



## Getting Started

What is Segment?  
[How Segment Works](#)  
Getting Started Guide  
A Basic Segment Installation  
Planning a Full Installation  
A Full Segment Installation  
Sending Data to Destinations  
Testing and Debugging  
What's Next  
Use Cases

## Guides

## Connections

## Unify

## Engage

## Privacy

## Protocols

## Segment App

## API

## Partners

## Glossary

## Config API

## Help

critical events. After those first issues are resolved, you might get notifications if new issues occur or if old issues reoccur, so you can avoid manually monitoring data quality. New issues often occur when a new app version is released, and for many companies, that's weekly.

The issues you care about for anomaly detection are different for each business. An anomaly for one company could be completely normal for another company. For example, an B2B company would expect a steep drop-off of traffic and event volume on weekends, while a media or entertainment company would expect to see a rise in activity in the evenings and on weekends for their different locales.

Other types of issues you can monitor for include:

- An increase or decrease of event volumes by more than X standard deviations (per source or event)
- An increase of unique [violations](#) generated by Protocols (per source, event or property)
- An increase of total [violations](#) generated by Protocols (per source, event or property)
- An increase of [unplanned events](#) not defined in Tracking Plan
- An increase of [unplanned properties](#) properties not defined in your Tracking Plan

## Anomaly Detection solutions

There are several easy ways to set up anomaly detection using the destination partner tools you probably already use. Many of these solutions come from Segment customers using Protocols. They use these solutions to help manage data quality and get notified when relevant anomalies are detected.

You can send anomalous events directly from your source to a Slack channel using the Slack (Actions) destination. To get started:

1 Create a [Slack \(Actions\)](#) destination.

2 Once you've created your destination, select the **Mappings** tab and click **+ New Mapping**.

3 In the Add Mapping popup, select **Post Message**.

4 Under "Select events to map and send", create an event with the following format:

---

Event Context ▾

protocols.violations

exists ▾

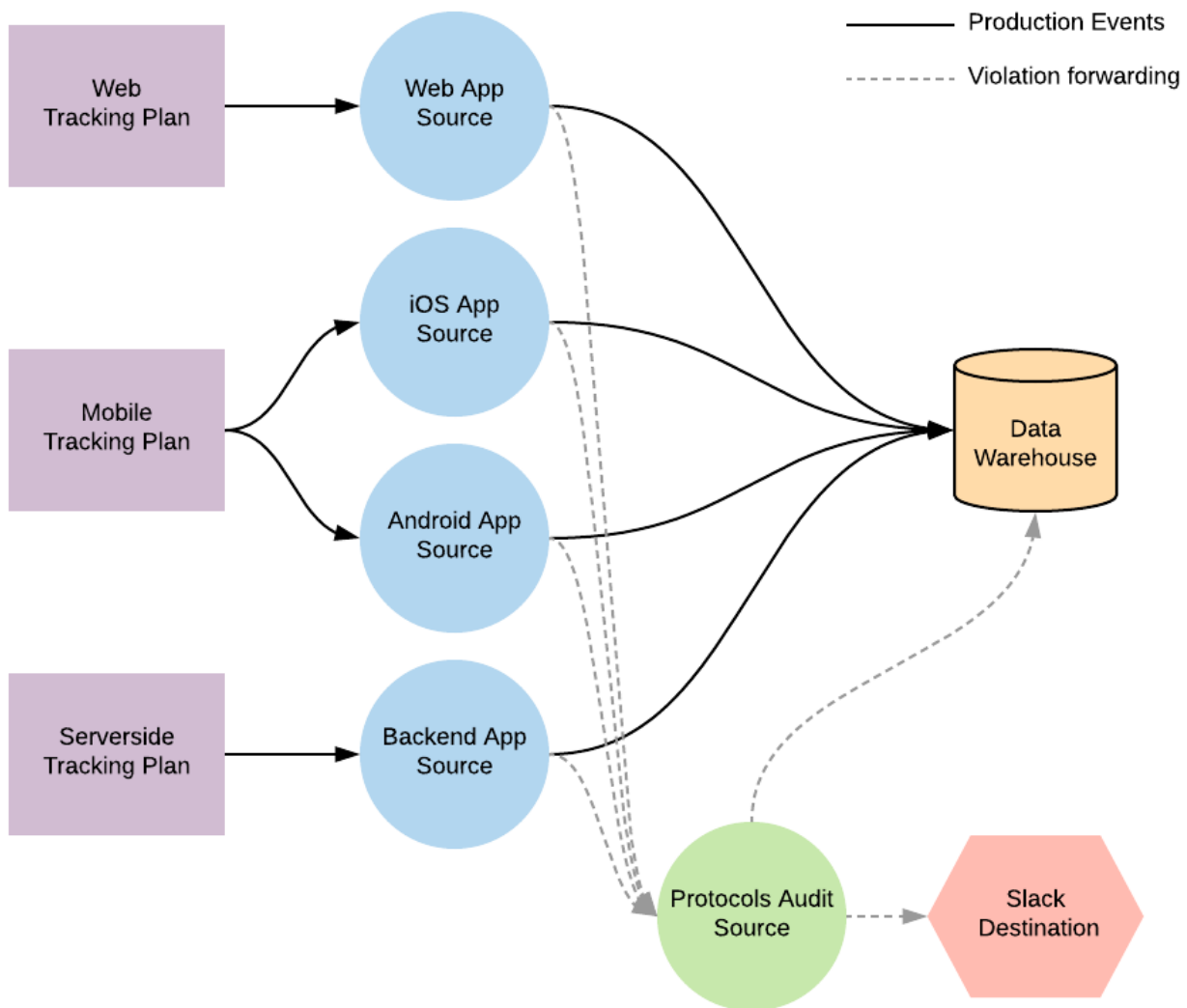
🗑️

+ Add Condition

5 Configure the rest of the Post Message settings and click **Save**.

If you're not using the Slack (Actions) destination to forward violations, Segment recommends that you create a new Segment source to collect all violations and Segment workspace activity. To do this, create a new HTTP source in your workspace, and assign a name that you can easily understand (for example, `Protocols Audit Source`).

Next, set up [Violation forwarding](#) for each Tracking Plan connected to the Source. Once connected, your sources will look like the following diagram:



**Note:** When you enable violation forwarding, it counts as 1 MTU toward your monthly MTU limit. If you are on an API plan, all forwarded violations count against your API limit. Violations might also generate costs in downstream destinations and data warehouses.

Once violation forwarding is enabled, you can build a custom anomaly detection solution that works for your business. The examples Segment covers here include:

1. [Forward violations to a Slack channel](#)

2. [Create violation and event count Anomaly Detection dashboards in a BI tool](#)

## Forward violations to a Slack Channel

After you've enabled [Violation Forwarding](#), enable the [Slack destination](#) for your Protocols Audit Source. In the destination's settings, add an Incoming Webhook URL for the Slack channel you want to push notifications to. Next, add the `Violation Generated` event to the [Event Templates settings](#).

You can copy and paste the example snippet below into the Event Template field to format the Slack message with the event name, violation description and source name. You can customize this message however you want, including adding @ mentions, and any of the [properties included in the Violation Generated event](#).

```
Source: `{{properties.sourceName}}` \nEvent: `{{properties.eventName}}` \nViolation: `{{properties.violationDescription}}`
```

When you're done, it'll look like the screenshot below.

Segment Event Name

Violation Generated

Enter the event name here. You can also enter a regular expression pattern and check the box below if you want to map multiple event names to your template.

Event Template

Event: `{{properties.eventName}}` \nViolation: `{{properties.violatio`

Use 'handlebarsjs' templating to format messages sent to Slack. The default template is '{{properties.email}} did {{event}}.'. For another example, consider an event Adopted Dog, with '{{properties.owner}} adopted a {{properties.type}}' as the template. For every 'Adopted Dog' event, this would send a message like 'Han adopted a Husky'.

☐ **Regex Matching**  
If you entered a regex pattern instead of a specific event name, please check this box.

## Create customized Anomaly Detection dashboards in a BI tool

Custom dashboards are a great way to focus your teams around the metrics and events that matter most to your business. With a few simple queries you can build a dashboard to share with teams, so everyone can understand how well they're doing against your data quality objectives. Here's an example dashboard that combines [forwarded Violations](#) with production event data to track data quality. See below for detailed SQL queries.



Note: For all queries below, replace `protocols_audit_source` with whatever schema name you set for your forwarded violations source.

**Source-level event to violation count comparison:** This query produces a table showing the total event and violation counts, along with a ratio of the two, broken out by day. A bar chart from this data can show when violations increase or decrease disproportionately to event volume in a source. This is the first place you would want to check to see if anomalies are occurring.

```

with
total_track_event_volume as (
    select    sent_at::date as date,
              count(*) as total_event_count
    from      <<YOUR_PROD_SOURCE_SCHEMA_NAME>>.tracks
    group by  sent_at::date
),
total_violations as (
    select    event_sent_at::date as date,
              count(id) as violation_count
    from      protocols_audit_source.violation_generated
    where     source_slug = '<<YOUR_SOURCE_SLUG>>'
    and       event_type = 'track'
    group by  event_sent_at::date
)

select  v.date,
        t.total_event_count "Total Violation Count",
        nvl(v.violation_count, 0) "Total Event Count",
        nvl(v.violation_count, 0)::float/t.total_event_count::float as "Violations Per Event"
    from  total_track_event_volume t
left join total_violations v
    on    t.date = v.date
order by v.date desc

```

**Ratio of High priority events to violation counts:** This query produces a table showing all violations and event counts by day for a single event sent to Segment. A bar chart from this data can show when violations increase or decrease disproportionately to event volume for the single event. Segment recommends selecting a few events that are important for your business (for example, Order Completed, Video Viewed, User Signed Up) and creating a separate query and chart for each event.

```

with
distinct_track_event_volume as (
    select    sent_at::date as date,
              count(*) as event_count
    from      <<YOUR_PROD_SOURCE_SCHEMA_NAME>>.<<IMPORTANT_EVENT_TABLE_NAME>>
    group by  sent_at::date
),
distinct_track_event_violations as (
    select    event_sent_at::date as date,
              count(id) as violation_count
    from      protocols_audit_source.violation_generated
    where     source_slug = '<<YOUR_SOURCE_SLUG>>'
    and       event_name = '<<IMPORTANT_EVENT_NAME>>'
    group by  event_sent_at::date
)

select  v.date,
        t.event_count as "Distinct Event Count",
        nvl(v.violation_count, 0) as "Violation Count",
        nvl(v.violation_count, 0)::float/t.event_count::float as "Violations Per Distinct Event"
    from  distinct_track_event_volume t
left join distinct_track_event_violations v
    on    t.date = v.date
order by v.date desc

```

### Source-level distinct and total violation count (Last 7 days):

This query produces a table that lists all sources connected to a Tracking Plan. For each source, the table shows distinct violations and total violations seen in the source. This table is similar to the [violations summary](#) view in the Segment app.

```

select  source_name,
        count(distinct(violation_description)) as distinct_violations,
        count(*) as total_violations
    from  protocols_audit_source.violation_generated
    where event_sent_at >= current_date - 7
    group by source_name

```

### Event violation count (Top 10):

This query produces a table listing the top 10 events with the most violations. A bar chart showing the worst offending events is a great way to focus your efforts on fixing the least reliable events.

```
select event_name,
count(*) as total_violations
from protocols_audit_source.violation_generated
group by event_name
order by total_violations desc
limit 10
```

This page was last modified: 02 Nov 2023

### Need support?

Questions? Problems? Need more info? Contact Segment Support for assistance!

Visit our Support page

### Help improve these docs!

Edit this page

Request docs change

### Was this page helpful?

Yes

No

### Get started with Segment

Segment is the easiest way to integrate your websites & mobile apps data to over 300 analytics and growth tools.

Your work e-mail

Request Demo

or

Create free account

© 2025 Segment.io, Inc.

Privacy

Terms

Website Data Collection Preferences

