



VCAP-DCA Objective 6.1 Configure, Manage and Analyze vSphere Log Files

Posted by **sean**

July 25, 2010

This is the first pass at studying Objective 6.1, Configure, Manage and Analyze vSphere Log Files. I have hit most of the areas outlined in this section of the objective and this section as the others will be a work in progress over time.

Knowledge

- Identify vCenter Server log file names and locations

- <http://www.vmwarewolf.com/which-virtual-center-log-file/>

- Identify ESX/ESXi log files names and locations

- Identify tools used to view vSphere log files

Skills and Abilities

- Generate vCenter Server and ESX/ESXi log bundles

- vCenter Server

- http://kb.vmware.com/selfservice/microsites/search.do?language=en_US&cmd=displayKC&externalId=1011641

- ESX/ESXi

- http://kb.vmware.com/selfservice/microsites/search.do?cmd=displayKC&docType=kc&externalId=1010705&sliceId=1&docTypeId=DT_KB_1_1&dialogId=9162666

- Use **vicfg-syslog** to configure centralized logging on ESX/ESXi Host

- From the command line

- `vicfg-syslog <conn_options> -i`

- Displays the syslog server configuration.

- `vicfg-syslog <conn_options> -s mysyslogserver`

- Makes mysyslogserver the syslog server for the server specified in <conn_options>.

- `vicfg-syslog <conn_options> -p <port>`

- Sets the port number used by the syslog server.

- From the GUI

- http://kb.vmware.com/selfservice/microsites/search.do?language=en_US&cmd=displayKC&externalId=1016621

- Test centralized logging configuration

- See below.

- Configure the vMA appliance as a log host

- It is still unclear to me at this time if the test will be on 4.1, or rather how soon it will be so it is important to study the new features with AD integration. Research the command for domain joining of the vMA, `domainjoin-cli`

- Great blog on setting up for AD authentication and connecting

- <http://geeksilver.wordpress.com/2010/07/22/how-to-use-vma-4-1-installation-configuration/>

- Great blog on setting up your vMA appliance as a log host

- <http://www.simonlong.co.uk/blog/2010/05/28/using-vma-as-your-esxi-syslog-server/>

- Use **vilogger** to enable/disable log collection on the vMA appliance

- Use **vilogger** to configure log rotation and retention

- To add a server:

- `Sudo vifp addserver <FQDN ESX host>`

- To enable logging:

- `Vilogger enable -server fqdn servername -numrotation xx -maxfilesize xx -collectionperiod xx`

- To disable logging:

- `Vilogger disable -server fqdn servername`

- To list the servers added :

- `Vifp listservers`

- To specify the current target for commands entered in the vMA:

- `Vifptarget -s systemname`

Popular Articles

- > ThinApp VMware vCenter Server Myth or A Reality?
- > How To ThinApp Adobe Acrobat Professional 9
- > Setting up your ThinApp Infrastructure
- > How to ThinApp Microsoft Visual J# 2.0
- > ThinApp Order of Operations



Recent Posts

- > ThinApp VMware vCenter Server Myth or A Reality?
- > VCAP-DCA Objective 8.3 ; Administer vSphere Using the vSphere Management Assistant
- > Setting Up A VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM) Lab
- > How To ThinApp Adobe Acrobat Professional 9
- > Virtualizing Drives With VMware ThinApp
- > VCAP-DCA Objective 6.2 – Troubleshoot CPU and Memory Performance
- > VCAP-DCA Objective 6.1 Configure, Manage and Analyze vSphere Log Files
- > VCAP-DCA VMware Certified Advanced Professional, Datacenter Administration
- > Setting up your ThinApp Infrastructure
- > How to ThinApp Microsoft Visual J# 2.0

Topics

- > SRM
- > ThinApp
- > VCAP-DCA
- > VMware

Archives

- > August 2010
- > July 2010
- > June 2010

Links

Topics

- > SRM
- > ThinApp
- > VCAP-DCA
- > VMware

- Analyze log entries to obtain configuration information
- Analyze log entries to identify and resolve issues

o Very good blog entry on logs here <http://www.simonlong.co.uk/blog/2010/06/03/vmware-esxi-4-log-files/>

o ESX logs

under /var/log

vmkernel- VMKernel Messages
 vmkwarning- VMKernel Warnings
 messages- Service Console Log

Under /var/log/vmware

hostd- ESX Service Log
 aam- HA Log

Under /var/log/vpx

vpxa- vCenter Agent log

ESXi logs under /var/log

hostd- ESXi Service log
 messages- Syslog(vmkernel/hostd)
 vpxa- vCenter Agent Log

Tools

- vSphere Management Assistant Guide

o Download from http://www.vmware.com/support/developer/vma/vma41/doc/vma_41_guide.pdf

o The vSphere Management Assistant (vMA) is a CentOS-based virtual machine that includes prepackaged software such as the vSphere command-line interface, and the vSphere SDK for Perl. vMA allows administrators to run scripts or agents that interact with ESX/ESXi and vCenter Server systems without having to authenticate each time. vMA can also collect and store ESX/ESXi and vCenter Server logs for analysis.

- Line Interface Installation and Scripting Guide
- vSphere Datacenter Administration Guide
- Product Documentation
- vSphere Client
- vicfg-syslog
- vlogger

- [VCAP-DCA Objective 8.3 : Administer vSphere Using the vSphere Management Assistant](#)

 VCAP-DCA VMware  vcap-dca vsphere vmware

Did you enjoy this post? Why not [leave a comment below](#) and continue the conversation, or [subscribe to my feed](#) and get articles like this delivered automatically to your feed reader.

Comments

No comments yet.

Leave a comment

Name (required)

E-mail (required)

URI

Your Comment