(/contact)   EN
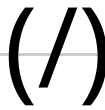
Docs (/guide)

Docs (/guide)   (/)

You are looking at documentation for an older release. Not what you want? See the
current release documentation (../current/index.html).

Filebeat Reference [5.3] (index.html) » Getting Started With Filebeat (filebeat-getting-
started.html) » Step 2: Configuring Filebeat

Step 2: Configuring Filebeat

edit (https://github.com/elastic/beats/edit/5.3/filebeat/docs/getting-started.asciidoc)

> **ⓘ**
> **TIP**
>
> Filebeat modules (filebeat-modules-overview.html) provide the fastest getting
> started experience for common log formats. See Quick Start for Common Log
> Formats (filebeat-modules-quickstart.html) to learn how to get started with
> modules. If you use Filebeat modules to get started, you can skip the content
> in this section, including the remaining getting started steps, and go directly to
> the Quick Start for Common Log Formats (filebeat-modules-quickstart.html)
> page.

To configure Filebeat manually, you edit the configuration file. For rpm and deb, you'll find
the configuration file at `/etc/filebeat/filebeat.yml` For mac and win, look in the archive
that you just extracted. There's also a full example configuration file called
`filebeat.full.yml` that shows all non-deprecated options.

See the Config File Format (http://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/libbeat/5.3/config-file-
format.html) section of the *Beats Platform Reference* for more about the structure of the
config file.

Here is a sample of the `filebeat` section of the `filebeat.yml` file. Filebeat uses predefined
default values for most configuration options.

```
filebeat.prospectors:
- input_type: log
  paths:
    - /var/log/*.log
    #- c:\programdata\elasticsearch\logs\*
```

To configure Filebeat:

1. Define the path (or paths) to your log files.

   For the most basic Filebeat configuration, you can define a single prospector with a single path. For example:

   ```
   filebeat.prospectors:
   - input_type: log
     paths:
       - /var/log/*.log
   ```

   The prospector in this example harvests all files in the path `/var/log/*.log`, which means that Filebeat will harvest all files in the directory `/var/log/` that end with `.log`. All patterns supported by Golang Glob (https://golang.org/pkg/path/filepath/#Glob) are also supported here.

   To fetch all files from a predefined level of subdirectories, the following pattern can be used: `/var/log/*/*.log`. This fetches all `.log` files from the subfolders of `/var/log`. It does not fetch log files from the `/var/log` folder itself. Currently it is not possible to recursively fetch all files in all subdirectories of a directory.

2. If you are sending output to Elasticsearch, set the IP address and port where Filebeat can find the Elasticsearch installation:

   ```
   output.elasticsearch:
     hosts: ["192.168.1.42:9200"]
   ```

   If you are sending output to Logstash, see Step 3: Configuring Filebeat to Use Logstash (config-filebeat-logstash.html) instead.

   TIP   To test your configuration file, change to the directory where the Filebeat binary is installed, and run Filebeat in the foreground with the following options specified: `./filebeat -configtest -e` Make sure your config files are in the path expected by Filebeat (see Directory Layout (directory-layout.html)). If you installed from DEB or RPM packages, run `./filebeat.sh -configtest -e`.

Before starting Filebeat, you should look at the configuration options in the configuration file, for example `C:\Program Files\Filebeat\filebeat.yml`or `/etc/filebeat/filebeat.yml` For more information about these options, see *Configuration Options (Reference)* (filebeat-configuration-details.html).

« Step 1: Installing Filebeat (filebeat-installation.html)

Step 3: Configuring Filebeat to Use Logstash » (config-filebeat-logstash.html)

Top Videos

- Elasticsearch Demo (https://www.elastic.co/webinars/getting-started-elasticsearch?baymax=default&elektra=docs&storm=top-video)

- Kibana 101 (https://www.elastic.co/webinars/getting-started-kibana?baymax=default&elektra=docs&storm=top-video)

- Logstash Primer (https://www.elastic.co/webinars/getting-started-logstash?baymax=default&elektra=docs&storm=top-video)