



Signiant FlightDownload Component Guide

Nov 2015

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Introduction



The FlightDownload component performs a secure, accelerated download of files and/or folders from cloud-based object storage to a Signiant Agent. Currently supported object storage vendors are Amazon S3 and Microsoft Azure.

Functional Description

The FlightDownload component will perform a secure & accelerated download of all specified content from the specified cloud storage container and will skip any files that are already at the target location. Naturally, the component must be executed on a Signiant Agent which has access to the target file storage, whether on local storage, NAS or SAN. The Flight Download component utilizes the Signiant Flight command line interface (CLI).

Flight downloads utilize Signiant's WAN acceleration technology which maximizes transfer throughput from cloud object storage to the target Signiant agent. Optionally TCP or HTTP based protocols may be used as failover in the event that a connection cannot be made using Signiant's WAN acceleration technology (UDP).

Flight downloads, as with all Signiant transfers, perform checkpoint restarts. So if a transfer is interrupted due to a network disruption or other cause, the transfer will be restarted automatically and will pick up exactly where it left off rather than re-transferring portions of the file(s) that have already been downloaded.

The primary input to the FlightDownload component is a list of files and/or folders to be downloaded from cloud object storage. This list can be in the form of a set of absolute paths of files and/or folders or it can be in the form of a manifest file containing just a list of files to be downloaded.

The FlightDownload component is capable of downloading content from either Amazon S3 or Microsoft Azure. Credentials for accessing the cloud object store can either be specified directly to the component, or can be referenced via a Flight Config ID. Flight Config IDs are generated and managed via the Flight Management Console available at <https://manage.signiant.com>.

Flight Downloads can be configured to use both a Primary and Backup "Flight Service Entry Point". These define the specific locations or regions that the Flight CLI connects to when performing the download. It is generally recommended that the Primary Entry Point be at the location that is geographically closest to where the object storage container is, not necessarily at the point that is closest to the target Signiant Agent. This is due to the Signiant acceleration protocol being used between the Flight Service and the target Signiant agent – making it virtually irrelevant where in the world the target agent is. However, for the initial retrieval of content by the Flight servers, a multi-part HTTP download from object storage to the Flight Service is performed. This makes it important that the Flight servers chosen for the transfer be as close as possible to the actual object storage container. The Flight Service Backup Entry Point is provided for high-availability, so if in the unlikely event that the primary entry point is unavailable, the backup will be used. Note that the Backup Entry Point can be specified as a geographic region

spanning multiple Signiant Flight clusters, providing even further high-availability and fault-tolerance.

While all Flight transfers are already encrypted in transit, the FlightUpload component is also optionally able to encrypt all content uploaded to the cloud. This provides an extra measure of security for sensitive material. Without the knowledge of the encryption key used for a given upload, it is impossible to decrypt the content. Thus if content has been encrypted using FlightUpload, it can be decrypted on download using the FlightDownload component by specifying the same encryption key that was used for the upload.

As with standard Signiant transfers, Flight Downloads are able to be throttled so that a given download job does not consume more than the set level of bandwidth.

Flight Downloads are also able to make use of Signiant Relay Agents, which are sometimes required due to restrictive firewall rules in highly secure enterprise networks.

Prerequisites

The following are prerequisites for performing downloads using the FlightDownload component:

- The Signiant Flight command line interface (CLI) utility must be located in the Signiant Agent's "bin" folder (e.g. /usr/signiant/dds/bin or C:\Program Files\Signiant\Mobilize\bin).
- The necessary UDP and/or TCP network ports must be open between the Signiant agent on which this component is being executed and the cloud-based Signiant Flight Service.

Agent Platforms

The FlightDownload component is supported on all platforms on which the Signiant Flight CLI is supported, which are currently Windows, Linux and Mac.

For more information please see the *Signiant Flight Command Line Interface Guide* available at <http://flight.support.signiant.com>.

Component Inputs

This section describes the input properties of the FlightDownload component.

Category: Source Options

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
Cloud Vendor	Yes		The Cloud Vendor where the object storage container is located. Current choices are Amazon S3 and Microsoft Azure .
Storage Specification Mechanism	Yes	Flight Storage Config ID	Defines whether the details defining object storage and access credentials are being done via a Flight Storage Config ID (managed using https://manage.signiant.com) or via credentials specified in the job itself. If specified as Cloud Vendor Credentials then the input properties for Amazon S3 or Microsoft Azure must be specified, depending on which Cloud Vendor has been selected.
Flight Storage Config ID	No		The Flight Storage Config ID , if this mechanism has been selected as Storage Specification Mechanism .
Source Data	Yes		List of files and/or folders to be downloaded from cloud object storage. This list is in the form of a set of absolute paths of files and/or folders.
File Manifest	No		A manifest file that is read by the component to determine the actual list of files to be transferred. Absolute paths must be specified. Only one of Source Data and File Manifest can be used per workflow.
Manifest Delete On Success	Yes	Yes	Specifies whether the manifest file (if used) should be deleted after a successful transfer.

Category: Target Options

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
Target Agents	Yes		The Signiant agent on which the component will be run and to which the content will be downloaded. This can either be a single agent or a load-balanced agent group.
Target Folder	Yes		The folder to which the content will be downloaded, whether on local storage, NAS or SAN. UNC paths are supported on Windows.
Target Working Directory	Yes	%DdsSourceTempDir%	The folder where the component will execute. Generally set to %DdsSourceTempDir%
Target User	Yes	%dds_default_user%	The userid that the component code is running as. Generally set to %dds_default_user%

Category: Flight Service Options

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
Flight Service Primary Entry Point	Yes		Flight Downloads can be configured to use both a Primary and Backup "Flight Service Entry Point". These define the specific locations or regions that the Flight CLI connects to when performing the download. It is generally recommended that the Primary Entry Point be at the location that is <u>geographically closest to where the object storage container is</u> , not necessarily at the point that is closest to the target Signiant Agent. This is due to the Signiant acceleration protocol being used between the Flight Service and the target Signiant agent – making it virtually irrelevant where in the world the target agent is. However, for the initial retrieval of content by the Flight servers, a multi-part HTTP download from object storage to the Flight Service is performed. This makes it important that the Flight servers chosen for the transfer be as close as possible to the actual object storage container.
Flight Service Backup Entry Point	Yes		The Flight Service Backup Entry Point is provided for high-availability, so if in the unlikely event that the primary entry point is unavailable, the backup will be used. Note that the Backup Entry Point can be specified as a geographic region spanning multiple Signiant Flight clusters, providing even further high-availability and fault-tolerance.
Flight API Key	Yes		The Flight API Key to be used for the job. Flight API keys are managed in the Flight Management Console at https://manage.signiant.com .
Load Balanced	Yes	Yes	Determines if transfers should make use of load balancing when initially connecting to the Flight servers. When enabled, the Flight client will attempt to determine and use the least heavily used server in the Flight cluster for the specified Flight Service Entry Point.

Category: Amazon S3

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
AWS Access Key	No		If Amazon S3 has been chosen as Cloud Vendor and Cloud Vendor Credentials is specified as the Storage Specification Mechanism , then the AWS Access Key must be specified.
AWS Secret Key	No		If Amazon S3 has been chosen as Cloud Vendor and Cloud Vendor Credentials is specified as the Storage Specification Mechanism , then the AWS Secret Key must be specified. The Secret Key will be masked for security.
S3 Bucket	No		If Amazon S3 has been chosen as Cloud Vendor and Cloud Vendor Credentials is specified as the Storage Specification Mechanism , then the S3 Bucket must be specified.

Category: Microsoft Azure

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
Azure Storage Account Name	No		If Microsoft Azure has been chosen as Cloud Vendor and Cloud Vendor Credentials is specified as the Storage Specification Mechanism , then the Azure Storage Account Name must be specified.
Azure Access Key	No		If Microsoft Azure has been chosen as Cloud Vendor and Cloud Vendor Credentials is specified as the Storage Specification Mechanism , then the Azure Access Key must be specified. The Access Key will be masked for security.
Azure Container	No		If Microsoft Azure has been chosen as Cloud Vendor and Cloud Vendor Credentials is specified as the Storage Specification Mechanism , then the Azure Container must be specified.

Category: Decryption

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
Decrypt Downloaded Files	Yes	No	Specify to decrypt content that has been encrypted at rest by the FlightUpload component.
Encryption Key	No		The decryption key to use when decrypting the downloaded content. The Encryption Key must be a 64-character hex string (0..9,A-F).
Initialization Vector	No		The initialization vector to use when decrypting the downloaded content. The Initialization Vector must be a 32-character hex string (0..9,A-F).

Category: Transport

Name	Required?	Default Value	Description
Protocol	Yes	All	Specifies either a specific protocol (UDP, TCP, HTTP) for the Flight download, or All . All means to try UDP first, then TCP, and finally HTTP.
Bandwidth Throttle	Yes	0	The maximum transfer rate in bytes per second. If zero, the transfer rate is unlimited.
Transport Restart Attempts	Yes	3	The number of restarts to attempt on a transfer failure before the component exits in error. If zero, then no restarts will be attempted. The component will not retry on invalid storage credentials or other conditions under which a retry has no chance of succeeding.
Transport Port Usage	Yes	Range	Set to Single or Range . Use Single to use a single port (49221) for firewall efficiency. For enhanced throughput, set to Range . If outbound firewall rules are set, then a port range of (49221-49420) must be added to the firewall.
Relay Agents	No		If the network connection to the Flight Server must be routed via a Signiant relay agent (typically for DMZ navigation), then select one or more relay agents through which the network connection is to be routed. If multiple relay agents are selected, all routes to the Flight Server will be tried, and the quickest to respond will be used.
HTTP Proxy	No		If you have an outbound HTTP proxy, specify the proxy server URL and port. This is required for the component key check. This proxy will not be used for HTTP failover transfers. The specified value should be in the format: http://<host>:<port>
HTTP Port	No	80	Allows specifying the port to be used for HTTP failover transfers, if the default port (80) is not being used by the Flight service.
Create File Delivery Log	Yes	Yes	Specifies whether to create a File Delivery Log for all files successfully transferred. If specified, this log will be viewable via the Signiant Manager under <i>Administration / Manager / Transfer Logs / log / delivery_logs / <date></i>
Transport Log Delete On Success	No	Yes	The transport log contains detailed information regarding the Flight transfer. It can be rather verbose and is of little value if the transfer completes successfully. If the job is being run in DEBUG mode, then this option will be forced to "No".

Component Outputs

Category: Component

Name	Description
Return Code	Set to zero if all files were transferred correctly. Set to non-zero if any errors were occurred.
Return Message	A short message indicating the overall result of the component.

Category: Transfer Statistics

Name	Description
Transfer Direction	The direction of the transfer – generally used to pass to a FlightReport component.
Transfer Server	The actual Flight server FQDN that was used for the transfer.
Transfer State	The final state of the transfer (e.g. COMPLETED/FAILED).
Transfer Protocol	The protocol used for the transfer. One of UDP, TCP, or HTTP.
Transfer Duration	The duration of the file transfer in seconds.
Transfer Restarts	The number of restarts required for the transfer (normally 0).
Transfer Rate Average	The average network transfer rate from the Signiant agent (Signiant Flight client application) to the Signiant Flight server in bits per second.
Transfer Rate Maximum	The maximum network transfer rate from the Signiant agent (Signiant Flight client application) to the Signiant Flight server in bits per second.
Filesize Average	The average filesize of all files actually transferred.
Filesize Maximum	The maximum filesize of all files actually transferred.
Bytes to Transfer	The combined size of all the source files in bytes.
Bytes Transferred	The actual number of bytes transferred.
Total Files to Transfer	The total number of source files to transfer.
Transferred File Count	The number of files actually transferred.
Skipped File Count	The number of files skipped because they were already at the target.
Failed File Count	The number of files that failed to transfer.

Category: Logs

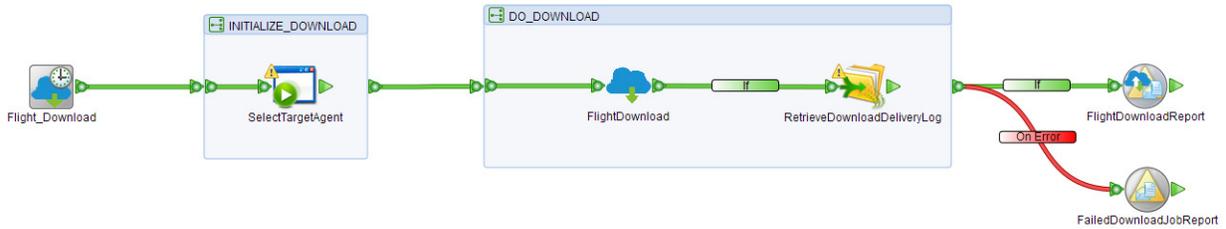
Name	Description
Transport Log Path	Path to Transport Log file. Optionally deleted after a successful transfer. This log is located on the Signiant Agent which performed the Flight transfer.
Delivery Log Path	Path to Delivery Log file, if created. This log is located on the Signiant Manager.

Category: File Lists

Name	Description
Transferred File List	The list of successfully transferred files. These are absolute paths. This is in SigListXML format. No separate entries are provided for the folders involved. For this file list to be populated, the Delivery Log Create option must be enabled.
Skipped File List	The list of files that were skipped because they were already present in the cloud storage. These are absolute paths. This is in SigListXML format. No separate entries are provided for the folders involved. For this file list to be populated, the Delivery Log Create option must be enabled.
Failed File List	The list of files that failed to transfer. These are absolute paths. This is in SigListXML format. No separate entries are provided for the folders involved. For this file list to be populated, the Delivery Log Create option must be enabled.
Aggregate File List	A combined list of files from the transferred and skipped file lists. These are absolute paths. This is in SigListXML format. No separate entries are provided for the folders involved. For this file list to be populated, the Delivery Log Create option must be enabled.

Reference Workflow

The following illustrates the reference workflow that utilizes the FlightDownload component.



Error Handling

The component exits in error if there is a configuration error. If an error is encountered during the file transfer and the component determines the transfer cannot proceed, the component exits in error. Otherwise in error conditions, the component retries all transfers until the retry counter is exhausted.

All errors occurring during a file transfer are written to the job log. Additionally, the last portion of the Signiant Flight transport log is also written to the job log.

If the job log level is set to debug, then any deletion of the manifest file and the Signiant Flight client configuration file is overridden to facilitate troubleshooting.

If a specified file to be transferred does not exist, the component will log the missing file as an error but will continue to transfer remaining files. The component will exit with a success.