

WINDOWS LOGGING CHEAT SHEET - Win 7/Win 2008 or later

This “**Windows Logging Cheat Sheet**” is intended to help you get started setting up basic and necessary Windows Audit Policy and Logging. By no means is this list extensive; but it does include some very common items that should be enabled, configured, gathered and harvested for any Log Management Program. Start with these settings and add to it as you understand better what is in your logs and what you need.



DEFINITIONS:

ENABLE: Things you must do to enable logging to start collecting and keeping events.

CONFIGURE: Configuration that is needed to refine what events you will collect.

GATHER: Tools/Utilities that you can use locally on the system to set or gather log related information – AuditPol, WEvtUtil, Find, etc.

HARVEST: Events that you would want to harvest into some centralized Event log management solution like syslog, SIEM, Splunk, etc.

RESOURCES: Places to get information on EventID's

- www.ultimatewindowssecurity.com/securitylog/encyclopedia/Default.aspx - Better descriptions of Event ID's
- www.EventID.Net – Most of the Event ID's
- Google! – But of course
- IIS Error Codes - <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/318380> - IIS Error Codes
- <http://cryptome.org/2014/01/nsa-windows-event.pdf> - Good Article
- [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd772712\(v=ws.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd772712(v=ws.10).aspx) – MS Adv Security Audit Policy Descriptions

ENABLE:

1. **LOCAL LOG SIZE:** Increase the size of your local logs. Don't worry you have plenty of disk space, CPU is not an issue
 - a. Application, Security & System to 32k or larger
 - b. PowerShell logs too
 - c. Whatever else you want as well
2. **LOCAL SECURITY POLICY:** Change Security Options – “**Audit: Force audit policy subcategory settings**” to **ENABLE**. This sets the system to force use of the “Advanced Audit Policies”
3. **GROUP POLICY:** All settings mentioned should be set with Active Directory Group Policy in order to enforce these settings enterprise wide. There are cases where the Local Security Policy would be used.

ENABLE:

1. **DNS LOGS:** Enable DNS Logging. Capture what DNS queries are happening.
“**systemroot\System32\Dns\Dns.log**”
 - a. EventID =
2. **DHCP LOGS:** Add your DHCP Logs – “**%windir%\System32\Dhcp.**” This will allow you to detect rogue systems on your network that fall outside your naming convention.
 - a. EventID = 10 – New IP address was leased

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Windows Audit Policy settings may be set by the Local Security Policy, Group Policy (preferred) or by command line using 'AuditPol.exe'.

CONFIGURE:

1. **SYSTEM AUDIT POLICIES:** In order to capture what you want and need the following **Advanced Audit Policies** must be set. You may expand these to your specific needs, but here is a place to start.

List out the System audit policy

- **Command:** AuditPol /get /category:*

Category/Subcategory	Setting
<u>System</u>	
• Security System Extension	Success and Failure
• System Integrity	Success and Failure
• IPsec Driver	Success and Failure
• Other System Events	Failure
• Security State Change	Success and Failure
<u>Logon/Logoff</u>	
• Logon	Success and Failure
• Logoff	Success
• Account Lockout	Success
• IPsec Main Mode	No Auditing
• IPsec Quick Mode	No Auditing
• IPsec Extended Mode	No Auditing
• Special Logon	Success and Failure
• Other Logon/Logoff Events	Success and Failure
• Network Policy Server	Success and Failure
<u>Object Access</u>	
• File System	Success
• Registry	Success
• Kernel Object	Success and Failure
• SAM	No Auditing
• Certification Services	Success and Failure
• Application Generated	Success and Failure
• Handle Manipulation	No Auditing
• File Share	Success and Failure
• Filtering Platform Packet Drop	No Auditing
• Filtering Platform Connection	Success (Win FW)
• Other Object Access Events	No Auditing
• Detailed File Share	Success

CONFIGURE:

SYSTEM AUDIT POLICIES: Continued

To set an item:

- Auditpol /set /category:"Account Management" /success:enable /failure:enable

Category/Subcategory	Setting
<u>Privilege Use</u>	
• Sensitive Privilege Use	Success and Failure
• Non Sensitive Privilege Use	No Auditing
• Other Privilege Use Events	No Auditing
<u>Detailed Tracking</u>	
• Process Termination	Success and Failure
• DPAPI Activity	No Auditing
• RPC Events	Success and Failure
• Process Creation	Success and Failure
<u>Policy Change</u>	
• Audit Policy Change	Success and Failure
• Authentication Policy Change	Success and Failure
• Authorization Policy Change	Success and Failure
• MPSSVC Rule-Level Policy Change	No Auditing
• Filtering Platform Policy Change	Success (Win FW)
• Other Policy Change Events	No Auditing
<u>Account Management</u>	
• User Account Management	Success and Failure
• Computer Account Management	Success and Failure
• Security Group Management	Success and Failure
• Distribution Group Management	Success and Failure
• Application Group Management	Success and Failure
• Other Acct Management Events	Success and Failure
<u>DS Access</u>	
• Directory Service Changes	Success and Failure
• Directory Service Replication	No Auditing
• Detailed Directory Service Repl	No Auditing
• Directory Service Access	No Auditing
<u>Account Logon</u>	
• Kerberos Service Ticket Oper	No Auditing
• Other Account Logon Events	Success and Failure
• Kerberos Authentication Service	No Auditing
• Credential Validation	Success and Failure

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CONFIGURE:

- FILE AUDIT:** Select directories you want to monitor file activity. Right-Click directory – Properties – Security – Advanced – Auditing – Edit – Add – EVERYONE – (check names), OK -
 - Apply onto – THIS FOLDER ONLY (or what you want)
 - Create file / write data – Successful
 - Create folders / append data - Successful
- DIRS TO AUDIT:**
 - \ProgramData * \Windows
 - \System * \System32
 - \System32\drivers * \System32\Wbem
 - \Users\XYZ\AppData\Local * \Users\XYZ\AppData\Local\low
 - \Users\XYZ\AppData\Roaming * Whatever else you want to audit
- To apply these audit settings it is a by system manual method or you can use PowerShell, subinacl(warning)
- WEvtUtil:** Use this utility to configure your log settings
 - WevtUtil gl Security – List settings of the Security Log
 - WevtUtil sl Security /ms:512000000 – Set the Security Log size to the number of bytes
 - WevtUtil sl Security /rt:false – Overwrite as needed

CONFIGURE:

- REGISTRY AUDIT:** Select Registry Keys you want to monitor changes to. Right-Click a Key – Permissions – Advanced – Auditing – Add – EVERYONE – (check names), OK.
 - Apply onto – THIS KEY ONLY (or what you want)
 - Select 'Set Value', 'Create Subkey', 'Create Link', 'Delete', 'Write DAC' & 'Write Owner' to start
 - Be careful setting auditing to 'Keys and subkeys' as this can generate a lot of data
- KEYS TO AUDIT:**
 - HKCU & HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion
 - Run
 - RunOnce
 - HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet
 - Services (noisy)
 - HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows
 - AppInit_Dlls value
 - USB Devices
 - HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\ENUM\USBSTOR – Name of USB Device
 - HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\EMDMgmt – Device details, last write
- REG.EXE:** Use this utility to query what is in a Key or the data within a key or value
 - Query a Key and all values - **Reg query "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"**
 - Query a value of a Key - **Reg query "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run" /v malware**

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GATHER:

1. **AUDITPOL:** Use this utility to view your current log settings
 - a. List all Policies categories: ***AuditPol /List /Subcategory:****
 - b. List what is SET: ***AuditPol /get /category:****
 - c. List what is SET for a subcategory:
 - ***AuditPol /get /category:"Object Access"***
2. **Reg.exe:** Use this utility to query the registry
 - a. ***Changes to Applnit_Dlls*** - reg query "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows" /v Applnit_Dlls
 - b. ***Changes to Services Keys*** - reg query "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services"
 - c. ***Changes to Machine Run Key*** - reg query "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"
 - d. ***Changes to Machine RunOnce Key*** - reg query "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce"
 - e. ***Changes to User Run Key*** - reg query "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"
 - f. ***Changes to User RunOnce Key*** - reg query "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce"
 - g.
3. **SC.exe:** Use this utility to query the services (sc /? For help)
 - a. ***List all services in any state*** – sc.exe query state= all (Note: ‘space’ after the = sign)
 - b. ***Look for a specific service*** – sc.exe query state= all | find /I "telnet"
 - c. After finding the ‘Display_Name’ then look for the ‘Service_Name’ to get the short name

GATHER:

1. **WEvtUtil:** Use this utility to query your logs
 - a. WevtUtil qe Security – query the Security Log for events
 - i. Lots of flags here so read help “WevtUtil -?”
 - ii. /c:5 = Read 5 events
 - iii. /rd:true = newest events first
 - iv. /f:text = format text, also can do XML
 - b. ***Success & Failed Logons*** - WevtUtil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=4624 or EventID=4625)]]" /c:5 /rd:true /f:text >Parsed\%computername%_Logon_Events_Win7.log
 - c. ***User Account Change*** - WevtUtil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=4738)]]" /c:5 /rd:true /f:text >Parsed\R_%computername%_User_Account_Change_Win7.log
 - d. ***New Service Installed*** - WevtUtil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=7045)]]" /c:5 /rd:true /f:text >Parsed\R_%computername%_New_Service_Installed_Win7.log
 - e. ***User Account Changes*** - wevtutil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=4725 or EventID=4722 or EventID=4723 or EventID=4724 or EventID=4726 or EventID=4767)]]" /c:10 /f:text
2. **Filtering Log Results:** Use this method to filter lines within the logs
 - a. ***Registry Changed – Find entries with ‘Object Name’*** - WevtUtil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=4657)]]" /c:5 /rd:true /f:text |find /i "Object Name"
 - b. ***File or Registry Changed – Find entries with ‘Object Name’*** - WevtUtil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=4663)]]" /c:50 /rd:true /f:text |find /i "Object Name"
 - c. ***Files – Find new files with ‘Wbem’*** - WevtUtil qe Security /q:"*[System[(EventID=4663)]]" /c:50 /rd:true /f:text |find /i "wbem"

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HARVEST:

1. **LOG CLEAR:** Watch for log clear messages
 - a. 104 – SYSTEM Log – The Application or System log was cleared
 - b. 1102 – SECURITY Log – The audit log was cleared
2. **TASKS:** Watch for a Process to start and call other processes
 - a. 4698 – SECURITY Log – New Task Created
3. **DRIVER:** Watch for an issue with a driver
 - a. 40 – Issue with Driver
4. **OS VERSION:** What OS do machines have
 - a. 6009 – Lists OS version, Service Pack and processor type

HARVEST:

1. **ACCOUNTS:** Monitor for attempts to change an account password
 - a. 4724 – An attempt was made to reset an accounts password.
 - b. 4735 – Local Group changed
 - c. 4738 – User account password changed

HARVEST:

1. **SERVICES:** Found in the SYSTEM log
 - d. 7045 – Message=A service was installed in the system.
 - e. 7040 Message=The start type of the XYZ service was changed from auto start **to disabled**.
 - f. 7000 - Message=The XYX service **failed to start** due to the following error: The service did not respond to the start or control request in a timely fashion.
 - g. 7022 - Message=The XYZ service hung on starting.
 - h. 7024 - Message=The XYZ **service terminated with service-specific error** %%2414.
 - i. 7031 - Message=The XYZ service **terminated unexpectedly**. It has done this 1 time(s). The following corrective action will be taken in 60000 milliseconds: Restart the service.
 - j. 7034 - Message=The XYZ service **terminated unexpectedly**. It has done this 1 time(s).
 - k. 7035 – Service sent a request to Stop or Start
 - l. 7036 – Service was Started or Stopped

HARVEST:

1. **AUDIT POLICY:** Watch for changes to the Audit Policy that are NOT "SYSTEM"
 - a. 4719 – System audit policy was changed

HARVEST:

1. **PROCESSES:** Watch for a Process to start and call other processes
 - a. 4688 – SECURITY Log – New Process Name, look for Creator Process ID to link what process launched what
2. **INSTALLER:** Watch for the Windows Installer activity
 - a. 1022 – Windows Installer **updated the product**
 - b. 1033 – Windows Installer **installed the product**
 - c. 1034 – Windows Installer **removed the product**
3. **WINDOWS UPDATE:** Watch for the Windows Update Agent activity.
 - a. 18 = Ready, 19 = Installed, 20= Failure
4. **WINDOWS TIME:** Watch for the Windows Service synchronization. Make sure your sources are what they are supposed to be.
 - a. 35 – Time Service sync status and source
5. **APPLICATION ERROR:** Watch for application crashes.
 - a. 1000 – (Application Log) Application Fault

HARVEST:

1. **APPLOCKER:** Watch for triggers to AppLocker events (8000-8027)
 - a. 8004 – Filename not allowed to run
2. **SRP:** Watch for triggers to Software Restriction Policies
 - b. 865 – Access to <filename> has been restricted

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HARVEST:

1. **NEW FILE ADDED:** Watch for the creation of new files.
Requires File auditing of the directory(s) that you want to monitor
 - b. 4663 – Accesses: WriteData (or AddFile)
 - c. GREAT for CryptoLocker & Malware drops

HARVEST:

1. **LOGON TYPE:** Monitor for what type of logons occur
 - a. 4624 – Message=An account was **successfully logged on.**
 - i. Type 2 – Interactive – GUI
 - ii. Type 3 – Network – Net Use
 - iii. Type 4 – Batch
 - iv. Type 5 – Service
 - v. Type 7 – Unlock
 - vi. Type 8 – Network Clear Text
 - vii. Type 9 – New Credentials (RDP Tools)
 - viii. Type 10 – Remote Interactive (RDP)
 - ix. Type 11 – Cached Interactive (laptops)
 - b. 4625 – Message = An account **failed to log on.**

HARVEST:

1. **SYSTEM INTEGRITY:** Watch for files with page images with bad hashes
 - a. 6281 – Failed – “page hashes of an image file are not valid”

HARVEST:

1. **REGISTRY:** Watch for the creation or modification of new registry keys and values
 - a. 4657 – Accesses: WriteData (or AddFile)
 - i. HKLM, HKCU & HKU – Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion
 1. Run, RunOnce
 - ii. HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows
 1. Watch **Applnit_Dlls**
 - iii. HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\EMDMgmt
 1. Watch **Connection time of USB Devices**
 - iv. HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services
 1. Watch for **NEW Services**
 - v. HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Enum\USBSTOR
 1. Watch for **NEW USB devices**

HARVEST:

2. **FIREWALL:** Windows Filtering Platform - Watch for Inbound and Outbound connections – **Requires Windows Firewall to be enabled**
 - a. This is the noisiest of all Events. Generating easily 9,000 - 10,000 events per hour per system
 - b. Storage is required to utilize this event
 - c. 5156 – Message=The Windows Filtering Platform has permitted a connection. Look for:
 - i. Direction:, Source Address:, Source Port:, Destination Address: & Destination Port:

HARVEST:

1. **EMAIL / VPN:** Monitor for failed and successful logins to your VPN and Webmail application. Consider emailing user if login is from a new IP not in your exclude list
 - a. sc_status=401 – Failed OWA login
 - b. "reason = Invalid password" – Failed VPN login - Cisco

HARVEST:

1. **REGISTRY:** Monitor certain Keys for Add, Changes and Deletes. Setting auditing on the Specific keys is required.
 - a. 4657 – A Registry value was modified