Customer reference

The University of Victoria (UVic)

Secure Log Management with syslog-ng

“SYSLOG-NG LEADS THE PACK WITH ITS FEATURES AND PERFORMANCE, BUT THAT ALONE DOES NOT MAKE IT READY FOR THE ENTERPRISE. THE FAST RESPONSE AND IN DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE BALABIT SUPPORT TEAM MAKE SYSLOG-NG AN EASY CHOICE.” - *Evan Rempel senior system administrator*

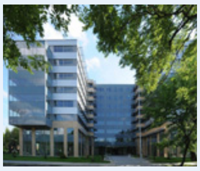
Located in Victoria, British Columbia, the province’s capital and one of the most beautiful cities in the world, The University of Victoria, one of Canada’s leading universities, provides both students and faculty with a unique learning environment. UVic has earned a reputation for commitment to research, scholarship and co-op education and is home to almost 20,000 students and over 5,000 faculty and staff.

syslog-ng
Premium Edition

University of Victoria

The Challenge

To lower total cost of ownership for system monitoring and reduce response times to incidents, the UVic IT department set out to establish a central log collection system to feed an alerting and monitoring system for its large, diverse IT environment serving more than 20,000 users. University IT administrators needed to centralize log collection for over 700 unix and windows machines as well as more than 1,500 network devices. Prior to deploying syslog-ng, the University used native OS vendor tools such as syslogd and Windows Eventlog to collect logs but syslogd did not provide reliable log transmission, nor could it filter log messages using arbitrary message patterns. Windows Eventlog did not consolidate logs into a common repository. With log sources that ranged from traditional syslog and Windows eventlogs to unique program output and log files, finding one tool with the ability to collect and filter the various messages in real time was a priority.



About BalaBit

BalaBit IT Security is an innovative information security company, a global leader in the development of privileged activity monitoring, trusted logging and proxy-based gateway technologies to help protect customers against internal and external threats and meet security and compliance regulations. As an active member of the open source community, we provide solutions to a uniquely wide range of both open source and proprietary platforms, even for the most complex and heterogeneous IT systems across physical, virtual and cloud environments.

BalaBit is also known as “the syslog-ng company”, based on the company’s flagship product, the open source log server application, which is used by more than 650,000 companies worldwide and became the globally acknowledged de-facto industry standard.

BalaBit, the second fastest-growing IT Security company in the Central European region according to the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 (2010) list, has local offices in France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and in the USA, and cooperates with partners worldwide. Our R&D and global support centers are located in Hungary, Europe.

More information: www.balabit.com

The Solution

After having reviewed several competitors on both the client and server sides, the university decided to choose syslog-ng Premium Edition as its central log management tool.

Not only did syslog-ng enable classification of messages in real time with its PatternDB$^{\text{TM}}$, but was able to scale to the log message rate generated by the university’s large and growing network. By comparing log messages to known patterns, syslog-ng’s PatternDB$^{\text{TM}}$ is able to identify the exact type of the messages, and sort them into message classes. The message classes can be used to classify the type of the event described in the log message. The message classes can be customized, and for example can label the messages as user login, application crash, file transfer, etc. events. In addition to classifying messages, it is also possible to add different tags which can be used later for filtering messages, for example, to collect messages tagged as user_login to a separate file or to perform conditional post processing on the tagged messages. This exclusive feature of syslog-ng offers the UVic system administrators the ability to identify incidents as they occur.

Learn More

- Read more about BalaBit syslog-ng products
- Request evaluation version
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