

Novell Content Accountant

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CONTENT ACCOUNTANT DEPLOYMENT
GUIDE



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Novell, Inc.
1800 South Novell Place
Provo, Utah 84606
U.S.A.

www.novell.com

Content Accountant Deployment Guide

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About This Guide

This guide contains information regarding Velocity™ Management Suite Content Accountant.

To	See
Learn how Content Accountant works	Chapter 1, “Content Accountant Overview,” on page 9
Configure Content Accountant	Chapter 2, “Configuring Content Accountant,” on page 11

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Content Accountant Overview

Content Accountant lets you track content delivery and document a variety of content- and content network-related statistics. Data is filtered so that the information that is important to you is collected.

Because Content Accountant can be installed independently from System Controller, a content network can have as many instances of the Content Accountant Server as are required to aggregate and report content usage statistics.

The results of Content Accountant reports can be integrated with a variety of billing and reporting systems, including Apogee and Portal to provide truly meaningful reporting. And for data analysis, you can also integrate Content Accountant with any reporting software that recognizes W3C standard files, such as WebTrends, Analog, Aria, and Accrue.

Content Accountant lets you determine which users are accessing what content in real time. This lets you decide what type of content works best for users, so you can plan to create and deploy the optimal content type.

Content Accountant (CA) collects the following four billing-related statistics from one or more remote Exceleator cache devices on a per-object basis:

- ◆ Total hits
- ◆ Total misses
- ◆ Total bytes served from cache
- ◆ Total bytes filled from origin

Content Accountant then organizes, stores, and exports these statistics to as many report-generating portals as you specify in a single data transmission.

Instructions for installing Content Accountant are in *Volera Velocity Management Suite Getting Started Guide*.

CA Components

For a high-level overview of Content Accountant, see *Content Accountant Overview* in *Volera Velocity Management Suite Planning Guide*.

CA consists of two components:

- ◆ **CA Agent:** A statistics collection agent that runs on Exceleator 2.1 and later cache devices.

CA Agent is fully integrated with Exceleator 2.1 and later and loads automatically during system startup. It remains idle until it receives one or more jobs from Content Controller.

As jobs run on Exceleator, CA Agent collects content statistics and immediately transmits the results to the CA Server.

- ♦ **CA Server:** An application that runs on the Velocity management server, collects statistics from Exceleator cache devices, and transmits the collected statistics to an FTP server.

CA Server must be installed and configured using the CA Server product CD. No license is required.

This aggregates data from multiple Exceleator cache devices and transfers it to one or more third-party billing/trending systems, such as Apogee, Portal, WebTrends, Analog, Aria, and Accrue.

2 Configuring Content Accountant

This chapter contains information regarding configuration of Content Accountant.

To	See
Understand the requirements for running Content Accountant	"System Requirements" on page 11
Understand how Content Accountant automatically scales its resource consumption to match its workload	"Content Accountant Server Scales Its Available Resources" on page 11
Change Content Accountant's initial configuration settings	"Changing the Content Accountant Configuration" on page 12

System Requirements

Content Accountant requires that Content Controller is functioning properly. For more information on setting up Content Controller, see [Creating Content Collections and Jobs](#) in *Volera Content Controller Deployment Guide*.

Content Accountant Server Scales Its Available Resources

Content Accountant (CA) Server must be able to service HTTP posts from up to 1,000 Excelerator cache devices that, in turn, might be monitoring numerous collections and objects. CA Server must also be able to transmit the statistics it collects frequently.

To meet these requirements, CA Server will automatically scale its available hardware resources to one of the scenarios outlined in the following Table:

Table 1 CA Server Scaling Scenarios

Scenario	Caching Servers	Collections	Objects	Collection/Transmission Frequency
Low	Up to 1,000	10	100	24 hours
Medium	Up to 1,000	100	1,000	1 hour
High	Up to 1,000	1,000	10,000	30 minutes

Aggregation Happens at Two Points

Each cache device aggregates its statistics before sending them to Content Accountant Server. Then Content Accountant Server also aggregates the statistics from all the devices before sending them to the FTP server.

Statistics are sent to the FTP server in one of three formats:

- ◆ SQUID
This format stores a log entry for each request.
- ◆ Extended W3C
This format stores a log entry for each request.
- ◆ Summarized W3C
This format reports aggregated statistics

SQUID and Extended W3C are useful for content networks that need to track and report on single objects in small collections. For example, if you are tracking large media files and need to know exact information regarding each object usage, SQUID or W3C would provide that information. If large numbers of object requests are logged, the data collected becomes very large very quickly and can consume large amounts of network bandwidth for transmission. For example, 5,000 requests for a single object result in 5,000 entries in the logged data.

Summarized W3C is useful for content networks that have large sites with many objects. Because content usage data is summarized, bandwidth required for data transfers is less by orders of magnitude. For example, 5,000 requests for a single object result in one log entry.

Changing the Content Accountant Configuration

Configuration changes to Content Accountant are made by editing the `/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf` file. This might be required if the IP configuration of the system changes or additional third-party aggregating and reporting services are installed.

Configuring Content Accountant to Report Statistics

When you create a job for managing content collections, if you have Content Accountant installed on your network, you can specify the Content Accountant server to which cache devices should report usage statistics for objects in the collection and the destination (FTP) server to which Content Accountant server will send the aggregated statistics.