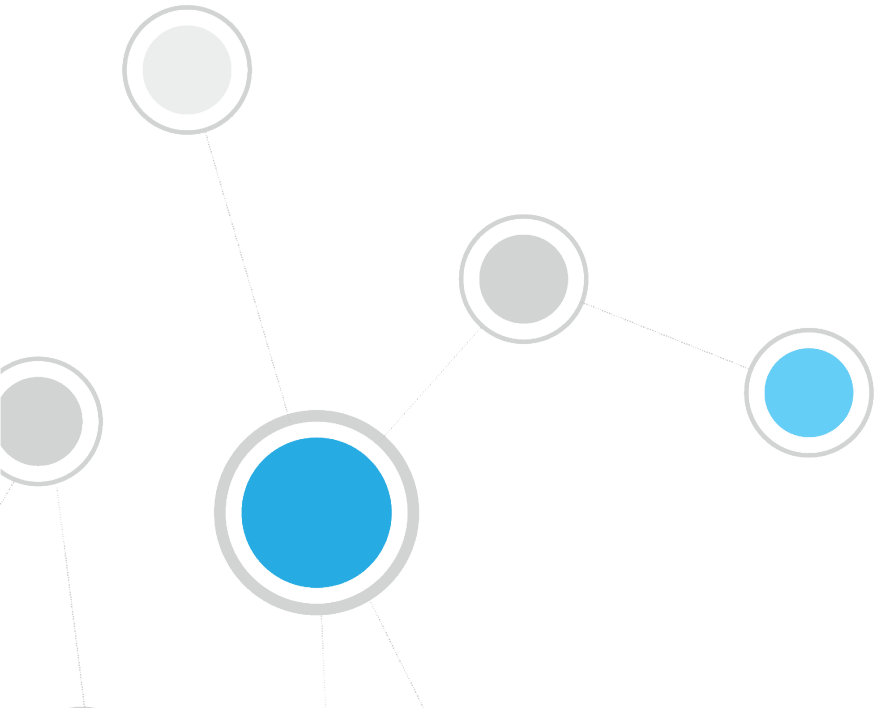
ForeScout CounterACT®

Core Extensions Module: Syslog Plugin

Configuration Guide

Version 3.4



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About the Syslog Plugin

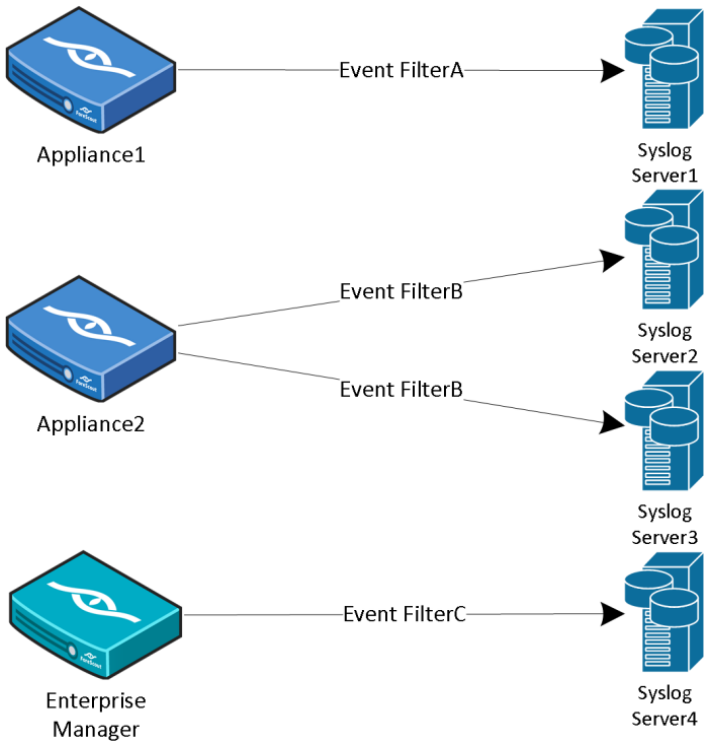
The Syslog Plugin is a component of the ForeScout CounterACT® Core Extensions Module. See Core Extensions Module Information for details about the module.

The Syslog Plugin lets you send, receive and format messages to and from external Syslog servers. You can configure each CounterACT device to:

- Send all event messages to one or more Syslog servers.
- Receive messages from up to three manually configured Syslog servers.

Multiple Destination Syslog Server Support

The following diagram provides an example of communication from CounterACT devices to Syslog servers.



Receiving Event Messages

Receiving event messages from external Syslog servers allows CounterACT to gain visibility into events that cannot be obtained from analyzing traffic either because:

- Traffic is not visible to any of the deployed CounterACT Appliances.
- Traffic is encrypted.

Login events are recorded on Windows Domain Controllers. When these events are received by the Syslog Plugin, CounterACT knows immediately if an endpoint has been authenticated to the Domain Controller and which User and Domain Name were used for authentication. CounterACT parses the received messages, and updates the relevant host properties. This information is displayed in the Profile tab of the Console Home view.

To receive messages from external Syslog servers, configure the Receive From plugin configuration tab.

Sending Syslog Messages

Sending valuable information from CounterACT to one or more external Syslog servers allows the information to be used for event aggregation, auditing, and further processing. For a description of the contents of the different Syslog message types generated by CounterACT, refer to CounterACT Technical Notes: *Syslog Messages Sent by CounterACT*. See Additional CounterACT Documentation for information about accessing this document.

There are two types of messages that you can send to Syslog:

- Sending CounterACT Event Messages
- Using Actions to Send Endpoint Messages

Sending CounterACT Event Messages

You can configure the plugin to send ongoing messages about CounterACT system events from one CounterACT device to one or more Syslog servers using the configuration settings in the Syslog Plugin. See Configuration.

Each CounterACT device receives unique event information from the network, and will only send events to Syslog that occurred within the network segment of the CounterACT device. This is important to consider when configuring which CounterACT devices send messages to Syslog servers.

CounterACT can be configured to send a message to the configured Syslog servers each time a new event of the following type occurs.

- NAC Events
- Threat Protection
- System Logs and Events
- User Operations
- Operating System Messages

Using Actions to Send Endpoint Messages

You can send customized messages to Syslog for specific endpoints using the *Send Message to Syslog* action, either manually or in CounterACT policies. Use the action to send messages based on policy results or at customizable intervals. See Syslog Policy Actions.

Requirements

The following CounterACT products and software releases are required for the operation of this plugin:

- CounterACT version 8.0.
- An active Maintenance Contract for CounterACT devices is required.

Configuration

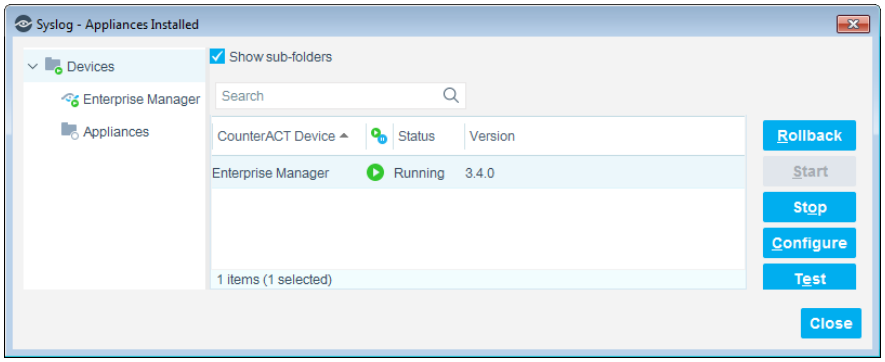
This section describes how to configure the Syslog Plugin.

Select an Appliance to Configure

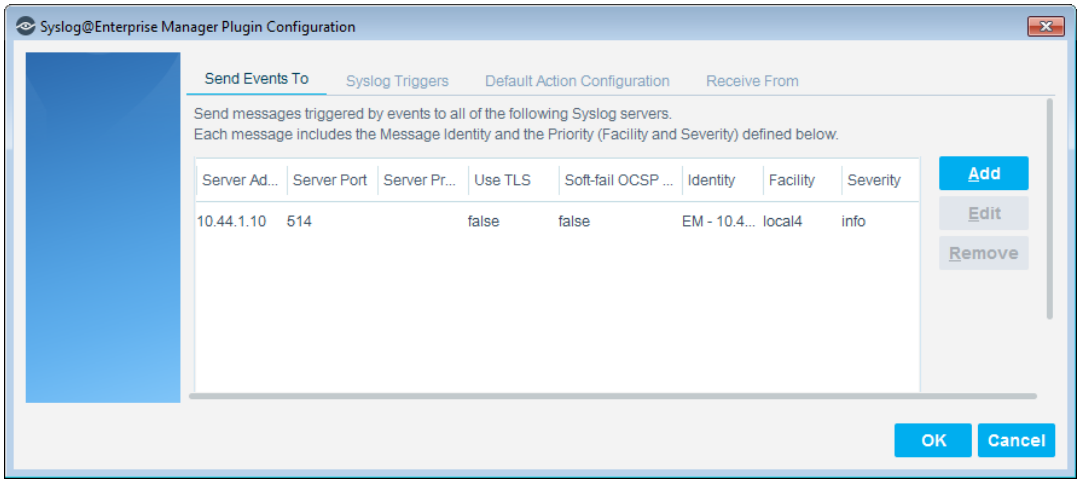
This section describes how to configure the plugin to ensure that the CounterACT device can properly communicate with Syslog servers.

To configure the Syslog Plugin:

1. In the Modules pane, select **Core Extensions > Syslog** and then select **Appliances**. The Syslog - Appliances Installed dialog box opens.



2. Select any Appliance or the Enterprise Manager and select **Configure**. You cannot configure multiple CounterACT devices simultaneously. The Configuration dialog box opens.

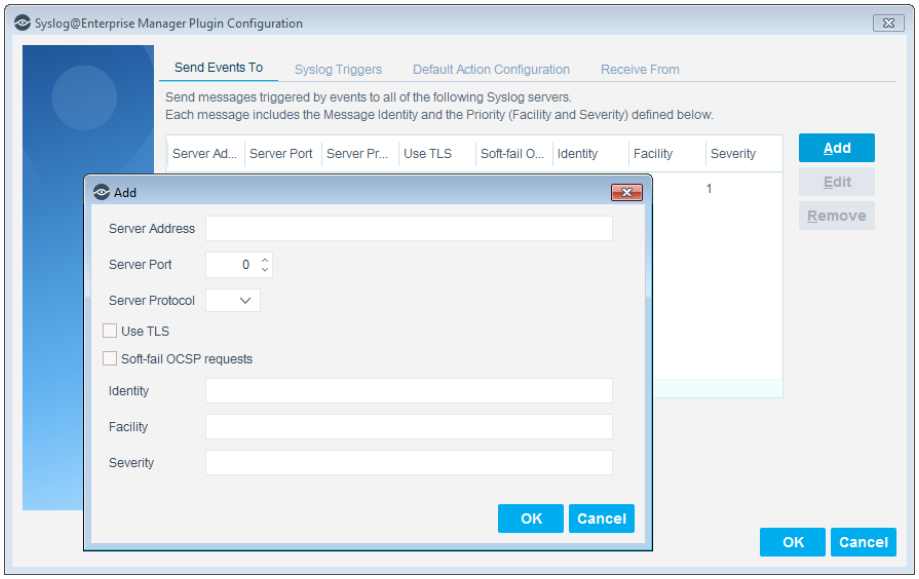


3. See the following sections to complete the information in each tab:
   - Send Events To
   - Syslog Triggers
   - Default Action Configuration
   - Receive From
4. When the configuration is complete, select **OK**.

Send Events To

The *Send Events To* tab lists the Syslog servers to which the CounterACT device will send messages regarding the event types selected in the Syslog Triggers tab. For each Syslog server, define:

- the details CounterACT needs to communicate with the server
- the *Facility*, *Severity*, and *Message Identity* values to be included in all event messages



To configure CounterACT to send event messages to Syslog servers:

1. In the *Send Events To* tab, do one of the following:
   - To define a Syslog server not in the table, select **Add**.
   - To modify the definition of an existing server, select it in the table and select **Edit**.
2. Specify the following information for the server:

Server Address	Syslog server IP address or fully qualified domain name.
Server Port	Syslog server port.
Server Protocol	Syslog messaging can use TCP or UDP. Select the protocol to be used for communicating with this Syslog server.
Use TLS	For some server types, you can to instruct CounterACT to use TLS to encrypt communication with the Syslog server.
Soft-fail OCSP Requests	If CounterACT could not receive a response from the OCSP Responder, the certificate is considered valid. By default, hard-fail is applied.
Message Identity	Free-text field for identifying the Syslog message.
Facility	Syslog message facility that is transmitted as part of the message Priority field. For valid values, see Facility Values.
Severity	Syslog message severity that is transmitted as part of the message Priority field. For valid values, see Severity Values.

3. Select **OK**. The updated server definition appears in the table.
4. (Optional) To delete a server, select it in the table and select **Remove**.

Facility Values

The Syslog message facility must be one of the values in the following table.

Facility Value	IETF Facility Description
kern	kernel messages
kernel	
user	user-level messages
mail	mail system
daemon	system daemons
system	
auth	security/authorization messages
syslog	messages generated internally by syslogd
internal	
lpr	line printer subsystem
printer	
news	network news subsystem
uucp	UUCP subsystem
cron	clock daemon
clock	
authpriv	security/authorization messages
security2	
ftp	FTP daemon
FTP	
NTP	NTP subsystem
audit	log audit
alert	log alert
clock2	clock daemon
local0	local use 0
local1	local use 1
local2	local use 2
local3	local use 3
local4	local use 4
local5	local use 5
local6	local use 6
local7	local use 7

If the facility value is not valid, it is set to **local5**.

Severity Values

The Syslog message severity must be one of the values in the following table.

Severity Value	IETF Severity Description
emergency	system is unusable
emerg	
alert	action must be taken immediately
critical	critical conditions
crit	
error	error conditions
err	
warning	warning conditions
notice	normal but significant condition
informational	informational messages
info	
debug	debug-level messages

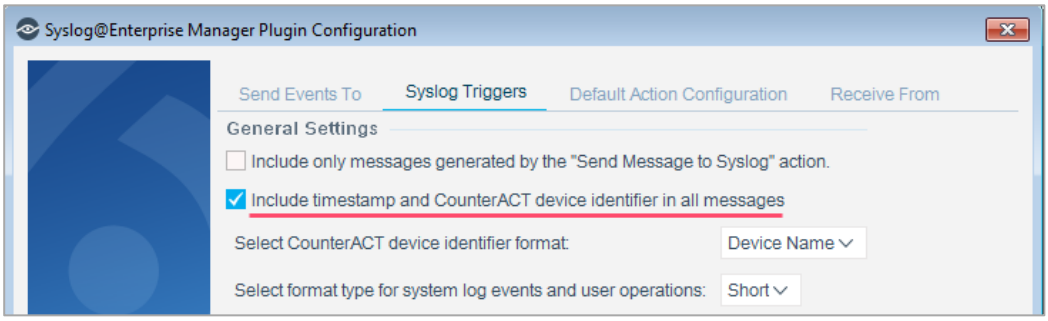
If the severity value is not valid, it is set to **error**.

Syslog Triggers

Configure the settings in the *Syslog Triggers* tab.

Including Header Information in All Message

The *Syslog Triggers* tab contains a setting that applies to all Syslog messages sent from the CounterACT device.



Select **Include timestamp and CounterACT device identifier in all messages** to include in all Syslog messages:

- a timestamp
- the device name or IP address of the CounterACT device sending the message

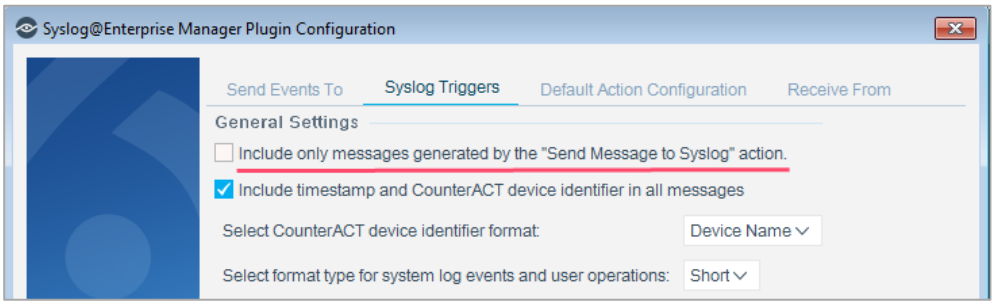
If Device Name is selected but cannot be resolved, the CounterACT device IP address is included in its place.

These fields comply with the RFC 3164 specification for BSD Syslog.

Selecting Syslog Message Triggers

Syslog messages can be generated by CounterACT policies when endpoints meet conditional criteria.

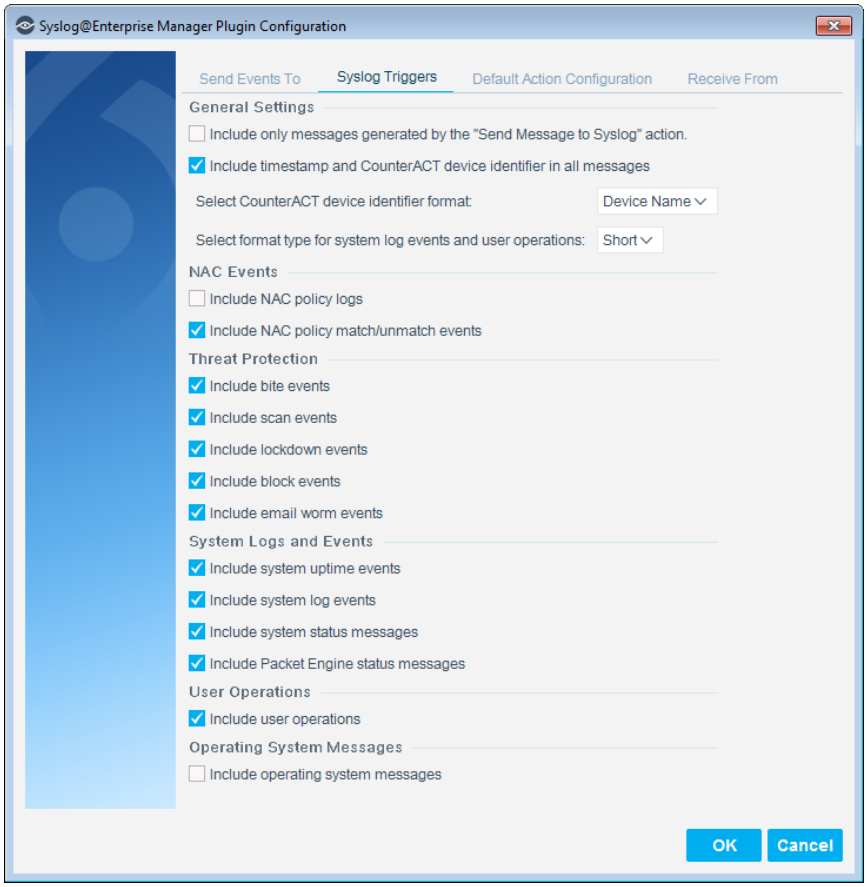
To enable Syslog messages to be generated by events and not only by policies, the **Include only messages generated by the "Send Message to Syslog" action** checkbox must ***not*** be selected.



If the **Include only messages generated by the "Send Message to Syslog" action** checkbox is not selected, you can select options in the tab to define which event types trigger Syslog messages.

You can select event triggers from the following categories:

- NAC Events
- Threat Protection
- System Logs and Events
- User Operations
- Operating System Messages



NAC Events

These event messages contain information on all policy event logs.

NAC policy logs	Endpoint policy events. The log displays information about endpoints as they are detected and is continuously updated as the policy is evaluated for the endpoint.
NAC policy match/unmatch events	Policy evaluation change events.

Threat Protection

These event messages contain information on intrusion-related activity, including bite events, scan events, lockdown events and manual events. These messages can be triggered when the Syslog Plugin runs on an Appliance but not when it runs on an Enterprise Manager.

Bite events	Indicates that an endpoint has tried to gain access to your network using a system mark.
Scan events	Indicates that an endpoint has performed a specific probe a defined number of times within a defined time period. By default, when an endpoint initiates three probes within one day, CounterACT considers this activity a scan.

Lockdown events	Indicates that a malicious event has been detected by another Appliance.
Block events	Indicates that CounterACT has blocked packets from the source from going through to the specified destination (host + service).
Email worm events	Indicates that CounterACT has identified email worm anomalies sent over email.

System Logs and Events

These event messages contain information about the CounterACT system events.

System uptime events	Indicates the amount of time the CounterACT service has been running.
System log events	Indicates certain CounterACT activities detected by the system. For example, successful and failed user login operations. (Messages sent to the Event Viewer)
System status messages	Indicates memory, swap and CPU usage statistics.
Packet Engine status messages	Indicates the status of the CounterACT service that monitors and injects SPAN port traffic. If it is down, many CounterACT features will not work.

User Operations

These event messages are generated when a user operation takes place, and they are included in the Audit Trail.

User operations	Indicates that the user made a configuration change such as updating policies, stopping or starting the device, or updating user passwords.

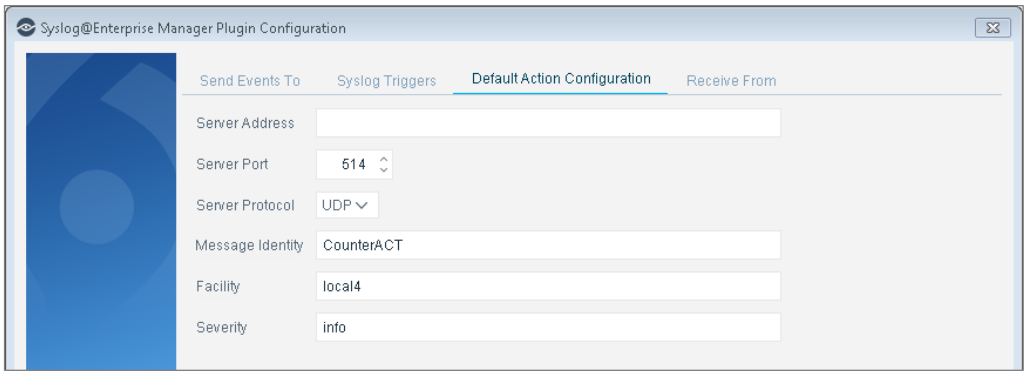
Operating System Messages

These event messages are generated by the operating system.

Operating system messages	Indicates an event of relevance at the level of the operating system. This is useful, for example, if you want to monitor the health of an Appliance or Enterprise Manager by sending the events to a SIEM.

Default Action Configuration

The *Default Action Configuration* tab allows you to define default values for the **Send Message to Syslog** action parameters. These default values are applied to parameters that are not defined in policies. See Send Message to Syslog Action for details.



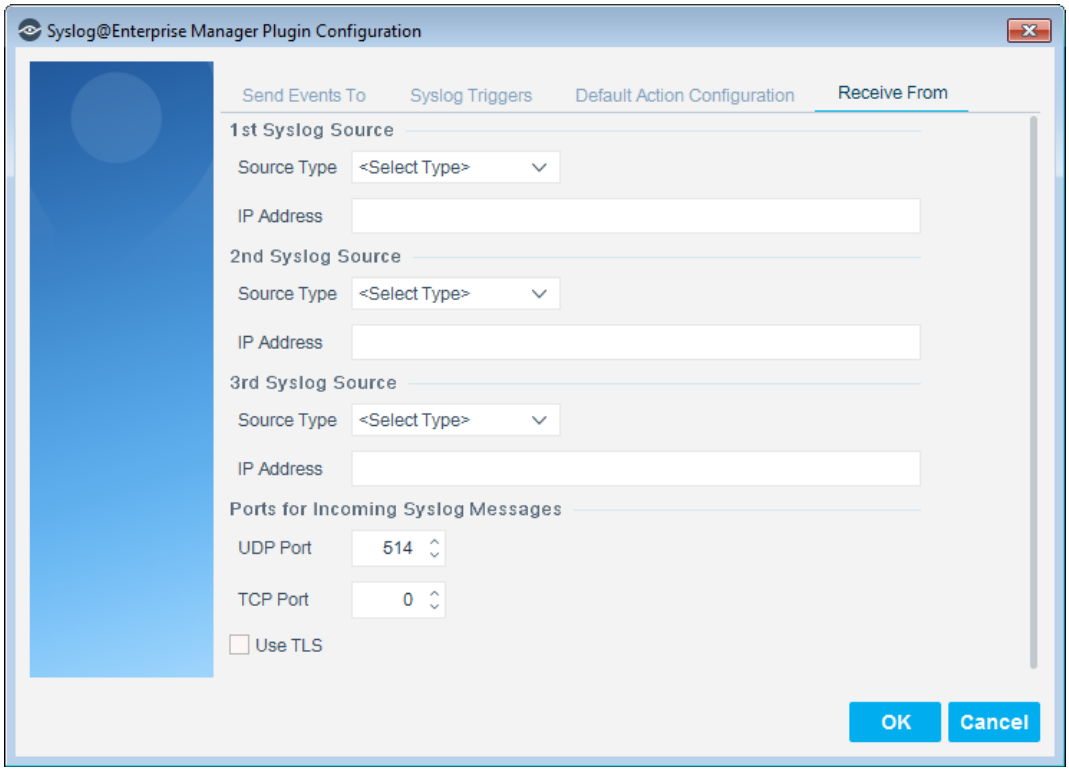
Specify the following values:

Server Address	Syslog server IP address or fully qualified domain name.
Server Port	Syslog server port.
Server Protocol	Syslog messaging can use TCP or UDP. Select the protocol to be used for communicating with this server.
Message Identity	Free-text field for identifying the Syslog message.
Facility	Syslog message facility that is transmitted as part of the message Priority field. For valid values, see Facility Values.
Severity	Syslog message severity that is transmitted as part of the message Priority field. For valid values, see Severity Values.

Receive From

This tab allows you to define:

- Up to three Syslog agents from which the plugin may receive Syslog messages.
- Which ports the plugin will use to listen for messages being sent from the defined Syslog agents.



For each Syslog agent, define its source type and its IP address. Currently, the only source type supported is NTSyslog security log. You must download and configure NTSyslog on an organizational domain controller to work with the *Receive From* feature. See Downloading and Configuring NTSyslog.

Received messages are not stored by CounterACT.

To configure Syslog sources:

1. Select **NTSyslog security log** from the **Source type** field and enter the domain controller **IP address** for each source you list.
2. Enter the **UDP Port** and/or **TCP Port** used for listening for incoming Syslog messages.
   - By default, **UDP Port** is set to 514.
   - By default, **TCP Port** is set to 0 and is not used.

   A port cannot be used for listening for Syslog messages when its value is set to 0.

Verify That the Plugin Is Running

After configuring the plugin, verify that it is running.

To verify:

1. Select **Tools**>**Options** and then select **Modules**.

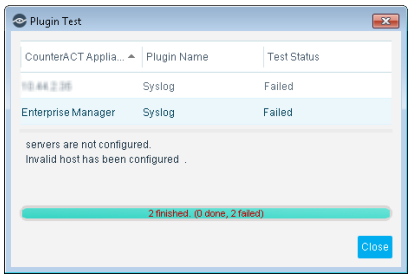
2. Navigate to the plugin and select **Start** if the plugin is not running.

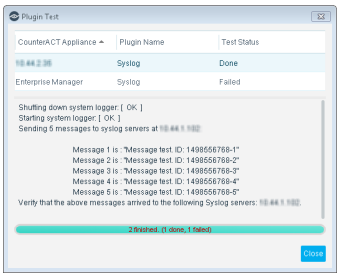
Testing the Configuration

Use the test option to verify that CounterACT can communicate with the Syslog servers defined in the plugin configuration *Send Events To* tab.

To test the plugin configuration:

1. In the **Modules** pane, select **Core Extensions > Syslog** and then select **Test**. A confirmation message appears identifying CounterACT devices on which the test will be performed.
2. Select **Yes** to begin the plugin test. The Plugin Test dialog box displays information about each CounterACT device tested, as well as a number of test messages.





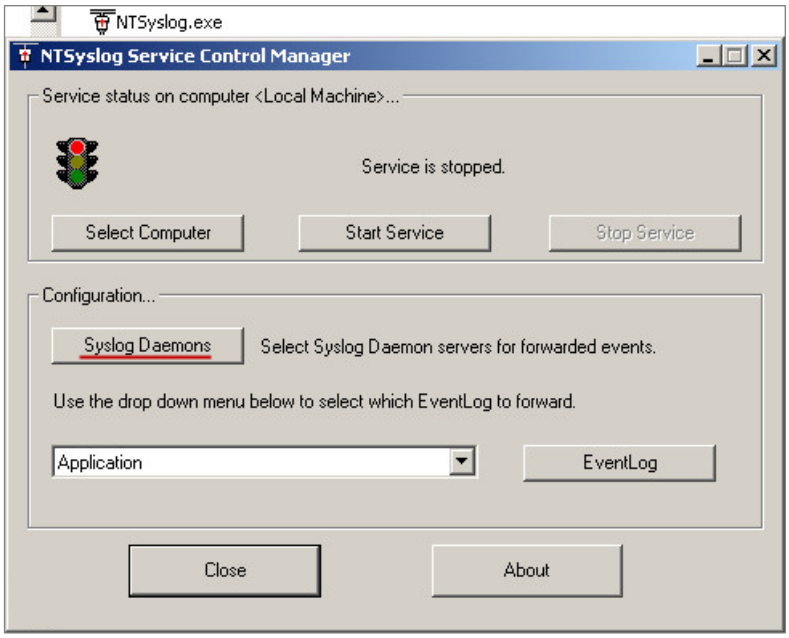
3. Verify that the Syslog servers received the messages displayed in the dialog box.

Downloading and Configuring NTSyslog

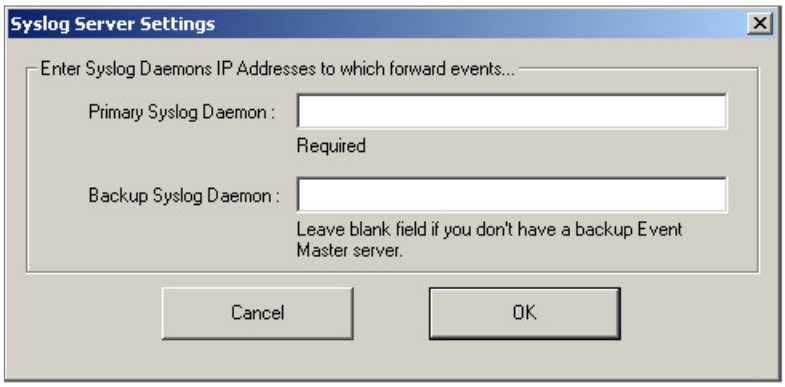
NTSyslog is a tool that sends Active Directory security logs to CounterACT if the Syslog Plugin is configured to receive messages. See Receive From to configure the plugin to receive messages.

To download and configure NTSyslog:

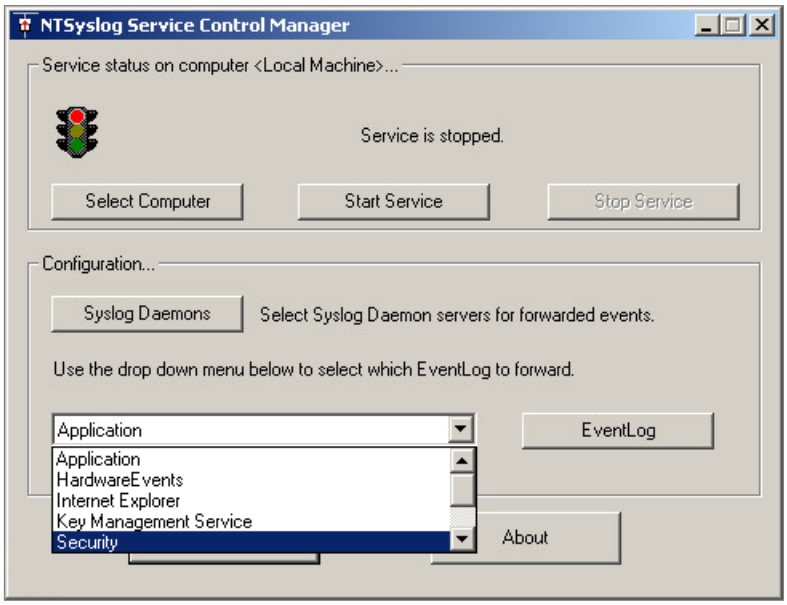
1. Install NTSyslog to your organizational Domain Controller. Use http://sourceforge.net/projects/ntsyslog/ or download from another location.
2. Open the NTSyslog Service Control Manager.



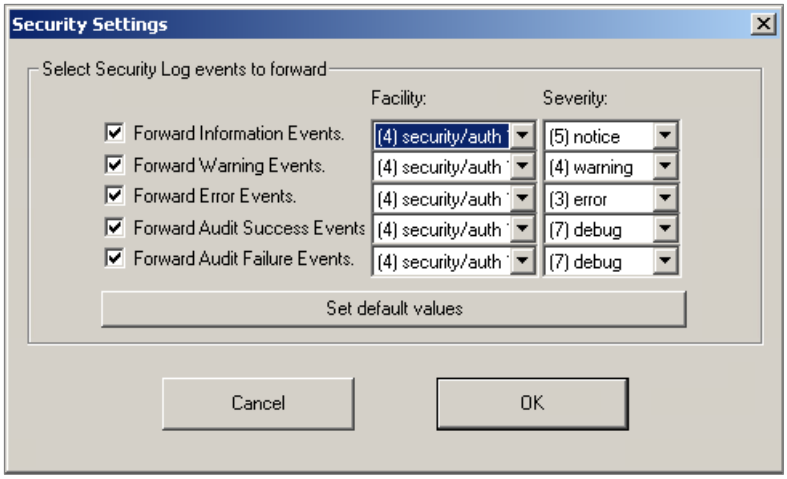
3. Select **Syslog Daemons**.



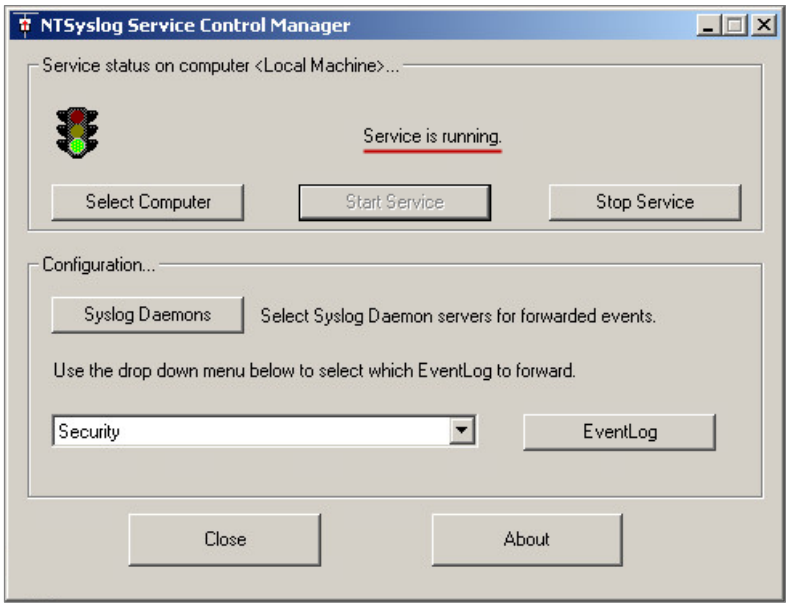
4. In the **Primary Syslog Daemon** field, enter the IP address of the CounterACT device to which traffic must be sent, and select **OK**.



5. In the NTSyslog Service Control Manager **EventLog** dropdown menu, select **Security**, and then select **EventLog**. Ensure that all events are selected.



6. Select **OK**.
7. Select **Start Service**, and verify that the *Service is running* message appears in the NTSyslog Service Manager dialog box.



Create Custom Syslog Policies

CounterACT policy tools provide you with an extensive range of options for detecting and handling endpoints. You can use a policy to instruct CounterACT to apply the Send Message to Syslog Action to endpoints that match conditions based on reported endpoint properties.

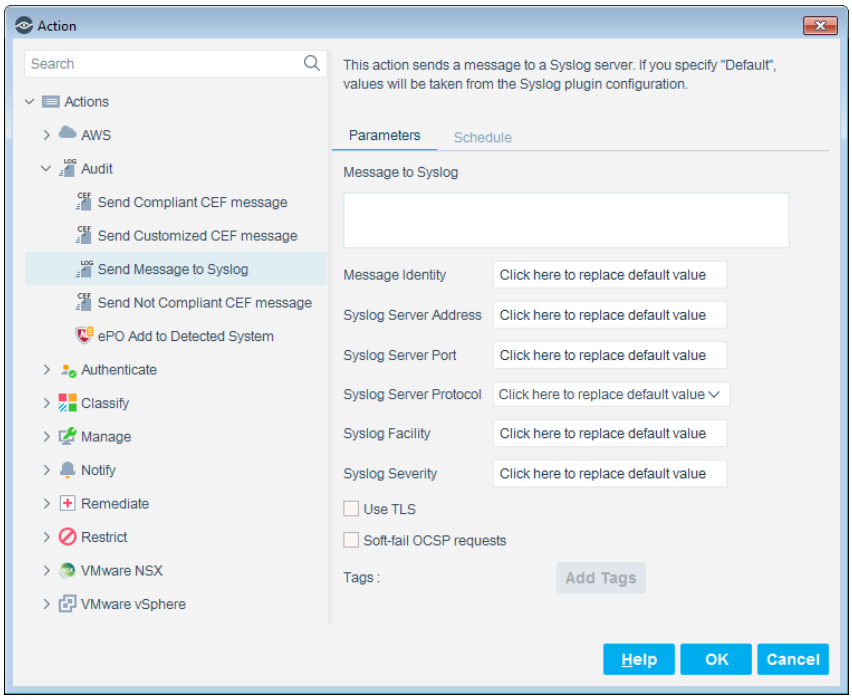
To create a custom policy:

1. Log in to the CounterACT Console.
2. On the Console toolbar, select the **Policy** tab. The Policy Manager opens.
3. Select **Add** to create a policy.

   *For more information about working with policies, select **Help** from the policy wizard.*

Send Message to Syslog Action

Use the *Audit, Send Message to Syslog* action to send a Syslog message to an external Syslog server.



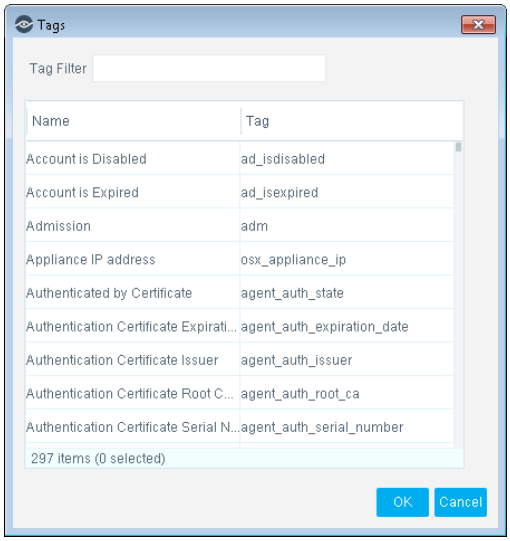
Specify the following configuration fields for the Syslog message, or accept the default values that were defined during plugin configuration. See Default Action Configuration.

Message to Syslog	The text message that is sent to the Syslog server. You can use property tags to include endpoint data values. See Working with Property Tags.
Message Identity	Free-text field for identifying the Syslog message.
Syslog Server Address	Syslog server IP address or fully qualified domain name.
Syslog Server Port	Syslog UDP port number.
Syslog Server Protocol	Syslog messaging can use TCP or UDP. Select the protocol used to communicate with this server.
Syslog Facility	Syslog message facility that is transmitted as part of the message Priority field. For valid values, see Facility Values.
Syslog Severity	Syslog message severity that is transmitted as part of the message Priority field. For valid values, see Severity Values.
Use TLS	For some server types, you can to instruct CounterACT to use TLS to encrypt communication with the Syslog server.

Soft-fail OCSP Requests	If CounterACT could not receive a response from the OCSP Responder, the certificate is considered valid. By default, hard-fail is applied.
Tags	To add property tags, see Working with Property Tags

Working with Property Tags

You can add current values of host properties to the message. Select **Add Tags** to insert a placeholder that is populated with the actual value of the host property when the message is generated.



Core Extensions Module Information

The Syslog plugin is installed with the CounterACT Core Extensions Module.

The Core Extensions Module provides an extensive range of capabilities that enhance the core CounterACT solution. These capabilities enhance detection, classification, reporting, troubleshooting and more, and include the following components:

- Advanced Tools Plugin
- CEF Plugin
- DHCP Classifier Plugin
- DNS Client Plugin
- DNS Enforce Plugin
- DNS Query Extension Plugin
- Device Classification Engine
- External Classifier Plugin
- Flow Analyzer Plugin

- IOC Scanner Plugin
- IoT Posture Assessment Engine
- NBT Scanner Plugin
- NetFlow Plugin
- Reports Plugin
- Syslog Plugin
- Technical Support Plugin
- Web GUI Plugin

The Core Extensions Module is a ForeScout Base Module. Base Modules are delivered with each CounterACT release.

Components listed above are released and rolled back with the Core Extensions Module.

Refer to the *CounterACT Core Extensions Module Guide* for more module information, for example module requirements, upgrade and rollback instructions. See Additional CounterACT Documentation for information about how to access the module guide.

Additional CounterACT Documentation

For information about other CounterACT features and modules, refer to the following resources:

- Documentation Downloads
- Documentation Portal
- CounterACT Help Tools

Documentation Downloads

Documentation downloads can be accessed from one of two ForeScout portals, depending on which licensing mode your deployment is using.

- ***Per-Appliance Licensing Mode*** - Product Updates Portal
- ***Centralized Licensing Mode*** - Customer Portal

Software downloads are also available from these portals.

To learn which licensing mode your deployment is using, see Identifying Your Licensing Mode in the Console.

Product Updates Portal

The Product Updates Portal provides links to CounterACT version releases, Base and Content Modules, and Extended Modules, as well as related documentation. The portal also provides a variety of additional documentation.

To access the Product Updates Portal:

1. Go to https://updates.forescout.com/support/index.php?url=counteract.
2. Select the CounterACT version you want to discover.

Customer Portal

The Downloads page on the ForeScout Customer Portal provides links to purchased CounterACT version releases, Base and Content Modules, and Extended Modules, as well as related documentation. Software and related documentation will only appear on the Downloads page if you have a license entitlement for the software. The Documentation page on the portal provides a variety of additional documentation.

To access documentation on the ForeScout Customer Portal:

1. Go to https://forescout.force.com/support/.
2. Select **Downloads** or **Documentation**.

Documentation Portal

The ForeScout Documentation Portal is a searchable, web-based library containing information about CounterACT tools, features, functionality and integrations.

If your deployment is using Centralized Licensing Mode, you may not have credentials to access this portal.

To access the Documentation Portal:

1. Go to www.forescout.com/docportal.
2. Use your customer support credentials to log in.
3. Select the CounterACT version you want to discover.

CounterACT Help Tools

Access information directly from the CounterACT Console.

Console Help Buttons

Use context sensitive *Help* buttons to quickly access information about the tasks and topics you are working with.

CounterACT Administration Guide

Select **CounterACT Help** from the **Help** menu.

Plugin Help Files

1. After the plugin is installed, select **Options** from the **Tools** menu and then select **Modules**.
2. Select the plugin and then select **Help**.

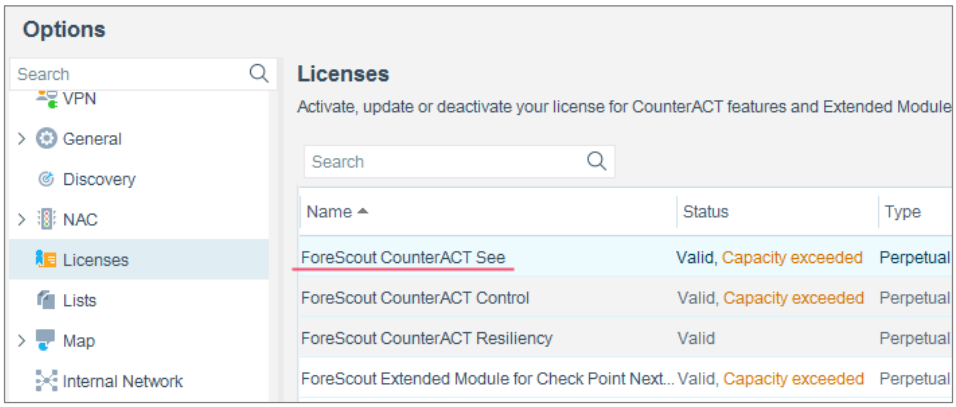
Documentation Portal

Select **Documentation Portal** from the **Help** menu.

Identifying Your Licensing Mode in the Console

If your Enterprise Manager has a *ForeScout CounterACT See* license listed in the Console, your deployment is operating in Centralized Licensing Mode. If not, your deployment is operating in Per-Appliance Licensing Mode.

Select **Options > Licenses** to see whether you have a *ForeScout CounterACT See* license listed in the table.



Contact your ForeScout representative if you have any questions about identifying your licensing mode.

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