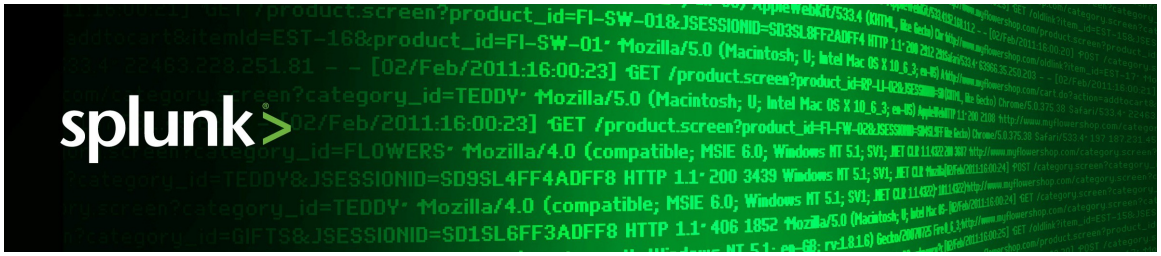


Splunk® Enterprise Forwarding Data 6.5.0

About forwarding and receiving

Generated: 11/12/2016 4:01 pm

About forwarding and receiving

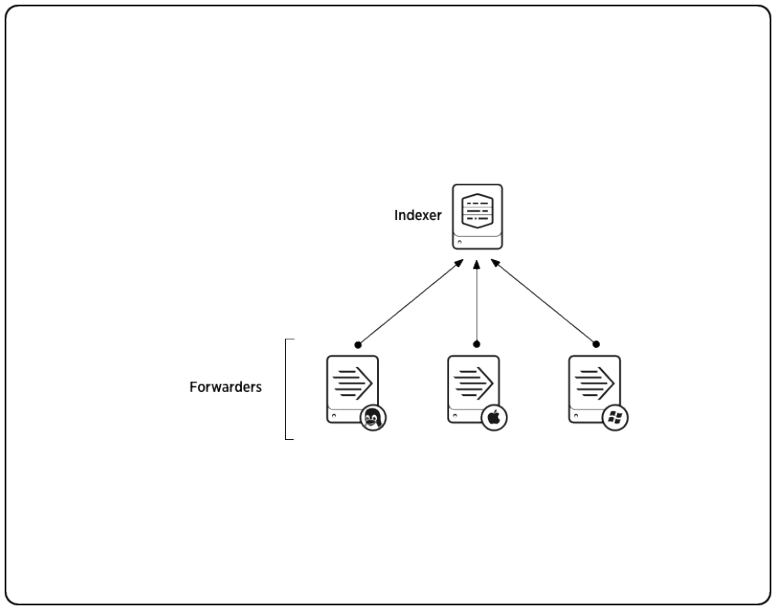
You can forward data from one Splunk Enterprise instance to another Splunk Enterprise instance or even to a non-Splunk system. The Splunk instance that performs the **forwarding** is called a **forwarder**.

There are several types of forwarder. See Types of forwarders to learn about each of them.

A Splunk instance that **receives** data from one or more forwarders is called a **receiver**. The receiver is often a Splunk **indexer**, but can also be another forwarder.

Sample forwarding layout

This diagram shows three forwarders that send data to a single receiver (an indexer), which then indexes the data and makes it available for searching:



Forwarders represent a much more robust solution for data forwarding than raw network feeds, with their capabilities for:

- Tagging of metadata (source, source type, and host)
- Configurable buffering
- Data compression
- SSL security
- Use of any available network ports

The forwarding and receiving capability makes possible all sorts of interesting topologies. You can build environments to handle functions like **data consolidation**, **load balancing**, and **data routing**.

Learn more about forwarding and receiving

- To learn more about the fundamentals of Splunk Enterprise distributed deployment, see the Distributed Deployment Manual.
- For more information on the types of deployment topologies that you can create with forwarders, see Forwarder deployment topologies in this manual.
- To learn about what intermediate forwarding is, see Intermediate forwarding in this manual.
- To learn about the different types of forwarders available, see Types of forwarders.
- To learn about universal forwarders, see the *Universal Forwarder* manual.