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Configure Auditing

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- Enable and Configure Audit Output

New in version 2.6.

MongoDB Enterprise ☐ supports auditing of various operations. A complete auditing solution must involve **all** `mongod` server and `mongos` router processes.

The audit facility can write audit events to the console, the syslog (option is unavailable on Windows), a JSON file, or a BSON file. For details on the audited operations and the audit log messages, see System Event Audit Messages.

Enable and Configure Audit Output

Use the `--auditDestination` option to enable auditing and specify where to output the audit events.

> **WARNING:**
>
> For sharded clusters, if you enable auditing on `mongos` instances, you must enable auditing on all `mongod` instances in the cluster, i.e. shards and config servers.

Output to Syslog

To enable auditing and print audit events to the syslog (option is unavailable on Windows) in JSON format, specify `syslog` for the `--auditDestination` setting. For example:

```
mongod --dbpath data/db --auditDestination syslog
```

> **WARNING:**
>
> The syslog message limit can result in the truncation of the audit messages. The auditing system will neither detect the truncation nor error upon its occurrence.

You may also specify these options in the configuration file:

```
storage:
    dbPath: data/db
auditLog:
    destination: syslog
```

Output to Console

To enable auditing and print the audit events to standard output (i.e. `stdout`), specify `console` for the `--auditDestination` setting. For example:

```
mongod --dbpath data/db --auditDestination console
```

You may also specify these options in the configuration file:

```
storage:
    dbPath: data/db
auditLog:
    destination: console
```

Output to JSON File

To enable auditing and print audit events to a file in JSON format, specify `file` for the `--auditDestination` setting, `JSON` for the `--auditFormat` setting, and the output filename for the `--auditPath`. The `--auditPath` option accepts either full path name or relative path name. For example, the following enables auditing and records audit events to a file with the relative path name of `data/db/auditLog.json`:

```
mongod --dbpath data/db --auditDestination file --auditFormat JSON --auditPath data/db/auditL
```

The audit file rotates at the same time as the server log file.

You may also specify these options in the configuration file:

```
storage:
    dbPath: data/db
auditLog:
    destination: file
    format: JSON
    path: data/db/auditLog.json
```

> **NOTE:**
>
> Printing audit events to a file in JSON format degrades server performance more than printing to a file in BSON format.

Output to BSON File

To enable auditing and print audit events to a file in BSON binary format, specify `file` for the `--auditDestination` setting, `BSON` for the `--auditFormat` setting, and the output filename for the `--auditPath`. The `--auditPath` option accepts either full path name or relative path name. For example, the following enables auditing and records audit events to a BSON file with the relative path name of `data/db/auditLog.bson`:

```
mongod --dbpath data/db --auditDestination file --auditFormat BSON --auditPath data/db/auditL
```

The audit file rotates at the same time as the server log file.

You may also specify these options in the configuration file:

```
storage:
    dbPath: data/db
auditLog:
    destination: file
    format: BSON
    path: data/db/auditLog.bson
```

To view the contents of the file, pass the file to the MongoDB utility `bsondump`. For example, the following converts the audit log into a human-readable form and output to the terminal:

```
bsondump data/db/auditLog.bson
```

SEE ALSO:

Configure Audit Filters, Auditing, System Event Audit Messages