CHAPTER 10

MONITORING OPERATIONS

YOU DESERVE THE BEST SECURITY

Learning Objectives

- Review the tools used to view logs and monitor devices.
- Configure log settings on the Management Server and Security Gateway.
- Use predefined and custom queries to filter log results.
- Monitor devices.



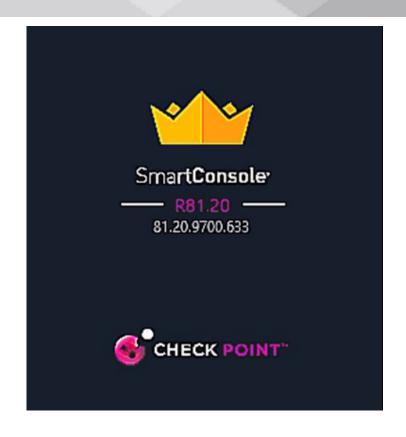
Tools Review

- SmartConsole
- SmartView Monitor
- SmartView



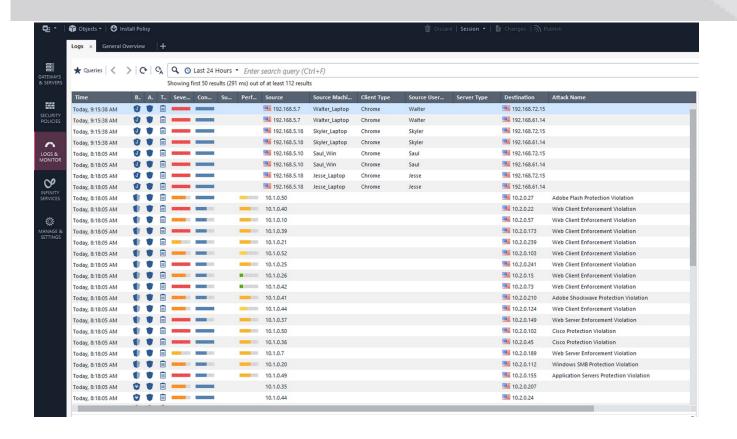
The SmartConsole Tool

- Traffic visibility tools help administrators:
 - Monitor traffic and connections.
 - Analyze log data.
 - Troubleshoot events.
 - Quickly respond to changes in traffic flow patterns or suspicious security activities.



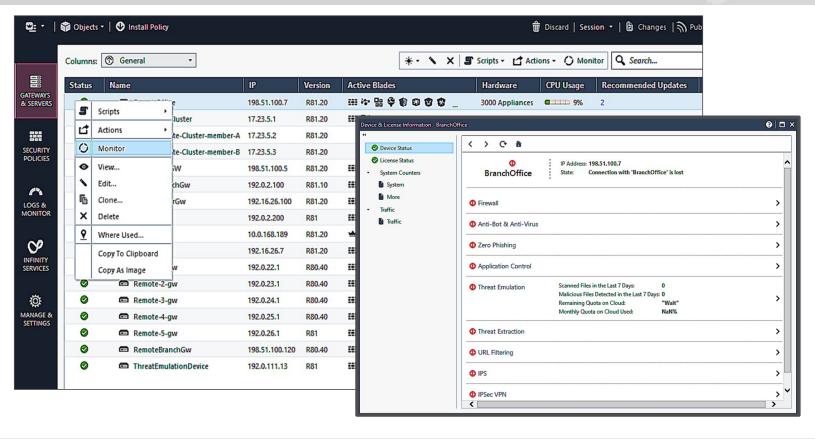


SmartConsole - Logs View



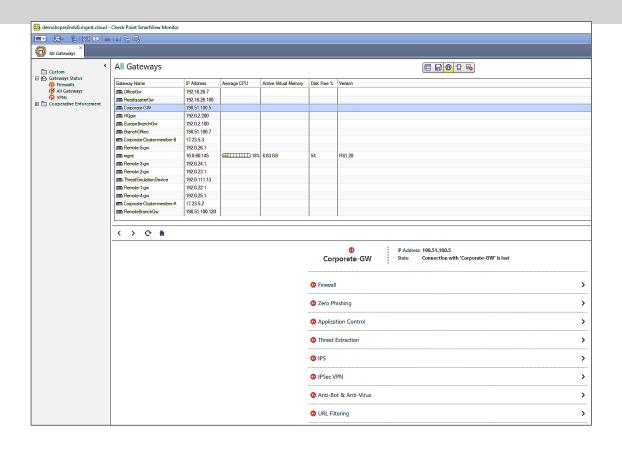
- Monitor traffic and query for information.
- Custom queries can be easily created using predefined search filters.
 Search results are very quick.

SmartConsole - Monitor View



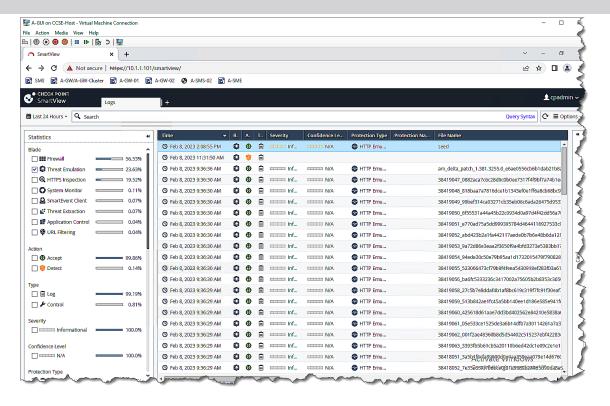
- Logs and events
- Performance
- Regulation compliance

The SmartView Monitor Tool: Monitor View



- Monitor Firewalls, Gateways, and VPNs.
- Not used to view logs.

The SmartView Tool: Log View



- Browser-based tool used to access a Log Server to view logs.
- URL is case-sensitive.
- Not used to monitor devices.

https://log server IP address/smartview



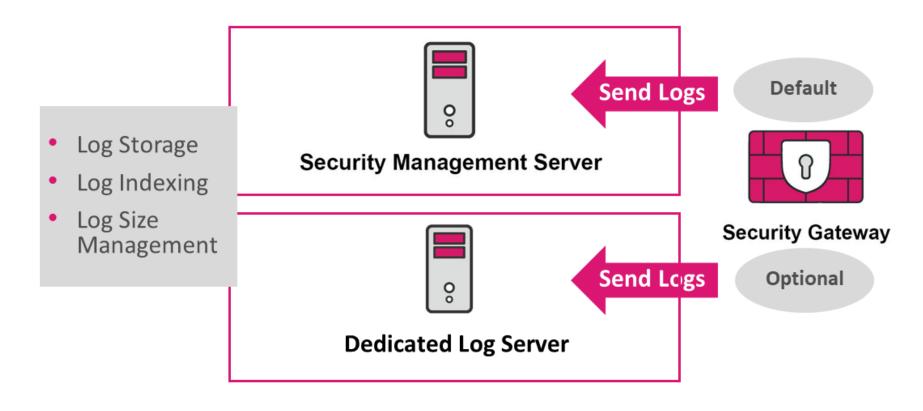
Tool Comparison

Tool	View Logs	Monito r Stats	How to Access
SmartConsole	Yes	Yes	Desktop client running on Windows host (SmartConsole Client and Portable SmartConsole) and Web SmartConsole
SmartView Monitor	No	Yes	SmartConsole Logs & Monitor → Tunnel & User Monitoring
SmartView	Yes	No	Web browser to access a Log Server

This chapter focuses on using SmartConsole to view logs and monitor statistics.



Understanding Logging







A dedicated Log Server can be used for organizations that generate a lot of logs.

Logs can be configured to be automatically forwarded to the Security Management Server or dedicated Log Server, according to a schedule.

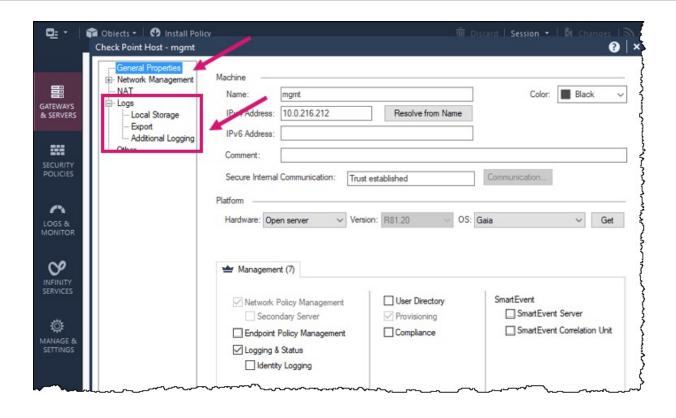
This is discussed in the CCSE course.

Why Collect Logs?



- Research alerts, rejected connections, and failed authentication attempts.
- Analyze traffic patterns.
- Meet compliance requirements.

Log Configuration on the Management Server

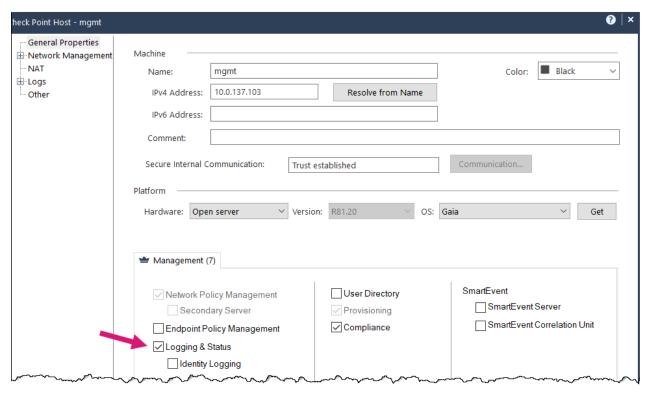


Gateways & Servers view:

- General Properties
- Logs

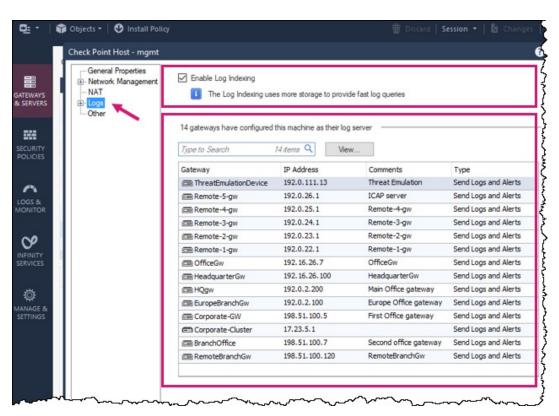


Log Configuration - General Properties



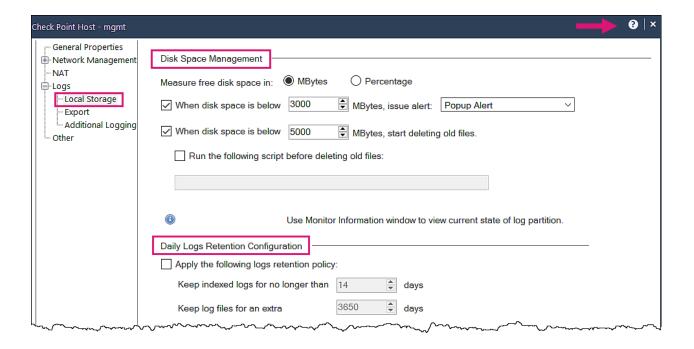
- Ensure Logging & Status is enabled.
- Enabled by default on the Primary
 Management Server.
- Must be enabled on a Secondary Server.

Log Configuration - Enable Log Indexing



- · Enabled by default.
- Disabling increases the log query time.
- Click View to see the Gateways configured to send their logs to this Log Server.

Log Configuration - Local Storage

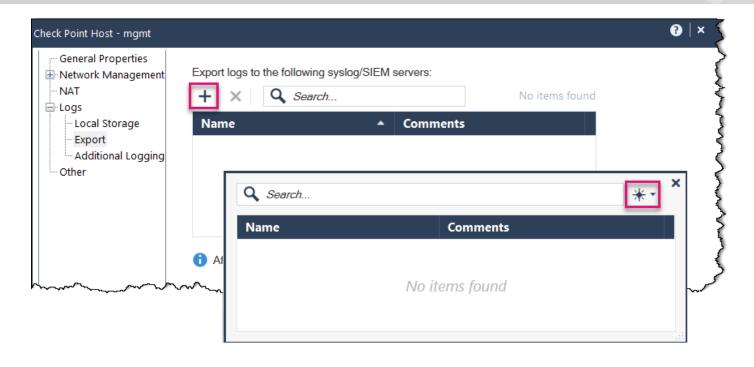


- Disk Space Management
- Daily Log Retention Configuration

See student guide for explanation of settings.



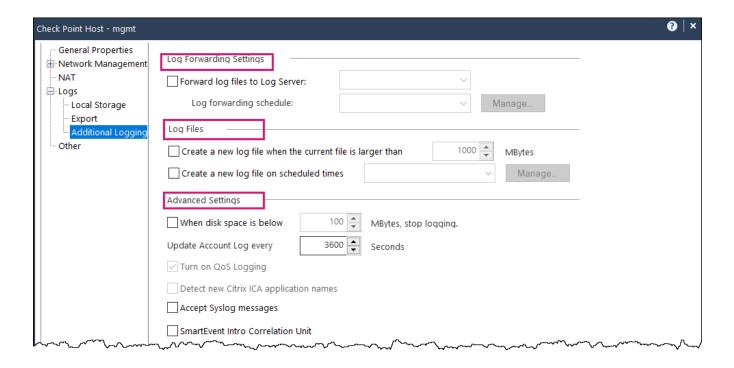
Log Configuration - Export



After you configure a Log Exporter, you must run Install Database.

- Settings related to the export of logs to a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) server:
- General, Data Manipulation, and Attachment settings.

Log Configuration - Additional Logging

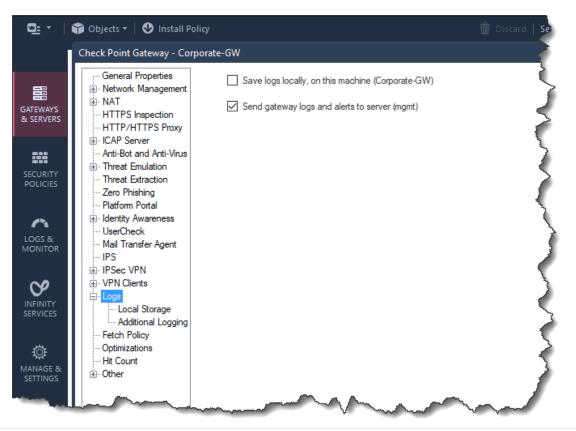


- Log Forwarding Settings
- Log Files
- Advanced Settings

See student guide for explanation of settings.



Log Configuration on the Security Gateway



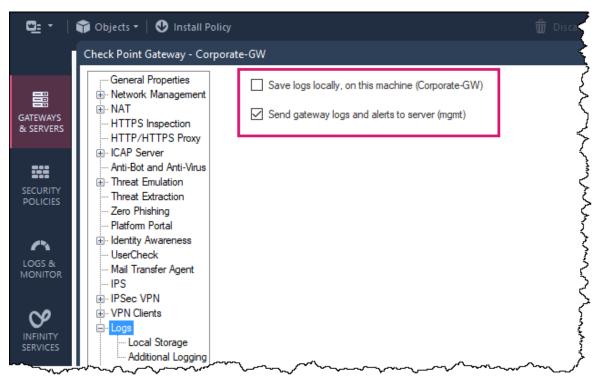
 Similar process as configuring logging on the Security Management Server.

Gateways & Servers view:

Logs

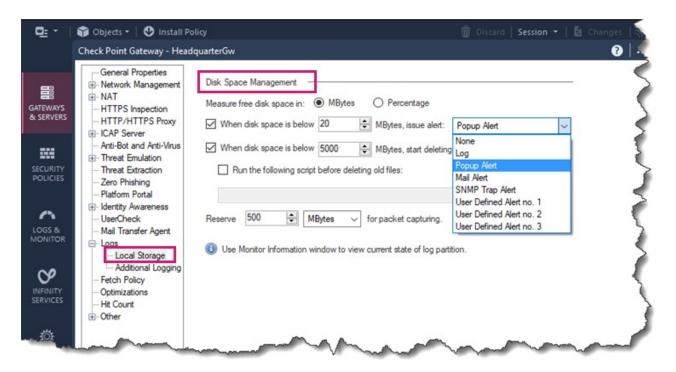


Gateway Log Configuration - Logs



- Save logs locally, on the machine [Gateway]
- Send Gateway logs and alerts to the server [Management Server]

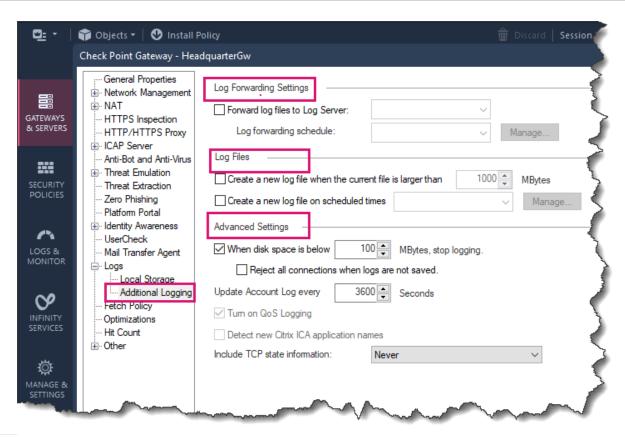
Gateway Log Configuration - Local Storage



Disk Space Management



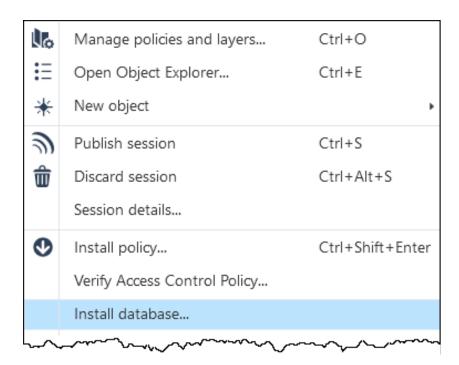
Gateway Log Configuration - Additional Logging



- Log Forwarding
- Log Files
- Advanced Settings



Installing the Database



After the log configuration is complete, the next step is to install the database.

Track Options for Rules (Logs Tab)

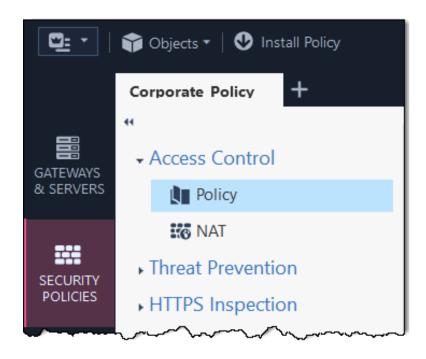
- Show the most relevant traffic patterns in the logs.
- Provide an understanding of user behavior.
- Provide data for reports.

For training purposes, most examples use an Access Control Policy.

Logs are useful if they show the traffic patterns in which you are interested.



Configuring Track Options in a Rule

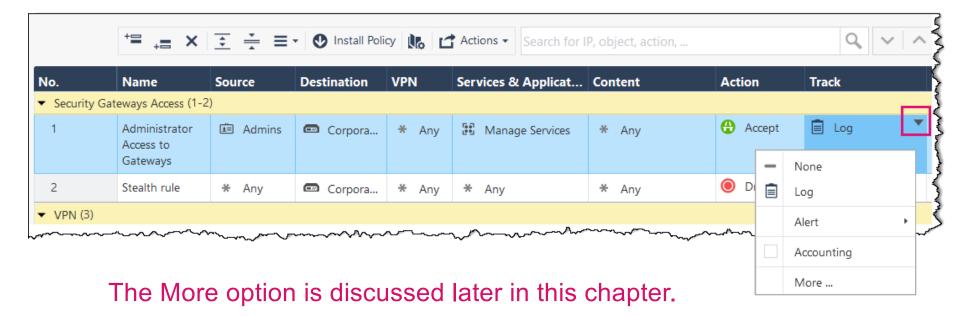


SmartConsole Security Policies view:

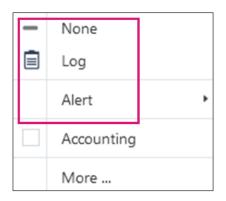
Access Control → Policy

Track Options

In the Track column, click the down arrow to view tracking options.

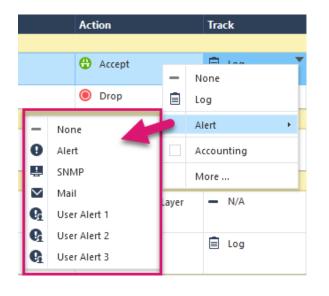


Track Options - None, Log, and Account



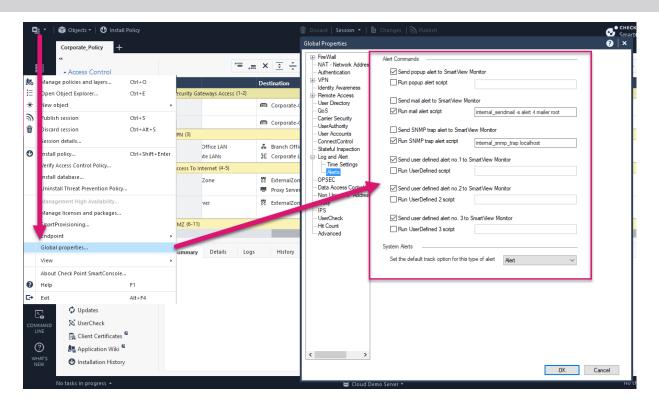
Option	Description
None	Do not generate a log for this rule.
Log (Default Option)	Enables log tracking for the rule. Information includes: Source Destination Source Port Destination Port
Accounting	Updates the log at 10-minute intervals. Information includes: Upload bytes Download bytes Browse time

Track Options - Alert



Alert	Description
None	Do not generate a log for this rule.
Alert*	Generate a log and run a script.
SNMP*	Send SNMP alert or run a script.
Mail*	Send an email or run a script.
User Alert 1-3*	Send one to three customized alerts defined by a script.

Alert Scripts

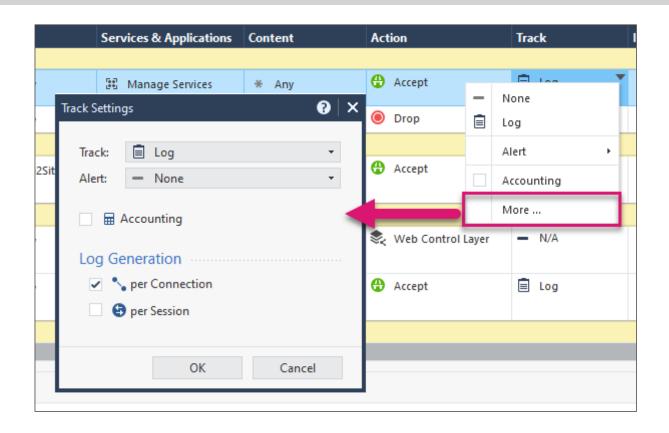


Alerts can be configured to send a popup alert to SmartView Monitor and/or run a script.

Menu → Global Properties → Log and Alert → Alerts



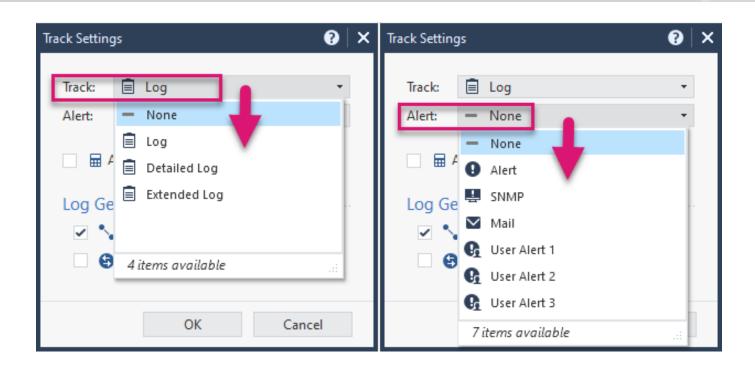
Track Settings - More



Provide additional track options for log detail that is tracked and log generation per connection, session, or both.

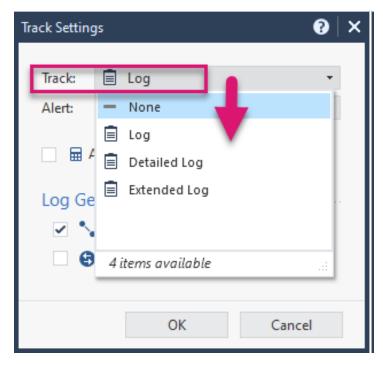


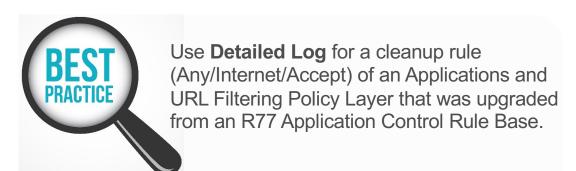
Track Settings – More (Continued)



- None
- Log
- Detailed Log
- Extended Log

Track Settings – More (Continued)



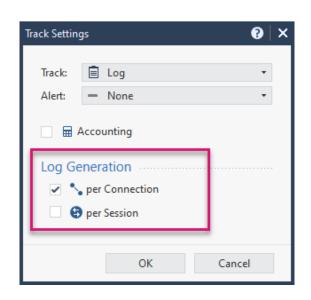




Detailed Log and **Extended Log** are only available if one or
more of these Software Blades
(features) are enabled on the
Layer:

- Applications & URL Filtering
- Content Awareness
- Mobile Access

Log Generation Option



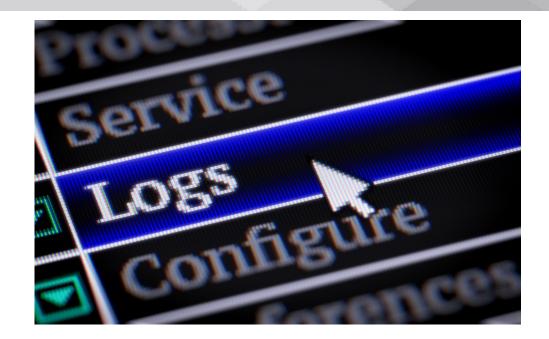
Log Generation	Description
per connection	Enable to show a different log for each connection in the session.Default for rules in a layer with only firewall enabled.
per session	 Enable to generate one log for all the connections in the same session. Default for rules in a Layer with Applications and URL Filtering or Content Awareness enabled.

Accounting option is the same as covered previously.



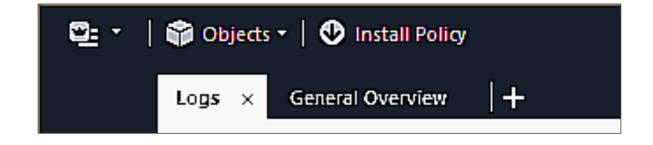
Log Queries

- Can return thousands of results.
- Network performance is not impacted because the log view typically only displays the first 50 results.
- Results can be exported to a comma separated value (CSV) file.



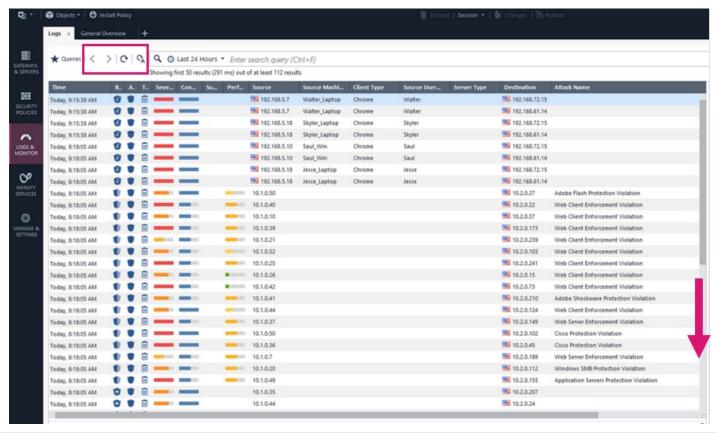
SmartConsole Log Options

- View the first 50 results.
- Use predefined queries to collect specific logs.
- Create custom queries to collect specific logs.



SmartConsole Logs & Monitor view → Logs tab

Navigating SmartConsole Log Queries



SmartConsole typically displays the first 50 results.

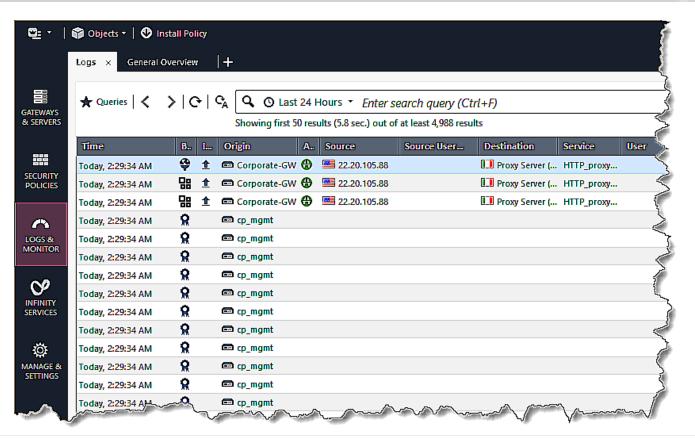


Predefined Log Queries

- Used to filter logs based on specific criteria.
- You can use as is or modify them to include/exclude existing criteria.
- You can also save predefined queries to a My Favorites list (discussed later).

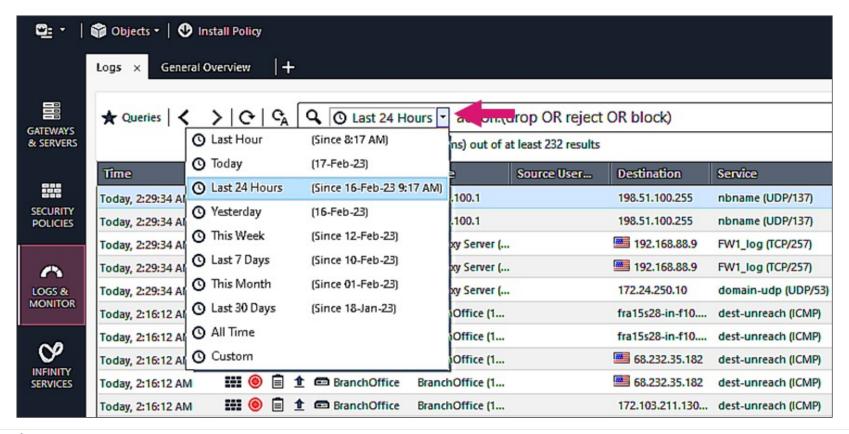


Viewing Predefined Log Queries

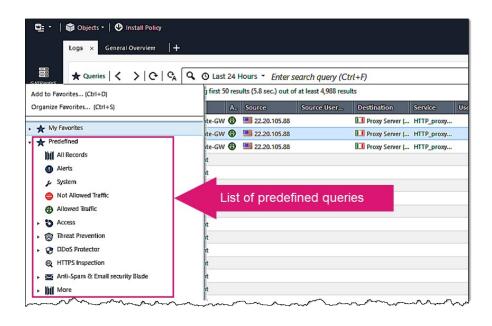


- Click the Logs tab.
- Click Queries.

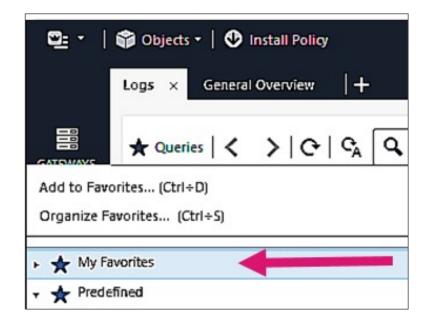
Default Time Query – Last 24 Hours



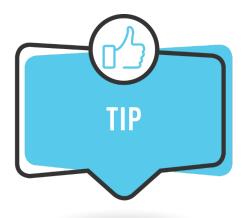
Query Organization



Predefined



My Favorites

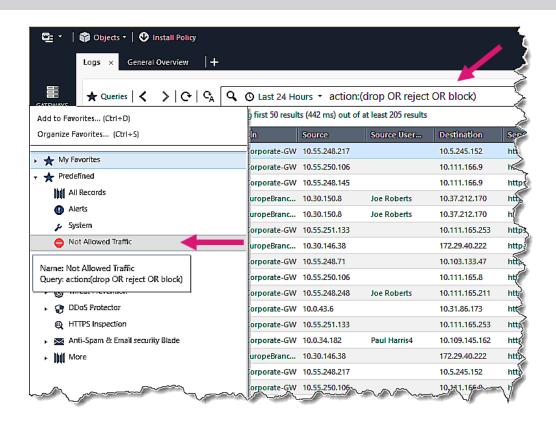


You can save existing queries or add custom queries to this list for future use.

You can also create additional folders to organize the queries in a way meaningful to you.

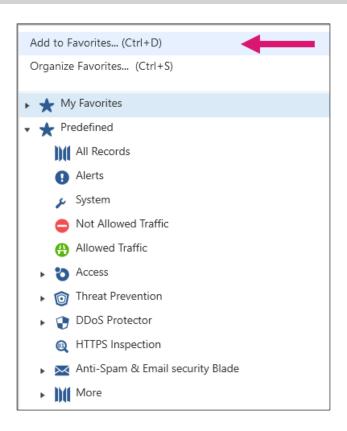


Selecting a Query



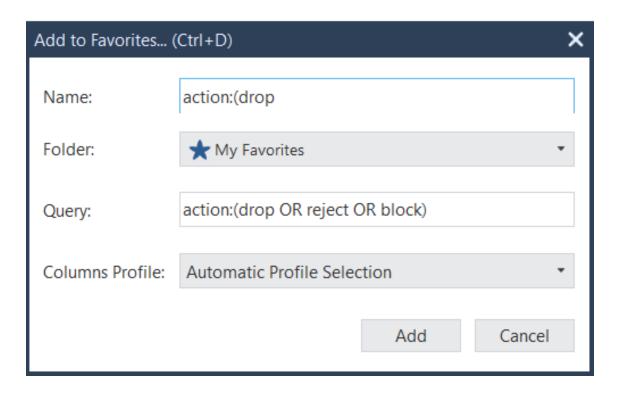
- Select a query to run from the list.
- The new query action appears in the search bar.

Adding a Query to My Favorites



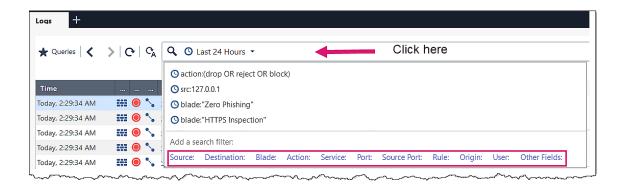
- On the Logs tab, click Queries.
- Select a query; for example, Not Allowed Traffic.
- Click Add to Favorites.

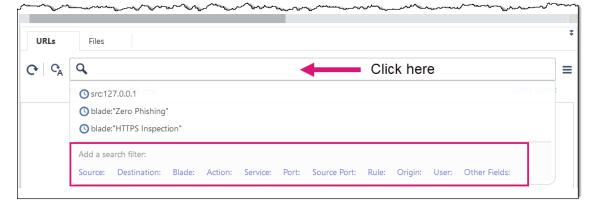
Adding a Query to My Favorites (Continued)



Customize the query details, as appropriate.

Adding a Search Filter





To or bottom of page:

Click in the search bar, then click link to add search criteria.



Creating Complex Queries

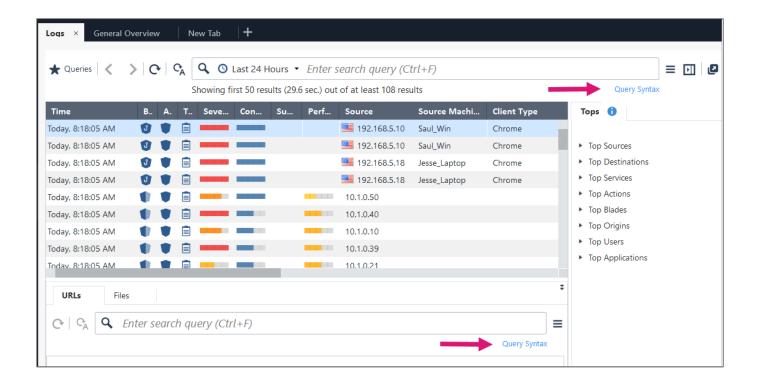
- When a query is created, the criteria is displayed in the Query Definition field at the top of the window.
- The basic query syntax is:

[:]

- Boolean operators
- Wildcards
- Fields
- Ranges

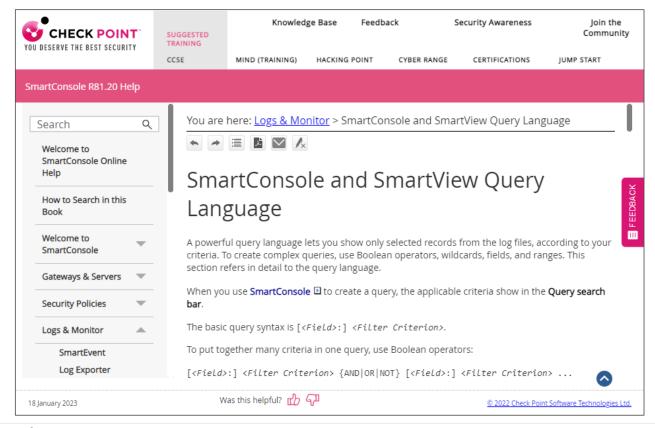


Using SmartConsole Query Language References

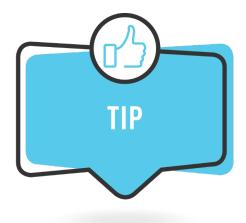


Click either Query Syntax link.

Query Language Online Help



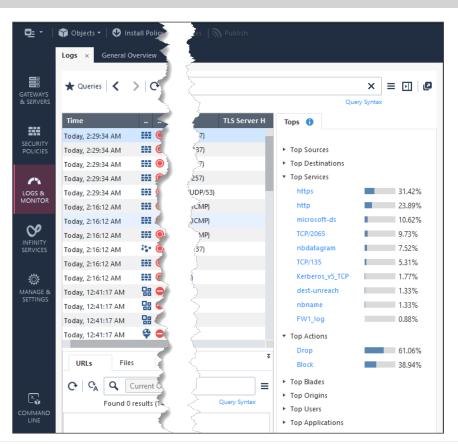
Always use the online documentation as your reference source when creating custom queries.



There are many methods to access online Help and documentation:

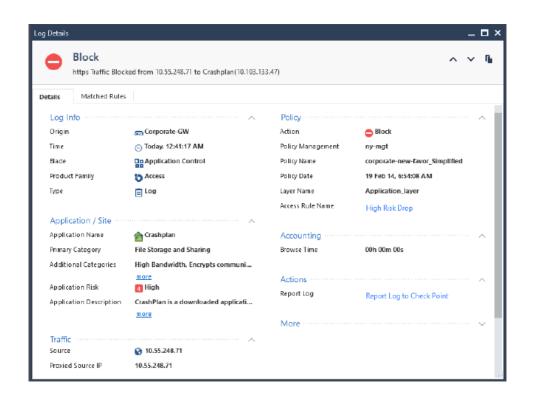
- Quantum R81.20 Home Page (sk173903)
- Check Point Support Center
- SmartConsole application menu → Help
- Question mark icon on SmartConsole window (when present)

Tops Tab



- Provides a way to filter logs in top categories.
- Expand any heading on the Tops tab to see the top items in that category.
- Click any link to see only the logs associated with that selected item.

Log Details



- Double-click to view log details.
- Details include log information and policy and traffic flow details.
- Click any link to view more information.

Monitoring Traffic and Connections

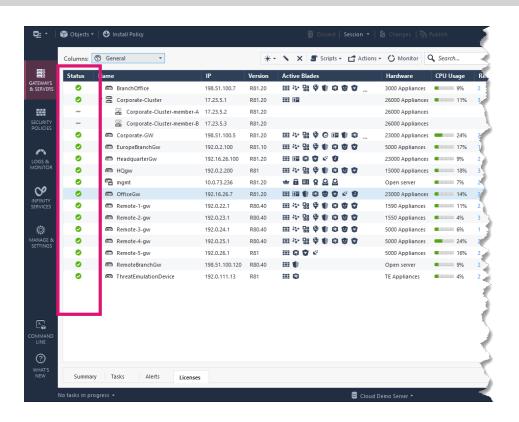
 SmartConsole and SmartView Monitor provide similar monitoring features with some viewing features unique to SmartView Monitor.

View	SmartConsole	SmartView Monitor
Gateway Status	Yes	Yes
System Counters	Yes	Yes
Traffic	Yes	Yes
VPN Tunnel Monitoring	No	Yes
Remote Users	No	Yes

This course focuses on monitoring with SmartConsole.



Gateways & Servers - Status Column

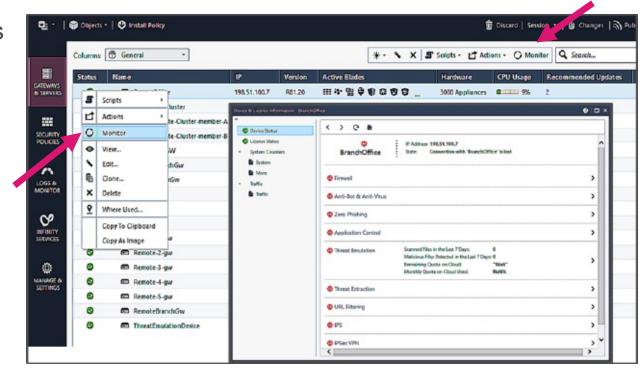


- OK
- Attention
- Problem
- Waiting
- Disconnected
- Untrusted

SmartConsole: Monitor View

Two ways to monitor devices. From the Gateways & Servers view:

- Right-click a device and select Monitor.
- Select a device and click the Monitor icon.



Review Questions

- 1. Which tool can be used to collect and view logs and monitor devices?
- 2. How many logs are typically displayed in the default view?
- 3. What information is available in the Gateway & Servers Monitor view?



Lab 10A

Elevating TrafficView



Lab 10B

Monitor System States

