uploads error messages (**1**), warning messages (**2**), and information messages (**4**).

**To send security log data to CloudWatch Logs**

1. In the JSON file, locate the `SecurityEventLog` section.

```json
{
  "Id": "SecurityEventLog",
  "Parameters": {
    "LogName": "Security",
    "Levels": "7"
  }
}
```

2. For **Levels**, type **7** to upload all messages.

**To send system event log data to CloudWatch Logs**

1. In the JSON file, locate the `SystemEventLog` section.

```json
{
  "Id": "SystemEventLog",
  "Parameters": {
    "LogName": "System",
    "Levels": "7"
  }
}
```

2. For **Levels**, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:

- **1** - Upload only error messages.
- **2** - Upload only warning messages.
- **4** - Upload only information messages.

You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of **3** uploads error messages (**1**) and warning messages (**2**). A value of **7** uploads error messages (**1**), warning messages (**2**), and information messages (**4**).

**To send other types of event log data to CloudWatch Logs**

1. In the JSON file, add a new section. Each section must have a unique **Id**.
2. For Id, type a name for the log to upload (for example, WindowsBackup).

3. For LogName, type the name of the log to upload. You can find the name of the log as follows.
   a. Open Event Viewer.
   b. In the navigation pane, choose Applications and Services Logs.
   c. Navigate to the log, and then choose Actions, Properties.

4. For Levels, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:
   - 1 - Upload only error messages.
   - 2 - Upload only warning messages.
   - 4 - Upload only information messages.

You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of 3 uploads error messages (1) and warning messages (2). A value of 7 uploads error messages (1), warning messages (2), and information messages (4).

To send Event Tracing for Windows data to CloudWatch Logs

ETW (Event Tracing for Windows) provides an efficient and detailed logging mechanism that applications can write logs to. Each ETW is controlled by a session manager that can start and stop the logging session. Each session has a provider and one or more consumers.

1. In the JSON file, locate the ETW section.

2. For LogName, type the name of the log to upload.

3. For Levels, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:
   - 1 - Upload only error messages.
   - 2 - Upload only warning messages.
   - 4 - Upload only information messages.

You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of 3 uploads error messages (1) and warning messages (2). A value of 7 uploads error messages (1), warning messages (2), and information messages (4).
To send custom logs (any text-based log file) to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the CustomLogs section.

```json
{
  "Id": "CustomLogs",
  "Parameters": {
    "LogDirectoryPath": "C:\\CustomLogs\\",
    "TimestampFormat": "MM/dd/yyyy HH:mm:ss",
    "Encoding": "UTF-8",
    "Filter": "",
    "CultureName": "en-US",
    "TimeZoneKind": "Local",
    "LineCount": "5"
  }
},
```

2. For **LogDirectoryPath**, type the path where logs are stored on your instance.
3. For **TimestampFormat**, type the time stamp format to use. For more information about supported values, see the Custom Date and Time Format Strings topic on MSDN.
   **Important**
   Your source log file must have the time stamp at the beginning of each log line and there must be a space following the time stamp.
4. For **Encoding**, type the file encoding to use (for example, UTF-8). For a list of supported values, see the Encoding Class topic on MSDN.
   **Note**
   Use the encoding name, not the display name.
5. (Optional) For **Filter**, type the prefix of log names. Leave this parameter blank to monitor all files. For more information about supported values, see the FileSystemWatcherFilter Property topic on MSDN.
6. (Optional) For **CultureName**, type the locale where the time stamp is logged. If CultureName is blank, it defaults to the same locale currently used by your Windows instance. For more information about, see the Language tag column in the table in the Product Behavior topic on MSDN.
   **Note**
   The div, div-MV, hu, and hu-HU values are not supported.
7. (Optional) For **TimeZoneKind**, type Local or UTC. You can set this to provide time zone information when no time zone information is included in your log's time stamp. If this parameter is left blank and if your time stamp doesn't include time zone information, CloudWatch Logs defaults to the local time zone. This parameter is ignored if your time stamp already contains time zone information.
8. (Optional) For **LineCount**, type the number of lines in the header to identify the log file. For example, IIS log files have virtually identical headers. You could enter 5, which would read the first three lines of the log file header to identify it. In IIS log files, the third line is the date and time stamp, but the time stamp is not always guaranteed to be different between log files. For this reason, we recommend including at least one line of actual log data to uniquely fingerprint the log file.

To send IIS log data to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the IISLogs section.

```json
{
  "Id": "IISLogs",
}
"Parameters": {
  "LogDirectoryPath": "C:\\inetpub\\logs\\LogFiles\\W3SVC1",
  "TimestampFormat": "yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss",
  "Encoding": "UTF-8",
  "Filter": "",
  "CultureName": "en-US",
  "TimeZoneKind": "UTC",
  "LineCount": "5"
}

2. For **LogDirectoryPath**, type the folder where IIS logs are stored for an individual site (for example, C:\inetpub\logs\LogFiles\W3SVCn).

   **Note**
   Only W3C log format is supported. IIS, NCSA, and Custom formats are not supported.

3. For **TimestampFormat**, type the time stamp format to use. For more information about supported values, see the [Custom Date and Time Format Strings](https://msdn.microsoft.com) topic on MSDN.

4. For **Encoding**, type the file encoding to use (for example, UTF-8). For more information about supported values, see the [Encoding Class](https://msdn.microsoft.com) topic on MSDN.

   **Note**
   Use the encoding name, not the display name.

5. (Optional) For **Filter**, type the prefix of log names. Leave this parameter blank to monitor all files. For more information about supported values, see the [FileSystemWatcherFilter](https://msdn.microsoft.com) Property topic on MSDN.

6. (Optional) For **CultureName**, type the locale where the time stamp is logged. If CultureName is blank, it defaults to the same locale currently used by your Windows instance. For more information about supported values, see the [Language tag](https://msdn.microsoft.com) column in the table in the Product Behavior topic on MSDN.

   **Note**
   The div, div-MV, hu, and hu-HU values are not supported.

7. (Optional) For **TimeZoneKind**, enter Local or UTC. You can set this to provide time zone information when no time zone information is included in your log's time stamp. If this parameter is left blank and if your time stamp doesn't include time zone information, CloudWatch Logs defaults to the local time zone. This parameter is ignored if your time stamp already contains time zone information.

8. (Optional) For **LineCount**, type the number of lines in the header to identify the log file. For example, IIS log files have virtually identical headers. You could enter 5, which would read the first five lines of the log file's header to identify it. In IIS log files, the third line is the date and time stamp, but the time stamp is not always guaranteed to be different between log files. For this reason, we recommend including at least one line of actual log data for uniquely fingerprinting the log file.

**Step 4: Configure Flow Control**

Each data type must have a corresponding destination in the Flows section. For example, to send the custom log, ETW log, and system log to CloudWatch Logs, add (CustomLogs, ETW, SystemEventLog), CloudWatchLogs to the Flows section.

**Warning**
Adding a step that is not valid blocks the flow. For example, if you add a disk metric step, but your instance doesn't have a disk, all steps in the flow are blocked.
You can send the same log file to more than one destination. For example, to send the application log to two different destinations that you defined in the CloudWatchLogs section, add `ApplicationEventLog,(CloudWatchLogs,CloudWatchLogs2)` to the Flows section.

To configure flow control

1. In the `AWS.EC2.Windows.CloudWatch.json` file, locate the Flows section.

   ```json
   "Flows": {
     "Flows": [
       "PerformanceCounter,CloudWatch",
       "(PerformanceCounter,PerformanceCounter2), CloudWatch2",
       "(CustomLogs, ETW, SystemEventLog),CloudWatchLogs",
       "CustomLogs, CloudWatchLogs2",
       "ApplicationEventLog,(CloudWatchLogs, CloudWatchLogs2)"
     ]
   }
   ``

2. For Flows, add each data type that is to be uploaded (for example, `ApplicationEventLog`) and its destination (for example, `CloudWatchLogs`).

Step 5: Save JSON Content

You are now finished editing the JSON file. Save it, and paste the file contents into a text editor in another window. You will need the file contents in a later step of this procedure.

Create an IAM User and Role for Systems Manager

An IAM role for instance credentials is required when you use Systems Manager Run Command. This role enables Systems Manager to perform actions on the instance. You can optionally create a unique IAM user account for configuring and running Systems Manager. For more information, see Configuring Security Roles for Systems Manager in the AWS Systems Manager User Guide. For information about how to attach an IAM role to an existing instance, see Attaching an IAM Role to an Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.

Verify Systems Manager Prerequisites

Before you use Systems Manager Run Command to configure integration with CloudWatch Logs, verify that your instances meet the minimum requirements. For more information, see Systems Manager Prerequisites in the AWS Systems Manager User Guide.

Verify Internet Access

Your Amazon EC2 Windows Server instances and managed instances must have outbound internet access in order to send log and event data to CloudWatch. For more information about how to configure internet access, see Internet Gateways in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

Enable CloudWatch Logs Using Systems Manager Run Command

Run Command enables you to manage the configuration of your instances on demand. You specify a Systems Manager document, specify parameters, and execute the command on one or more instances. The SSM agent on the instance processes the command and configures the instance as specified.

To configure integration with CloudWatch Logs using Run Command

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/](https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/).
2. In the navigation pane, choose Systems Manager Services, Run Command.
3. Choose Run a command.
4. For Command document, choose AWS-ConfigureCloudWatch.
5. For Target instances, choose the instances to integrate with CloudWatch Logs. If you do not see an instance in this list, it might not be configured for Run Command. For more information, see Systems Manager Prerequisites in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.
6. For Status, choose Enabled.
7. For Properties, copy and paste the JSON content you created in the previous tasks.
8. Complete the remaining optional fields and choose Run.

Use the following procedure to view the results of command execution in the Amazon EC2 console.

**To view command output in the console**

1. Select a command.
2. Choose the Output tab.
3. Choose View Output. The command output page shows the results of your command execution.

---

**Quick Start: Enable Your Amazon EC2 Instances Running Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2008 to Send logs to CloudWatch Logs**

**Tip**
CloudWatch includes a new unified agent that can collect both logs and metrics from EC2 instances and on-premises servers. We recommend that you use the newer unified CloudWatch agent. For more information, see Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs (p. 5).

The rest of this section explains the use of the older CloudWatch Logs agent.

**Enable Your Amazon EC2 Instances Running Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2008 to Send logs to CloudWatch Logs**

Use the following steps to enable your instances running Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2008 to send logs to CloudWatch Logs.

**Download the Sample Configuration File**

Download the following sample JSON file to your computer: AWS.EC2.Windows.CloudWatch.json. You edit it in the following steps.

**Configure the JSON File for CloudWatch**

You determine which logs to send to CloudWatch by specifying your choices in the JSON configuration file. The process of creating this file and specifying your choices can take 30 minutes or more to complete. After you have completed this task once, you can reuse the configuration file on all of your instances.

**Steps**

- Step 1: Enable CloudWatch Logs (p. 21)
- Step 2: Configure Settings for CloudWatch (p. 21)
- Step 3: Configure the Data to Send (p. 21)
- Step 4: Configure Flow Control (p. 25)
Step 1: Enable CloudWatch Logs
At the top of the JSON file, change "false" to "true" for IsEnabled:

"IsEnabled": true,

Step 2: Configure Settings for CloudWatch
Specify credentials, region, a log group name, and a log stream namespace. This enables the instance to send log data to CloudWatch Logs. To send the same log data to different locations, you can add additional sections with unique IDs (for example, "CloudWatchLogs2" and "CloudWatchLogs3") and a different region for each ID.

To configure settings to send log data to CloudWatch Logs
1. In the JSON file, locate the CloudWatchLogs section.

```json
{
    "Id": "CloudWatchLogs",
    "Parameters": {
        "AccessKey": "",
        "SecretKey": "",
        "Region": "us-east-1",
        "LogGroup": "Default-Log-Group",
        "LogStream": "{instance_id}"
    }
}
```

2. Leave the AccessKey and SecretKey field blank. You configure credentials using an IAM role.
3. For Region, type the region to which to send log data (for example, us-east-2).
4. For LogGroup, type the name for your log group. This name appears on the Log Groups screen in the CloudWatch console.
5. For LogStream, type the destination log stream. This name appears on the Log Groups > Streams screen in the CloudWatch console.

   If you use {instance_id}, the default, the log stream name is the instance ID of this instance.

   If you specify a log stream name that doesn't already exist, CloudWatch Logs automatically creates it for you. You can define a log stream name using a literal string, the predefined variables {instance_id}, {hostname}, and {ip_address}, or a combination of these.

Step 3: Configure the Data to Send
You can send event log data, Event Tracing for Windows (ETW) data, and other log data to CloudWatch Logs.

To send Windows application event log data to CloudWatch Logs
1. In the JSON file, locate the ApplicationEventLog section.

```json
{
    "Id": "ApplicationEventLog",
    "Parameters": {
        "LogName": "Application",
        "Levels": "1"
    }
}
```
2. For **Levels**, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:

- **1** - Upload only error messages.
- **2** - Upload only warning messages.
- **4** - Upload only information messages.

You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of **3** uploads error messages (1) and warning messages (2). A value of **7** uploads error messages (1), warning messages (2), and information messages (4).

### To send security log data to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the `SecurityEventLog` section.

```json
{
  "Id": "SecurityEventLog",
  "Parameters": {
    "LogName": "Security",
    "Levels": "7"
  }
},
```

2. For **Levels**, type **7** to upload all messages.

### To send system event log data to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the `SystemEventLog` section.

```json
{
  "Id": "SystemEventLog",
  "Parameters": {
    "LogName": "System",
    "Levels": "7"
  }
},
```

2. For **Levels**, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:

- **1** - Upload only error messages.
- **2** - Upload only warning messages.
- **4** - Upload only information messages.

You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of **3** uploads error messages (1) and warning messages (2). A value of **7** uploads error messages (1), warning messages (2), and information messages (4).

### To send other types of event log data to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, add a new section. Each section must have a unique **Id**.
2. For `Id`, type a name for the log to upload (for example, **WindowsBackup**).

3. For `LogName`, type the name of the log to upload. You can find the name of the log as follows.
   a. Open Event Viewer.
   b. In the navigation pane, choose **Applications and Services Logs**.
   c. Navigate to the log, and then choose **Actions, Properties**.

4. For `Levels`, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:
   - **1** - Upload only error messages.
   - **2** - Upload only warning messages.
   - **4** - Upload only information messages.

   You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of **3** uploads error messages (1) and warning messages (2). A value of **7** uploads error messages (1), warning messages (2), and information messages (4).

**To send Event Tracing for Windows data to CloudWatch Logs**

ETW (Event Tracing for Windows) provides an efficient and detailed logging mechanism that applications can write logs to. Each ETW is controlled by a session manager that can start and stop the logging session. Each session has a provider and one or more consumers.

1. In the JSON file, locate the **ETW** section.

   ```json
   {  
     "Id": "ETW",  
     "Parameters": {  
       "LogName": "Microsoft-Windows-WinINet/Analytic",  
       "Levels": "7"  
     },  
   },
   ```

2. For `LogName`, type the name of the log to upload.

3. For `Levels`, specify the type of messages to upload. You can specify one of the following values:
   - **1** - Upload only error messages.
   - **2** - Upload only warning messages.
   - **4** - Upload only information messages.

   You can combine values to include more than one type of message. For example, a value of **3** uploads error messages (1) and warning messages (2). A value of **7** uploads error messages (1), warning messages (2), and information messages (4).
To send custom logs (any text-based log file) to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the CustomLogs section.

```json
{
  "Id": "CustomLogs",
  "Parameters": {
    "LogDirectoryPath": "C:\\CustomLogs\\",
    "TimestampFormat": "MM/dd/yyyy HH:mm:ss",
    "Encoding": "UTF-8",
    "Filter": "",
    "CultureName": "en-US",
    "TimeZoneKind": "Local",
    "LineCount": "5"
  }
}
```

2. For LogDirectoryPath, type the path where logs are stored on your instance.

3. For TimestampFormat, type the time stamp format to use. For more information about supported values, see the Custom Date and Time Format Strings topic on MSDN.

   **Important**
   
   Your source log file must have the time stamp at the beginning of each log line and there must be a space following the time stamp.

4. For Encoding, type the file encoding to use (for example, UTF-8). For more information about supported values, see the Encoding Class topic on MSDN.

   **Note**
   
   Use the encoding name, not the display name.

5. (Optional) For Filter, type the prefix of log names. Leave this parameter blank to monitor all files. For more information about supported values, see the FileSystemWatcherFilter Property topic on MSDN.

6. (Optional) For CultureName, type the locale where the time stamp is logged. If CultureName is blank, it defaults to the same locale currently used by your Windows instance. For more information about supported values, see the Language tag column in the table in the Product Behavior topic on MSDN.

   **Note**
   
   The div, div-MV, hu, and hu-HU values are not supported.

7. (Optional) For TimeZoneKind, type Local or UTC. You can set this to provide time zone information when no time zone information is included in your log's time stamp. If this parameter is left blank and if your time stamp doesn't include time zone information, CloudWatch Logs defaults to the local time zone. This parameter is ignored if your time stamp already contains time zone information.

8. (Optional) For LineCount, type the number of lines in the header to identify the log file. For example, IIS log files have virtually identical headers. You could enter 5, which would read the first three lines of the log file header to identify it. In IIS log files, the third line is the date and time stamp, but the time stamp is not always guaranteed to be different between log files. For this reason, we recommend including at least one line of actual log data to uniquely fingerprint the log file.

To send IIS log data to CloudWatch Logs

1. In the JSON file, locate the IISLog section.

```json
{

```

24
"Id": "IISLogs",
"FullName":
"Parameters": {
  "LogDirectoryPath": "C:\\inetpub\\logs\\LogFiles\\W3SVC1",
  "TimestampFormat": "yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss",
  "Encoding": "UTF-8",
  "Filter": "",
  "CultureName": "en-US",
  "TimeZoneKind": "UTC",
  "LineCount": "5"
}
},

2. For LogDirectoryPath, type the folder where IIS logs are stored for an individual site (for example, C:\\inetpub\\logs\\LogFiles\\W3SVCn).

   **Note**
   Only W3C log format is supported. IIS, NCSA, and Custom formats are not supported.

3. For TimestampFormat, type the time stamp format to use. For more information about supported values, see the **Custom Date and Time Format Strings** topic on MSDN.

4. For Encoding, type the file encoding to use (for example, UTF-8). For more information about supported values, see the **Encoding Class** topic on MSDN.

   **Note**
   Use the encoding name, not the display name.

5. (Optional) For Filter, type the prefix of log names. Leave this parameter blank to monitor all files. For more information about supported values, see the **FileSystemWatcherFilter Property** topic on MSDN.

6. (Optional) For CultureName, type the locale where the time stamp is logged. If CultureName is blank, it defaults to the same locale currently used by your Windows instance. For more information about supported values, see the Language tag column in the table in the **Product Behavior** topic on MSDN.

   **Note**
   The div, div-MV, hu, and hu-HU values are not supported.

7. (Optional) For TimeZoneKind, enter Local or UTC. You can set this to provide time zone information when no time zone information is included in your log's time stamp. If this parameter is left blank and if your time stamp doesn't include time zone information, CloudWatch Logs defaults to the local time zone. This parameter is ignored if your time stamp already contains time zone information.

8. (Optional) For LineCount, type the number of lines in the header to identify the log file. For example, IIS log files have virtually identical headers. You could enter 5, which would read the first five lines of the log file's header to identify it. In IIS log files, the third line is the date and time stamp, but the time stamp is not always guaranteed to be different between log files. For this reason, we recommend including at least one line of actual log data for uniquely fingerprinting the log file.

**Step 4: Configure Flow Control**

Each data type must have a corresponding destination in the Flows section. For example, to send the custom log, ETW log, and system log to CloudWatch Logs, add (CustomLogs, ETW, SystemEventLog), CloudWatchLogs to the Flows section.

**Warning**
Adding a step that is not valid blocks the flow. For example, if you add a disk metric step, but your instance doesn't have a disk, all steps in the flow are blocked.
You can send the same log file to more than one destination. For example, to send the application log to two different destinations that you defined in the CloudWatchLogs section, add ApplicationEventLog,(CloudWatchLogs,CloudWatchLogs2) to the Flows section.

To configure flow control

1. In the AWS.EC2.Windows.CloudWatch.json file, locate the Flows section.

2. For Flows, add each data type that is to be uploaded (for example, ApplicationEventLog) and its destination (for example, CloudWatchLogs).

You are now finished editing the JSON file. You use it in a later step.

Start the Agent

To enable an Amazon EC2 instance running Windows Server 2012 or Windows Server 2008 to send logs to CloudWatch Logs, use the EC2Config service (EC2Config.exe). Your instance should have EC2Config 4.0 or later, and you can use this procedure. For more information about using an earlier version of EC2Config, see Use EC2Config 3.x or Earlier to Configure CloudWatch in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances

To configure CloudWatch using EC2Config 4.x

1. Check the encoding of the AWS.EC2.Windows.CloudWatch.json file that you edited earlier in this procedure. Only UTF-8 without BOM encoding is supported. Then save the file in the following folder on your Windows Server 2008 - 2012 R2 instance: C:\Program Files\Amazon\SSM\Plugins\awsCloudWatch.

2. Start or restart the SSM agent (AmazonSSMAgent.exe) using the Windows Services control panel or using the following PowerShell command:

   ```
   PS C:\> Restart-Service AmazonSSMAgent
   ```

After the SSM agent restarts, it detects the configuration file and configures the instance for CloudWatch integration. If you change parameters and settings in the local configuration file, you need to restart the SSM agent to pick up the changes. To disable CloudWatch integration on the instance, change IsEnabled to false and save your changes in the configuration file.

Quick Start: Install the CloudWatch Logs Agent Using AWS OpsWorks and Chef

You can install the CloudWatch Logs agent and create log streams using AWS OpsWorks and Chef, which is a third-party systems and cloud infrastructure automation tool. Chef uses "recipes," which you write to install and configure software on your computer, and "cookbooks," which are collections of recipes, to perform its configuration and policy distribution tasks. For more information, see Chef.
Step 1: Create Custom Recipes

Create a repository to store your recipes. AWS OpsWorks supports Git and Subversion, or you can store an archive in Amazon S3. The structure of your cookbook repository is described in Cookbook Repositories in the AWS OpsWorks User Guide. The examples below assume that the cookbook is named logs. The install.rb recipe installs the CloudWatch Logs agent. You can also download the cookbook example (CloudWatchLogs-Cookbooks.zip).

Create a file named metadata.rb that contains the following code:

```
#metadata.rb
name             'logs'
version          '0.0.1'
```

Create the CloudWatch Logs configuration file:

```
#config.rb
template "/tmp/cwlogs.cfg" do
  cookbook "logs"
  source "cwlogs.cfg.erb"
  owner "root"
  group "root"
  mode 0644
end
```

Download and install the CloudWatch Logs agent:

```
# install.rb
directory "/opt/aws/cloudwatch" do
  recursive true
end
remote_file "/opt/aws/cloudwatch/awslogs-agent-setup.py" do
  mode "0755"
end
  execute "Install CloudWatch Logs agent" do
    command "/opt/aws/cloudwatch/awslogs-agent-setup.py -n -r region -c /tmp/cwlogs.cfg"
    not_if { system "pgrep -f aws-logs-agent-setup" }
  end
```

**Note**

In the above example, replace `region` with one of the following: us-east-1, us-west-1, us-west-2, ap-south-1, ap-northeast-2, ap-southeast-1, ap-southeast-2, ap-northeast-1, eu-central-1, eu-west-1, or sa-east-1.

If the installation of the agent fails, check to make sure that the `python-dev` package is installed. If it isn't, use the following command, and then retry the agent installation:

```
sudo apt-get -y install python-dev
```
This recipe uses a cwlogs.cfg.erb template file that you can modify to specify various attributes such as what files to log. For more information about these attributes, see CloudWatch Logs Agent Reference (p. 132).

```plaintext
[general]
# Path to the AWSLogs agent’s state file. Agent uses this file to maintain
# client side state across its executions.
state_file = /var/awslogs/state/agent-state

## Each log file is defined in its own section. The section name doesn’t
## matter as long as its unique within this file.

# [kern.log]
#
## Path of log file for the agent to monitor and upload.
# file = /var/log/kern.log
#
## Name of the destination log group.
# log_group_name = kern.log
#
## Name of the destination log stream.
# log_stream_name = {instance_id}
#
## Format specifier for timestamp parsing.
# datetime_format = %b %d %H:%M:%S
#
#
[<%= node[:opsworks][:stack][:name] %>]
datetime_format = [%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S]
log_group_name = <%= node[:opsworks][:stack][:name].gsub(' ','_') %>
file = <%= node[:cwlogs][:logfile] %>
log_stream_name = <%= node[:opsworks][:instance][:hostname] %>
```

The template gets the stack name and host name by referencing the corresponding attributes in the stack configuration and deployment JSON. The attribute that specifies the file to log is defined in the cwlogs cookbook's default.rb attributes file (logs/attributes/default.rb).

```plaintext
default[:cwlogs][:logfile] = '/var/log/aws/opsworks/opsworks-agent.statistics.log'
```

**Step 2: Create an AWS OpsWorks Stack**

2. On the OpsWorks Dashboard, choose Add stack to create an AWS OpsWorks stack.
3. On the Add stack screen, choose Chef 11 stack.
4. For Stack name, enter a name.
5. For Use custom Chef Cookbooks, choose Yes.
6. For Repository type, select the repository type that you use. If you’re using the above example, choose Http Archive.
7. For Repository URL, enter the repository where you stored the cookbook that you created in the previous step. If you’re using the above example, enter https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws-cloudwatch/downloads/CloudWatchLogs-Cookbooks.zip.
8. Choose Add Stack to create the stack.
**Step 3: Extend Your IAM Role**

To use CloudWatch Logs with your AWS OpsWorks instances, you need to extend the IAM role used by your instances.

1. Open the IAM console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/.
2. In the navigation pane, choose Policies, Create Policy.
3. On the Create Policy page, under Create Your Own Policy, choose Select. For more information about creating custom policies, see IAM Policies for Amazon EC2 in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
4. On the Review Policy page, for Policy Name, type a name for the policy.
5. For Policy Document, paste in the following policy:

   ```json
   {
     "Version": "2012-10-17",
     "Statement": [
       {
         "Effect": "Allow",
         "Action": [
           "logs:CreateLogGroup",
           "logs:CreateLogStream",
           "logs:PutLogEvents",
           "logs:DescribeLogStreams"
         ],
         "Resource": [
           "arn:aws:logs:*:*:*"
         ]
       }
     ]
   }
   ```
6. Choose Create Policy.
7. In the navigation pane, choose Roles, and then in the contents pane, for Role Name, select the name of the instance role used by your AWS OpsWorks stack. You can find the one used by your stack in the stack settings (the default is aws-opsworks-ec2-role).

   **Note**
   Choose the role name, not the check box.
8. On the Permissions tab, under Managed Policies, choose Attach Policy.
9. On the Attach Policy page, in the table header (next to Filter and Search), choose Policy Type, Customer Managed Policies.
10. For Customer Managed Policies, select the IAM policy that you created above and choose Attach Policy.

    For more information about IAM users and policies, see IAM Users and Groups and Managing IAM Policies in the IAM User Guide.

**Step 4: Add a Layer**

2. In the navigation pane, choose Layers.
3. In the contents pane, select a layer and choose Add layer.
4. On the OpsWorks tab, for Layer type, choose Custom.
5. For the Name and Short name fields, enter the long and short name for the layer, and then choose Add layer.
6. On the **Recipes** tab, under **Custom Chef Recipes**, there are several headings—**Setup, Configure, Deploy, Undeploy, and Shutdown**—that correspond to AWS OpsWorks lifecycle events. AWS OpsWorks triggers these events at these key points in instance's lifecycle, which runs the associated recipes.

   **Note**
   If the above headings aren't visible, under **Custom Chef Recipes**, choose **edit**.

7. Enter `logs::config, logs::install` next to **Setup**, choose `+` to add it to the list, and then choose **Save**.

   AWS OpsWorks runs this recipe on each of the new instances in this layer, right after the instance boots.

### Step 5: Add an Instance

The layer only controls how to configure instances. You now need to add some instances to the layer and start them.

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Instances** and then under your layer, choose `+ Instance`.
3. Accept the default settings and choose **Add Instance** to add the instance to the layer.
4. In the row's **Actions** column, click **start** to start the instance.

   AWS OpsWorks launches a new EC2 instance and configures CloudWatch Logs. The instance's status changes to online when it's ready.

### Step 6: View Your Logs

You should see the newly created log group and log stream in the CloudWatch console after the agent has been running for a few moments.

For more information, see View Log Data Sent to CloudWatch Logs (p. 54).

### Report the CloudWatch Logs Agent Status

Use the following procedure to report the status of the CloudWatch Logs agent on your EC2 instance.

**To report the agent status**

1. Connect to your EC2 instance. For more information, see Connect to Your Instance in the *Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances*.

   For more information about connection issues, see Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance in the *Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances*

2. At a command prompt, type the following command:

   ```
   sudo service awsslogs status
   ```

   If you are running Amazon Linux 2, type the following command:

   ```
   sudo service awsslogsd status
   ```

3. Check the `/var/log/awsslogs.log` file for any errors, warnings, or issues with the CloudWatch Logs agent.
Start the CloudWatch Logs Agent

If the CloudWatch Logs agent on your EC2 instance did not start automatically after installation, or if you stopped the agent, you can use the following procedure to start the agent.

To start the agent

1. Connect to your EC2 instance. For more information, see Connect to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
   
   For more information about connection issues, see Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
2. At a command prompt, type the following command:

   ```
   sudo service awslogs start
   ```

   If you are running Amazon Linux 2, type the following command:

   ```
   sudo service awslogsd start
   ```

Stop the CloudWatch Logs Agent

Use the following procedure to stop the CloudWatch Logs agent on your EC2 instance.

To stop the agent

1. Connect to your EC2 instance. For more information, see Connect to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
   
   For more information about connection issues, see Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
2. At a command prompt, type the following command:

   ```
   sudo service awslogs stop
   ```

   If you are running Amazon Linux 2, type the following command:

   ```
   sudo service awslogsd stop
   ```

Quick Start: Use AWS CloudFormation to Get Started With CloudWatch Logs

AWS CloudFormation enables you to describe and provision your AWS resources in JSON format. The advantages of this method include being able to manage a collection of AWS resources as a single unit, and easily replicating your AWS resources across regions.

When you provision AWS using AWS CloudFormation, you create templates that describe the AWS resources to use. The following example is a template snippet that creates a log group and a metric filter that counts 404 occurrences and sends this count to the log group.
"WebServerLogGroup": {
  "Type": "AWS::Logs::LogGroup",
  "Properties": {
    "RetentionInDays": 7
  }
},

"404MetricFilter": {
  "Type": "AWS::Logs::MetricFilter",
  "Properties": {
    "LogGroupName": {
      "Ref": "WebServerLogGroup"
    },
    "FilterPattern": "[ip, identity, user_id, timestamp, request, status_code = 404, size, ...]",
    "MetricTransformations": [
      {
        "MetricValue": "1",
        "MetricNamespace": "test/404s",
        "MetricName": "test404Count"
      }
    ]
  }
}

This is a basic example. You can set up much richer CloudWatch Logs deployments using AWS CloudFormation. For more information about template examples, see Amazon CloudWatch Logs Template Snippets in the AWS CloudFormation User Guide. For more information about getting started, see Getting Started with AWS CloudFormation in the AWS CloudFormation User Guide.
Analyzing Log Data with CloudWatch Logs Insights

CloudWatch Logs Insights enables you to interactively search and analyze your log data in Amazon CloudWatch Logs. You can perform queries to help you more efficiently and effectively respond to operational issues. If an issue occurs, you can use CloudWatch Logs Insights to identify potential causes and validate deployed fixes.

CloudWatch Logs Insights includes a purpose-built query language with a few simple but powerful commands. CloudWatch Logs Insights provides sample queries, command descriptions, query autocompletion, and log field discovery to help you get started. Sample queries are included for several types of AWS service logs.

CloudWatch Logs Insights automatically discovers fields in logs from AWS services such as Amazon Route 53, AWS Lambda, AWS CloudTrail, and Amazon VPC, and any application or custom log that emits log events as JSON.

You can use CloudWatch Logs Insights to search log data that was sent to CloudWatch Logs on November 5, 2018 or later.

A single request can query up to 20 log groups. Queries time out after 15 minutes, if they have not completed. Query results are available for 7 days.

**Important**
If your network security team doesn't allow the use of web sockets, you can't currently access the CloudWatch Logs Insights console. You can use the CloudWatch Logs Insights query capabilities using APIs. For more information, see StartQuery in the Amazon CloudWatch Logs API Reference.

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- Tutorial: Run a Query That Produces a Visualization Grouped by Log Fields (p. 38)
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- CloudWatch Logs Insights Query Syntax (p. 39)
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- Add Query to Dashboard or Export Query Results (p. 52)
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Supported Logs and Discovered Fields

CloudWatch Logs Insights supports all types of logs. For every log sent to CloudWatch Logs, five system fields are automatically generated:

- `@message` contains the raw unparsed log event. This is equivalent to the `message` field in `InputLogEvent`. 


• `@timestamp` contains the event timestamp contained in the log event’s `timestamp` field. This is equivalent to the `timestamp` field in `InputLogEvent`.

• `@ingestionTime` contains the time when the log event was received by CloudWatch Logs.

• `@logStream` contains the name of the log stream that the log event was added to. Log streams are used to group logs by the same process that generated them.

• `@log` is a log group identifier in the form of `account-id:log-group-name`. This can be useful in queries of multiple log groups, to identify which log group a particular event belongs to.

CloudWatch Logs Insights inserts the `@` symbol at the start of fields that it generates.

For many log types, CloudWatch Logs also automatically discovers the log fields contained in the logs. These automatic discovery fields are shown in the following table.

For other types of logs with fields that CloudWatch Logs Insights doesn’t automatically discover, you can use the `parse` command to extract and create ephemeral fields for use in that query. For more information, see CloudWatch Logs Insights Query Syntax (p. 39).

If the name of a discovered log field starts with the `@` character, CloudWatch Logs Insights displays it with an additional `@` appended to the beginning. For example, if a log field name is `@example.com`, this field name is displayed as `@@example.com`.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Log Type</th>
<th>Discovered Log Fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazon VPC flow logs</td>
<td><code>@timestamp, @logStream, @message, accountId, endTime, interfaceId, logStatus, startTime, version, action, bytes, dstAddr, dstPort, packets, protocol, srcAddr, srcPort</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 53 logs</td>
<td><code>@timestamp, @logStream, @message, edgeLocation, hostZoneId, protocol, queryName, queryTimestamp, queryType, resolverIp, responseCode, version</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambda logs</td>
<td><code>@timestamp, @logStream, @message, @requestId, @duration, @billedDuration, @type, @maxMemoryUsed, @memorySize</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a Lambda log line contains an X-Ray trace ID, it also includes the following fields: `@xrayTraceId` and `@xraySegmentId`.

CloudWatch Logs Insights automatically discovers log fields in Lambda logs, but only for the first embedded JSON fragment in each log event. If a Lambda log event contains multiple JSON fragments, you can parse and extract the log fields by using the `parse` command. For more information, see Fields in JSON Logs (p. 34).

| CloudTrail logs           | For more information, see Fields in JSON Logs (p. 34).              |
| Logs in JSON format       |                                                                     |
| Other log types           | `@timestamp, @ingestionTime, @logStream, @message, @log`.             |

### Fields in JSON Logs

CloudWatch Logs Insights represents nested JSON fields using the dot notation. In the following example JSON event, the field `type` in the JSON object `userIdentity` is represented as `userIdentity.type`.
JSON arrays are flattened into a list of field names and values. For example, to specify the value of `instanceId` for the first item in `requestParameters.instancesSet`, use `requestParameters.instancesSet.items.0.instanceId`.

CloudWatch Logs Insights can extract a maximum of 100 log event fields from a JSON log. For extra fields that are not extracted, you can use the `parse` command to parse these fields from the raw unparsed log event in the message field.

```json
{
    "eventVersion": "1.0",
    "userIdentity": {
        "type": "IAMUser",
        "principalId": "EX_PRINCIPAL_ID",
        "arn": "arn: aws: iam: : 123456789012: user/Alice",
        "accessKeyId": "EXAMPLE_KEY_ID",
        "accountId": "123456789012",
        "userName": "Alice"
    },
    "eventTime": "2014-03-06T21: 22: 54Z",
    "eventSource": "ec2.amazonaws.com",
    "eventName": "StartInstances",
    "awsRegion": "us-east-2",
    "sourceIPAddress": "205.251.233.176",
    "userAgent": "ec2-api-tools1.6.12.2",
    "requestParameters": {
        "instancesSet": {
            "items": [
            {
                "instanceId": "i-abcde123"
            }
            ]
        }
    }
}
```

### Tutorial: Run and Modify a Sample Query

The following tutorial helps you get started with CloudWatch Logs Insights. You run a sample query, and then see how to modify and rerun it.

To run a query, you must already have logs stored in CloudWatch Logs. If you are already using CloudWatch Logs and have log groups and log streams set up, you are ready to start. You may also already have logs if you use services such as AWS CloudTrail, Amazon Route 53, or Amazon VPC and you have set up logs from those services to go to CloudWatch Logs. For more information about sending logs to CloudWatch Logs, see [Getting Started with CloudWatch Logs](#).
Queries in CloudWatch Logs Insights return either a set of fields from log events or the result of a mathematical aggregation or other operation performed on log events. This tutorial demonstrates a query that returns a list of log events.

**Run a Sample Query**

Start by running a sample query.

**To run a CloudWatch Logs Insights sample query**

2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.

   Near the top of the screen is the query editor. When you first open CloudWatch Logs Insights, this box contains a default query that returns the 20 most recent log events.
3. Select one or more log groups to query, above the query editor.

   When you select a log group, CloudWatch Logs Insights automatically detects fields in the data in the log group and displays them in **Discovered fields** in the right pane. It also displays a bar graph of log events in this log group over time. This bar graph shows the distribution of events in the log group that matches your query and time range, not just the events displayed in the table.
4. Choose **Run query**.

   The results of the query appear. In this example, the results are the most recent 20 log events of any type.
5. To see all fields of one of the returned log events, choose the arrow to the left of that log event.

**Modify the Sample Query**

In this tutorial, you modify the sample query to show the 50 most recent log events.

If you haven't already run the previous tutorial, do that now. This tutorial starts where that previous tutorial ends.

**Note**

Some sample queries provided with CloudWatch Logs Insights use head or tail commands instead of limit. These commands are being deprecated and have been replaced with limit. Use limit instead of head or tail in all queries that you write.

**To modify the CloudWatch Logs Insights sample query**

- In the query editor, change 20 to 50. Choose **Run query**.

   The results of the new query appear. Assuming there is enough data in the log group in the default time range, there are now 50 log events listed.

**Add a Filter Command to the Sample Query**

This tutorial shows how to make a more powerful change to the query in the query editor. In this tutorial, you filter the results of the previous query based on a field in the retrieved log events.

If you haven't already run the previous tutorials, do that now. This tutorial starts where that previous tutorial ends.
To add a filter command to the previous query

1. Decide on a field to filter. To see the fields contained in a particular log event, choose the arrow to the left of that row. The Discovered fields area shows the most common fields that CloudWatch Logs has detected in the log events received by this log group in the past 15 minutes, and the percentage of those log events in which each field appears. If you don't see Discovered fields, choose the left arrow near the top right of the screen to open the right-side panel.

The awsRegion field might appear in your log event, depending on what events are in your logs. For the rest of this tutorial, you use awsRegion as the filter field, but you can use a different field if that field isn't available.

2. In the query editor box, place your cursor after 50 and press Enter.

3. On the new line, first enter | (the pipe character) and a space. Commands in a CloudWatch Logs Insights query must be separated by the pipe character.

4. Enter filter awsRegion="us-east-1".

5. Choose Run query.

The query runs again, and now displays the 50 most recent results that match the new filter.

If you filtered on a different field and got an error result, you might need to escape the field name. If the field name includes non-alphanumeric characters, you must put backtick characters (`) before and after the field name: for example, `error-code`="102".

Using the ` characters is necessary for field names containing non-alphanumeric characters, but not for values. Values are always contained in double quote marks (").

CloudWatch Logs Insights includes powerful query abilities, including several commands and support for regular expressions, mathematical, and statistical operations. For more information, see CloudWatch Logs Insights Query Syntax (p. 39).

Tutorial: Run a Query with an Aggregation Function

In this tutorial, you run a query that returns the results of executing aggregate functions on log records.

To run an aggregation query

2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Select one or more log groups.
4. In the query editor, delete the query that is currently shown, then enter the following and choose Run query. Replace fieldname with the name of a field that appears in the Discovered fields area on the right of the screen.

   ```
   stats count(*) by fieldname
   ```

The results show the number of log events in the log group that were received by CloudWatch Logs that contain each different value for the field name that you chose.
Tutorial: Run a Query That Produces a Visualization Grouped by Log Fields

When you run a query that uses the `stats` function to group the returned results by the values of one or more fields in the log entries, you can view the results as a bar chart. This helps you more efficiently visualize trends in your logs.

To run a query for visualization

2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Select one or more log groups to query.
4. In the query editor, delete the current contents, enter the following `stats` function, and then choose Run query.

```
stats count(*) by @logStream | limit 100
```

The results show the number of log events in the log group for each log stream. The results are limited to only 100 rows.
5. Choose the Visualization tab.
6. Select the arrow by Line, and choose Bar.

The bar chart appears, showing a bar for each log stream in the log group.

Tutorial: Run a Query That Produces a Time Series Visualization

When you run a query that uses the `bin()` function to group the returned results by a time period, you can view the results as a line graph, stacked area graph, or bar chart. This helps you more efficiently visualize trends in log events over time.

To run a query for visualization

2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Select one or more log groups to query.
4. In the query editor, delete the current contents, enter the following `stats` function, and then choose Run query.

```
stats count(*) by bin(30s)
```

The results show the number of log events in the log group that were received by CloudWatch Logs for each 30-second period.
5. Choose the Visualization tab.

The results are shown as a line graph. To switch to a stacked area chart or bar chart, choose the arrow next to Line at the upper right of the graph.
CloudWatch Logs Insights Query Syntax

CloudWatch Logs Insights supports a query language you can use to perform queries on your log groups. Each query can include one or more query commands separated by Unix-style pipe characters (|).

Six query commands are supported, along with many supporting functions and operations, including regular expressions, arithmetic operations, comparison operations, numeric functions, datetime functions, string functions, and generic functions.

Comments are also supported. Lines in a query that start with the # character are ignored.

For information about the fields that CloudWatch Logs discovers automatically, see Supported Logs and Discovered Fields (p. 33).

CloudWatch Logs Insights Query Commands

The following table lists the six supported query commands along with basic examples. For more powerful sample queries, see Sample Queries (p. 50).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>display</td>
<td>Specifies which fields to display in the query results. If you specify this command more than once in your query, only the fields you specify in the last occurrence are used.</td>
<td>FIELDS @message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fields</td>
<td>Retrieves the specified fields from log events. You can use functions and operations within a fields command.</td>
<td>fields <code>foo-bar</code>, action, abs(f3-f4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filter</td>
<td>Filters the results of a query based on one or more conditions. You can use comparison operators (=, !=, &lt;, &lt;=, &gt;, &gt;=), Boolean operators (and, or, and not) and regular expressions.</td>
<td>fields f1, f2, f3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>in</strong></td>
<td>You can use <code>in</code> to test for set membership. Put an array with the elements to check for immediately after <code>in</code>. You can use <code>not</code> with <code>in</code>.</td>
<td>retrieves the fields $f_1$, $f_2$, and $f_3$ for all log events with a value over 2000 in the <code>duration</code> field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><code>filter</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><code>(duration&gt;2000)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>is also a valid query, but the results don't show separate fields. Instead, the results show the <code>@timestamp</code> and all log data in the <code>@message</code> field for all log events where duration is more than 2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>`fields f_1, f_2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>retrieves the fields $f_1$ and $f_2$ for all log events where $f_1$ is 10 or $f_3$ is greater than 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>`fields f_1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>returns log events where the field <code>statusCode</code> has a value between 200 and 299.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>`fields @timestamp, @message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>returns log events that include &quot;300&quot;, &quot;400&quot;, or &quot;500&quot; in the message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>`fields @timestamp, @message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>returns log events that do not include &quot;foo&quot;, &quot;bar&quot;, or &quot;1&quot; in the message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>stats</strong></td>
<td>Calculates aggregate statistics based on the values of log fields. Several statistical operators are supported, including <code>sum()</code>, <code>avg()</code>, <code>count()</code>, <code>min()</code>, and <code>max()</code>. When you use <code>stats</code>, you can also use <code>by</code> to specify one or more criteria to use to group data when calculating the statistics.</td>
<td><code>stats avg (f_1) by f_2</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>calculates the average value of $f_1$ for each unique value of $f_2$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sort</strong></td>
<td>Sorts the retrieved log events. Both ascending (asc) and descending (desc) order are supported.</td>
<td>`fields f1, f2, f3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>limit</strong></td>
<td>Specifies the number of log events returned by the query. You can use this to limit the results to a small number to see a small set of relevant results. You can also use limit with a number between 1000 and 10,000 to increase the number of query result rows displayed in the console to an amount greater than the default of 1000 rows. If you don't specify a limit, the query defaults to displaying a maximum of 1000 rows.</td>
<td>`fields f1, f2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

41
### Regular Expressions in the Filter Command

You can use `like` or `=~` (equal sign followed by a tilde) in the `filter` query command to filter by substrings or regular expressions. Enclose your match string with double or single quotation marks to perform substring matching. To perform regular expression matching, enclose it with forward slashes. The query returns only log events that match the criteria that you set.

**Examples**

The following three examples return all events in which `f1` contains the word `Exception`. The first two examples use regular expressions, and the third example uses a substring match. All three examples are case sensitive.

```
f1, f2, f3 | filter f1 like /Exception/```
Using Aliases in Queries

You can use `as` to create one or more aliases in a query. Aliases are supported in the `fields`, `stats`, and `sort` commands.

You can create aliases for log fields and for the results of operations and functions.

**Examples**

The following examples show the use of aliases in query commands.

```
fields abs(myField) as AbsoluteValuemyField, myField2
```

Return the absolute value of `myField` as `AbsoluteValuemyField` and also returns the field `myField2`.

```
stats avg(f1) as myAvgF1 | sort myAvgF1 desc
```

Calculates the average of the values of the `f1` as `myAvgF1` and returns them in descending order by that value.

**Using Comments in Queries**

You can comment out lines in a query by using the `#` character. Lines that start with the `#` character are ignored. This can be useful to document your query or to temporarily ignore part of a complex query for one call, without deleting that line.

In the following example, the second line of the query is ignored.

```
fields @timestamp, @message
# | filter @message like /delay/ | limit 20
```

**Supported Operations and Functions**

The query language supports many types of operations and functions, as shown in the following tables.

**Comparison Operations**
You can use comparison operations in the `filter` command and as arguments for other functions. Comparison operations accept all data types as arguments and return a Boolean result.

```
= != < <= > >=
```

**Arithmetic Operations**

You can use arithmetic operations in the `filter` and `fields` commands and as arguments for other functions. Arithmetic operations accept numeric data types as arguments and return numeric results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a + b</td>
<td>Addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a - b</td>
<td>Subtraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a * b</td>
<td>Multiplication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a / b</td>
<td>Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ^ b</td>
<td>Exponentiation. 2 ^ 3 returns 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a % b</td>
<td>Remainder or modulus. 10 % 3 returns 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Numeric Operations**

You can use numeric operations in the `filter` and `fields` commands and as arguments for other functions. Numeric operations accept numeric data types as arguments and return numeric results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abs(a)</td>
<td>Absolute value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceil(a)</td>
<td>Round to ceiling (the smallest integer that is greater than the value of a).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floor(a)</td>
<td>Round to floor (the largest integer that is smaller than the value of a).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greatest(a,b,... z)</td>
<td>Returns the largest value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>least(a, b, ... z)</td>
<td>Returns the smallest value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>log(a)</td>
<td>Natural log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sqrt(a)</td>
<td>Square root</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Functions**

You can use general functions in the `filter` and `fields` commands and as arguments for other functions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ispresent(fieldname)</td>
<td>Log field</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns true if the field exists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Arguments</td>
<td>Result Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coalesce(fieldname1, fieldname2, ... fieldnamex)</td>
<td>Log fields</td>
<td>Log field</td>
<td>Returns the first non-null value from the list.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### String Functions

You can use string functions in the `filter` and `fields` commands and as arguments for other functions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>isempty(fieldname)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is missing or is an empty string.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isblank(fieldname)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is missing, an empty string, or contains only white space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concat(string1, string2, ... stringz)</td>
<td>Strings</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Concatenates the strings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ltrim(string) or ltrim(string1, string2)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Remove white space from the left of the string. If the function has a second string argument, it removes the characters of string2 from the left of string1. For example, <code>ltrim(&quot;xyZfooxyZ&quot;,&quot;xyZ&quot;)</code> returns &quot;fooxyZ&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rtrim(string) or rtrim(string1, string2)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Remove white space from the right of the string. If the function has a second string argument, it removes the characters of string2 from the right of string1. For example, <code>rtrim(&quot;xyZfooxyZ&quot;,&quot;xyZ&quot;)</code> returns &quot;xyZfoo&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trim(string) or trim(string1, string2)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Remove white space from both ends of the string. If the function has a second string argument, it removes the characters of string2 from both sides of string1. For example, <code>trim(&quot;xyZfooxyZ&quot;,&quot;xyZ&quot;)</code> returns &quot;foo&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strlen(string)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Returns the length of the string in Unicode code points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Arguments</td>
<td>Result Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toupper(string)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Converts the string to uppercase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tolower(string)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Converts the string to lowercase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>substr(string1, x), or</td>
<td>String, number</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Returns a substring from the index specified by the number argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>substr(string1, x, y)</td>
<td>number or string,</td>
<td></td>
<td>to the end of the string. If the function has a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number, number</td>
<td></td>
<td>second number argument, it contains the length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>of the substring to be retrieved. For example, substr(&quot;xyZfooxyZ&quot;,3,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>returns &quot;foo&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>replace(string1, string2,</td>
<td>String, string, string</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Replaces all instances of string2 in string1 with string3. For example:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>string3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>replace(&quot;foo&quot;,&quot;o&quot;,&quot;0&quot;) returns &quot;f00&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strcontains(string1, string2)</td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Returns 1 if string1 contains string2 and 0 otherwise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Datetime Functions**

You can use datetime functions in the `filter` and `fields` commands and as arguments for other functions. You can use these functions to create time buckets for queries with aggregate functions.

As part of datetime functions, you can use time periods that consist of a number and then either `m` for minutes or `h` for hours. For example, `10m` is 10 minutes, and `1h` is 1 hour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bin(period)</td>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Timestamp</td>
<td>Rounds the value of @timestamp to the given period and then truncates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>datefloor(a, period)</td>
<td>Timestamp, period</td>
<td>Timestamp</td>
<td>Truncates the timestamp to the given period. For example, datefloor(@timestamp, 1h) truncates all values of @timestamp to the bottom of the hour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dateceil(a, period)</td>
<td>Timestamp, period</td>
<td>Timestamp</td>
<td>Rounds up the timestamp to the given period and then truncates. For example, dateceil(@timestamp, 1h) truncates all values of @timestamp to the top of the hour.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Supported Operations and Functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>fromMillis(fieldname)</code></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Timestamp</td>
<td>Interprets the input field as the number of milliseconds since the Unix epoch and converts it to a timestamp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>toMillis(fieldname)</code></td>
<td>Timestamp</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Converts the timestamp found in the named field into a number representing the milliseconds since the Unix epoch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IP Address Functions

You can use IP address string functions in the `filter` and `fields` commands and as arguments for other functions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>isValidIp(fieldname)</code></td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is a valid v4 or v6 IP address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>isValidIpV4(fieldname)</code></td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is a valid v4 IP address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>isValidIpV6(fieldname)</code></td>
<td>String</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is a valid v6 IP address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>isIpInSubnet(fieldname, string)</code></td>
<td>String, string</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is a valid v4 or v6 IP address within the specified v4 or v6 subnet. When you specify the subnet, use CIDR notation such as <code>192.0.2.0/24</code> or <code>2001:db8::/32</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>isIpv4InSubnet(fieldname, string)</code></td>
<td>String, string</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is a valid v4 IP address within the specified v4 subnet. When you specify the subnet, use CIDR notation such as <code>192.0.2.0/24</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>isIpv6InSubnet(fieldname, string)</code></td>
<td>String, string</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Returns <code>true</code> if the field is a valid v6 IP address within the specified v6 subnet. When you specify the subnet, use CIDR notation such as <code>2001:db8::/32</code>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Aggregation Functions in the Stats Command

You can use aggregation functions in the `stats` command and as arguments for other functions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>avg(NumericFieldname)</code></td>
<td>Numeric log field</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>The average of the values in the specified field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>count(fieldname)</code> or <code>count(*)</code></td>
<td>Log field</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Counts the log records. <code>count(*)</code> counts all records in the log group, while <code>count(fieldname)</code> counts all records that include the specified field name.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Function Arguments Result Type Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>count_distinct(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Returns the number of unique values for the field. If the field has very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cardinality (contains many unique values), the value returned by count_distinct is just</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>an approximation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>The maximum of the values for this log field in the queried logs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>min(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>The minimum of the values for this log field in the queried logs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pct(fieldname, value)</td>
<td>log field, value</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>A percentile indicates the relative standing of a value in a dataset. For example,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>pct(@duration, 95) returns the @duration value at which 95 percent of the values of @duration are lower than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>this value, and 5 percent are higher than this value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stddev(NumericFieldname)</td>
<td>numeric log field</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>The standard deviation of the values in the specified field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sum(NumericFieldname)</td>
<td>numeric log field</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>The sum of the values in the specified field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-Aggregation Functions in the Stats Command

You can use non-aggregation functions in the `stats` command and as arguments for other functions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Arguments</th>
<th>Result Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>earliest(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>Returns the value of fieldName from the log event that has the earliest time stamp in the queried logs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>latest(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>Returns the value of fieldName from the log event that has the latest time stamp in the queried logs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sortsFirst(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>Returns the value of fieldName that sorts first in the queried logs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sortsLast(fieldname)</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>log field</td>
<td>Returns the value of fieldName that sorts last in the queried logs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Visualizing Log Data in Graphs

You can use visualizations such as bar charts, line charts, and stacked area charts to more efficiently identify patterns in your log data. CloudWatch Logs Insights generates visualizations for queries that use the `stats` function and one or more aggregation functions. For more information, see Aggregation Functions in the Stats Command (p. 47).
All such queries can produce bar charts. Additionally, if your query uses the `bin()` function to group the data by one field over time, you can also see line charts and stacked area charts.

**Topics**
- Visualizing Time Series Data (p. 49)
- Visualizing Log Data Grouped by Fields (p. 49)

### Visualizing Time Series Data

Time series visualizations work for queries with the following characteristics:

- The query contains one or more aggregation functions. For more information, see *Aggregation Functions in the Stats Command* (p. 47).
- The query uses the `bin()` function to group the data by one field.

These queries can produce line charts, stacked area charts, and bar charts.

**Examples**

For a full tutorial, see the section called “Tutorial: Run a Query That Produces a Time Series Visualization” (p. 38). The following paragraphs include more example queries that work for time series visualization.

The following query generates a visualization of the average values of the `myfield1` field, with a data point created every 5 minutes. Each data point is the aggregation of the averages of the `myfield1` values from the logs from the previous 5 minutes.

```
stats avg(myfield1) by bin(5m)
```

The following query generates a visualization of three values based on different fields, with a data point created every 5 minutes. The visualization is generated because the query contains aggregate functions and uses `bin()` as the grouping field.

```
stats avg(myfield1), min(myfield2), max(myfield3) by bin(5m)
```

### Line Chart and Stacked Area Chart Restrictions

Queries that aggregate log entry information, but don’t use the `bin()` function, can generate bar charts. However, the queries cannot generate line charts or stacked area charts. For more information about these types of queries, see the section called “Visualizing Log Data Grouped by Fields” (p. 49).

### Visualizing Log Data Grouped by Fields

You can produce bar charts for queries that use the `stats` function and one or more aggregation functions. For more information, see *Aggregation Functions in the Stats Command* (p. 47).

To see the visualization, run your query. Then choose the **Visualization** tab, select the arrow next to **Line**, and choose **Bar**. Visualizations are limited to up to 100 bars in the bar chart.

**Examples**

For a full tutorial, see the section called “Tutorial: Run a Query That Produces a Visualization Grouped by Log Fields” (p. 38). The following paragraphs include more example queries for visualization by fields.
The following VPC flow log query finds the average number of bytes transferred per session for each destination address.

```
stats avg(bytes) by dstAddr
```

You can also produce a chart that includes more than one bar for each resulting value. For example, the following VPC flow log query finds the average and maximum number of bytes transferred per session for each destination address.

```
stats avg(bytes), max(bytes) by dstAddr
```

The following query finds the number of Amazon Route 53 query logs for each query type.

```
stats count(*) by queryType
```

**Sample Queries**

This section includes example queries that show the power of CloudWatch Logs Insights.

**General Queries**

Find the 25 most recently added log events.

```
fields @timestamp, @message | sort @timestamp desc | limit 25
```

Get a list of the number of exceptions per hour.

```
filter @message like /Exception/ | stats count(*) as exceptionCount by bin(1h) | sort exceptionCount desc
```

Get a list of log events that aren't exceptions.

```
fields @message | filter @message not like /Exception/
```

**Queries for Lambda Logs**

Determine the amount of overprovisioned memory.

```
filter @type = "REPORT" | stats max(@memorySize / 1024 / 1024) as provisionedMemoryMB,
min(@maxMemoryUsed / 1024 / 1024) as smallestMemoryRequestMB,
avg(@maxMemoryUsed / 1024 / 1024) as avgMemoryUsedMB,
max(@maxMemoryUsed / 1024 / 1024) as maxMemoryUsedMB,
provisionedMemoryMB - maxMemoryUsedMB as overProvisionedMB
```

Create a latency report.

```
filter @type = "REPORT" |
stats avg(@duration), max(@duration), min(@duration) by bin(5m)
```

**Queries for Amazon VPC Flow Logs**
Find the top 15 packet transfers across hosts:

```
stats sum(packets) as packetsTransferred by srcAddr, dstAddr
| sort packetsTransferred desc
| limit 15
```

Find the top 15 byte transfers for hosts on a given subnet.

```
filter isIpv4InSubnet(srcAddr, "192.0.2.0/24")
| stats sum(bytes) as bytesTransferred by dstAddr
| sort bytesTransferred desc
| limit 15
```

Find the IP addresses that use UDP as a data transfer protocol.

```
filter protocol=17 | stats count(*) by srcAddr
```

Find the IP addresses where flow records were skipped during the capture window.

```
filter logStatus="SKIPDATA"
| stats count(*) by bin(1h) as t
| sort t
```

**Queries for Route 53 Logs**

Find the distribution of records per hour by query type.

```
stats count(*) by queryType, bin(1h)
```

Find the 10 DNS resolvers with the highest number of requests.

```
stats count(*) as numRequests by resolverIp
| sort numRequests desc
| limit 10
```

Find the number of records by domain and subdomain where the server failed to complete the DNS request.

```
filter responseCode="SERVFAIL" | stats count(*) by queryName
```

**Queries for CloudTrail Logs**

Find the number of log entries for each service, event type, and Region.

```
stats count(*) by eventSource, eventName, awsRegion
```

Find the Amazon EC2 hosts that were started or stopped in a given Region.

```
filter (eventName="StartInstances" or eventName="StopInstances") and region="us-east-2"
```

Find the Regions, user names, and ARNs of newly created IAM users.
Add Query to Dashboard or Export Query Results

After you run a query, you can add the query to a CloudWatch dashboard, or copy the results to the clipboard.

Queries added to dashboards automatically re-run every time you load the dashboard and every time that the dashboard refreshes. These queries count toward your limit of four concurrent CloudWatch Logs Insights queries.

To add query results to a dashboard
2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Choose one or more log groups and run a query.
4. Choose Add to dashboard.
5. Select the dashboard, or choose Create new to create a new dashboard for the query results.
6. Choose Add to dashboard.
To copy query results to the clipboard
2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Choose one or more log groups and run a query.
4. Choose Actions, Copy query results.

View Running Queries or Query History

You can view the queries currently in progress as well as your recent query history.

Queries currently running includes queries you have added to a dashboard. You are limited to four concurrent CloudWatch Logs Insights queries per account, including queries added to dashboards.

To view the queries that are currently running
2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Choose Actions, View running queries for this account.
4. To stop one of the running queries, choose Cancel.

If this query has been added to a dashboard, choosing Cancel just stops the current execution. If you open the dashboard or the dashboard refreshes, the query is automatically re-run. To permanently remove it from the dashboard, open the dashboard and remove the widget.

To view your recent query history
2. In the navigation pane, choose Insights.
3. Choose Actions, View query history for this account.

A list of your recent queries appears. You can re-run any of them by choosing Run query.
Working with Log Groups and Log Streams

A log stream is a sequence of log events that share the same source. Each separate source of logs into CloudWatch Logs makes up a separate log stream.

A log group is a group of log streams that share the same retention, monitoring, and access control settings. You can define log groups and specify which streams to put into each group. There is no limit on the number of log streams that can belong to one log group.

Use the procedures in this section to work with log groups and log streams.

Create a Log Group in CloudWatch Logs

When you install the CloudWatch Logs agent on an Amazon EC2 instance using the steps in previous sections of the Amazon CloudWatch Logs User Guide, the log group is created as part of that process. You can also create a log group directly in the CloudWatch console.

To create a log group

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. Choose Actions, Create log group.
4. Type a name for the log group, and choose Create log group.

View Log Data Sent to CloudWatch Logs

You can view and scroll through log data on a stream-by-stream basis as sent to CloudWatch Logs by the CloudWatch Logs agent. You can specify the time range for the log data to view.

To view log data

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. For Log Groups, choose the log group to view the streams.
4. In the list of log groups, choose the name of the log group that you want to view.
5. In the list of log streams, choose the name of the log stream that you want to view.
6. To change how the log data is displayed, do one of the following:
   - To expand a single log event, choose the arrow next to that log event.
   - To expand all log events and view them as plain text, above the list of log events, choose Text.
   - To filter the log events, enter the desired search filter in the search field. For more information, see Searching and Filtering Log Data (p. 60).
   - To view log data for a specified date and time range, choose the arrow next to the date and time, next to the search filter. You can then choose Absolute to specify a date and time range or
Change Log Data Retention in CloudWatch Logs

By default, log data is stored in CloudWatch Logs indefinitely. However, you can configure how long to store log data in a log group. Any data older than the current retention setting is automatically deleted. You can change the log retention for each log group at any time.

To change the logs retention setting

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. Find the log group to update.
4. In the Expire Events After column for that log group, choose the current retention setting, such as Never Expire.
5. In the Edit Retention dialog box, for Retention, choose a log retention value, and then choose Ok.

Tag Log Groups in Amazon CloudWatch Logs

You can assign your own metadata to the log groups you create in Amazon CloudWatch Logs in the form of tags. A tag is a key-value pair that you define for a log group. Using tags is a simple yet powerful way to manage AWS resources and organize data, including billing data.

Contents

• Tag Basics (p. 55)
• Tracking Costs Using Tagging (p. 56)
• Tag Restrictions (p. 56)
• Tagging Log Groups Using the AWS CLI (p. 56)
• Tagging Log Groups Using the CloudWatch Logs API (p. 57)

Tag Basics

You use the AWS CLI or CloudWatch Logs API to complete the following tasks:

• Add tags to a log group when you create it
• Add tags to an existing log group
• List the tags for a log group
• Remove tags from a log group

You can use tags to categorize your log groups. For example, you can categorize them by purpose, owner, or environment. Because you define the key and value for each tag, you can create a custom set of categories to meet your specific needs. For example, you might define a set of tags that helps you track log groups by owner and associated application. Here are several examples of tags:

• Project: Project name
• Owner: Name
• Purpose: Load testing
• Application: Application name
Tracking Costs Using Tagging

You can use tags to categorize and track your AWS costs. When you apply tags to your AWS resources, including log groups, your AWS cost allocation report includes usage and costs aggregated by tags. You can apply tags that represent business categories (such as cost centers, application names, or owners) to organize your costs across multiple services. For more information, see Use Cost Allocation Tags for Custom Billing Reports in the AWS Billing and Cost Management User Guide.

Tag Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to tags.

Basic restrictions

- The maximum number of tags per log group is 50.
- Tag keys and values are case-sensitive.
- You can't change or edit tags for a deleted log group.

Tag key restrictions

- Each tag key must be unique. If you add a tag with a key that's already in use, your new tag overwrites the existing key-value pair.
- You can't start a tag key with `aws:` because this prefix is reserved for use by AWS. AWS creates tags that begin with this prefix on your behalf, but you can't edit or delete them.
- Tag keys must be between 1 and 128 Unicode characters in length.
- Tag keys must consist of the following characters: Unicode letters, digits, white space, and the following special characters: _ . / = + - @.

Tag value restrictions

- Tag values must be between 0 and 255 Unicode characters in length.
- Tag values can be blank. Otherwise, they must consist of the following characters: Unicode letters, digits, white space, and any of the following special characters: _ . / = + - @.

Tagging Log Groups Using the AWS CLI

You can add, list, and remove tags using the AWS CLI. For examples, see the following documentation:

- `create-log-group` creates a log group. You can optionally add tags when you create the log group.
- `tag-log-group` adds or updates tags for the specified log group.
- `list-tags-log-group` lists the tags for the specified log group.
- `untag-log-group` removes tags from the specified log group.
Tagging Log Groups Using the CloudWatch Logs API

You can add, list, and remove tags using the CloudWatch Logs API. For examples, see the following documentation:

CreateLogGroup

Creates a log group. You can optionally add tags when you create the log group.

TagLogGroup

Adds or updates tags for the specified log group.

ListTagsLogGroup

Lists the tags for the specified log group.

UntagLogGroup

Removes tags from the specified log group.

Encrypt Log Data in CloudWatch Logs Using AWS KMS

You can encrypt the log data in CloudWatch Logs using an AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) customer master key (CMK). Encryption is enabled at the log group level, by associating a CMK with a log group, either when you create the log group or after it exists.

After you associate a CMK with a log group, all newly ingested data for the log group is encrypted using the CMK. This data is stored in encrypted format throughout its retention period. CloudWatch Logs decrypts this data whenever it is requested. CloudWatch Logs must have permissions for the CMK whenever encrypted data is requested.

After you disassociate a CMK from a log group, CloudWatch Logs stops encrypting newly ingested data for the log group. All previously ingested data remains encrypted.

Important
CloudWatch Logs supports only symmetric CMKs. Do not use an asymmetric CMK to encrypt the data in your log groups. For more information, see Using Symmetric and Asymmetric Keys.

Limits

- To associate a CMK with a log group and perform the following steps, you must have the following permissions: kms:CreateKey, kms:GetKeyPolicy, and kms:PutKeyPolicy.
- After you associate or disassociate a CMK from a log group, it can take up to five minutes for the operation to take effect.
- If you revoke CloudWatch Logs access to an associated CMK or delete an associated CMK, your encrypted data in CloudWatch Logs can no longer be retrieved.
- You cannot associate a CMK with a log group using the CloudWatch console.

Step 1: Create an AWS KMS CMK

To create an AWS KMS CMK, use the following create-key command:
**aws kms create-key**

The output contains the key ID and Amazon Resource Name (ARN) of the CMK. The following is example output:

```
{
   "KeyMetadata": {
      "KeyId": "6f815f63-e628-448c-8251-e40cb0d29f59",
      "Description": "",
      "Enabled": true,
      "KeyUsage": "ENCRYPT_DECRYPT",
      "KeyState": "Enabled",
      "CreationDate": 1478910250.94,
      "Arn": "arn:aws:kms:us-west-2:123456789012:key/6f815f63-e628-448c-8251-e40cb0d29f59",
      "AWSAccountId": "123456789012"
   }
}
```

---

**Step 2: Set Permissions on the CMK**

By default, all AWS KMS CMKs are private; only the resource owner can use it to encrypt and decrypt data. However, the resource owner can grant permissions to access the CMK to other users and resources. With this step, you give the CloudWatch service principal permission to use the CMK. This service principal must be in the same region as where the CMK is stored.

First, save the default policy for your CMK as `policy.json` using the following `get-key-policy` command:

```
aws kms get-key-policy --key-id key-id --policy-name default --output text > ./policy.json
```

Open the `policy.json` file in a text editor and add the statement in bold, replacing `region` with the region to use for your log group and separating the existing statement from the new statement with a comma.

```
{
   "Version": "2012-10-17",
   "Id": "key-default-1",
   "Statement": [
      {
         "Sid": "Enable IAM User Permissions",
         "Effect": "Allow",
         "Principal": {
            "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::Your_account_ID:root"
         },
         "Action": "kms:*",
         "Resource": "*"
      },
      {
         "Effect": "Allow",
         "Principal": { "Service": "logs.region.amazonaws.com" },
         "Action": [ "kms:Encrypt*", "kms:Decrypt*", "kms:ReEncrypt*", "kms:GenerateDataKey*", "kms:Describe*"
         ],
         "Resource": "*"
      }
   ]
}
```
Finally, add the updated policy using the following `put-key-policy` command:

```
aws kms put-key-policy --key-id key-id --policy-name default --policy file://policy.json
```

### Step 3: Associate a Log Group with a CMK

You can associate a CMK with a log group when you create it or afterwards.

To find whether a log group already has a CMK associated, use the following `describe-log-groups` command:

```
aws logs describe-log-groups --log-group-name-prefix "log-group-name-prefix"
```

If the output includes a `kmsKeyId` field, the log group is associated with the key displayed for the value of that field.

**To associate the CMK with a log group when you create it**

Use the `create-log-group` command as follows:

```
aws logs create-log-group --log-group-name my-log-group --kms-key-id "key-arn"
```

**To associate the CMK with an existing log group**

Use the `associate-kms-key` command as follows:

```
aws logs associate-kms-key --log-group-name my-log-group --kms-key-id "key-arn"
```

### Step 4: Disassociate a Log Group from a CMK

To disassociate the CMK associated with a log group, use the following `disassociate-kms-key` command:

```
aws logs disassociate-kms-key --log-group-name my-log-group
```
Searching and Filtering Log Data

After the CloudWatch Logs agent begins publishing log data to Amazon CloudWatch, you can begin searching and filtering the log data by creating one or more metric filters. Metric filters define the terms and patterns to look for in log data as it is sent to CloudWatch Logs. CloudWatch Logs uses these metric filters to turn log data into numerical CloudWatch metrics that you can graph or set an alarm on. You can use any type of CloudWatch statistic, including percentile statistics, when viewing these metrics or setting alarms.

Note
Percentile statistics are supported for a metric only if none of the metric’s values are negative. If you set up your metric filter so that it can report negative numbers, percentile statistics will not be available for that metric when it has negative numbers as values. For more information, see Percentiles.

Filters do not retroactively filter data. Filters only publish the metric data points for events that happen after the filter was created. Filtered results return the first 50 lines, which will not be displayed if the timestamp on the filtered results is earlier than the metric creation time.

Contents
• Concepts (p. 60)
• Filter and Pattern Syntax (p. 61)
• Creating Metric Filters (p. 68)
• Listing Metric Filters (p. 74)
• Deleting a Metric Filter (p. 75)
• Search Log Data Using Filter Patterns (p. 75)

Concepts

Each metric filter is made up of the following key elements:

filter pattern

A symbolic description of how CloudWatch Logs should interpret the data in each log event. For example, a log entry may contain timestamps, IP addresses, strings, and so on. You use the pattern to specify what to look for in the log file.

metric name

The name of the CloudWatch metric to which the monitored log information should be published. For example, you may publish to a metric called ErrorCount.

metric namespace

The destination namespace of the new CloudWatch metric.

metric value

The numerical value to publish to the metric each time a matching log is found. For example, if you’re counting the occurrences of a particular term like “Error”, the value will be “1” for each
occurrence. If you’re counting the bytes transferred, you can increment by the actual number of bytes found in the log event.

**default value**

The value reported to the metric filter during a period when no matching logs are found. By setting this to 0, you ensure that data is reported during every period, preventing "spotty" metrics with periods of no data.

---

**Filter and Pattern Syntax**

You can use metric filters to search for and match terms, phrases, or values in your log events. When a metric filter finds one of the terms, phrases, or values in your log events, you can increment the value of a CloudWatch metric. For example, you can create a metric filter to search for and count the occurrence of the word `ERROR` in your log events.

Metric filters can also extract numerical values from space-delimited log events, such as the latency of web requests. In these examples, you can increment your metric value by the actual numerical value extracted from the log.

You can also use conditional operators and wildcards to create exact matches. Before you create a metric filter, you can test your search patterns in the CloudWatch console. The following sections explain the metric filter syntax in more detail.

**Matching Terms in Log Events**

To search for a term in your log events, use the term as your metric filter pattern. You can specify multiple terms in a metric filter pattern, but all terms must appear in a log event for there to be a match. Metric filters are case sensitive.

Metric filter terms that include characters other than alphanumeric or underscore must be placed inside double quotes (" ").

To exclude a term, use a minus sign (-) before the term.

**Example 1: Match everything**

The filter pattern "" matches all log events.

**Example 2: Single term**

The filter pattern "ERROR" matches log event messages that contain this term, such as the following:

- [ERROR] A fatal exception has occurred
- Exiting with ERRORCODE: -1

**Example 3: Include a term and exclude a term**

In the previous example, if you change the filter pattern to "ERROR" - "Exiting", the log event message "Exiting with ERRORCODE: -1" would be excluded.

**Example 4: Multiple terms**

The filter pattern "ERROR Exception" matches log event messages that contain both terms, such as the following:
OR Pattern Matching

You can match terms in text-based filters using OR pattern matching. Use a question mark for OR, such as ?term.

Look at the three log event examples below. ERROR matches examples 1 and 2. ?ERROR ?WARN matches examples 1, 2, and 3, as all of them include either the word ERROR or the word WARN. ERROR WARN only matches example 1, as it is the only one containing both of those words. ERROR -WARN matches example 2, as it matches a string that contains ERROR but does not contain WARN.

1. ERROR WARN message
2. ERROR message
3. WARN message

You can match terms using OR pattern matching in space-delimited filters. With space-delimited filters, w1 means the first word in the log event, w2 means the second word, and so on. For the example patterns below, [w1=ERROR, w2] matches pattern 2 because ERROR is the first word, and [w1=ERROR || w1=WARN, w2] matches patterns 2 and 3. [w1!=ERROR&&w1!=WARN, w2] matches lines containing both ERROR and WARN (pattern 1).

1. ERROR WARN message
2. ERROR message
3. WARN message

You can match terms using OR pattern matching in JSON filters. For the example patterns below, {$.foo = bar} matches pattern 1, {$.foo = baz} matches pattern 2, and {$.foo = bar || $.foo = baz} matches pattern 1 and 2.

1. {"foo": "bar"}
2. {"foo": "baz"}

Matching Terms in JSON Log Events

You can extract values from JSON log events. To extract values from JSON log events, you need to create a string-based metric filter. Strings containing scientific notation are not supported. The items in the JSON log event data must exactly match the metric filter. You might want to create metric filters in JSON log events to indicate the following:

• A certain event occurs. For example eventName is "UpdateTrail".
• The IP is outside a known subnet. For example, sourceIPAddress is not in some known subnet range.
• A combination of two or more other conditions are true. For example, the eventName is "UpdateTrail" and the recipientAccountId is 123456789012.
Using Metric Filters to Extract Values from JSON Log Events

You can use metric filters to extract values from JSON log events. A metric filter checks incoming logs and modifies a numeric value when the filter finds a match in the log data. When you create a metric filter, you can simply increment a count each time the matching text is found in a log, or you can extract numerical values from the log and use those to increment the metric value.

Matching JSON Terms Using Metric Filters

The metric filter syntax for JSON log events uses the following format:

```
{ SELECTOR EQUALITY_OPERATOR STRING }
```

The metric filter must be enclosed in curly braces { }, to indicate this is a JSON expression. The metric filter contains the following parts:

**SELECTOR**

Specifies what JSON property to check. Property selectors always start with dollar sign ($), which signifies the root of the JSON. Property selectors are alphanumeric strings that also support '-' and '_' characters. Array elements are denoted with [NUMBER] syntax, and must follow a property. Examples are: $.eventId, $.users[0], $.users[0].id, $.requestParameters.instanceId.

**EQUALITY_OPERATOR**

Can be either = or !=.

**STRING**

A string with or without quotes. You can use the asterisk '*' wildcard character to match any text at, before, or after a search term. For example, "Event" will match PutEvent and GetEvent. Event* will match EventId and EventName. Ev*ent will only match the actual string Ev*ent. Strings that consist entirely of alphanumeric characters do not need to be quoted. Strings that have unicode and other characters such as '@', '$', '\', etc. must be enclosed in double quotes to be valid.

JSON Metric Filter Examples

The following is a JSON example:

```json
{
   "eventType": "UpdateTrail",
   "sourceIPAddress": "111.111.111.111",
   "arrayKey": [
      "value",
      "another value"
   ],
   "objectList": [
      {
         "name": "a",
         "id": 1
      },
      {
         "name": "b",
         "id": 2
      }
   ],
   "SomeObject": null,
   "ThisFlag": true
}
```

The following filters would match:
{ $.eventType = "UpdateTrail" }

Filter on the event type being UpdateTrail.

{ $.sourceIPAddress != 123.123.* }

Filter on the IP address being outside the subnet 123.123 prefix.

{ $.arrayKey[0] = "value" }

Filter on the first entry in arrayKey being "value". If arrayKey is not an array this will be false.

{ $.objectList[1].id = 2 }

Filter on the second entry in objectList having a property called id = 2. If objectList is not an array this will be false. If the items in objectList are not objects or do not have an id property, this will be false.

{ $.SomeObject IS NULL }

Filter on SomeObject being set to null. This will only be true is the specified object is set to null.

{ $.SomeOtherObject NOT EXISTS }

Filter on SomeOtherObject being non-existent. This will only be true if specified object does not exist in log data.

{ $.ThisFlag IS TRUE }

Filters on ThisFlag being TRUE. This also works for boolean filters which check for FALSE value.

**JSON Compound Conditions**

You can combine multiple conditions into a compound expression using OR (||) and AND (&&). Parenthesis are allowed and the syntax follows standard order of operations () > && > ||.

```json
{ "user": {   "id": 1,   "email": "John.Stiles@example.com" },   "users": [ {   "id": 2,   "email": "John.Doe@example.com" }, {   "id": 3,   "email": "Jane.Doe@example.com" } ],   "actions": [   "GET",   "PUT",   "DELETE"  ]
```
Examples

{ ($.user.id = 1) && ($.users[0].email = "John.Doe@example.com") }

Matches the JSON above.

{ ($.user.id = 2 && $.users[0].email = "nonmatch") || $.actions[2] = "GET" }

Doesn't match the JSON above.

{ $.user.email = "John.Stiles@example.com" || $.coordinates[0][1] = nonmatch &&
  $.actions[2] = nomatch }  

Matches the JSON above.

{ $.user.email = "John.Stiles@example.com" || $.coordinates[0][1] = nonmatch) &&
  $.actions[2] = nomatch }  

Doesn't match the JSON above.

JSON Special Considerations

The SELECTOR must point to a value node (string or number) in the JSON. If it points to an array or object, the filter will not be applied because the log format doesn't match the filter. For example, both

{ $.users = 1} and {$.users != 1} will fail to match a log event where users is an array:

  }

  ]

  }

Numeric Comparisons

The metric filter syntax supports precise matching on numeric comparisons. The following numeric comparisons are supported: <, >, >=, <=, =, !=

Numeric filters have a syntax of

  { SELECTOR NUMERIC_OPERATOR NUMBER }  

The metric filter must be enclosed in curly braces { }, to indicate this is a JSON expression. The metric filter contains the following parts:

SELECTOR

  Specifies what JSON property to check. Property selectors always start with dollar sign ($), which signifies the root of the JSON. Property selectors are alphanumeric strings that also support '\-'
Matching Terms in Log Events

and ',' characters. Array elements are denoted with [NUMBER] syntax, and must follow a property. Examples are: $.latency, $.numbers[0], $.errorCode, $.processes[4].averageRuntime.

**NUMERIC_OPERATOR**

Can be one of the following: =, !=, <, >, <=, or >=.

**NUMBER**

An integer with an optional + or - sign, a decimal with an optional + or - sign, or a number in scientific notation, which is an integer or a decimal with an optional + or - sign, followed by 'e', followed by an integer with an optional + or - sign.

Examples:

```json
{ $.latency >= 500 }
{ $.numbers[0] < 10e3 }
{ $.numbers[0] < 10e-3 }
{ $.processes[4].averageRuntime <= 55.5 }
{ $.errorCode = 400 }
{ $.errorCode != 500 }
{ $.latency > +1000 }
```

**Using Metric Filters to Extract Values from Space-Delimited Log Events**

You can use metric filters to extract values from space-delimited log events. The characters between a pair of square brackets [] or two double quotes ("") are treated as a single field. For example:

```
```

To specify a metric filter pattern that parses space-delimited events, the metric filter pattern has to specify the fields with a name, separated by commas, with the entire pattern enclosed in square brackets. For example: [ip, user, username, timestamp, request, status_code, bytes].

In cases where you don't know the number of fields, you can use shorthand notation using an ellipsis (...). For example:

```
[...], status_code, bytes
[ip, user, ..., status_code, bytes]
[ip, user, ...]
```

You can also add conditions to your fields so that only log events that match all conditions would match the filters. For example:

```
[ip, user, username, timestamp, request, status_code, bytes > 1000]
[ip, user, username, timestamp, request, status_code = 200, bytes]
[ip, user, username, timestamp, request, status_code = 4*, bytes]
[ip, user, username, timestamp, request = *html*, status_code = 4*, bytes]
```

You can use && as an AND operator, as in the following examples:

```
[ip, user, username, timestamp, request, status_code = 4* && bytes > 1000]
[ip, user, username, timestamp, request, status_code = 4* && status_code != 403, bytes]
```
CloudWatch Logs supports both string and numeric conditional fields. For string fields, you can use = or != operators with an asterisk (*).

For numeric fields, you can use the >, <, >=, <=, =, and != operators.

If you are using a space-delimited filter, extracted fields map to the names of the space-delimited fields (as expressed in the filter) to the value of each of these fields. If you are not using a space-delimited filter, this will be empty.

Example Filter:

```
[... , request=*.html*, status_code=4*,]
```

Example log event for the filter:

```
```

Extracted fields for the log event and filter pattern:

```
{
    "$status_code": "404",
    "$request": "GET /products/index.html HTTP/1.0",
    "$7": "1534",
    "$3": "frank",
    "$2": "-",
    "$1": "127.0.0.1"
}
```

Setting How the Metric Value Changes When Matches Are Found

When a metric filter finds one of the matching terms, phrases, or values in your log events, it increments the count in the CloudWatch metric by the amount you specify for Metric Value. The metric value is aggregated and reported every minute.

If logs are ingested during a one-minute time period but no matches are found, the value specified for Default Value (if any) is reported. However, if no log events are ingested during a one-minute period, then no value is reported.

Specifying a Default Value, even if that value is 0, helps ensure that data is reported more often, helping prevent spotty metrics when matches are not found.

For example, suppose there is a log group that publishes two records every minute and the Metric Value is 1 and the Default Value is 0. If matches are found in the both log records in the first minute, the metric value for that minute is 2. If there are no matches in the log records published in the second minute, the Default Value of 0 is used for both log records and the metric value for that minute is 0.

If you don't specify a Default Value, then no data is reported for any periods where no pattern matches are found.

Publishing Numerical Values Found in Log Entries

Instead of just counting the number of matching items found in logs, you can also use the metric filter to publish values based on numerical values found in the logs. The following procedure shows how to
publish a metric with the latency found in the JSON request:

\[
\text{metricFilter: } \{ \$.latency = * \} \\
\text{metricValue: } \$.latency.
\]

**To publish a metric with the latency in a JSON request**

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Log groups**.
3. In the contents pane, select the button next to a log group, and then choose **Create Metric Filter**.
4. On the **Define Logs Metric Filter** screen, for **Filter Pattern**, type \{ \$.latency = * \}, and then choose **Assign Metric**.
5. On the **Create Metric Filter and Assign a Metric** screen, choose **Show advanced metric settings**.
6. For **Metric Name**, type *myMetric*.
7. For **Metric Value**, enter *$.latency*.
8. For **Default Value** type 0, and then choose **Create Filter**. Specifying a default value ensures that data is reported even during periods when no log events occur, preventing spotty metrics where data sometimes does not exist.

The following log event would publish a value of 50 to the metric *myMetric* following filter creation.

```json
{
    "latency": 50,
    "requestType": "GET"
}
```

---

**Creating Metric Filters**

The following examples show how to create metric filters.

**Examples**

- Example: Count Log Events (p. 68)
- Example: Count Occurrences of a Term (p. 69)
- Example: Count HTTP 404 Codes (p. 70)
- Example: Count HTTP 4xx Codes (p. 72)
- Example: Extract Fields from an Apache Log (p. 73)

**Example: Count Log Events**

The simplest type of log event monitoring is to count the number of log events that occur. You might want to do this to keep a count of all events, to create a "heartbeat" style monitor or just to practice creating metric filters.

In the following CLI example, a metric filter called *MyAppAccessCount* is applied to the log group *MyApp/access.log* to create the metric *EventCount* in the CloudWatch namespace *MyNamespace*. The filter is configured to match any log event content and to increment the metric by "1".

**To create a metric filter using the CloudWatch console**

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Log groups**.
3. In the contents pane, select the button next to a log group, and then choose Create Metric Filter.
5. Choose Assign Metric, and then on the Create Metric Filter and Assign a Metric screen, for Filter Name, type EventCount.
6. Under Metric Details, for Metric Namespace, type MyNameSpace.
7. For Metric Name, type MyAppEventCount.
8. Choose Show advanced metric settings and confirm that Metric Value is 1. This specifies that the count is incremented by 1 for every log event.
9. For Default Value type 0, and then choose Create Filter. Specifying a default value ensures that data is reported even during periods when no log events occur, preventing spotty metrics where data sometimes does not exist.

To create a metric filter using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```bash
aws logs put-metric-filter 
  --log-group-name MyApp/access.log 
  --filter-name EventCount 
  --filter-pattern "" 
  --metric-transformations 
    metricName=MyAppEventCount,metricNamespace=MyNameSpace,metricValue=1,defaultValue=0
```

You can test this new policy by posting any event data. You should see data points published to the metric MyAppAccessEventCount.

To post event data using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```bash
aws logs put-log-events 
  --log-group-name MyApp/access.log --log-stream-name TestStream1 
  --log-events 
    timestamp=1394793518000,message="Test event 1" 
    timestamp=1394793518000,message="Test event 2" 
    timestamp=1394793528000,message="This message also contains an Error"
```

Example: Count Occurrences of a Term

Log events frequently include important messages that you want to count, maybe about the success or failure of operations. For example, an error may occur and be recorded to a log file if a given operation fails. You may want to monitor these entries to understand the trend of your errors.

In the example below, a metric filter is created to monitor for the term Error. The policy has been created and added to the log group MyApp/message.log. CloudWatch Logs publishes a data point to the CloudWatch custom metric ErrorCount in the MyApp/message.log namespace with a value of "1" for every event containing Error. If no event contains the word Error, then a value of 0 is published. When graphing this data in the CloudWatch console, be sure to use the sum statistic.

To create a metric filter using the CloudWatch console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. In the contents pane, select the button next to a log group, and then choose Create Metric Filter.
4. On the **Define Logs Metric Filter** screen, for **Filter Pattern**, type **Error**.
   
   **Note**
   All entries in **Filter Pattern** are case-sensitive.

5. To test your filter pattern, for **Select Log Data to Test**, select the log group to test the metric filter against, and then choose **Test Pattern**.

6. Under **Results**, CloudWatch Logs displays a message showing how many occurrences of the filter pattern were found in the log file.

   To see detailed results, choose **Show test results**.

7. Choose **Assign Metric**, and then on the **Create Metric Filter and Assign a Metric** screen, for **Filter Name**, type **MyAppErrorCount**.

8. Under **Metric Details**, for **Metric Namespace**, type **MyNameSpace**.

9. For **Metric Name**, type **ErrorCount**.

10. Choose **Show advanced metric settings** and confirm that **Metric Value** is 1. This specifies that the count is incremented by 1 for every log event containing “Error”.

11. For **Default Value** type 0, and then choose **Create Filter**.

### To create a metric filter using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```bash
aws logs put-metric-filter \
  --log-group-name MyApp/message.log \
  --filter-name MyAppErrorCount \
  --filter-pattern 'Error' \
  --metric-transformations \
    metricName=ErrorCount,metricNamespace=MyNamespace,metricValue=1,defaultValue=0
```

You can test this new policy by posting events containing the word “Error” in the message.

### To post events using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command. Note that patterns are case-sensitive.

```bash
aws logs put-log-events \
  --log-group-name MyApp/access.log --log-stream-name TestStream1 \
  --log-events \
    timestamp=1394793518000,message="This message contains an Error" \
    timestamp=1394793528000,message="This message also contains an Error"
```

### Example: Count HTTP 404 Codes

Using CloudWatch Logs, you can monitor how many times your Apache servers return a HTTP 404 response, which is the response code for page not found. You might want to monitor this to understand how often your site visitors do not find the resource they are looking for. Assume that your log records are structured to include the following information for each log event (site visit):

- Requestor IP Address
- RFC 1413 Identity
- Username
- Timestamp
- Request method with requested resource and protocol
- HTTP response code to request
Example: Count HTTP 404 Codes

• Bytes transferred in request

An example of this might look like the following:

```
```

You could specify a rule which attempts to match events of that structure for HTTP 404 errors, as shown in the following example:

To create a metric filter using the CloudWatch console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. In the contents pane, select the button next to a log group, and then choose Create Metric Filter.
5. To test your filter pattern, for Select Log Data to Test, select the log group to test the metric filter against, and then choose Test Pattern.
6. Under Results, CloudWatch Logs displays a message showing how many occurrences of the filter pattern were found in the log file.
   To see detailed results, choose Show test results.
7. Choose Assign Metric, and then on the Create Metric Filter and Assign a Metric screen, for Filter Name, type HTTP404Errors.
8. Under Metric Details, for Metric Namespace, type MyNameSpace.
9. For Metric Name, type ApacheNotFoundErrorCount.
10. Choose Show advanced metric settings and confirm that Metric Value is 1. This specifies that the count is incremented by 1 for every 404 Error event.
11. For Default Value type 0, and then choose Create Filter.

To create a metric filter using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```
aws logs put-metric-filter \
  --log-group-name MyApp/access.log \
  --filter-name HTTP404Errors \
  --filter-pattern '[ip, id, user, timestamp, request, status_code=404, size]' \
  --metric-transformations \
    metricName=ApacheNotFoundErrorCount,metricNamespace=MyNameSpace,metricValue=1
```

In this example, literal characters such as the left and right square brackets, double quotes and character string 404 were used. The pattern needs to match with the entire log event message for the log event to be considered for monitoring.

You can verify the creation of the metric filter by using the describe-metric-filters command. You should see output that looks like this:

```
aws logs describe-metric-filters --log-group-name MyApp/access.log

{
  "metricFilters": [
  
```

Example: Count HTTP 4xx Codes

As in the previous example, you might want to monitor your web service access logs and monitor the HTTP response code levels. For example, you might want to monitor all of the HTTP 400-level errors. However, you might not want to specify a new metric filter for every return code.

The following example demonstrates how to create a metric that includes all 400-level HTTP code responses from an access log using the Apache access log format from the Example: Count HTTP 404 Codes (p. 70) example.

To create a metric filter using the CloudWatch console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. In the contents pane, select the button next to a log group, and then choose Create Metric Filter.
4. On the Define Logs Metric Filter screen, for Filter Pattern, type [ip, id, user, timestamp, request, status_code=4*, size].
5. To test your filter pattern, for Select Log Data to Test, select the log group to test the metric filter against, and then choose Test Pattern.
6. Under Results, CloudWatch Logs displays a message showing how many occurrences of the filter pattern were found in the log file.
7. To see detailed results, click Show test results.
8. Choose Assign Metric, and then on the Create Metric Filter and Assign a Metric screen, for Filter Name, type HTTP4xxErrors.
9. Under Metric Details, for Metric Namespace, type MyNamespace.
10. For Metric Name, type HTTP4xxErrors.
11. Choose Show advanced metric settings and confirm that Metric Value is 1. This specifies that the count is incremented by 1 for every log containing a 4xx error.
11. For Default Value type 0, and then choose Create Filter.

To create a metric filter using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```bash
aws logs put-metric-filter
--log-group-name MyApp/access.log
--filter-name HTTP4xxErrors
--filter-pattern '[ip, id, user, timestamp, request, status_code=4*, size]' \
--metric-transformations \
metricName=HTTP4xxErrors,metricNamespace=MyNamespace,metricValue=1,defaultValue=0
```

You can use the following data in put-event calls to test this rule. If you did not remove the monitoring rule in the previous example, you will generate two different metrics.

```
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:49:52 -0700] "GET /index.html HTTP/1.1" 404 287
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:49:52 -0700] "GET /index.html HTTP/1.1" 404 287
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:50:51 -0700] "GET /~test/ HTTP/1.1" 200 3
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:50:51 -0700] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 308
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:50:51 -0700] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 308
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:51:34 -0700] "GET /~test/index.html HTTP/1.1" 200 3
```

Example: Extract Fields from an Apache Log

Sometimes, instead of counting, it is helpful to use values within individual log events for metric values. This example shows how you can create an extraction rule to create a metric that measures the bytes transferred by an Apache webserver.

This extraction rule matches the seven fields of the log event. The metric value is the value of the seventh matched token. You can see the reference to the token as "$7" in the metricValue field of the extraction rule.

To create a metric filter using the CloudWatch console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. In the contents pane, select the button next to a log group, and then choose Create Metric Filter.
4. On the Define Logs Metric Filter screen, for Filter Pattern, type [ip, id, user, timestamp, request, status_code, size].
5. To test your filter pattern, for Select Log Data to Test, select the log group to test the metric filter against, and then choose Test Pattern.
6. Under Results, CloudWatch Logs displays a message showing how many occurrences of the filter pattern were found in the log file.

   To see detailed results, click Show test results.
7. Choose Assign Metric, and then on the Create Metric Filter and Assign a Metric screen, for Filter Name, type size.
8. Under Metric Details, for Metric Namespace, type MyNameSpace.
9. For Metric Name, type BytesTransferred
10. Choose Show advanced metric settings and for Metric Value type $size.
11. For Default Value type 0, and then choose Create Filter.

To create a metric filter using the AWS CLI
At a command prompt, run the following command

```
aws logs put-metric-filter \
  --log-group-name MyApp/access.log \
  --filter-name BytesTransferred \
  --filter-pattern '^[ip, id, user, timestamp, request, status_code=4*, size]' \
  --metric-transformations \
    metricName=BytesTransferred,metricNamespace=MyNamespace,metricValue=$size,defaultValue=0
```

You can use the following data in put-log-event calls to test this rule. This generates two different metrics if you did not remove monitoring rule in the previous example.

```
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:49:52 -0700] "GET /index.html HTTP/1.1" 404 287
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:49:52 -0700] "GET /index.html HTTP/1.1" 404 287
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:50:51 -0700] "GET /~test/ HTTP/1.1" 200 3
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:50:51 -0700] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 308
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:50:51 -0700] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 308
127.0.0.1 - - [24/Sep/2013:11:51:34 -0700] "GET /~test/index.html HTTP/1.1" 200 3
```

Listing Metric Filters

You can list all metric filters in a log group.

**To list metric filters using the CloudWatch console**

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Log groups**.
3. In the contents pane, in the list of log groups, in the **Metric Filters** column, choose the number of filters.

   The **Log Groups > Filters for** screen lists all metric filters associated with the log group.

**To list metric filters using the AWS CLI**

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```
aws logs describe-metric-filters --log-group-name MyApp/access.log
```

The following is example output:

```
{
    "metricFilters": [
        {
            "filterName": "HTTP404Errors",
            "metricTransformations": [
                {
                    "metricValue": "1",
                    "metricNamespace": "MyNamespace",
                    "metricName": "ApacheNotFoundErrorCount"
                }
            ],
            "creationTime": 1399277571078,
            "filterPattern": "^[ip, id, user, timestamp, request, status_code=404, size]"
        }
    ]
}
Deleting a Metric Filter

A policy is identified by its name and the log group it belongs to.

To delete a metric filter using the CloudWatch console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. In the contents pane, in the Metric Filter column, choose the metric filter.
5. When prompted for confirmation, choose Yes, Delete.

To delete a metric filter using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, run the following command:

```
aws logs delete-metric-filter --log-group-name MyApp/access.log --filter-name MyFilterName
```

Search Log Data Using Filter Patterns

You can search your log data using the Filter and Pattern Syntax (p. 61). You can search all the log streams within a log group, or by using the AWS CLI you can also search specific log streams. When each search runs, it returns up to the first page of data found and a token to retrieve the next page of data or to continue searching. If no results are returned, you can continue searching.

You can set the time range you want to query to limit the scope of your search. You could start with a larger range to see where the log lines you are interested in fall, and then shorten the time range to scope the view to logs in the time range that interest you.

You can also pivot directly from your logs-extracted metrics to the corresponding logs.

Search Log Entries Using the Console

You can search for log entries that meet a specified criteria using the console.

To search your logs using the console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. For Log Groups, choose the name of the log group containing the log stream to search.
4. For Log Streams, choose the name of the log stream to search.
5. For Filter, type the metric filter syntax to use and then press Enter.

To search all log entries for a time range using the console

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. For **Log Groups**, choose the name of the log group containing the log stream to search.
4. Choose **Search Events**.
5. For **Filter**, type the metric filter syntax to use, select the date and time range, and then press Enter.

## Search Log Entries Using the AWS CLI

You can search for log entries that meet a specified criteria using the AWS CLI.

**To search log entries using the AWS CLI**

At a command prompt, run the following `filter-log-events` command. Use `--filter-pattern` to limit the results to the specified filter pattern and `--log-stream-names` to limit the results to the specified log group.

```bash
aws logs filter-log-events --log-group-name my-group [--log-stream-names LIST_OF_STREAMS_TO_SEARCH] --filter-pattern VALID_METRIC_FILTER_PATTERN
```

**To search log entries over a given time range using the AWS CLI**

At a command prompt, run the following `filter-log-events` command:

```bash
aws logs filter-log-events --log-group-name my-group [--log-stream-names LIST_OF_STREAMS_TO_SEARCH] [--start-time 1482197400000] [--end-time 1482217558365] [--filter-pattern VALID_METRIC_FILTER_PATTERN]
```

## Pivot from Metrics to Logs

You can get to specific log entries from other parts of the console.

**To get from dashboard widgets to logs**

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Dashboards**.
3. Choose a dashboard.
4. On the widget, choose the **View logs** icon, and then choose **View logs in this time range**. If there is more than one metric filter, select one from the list. If there are more metric filters than we can display in the list, choose **More metric filters** and select or search for a metric filter.

**To get from metrics to logs**

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Metrics**.
3. In the search field on the **All metrics** tab, type the name of the metric and press Enter.
4. Select one or more metrics from the results of your search.
5. Choose **Actions, View logs**. If there is more than one metric filter, select one from the list. If there are more metric filters than we can display in the list, choose **More metric filters** and select or search for a metric filter.

## Troubleshooting

**Search takes too long to complete**
If you have a lot of log data, search might take a long time to complete. To speed up a search, you can do the following:

- If you are using the AWS CLI, you can limit the search to just the log streams you are interested in. For example, if your log group has 1000 log streams, but you just want to see three log streams that you know are relevant, you can use the AWS CLI to limit your search to only those three log streams within the log group.
- Use a shorter, more granular time range, which reduces the amount of data to be searched and speeds up the query.
Real-time Processing of Log Data with Subscriptions

You can use subscriptions to get access to a real-time feed of log events from CloudWatch Logs and have it delivered to other services such as a Amazon Kinesis stream, Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose stream, or AWS Lambda for custom processing, analysis, or loading to other systems. To begin subscribing to log events, create the receiving source, such as a Kinesis stream, where the events will be delivered. A subscription filter defines the filter pattern to use for filtering which log events get delivered to your AWS resource, as well as information about where to send matching log events to.

CloudWatch Logs also produces CloudWatch metrics about the forwarding of log events to subscriptions. For more information, see Amazon CloudWatch Logs Metrics and Dimensions.

Contents

- Concepts (p. 78)
- Using CloudWatch Logs Subscription Filters (p. 78)
- Cross-Account Log Data Sharing with Subscriptions (p. 89)

Concepts

Each subscription filter is made up of the following key elements:

- **log group name**
  The log group to associate the subscription filter with. All log events uploaded to this log group would be subject to the subscription filter and would be delivered to the chosen Kinesis stream if the filter pattern matches with the log events.

- **filter pattern**
  A symbolic description of how CloudWatch Logs should interpret the data in each log event, along with filtering expressions that restrict what gets delivered to the destination AWS resource. For more information about the filter pattern syntax, see Filter and Pattern Syntax (p. 61).

- **destination arn**
  The Amazon Resource Name (ARN) of the Kinesis stream, Kinesis Data Firehose stream, or Lambda function you want to use as the destination of the subscription feed.

- **role arn**
  An IAM role that grants CloudWatch Logs the necessary permissions to put data into the chosen Kinesis stream. This role is not needed for Lambda destinations because CloudWatch Logs can get the necessary permissions from access control settings on the Lambda function itself.

- **distribution**
  The method used to distribute log data to the destination, when the destination is an Amazon Kinesis stream. By default, log data is grouped by log stream. For a more even distribution, you can group log data randomly.

Using CloudWatch Logs Subscription Filters

You can use a subscription filter with Kinesis, Lambda, or Kinesis Data Firehose.
Example 1: Subscription Filters with Kinesis

The following example associates a subscription filter with a log group containing AWS CloudTrail events to have every logged activity made by "Root" AWS credentials delivered to a Kinesis stream called "RootAccess." For more information about how to send AWS CloudTrail events to CloudWatch Logs, see Sending CloudTrail Events to CloudWatch Logs in the AWS CloudTrail User Guide.

Note
Before you create the Kinesis stream, calculate the volume of log data that will be generated. Be sure to create a Kinesis stream with enough shards to handle this volume. If the stream does not have enough shards, the log stream will be throttled. For more information about Kinesis stream volume limits, see Amazon Kinesis Data Streams Limits.

To create a subscription filter for Kinesis

1. Create a destination Kinesis stream using the following command:

   ```
   $ C:\> aws kinesis create-stream --stream-name "RootAccess" --shard-count 1
   ```

2. Wait until the Kinesis stream becomes Active (this might take a minute or two). You can use the following Kinesis describe-stream command to check the StreamDescription.StreamStatus property. In addition, note the StreamDescription.StreamARN value, as you will need it in a later step:

   ```
   aws kinesis describe-stream --stream-name "RootAccess"
   ```

   The following is example output:

   ```
   {
   "StreamDescription": {
   "StreamStatus": "ACTIVE",
   "StreamName": "RootAccess",
   "Shards": [
   
   { "ShardId": "shardId-000000000000",
   "HashKeyRange": { 
   "EndingHashKey": "340282366920938463463374607431768211455",
   "StartingHashKey": "0"
   },
   "SequenceNumberRange": { 
   "StartingSequenceNumber": "49551135218688818456679503831981458784591352702181572610"
   }
   ]
   }
   }
   ```

3. Create the IAM role that will grant CloudWatch Logs permission to put data into your Kinesis stream. First, you'll need to create a trust policy in a file (for example, ~/TrustPolicyForCWL.json). Use a text editor to create this policy. Do not use the IAM console to create it.
Example 1: Subscription Filters with Kinesis

```json
{
    "Statement": {
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Principal": { "Service": "logs.region.amazonaws.com" },
        "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
    }
}
```

4. Use the `create-role` command to create the IAM role, specifying the trust policy file. Note the returned `Role.Arn` value, as you will also need it for a later step:

```
aws iam create-role --role-name CWLtoKinesisRole --assume-role-policy-document file://~/.TrustPolicyForCWL.json
```

```json
{
    "Role": {
        "AssumeRolePolicyDocument": {
            "Statement": {
                "Action": "sts:AssumeRole",
                "Effect": "Allow",
                "Principal": {
                    "Service": "logs.region.amazonaws.com"
                }
            },
            "RoleId": "AAOIIAH450GAB4HC5F431",
            "CreateDate": "2015-05-29T13:46:29.431Z",
            "RoleName": "CWLtoKinesisRole",
            "Path": "/",
            "Arn": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/CWLtoKinesisRole"
        }
    }
}
```

5. Create a permissions policy to define what actions CloudWatch Logs can do on your account. First, you'll create a permissions policy in a file (for example, `~/.PermissionsForCWL.json`). Use a text editor to create this policy. Do not use the IAM console to create it.

```json
{
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Action": "kinesis:PutRecord",
        },
        {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Action": "iam:PassRole",
            "Resource": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/CWLtoKinesisRole"
        }
    ]
}
```

6. Associate the permissions policy with the role using the following `put-role-policy` command:

```
aws iam put-role-policy --role-name CWLtoKinesisRole --policy-name Permissions-Policy-For-CWL --policy-document file://~/PermissionsForCWL.json
```

7. After the Kinesis stream is in **Active** state and you have created the IAM role, you can create the CloudWatch Logs subscription filter. The subscription filter immediately starts the flow of real-time log data from the chosen log group to your Kinesis stream:
aws logs put-subscription-filter \
--log-group-name "CloudTrail" \
--filter-name "RootAccess" \
--filter-pattern "$.userIdentity.type = Root" \
--role-arn "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/CWLogsToKinesisRole"

8. After you set up the subscription filter, CloudWatch Logs forwards all the incoming log events that match the filter pattern to your Kinesis stream. You can verify that this is happening by grabbing a Kinesis shard iterator and using the Kinesis get-records command to fetch some Kinesis records:

```bash
aws kinesis get-shard-iterator --stream-name RootAccess --shard-id shardId-000000000000 --shard-iterator-type TRIM_HORIZON

{
  "ShardIterator": "AAAAAAAAAAFGU/kLvNggvndHq2UIFw5PzC6F01s3a3fsSsceRM70Jv3fbljef2ub07nkk1y6CDxYR1UoGHJNP4m4NUeuzfL+wev+e2P4dj3j3g4L9wmXKVQYoE+RUlTqf+p4Cn3j1vgQo5dRAOyybNdRcdzvnC35KQANoHzzahKdRbg9v4scv+3vaq+f+OIg8zSMMy8Id+g6rMo7UKWeI4+IWiK2OSh0uP"
}
```

```bash
aws kinesis get-records --limit 10 --shard-iterator "AAAAAAAAAAFGU/kLvNggvndHq2UIFw5PzC6F01s3a3fsSsceRM70Jv3fbljef2ub07nkk1y6CDxYR1UoGHJNP4m4NUeuzfL+wev+e2P4dj3j3g4L9wmXKVQYoE+RUlTqf+p4Cn3j1vgQo5dRAOyybNdRcdzvnC35KQANoHzzahKdRbg9v4scv+3vaq+f+OIg8zSMMy8Id+g6rMo7UKWeI4+IWiK2OSh0uP"
```

Note that you might need to make this call a few times before Kinesis starts to return data.

You should expect to see a response with an array of records. The Data attribute in a Kinesis record is Base64 encoded and compressed with the gzip format. You can examine the raw data from the command line using the following Unix commands:

```bash
echo -n "<Content of Data>" | base64 -d | zcat
```

The Base64 decoded and decompressed data is formatted as JSON with the following structure:

```json
{
  "owner": "111111111111",
  "logGroup": "CloudTrail",
  "logStream": "111111111111_CloudTrail_us-east-1",
  "subscriptionFilters": [
    "Destination"
  ],
  "messageType": "DATA_MESSAGE",
  "logEvents": [
    {
      "id": "31953106606966983378809025079804211143289615442498221568",
      "timestamp": 1432826855000,
      "message": "{\"eventVersion\":\"1.03\",\"userIdentity\":{\"type\":\"Root
\"}}"
    },
    {
      "id": "31953106606966983378809025079804211143289615442498221569",
      "timestamp": 1432826855000,
      "message": "{\"eventVersion\":\"1.03\",\"userIdentity\":{\"type\":\"Root
\"}}"
    }
  ]
}
```
Example 2: Subscription Filters with AWS Lambda

In this example, you'll create a CloudWatch Logs subscription filter that sends log data to your AWS Lambda function.

**Note**
Before you create the Lambda function, calculate the volume of log data that will be generated. Be sure to create a function that can handle this volume. If the function does not have enough volume, the log stream will be throttled. For more information about Lambda limits, see AWS Lambda Limits.

**To create a subscription filter for Lambda**

1. Create the AWS Lambda function.

   Ensure that you have set up the Lambda execution role. For more information, see Step 2.2: Create an IAM Role (execution role) in the AWS Lambda Developer Guide.

2. Open a text editor and create a file named `helloWorld.js` with the following contents:

```javascript
var zlib = require('zlib');
exports.handler = function(input, context) {
  var payload = Buffer.from(input.awslogs.data, 'base64');
  zlib.gunzip(payload, function(e, result) {
    if (e) {
```
Example 2: Subscription Filters with AWS Lambda

1. context.fail(e);
   } else {
       result = JSON.parse(result.toString('ascii'));
       console.log("Event Data:", JSON.stringify(result, null, 2));
       context.succeed();
   }
   });
}

3. Zip the file helloWorld.js and save it with the name helloWorld.zip.

4. Use the following command, where the role is the Lambda execution role you set up in the first step:

```
aws lambda create-function
   --function-name helloworld \
   --zip-file fileb://file-path/helloWorld.zip \
   --role lambda-execution-role-arn \
   --handler helloWorld.handler \
   --runtime nodejs8.10
```

5. Grant CloudWatch Logs the permission to execute your function. Use the following command, replacing the placeholder account with your own account and the placeholder log group with the log group to process:

```
aws lambda add-permission
   --function-name "helloworld" \
   --statement-id "helloworld" \
   --principal "logs.region.amazonaws.com" \
   --action "lambda:InvokeFunction" \
   --source-arn arn:aws:logs:region:123456789123:log-group:TestLambda:* \
   --source-account "123456789012"
```

6. Create a subscription filter using the following command, replacing the placeholder account with your own account and the placeholder log group with the log group to process:

```
aws logs put-subscription-filter
   --log-group-name myLogGroup \
   --filter-name demo \
   --filter-pattern "" \
```

7. (Optional) Test using a sample log event. At a command prompt, run the following command, which will put a simple log message into the subscribed stream.

To see the output of your Lambda function, navigate to the Lambda function where you will see the output in /aws/lambda/helloworld:

```
aws logs put-log-events --log-group-name myLogGroup --log-stream-name stream1 \
   --log-events "[{"timestamp":<CURRENT_TIMESTAMP_MILLIS>, "message": "Simple Lambda Test"}]"
```

You should expect to see a response with an array of Lambda. The Data attribute in the Lambda record is Base64 encoded and compressed with the gzip format. The actual payload that Lambda receives is in the following format `{ "awslogs": { "data": "BASE64ENCODED_GZIP_COMPRESSED_DATA" } }`. You can examine the raw data from the command line using the following Unix commands:

```
echo -n "<BASE64ENCODED_GZIP_COMPRESSED_DATA>" | base64 -d | zcat
```

The Base64 decoded and decompressed data is formatted as JSON with the following structure:
The key elements in the above data structure are the following:

**owner**

The AWS Account ID of the originating log data.

**logGroup**

The log group name of the originating log data.

**logStream**

The log stream name of the originating log data.

**subscriptionFilters**

The list of subscription filter names that matched with the originating log data.

**messageType**

Data messages will use the "DATA_MESSAGE" type. Sometimes CloudWatch Logs may emit Lambda records with a "CONTROL_MESSAGE" type, mainly for checking if the destination is reachable.

**logEvents**

The actual log data, represented as an array of log event records. The "id" property is a unique identifier for every log event.
Example 3: Subscription Filters with Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose

In this example, you’ll create a CloudWatch Logs subscription that sends any incoming log events that match your defined filters to your Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream. Data sent from CloudWatch Logs to Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose is already compressed with gzip level 6 compression, so you do not need to use compression within your Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream.

**Note**
Before you create the Kinesis Data Firehose stream, calculate the volume of log data that will be generated. Be sure to create a Kinesis Data Firehose stream that can handle this volume. If the stream cannot handle the volume, the log stream will be throttled. For more information about Kinesis Data Firehose stream volume limits, see Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose Data Limits.

To create a subscription filter for Kinesis Data Firehose

1. Create an Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) bucket. We recommend that you use a bucket that was created specifically for CloudWatch Logs. However, if you want to use an existing bucket, skip to step 2.

   Run the following command, replacing the placeholder region with the region you want to use:

   ```bash
   aws s3api create-bucket --bucket my-bucket --create-bucket-configuration LocationConstraint=region
   ```

   The following is example output:

   ```json
   {
     "Location": "/my-bucket"
   }
   ```

2. Create the IAM role that will grant Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose permission to put data into your Amazon S3 bucket.

   For more information, see Controlling Access with Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose in the *Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose Developer Guide*.

   First, use a text editor to create a trust policy in a file `~/TrustPolicyForFirehose.json` as follows, replacing `account-id` with your AWS account ID:

   ```json
   {
     "Statement": {
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Principal": { "Service": "firehose.amazonaws.com" },
       "Action": "sts:AssumeRole",
       "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "sts:ExternalId": "account-id" } }
     }
   }
   ```

3. Use the `create-role` command to create the IAM role, specifying the trust policy file. Note of the returned `Role.Arn` value, as you will need it in a later step:

   ```bash
   aws iam create-role \
   --role-name FirehosetoS3Role \
   --assume-role-policy-document file://~/TrustPolicyForFirehose.json
   ```
"Role": {
    "AssumeRolePolicyDocument": {
        "Statement": {
            "Action": "sts:AssumeRole",
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Principal": {
                "Service": "firehose.amazonaws.com"
            }
        }
    },
    "RoleId": "AAOI1AH450GAB4HC5F431",
    "CreateDate": "2015-05-29T13:46:29.431Z",
    "RoleName": "FirehosetoS3Role",
    "Path": "/",
    "Arn": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/FirehosetoS3Role"
}
}

4. Create a permissions policy to define what actions Kinesis Data Firehose can do on your account. First, use a text editor to create a permissions policy in a file `~/PermissionsForFirehose.json`:

```json
{
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Action": [
                "s3:AbortMultipartUpload",
                "s3:GetBucketLocation",
                "s3:GetObject",
                "s3:ListBucket",
                "s3:ListBucketMultipartUploads",
                "s3:PutObject"
            ],
            "Resource": [
                "arn:aws:s3:::my-bucket",
                "arn:aws:s3:::my-bucket/*"
            ]
        }
    ]
}
```

5. Associate the permissions policy with the role using the following `put-role-policy` command:

```
aws iam put-role-policy --role-name FirehosetoS3Role --policy-name Permissions-Policy-For-Firehose --policy-document file://~/PermissionsForFirehose.json
```

6. Create a destination Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream as follows, replacing the placeholder values for `RoleARN` and `BucketARN` with the role and bucket ARNs that you created:

```
aws firehose create-delivery-stream \
    --delivery-stream-name 'my-delivery-stream' \
    --s3-destination-configuration \
    '{"RoleARN": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/FirehosetoS3Role", "BucketARN": "arn:aws:s3:::my-bucket"}'
```

Note that Kinesis Data Firehose automatically uses a prefix in YYYY/MM/DD/HH UTC time format for delivered Amazon S3 objects. You can specify an extra prefix to be added in front of the time format prefix. If the prefix ends with a forward slash (/), it appears as a folder in the Amazon S3 bucket.

7. Wait until the stream becomes active (this might take a few minutes). You can use the Kinesis Data Firehose `describe-delivery-stream` command to check the `DeliveryStreamDescription.DeliveryStreamStatus` property. In addition, note the `DeliveryStreamDescription.DeliveryStreamARN` value, as you will need it in a later step:
aws firehose describe-delivery-stream --delivery-stream-name "my-delivery-stream"
{
    "DeliveryStreamDescription": {
        "HasMoreDestinations": false,
        "VersionId": "1",
        "CreateTimestamp": 1446075815.822,
        "DeliveryStreamStatus": "ACTIVE",
        "DeliveryStreamName": "my-delivery-stream",
        "Destinations": [
            {
                "DestinationId": "destinationId-000000000001",
                "S3DestinationDescription": {
                    "CompressionFormat": "UNCOMPRESSED",
                    "EncryptionConfiguration": {
                        "NoEncryptionConfig": "NoEncryption"
                    },
                    "RoleARN": "delivery-stream-role",
                    "BucketARN": "arn:aws:s3:::my-bucket",
                    "BufferingHints": {
                        "IntervalInSeconds": 300,
                        "SizeInMBs": 5
                    }
                }
            }
        ]
    }
}

8. Create the IAM role that will grant CloudWatch Logs permission to put data into your Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream. First, use a text editor to create a trust policy in a file ~/TrustPolicyForCWL.json:

```json
{
    "Statement": {
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Principal": { "Service": "logs.region.amazonaws.com" },
        "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
    }
}
```

9. Use the `create-role` command to create the IAM role, specifying the trust policy file. Note of the returned `Role.Arn` value, as you will need it in a later step:

```bash
aws iam create-role
  --role-name CWLtoKinesisFirehoseRole
  --assume-role-policy-document file:~/TrustPolicyForCWL.json
```

```json
{
    "Role": {
        "AssumeRolePolicyDocument": {
            "Statement": {
                "Action": "sts:AssumeRole",
                "Effect": "Allow",
                "Principal": {
                    "Service": "logs.region.amazonaws.com"
                }
            }
        },
        "RoleId": "AAOIIAH450GAB4HC5F431",
        "CreateDate": "2015-05-29T13:46:29.431Z",
```
10. Create a permissions policy to define what actions CloudWatch Logs can do on your account. First, use a text editor to create a permissions policy file (for example, ~/PermissionsForCWL.json):

```json
{
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Action": ["firehose:*"],
            "Resource": ["arn:aws:firehose:region:123456789012:*"]
        },
        {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Action": ["iam:PassRole"],
            "Resource": ["arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/CWLtoKinesisFirehoseRole"]
        }
    ]
}
```

11. Associate the permissions policy with the role using the put-role-policy command:

```
aws iam put-role-policy --role-name CWLtoKinesisFirehoseRole --policy-name Permissions-Policy-For-CWL --policy-document file://~/PermissionsForCWL.json
```

12. After the Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream is in active state and you have created the IAM role, you can create the CloudWatch Logs subscription filter. The subscription filter immediately starts the flow of real-time log data from the chosen log group to your Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream:

```
aws logs put-subscription-filter \
    --log-group-name "CloudTrail" \
    --filter-name "Destination" \
    --filter-pattern "{$.userIdentity.type = Root}" \
    --destination-arn "arn:aws:firehose:region:123456789012:deliverystream/my-delivery-stream" \
    --role-arn "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/CWLtoKinesisFirehoseRole"
```

13. After you set up the subscription filter, CloudWatch Logs will forward all the incoming log events that match the filter pattern to your Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream. Your data will start appearing in your Amazon S3 based on the time buffer interval set on your Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream. Once enough time has passed, you can verify your data by checking your Amazon S3 Bucket.

```
aws s3api list-objects --bucket 'my-bucket' --prefix 'firehose/'
```

```json
{
    "Contents": [
        {
            "LastModified": "2015-10-29T00:01:25.000Z",
            "ETag": "a14589f889f4089d3264d9e2d1f1610",
            "StorageClass": "STANDARD",
            "Key": "firehose/2015/10/29/00/my-delivery-stream-2015-10-29-00-01-21-a188030a-62d2-49e6-b7c2-b11f1a7ba250",
            "Owner": {
                "DisplayName": "cloudwatch-logs",
                "ID": "1ec9cf700ef6b0e62b19584e0b7d84ecc19237f87b5"},
            "Size": 593
        }
```
Cross-Account Log Data Sharing with Subscriptions

You can collaborate with an owner of a different AWS account and receive their log events on your AWS resources, such as a Amazon Kinesis stream (this is known as cross-account data sharing). For example, this log event data can be read from a centralized Amazon Kinesis stream to perform custom processing and analysis. Custom processing is especially useful when you collaborate and analyze data across many accounts. For example, a company's information security group might want to analyze data for real-time intrusion detection or anomalous behaviors so it could conduct an audit of accounts in all divisions in the company by collecting their federated production logs for central processing. A real-time stream of event data across those accounts can be assembled and delivered to the information security groups who can use Kinesis to attach the data to their existing security analytic systems.

Kinesis streams are currently the only resource supported as a destination for cross-account subscriptions.

To share log data across accounts, you need to establish a log data sender and receiver:

• **Log data sender**—gets the destination information from the recipient and lets CloudWatch Logs know that it is ready to send its log events to the specified destination. In the procedures in the rest of this section, the log data sender is shown with a fictional AWS account number of 111111111111.

• **Log data recipient**—sets up a destination that encapsulates a Kinesis stream and lets CloudWatch Logs know that the recipient wants to receive log data. The recipient then shares the information about his destination with the sender. In the procedures in the rest of this section, the log data recipient is shown with a fictional AWS account number of 999999999999.
To start receiving log events from cross-account users, the log data recipient first creates a CloudWatch Logs destination. Each destination consists of the following key elements:

**Destination name**

The name of the destination you want to create.

**Target ARN**

The Amazon Resource Name (ARN) of the AWS resource that you want to use as the destination of the subscription feed.

**Role ARN**

An AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) role that grants CloudWatch Logs the necessary permissions to put data into the chosen Kinesis stream.

**Access policy**

An IAM policy document (in JSON format, written using IAM policy grammar) that governs the set of users that are allowed to write to your destination.

The log group and the destination must be in the same AWS region. However, the AWS resource that the destination points to can be located in a different region.

**Topics**

- Create a Destination (p. 90)
- Create a Subscription Filter (p. 93)
- Validating the Flow of Log Events (p. 93)
- Modifying Destination Membership at Runtime (p. 95)

---

**Create a Destination**

**Important**

All steps in this procedure are to be done in the log data recipient account.

For this example, the log data recipient account has an AWS account ID of 999999999999, while the log data sender AWS account ID is 111111111111.

This example creates a destination using a Kinesis stream called RecipientStream, and a role that enables CloudWatch Logs to write data to it.

**To create a destination**

1. Create a destination stream in Kinesis. At a command prompt, type:

   ```bash
   aws kinesis create-stream --stream-name "RecipientStream" --shard-count 1
   ```

2. Wait until the Kinesis stream becomes active. You can use the `aws kinesis describe-stream` command to check the `StreamDescription.StreamStatus` property. In addition, take note of the `StreamDescription.StreamARN` value because it will be passed to CloudWatch Logs later:

   ```bash
   aws kinesis describe-stream --stream-name "RecipientStream"
   ```

   ```json
   "StreamDescription": {
     "StreamStatus": "ACTIVE",
     "StreamName": "RecipientStream",
     "Shards": [ ]
   }
   ```
Create a Destination

It might take a minute or two for your stream to show up in the active state.

3. Create the IAM role that will grant CloudWatch Logs the permission to put data into your Kinesis stream. First, you'll need to create a trust policy in a file `~/TrustPolicyForCWL.json`. Use a text editor to create this policy file, do not use the IAM console.

```json
{
  "Statement": {
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Principal": { "Service": "logs.region.amazonaws.com" },
    "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
  }
}
```

4. Use the `aws iam create-role` command to create the IAM role, specifying the trust policy file. Take note of the returned Role.Arn value because that will also be passed to CloudWatch Logs later:

```bash
aws iam create-role
  --role-name CWLtoKinesisRole
  --assume-role-policy-document file://~/TrustPolicyForCWL.json
```

5. Create a permissions policy to define which actions CloudWatch Logs can perform on your account. First, you'll use a text editor to create a permissions policy in a file `~/PermissionsForCWL.json`:

```json
{
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": "kinesis:PutRecord",
    }
  ]
}
```
Create a Destination

6. Associate the permissions policy with the role using the `aws iam put-role-policy` command:

```bash
aws iam put-role-policy
  --role-name CWLtoKinesisRole
  --policy-name Permissions-Policy-For-CWL
  --policy-document file://~/PermissionsForCWL.json
```

7. After the Kinesis stream is in the active state and you have created the IAM role, you can create the CloudWatch Logs destination.

   a. This step will not associate an access policy with your destination and is only the first step out of two that completes a destination creation. Make a note of the `DestinationArn` that is returned in the payload:

   ```bash
   aws logs put-destination
     --destination-name "testDestination"
     --role-arn "arn:aws:iam::999999999999:role/CWLtoKinesisRole"
   ```

   ```json
   ```

   b. After step 7a is complete, in the log data recipient account, associate an access policy with the destination. This policy enables the log data sender account (111111111111) to access the destination in the log data recipient account (999999999999). You can use a text editor to put this policy in the `~/AccessPolicy.json` file:

   ```json
   ```

   c. This creates a policy that defines who has write access to the destination. This policy must specify the `logs:PutSubscriptionFilter` action to access the destination. Cross-account users will use the `PutSubscriptionFilter` action to send log events to the destination:

   ```bash
   aws logs put-destination-policy
   ```
Create a Subscription Filter

After you create a destination, the log data recipient account can share the destination ARN (arn:aws:logs:us-east-1:999999999999:destination:testDestination) with other AWS accounts so that they can send log events to the same destination. These other sending accounts users then create a subscription filter on their respective log groups against this destination. The subscription filter immediately starts the flow of real-time log data from the chosen log group to the specified destination.

In the following example, a subscription filter is created in a sending account. The filter is associated with a log group containing AWS CloudTrail events so that every logged activity made by "Root" AWS credentials is delivered to the destination you previously created. That destination encapsulates a Kinesis stream called "RecipientStream". For more information about how to send AWS CloudTrail events to CloudWatch Logs, see Sending CloudTrail Events to CloudWatch Logs in the AWS CloudTrail User Guide.

```
aws logs put-subscription-filter
  --log-group-name "CloudTrail"
  --filter-name "RecipientStream"
  --filter-pattern "$.userIdentity.type = Root"
  --role-arn "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/my-subscription-role"
```

The log group and the destination must be in the same AWS region. However, the destination can point to an AWS resource such as a Kinesis stream that is located in a different region.

**Note**

Unlike the subscriptions example Real-time Processing of Log Data with Subscriptions (p. 78), in this example you did not have to provide a role-arn. This is because role-arn is needed for impersonation while writing to a Kinesis stream, which has already been provided by the destination owner while creating destination.

Validating the Flow of Log Events

After you create the subscription filter, CloudWatch Logs forwards all the incoming log events that match the filter pattern to the Kinesis stream that is encapsulated within the destination stream called "RecipientStream". The destination owner can verify that this is happening by using the `aws kinesis get-shard-iterator` command to grab a Kinesis shard, and using the `aws kinesis get-records` command to fetch some Kinesis records:

```
aws kinesis get-shard-iterator
  --stream-name RecipientStream
  --shard-id shardId-000000000000
  --shard-iterator-type TRIM_HORIZON

{
  "ShardIterator":
```
Validating the Flow of Log Events

aws kinesis get-records
  --limit 10
  --shard-iterator "AAAAAAAAAAFGU/kLvNggvndHq2UIFOw5PZc6F01s3e3afsSscRM70JSbj1efg2ub07nk1y6CDwXR1UoGHJNP4m4NFUetzfL+wev+e2P4djJg4L9wmXKvQYoE+rMU1Fq+p4Cn3fgvQb5dRA0yybNdRcdzvnC35KQANoHzzahKdRGb9v4scv+3vaq+f0IK8zM5My8IDg6rMo7UKWeI4+IWiKEXAMPLE"

Note
You may need to rerun the get-records command a few times before Kinesis starts to return data.

You should see a response with an array of Kinesis records. The data attribute in the Kinesis record is compressed in gzip format and then Base64 encoded. You can examine the raw data from the command line using the following Unix command:

echo -n "<Content of Data>" | base64 -d | zcat

The Base64 decoded and decompressed data is formatted as JSON with the following structure:

```json
{
  "owner": "111111111111",
  "logGroup": "CloudTrail",
  "logStream": "111111111111_CloudTrail_us-east-1",
  "subscriptionFilters": [
    "RecipientStream"
  ],
  "messageType": "DATA_MESSAGE",
  "logEvents": [
    {
      "id": "3195310660696698337880902507980421114328961542429EXAMPLE",
      "timestamp": 1432826855000,
      "message": "{"eventVersion":"1.03","userIdentity":{"type":"Root"}"
    },
    {
      "id": "3195310660696698337880902507980421114328961542429EXAMPLE",
      "timestamp": 1432826855000,
      "message": "{"eventVersion":"1.03","userIdentity":{"type":"Root"}"
    },
    {
      "id": "3195310660696698337880902507980421114328961542429EXAMPLE",
      "timestamp": 1432826855000,
      "message": "{"eventVersion":"1.03","userIdentity":{"type":"Root"}"
    }
  ]
}
```

The key elements in this data structure are as follows:

**owner**

The AWS Account ID of the originating log data.

**logGroup**

The log group name of the originating log data.
logStream
The log stream name of the originating log data.

subscriptionFilters
The list of subscription filter names that matched with the originating log data.

messageType
Data messages will use the "DATA_MESSAGE" type. Sometimes CloudWatch Logs may emit Kinesis records with a "CONTROL_MESSAGE" type, mainly for checking if the destination is reachable.

logEvents
The actual log data, represented as an array of log event records. The ID property is a unique identifier for every log event.

Modifying Destination Membership at Runtime

You might encounter situations where you have to add or remove membership of some users from a destination that you own. You can use the PutDestinationPolicy action on your destination with new access policy. In the following example, a previously added account 111111111111 is stopped from sending any more log data, and account 222222222222 is enabled.

1. Fetch the policy that is currently associated with the destination testDestination and make a note of the AccessPolicy:

```
aws logs describe-destinations \\
   --destination-name-prefix "testDestination"
```

```
{  
"Destinations": [  
  {  
   "DestinationName": "testDestination",  
   "RoleArn": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:role/CWLtoKinesisRole",  
  }  
]}
```

2. Update the policy to reflect that account 111111111111 is stopped, and that account 222222222222 is enabled. Put this policy in the ~/.NewAccessPolicy.json file:

```
{
   "Version" : "2012-10-17",
   "Statement" : [  
   {  
   "Sid" : ",",  
   "Effect" : "Allow",  
   "Principal" : {  
   "AWS" : "222222222222"  
   },  
   "Action" : "logs:PutSubscriptionFilter",  
   }  
   ]
}
```
3. Call `PutDestinationPolicy` to associate the policy defined in the `NewAccessPolicy.json` file with the destination:

```bash
aws logs put-destination-policy \
--destination-name "testDestination" \
--access-policy file://~/NewAccessPolicy.json
```

This will eventually disable the log events from account ID 111111111111. Log events from account ID 222222222222 start flowing to the destination as soon as the owner of account 222222222222 creates a subscription filter using `PutSubscriptionFilter`. 
Sending Logs Directly to Amazon S3

Some AWS services can publish logs directly to Amazon S3. This way, if your main requirement for logs is storage in Amazon S3, you can easily have the service producing the logs send them directly to Amazon S3 without setting up additional infrastructure.

Logs published to Amazon S3 are published to an existing bucket that you specify. One or more log files are created every five minutes in the specified bucket.

Even when logs are published directly to an S3 bucket, CloudWatch Logs charges apply. For more information, see Deliver Logs to S3 on Amazon CloudWatch Pricing.

The following logs can be published directly to Amazon S3:

- VPC flow logs. For more information, see Publishing Flow Logs to Amazon S3 in the Amazon VPC User Guide.
- AWS Global Accelerator flow logs. For more information, see Publishing Flow Logs to Amazon S3 in the AWS Global Accelerator Developer Guide.
Exporting Log Data to Amazon S3

You can export log data from your log groups to an Amazon S3 bucket and use this data in custom processing and analysis, or to load onto other systems.

To begin the export process, you must create an S3 bucket to store the exported log data. You can store the exported files in your Amazon S3 bucket and define Amazon S3 lifecycle rules to archive or delete exported files automatically.

Exporting to S3 buckets that are encrypted with AES-256 is supported. Exporting to S3 buckets encrypted with SSE-KMS is not supported. For more information, see How Do I Enable Default Encryption for an S3 Bucket?.

You can export logs from multiple log groups or multiple time ranges to the same S3 bucket. To separate log data for each export task, you can specify a prefix that will be used as the Amazon S3 key prefix for all exported objects.

Log data can take up to 12 hours to become available for export. For near real-time analysis of log data, see Analyzing Log Data with CloudWatch Logs Insights (p. 33) or Real-time Processing of Log Data with Subscriptions (p. 78) instead.

**Note**
Starting on February 15, 2019, the export to Amazon S3 feature requires callers to have s3:PutObject access to the destination bucket.

**Contents**
- Concepts (p. 98)
- Export Log Data to Amazon S3 Using the Console (p. 99)
- Export Log Data to Amazon S3 Using the AWS CLI (p. 101)

**Concepts**

Before you begin, become familiar with the following export concepts:

**log group name**

The name of the log group associated with an export task. The log data in this log group will be exported to the specified Amazon S3 bucket.

**from (timestamp)**

A required timestamp expressed as the number of milliseconds since Jan 1, 1970 00:00:00 UTC. All log events in the log group that were ingested after this time will be exported.

**to (timestamp)**

A required timestamp expressed as the number of milliseconds since Jan 1, 1970 00:00:00 UTC. All log events in the log group that were ingested before this time will be exported.

**destination bucket**

The name of the Amazon S3 bucket associated with an export task. This bucket is used to export the log data from the specified log group.

**destination prefix**

An optional attribute that is used as the S3 key prefix for all exported objects. This helps create a folder-like organization in your bucket.
Export Log Data to Amazon S3 Using the Console

In the following example, you use the Amazon CloudWatch console to export all data from an Amazon CloudWatch Logs log group named my-log-group to an Amazon S3 bucket named my-exported-logs.

**Step 1: Create an Amazon S3 Bucket**

We recommend that you use a bucket that was created specifically for CloudWatch Logs. However, if you want to use an existing bucket, you can skip to step 2.

*Note*

The Amazon S3 bucket must reside in the same Region as the log data to export. CloudWatch Logs doesn't support exporting data to Amazon S3 buckets in a different Region.

To create an Amazon S3 bucket

1. Open the Amazon S3 console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/s3/](https://console.aws.amazon.com/s3/).
2. If necessary, change the Region. From the navigation bar, choose the Region where your CloudWatch Logs reside.
3. Choose Create Bucket.
4. For Bucket Name, enter a name for the bucket.
5. For Region, select the Region where your CloudWatch Logs data resides.
6. Choose Create.

**Step 2: Create an IAM User with Full Access to Amazon S3 and CloudWatch Logs**

In the following steps, you create the IAM user with necessary permissions.

To create the necessary IAM user

2. Choose Users, Add user.
3. Enter a user name, such as CWLEExportUser.
4. Select both Programmatic access and AWS Management Console access.
5. Choose either Autogenerated password or Custom password.
6. Choose Next: Permissions.
7. Choose Attach existing policies directly, and attach the AmazonS3FullAccess and CloudWatchLogsFullAccess policies to the user. You can use the search box to find the policies.
8. Choose Next: Tags, Next: Review, and then Create user.

**Step 3: Set Permissions on an Amazon S3 Bucket**

By default, all Amazon S3 buckets and objects are private. Only the resource owner, the AWS account that created the bucket, can access the bucket and any objects that it contains. However, the resource owner can choose to grant access permissions to other resources and users by writing an access policy.
When you set the policy, we recommend that you include a randomly generated string as the prefix for the bucket, so that only intended log streams are exported to the bucket.

**To set permissions on an Amazon S3 bucket**

1. In the Amazon S3 console, choose the bucket that you created in step 1.
2. Choose Permissions, Bucket policy.
3. In the Bucket Policy Editor, add one of the following policies. Change `my-exported-logs` to the name of your S3 bucket and `random-string` to a randomly generated string of characters. Be sure to specify the correct Region endpoint for Principal.

   - If the bucket is in your account, add the following policy.

```
{
   "Version": "2012-10-17",
   "Statement": [
     {
       "Action": "s3:GetBucketAcl",
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs",
       "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" }
     },
     {
       "Action": "s3:PutObject",
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
       "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
       "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" }
     }
   ]
}
```

   - If the bucket is in a different account, use the following policy instead. It includes an additional statement using the IAM user you created in the previous step.

```
{
   "Version": "2012-10-17",
   "Statement": [
     {
       "Action": "s3:GetBucketAcl",
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs",
       "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" }
     },
     {
       "Action": "s3:PutObject",
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
       "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
       "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" }
     },
     {
       "Action": "s3:PutObject",
       "Effect": "Allow",
       "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
       "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
       "Principal": { "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::SendingAccountID:user/CWLEExportUser" }
     }
   ]
}
```
4. Choose Save to set the policy that you just added as the access policy on your bucket. This policy enables CloudWatch Logs to export log data to your Amazon S3 bucket. The bucket owner has full permissions on all of the exported objects.

Warning
If the existing bucket already has one or more policies attached to it, add the statements for CloudWatch Logs access to that policy or policies. We recommend that you evaluate the resulting set of permissions to be sure that they’re appropriate for the users who will access the bucket.

Step 4: Create an Export Task

In this step, you create the export task for exporting logs from a log group.

To export data to Amazon S3 using the CloudWatch console

1. Sign in as the IAM user that you created in Step 2: Create an IAM User with Full Access to Amazon S3 and CloudWatch Logs.
2. Open the CloudWatch console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/cloudwatch/.
3. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
4. On the Log Groups screen, select the button next to a log group and then choose Actions and then Export data to Amazon S3.
5. On the Export data to Amazon S3 screen, under Define data to export, set the time range for the data to export using From and To.
6. If your log group has multiple log streams, you can provide a log stream prefix to limit the log group data to a specific stream. Choose Advanced, and then for Stream prefix, enter the log stream prefix.
7. Under Choose S3 bucket, choose the account associated with the Amazon S3 bucket.
8. For S3 bucket name, choose an Amazon S3 bucket.
9. Choose Advanced, and then for S3 Bucket prefix, enter the randomly generated string that you specified in the bucket policy.
10. Choose Export data to export your log data to Amazon S3.
11. To view the status of the log data that you exported to Amazon S3, choose Actions and then View all exports to Amazon S3.

Export Log Data to Amazon S3 Using the AWS CLI

In the following example, you use an export task to export all data from a CloudWatch Logs log group named my-log-group to an Amazon S3 bucket named my-exported-logs. This example assumes that you have already created a log group called my-log-group.

Step 1: Create an Amazon S3 Bucket

We recommend that you use a bucket that was created specifically for CloudWatch Logs. However, if you want to use an existing bucket, you can skip to step 2.

Note
The Amazon S3 bucket must reside in the same Region as the log data to export. CloudWatch Logs doesn't support exporting data to Amazon S3 buckets in a different Region.

To create an Amazon S3 bucket using the AWS CLI
At a command prompt, run the following `create-bucket` command, where `LocationConstraint` is the Region where you are exporting log data.

```
aws s3api create-bucket --bucket my-exported-logs --create-bucket-configuration LocationConstraint=us-east-2
```

The following is example output.

```
{
  "Location": "/my-exported-logs"
}
```

**Step 2: Create an IAM User with Full Access to Amazon S3 and CloudWatch Logs**

In the following steps, you create the IAM user with necessary permissions.

**To create the user and assign permissions**

1. Create the IAM user by entering the following command.

```
aws iam create-user --user-name CWLEExportUser
```

2. Attach the IAM managed policies to the IAM user that you just created.

```
export S3POLICYARN=$(aws iam list-policies --query 'Policies[? PolicyName==`AmazonS3FullAccess`].{ARN:Arn}' --output text)

export CWLPOLICYARN=$( aws iam list-policies --query 'Policies[? PolicyName==`CloudWatchLogsFullAccess`].{ARN:Arn}' --output text)

aws iam attach-user-policy --user-name CWLEExportUser --policy-arn $S3POLICYARN

aws iam attach-user-policy --user-name CWLEExportUser --policy-arn $CWLPOLICYARN
```

3. Confirm that the two managed policies are attached.

```
aws iam list-attached-user-policies --user-name CWLEExportUser
```

4. Configure your AWS CLI to include the IAM credentials of the `CWLEExportUser` IAM user. For more information, see Configuring the AWS CLI.

**Step 3: Set Permissions on an Amazon S3 Bucket**

By default, all Amazon S3 buckets and objects are private. Only the resource owner, the account that created the bucket, can access the bucket and any objects that it contains. However, the resource owner can choose to grant access permissions to other resources and users by writing an access policy.
To set permissions on an Amazon S3 bucket

1. Create a file named `policy.json` and add the following access policy, changing `Resource` to the name of your S3 bucket and `Principal` to the endpoint of the Region where you are exporting log data. Use a text editor to create this policy file. Don’t use the IAM console.

   - If the bucket is in your account, use the following policy.

     ```json
     {
     "Version": "2012-10-17",
     "Statement": [
     {
     "Action": "s3:GetBucketAcl",
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs",
     "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" } 
     },
     {
     "Action": "s3:PutObject",
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/*",
     "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
     "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" } 
     }
     ]
     }
     ```

   - If the bucket is in a different account, use the following policy instead. It includes an additional statement using the IAM user you created in the previous step.

     ```json
     {
     "Version": "2012-10-17",
     "Statement": [
     {
     "Action": "s3:GetBucketAcl",
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs",
     "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" } 
     },
     {
     "Action": "s3:PutObject",
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
     "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
     "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" } 
     },
     {
     "Action": "s3:PutObject",
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
     "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
     "Principal": { "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::SendingAccountID:user/CWLExportUser" } 
     }
     ]
     }
     ```

   - If the bucket is in a different account, and you are using an IAM role instead of an IAM user, use the following policy instead.

     ```json
     {
     }
     ```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Statement": [
  {
    "Action": "s3:GetBucketAcl",
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs",
    "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" }
  },
  {
    "Action": "s3:PutObject",
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
    "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
    "Principal": { "Service": "logs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com" }
  },
  {
    "Action": "s3:PutObject",
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::my-exported-logs/random-string/*",
    "Condition": { "StringEquals": { "s3:x-amz-acl": "bucket-owner-full-control" } },
    "Principal": { "AWS": "arn:aws:iam::SendingAccountID:role/CWLExportUser" }
  }
]
}

2. Set the policy that you just added as the access policy on your bucket by using the `put-bucket-policy` command. This policy enables CloudWatch Logs to export log data to your Amazon S3 bucket. The bucket owner will have full permissions on all of the exported objects.

```bash
aws s3api put-bucket-policy --bucket my-exported-logs --policy file://policy.json
```

**Warning**

If the existing bucket already has one or more policies attached to it, add the statements for CloudWatch Logs access to that policy or policies. We recommend that you evaluate the resulting set of permissions to be sure that they're appropriate for the users who will access the bucket.

**Step 4: Create an Export Task**

After you create the export task for exporting logs from a log group, the export task might take anywhere from a few seconds to a few hours, depending on the size of the data to export.

**To create an export task using the AWS CLI**

At a command prompt, use the following `create-export-task` command to create the export task.

```bash
aws logs create-export-task --profile CWLExportUser --task-name "my-log-group-09-10-2015" --log-group-name "my-log-group" --from 1441490400000 --to 1441494000000 --destination "my-exported-logs" --destination-prefix "export-task-output"
```

The following is example output.

```json
{
  "taskId": "cda45419-90ea-4db5-9833-aae86253e66"
}
```
Step 5: Describe Export Tasks

After you create an export task, you can get the current status of the task.

To describe export tasks using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, use the following `describe-export-tasks` command.

```
aws logs --profile CWLExportUser describe-export-tasks --task-id "cda45419-90ea-4db5-9833-aade86253e66"
```

The following is example output.

```
{
  "exportTasks": [
    {
      "destination": "my-exported-logs",
      "destinationPrefix": "export-task-output",
      "executionInfo": {
        "creationTime": 1441495400000
      },
      "from": 1441490400000,
      "logGroupName": "my-log-group",
      "status": {
        "code": "RUNNING",
        "message": "Started Successfully"
      },
      "taskId": "cda45419-90ea-4db5-9833-aade86253e66",
      "taskName": "my-log-group-09-10-2015",
      "tTo": 1441494000000
    }
  ]
}
```

You can use the `describe-export-tasks` command in three different ways:

- Without any filters: Lists all of your export tasks, in reverse order of creation.
- Filter on task ID: Lists the export task, if one exists, with the specified ID.
- Filter on task status: Lists the export tasks with the specified status.

For example, use the following command to filter on the **failed** status.

```
aws logs --profile CWLExportUser describe-export-tasks --status-code "FAILED"
```

The following is example output.

```
{
  "exportTasks": [
    {
      "destination": "my-exported-logs",
      "destinationPrefix": "export-task-output",
      "executionInfo": {
        "completionTime": 1441498600000
      },
      "from": 1441490400000,
      "logGroupName": "my-log-group",
      "status": {
        "code": "FAILED",
        "message": "Failed to export""
      }
    }
  ]
}
```
Step 6: Cancel an Export Task

You can cancel an export task if it is in either the PENDING or the RUNNING state.

To cancel an export task using the AWS CLI

At a command prompt, use the following cancel-export-task command:

```bash
aws logs --profile CWLExportUser cancel-export-task --task-id "cda45419-90ea-4db5-9833-aade86253e66"
```

You can use the describe-export-tasks command to verify that the task was canceled successfully.
Streaming CloudWatch Logs Data to Amazon Elasticsearch Service

You can configure a CloudWatch Logs log group to stream data it receives to your Amazon Elasticsearch Service (Amazon ES) cluster in near real-time through a CloudWatch Logs subscription. For more information, see Real-time Processing of Log Data with Subscriptions (p. 78).

Depending on the amount of log data being streamed, you might want to set a function-level concurrent execution limit on the function. For more information, see Function Level Concurrent Execution Limit.

Note
Streaming large amounts of CloudWatch Logs data to Amazon ES might result in high usage charges. We recommend that you create a Budget in the Billing and Cost Management console. For more information, see Managing Your Costs with Budgets.

Prerequisites

Before you begin, create an Amazon ES domain. The Amazon ES domain can have either public access or VPC access, but you cannot then modify the type of access after the domain is created. You might want to review your Amazon ES domain settings later, and modify your cluster configuration based on the amount of data your cluster will be processing.

For more information about Amazon ES, see the Amazon Elasticsearch Service Developer Guide.

To create an Amazon ES domain

At a command prompt, use the following create-elasticsearch-domain command:

```
aws es create-elasticsearch-domain --domain-name my-domain
```

Subscribe a Log Group to Amazon ES

You can use the CloudWatch console to subscribe a log group to Amazon ES.

To subscribe a log group to Amazon ES

2. In the navigation pane, choose Log groups.
3. Select the button next to the log group to subscribe.
4. Choose Actions, Stream to Amazon Elasticsearch Service.
5. On the Start Streaming to Amazon Elasticsearch Service screen, for Amazon ES cluster, choose the cluster you created in the previous step, and then choose Next.
6. Under Lambda Function, for Lambda IAM Execution Role, choose the IAM role that Lambda should use when executing calls to Amazon ES, and then choose Next.

The IAM role you choose must fulfill these requirements:
• It must have `lambda.amazonaws.com` in the trust relationship.
• It must include the following policy:

```
{
    "Version": "2012-10-17",
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Action": ["es:*"],
            "Effect": "Allow",
        }
    ]
}
```

• If the target Amazon ES domain uses VPC access, the role must have the `AWSLambdaVPCAccessExecutionRole` policy attached. This Amazon-managed policy grants Lambda access to the customer's VPC, enabling Lambda to write to the Amazon ES endpoint in the VPC.

7. On the `Configure Log Format and Filters` screen, for `Log Format`, choose a log format.
8. Under `Subscription Filter Pattern`, type the terms or pattern to find in your log events. This ensures that you send only the data you are interested in to your Amazon ES cluster. For more information, see `Searching and Filtering Log Data` (p. 60).
9. (Optional) Under `Select Log Data to Test`, select a log stream and then click `Test Pattern` to verify that your search filter is returning the results you expect.
10. Choose `Next`, and then on the `Review & Start Streaming to Amazon Elasticsearch Service` screen, review your choices and choose `Next`. Then choose `Start Streaming`. 
### AWS Services That Publish Logs to CloudWatch Logs

The following AWS services publish logs to CloudWatch Logs. For information about the logs that these services send, see the linked documentation.

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Security in Amazon CloudWatch Logs

Cloud security at AWS is the highest priority. As an AWS customer, you benefit from a data center and network architecture that is built to meet the requirements of the most security-sensitive organizations.

Security is a shared responsibility between AWS and you. The shared responsibility model describes this as security of the cloud and security in the cloud:

- **Security of the cloud** – AWS is responsible for protecting the infrastructure that runs AWS services in the AWS Cloud. AWS also provides you with services that you can use securely. Third-party auditors regularly test and verify the effectiveness of our security as part of the AWS Compliance Programs. To learn about the compliance programs that apply to Amazon WorkSpaces, see AWS Services in Scope by Compliance Program.
- **Security in the cloud** – Your responsibility is determined by the AWS service that you use. You are also responsible for other factors including the sensitivity of your data, your company’s requirements, and applicable laws and regulations

This documentation helps you understand how to apply the shared responsibility model when using Amazon CloudWatch Logs. It shows you how to configure Amazon CloudWatch Logs to meet your security and compliance objectives. You also learn how to use other AWS services that help you to monitor and secure your CloudWatch Logs resources.

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- Data Protection in Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 111)
- Identity and Access Management for Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 112)
- Compliance Validation for Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 125)
- Resilience in Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 125)
- Infrastructure Security in Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 125)
- Using CloudWatch Logs with Interface VPC Endpoints (p. 126)

Data Protection in Amazon CloudWatch Logs

Amazon CloudWatch Logs conforms to the AWS shared responsibility model, which includes regulations and guidelines for data protection. AWS is responsible for protecting the global infrastructure that runs all the AWS services. AWS maintains control over data hosted on this infrastructure, including the security configuration controls for handling customer content and personal data. AWS customers and APN partners, acting either as data controllers or data processors, are responsible for any personal data that they put in the AWS Cloud.

For data protection purposes, we recommend that you protect AWS account credentials and set up individual user accounts with AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM), so that each user is given only the permissions necessary to fulfill their job duties. We also recommend that you secure your data in the following ways:

- Use multi-factor authentication (MFA) with each account.
- Use TLS to communicate with AWS resources.
- Set up API and user activity logging with AWS CloudTrail.
- Use AWS encryption solutions, along with all default security controls within AWS services.
• Use advanced managed security services such as Amazon Macie, which assists in discovering and securing personal data that is stored in Amazon S3.

We strongly recommend that you never put sensitive identifying information, such as your customers' account numbers, into free-form fields or metadata, such as function names and tags. Any data that you enter into metadata might get picked up for inclusion in diagnostic logs. When you provide a URL to an external server, don't include credentials information in the URL to validate your request to that server.

For more information about data protection, see the AWS Shared Responsibility Model and GDPR blog post on the AWS Security Blog.

Encryption at Rest

CloudWatch Logs protects data at rest using encryption. The CloudWatch Logs service manages the server-side encryption keys.

To manage the keys used for encrypting and decrypting your logs, use customer master keys (CMK) from AWS Key Management Service. For more information, see Encrypt Log Data in CloudWatch Logs Using AWS KMS (p. 57).

Encryption in Transit

CloudWatch Logs uses end-to-end encryption of data in transit. The CloudWatch Logs service manages the server-side encryption keys.

Identity and Access Management for Amazon CloudWatch Logs

Access to Amazon CloudWatch Logs requires credentials that AWS can use to authenticate your requests. Those credentials must have permissions to access AWS resources, such as to retrieve CloudWatch Logs data about your cloud resources. The following sections provide details on how you can use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) and CloudWatch Logs to help secure your resources by controlling who can access them:

• Authentication (p. 112)
• Access Control (p. 113)

Authentication

You can access AWS as any of the following types of identities:

• AWS account root user – When you sign up for AWS, you provide an email address and password that is associated with your AWS account. These are your root credentials and they provide complete access to all of your AWS resources.

  Important
  For security reasons, we recommend that you use the root credentials only to create an administrator user, which is an IAM user with full permissions to your AWS account. Then, you can use this administrator user to create other IAM users and roles with limited permissions.
  For more information, see IAM Best Practices and Creating an Admin User and Group in the IAM User Guide.

• IAM user – An IAM user is simply an identity within your AWS account that has specific custom permissions (for example, permissions to view metrics in CloudWatch Logs). You can use an IAM user
name and password to sign in to secure AWS webpages like the AWS Management Console, AWS Discussion Forums, or the AWS Support Center.

In addition to a user name and password, you can also generate access keys for each user. You can use these keys when you access AWS services programmatically, either through one of the several SDKs or by using the AWS Command Line Interface (AWS CLI). The SDK and CLI tools use the access keys to cryptographically sign your request. If you don’t use the AWS tools, you must sign the request yourself. CloudWatch Logs supports Signature Version 4, a protocol for authenticating inbound API requests. For more information about authenticating requests, see Signature Version 4 Signing Process in the AWS General Reference.

- **IAM role** – An IAM role is another IAM identity you can create in your account that has specific permissions. It is similar to an IAM user, but it is not associated with a specific person. An IAM role enables you to obtain temporary access keys that can be used to access AWS services and resources. IAM roles with temporary credentials are useful in the following situations:

  - **Federated user access** – Instead of creating an IAM user, you can use preexisting user identities from AWS Directory Service, your enterprise user directory, or a web identity provider. These are known as federated users. AWS assigns a role to a federated user when access is requested through an identity provider. For more information about federated users, see Federated Users and Roles in the IAM User Guide.

  - **Cross-account access** – You can use an IAM role in your account to grant another AWS account permissions to access your account’s resources. For an example, see Tutorial: Delegate Access Across AWS Accounts Using IAM Roles in the IAM User Guide.

  - **AWS service access** – You can use an IAM role in your account to grant an AWS service permissions to access your account’s resources. For example, you can create a role that allows Amazon Redshift to access an Amazon S3 bucket on your behalf and then load data stored in the bucket into an Amazon Redshift cluster. For more information, see Creating a Role to Delegate Permissions to an AWS Service in the IAM User Guide.

  - **Applications running on Amazon EC2** – Instead of storing access keys within the EC2 instance for use by applications running on the instance and making AWS API requests, you can use an IAM role to manage temporary credentials for these applications. To assign an AWS role to an EC2 instance and make it available to all of its applications, you can create an instance profile that is attached to the instance. An instance profile contains the role and enables programs running on the EC2 instance to get temporary credentials. For more information, see Using Roles for Applications on Amazon EC2 in the IAM User Guide.

**Access Control**

You can have valid credentials to authenticate your requests, but unless you have permissions you cannot create or access CloudWatch Logs resources. For example, you must have permissions to create log streams, create log groups, and so on.

The following sections describe how to manage permissions for CloudWatch Logs. We recommend that you read the overview first.
Overview of Managing Access Permissions to Your CloudWatch Logs Resources

Every AWS resource is owned by an AWS account, and permissions to create or access a resource are governed by permissions policies. An account administrator can attach permissions policies to IAM identities (that is, users, groups, and roles), and some services (such as AWS Lambda) also support attaching permissions policies to resources.

Note
An account administrator (or administrator IAM user) is a user with administrator privileges. For more information, see IAM Best Practices in the IAM User Guide.

When granting permissions, you decide who is getting the permissions, the resources they get permissions for, and the specific actions that you want to allow on those resources.

Topics
- CloudWatch Logs Resources and Operations (p. 114)
- Understanding Resource Ownership (p. 115)
- Managing Access to Resources (p. 115)
- Specifying Policy Elements: Actions, Effects, and Principals (p. 117)
- Specifying Conditions in a Policy (p. 117)

CloudWatch Logs Resources and Operations

In CloudWatch Logs the primary resources are log groups, log streams and destinations. CloudWatch Logs does not support subresources (other resources for use with the primary resource).

These resources and subresources have unique Amazon Resource Names (ARNs) associated with them as shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>ARN Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Log group</td>
<td>arn:aws:logs:region:account-id:log-group:log_group_name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>arn:aws:logs:region:account-id:destination:destination_name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about ARNs, see ARNs in IAM User Guide. For information about CloudWatch Logs ARNs, see Amazon Resource Names (ARNs) and AWS Service Namespaces in Amazon Web Services General Reference. For an example of a policy that covers CloudWatch Logs, see Using Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) for CloudWatch Logs (p. 117).

CloudWatch Logs provides a set of operations to work with the CloudWatch Logs resources. For a list of available operations, see CloudWatch Logs Permissions Reference (p. 122).
Understanding Resource Ownership

The AWS account owns the resources that are created in the account, regardless of who created the resources. Specifically, the resource owner is the AWS account of the principal entity (that is, the root account, an IAM user, or an IAM role) that authenticates the resource creation request. The following examples illustrate how this works:

- If you use the root account credentials of your AWS account to create a log group, your AWS account is the owner of the CloudWatch Logs resource.
- If you create an IAM user in your AWS account and grant permissions to create CloudWatch Logs resources to that user, the user can create CloudWatch Logs resources. However, your AWS account, to which the user belongs, owns the CloudWatch Logs resources.
- If you create an IAM role in your AWS account with permissions to create CloudWatch Logs resources, anyone who can assume the role can create CloudWatch Logs resources. Your AWS account, to which the role belongs, owns the CloudWatch Logs resources.

Managing Access to Resources

A permissions policy describes who has access to what. The following section explains the available options for creating permissions policies.

Note
This section discusses using IAM in the context of CloudWatch Logs. It doesn't provide detailed information about the IAM service. For complete IAM documentation, see What Is IAM? in the IAM User Guide. For information about IAM policy syntax and descriptions, see IAM Policy Reference in the IAM User Guide.

Policies attached to an IAM identity are referred to as identity-based policies (IAM polices) and policies attached to a resource are referred to as resource-based policies. CloudWatch Logs supports identity-based policies, and resource-based policies for destinations, which are used to enable cross account subscriptions. For more information, see Cross-Account Log Data Sharing with Subscriptions (p. 89).

Topics
- Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) (p. 115)
- Resource-Based Policies (p. 116)

Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies)

You can attach policies to IAM identities. For example, you can do the following:

- **Attach a permissions policy to a user or a group in your account** – To grant a user permissions to view logs in the CloudWatch Logs console, you can attach a permissions policy to a user or group that the user belongs to.

- **Attach a permissions policy to a role (grant cross-account permissions)** – You can attach an identity-based permissions policy to an IAM role to grant cross-account permissions. For example, the administrator in Account A can create a role to grant cross-account permissions to another AWS account (for example, Account B) or an AWS service as follows:
  1. Account A administrator creates an IAM role and attaches a permissions policy to the role that grants permissions on resources in Account A.
  2. Account A administrator attaches a trust policy to the role identifying Account B as the principal who can assume the role.
  3. Account B administrator can then delegate permissions to assume the role to any users in Account B. Doing this allows users in Account B to create or access resources in Account A. The principal in
the trust policy an also be an AWS service principal if you want to grant an AWS service permissions
to assume the role.

For more information about using IAM to delegate permissions, see Access Management in the IAM
User Guide.

The following is an example policy that grants permissions for the logs:PutLogEvents,
logs:CreateLogGroup, and logs:CreateLogStream actions on all resources in us-east-1. For log
groups, CloudWatch Logs supports identifying specific resources using the resource ARNs (also referred
to as resource-level permissions) for some of the API actions. If you want to include all log groups, you
must specify the wildcard character (*).

```json
{
   "Version":"2012-10-17",
   "Statement": [
       {
           "Sid": "",
           "Effect": "Allow",
           "Action": ["logs:PutLogEvents",
                       "logs:CreateLogGroup",
                       "logs:CreateLogStream" ],
           "Resource": "arn:aws:logs:us-east-1::*:*"
       }
   ]
}
```

For more information about using identity-based policies with CloudWatch Logs, see Using Identity-
Based Policies (IAM Policies) for CloudWatch Logs (p. 117). For more information about users, groups,
roles, and permissions, see Identities (Users, Groups, and Roles) in the IAM User Guide.

Resource-Based Policies

CloudWatch Logs supports resource-based policies for destinations, which you can use to enable
cross account subscriptions. For more information, see Create a Destination (p. 90). Destinations
can be created using the PutDestination API, and you can add a resource policy to the destination
using the PutDestination API. The following example allows another AWS account with the
account ID 111122223333 to subscribe their log groups to the destination arn:aws:logs:us-
east-1:123456789012:destination:testDestination.

```json
{
   "Version" : "2012-10-17",
   "Statement" : [
       {
           "Sid" : "",
           "Effect" : "Allow",
           "Principal" : { "AWS" : "111122223333" },
           "Action" : ["logs:PutSubscriptionFilter"],
       }
   ]
}
```
Specifying Policy Elements: Actions, Effects, and Principals

For each CloudWatch Logs resource, the service defines a set of API operations. To grant permissions for these API operations, CloudWatch Logs defines a set of actions that you can specify in a policy. Some API operations can require permissions for more than one action in order to perform the API operation. For more information about resources and API operations, see CloudWatch Logs Resources and Operations (p. 114) and CloudWatch Logs Permissions Reference (p. 122).

The following are the basic policy elements:

- **Resource** – You use an Amazon Resource Name (ARN) to identify the resource that the policy applies to. For more information, see CloudWatch Logs Resources and Operations (p. 114).

- **Action** – You use action keywords to identify resource operations that you want to allow or deny. For example, the `logs.DescribeLogGroups` permission allows the user permissions to perform the `DescribeLogGroups` operation.

- **Effect** – You specify the effect, either allow or deny, when the user requests the specific action. If you don’t explicitly grant access to (allow) a resource, access is implicitly denied. You can also explicitly deny access to a resource, which you might do to make sure that a user cannot access it, even if a different policy grants access.

- **Principal** – In identity-based policies (IAM policies), the user that the policy is attached to is the implicit principal. For resource-based policies, you specify the user, account, service, or other entity that you want to receive permissions (applies to resource-based policies only). CloudWatch Logs supports resource-based policies for destinations.

To learn more about IAM policy syntax and descriptions, see AWS IAM Policy Reference in the IAM User Guide.

For a table showing all of the CloudWatch Logs API actions and the resources that they apply to, see CloudWatch Logs Permissions Reference (p. 122).

Specifying Conditions in a Policy

When you grant permissions, you can use the access policy language to specify the conditions when a policy should take effect. For example, you might want a policy to be applied only after a specific date. For more information about specifying conditions in a policy language, see Condition in the IAM User Guide.

To express conditions, you use predefined condition keys. For a list of context keys supported by each AWS service and a list of AWS-wide policy keys, see AWS Service Actions and Condition Context Keys and Global and IAM Condition Context Keys in the IAM User Guide.

Using Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) for CloudWatch Logs

This topic provides examples of identity-based policies in which an account administrator can attach permissions policies to IAM identities (that is, users, groups, and roles).

**Important**

We recommend that you first review the introductory topics that explain the basic concepts and options available for you to manage access to your CloudWatch Logs resources. For more information, see Overview of Managing Access Permissions to Your CloudWatch Logs Resources (p. 114).

This topic covers the following:
The following is an example of a permissions policy:

```
{
    "Version": "2012-10-17",
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Action": [
                "logs:CreateLogGroup",
                "logs:CreateLogStream",
                "logs:PutLogEvents",
                "logs:DescribeLogStreams"
            ],
            "Resource": [
                "arn:aws:logs:*:*:*"
            ]
        }
    ]
}
```

This policy has one statement that grants permissions to create log groups and log streams, to upload log events to log streams, and to list details about log streams.

The wildcard character (*) at the end of the Resource value means that the statement allows permission for the logs:CreateLogGroup, logs:CreateLogStream, logs:PutLogEvents, and logs:DescribeLogStreams actions on any log group. To limit this permission to a specific log group, replace the wildcard character (*) in the resource ARN with the specific log group ARN. For more information about the sections within an IAM policy statement, see IAM Policy Elements Reference in IAM User Guide. For a list showing all of the CloudWatch Logs actions, see CloudWatch Logs Permissions Reference (p. 122).

Permissions Required to Use the CloudWatch Console

For a user to work with CloudWatch Logs in the CloudWatch console, that user must have a minimum set of permissions that allows the user to describe other AWS resources in their AWS account. In order to use CloudWatch Logs in the CloudWatch console, you must have permissions from the following services:

- CloudWatch
- CloudWatch Logs
- Amazon ES
- IAM
- Kinesis
- Lambda
- Amazon S3

If you create an IAM policy that is more restrictive than the minimum required permissions, the console won't function as intended for users with that IAM policy. To ensure that those users can still use the CloudWatch console, also attach the CloudWatchReadOnlyAccess managed policy to the user, as described in AWS Managed (Predefined) Policies for CloudWatch Logs (p. 120).

You don't need to allow minimum console permissions for users that are making calls only to the AWS CLI or the CloudWatch Logs API.
The full set of permissions required to work with the CloudWatch console for a user who is not using the console to manage log subscriptions are:

- `cloudwatch:getMetricData`
- `cloudwatch:listMetrics`
- `logs:cancelExportTask`
- `logs:createExportTask`
- `logs:createLogGroup`
- `logs:createLogStream`
- `logs:deleteLogGroup`
- `logs:deleteLogStream`
- `logs:deleteMetricFilter`
- `logs:deleteRetentionPolicy`
- `logs:deleteSubscriptionFilter`
- `logs:describeExportTasks`
- `logs:describeLogGroups`
- `logs:describeLogStreams`
- `logs:describeMetricFilters`
- `logs:describeSubscriptionFilters`
- `logs:filterLogEvents`
- `logs:getLogEvents`
- `logs:putMetricFilter`
- `logs:putRetentionPolicy`
- `logs:putSubscriptionFilter`
- `logs:testMetricFilter`

For a user who will also be using the console to manage log subscriptions, the following permissions are also required:

- `es:describeElasticsearchDomain`
- `es:listDomainNames`
- `iam:attachRolePolicy`
- `iam:createRole`
- `iam:getPolicy`
- `iam:getPolicyVersion`
- `iam:getRole`
- `iam:listAttachedRolePolicies`
- `iam:listRoles`
- `kinesis:describeStreams`
- `kinesis:listStreams`
- `lambda:addPermission`
- `lambda:createFunction`
- `lambda:getFunctionConfiguration`
- `lambda:listAliases`
- `lambda:listFunctions`
- `lambda:listVersionsByFunction`
- `lambda:removePermission`
• s3:listBuckets

AWS Managed (Predefined) Policies for CloudWatch Logs

AWS addresses many common use cases by providing standalone IAM policies that are created and administered by AWS. Managed policies grant necessary permissions for common use cases so you can avoid having to investigate what permissions are needed. For more information, see AWS Managed Policies in the IAM User Guide.

The following AWS managed policies, which you can attach to users in your account, are specific to CloudWatch Logs:

• **CloudWatchLogsFullAccess** – Grants full access to CloudWatch Logs.
• **CloudWatchLogsReadOnlyAccess** – Grants read-only access to CloudWatch Logs.

**Note**
You can review these permissions policies by signing in to the IAM console and searching for specific policies there.

You can also create your own custom IAM policies to allow permissions for CloudWatch Logs actions and resources. You can attach these custom policies to the IAM users or groups that require those permissions.

Customer Managed Policy Examples

In this section, you can find example user policies that grant permissions for various CloudWatch Logs actions. These policies work when you are using the CloudWatch Logs API, AWS SDKs, or the AWS CLI.

**Examples**

• **Example 1: Allow Full Access to CloudWatch Logs (p. 120)**
• **Example 2: Allow Read-Only Access to CloudWatch Logs (p. 120)**
• **Example 3: Allow Access to One Log Group (p. 121)**

**Example 1: Allow Full Access to CloudWatch Logs**

The following policy allows a user to access all CloudWatch Logs actions.

```json
{
    "Version": "2012-10-17",
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Action": ["logs:*"],
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Resource": "*"
        }
    ]
}
```

**Example 2: Allow Read-Only Access to CloudWatch Logs**

The following policy allows a user read-only access to CloudWatch Logs data.

```json
{
    "Version": "2012-10-17",
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Action": ["cloudwatch:*"],
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Resource": "*"
        }
    ]
}
```
Example 3: Allow Access to One Log Group

The following policy allows a user to read and write log events in one specified log group.

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Action": [
        "logs:CreateLogStream",
        "logs:DescribeLogStreams",
        "logs:PutLogEvents",
        "logs:GetLogEvents"
      ],
      "Effect": "Allow",
    }
  ]
}
```

Use Tagging and IAM Policies for Control at the Log Group Level

You can grant users access to certain log groups while preventing them from accessing other log groups. To do so, tag your log groups and use IAM policies that refer to those tags.

For more information about tagging log groups, see Tag Log Groups in Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 55).

When you tag log groups, you can then grant an IAM policy to a user to allow access to only the log groups with a particular tag. For example, the following policy statement grants access to only log groups with the value of Green for the tag key Team.

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Action": [
        "logs:*
      ],
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Resource": "*",
      "Condition": {
        "StringLike": {
          "logs:ResourceTag/Team": "Green"
        }
      }
    }
  ]
}
```
For more information about using IAM policy statements, see Controlling Access Using Policies in the IAM User Guide.

CloudWatch Logs Permissions Reference

When you are setting up Access Control (p. 113) and writing permissions policies that you can attach to an IAM identity (identity-based policies), you can use the following table as a reference. The table lists each CloudWatch Logs API operation and the corresponding actions for which you can grant permissions to perform the action. You specify the actions in the policy's Action field. For the Resource field, you can specify the ARN of a log group or log stream, or specify * to represent all CloudWatch Logs resources.

You can use AWS-wide condition keys in your CloudWatch Logs policies to express conditions. For a complete list of AWS-wide keys, see AWS Global and IAM Condition Context Keys in the IAM User Guide.

**Note**
To specify an action, use the `logs:` prefix followed by the API operation name. For example: `logs:CreateLogGroup`, `logs:CreateLogStream`, or `logs:*` (for all CloudWatch Logs actions).

### CloudWatch Logs API Operations and Required Permissions for Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CloudWatch Logs API Operations</th>
<th>Required Permissions (API Actions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CancelExportTask</td>
<td><code>logs:CancelExportTask</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to cancel a pending or running export task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CreateExportTask</td>
<td><code>logs:CreateExportTask</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to export data from a log group to an Amazon S3 bucket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CreateLogGroup</td>
<td><code>logs:CreateLogGroup</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create a new log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CreateLogStream</td>
<td><code>logs:CreateLogStream</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create a new log stream in a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteDestination</td>
<td><code>logs:DeleteDestination</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete a log destination and disables any subscription filters to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteLogGroup</td>
<td><code>logs:DeleteLogGroup</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete a log group and any associated archived log events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteLogStream</td>
<td><code>logs:DeleteLogStream</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete a log stream and any associated archived log events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteMetricFilter</td>
<td><code>logs:DeleteMetricFilter</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CloudWatch Logs API Operations</td>
<td>Required Permissions (API Actions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete a metric filter associated with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteResourcePolicy</td>
<td>logs:DeleteResourcePolicy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete a CloudWatch Logs resource policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteRetentionPolicy</td>
<td>logs:DeleteRetentionPolicy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete a log group's retention policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeleteSubscriptionFilter</td>
<td>logs:DeleteSubscriptionFilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to delete the subscription filter associated with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeDestinations</td>
<td>logs:DescribeDestinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view all destinations associated with the account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeExportTasks</td>
<td>logs:DescribeExportTasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view all export tasks associated with the account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeLogGroups</td>
<td>logs:DescribeLogGroups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view all log groups associated with the account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeLogStreams</td>
<td>logs:DescribeLogStreams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view all log streams associated with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeMetricFilters</td>
<td>logs:DescribeMetricFilters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view all metrics associated with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeResourcePolicies</td>
<td>logs:DescribeResourcePolicies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view a list of CloudWatch Logs resource policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeSubscriptionFilters</td>
<td>logs:DescribeSubscriptionFilters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to view all subscription filters associated with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FilterLogEvents</td>
<td>logs:FilterLogEvents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to sort log events by log group filter pattern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CloudWatch Logs API Operations</td>
<td>Required Permissions (API Actions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GetLogEvents</td>
<td>logs:GetLogEvents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to retrieve log events from a log stream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ListTagsLogGroup</td>
<td>logs:ListTagsLogGroup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to list the tags associated with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PutDestination</td>
<td>logs:PutDestination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create or update a destination log stream (such as an Kinesis stream).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PutDestinationPolicy</td>
<td>logs:PutDestinationPolicy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create or update an access policy associated with an existing log destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PutLogEvents</td>
<td>logs:PutLogEvents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to upload a batch of log events to a log stream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PutMetricFilter</td>
<td>logs:PutMetricFilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create or update a metric filter and associate it with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create a CloudWatch Logs resource policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PutRetentionPolicy</td>
<td>logs:PutRetentionPolicy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to set the number of days to keep log events (retention) in a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PutSubscriptionFilter</td>
<td>logs:PutSubscriptionFilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to create or update a subscription filter and associate it with a log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TagLogGroup</td>
<td>logs:TagLogGroup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to add or update log group tags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TestMetricFilter</td>
<td>logs:TestMetricFilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required to test a filter pattern against a sampling of log event messages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compliance Validation for Amazon CloudWatch Logs

Third-party auditors assess the security and compliance of Amazon CloudWatch Logs as part of multiple AWS compliance programs. These include SOC, PCI, FedRAMP, HIPAA, and others.

For a list of AWS services in scope of specific compliance programs, see AWS Services in Scope by Compliance Program. For general information, see AWS Compliance Programs.

You can download third-party audit reports using AWS Artifact. For more information, see Downloading Reports in AWS Artifact.

Your compliance responsibility when using Amazon CloudWatch Logs is determined by the sensitivity of your data, your company's compliance objectives, and applicable laws and regulations. AWS provides the following resources to help with compliance:

- **Security and Compliance Quick Start Guides** – These deployment guides discuss architectural considerations and provide steps for deploying security- and compliance-focused baseline environments on AWS.
- **Architecting for HIPAA Security and Compliance Whitepaper** – This whitepaper describes how companies can use AWS to create HIPAA-compliant applications.
- **AWS Compliance Resources** – This collection of workbooks and guides might apply to your industry and location.
- **Evaluating Resources with Rules** in the AWS Config Developer Guide – AWS Config; assesses how well your resource configurations comply with internal practices, industry guidelines, and regulations.
- **AWS Security Hub** – This AWS service provides a comprehensive view of your security state within AWS that helps you check your compliance with security industry standards and best practices.

Resilience in Amazon CloudWatch Logs

The AWS global infrastructure is built around AWS Regions and Availability Zones. Regions provide multiple physically separated and isolated Availability Zones, which are connected through low-latency, high-throughput, and highly redundant networking. With Availability Zones, you can design and operate applications and databases that automatically fail over between zones without interruption. Availability Zones are more highly available, fault tolerant, and scalable than traditional single or multiple data center infrastructures.

For more information about AWS Regions and Availability Zones, see AWS Global Infrastructure.

Infrastructure Security in Amazon CloudWatch Logs

As a managed service, Amazon CloudWatch Logs is protected by the AWS global network security procedures that are described in the Amazon Web Services: Overview of Security Processes whitepaper.

You use AWS published API calls to access Amazon CloudWatch Logs through the network. Clients must support Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.0 or later. We recommend TLS 1.2 or later. Clients must also support cipher suites with perfect forward secrecy (PFS) such as Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman (DHE) or
Elliptic Curve Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman (ECDHE). Most modern systems such as Java 7 and later support these modes.

Additionally, requests must be signed using an access key ID and a secret access key that is associated with an IAM principal. Or you can use the AWS Security Token Service (AWS STS) to generate temporary security credentials to sign requests.

Using CloudWatch Logs with Interface VPC Endpoints

If you use Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC) to host your AWS resources, you can establish a private connection between your VPC and CloudWatch Logs. You can use this connection to send logs to CloudWatch Logs without sending them through the internet.

Amazon VPC is an AWS service that you can use to launch AWS resources in a virtual network that you define. With a VPC, you have control over your network settings, such the IP address range, subnets, route tables, and network gateways. To connect your VPC to CloudWatch Logs, you define an interface VPC endpoint for CloudWatch Logs. This type of endpoint enables you to connect your VPC to AWS services. The endpoint provides reliable, scalable connectivity to CloudWatch Logs without requiring an internet gateway, network address translation (NAT) instance, or VPN connection. For more information, see What is Amazon VPC in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

Interface VPC endpoints are powered by AWS PrivateLink, an AWS technology that enables private communication between AWS services using an elastic network interface with private IP addresses. For more information, see New – AWS PrivateLink for AWS Services.

The following steps are for users of Amazon VPC. For more information, see Getting Started in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

Availability

CloudWatch Logs currently supports VPC endpoints in the following Regions:

- US East (Ohio)
- US East (N. Virginia)
- US West (N. California)
- US West (Oregon)
- Asia Pacific (Mumbai)
- Asia Pacific (Seoul)
- Asia Pacific (Singapore)
- Asia Pacific (Sydney)
- Asia Pacific (Tokyo)
- Canada (Central)
- Europe (Frankfurt)
- Europe (Ireland)
- Europe (London)
- Europe (Paris)
- South America (São Paulo)
- AWS GovCloud (US-East)
Creating a VPC Endpoint for CloudWatch Logs

To start using CloudWatch Logs with your VPC, create an interface VPC endpoint for CloudWatch Logs. The service to choose is `com.amazonaws.Region.logs`. For more information, see Creating an Interface Endpoint in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

You do not need to change the settings for CloudWatch Logs. CloudWatch Logs calls other AWS services using either public endpoints or private interface VPC endpoints, whichever are in use. For example, if you create an interface VPC endpoint for CloudWatch Logs, and you already have a CloudWatch Logs subscription filter for Kinesis Data Streams and an interface VPC endpoint for Kinesis Data Streams, calls between CloudWatch Logs and Kinesis Data Streams begin to flow through the interface VPC endpoint.

Testing the Connection Between Your VPC and CloudWatch Logs

After you create the endpoint, you can test the connection.

To test the connection between your VPC and your CloudWatch Logs endpoint

1. Connect to an Amazon EC2 instance that resides in your VPC. For information about connecting, see Connect to Your Linux Instance or Connecting to Your Windows Instance in the Amazon EC2 documentation.
2. From the instance, use the AWS CLI to create a log entry in one of your existing log groups.

   First, create a JSON file with a log event. The timestamp must be specified as the number of milliseconds after Jan 1, 1970 00:00:00 UTC.

   ```json
   [
     {
       "timestamp": 1533854071310,
       "message": "VPC Connection Test"
     }
   ]
   
   Then, use the `put-log-events` command to create the log entry:

   ```bash
   aws logs put-log-events --log-group-name LogGroupName --log-stream-name LogStreamName --log-events file://JSONFileName
   
   If the response to the command includes `nextSequenceToken`, the command has succeeded and your VPC endpoint is working.

Controlling Access to Your CloudWatch Logs VPC Endpoint

A VPC endpoint policy is an IAM resource policy that you attach to an endpoint when you create or modify the endpoint. If you don't attach a policy when you create an endpoint, we attach a default policy for you that allows full access to the service. An endpoint policy doesn't override or replace IAM user policies or service-specific policies. It's a separate policy for controlling access from the endpoint to the specified service.
Endpoint policies must be written in JSON format.

For more information, see Controlling Access to Services with VPC Endpoints in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

The following is an example of an endpoint policy for CloudWatch Logs. This policy enables users connecting to CloudWatch Logs through the VPC to create log streams and send logs to CloudWatch Logs, and prevents them from performing other CloudWatch Logs actions.

```
{
    "Statement": [
        {
            "Sid": "PutOnly",
            "Principal": "*",
            "Action": [
                "logs:CreateLogStream",
                "logs:PutLogEvents"
            ],
            "Effect": "Allow",
            "Resource": "*"
        }
    ]
}
```

To modify the VPC endpoint policy for CloudWatch Logs

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. In the navigation pane, choose Endpoints.
3. If you have not already created the endpoint for CloudWatch Logs, choose Create Endpoint. Then select com.amazonaws.Region.logs and choose Create endpoint.
4. Select the com.amazonaws.Region.logs endpoint, and choose the Policy tab in the lower half of the screen.
5. Choose Edit Policy and make the changes to the policy.

Support for VPC Context Keys

CloudWatch Logs supports the aws:SourceVpc and aws:SourceVpce context keys that can limit access to specific VPCs or specific VPC endpoints. These keys work only when the user is using VPC endpoints. For more information, see Keys Available for Some Services in the IAM User Guide.
Logging Amazon CloudWatch Logs API Calls in AWS CloudTrail

Amazon CloudWatch Logs is integrated with AWS CloudTrail, a service that provides a record of actions taken by a user, role, or an AWS service in CloudWatch Logs. CloudTrail captures API calls made by or on behalf of your AWS account. The calls captured include calls from the CloudWatch console and code calls to the CloudWatch Logs API operations. If you create a trail, you can enable continuous delivery of CloudTrail events to an Amazon S3 bucket, including events for CloudWatch Logs. If you don’t configure a trail, you can still view the most recent events in the CloudTrail console in Event history. Using the information collected by CloudTrail, you can determine the request that was made to CloudWatch Logs, the IP address from which the request was made, who made the request, when it was made, and additional details.

To learn more about CloudTrail, including how to configure and enable it, see the AWS CloudTrail User Guide.

Topics
- CloudWatch Logs Information in CloudTrail (p. 129)
- Understanding Log File Entries (p. 130)

CloudWatch Logs Information in CloudTrail

CloudTrail is enabled on your AWS account when you create the account. When supported event activity occurs in CloudWatch Logs, that activity is recorded in a CloudTrail event along with other AWS service events in Event history. You can view, search, and download recent events in your AWS account. For more information, see Viewing Events with CloudTrail Event History.

For an ongoing record of events in your AWS account, including events for CloudWatch Logs, create a trail. A trail enables CloudTrail to deliver log files to an Amazon S3 bucket. By default, when you create a trail in the console, the trail applies to all AWS Regions. The trail logs events from all Regions in the AWS partition and delivers the log files to the Amazon S3 bucket that you specify. Additionally, you can configure other AWS services to further analyze and act upon the event data collected in CloudTrail logs. For more information, see the following:

- Overview for Creating a Trail
- CloudTrail Supported Services and Integrations
- Configuring Amazon SNS Notifications for CloudTrail
- Receiving CloudTrail Log Files from Multiple Regions and Receiving CloudTrail Log Files from Multiple Accounts

CloudWatch Logs supports logging the following actions as events in CloudTrail log files:

- CancelExportTask
- CreateExportTask
- CreateLogGroup
- CreateLogStream
- DeleteDestination
Amazon CloudWatch Logs User Guide
Understanding Log File Entries

- DeleteLogGroup
- DeleteLogStream
- DeleteMetricFilter
- DeleteRetentionPolicy
- DeleteSubscriptionFilter
- PutDestination
- PutDestinationPolicy
- PutMetricFilter
- PutRetentionPolicy
- PutSubscriptionFilter
- TestMetricFilter

Only request elements are logged in CloudTrail for these CloudWatch Logs API actions:

- DescribeDestinations
- DescribeExportTasks
- DescribeLogGroups
- DescribeLogStreams
- DescribeMetricFilters
- DescribeSubscriptionFilters
- DescribeSubscriptionFilters

Every event or log entry contains information about who generated the request. The identity information helps you determine the following:

- Whether the request was made with root or AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) user credentials.
- Whether the request was made with temporary security credentials for a role or federated user.
- Whether the request was made by another AWS service.

For more information, see the CloudTrail userIdentity Element.

Understanding Log File Entries

A trail is a configuration that enables delivery of events as log files to an Amazon S3 bucket that you specify. CloudTrail log files contain one or more log entries. An event represents a single request from any source and includes information about the requested action, the date and time of the action, request parameters, and so on. CloudTrail log files aren't an ordered stack trace of the public API calls, so they don't appear in any specific order.

The following log file entry shows that a user called the CloudWatch Logs CreateExportTask action.

```
{
    "eventVersion": "1.03",
    "userIdentity": {
        "type": "IAMUser",
        "principalId": "EX_PRINCIPAL_ID",
        "arn": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:user/someuser",
        "accountId": "123456789012",
        "accessKeyId": "AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE",
        "accessKeyId": "AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE",
        "userName": "someuser"
    }
```
"eventTime": "2016-02-08T06:35:14Z",
"eventSource": "logs.amazonaws.com",
"eventName": "CreateExportTask",
"awsRegion": "us-east-1",
"sourceIPAddress": "127.0.0.1",
"userAgent": "aws-sdk-ruby2/2.0.0.rc4 ruby/1.9.3 x86_64-linux Seahorse/0.1.0",
"requestParameters": {
    "destination": "yourdestination",
    "logGroupName": "yourloggroup",
    "to": 123456789012,
    "from": 0,
    "taskId": "yourtask"
},
"responseElements": {
    "taskId": "15e5e534-9548-44ab-a221-64d9d2b27b9b"
},
"requestID": "1cd74c1c-ce2e-12e6-99a9-8dbb26bd06c9",
"eventId": "fd072859-bd7c-4865-9e76-8e364e89307c",
"eventType": "AwsApiCall",
"apiVersion": "20140328",
"recipientAccountId": "123456789012"}
CloudWatch Logs Agent Reference

The CloudWatch Logs agent provides an automated way to send log data to CloudWatch Logs from Amazon EC2 instances. The agent includes the following components:

- A plug-in to the AWS CLI that pushes log data to CloudWatch Logs.
- A script (daemon) that initiates the process to push data to CloudWatch Logs.
- A cron job that ensures that the daemon is always running.

Agent Configuration File

The CloudWatch Logs agent configuration file describes information needed by the CloudWatch Logs agent. The agent configuration file's [general] section defines common configurations that apply to all log streams. The [logstream] section defines the information necessary to send a local file to a remote log stream. You can have more than one [logstream] section, but each must have a unique name within the configuration file, e.g., [logstream1], [logstream2], and so on. The [logstream] value along with the first line of data in the log file, define the log file's identity.

```
[generic]
state_file = value
logging_config_file = value
use_gzip_http_content_encoding = [true | false]

[logstream1]
log_group_name = value
log_stream_name = value
datetime_format = value
time_zone = [LOCAL|UTC]
file = value
file_fingerprint_lines = integer | integer-integer
multi_line_start_pattern = regex | {datetime_format}
initial_position = [start_of_file | end_of_file]
encoding = [ascii|utf_8|...]
buffer_duration = integer
batch_count = integer
batch_size = integer

[logstream2]
...
```

**state_file**

Specifies where the state file is stored.

**logging_config_file**

(Optional) Specifies the location of the agent logging config file. If you do not specify an agent logging config file here, the default file awslogs.conf is used. The default file location is /var/awslogs/etc/awslogs.conf if you installed the agent with a script, and is /etc/awslogs/awslogs.conf if you installed the agent with rpm. The file is in Python configuration file format (https://docs.python.org/2/library/logging.config.html#logging-config-fileformat). Loggers with the following names can be customized.

```
cwlogs.push
cwlogs.push.reader
cwlogs.push.publisher
```
The sample below changes the level of reader and publisher to WARNING while the default value is INFO.

```
[loggers]
    keys=root,cwlogs,reader,publisher

[handlers]
    keys=consoleHandler

[formatters]
    keys=simpleFormatter

[logger_root]
    level=INFO
    handlers=consoleHandler

[logger_cwlogs]
    level=INFO
    handlers=consoleHandler
    qualname=cwlogs.push
    propagate=0

[logger_reader]
    level=WARNING
    handlers=consoleHandler
    qualname=cwlogs.push.reader
    propagate=0

[logger_publisher]
    level=WARNING
    handlers=consoleHandler
    qualname=cwlogs.push.publisher
    propagate=0

[handler_consoleHandler]
    class=logging.StreamHandler
    level=INFO
    formatter=simpleFormatter
    args=(sys.stderr,)

[formatter_simpleFormatter]
    format=%(asctime)s - %(name)s - %(levelname)s - %(process)d - %(threadName)s - %(message)s
```

### use_gzip_http_content_encoding

When set to true (default), enables gzip http content encoding to send compressed payloads to CloudWatch Logs. This decreases CPU usage, lowers NetworkOut, and decreases put latency. To disable this feature, add `use_gzip_http_content_encoding = false` to the `[general]` section of the CloudWatch Logs agent configuration file, and then restart the agent.

**Note**

This setting is only available in awscli-cwlogs version 1.3.3 and later.

### log_group_name

Specifies the destination log group. A log group is created automatically if it doesn't already exist. Log group names can be between 1 and 512 characters long. Allowed characters include a-z, A-Z, 0-9, '_-' (underscore), '-' (hyphen), '/' (forward slash), and '.' (period).
log_stream_name

Specifies the destination log stream. You can use a literal string or predefined variables (instance_id), (hostname), (ip_address), or combination of both to define a log stream name. A log stream is created automatically if it doesn't already exist.

datetime_format

Specifies how the timestamp is extracted from logs. The timestamp is used for retrieving log events and generating metrics. The current time is used for each log event if the datetime_format isn't provided. If the provided datetime_format value is invalid for a given log message, the timestamp from the last log event with a successfully parsed timestamp is used. If no previous log events exist, the current time is used.

The common datetime_format codes are listed below. You can also use any datetime_format codes supported by Python, datetime.strptime(). The timezone offset (%z) is also supported even though it's not supported until python 3.2, [+/-]HHMM without colon(:). For more information, see strftime() and strptime() Behavior.

%y: Year without century as a zero-padded decimal number. 00, 01, ..., 99
%b: Month as locale's abbreviated name. Jan, Feb, ..., Dec (en_US);
%B: Month as locale's full name. January, February, ..., December (en_US);
%m: Month as a zero-padded decimal number. 01, 02, ..., 12
%d: Day of the month as a zero-padded decimal number. 01, 02, ..., 31
%H: Hour (24-hour clock) as a zero-padded decimal number. 00, 01, ..., 23
%I: Hour (12-hour clock) as a zero-padded decimal number. 01, 02, ..., 12
%p: Locale's equivalent of either AM or PM.
%M: Minute as a zero-padded decimal number. 00, 01, ..., 59
%S: Second as a zero-padded decimal number. 00, 01, ..., 59
%f: Microsecond as a decimal number, zero-padded on the left. 000000, ..., 999999
%z: UTC offset in the form +HHMM or -HHMM. +0000, -0400, +1030

Example formats:
Syslog: '%b %d %H:%M:%S', e.g. Jan 23 20:59:29
Log4j: '%d %b %Y %H:%M:%S', e.g. 24 Jan 2014 05:00:00
ISO8601: '%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%S%z', e.g. 2014-02-20T05:20:20+0000

time_zone

Specifies the time zone of log event timestamp. The two supported values are UTC and LOCAL. The default is LOCAL, which is used if time zone can't be inferred based on datetime_format.

file

Specifies log files that you want to push to CloudWatch Logs. File can point to a specific file or multiple files (using wildcards such as /var/log/system.log*). Only the latest file is pushed to
CloudWatch Logs based on file modification time. We recommend that you use wildcards to specify a series of files of the same type, such as access_log.2014-06-01-01, access_log.2014-06-01-02, and so on, but not multiple kinds of files, such as access_log_80 and access_log_443. To specify multiple kinds of files, add another log stream entry to the configuration file so each kind of log file goes to a different log stream. Zipped files are not supported.

file_fingerprint_lines

Specifies the range of lines for identifying a file. The valid values are one number or two dash delimited numbers, such as '1', '2-5'. The default value is '1' so the first line is used to calculate fingerprint. Fingerprint lines are not sent to CloudWatch Logs unless all the specified lines are available.

multi_line_start_pattern

Specifies the pattern for identifying the start of a log message. A log message is made of a line that matches the pattern and any following lines that don't match the pattern. The valid values are regular expression or {datetime_format}. When using {datetime_format}, the datetime_format option should be specified. The default value is '^\[\^s]' so any line that begins with non-whitespace character closes the previous log message and starts a new log message.

initial_position

Specifies where to start to read data (start_of_file or end_of_file). The default is start_of_file. It's only used if there is no state persisted for that log stream.

encoding

Specifies the encoding of the log file so that the file can be read correctly. The default is utf_8. Encodings supported by Python codecs.decode() can be used here.

Warning

Specifying an incorrect encoding might cause data loss because characters that cannot be decoded are replaced with some other character.

Below are some common encodings:

ascii, big5, big5hkscs, cp037, cp424, cp437, cp500, cp720, cp737, cp775, cp850, cp852, cp855, cp856, cp857, cp858, cp860, cp861, cp862, cp863, cp864, cp865, cp866, cp869, cp874, cp875, cp932, cp949, cp950, cp1006, cp1026, cp1140, cp1250, cp1251, cp1252, cp1253, cp1254, cp1255, cp1256, cp1257, cp1258, euc_jp, euc_jis_2004, euc_jisx0213, euc_kr, gb2312, gbk, gb18030, hz, iso2022_jp, iso2022_jp_1, iso2022_jp_2, iso2022_jp_2004, iso2022_jp_3, iso2022_jp_ext, iso2022_kr, latin_1, iso8859_2, iso8859_3, iso8859_4, iso8859_5, iso8859_6, iso8859_7, iso8859_8, iso8859_9, iso8859_10, iso8859_13, iso8859_14, iso8859_15, iso8859_16, johab, koi8_r, koi8_u, mac_cyrillic, mac_greek, mac_iceland, mac_latin2, mac_roman, mac_turkish, ptcp154, shift_jis, shift_jis_2004, shift_jisx0213, utf_32, utf_32_be, utf_32_le, utf_16, utf_16_be, utf_16_le, utf_7, utf_8, utf_8_sig

buffer_duration

Specifies the time duration for the batching of log events. The minimum value is 5000ms and default value is 5000ms.

batch_count

Specifies the max number of log events in a batch, up to 10000. The default value is 10000.

batch_size

Specifies the max size of log events in a batch, in bytes, up to 1048576 bytes. The default value is 1048576 bytes. This size is calculated as the sum of all event messages in UTF-8, plus 26 bytes for each log event.
Using the CloudWatch Logs Agent with HTTP Proxies

You can use the CloudWatch Logs agent with HTTP proxies.

**Note**
HTTP proxies are supported in awslogs-agent-setup.py version 1.3.8 or later.

**To use the CloudWatch Logs agent with HTTP proxies**

1. Do one of the following:
   a. For a new installation of the CloudWatch Logs agent, run the following commands:

```
sudo python awslogs-agent-setup.py --region us-east-1 --http-proxy http://your/proxy
   `https-proxy http://your/proxy --no-proxy 169.254.169.254
```

   In order to maintain access to the Amazon EC2 metadata service on EC2 instances, use `--no-proxy 169.254.169.254` (recommended). For more information, see [Instance Metadata and User Data](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonEC2/latest/UserGuide/instance-metadata-user-data.html) in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.

   In the values for `http-proxy` and `https-proxy`, you specify the entire URL.

   b. For an existing installation of the CloudWatch Logs agent, edit `/var/awslogs/etc/proxy.conf`, and add your proxies:

```
HTTP_PROXY=
HTTPS_PROXY=
NO_PROXY=
```

2. Restart the agent for the changes to take effect:

```
sudo service awslogs restart
```

If you are using Amazon Linux 2, use the following command to restart the agent:

```
sudo service awslogsd restart
```

Compartmentalizing CloudWatch Logs Agent Configuration Files

If you’re using awslogs-agent-setup.py version 1.3.8 or later with awscli-cwlogs 1.3.3 or later, you can import different stream configurations for various components independently of one another by creating additional configuration files in the `/var/awslogs/etc/config/` directory. When the CloudWatch Logs agent starts, it includes any stream configurations in these additional configuration files. Configuration properties in the `[general]` section must be defined in the main configuration file (`/var/awslogs/etc/awslogs.conf`) and are ignored in any additional configuration files found in `/var/awslogs/etc/config/`.

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If you don’t have a `/var/awslogs/etc/config/` directory because you installed the agent with rpm, you can use the `/etc/awslogs/config/` directory instead.

Restart the agent for the changes to take effect:

```
sudo service awslogs restart
```

If you are using Amazon Linux 2, use the following command to restart the agent:

```
sudo service awslogsd restart
```

---

## CloudWatch Logs Agent FAQs

### What kinds of file rotations are supported?

The following file rotation mechanisms are supported:

- Renaming existing log files with a numerical suffix, then re-creating the original empty log file. For example, `/var/log/syslog.log` is renamed `/var/log/syslog.log.1`. If `/var/log/syslog.log.1` already exists from a previous rotation, it is renamed `/var/log/syslog.log.2`.

- Truncating the original log file in place after creating a copy. For example, `/var/log/syslog.log` is copied to `/var/log/syslog.log.1` and `/var/log/syslog.log` is truncated. There might be data loss for this case, so be careful about using this file rotation mechanism.

- Creating a new file with a common pattern as the old one. For example, `/var/log/syslog.log.2014-01-01` remains and `/var/log/syslog.log.2014-01-02` is created.

The fingerprint (source ID) of the file is calculated by hashing the log stream key and the first line of file content. To override this behavior, the `file_fingerprint_lines` option can be used. When file rotation happens, the new file is supposed to have new content and the old file is not supposed to have content appended; the agent pushes the new file after it finishes reading the old file.

### How can I determine which version of agent am I using?

If you used a setup script to install the CloudWatch Logs agent, you can use `/var/awslogs/bin/awslogs-version.sh` to check what version of the agent you are using. It prints out the version of the agent and its major dependencies. If you used yum to install the CloudWatch Logs agent, you can use `"yum info awslogs"` and `"yum info aws-cli-plugin-cloudwatch-logs"` to check the version of the CloudWatch Logs agent and plugin.

### How are log entries converted to log events?

Log events contain two properties: the timestamp of when the event occurred, and the raw log message. By default, any line that begins with non-whitespace character closes the previous log message if there is one, and starts a new log message. To override this behavior, the `multi_line_start_pattern` can be used and any line that matches the pattern starts a new log message. The pattern could be any regex or `{datetime_format}`. For example, if the first line of every log message contains a timestamp like ‘2014-01-02T13:13:01Z’, then the `multi_line_start_pattern` can be set to ‘\d{4}-\d{2}-\d{2}T\d{2}:\d{2}:\d{2}Z’. To simplify the configuration, the `{datetime_format}` variable can be used if the `datetime_format` option is specified. For the same example, if `datetime_format` is set to `%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%S%z`, then `multi_line_start_pattern` could be simply `{datetime_format}`.

The current time is used for each log event if the `datetime_format` isn't provided. If the provided `datetime_format` is invalid for a given log message, the timestamp from the last log event with a successfully parsed timestamp is used. If no previous log events exist, the current time is used.
warning message is logged when a log event falls back to the current time or time of previous log event.

Timestamps are used for retrieving log events and generating metrics, so if you specify the wrong format, log events could become non-retrievable and generate wrong metrics.

**How are log events batched?**

A batch becomes full and is published when any of the following conditions are met:

1. The **buffer_duration** amount of time has passed since the first log event was added.
2. Less than **batch_size** of log events have been accumulated but adding the new log event exceeds the **batch_size**.
3. The number of log events has reached **batch_count**.
4. Log events from the batch don’t span more than 24 hours, but adding the new log event exceeds the 24 hours constraint.

**What would cause log entries, log events, or batches to be skipped or truncated?**

To follow the constraint of the **PutLogEvents** operation, the following issues could cause a log event or batch to be skipped.

**Note**

The CloudWatch Logs agent writes a warning to its log when data is skipped.

1. If the size of a log event exceeds 256 KB, the log event is skipped completely.
2. If the timestamp of log event is more than 2 hours in future, the log event is skipped.
3. If the timestamp of log event is more than 14 days in past, the log event is skipped.
4. If any log event is older than the retention period of log group, the whole batch is skipped.
5. If the batch of log events in a single **PutLogEvents** request spans more than 24 hours, the **PutLogEvents** operation fails.

**Does stopping the agent cause data loss/duplicates?**

Not as long as the state file is available and no file rotation has happened since the last run. The CloudWatch Logs agent can start from where it stopped and continue pushing the log data.

**Can I point different log files from the same or different hosts to the same log stream?**

Configuring multiple log sources to send data to a single log stream is not supported.

**What API calls does the agent make (or what actions should I add to my IAM policy)?**

The CloudWatch Logs agent requires the **CreateLogGroup**, **CreateLogStream**, **DescribeLogStreams**, and **PutLogEvents** operations. If you're using the latest agent, **DescribeLogStreams** is not needed. See the sample IAM policy below.

```json
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": [
        "logs:CreateLogGroup",
        "logs:CreateLogStream",
        "logs:PutLogEvents",
        "logs:DescribeLogStreams"
      ],
      "Resource": [
        "arn:aws:logs:*::*:
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```
I don’t want the CloudWatch Logs agent to create either log groups or log streams automatically. How can I prevent the agent from recreating both log groups and log streams?

In your IAM policy, you can restrict the agent to only the following operations: DescribeLogStreams, PutLogEvents.

Before you revoke the CreateLogGroup and CreateLogStream permissions from the agent, be sure to create both the log groups and log streams that you want the agent to use. The logs agent cannot create log streams in a log group that you have created unless it has both the CreateLogGroup and CreateLogStream permissions.

What logs should I look at when troubleshooting?

The agent installation log is at /var/log/awslogs-agent-setup.log and the agent log is at /var/log/awslogs.log.
Monitoring Usage with CloudWatch Metrics

CloudWatch Logs sends metrics to Amazon CloudWatch every minute.

CloudWatch Logs Metrics

The AWS/Logs namespace includes the following metrics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IncomingBytes</td>
<td>The volume of log events in uncompressed bytes uploaded to CloudWatch Logs. When used with the LogGroupName dimension, this is the volume of log events in uncompressed bytes uploaded to the log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Dimensions: LogGroupName</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Statistic: Sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Units: Bytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IncomingLogEvents</td>
<td>The number of log events uploaded to CloudWatch Logs. When used with the LogGroupName dimension, this is the number of log events uploaded to the log group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Dimensions: LogGroupName</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Statistic: Sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Units: None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ForwardedBytes</td>
<td>The volume of log events in compressed bytes forwarded to the subscription destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Dimensions: LogGroupName, DestinationType, FilterName</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Statistic: Sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Units: Bytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ForwardedLogEvents</td>
<td>The number of log events forwarded to the subscription destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Dimensions: LogGroupName, DestinationType, FilterName</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Statistic: Sum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Units: None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeliveryErrors</td>
<td>The number of log events for which CloudWatch Logs received an error when forwarding data to the subscription destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valid Dimensions: LogGroupName, DestinationType, FilterName</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dimensions for CloudWatch Logs Metrics

The dimensions that you can use with CloudWatch Logs metrics are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LogGroupName</td>
<td>The name of the CloudWatch Logs log group for which to display metrics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DestinationType</td>
<td>The subscription destination for the CloudWatch Logs data, which can be AWS Lambda, Amazon Kinesis Data Streams, or Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FilterName</td>
<td>The name of the subscription filter that is forwarding data from the log group to the destination. The subscription filter name is automatically converted by CloudWatch to ASCII and any unsupported characters get replaced with a question mark (?).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CloudWatch Logs quotas

CloudWatch Logs has the following quotas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Default quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batch size</td>
<td>1 MB (maximum). This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data archiving</td>
<td>Up to 5 GB of data archiving for free. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CreateLogStream</td>
<td>50 transactions per second (TPS/account/Region), after which transactions are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>throttled. You can request a quota increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeLogGroups</td>
<td>5 transactions per second (TPS/account/Region). You can request a quota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DescribeLogStreams</td>
<td>5 transactions per second (TPS/account/Region). You can request a quota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovered log fields</td>
<td>CloudWatch Logs Insights can discover a maximum of 1000 log event fields in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a log group. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For more information, see Supported Logs and Discovered Fields (p. 33).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracted log fields in JSON logs</td>
<td>CloudWatch Logs Insights can extract a maximum of 100 log event fields from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a JSON log. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For more information, see Supported Logs and Discovered Fields (p. 33).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event size</td>
<td>256 KB (maximum). This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export task</td>
<td>One active (running or pending) export task at a time, per account. This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FilterLogEvents</td>
<td>5 transactions per second (TPS)/account/Region. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GetLogEvents</td>
<td>10 requests per second per account per Region. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We recommend subscriptions if you are continuously processing new data. If</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>you need historical data, we recommend exporting your data to Amazon S3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incoming data</td>
<td>Up to 5 GB of incoming data for free. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log groups</td>
<td>20,000 log groups per account per Region. You can request a quota increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is no quota on the number of log streams that can belong to one log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Default quota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metrics filters</strong></td>
<td>100 per log group. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embedded metric format metrics</strong></td>
<td>100 metrics per log event and 9 dimensions per metric. For more information about the embedded metric format, see Specification: Embedded Metric Format in the Amazon CloudWatch User Guide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PutLogEvents</strong></td>
<td>5 requests per second per log stream. Additional requests are throttled. This quota can't be changed. The maximum batch size of a PutLogEvents request is 1MB. 1500 transactions per second per account per Region, except for the following Regions where the quota is 800 transactions per second per account per Region: ap-south-1, ap-northeast-1, ap-northeast-2, ap-southeast-1, ap-southeast-2, eu-central-1, eu-west-2, sa-east-1, us-east-2, and us-west-1. You can request a quota increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query execution timeout</td>
<td>Queries in CloudWatch Logs Insights time out after 15 minutes. This time limit can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queried log groups</td>
<td>A maximum of 20 log groups can be queried in a single CloudWatch Logs Insights query. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query concurrency</td>
<td>A maximum of 4 concurrent CloudWatch Logs Insights queries, including queries that have been added to dashboards. You can request a quota increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query results availability</td>
<td>Results from a query are retrievable for 7 days. This availability time can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query results displayed in console</td>
<td>By default, up to 1000 rows of query results are displayed on the console. You can use the limit command in a query to increase this to as many as 10,000 rows. For more information, see CloudWatch Logs Insights Query Syntax (p. 39).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscription filters</td>
<td>1 per log group. This quota can't be changed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Document History

The following table describes important changes in each release of the CloudWatch Logs User Guide, beginning in June 2018. For notification about updates to this documentation, you can subscribe to an RSS feed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CloudWatch Logs Insights released (p. 144)</td>
<td>You can use CloudWatch Logs Insights to interactively search and analyze your log data. For more information see Analyze Log Data with CloudWatch Logs Insights in the Amazon CloudWatch Logs User Guide.</td>
<td>November 27, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Amazon VPC endpoints (p. 144)</td>
<td>You can now establish a private connection between your VPC and CloudWatch Logs. For more information, see Using CloudWatch Logs with Interface VPC Endpoints in the Amazon CloudWatch Logs User Guide.</td>
<td>June 28, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table describes the important changes to the Amazon CloudWatch Logs User’s Guide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interface VPC endpoints</td>
<td>In some regions, you can use an interface VPC endpoint to keep traffic between your Amazon VPC and CloudWatch Logs from leaving the Amazon network. For more information see Using CloudWatch Logs with Interface VPC Endpoints (p. 126).</td>
<td>March 7, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 53 DNS query logs</td>
<td>You can use CloudWatch Logs to store logs about the DNS queries received by Route 53. For more information see What Is Amazon CloudWatch Logs? (p. 1) or Logging DNS Queries in the Amazon Route 53 Developer Guide.</td>
<td>September 7, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag log groups</td>
<td>You can use tags to categorize your log groups. For more information, see Tag Log Groups in Amazon CloudWatch Logs (p. 55).</td>
<td>December 13, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Console improvements</td>
<td>You can navigate from metrics graphs to the associated log groups. For more information, see Pivot from Metrics to Logs (p. 76).</td>
<td>November 7, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Console usability improvements</td>
<td>Improved the experience to make it easier to search, filter, and troubleshoot. For example, you can now filter your log data to a date and time range. For more information, see View Log Data Sent to CloudWatch Logs (p. 54).</td>
<td>August 29, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Release Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added AWS CloudTrail support for Amazon CloudWatch Logs and new CloudWatch Logs metrics</td>
<td>Added AWS CloudTrail support for CloudWatch Logs. For more information, see <a href="amazon-cloudwatch-logs-user-guide">Logging Amazon CloudWatch Logs API Calls in AWS CloudTrail (p. 129)</a>.</td>
<td>March 10, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added support for CloudWatch Logs export to Amazon S3</td>
<td>Added support for exporting CloudWatch Logs data to Amazon S3. For more information, see <a href="amazon-cloudwatch-logs-user-guide">Exporting Log Data to Amazon S3 (p. 98)</a>.</td>
<td>December 7, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added support for AWS CloudTrail logged events in Amazon CloudWatch Logs</td>
<td>You can create alarms in CloudWatch and receive notifications of particular API activity as captured by CloudTrail and use the notification to perform troubleshooting.</td>
<td>November 10, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added support for Amazon CloudWatch Logs</td>
<td>You can use Amazon CloudWatch Logs to monitor, store, and access your system, application, and custom log files from Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances or other sources. You can then retrieve the associated log data from CloudWatch Logs using the Amazon CloudWatch console, the CloudWatch Logs commands in the AWS CLI, or the CloudWatch Logs SDK. For more information, see <a href="amazon-cloudwatch-logs-user-guide">What Is Amazon CloudWatch Logs? (p. 1)</a>.</td>
<td>July 10, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWS Glossary

For the latest AWS terminology, see the AWS Glossary in the AWS General Reference.