Splunk® Universal Forwarder Forwarder Manual 6.5.0

Upgrade a universal forwarder to a heavy forwarder

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The universal forwarder is the recommended method to gather data from hosts and send it to your Splunk deployment. However, there might be times where you need the routing and filtering capabilities that a heavy forwarder can provide. In such a case, you can upgrade a universal forwarder to a heavy forwarder.

Because the universal forwarder and the heavy forwarder install in separate directories by default, you can install the heavy forwarder on the same host as the universal forwarder and move the universal forwarder data to the heavy forwarder.

A heavy forwarder requires a larger amount of disk space than a universal forwarder does. It also uses more network and memory resources than a universal forwarder does (though you can configure the instance to use less.)

Splunk Enterprise also requires a separate license after the 60-day trial license expires.

Upgrade a universal forwarder to a heavy forwarder

1. Stop the universal forwarder on the host that you want to upgrade to a heavy forwarder.
2. Download Splunk Enterprise onto the host.
3. Install Splunk Enterprise on the host.
4. Copy the fishbucket and persistent databases from the universal forwarder to the heavy forwarder.
5. Copy `inputs.conf` and `outputs.conf` from the universal forwarder to the heavy forwarder.
6. (Optional) Copy any add-ons you have installed from the universal forwarder to the heavy forwarder.
7. Edit `props.conf` and `transforms.conf` on the heavy forwarder, or use a deployment server to send configurations to the forwarder.
8. Restart the heavy forwarder.
9. Confirm that the heavy forwarder sends data to the indexer.
10. Uninstall the universal forwarder.