Overview

StorageGRID

NetApp
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Review audit logs: Overview

These instructions contain information about the structure and content of StorageGRID audit messages and audit logs. You can use this information to read and analyze the audit trail of system activity.

These instructions are for administrators responsible for producing reports of system activity and usage that require analysis of the StorageGRID system's audit messages.

To use the text log file, you must have access to the configured audit share on the Admin Node.

For information on configuring audit message levels and using an external syslog server, see Configure audit messages and log destinations.

Related information

- Administer StorageGRID

Audit message flow and retention

All StorageGRID services generate audit messages during normal system operation. You should understand how these audit messages move through the StorageGRID system to the `audit.log` file.

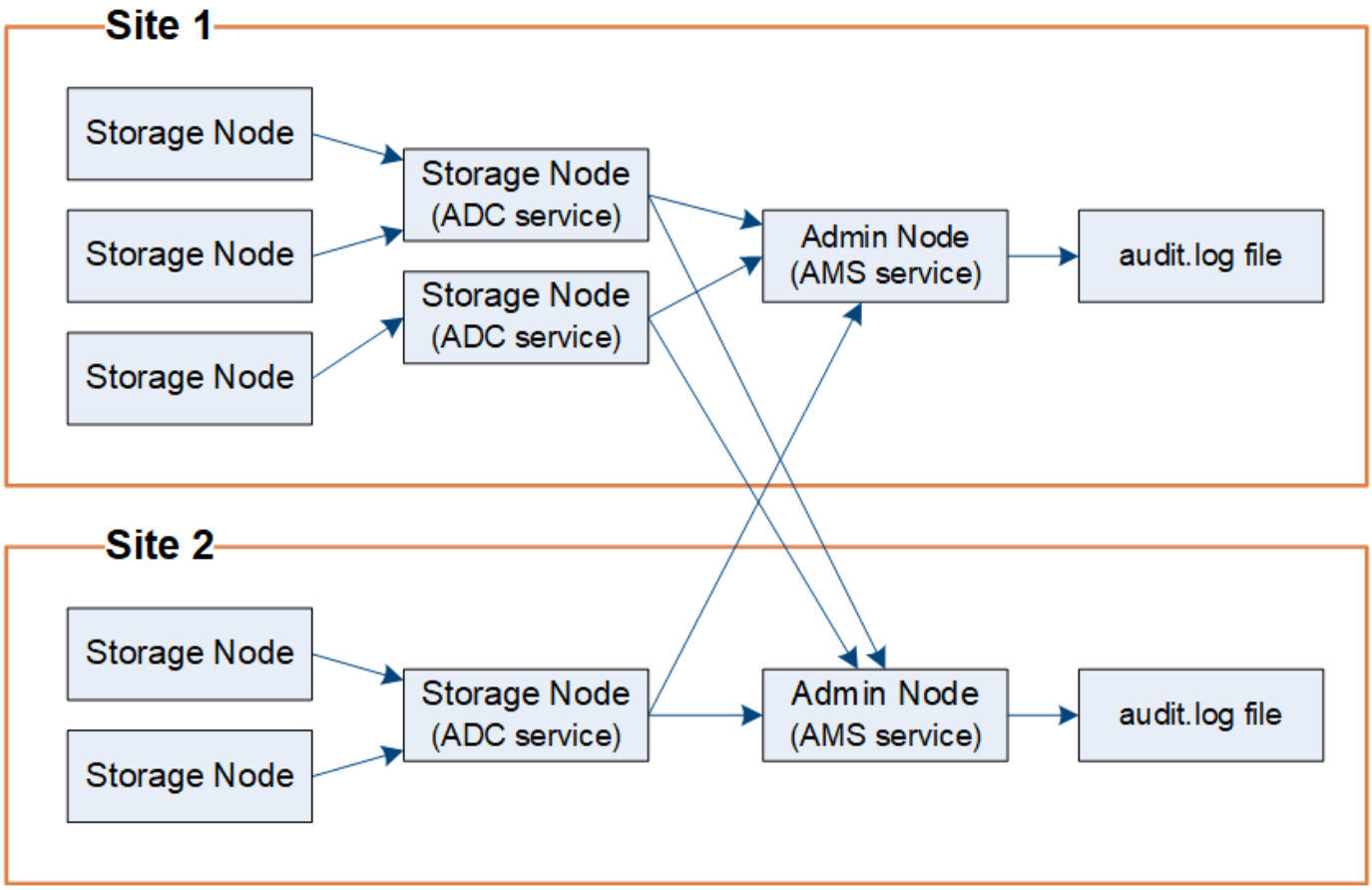
Audit message flow

Audit messages are processed by Admin Nodes and by those Storage Nodes that have an Administrative Domain Controller (ADC) service.

As shown in the audit message flow diagram, each StorageGRID node sends its audit messages to one of the ADC services at the data center site. The ADC service is automatically enabled for the first three Storage Nodes installed at each site.

In turn, each ADC service acts as a relay and sends its collection of audit messages to every Admin Node in the StorageGRID system, which gives each Admin Node a complete record of system activity.

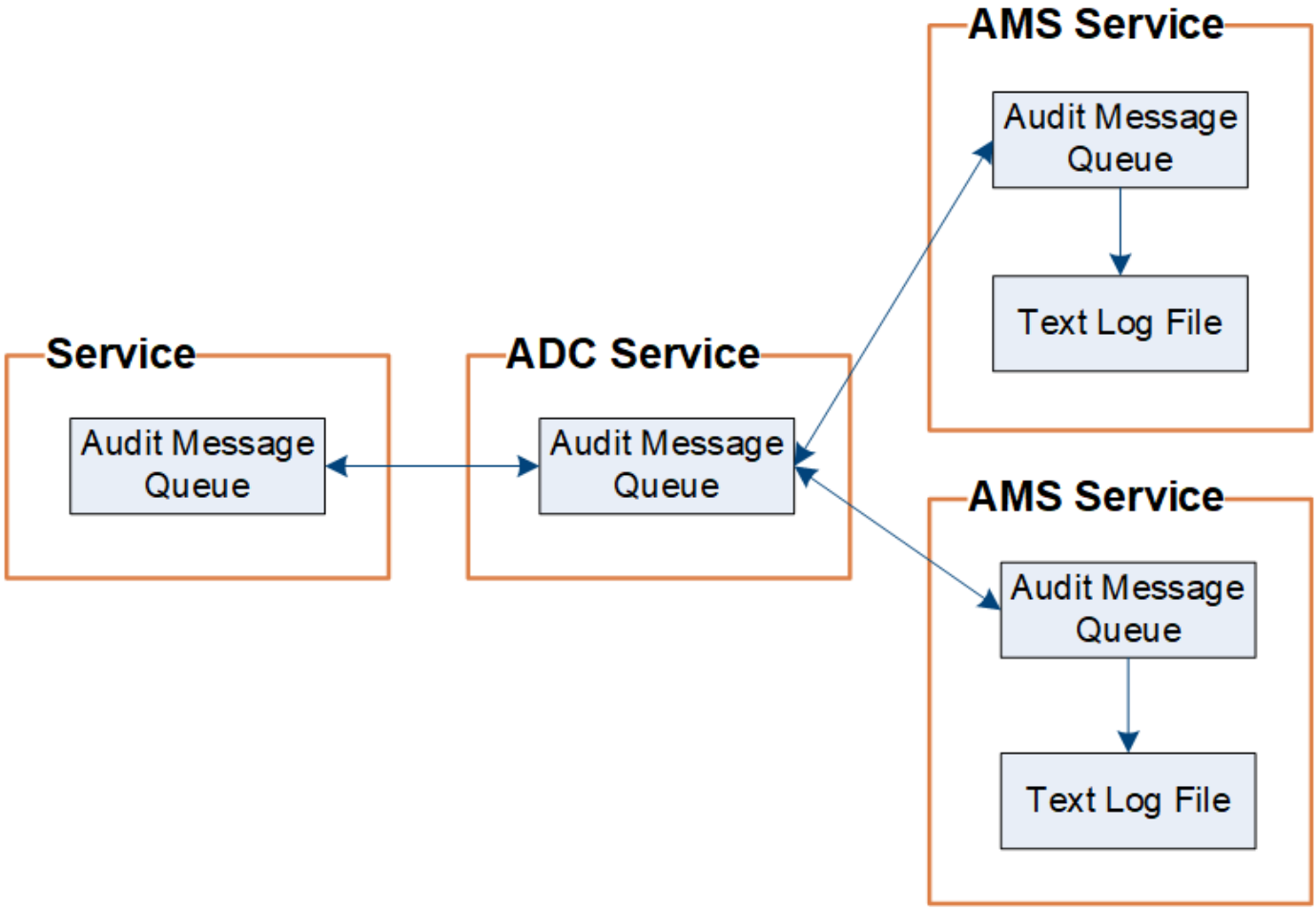
Each Admin Node stores audit messages in text log files; the active log file is named `audit.log`.



Audit message retention

StorageGRID uses a copy-and-delete process to ensure that no audit messages are lost before they can be written to the audit log.

When a node generates or relays an audit message, the message is stored in an audit message queue on the system disk of the grid node. A copy of the message is always held in an audit message queue until the message is written to the audit log file in the Admin Node's `/var/local/audit/export` directory. This helps prevent loss of an audit message during transport.



The audit message queue can temporarily increase due to network connectivity issues or insufficient audit capacity. As the queues increase, they consume more of the available space in each node's `/var/local/` directory. If the issue persists and a node's audit message directory becomes too full, the individual nodes will prioritize processing their backlog and become temporarily unavailable for new messages.

Specifically, you might see the following behaviors:

- If the `/var/local/audit/export` directory used by an Admin Node becomes full, the Admin Node will be flagged as unavailable to new audit messages until the directory is no longer full. S3 and Swift client requests are not affected. The XAMS (Unreachable Audit Repositories) alarm is triggered when an audit repository is unreachable.
- If the `/var/local/` directory used by a Storage Node with the ADC service becomes 92% full, the node will be flagged as unavailable to audit messages until the directory is only 87% full. S3 and Swift client requests to other nodes are not affected. The NRLY (Available Audit Relays) alarm is triggered when audit relays are unreachable.

  > If there are no available Storage Nodes with the ADC service, the Storage Nodes store the audit messages locally in the `/var/local/log/localaudit.log` file.

- If the `/var/local/` directory used by a Storage Node becomes 85% full, the node will start refusing S3 and Swift client requests with `503 Service Unavailable`.

The following types of issues can cause audit message queues to grow very large:

- The outage of an Admin Node or a Storage Node with the ADC service. If one of the system's nodes is down, the remaining nodes might become backlogged.
- A sustained activity rate that exceeds the audit capacity of the system.
- The `/var/local/` space on an ADC Storage Node becoming full for reasons unrelated to audit messages. When this happens, the node stops accepting new audit messages and prioritizes its current backlog, which can cause backlogs on other nodes.

Large audit queue alert and Audit Messages Queued (AMQS) alarm

To help you monitor the size of audit message queues over time, the **Large audit queue** alert and the legacy AMQS alarm are triggered when the number of messages in a Storage Node queue or Admin Node queue reaches certain thresholds.

If the **Large audit queue** alert or the legacy AMQS alarm is triggered, start by checking the load on the system—if there have been a significant number of recent transactions, the alert and the alarm should resolve over time and can be ignored.

If the alert or alarm persists and increases in severity, view a chart of the queue size. If the number is steadily increasing over hours or days, the audit load has likely exceeded the audit capacity of the system. Reduce the client operation rate or decrease the number of audit messages logged by changing the audit level for Client Writes and Client Reads to Error or Off. See "Configure audit messages and log destinations."

Duplicate messages

The StorageGRID system takes a conservative approach if a network or node failure occurs. For this reason, duplicate messages might exist in the audit log.

Access audit log file

The audit share contains the active `audit.log` file and any compressed audit log files. For easy access to audit logs, you can configure client access to audit shares for both NFS and CIFS (CIFS is deprecated). You can also access audit log files directly from the command line of the Admin Node.

What you'll need

- You must have specific access permissions.
- You must have the `Passwords.txt` file.
- You must know the IP address of an Admin Node.

Steps

1. Log in to an Admin Node:
   a. Enter the following command: `ssh admin@primary_Admin_Node_IP`
   b. Enter the password listed in the `Passwords.txt` file.
2. Go to the directory containing the audit log files:

   ```
   cd /var/local/audit/export
   ```

3. View the current or a saved audit log file, as required.

Related information

Administer StorageGRID

Audit log file rotation

Audit logs files are saved to an Admin Node's `/var/local/audit/export` directory. The active audit log files are named `audit.log`.

> Optionally, you can change the destination of audit logs and send audit information to an external syslog server. Local logs of audit records continue to be generated and stored when an external syslog server is configured. See Configure audit messages and log destinations.

Once a day, the active `audit.log` file is saved, and a new `audit.log` file is started. The name of the saved file indicates when it was saved, in the format *`yyyy-mm-dd.txt`*. If more than one audit log is created in a single day, the file names use the date the file was saved, appended by a number, in the format *`yyyy-mm-dd.txt.n`*. For example, `2018-04-15.txt` and `2018-04-15.txt.1` are the first and second log files created and saved on 15 April 2018.

After a day, the saved file is compressed and renamed, in the format *`yyyy-mm-dd.txt.gz`*, which preserves the original date. Over time, this results in the consumption of storage allocated for audit logs on the Admin Node. A script monitors the audit log space consumption and deletes log files as necessary to free space in the `/var/local/audit/export` directory. Audit logs are deleted based on the date they were created, with the oldest being deleted first. You can monitor the script's actions in the following file: `/var/local/log/manage-audit.log`.

This example shows the active `audit.log` file, the previous day's file (`2018-04-15.txt`), and the compressed file for the prior day (`2018-04-14.txt.gz`).

```
audit.log
2018-04-15.txt
2018-04-14.txt.gz
```

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