VMware ESXi Audit Reference

VMware vSphere 8.0 VMware ESXi 8.0b vCenter Server 8.0



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About This Reference

The VMware ESXi Audit Reference provides information about the audit records that ESXi generates in response to various security-related system events. The documentation includes the parameters associated with each event. You can access audit records through local storage or remote transmission. Audit record local storage and remote transmission are optional capabilities of ESXi.

Intended Audience

This information is for experienced system administrators who are familiar with virtual machine technology and data center operations.

Presence of Parameters

Each parameter's entry in an audit event's parameter table indicates whether the parameter is always present or is optional, and if applicable, under what conditions.

Event Severity

Unless an audit event specifies otherwise, the severity of the audit event is Informational when the result value is success and Notice when the result value is failure.

Document References

For more information on audit records, see Subsection "Audit Records" under Log File Formats in the VMware ESXi Installation and Setup guide. For more information on configuring local audit record storage and remote transmission, see Configuring System Logging, also in the VMware ESXi Installation and Setup guide.

account. change Password

1

This event is generated when an attempt was made to change the password of a user account.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Optional
object	Specifies the name of the target account.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
comment	Provides additional information about the event.	Optional

account.create

2

This event is generated when an attempt was made to create a user account.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the new account.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

account.delete

This event is generated when an attempt was made to delete a user account.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the target account.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

account.edit

4

This event is generated when an attempt was made to edit an existing user account.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the target account.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure.
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

account.locked

This event is generated when an account was locked due to too many failed login attempts.

Note For account.locked the event severity is always Warning.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user whose account was locked.	Always
object	The value is always account.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always

This event is generated when an attempt was made to call an API.

Note For api.call the event severity when the result value is success is Debug.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation. This might be an empty string for anonymous operations (operations that have the System.anonymous required privilege) or for operations performed by the system.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the object and the method on which the operation was invoked (for example vmodl.query.PropertyCollector.createFilter, vim.Env ironmentBrowser.queryConfigOptionDescriptor, or vim.VirtualMachine.powerOn). Consult the vSphere Web Servies API documentation for more information. Note that some objects are undocumented since they are internal-use only.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always

audit.failure —

This event is generated upon audit daemon restart after the audit daemon suffered a catastrophic failure. This indicates that a loss of audit records might have occurred.

Note For audit.failure the event severity is always Alert.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always audit.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	The value is always potential loss of audit records due to daemon crash.	Always

audit.fetch

This event is generated when an attempt was made to fetch audit records.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always audit.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

audit.net.failure

9

This event is generated when remote host connectivity was lost. This indicates that a loss of audit records might have occurred.

Note For audit.net.failure the event severity is always Alert.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the affected remote host.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Specifies the reason for the network failure.	Always

audit.storage.failure

This event is generated when an I/O error occurred while writing audit record storage. This indicates that a loss of audit records might have occurred.

Note For audit.storage.failure the event severity is always Alert.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the audit record storage file where the I/O error occurred.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	The value is always I/O error.	Always

audit.storage.recycle

This event is generated when the audit record storage FIFO returned to its beginning (and older records are dropped).

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always audit.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always

audit.start

This event is generated when audit record storage and/or transmission was started.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always audit.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always

audit.stop

This event is generated when audit record storage and/or transmission was stopped.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always audit.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always

cgi.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to establish a CGI connection.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always cgi.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
url	Specifies the URL of the authentication request.	Always
http.method	Specifies the HTTP method involved in the connection attempt.	Always

cgi.disconnect

This event is generated when a CGI connection was ended (explicit or time out).

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always cgi.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
url	Specifies the URL of the authentication request.	Always
http.method	Specifies the HTTP method involved in the connection attempt.	Always

dcui.login

This event is generated when an attempt was made to log in via the DCUI.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who attempted to log in.	Always
object	The value is always dcui.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure

dcui.logout

This event is generated when a DCUI login was ended (explicit or time out).

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user associated with the login.	Always
object	The value is always dcui.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure

entropy.rbg.failure

This event is generated when the host was unable to provide a sufficient amount of entropy for cryptographically secure random number generation.

Note For entropy.rbg.failure the event severity is always Alert.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always rbg.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure. When testing for entropy failure, the value is test.	Always

entropy.available.low

This event is generated when the amount of available entropy data has crossed the boundary of the low water mark (either going above or going below).

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user)	Always
object	The value is always entropy.	Always
result	The value is either success (has gone above) or failure (has gone below).	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure

entropy.failure

This event is generated upon entropyd daemon restart after the daemon suffered a catastrophic failure (for example after the daemon or ESXi crashed). It indicates that the daemon was not shut down quiesently.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user)	Always
object	The value is always entropy.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	Always

entropy.link

This event is generated when the connection to the external entropy source has been established (or restored), or broken. A connection is considered established (or restored) when ESXi receives entropy data from the external entropy source. A connection is considered broken when ESXi has not received entropy from the external entropy source within the configured timeout period.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user)	Always
object	The value is always entropy.	Always
result	The value is either success (connection established or restored) or failure (connection broken).	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result value is failure

entropy.start

This event is generated when the entropy daemon starts.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user)	Always
object	The value is always entropy.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always

entropy.stop

This event is generated when the entropy daemon stopped.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user)	Always
object	The value is always entropy.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always

invalid.message

This event is generated when an event and its parameters prove problematic. Parameters from the problematic event form the body of this event to make it easier to determine how the problematic event was introduced.

Note For invalid.message the event severity is always Error.

Parameter	Description	Presence
eventID	Specifies the event ID of the problematic event.	Optional
Invalid parameter names	These are replaced with the name badParam.	Optional
Invalid parameter values	These are replaced with an empty string. (This can also affect subject and object parameter values.)	Optional
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason(s) for the failure. (More than one may be specified.)	Optional

network.fw.defaultpolicy

This event is generated when an attempt was made to update the firewall default policy.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always firewall.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

network.fw.refresh

This event is generated when an attempt was made to refresh the firewall.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always firewall.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the reason specifies failure
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

network.fw.rule.disable

This event is generated when an attempt was made to disable a firewall ruleset.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the affected firewall ruleset.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

network.fw.rule.enable

This event is generated when an attempt was made to enable a firewall ruleset.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the affected firewall ruleset.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

network.fw.rule.update

This event is generated when an attempt was made to update a firewall ruleset.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the affected firewall ruleset.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
opID	Specifes the operation ID.	Optional

network.nic.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to connect a host's NIC to a network switch.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the affected physical NIC.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
type	The value is either physical or vmkernel.	Always
deviceID	Specifies the name of the affected vSphere Standard Switch or the uuid of the affected Distributed Virtual Switch.	Always

network.nic.disconnect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to disconnect a host's NIC from a network switch.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the affected physical NIC.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
type	The value is either physical or vmkernel.	Always
deviceID	Specifies the name of the affected vSphere Standard Switch or the uuid of the affected Distributed Virtual Switch.	Always

network.switch.add

This event is generated when an attempt was made to add a virtual switch to the host.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the virtual switch.	Always
type	The value is either standard or distributed.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

network.switch.remove

This event is generated when an attempt was made to remove a virtual switch from the host.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the virtual switch.	Always
type	The value is either standard or distributed.	Always
result	The value is success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

product.issue

This event is generated when a product detects that an audit record should be issued but it is unable to do so for some reason. It is also generated for system issues that could put the system into an inconsistent or undesirable state.

Note For product.issue the event severity is always Alert.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the name of the affected product (for example esx).	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Specifies the reason why the the audit record could not be emitted, or the reason for the system failure.	Always
location	Provides information about where in the product the issue occurred (for example a short description of the subsystem reporting the issue, like VM state management).	Optional

proxy.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to establish a proxy service connection.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always proxy.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Optional
port	Specifies the network port number of the originator of the connection.	Optional

proxy.disconnect

This event is generated when a proxy service connection was ended.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	The value is always proxy.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Optional
port	Specifies the network port number of the originator of the connection.	Optional

service.ticket.get

This event is generated when a service authorization ticket was requested.

This service.ticket.get event is generated for the following service URL paths:

- /cgi-bin
- /folder
- /host
- /screen
- /tmp

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the ticket ID with most of its fields masked out.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
url	Specifies the URL the ticket was acquired for.	Always
http.method	Specifies the HTTP method the ticket was acquired for, or empty string if not specified.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

service.ticket.use

This event is generated when an attempt was made to use a service authorization ticket for the service URL paths listed under service.ticket.get. For more information, see Chapter 37 service.ticket.get.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation if the ticket is valid and is an empty string otherwise.	Always
object	Specifies the ticket ID with most of its fields masked out.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
url	Specifies the URL path of the incoming request.	Always
http.method	Specifies the HTTP method of the incoming request.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

service.token.get

This event is generated when an attempt was made to request an ESXi access token from user credentials or another security token.

The service.token.get event is generated for the following service URL paths:

- /cgi-bin
- /api
- /sdk
- /observability
- /gdp
- /stats

Description	Parameter	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the signature of the token. The value is an empty string if the signature could not be determined.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

service.token.use

This event is generated when an attempt was made to execute an operation by passing a previously created access token for the service URL paths listed under <code>service.token.get</code>. For more information, see <code>Chapter 39 service.token.get</code>.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the signature of the token. The value is an empty string if the signature could not be determined.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

settings.advanced.add

This event is generated when an attempt was made to add an advanced option.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the advanced option.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
type	The value is either int or string.	Always
min	Denotes the minimum legal value.	When the type is an integer (int)
max	Denotes the maximum legal value.	When the type is an integer (int)
defaultValue	Specifies the default value of the new option.	Always
description	Specifies the description of the new option.	Always
isHidden	Indicates whether the option is hidden (value of 1) or not hidden (value of 0).	Always

settings.advanced.delete

This event is generated when an attempt was made to delete an advanced option.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the advanced option.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always

settings.advanced.reset

This event is generated when an attempt was made to reset (to default) an advanced option.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the advanced option.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
value	Specifies the default value for the option.	Optional

settings.advanced.set

This event is generated when an attempt was made to change an advanced option.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the advanced option.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
value	Specifies the new value for the advanced option.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

settings.kernel.set

This event is generated when an attempt was made to change a kernel setting.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the setting.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
value	Specifies the new value for the kernel setting.	Always

shell.cmd

This event is generated whenever a command, issued via a shell, completes.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always shell.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure, representing 0 or not 0, respectively, as indicated by the shell exit code.	Always
command	Specifies the command line.	Always
status	Specifies the exit code of the command.	When the result specifies failure

ssh.cmd

This event is generated whenever a shell command was issued by sshd.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always ssh.	Always
result	The value is always success, since the command is always passed successfully to the shell.	Always
command	Specifies the command passed to the shell.	Always

ssh.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to begin an SSH connection.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always ssh.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always

ssh.disconnect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to end an SSH connection.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always ssh.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always

ssh.session.begin

This event is generated when an attempt was made to begin an SSH session.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always ssh.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the session.	Always

ssh.session.end

This event is generated when an attempt was made to end an SSH session.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always ssh.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the session.	Always

syslog.mark

This event is generated when a mark message is issued to syslog and the audit trail.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always syslog.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always
comment	Specifies the event message. The value can be an empty string.	Always

syslog.net.connect

This event is generated when the ESXi syslog daemon, vmsyslogd, establishes a connection (UDP, TCP, or TLS (SSL)) to a remote host.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the remote host (a syslog collector) identifier (for example a DNS name, or an IPV4 or IPV6 address).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
subjectDN	Specifies the subject of the presented peer certificate in Distinguished Name (DN) form, for example C=US, L=Palo Alto, O=VMware.	When the result specifies failure and the root cause of the failure was due to a TLS (SSL) connection failure.
subjectAltName	Specifies the subject alternate name extension of the presented peer certificate, for example IP:192.0.2.1.	When the result specifies failure and the root cause of the failure was due to a TLS (SSL) connection failure.
referenceID	Specifies the address of the remote server (DNS, IPv4, or IPv6) from the client configuration. This is the reference identifier that is matched with the presented identifier.	When the result specifies failure and the root cause of the failure was due to a TLS (SSL) connection failure.

syslog.net.disconnect

This event is generated when the ESXi syslog daemon, vmsyslogd, terminates a connection (UDP, TCP, or TLS (SSL)) with a remote host.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the remote host (a syslog collector) identifier (for example a DNS name, or an IPV4 or IPV6 address).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional

syslog.net.link

This event is generated when a remote host network connection changes state.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the identifier of the remote host (a syslog collector), for example a DNS name, or an IPV4 or IPV6 address.	Always
result	When the link transitions from up to down, the result value is failure. When the link transitions from down to up, the result value is success.	Always
reason	When the link transitions from up to down, the reason value is link down. When the link transitions from down to up, the reason value is link up.	Always

syslog.reload

This event is generated when an attempt was made to force the syslog/audit daemon to reload its parameters.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always syslog.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always

system.update.add

This event is generated upon completion of a VIB installation attempt.

Note For system.update.add, the event severity when the result value is success depends on whether an attempt was made to override signature validation. If such an attempt was made then for success the event severity is Notice. Otherwise it is the default (Informational). On the other hand, if the result value is failure then the event severity is always Critical.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the VIB being installed.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure. If the value is failure, the reason is indicated by the system.update.end event. See Chapter 58 system.update.end for more information.	Always

system.update.end

This event is generated at the end of a system update.

Note For system.update.end, the event severity when the result value is success depends on whether an attempt was made to override signature validation. If such an attempt was made then for success the event severity is Notice. Otherwise it is the default (Informational). On the other hand, if the result value is failure then the event severity is always Critical.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always system.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure

system.update.remove

This event is generated upon completion of a VIB removal attempt.

Note For system.update.remove, the event severity when the result value is success depends on whether an attempt was made to override signature validation. If such an attempt was made then for success the event severity is Notice. Otherwise it is the default (Informational). On the other hand, if the result value is failure then the event severity is always Critical.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the VIB being removed.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure. If the value is failure, the reason is indicated by the system.update.end event. See Chapter 58 system.update.end for more information.	Always

system.update.start

This event is generated when an attempt was made to initiate a system update.

Note For system.update.start, the event severity when the result value is success depends on whether an attempt was made to override signature validation. If such an attempt was made then for success the event severity is Notice. Otherwise it is the default (Informational). On the other hand, if the result value is failure then the event severity is always Critical.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always system.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional

time.parameters

This event is generated when an attempt was made to change an NTP/PTP (clock synchronization) configuration parameter.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always an empty string (representing the host itself).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
operation	Specifies the setting that is being affected. ConfigureSettings Configure time settings. (TIME) DaemonStateChange: Values for this operation include start, stop and restart. (NTP, PTP) LoadConfig: Load a new NTP configuration file (NTP) ResetToFactory: Reset to factory settings (NTP, PTP) SetDevice: Set the network device type (PTP) SetDomain: Set the domain (PTP) SetEnabled: Enable or disable the service (NTP,PTP) SetEvent: Enable sending events to VC (TIME) SetFallback: Enable fallback to NTP from PTP SetIpConfig: Set the IP configuration (PTP) SetPort: Set the logging level (NTP,PTP) SetPort: Set the port (PTP) SetServers: Set the list of servers or none if no servers (NTP) UpdateConfig: Update the time configuration (TIME, PTP, NTP) UpdateFirewallRule: Update the firewall rule (NTP, PTP) ValidatePciPassthruDev: Validate the pic passthru device (PTP)	Always

Parameter	Description	Presence
backup	Specifies the use of NTP as fallback upon a PTP service failure.	Optional
comment	Provides information about the event.	Optional
deviceID	Specifies the type of the device in PTP.	Optional
deviceLabel	Specifies the PTP port device name.	Optional
domain	specifies the domain of PTP.	Optional
enabled	Provides information that pertains to enabled/disabled setting.	Optional
event	Specifies the time service that was sending events when failure was detected.	Optional
index	Specifies the port's index in PTP.	Optional
level	Specifies the logging level.	Optional
netmask	Specifies the subnet mask.	Optional
path	Specifies the path of an NTP configuration file.	Optional
protocol	The value is one of DHCP, static IP address, or none if no protocol applies.	Optional
servers	Specifies a list of servers.	Optional
type	Indicates the type of operation (TIME for non-daemon settings, or PTP or NTP for daemon-specific settings).	Optional
value	Specifies the operation value.	Always

usb.passthru.disable

This event is generated when an attempt was made to make a connected USB device unavailable for passthrough to a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies a reference to the affected USB device, in the form bus:device:vendorID:productID, where all values are represented in hex form.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
comment	Provides information about the event.	Optional

usb.passthru.enable

This event is generated when an attempt was made to make a connected USB device available for passthrough to a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies a reference to the affected USB device, in the form bus:device:vendorID:productID, where all values are represented in hex form.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
comment	Provides information about the event.	Optional

vapi.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to create a vAPI connection.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always vapi.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vapi.disconnect

This event is generated when a vAPI connection was ended (explicit or time out).

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always vapi.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vim.access.denied

This event is generated when an attempt to access a protected VIM object was denied.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who was denied access.	Always
object	Specifies the name of the object on which the operation was invoked (for example vim.host.StorageSystem:storageSystem, vmodl.query.PropertyCollector:ha-property-collector). Consult the vSphere Web Services API documentation for more information. Note that some objects are undocumented since they are internal-use only.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
apiName	Describes the internal API name of the operation that was invoked (for examplegetStorageDeviceInfo, waitForUpdatesEx). To understand the meaning of this value, consult the vSphere Web Services API documentation, starting with the object value as a reference. Note that property retrieval operations are prefixed with Is for boolean properties and Get for all other properties. Also note that some operations are undocumented since they are internal-use only.	Always
path	Specifies the VMX file path if the target is a virtual machine, or the datastore name if the target object is a datastore.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vim.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to create a VIM connection.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the user authenticating with the system.	Always
object	The value is always vim.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies a unique ID representing the session that was established.	When the result specifies success
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vim.disconnect

This event is generated when a VIM connection was ended (explicit or time out).

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the owner of the connection.	Always
object	The value is always vim.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always
reason	Is the reason for the connection ending, for example User Logout, Timeout expired, or Terminated by administrator.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies a unique ID representing the closed session.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vim.terminate

This event is generated when a VIM connection was terminated by an administrator.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the user who terminated the connection.	Always
object	Specifies the user who owned the terminated connection.	Always
result	The value is always success.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the connection.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies a unique ID representing the terminated session.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.create

This event is generated when an attempt was made to create a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.delete

This event is generated when an attempt was made to delete a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.guestrpc.denied

This event is generated when an attempt to use a privileged Guest RPC was denied.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	The value is always permission denied.	Always
name	Specifies the Guest RPC command.	Always
value	Specifies the Guest RPC number.	Always

vm.hypercall.denied

This event is generated when an attempt to use a hypercall was denied.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is always failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the denial.	Always
type	The value is either Backdoor or HbBackdoor.	Always
value	Specifies the hypercall number.	Always
name	Specifies the name of the hypercall.	Optional

vm.kill

This event is generated when an attempt was made to forcibly terminate a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always

vm.net.add

This event is generated when an attempt was made to attach a network to a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user requesting the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
networkID	Specifies the name of the network that was to be attached.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.net.edit

This event is generated when an attempt was made to modify a network attached to a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
networkID	Specifies the name of the new network.	Always
oldID	Specifies the name of the old network, or an empty string if not applicable.	Always
connect	The value is either at power-on or not at power-on when a change affects device setup.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.net.remove

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This event is generated when an an attempt was made to detach a network from a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
networkID	Specifies the name of the network that was to be detached.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.power.off

This event is generated when an attempt was made to power off a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user powering off a virtual machine.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.power.on

This event is generated when an attempt was made to power on a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.power.reset

This event is generated when an attempt was made to reset a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.power.suspend

This event is generated when an attempt was made to suspend a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.reconfigure

This event is generated when an attempt was made to reconfigure a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.register

This event is generated when an attempt was made to register a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.snapshot.create

This event is generated when an attempt was made to create a virtual machine snapshot.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
name	Specifies the display name of the snapshot.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies the unique ID of the snapshot. (This can be an empty string.)	Always
parent	Specifies the unique ID of the parent snapshot. If the snapshot is the root of the tree then the value is an empty string.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.snapshot.remove

This event is generated when an attempt was made to remove a virtual machine snapshot.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
name	Specifies the display name of the snapshot.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies the unique ID of the snapshot.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
comment	Provides information about the event.	Optional

vm.snapshot.removeAll

This event is generated when an attempt was made to remove all virtual machine snapshots.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.snapshot.rename

This event is generated when an attempt was made to rename a virtual machine snapshot.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
name	Specifies the current display name of the snapshot.	Always
newName	Specifies the new display name of the snapshot.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies the unique ID of the snapshot.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
comment	Pprovides information about the event.	Optional

vm.snapshot.revert

This event is generated when an attempt was made to revert to virtual machine snapshot.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
name	Specifies the display name of the snapshot.	Always
uniqueID	Specifies the unique ID of the snapshot.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.storage.add

This event is generated when an attempt was made to add a virtual storage device to a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
path	Specifies the path to the affected file or an empty string when a local device is auto selected (for example CDROM/DVD).	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.storage.edit

This event is generated when an attempt was made to modify the backing" of a virtual storage device associated with a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
path	Specifies the path to the attached file or an empty string when a local device is auto selected (for example CDROM/DVD).	Always
oldPath	Specifies the path to the detached file or an empty string when a local device is auto selected (for example CDROM/DVD).	Always
connect	The value is at power-on or not at power-on when a change affects device setup.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.storage.remove

This event is generated when an attempt was made to remove a virtual storage device from a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
path	Specifies the path to the affected file or an empty string when a local device is auto selected (for example CDROM/DVD).	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.unregister

This event is generated when an attempt was made to unregister a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the affected virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Indicates the reason for the failure.	When the result specifies failure
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Always
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

vm.usb.connect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to connect a USB device to a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the reporting virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
deviceLabel	The value has the form $usb:$ for $usb 1.1$, $ehci:$ for $usb 2.0$, or $usb_xhci:$ for $usb 3.x$. The $$ is a small integer, uniquely identifing the USB controller involved.	Optional
name	Specifies the user-friendly name of the device.	Optional
productID	Specifies the product ID of the device.	Always
type	Specifies the type of the device, where generic means the device is attached to the local ESXi host and remote means the device may reside on another host (or a client machine) and has been attached to the virtual machine through a network connection. Other values are specific to the virtual device (hid and hub for example).	Optional
vendorID	Specifies the vendor ID of the device.	Always

vm.usb.disconnect

This event is generated when an attempt was made to disconnect a USB device from a virtual machine.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	The value is always an empty string (indicating activity performed by the system rather than a user).	Always
object	Specifies the path of the VMX file of the reporting virtual machine.	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
deviceID	Specifies the device ID of the device.	Optional
deviceLabel	The value has the form $usb:$ for $usb 1.1$, $ehci:$ for $usb 2.0$, or $usb_xhci:$ for $usb 3.x$. The $$ is a small integer, uniquely identifing the USB controller involved.	Optional
name	Specifies the user-friendly name of the device.	Optional
productID	Specifies the product ID of the device.	Always
type	Specifies the type of the device, where generic means the device is attached to the local ESXi host and remote means the device may reside on another host (or a client machine) and has been attached to the virtual machine through a network connection. Other values are specific to the virtual devices (hid and hub for example).	Optional
vendorID	Specifies the vendor ID of the device.	Always

x509.cacert.add

This event is generated when an attempt was made to add a CA certificate to the host CA store.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always an empty string (representing the host itself).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
subjectDN	Specifies the subject distinguished name of the CA certificate.	Always

x509.cacert.remove

This event is generated when an attempt was made to remove a CA certificate from the host CA store.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always an empty string (representing the host itself).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
subjectDN	Specifies the subject distinguished name of the CA certificate.	Always

x509.srvcert.generate

This event is generated when an attempt was made to generate a client certificate signing request.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always an empty string (representing the host itself).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional

x509.srvcert.install

This event is generated when an attempt was made to install a new server certificate.

Parameter	Description	Presence
subject	Specifies the name of the user who requested the operation.	Always
object	The value is always an empty string (representing the host itself).	Always
result	The value is either success or failure.	Always
reason	Provides additional details about the event.	Optional
ip	Specifies the network address of the originator of the operation.	Optional
opID	Specifies the operation ID.	Optional
subjectDN	Specifies the subject distinguished name of the server certificate.	Optional