

Azure Data Lake Storage – Configuring Notification Alerts

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1 Introduction

Azure Data Lake Storage (ADLS) is a secure, durable, cost-effective and highly scalable cloud data lake offering from Microsoft. Besides providing file based I/O operations, it offers a deep integration with Azure PaaS and SaaS offerings such as Azure Data Factory, Azure Databricks, Azure HDInsight, Azure SQL Datawarehouse and PowerBI. To ensure security, ADLS is well integrated with Azure Active Directory service that allow customers to configure ACL-based roles that match their functional requirements.

This document is primarily focused on one of the key operational requirements – be able to receive notifications and alerts whenever things change on ADLS, using one of the following solution approaches:

- Event Notification & Metrics from ADLS using Log Analytics
- Event Notification & Metrics from ADLS using Event Hub
- Event Notification & Metrics from ADLS using Event Grid

2 Pre-requisites

It is important that you have following available or created before proceeding to further sections below:

- Resource Group, for example `adlsalerts_**rg**` (`rg` → Resource Group)
- ADLS Gen 1 Resource, for example `adlsalerts**gen1**` (`..gen1` → ADLS Gen1)
- Storage Account Resource, for example `adlsgen1alerts**sa**` (`..sa` → Storage Account)
- Log Analytics Resource, for example `adlsgen1alertsLAWS` (`..LAWS` → Log Analytics Workspace)
- Monitor → Alerts → Action Group, for example `ADLSGen1AlertsActionGroup` (see section further below in this documentation on how to go about creating an action group)

Please review Azure Portal documentation <u>here</u>, on how to approach such definitions, except for action group. There's a brief section further below that describes necessary steps with references to additional detail.

3 ADLS Event Notification Alerts using Log Analytics

This section describes the steps involved in gathering diagnostics logs from Azure Data lake account into Azure log analytics workspace and generating webhook and email alert thereafter.

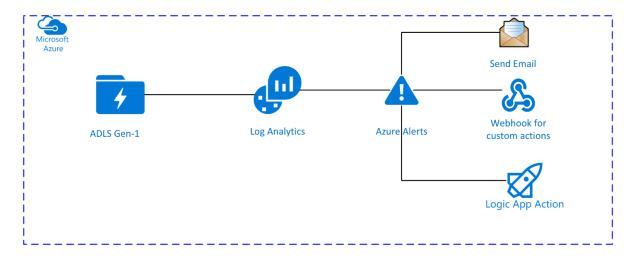


Figure 1: Log Analytics Approach

Following is the high-level outline of steps involved using Log Analytics approach:

- Configure/Enable Diagnostics to point to Azure Log Analytics
- Using Azure Monitor configure alerts from Log Analytics
- Pros and Cons of the approach

3.1 Configure/Enable Diagnostics

As a pre-requisite one must enable or turn-on the diagnostics for the corresponding ADLS Account. Use the Azure Portal Interface to achieve this, as shown in the following visual:

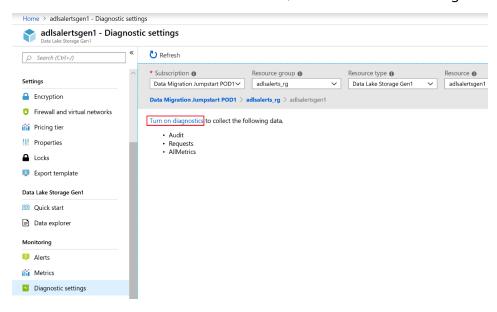


Figure 2: Turn-on diagnostics

Click on Turn-on diagnostics. In the subsequent screen as shown below, select storage account and log analytics target. Storage account is used to archive the diagnostic events like create, delete, etc. Log Analytics will collect these events as submitted by ADLS setting and will be available for further triage and reasoning.

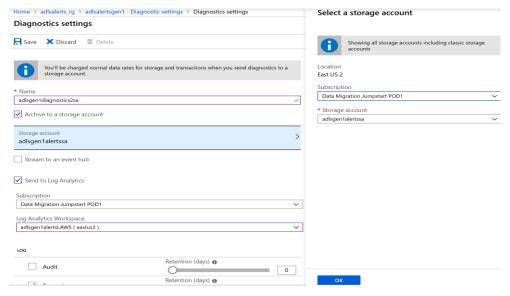


Figure 3: Turn-on diagnostics - Choose a Storage Account

Hit save once you have made necessary configuration changes. Following screen will now list the diagnostic configuration that you just created:

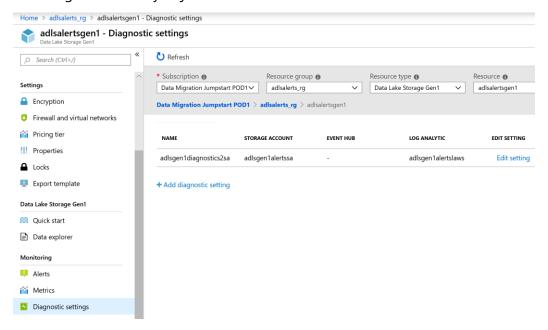


Figure 4: ADLS Gen1 Diagnostics Settings Overview

3.2 Define Action Group

Next step is to configure Action Group! Action groups abstract the alert outcomes as actions. <u>Here</u> is a quick link to Azure Portal documentation that describes how to manage Action Groups.

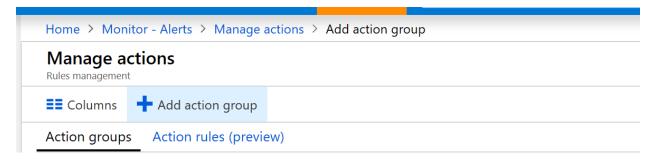


Figure 5: Add action group

Following visual provides the summary detail of actions that this new action group would abstract – an email and a web hook.

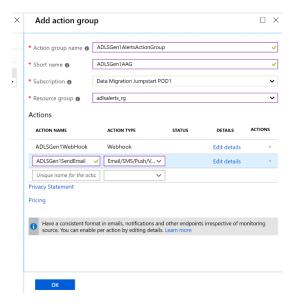


Figure 6: Add Action Group detail

For a test webhook, you can leverage defining a webhook end point using the publicly available developer interface – www.webhook.site URL. A sample URL will look like this - http://webhook.site/45735651-caa0-46a9-9ea1-64109ddeafe2.

3.3 Using Azure Monitor configure alerts from Log Analytics

In the previous step when you have saved the diagnostics configuration, wait for a while, say about few minutes. This will allow the backend to enable a key schema in the log analytics called `AzureDiagnostics`. In this section we will go through how to query that schema for events of our interest using Log Analytics query interface. Following visual shows how to navigate to the Alerts configuration feature (path to follow is Home \rightarrow Monitor \rightarrow Alerts tab):

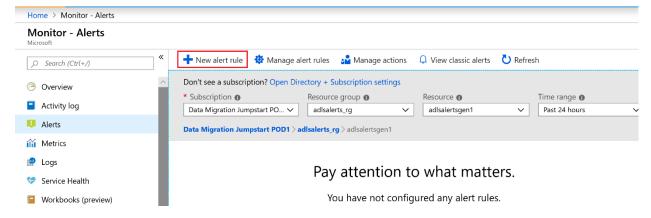


Figure 7: Azure Monitor - Alerts View

Click on new alert rule option as highlighted above. In the subsequent screen we will define a condition using a custom log search option, as show in the following visual:

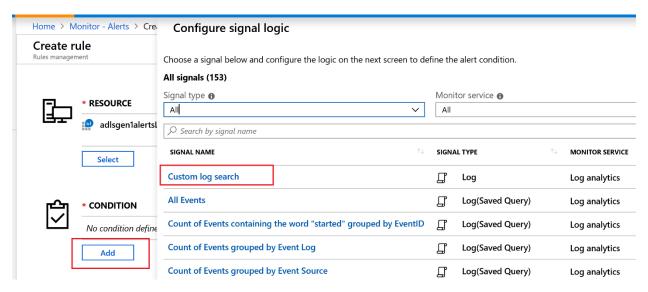


Figure 8: Custom Log Search Condition

Let us now look at the details of this search criteria:

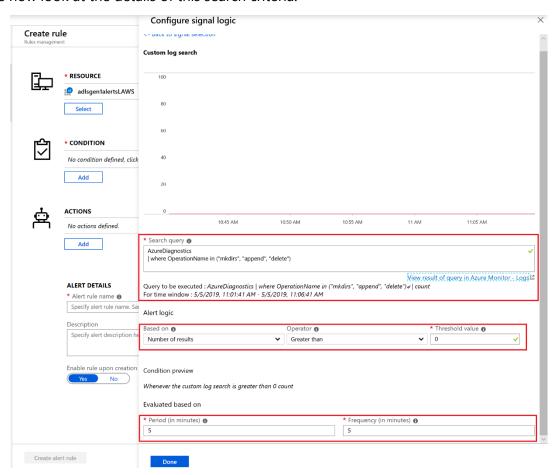


Figure 9: Log Analytics - Alert Logic Configuration

It is important to understand, the minimum latency to receive and process alerts is 5 minutes, for up to 24 hours.

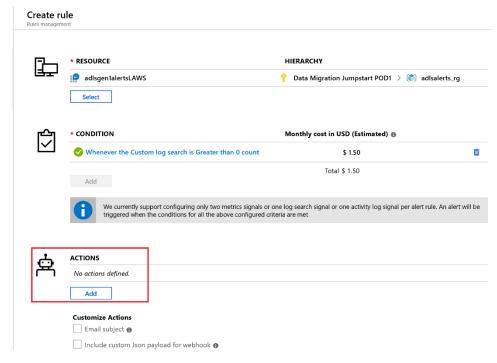


Figure 10: Action Group Assignment

When you click on Add above, it will open an interface to select the sample Action Group that we have defined in prior sections. Here's the visual:

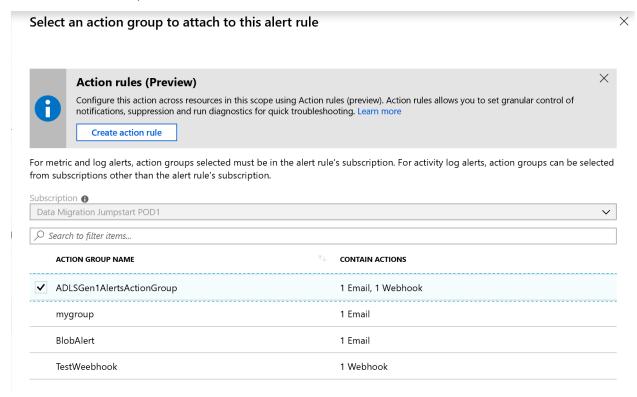


Figure 11:Action Group Selection

Once you have added the Action Group under the Actions option of the Create Rule interface, the next step is to add Alert details on the same interface. This will allow you complete the last step in the sequence and submit to create the alert rule.

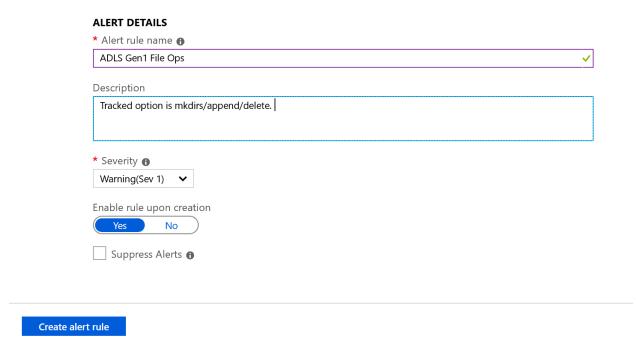


Figure 12: Create Rule/Alert Details

You can verify the newly defined Alert rule, by navigating to the Home \rightarrow Monitor – Alerts tab and by selecting the tab Manage Rules:

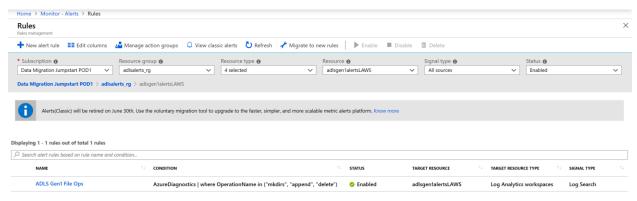


Figure 13: Manage Rules/Verify New Rule

3.4 Verify the Alerts

Recommend that you wait about 5 minutes, to start observing the action outcomes. Remember the SLA set above to 5 minutes minimum latency defined with an event duration of since last 5 minutes up to a maximum of past 24 hours. To trigger an alert you can use Azure Data Explorer client and create few folders under the same subscription POD and the ADLS Gen1 resource that is part of the resource group where you have defined the alerts. The ADLS resource must be same as configured to be monitored by the alert's action group.

Here's the sample of the webhook result (received as a POST request):

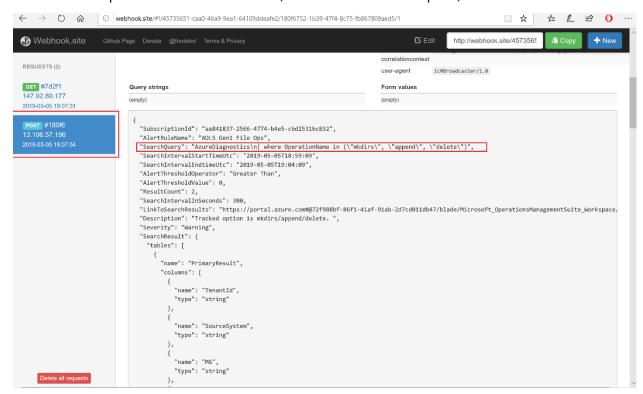


Figure 14: Webhook Alert Sample

Here is the email sample of the same alert:

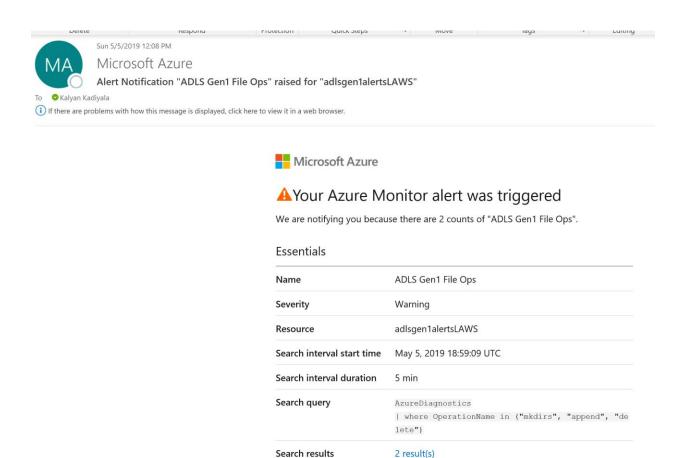


Figure 15: Email Alert Sample

3.5 Log Analytics Approach – Things to remember!

As you observe the approach offers a pure configuration-based approach to define notification alerts for corresponding ADLS operations – mkdir, append and delete. The query interface supports a wide variety of query language features. Here is the <u>link</u> to learn more! The only caveat you need to assert for your applicability is – is the minimum lag duration of 5 minutes is agreeable for your notification alerts use case? Else, this is a great way to setup and receive Notification alerts using one of the available channels – Email, Webhook or SMS alerts.

4 ADLS Event Notification Alerts using Event Hub

The next solution approach that we will review is the ability to use Event Hub to receive notification alerts for select events generated by activities on your configured ADLS Gen1 resource. Here's the empirical view of the flow:

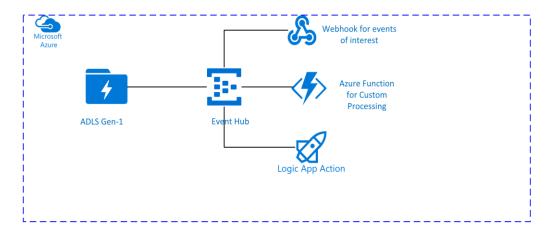


Figure 16: Event Notification Alerts using Event Hub

Briefly, the steps involved in this approach include:

- Configure ADLS Diagnostics to point to Event Hub as target destination to log events.
 - o Pre-requisite step here is to define the Event Hub namespace.
- Create Azure Function to ingest and filter ADLS logs.
- (Optional) Create a Logic App with Event Hub as Trigger.

4.1 Configure Event Hub namespace

In this section we will see the approach to configure an Event Hub to capture events from ADLS resource. For the context, let us name our Event Hub namespace as *adlsgen1alerts2ehns*. From your corresponding Resource Group (for example – *adlsalerts_rg*) blade i.e., pane where resources of a Resource Group can be viewed, click on Add a resource icon on the top navigation pane.

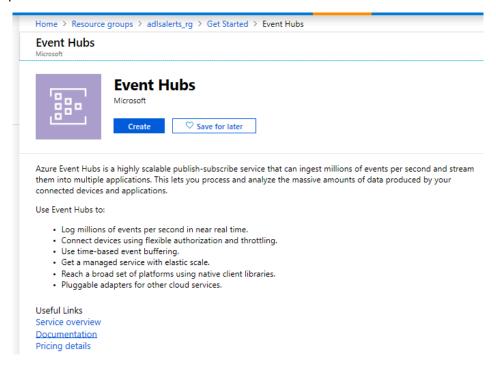


Figure 17: Event Hubs

Click on create action button in the interface, like the one shown in the above visual. Fill in the necessary configuration as in the visual below:

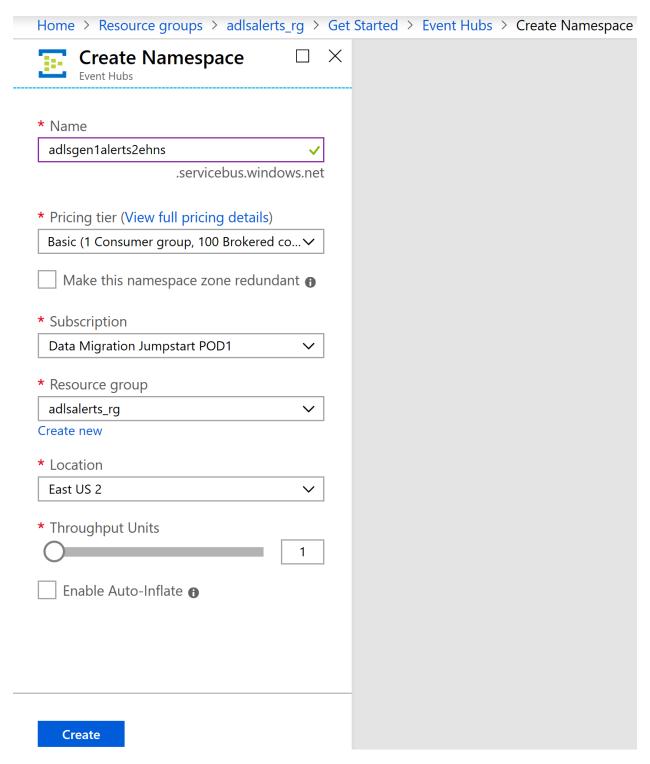


Figure 18: Create Event Hub Namespace

Upon successful creation of the event hub, you can check the event hub resource from the following Resource Group overview page as in the following visual:

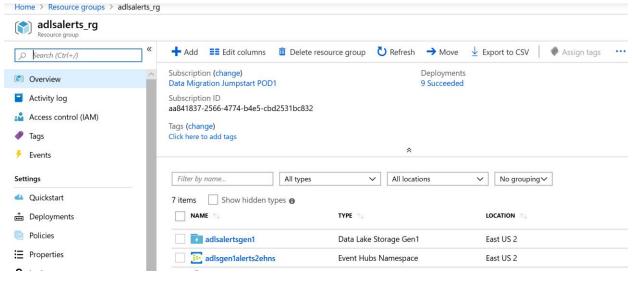


Figure 19: Resources Overview - Event Hub Namespace Listing

Once you have the Event Hub Namespace defined, the next step is to define event hub where our events from the ADLS gen1 can be captured. Here's the reference visual to help you define an Event Hub, under this newly defined Event Hub Namespace:

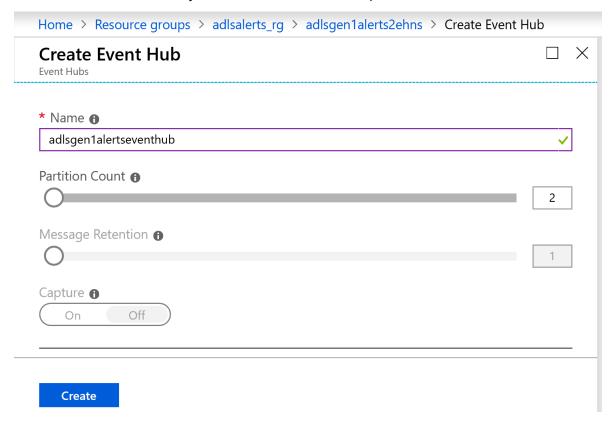
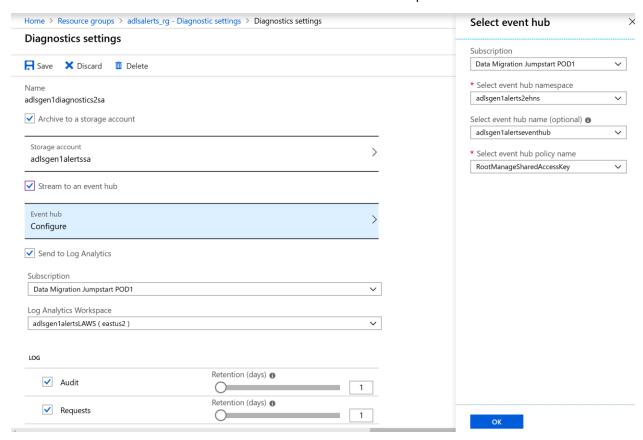


Figure 20: Create Event Hub

4.2 Configure ADLS Diagnostics

Now that we have an Event Hub name space and Event Hub defined, let's configure diagnostics to also stream events to the event hub. Here's the visual for a quick reference:



Now that we have an Event Hub namespace defined, let's proceed to define a diagnostic setting to point ADLS events to the newly created event hub. Navigate the Azure Portal Path - Home \rightarrow Monitor – Diagnostics Settings and add a new diagnostic setting. Here's the visual for reference:



Figure 21: Selecting Event Hub Namespace

As you observe from the visual above, this time we are selecting the option to stream events to an event hub. Once you have selected the corresponding event hub, on the diagnostic settings also select the log options – Requests, and for metrics select All Metrics. Hit save on the top navigation pane (this is enabled once you select what to capture i.e., logs and metrics).

Here's the overview page where both the diagnostic settings (log analytics & event hub) are listed:

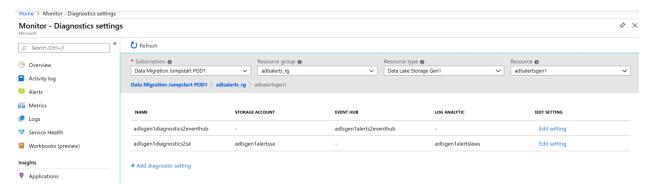


Figure 22: Diagnostic Settings Overview

4.3 Define Azure Function to filter ADLS events

Once we have configured diagnostics to log events to the event hub, we can proceed to defining consumer applications to filter and raise alerts using Microsoft's Event Hub SDK (custom application). The other option here is to define Logic Apps. In this section, we will walk through the necessary steps to define an Azure Function as a trigger that is applied whenever an event is logged into the Event Hub.

The very first step is to define a Function App. This can be accomplished by choosing the Function App tab under the left navigation pane – favorites tab, in your Azure Portal.

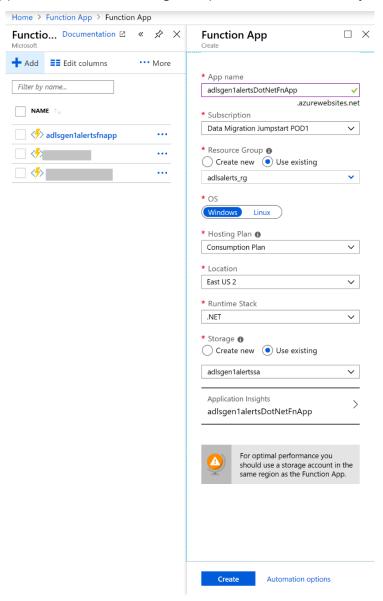


Figure 23: Create Function App

You can verify the created resource – function app, from the function apps overview blade (view):

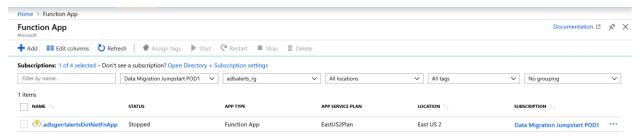


Figure 24: Existing Function Apps Overview

Subsequently will define an in-portal function using one of the available templates as shown in the following visual:

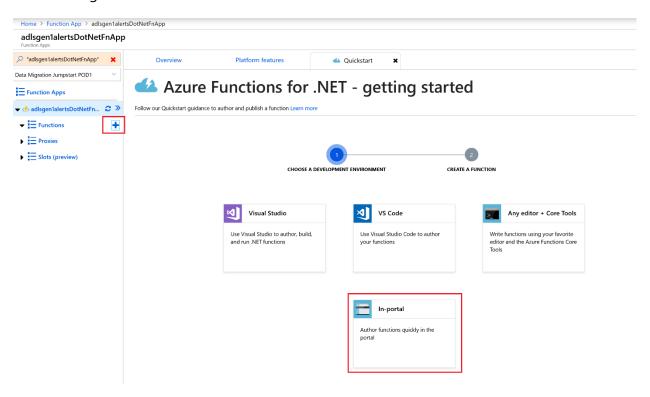


Figure 25: Define Azure Function (In-portal template)

Then, select more templates...

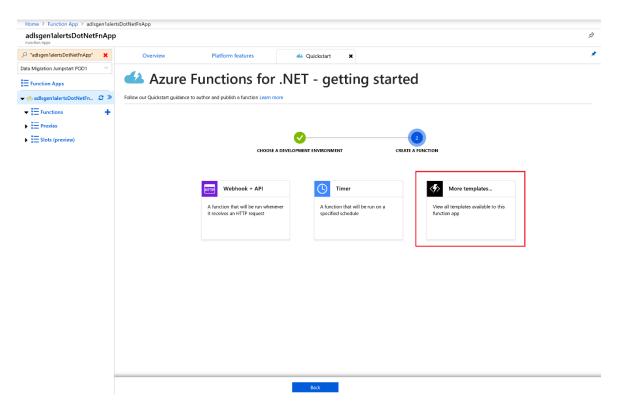


Figure 26: Azure Function - More Templates...

The next step is to search for Azure Event Hub Trigger template as shown below:

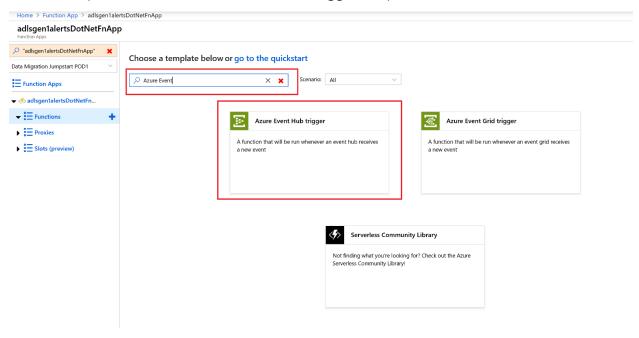


Figure 27: Azure Functions - Azure Event Hub Trigger

Install the missing plugin if prompted,

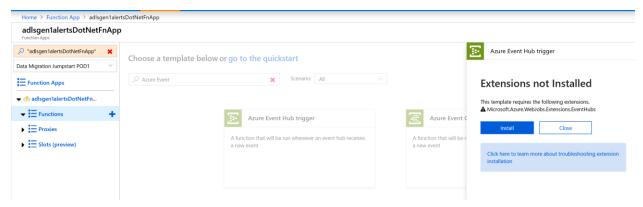
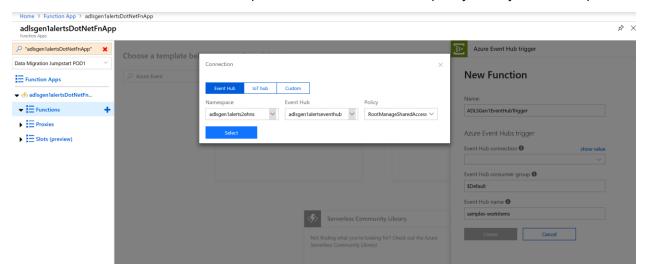


Figure 28: MicrosoftAzure.WebJobs.Extensions.EventHubs Extension

Select the available event hub namespace, event hub and access policy from your subscription.



Click create and a sample code will be generated by the designer as shown below.

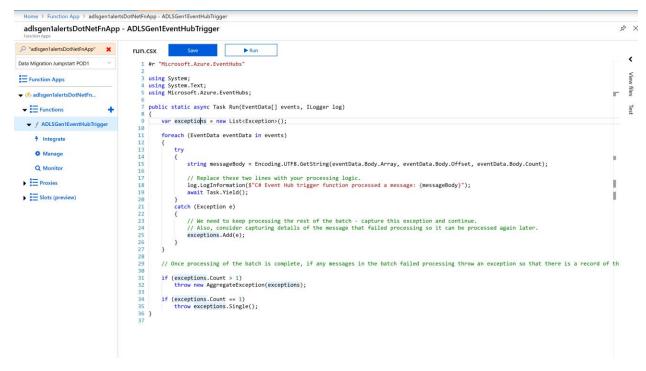


Figure 29: Sample Code generated by Designer

Optionally , we can also enhance the sample code, for example to send the events to downstream applications to consume the events.

Figure 30: Generated Code customization sample

5 ADLS Event Notification Alerts using Event Grid

The third and last approach discussed in this white paper is the approach where Event Grid is used to setup event notification alerts. This is more of a futuristic feature, where events from Data lake can be directly ingested into Event Grid. Here is the empirical view of the event flows:

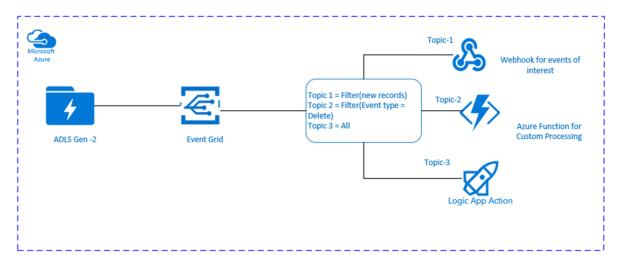


Figure 31: Event Notification Alerts using Event Grid

5 Appendices

5.1 Appendix - External References

- Struggling to get insights for your Azure Data Lake Store? Azure Log Analytics can help!
- Azure Log Analytics
- Azure Monitor
- Azure Event Hubs
- Azure Logic Apps

6 Feedback and suggestions

If you have feedback or suggestions for improving this data migration asset, please contact the Data Migration Jumpstart Team (askdmjfordmtools@microsoft.com). Thanks for your support!

Note: For additional information about migrating various source databases to Azure, see the <u>Azure Database Migration Guide</u>.