AppDynamics Pro

Documentation

AppDynamics

Application Management for the Cloud Generation

How To Use the AppDynamics App in Splunk

What is AppDynamics?

AppDynamics is an application performance monitoring solution that helps you:

- Identify problems such as slow and stalled user requests and errors in a production environment.
- Troubleshoot and isolate the root cause of such problems by:
    - Mining performance data from AppDynamics into Splunk using the AppDynamics Controller REST API. See Seeing Performance Data from AppDynamics in Splunk.
    - Pushing notifications on policy violations and events from AppDynamics to Splunk so that a Splunk user can use those to launch deep dives in AppDynamics. See Getting Notifications From and Launching AppDynamics in Splunk.

Prerequisites

- These instructions assume that you are familiar with using both AppDynamics and Splunk.
- You have installed the AppDynamics App for Splunk from Splunkbase. A version of this document is included with the app.
- Splunk version 4.x or newer.
- AppDynamics version 3.5 or newer. If you do not already have a license, sign up for a trial license. You can choose either a SaaS solution or an On-Premise installation.
- You need the following AppDynamics Controller information to set up the integration: hostname/IP address, port number, account name, user name, and password. If you use a SaaS account, AppDynamics provides you with the information.
- Access to the AppDynamics documentation. When you trial or buy the product AppDynamics provides access credentials to you.
- Ensure that $SPLUNK_HOME is set to the directory where Splunk is installed.

Seeing Performance Data from AppDynamics in Splunk

Configure metrics.conf to choose the metrics to be mined from AppDynamics

1. Locate and edit the file:

```
$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/appdynamics/local/metrics.conf
```
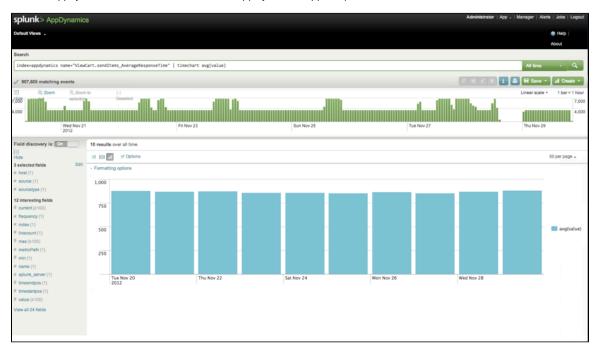
2. Add one section for each individual metric you want to mine from AppDynamics. You need the following:

- AppDynamics metric name, to name the section in the metrics.conf file, and for use as as unique identifier in Splunk
- REST URL of the metric from the AppDynamics Metric Browser, see the REST documentation.
- polling interval - how frequently, in minutes, Splunk will run the script to get this metric
- username and password
    - for On-Premise or SaaS multi-tenant, <username>@<account> and the password
    - for On-Premise or SaaS single-tenant, <username>@customer1 and the password

For example, if you want to mine a metric called AverageResponseTime for the ViewCart.sendItems business transaction, the entry would be similar to this:

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```
[ViewCart.sendItems_AverageResponseTime]

url = http://<controller-host>:<port>/controller/rest/applications/
Acme%20Online%20Book%20Store/metric-data?metricpath=
Business%20Transaction%20Performance%7CBusiness%20Transactions%7CECommerce%7C
ViewCart.sendItems%7CAverage%20Response%20Time%20(ms)&time-range-type=
BEFORE_NOW&duration-in-mins=15

interval = 1

username = user1@customer1

password = welcome
```

To see the metrics in Splunk

1. Launch the AppDynamics App in Splunk.

2. Enter index=appdynamics in the Search field of the AppDynamics App in Splunk.

Viewing AppDynamics Notifications in Splunk

Install splunkClient on the AppDynamics Controller host

Note: This feature is currently available for single-tenant Controllers only.

For AppDynamics SaaS customers:
Contact AppDynamics Support and ask them to extract the splunkClient zip file on your behalf.

For AppDynamics On-Premise Controllers:
1. Locate and copy the splunkClient zip file:
For Linux:

```
$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/appdynamics/splunkClient/splunkClient-3.5.0.0-linux.zip
```

For Windows:

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```
$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/appdynamics/splunkClient/splunkClient-3.5.0.0-windows.zip
```

2. Extract the splunkClient zip file to the Controller installation directory on the machine where the AppDynamics Controller is installed.

Note: The splunkClient zip file includes a custom.xml file containing notifications. If your Controller already has a custom.xml file, edit it and merge the contents.

Set up the .splunkrc file

A sample .splunkrc file is part of the splunkClient zip file.

1. Edit the .splunkrc file to add information that allows the Controller to communicate with Splunk.

If you do not already have a .splunkrc file, edit the file <controller-home>/custom/conf/.splunkrc and change the properties to suit your Splunk installation.

```
# Host at which Splunk is reachable (OPTIONAL)
host=localhost

# Port at which Splunk is reachable (OPTIONAL)
# Use the admin port, which is 8089 by default.
port=8089

# Splunk username
username=admin

# Splunk password
password=changeme

# Access scheme (OPTIONAL)
scheme=https

# Namespace to use (OPTIONAL)
namespace=*:*
```

2. Copy the .splunkrc file to the platform home directory of the user that started the Controller.
In Linux this would be the environment variable $HOME location and in Windows the environment variable %USER_PROFILE% location.

Configure custom notifications and actions in AppDynamics

1. Use the AppDynamics Controller UI to configure the custom actions **notify-splunk-of-event** and **notify-splunk-of-policy-violation** in the Global Notifications and Policy Notifications screens. Details are available in the AppDynamics Alerts documentation for events and policies.

2. Add the following field extraction section to your $SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/search/default/props.conf file:
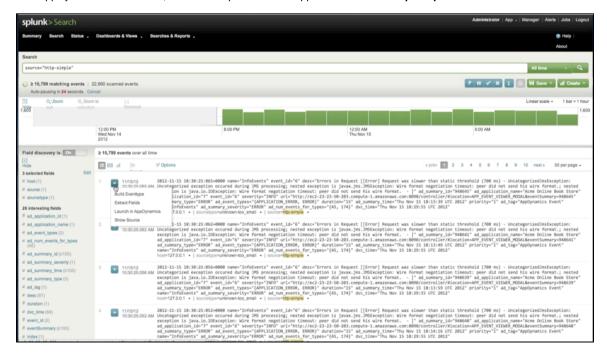
```
[source::http-simple]
EXTRACT-AppD = url="http[s]*://(?<nurl>[^"]+)"
```

3. Add the following workflow action to your $SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/search/default/workflow_actions.conf file:

```
[LaunchAppD]
display_location = both
fields = url
label = Launch in AppDynamics
link.method = get
link.target = blank
link.uri = http://$!nurl$
type = link
```

See AppDynamics notifications in Splunk

To see the AppDynamics notifications, launch the Splunk Search App and choose the **http-simple** source.

Launching AppDynamics From Splunk

On an event in the Splunk Search App, click the blue pulldown and choose **Launch in AppDynamics**. See the screenshot above.

Learn More

- Splunkbase Apps
- AppDynamics documentation
- Splunk documentation

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