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Preface

Welcome to Qualys Cloud Agent for Windows. This user guide describes how to install cloud agents on hosts in your network.

About Qualys

Qualys, Inc. (NASDAQ: QLYS) is a pioneer and leading provider of cloud-based security and compliance solutions. The Qualys Cloud Platform and its integrated apps help businesses simplify security operations and lower the cost of compliance by delivering critical security intelligence on demand and automating the full spectrum of auditing, compliance and protection for IT systems and web applications.

Founded in 1999, Qualys has established strategic partnerships with leading managed service providers and consulting organizations including Accenture, BT, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Deutsche Telekom, Fujitsu, HCL, HP Enterprise, IBM, Infosys, NTT, Optiv, SecureWorks, Tata Communications, Verizon and Wipro. The company is also a founding member of the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA). For more information, please visit www.qualys.com.

Contact Qualys Support

Qualys is committed to providing you with the most thorough support. Through online documentation, telephone help, and direct email support, Qualys ensures that your questions will be answered in the fastest time possible. We support you 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Access support information at www.qualys.com/support/.
Get Started

Thank you for your interest in Qualys Cloud Agent!

This document tells you all about installing Qualys Cloud Agent for Windows. We’ll tell you about Requirements, Installation Steps, Proxy Support, Certificate Supports, Anti-Virus and HIPS Exclusion / Whitelisting, Best Practices and more.

Qualys Cloud Agent Introduction

Qualys Cloud Platform gives you everything you need to continuously secure all of your global IT assets. Now with Qualys Cloud Agent, there’s a revolutionary new way to help secure your network by installing lightweight cloud agents in minutes, on any host anywhere - such as laptop, desktop or virtual machine.

Get informed quickly on Qualys Cloud Agent (CA).

Video Tutorials

Cloud Agent Platform Introduction (2m 10s)
Getting Started Tutorial (4m 58s)

Cloud Agent Platform Availability for Windows

Current Release: 1.6.0.246, 2.0.6.1*

End-of-Support versions: 1.3.0.18, 1.4.0.x

*Current release for customers with FIM and/or IOC enabled

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<td>1.4.5.232-16.4.9, 2.0.2.192-2.0.6.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A few things to know...

**Cloud Agent requirements**
- Your hosts must be able to reach your Qualys Cloud Platform (or the Qualys Private Cloud Platform) over HTTPS port 443. Log into the Qualys Cloud Platform and go to Help > About to see the URL your hosts need to access.
- To install Cloud Agent for Windows, you must have Local administrator privileges on your hosts. Proxy configuration is supported. Learn more

**What are the installation steps?**

Our Cloud Agent UI walks you through the steps to install agents on your hosts. Once the agent is installed you will need to provision it using our agent configuration tool.
Get help with troubleshooting

We recommend you inspect the agent’s log file located here:
C:\ProgramData\Qualys\QualysAgent

On XP and Server 2003 log files are located here:
C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Qualys\QualysAgent

Learn more
Troubleshooting
Error messages
Installation

It’s easy to install Cloud Agent for Windows. We’ll walk you through the steps quickly. Keep in mind - Depending on your environment, you might need to take steps to support communications between agent hosts on your network and the Qualys Cloud Platform.

Tips and best practices

Cloud Agent Platform Windows hotfixes needed
How to download Agent image
Installation steps
Proxy Configuration
Certificate Support
Anti-Virus and HIPS Exclusion / Whitelisting
Uninstalling Cloud Agent

Tips and best practices

What is an activation key? You’ll need an agent activation key to install agents. This provides a way to group agents and bind them to your subscription with Qualys Cloud Platform. You can create different keys for various business functions and users.

Benefits of adding asset tags to an activation key Tags assigned to your activation key will be automatically assigned to agent hosts. This helps you manage your agents and report on agent hosts.

Running the agent installer You’ll need to run the installer from an elevated command prompt, or use a systems management tool.

Be sure to activate agents to provision agents for modules - Vulnerability Management (VM), Policy Compliance (PC), or both. Activating an agent for a module consumes an agent license. You can set up auto activation by defining modules for activation keys, or do it manually in the Cloud Agent UI.

What happens if I skip activation? Agents will sync inventory information only to the cloud platform (IP address, OS, DNS and NetBIOS names, MAC address), host assessments will not be performed.

How many agents can I install? You can install any number of agents but can activate an agent only if you have a license. The Agents tab in the Cloud Agent UI tells you about your installed agents.
Check to be sure agents are connected: Once installed agents immediately connect to the Qualys Cloud Platform and register themselves. You can see agent status on the Agents tab - this is updated continuously. If your agent doesn’t have a status, it has not successfully connected to the cloud platform and you need to troubleshoot.

Cloud Agent Platform Windows hotfixes needed

The following hotfixes are required to install Windows Agent:

Windows XP SP3 x86 SHA2 Cert Hotfix
KB Article Number: 968730
Language: English
Platform: i386

Windows XP SP3 x86 SHA2 Cert Hotfix
KB Article Number: 968730
Language: English
Platform: i386

Windows XP x64 & Windows Server 2003 x64 SP3 SHA2 Cert Hotfix
KB Article Number: 968730
Language: English
Platform: x64

KB Article Number: 968730
Language: English
Platform: i386

Microsoft KB Article to request additional hotpatches for this fix:
How to download Agent image

Download an image of Qualys Cloud Agent for Linux

Here’s how to download an image from the Qualys Cloud Platform and get the associated Activation ID and Subscription ID.

Log into the Qualys Cloud Platform and select **CA** for the Cloud Agent module.

Choose an activation key (create one if needed) and select **Install Agent** from the Quick Actions menu.

Click **Install instructions** next to Windows (.exe).

Note: Agent installer for FIM/IOC is different than those used for other modules. Click **Download 2.x binaries supporting FIM/IOC**, and then click Install instructions next to Windows, to get the Windows agent installer for FIM/IOC.

What happens? The Agent image is downloaded to your local system, and in the UI you’ll see the associated Activation key ID and Subscription ID - copy and paste this to a safe place, you’ll need it to complete the installation.
Installation steps

What you’ll need

To install cloud agents, you’ll need to download the Cloud Agent image and get the associated ActivationID and CustomerID. Just log into the Qualys Cloud Platform, go to the Cloud Agent (CA) module, and follow the installation steps for Windows (.exe) to get everything you need.

Steps to install Agents

Copy the Qualys Cloud Agent image onto the host you want to monitor, and run the command or use group policy or a systems management tool.

```bash
> QualysCloudAgent.exe CustomerId={xxxxxxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxxxxxxxxxx} ActivationId={xxxxxxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxxxxxxxxxx}
```

What happens next?

We’ll start syncing asset data to the cloud!

Once installed an agent immediately connects to the Qualys Cloud Platform and registers itself. We would expect you to see your first asset discovery results within a few minutes. The first assessment scan in the cloud takes some time, after that scans complete as soon as new host metadata is uploaded to the cloud platform.

You might also be interested in...

Proxy Configuration
Certificate Support
Anti-Virus and HIPS Exclusion / Whitelisting

Certificate Support

Qualys Cloud Platform certification uses SHA2-512. Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 do not include SHA2 support by default so you must install a SHA2 hotfix on these systems, otherwise certification will fail.

Download the SHA2 hotfix you need

- Windows XP SP3 x86 SHA2 Cert Hotfix
- Windows Server 2003 SHA2 Cert Hotfix
- Windows XP x64 & Windows Server 2003 x64 SP2 SHA2 Cert Hotfix
Looking for something more?
Microsoft KB Article on SHA-256 support
Microsoft Developer Troubleshooting help

Anti-Virus and HIPS Exclusion / Whitelisting

Have Anti-Virus or HIPS software installed? It's required that the following files, directories, and processes are excluded or whitelisted in all security software installed on the system in order to prevent conflicts with the Cloud Agent.

Agent processes
QualysAgent.exe - this is the Qualys endpoint service
setup.exe - non-MSI installer needs access to disk and registry locations (see below)
uninstall.exe - this is the Qualys endpoint service uninstaller - needs r/w/d access to following disk and registry locations

File whitelisting
%PROGRAMDATA%\Qualys\QualysAgent - we read/write/create/delete files in this directory and sub-directories
%ProgramFiles(x86)%\Qualys\QualysAgent - this is where the service and uninstall live. The service will create processes so HIPS needs to make sure to unblock this action
For version 2.0.2, on x64 systems, the agent is located at:
%ProgramFiles%\Qualys\QualysAgent

Registry whitelisting
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\services\QualysAgent - this is where the agent setup installs the service into the system.
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Qualys - this is where breadcrumb information lives to merge agent and appliance scanner results. The agent needs c/r/w/d access here; setup needs to create the key; uninstall needs ability to delete the key.

QualysAgent.exe
Calls CreateProcess to launch external processes on occasion
Calls CoCreateInstance to instantiate COM objects
Creates/Reads/Writes/Deletes files out of its programdata directory
Creates/Reads/Writes/Deletes from the hklm\software\qualys registry key
Enumerates and reads from all file and registry locations
Uninstalling Cloud Agent

Uninstalling the agent from the Cloud Agent module UI or API

When you uninstall a cloud agent using the Cloud Agent module user interface or Cloud Agent API, the agent and license is removed from the Qualys subscription. We’ll also purge the associated agent host record and scan results for any licensed modules, i.e. Vulnerability Management, Policy Compliance.

Uninstalling the agent from the host itself

When you uninstall a cloud agent the agent from the host itself using the Uninstall utility, the agent, its license usage, and scan results are still present in the Qualys subscription. In order to remove the agent’s host record, license, and scan results use the Cloud Agent module user interface or Cloud Agent API to uninstall the agent.

The setting Force=True is optional. This removes the registry keys and agent UUID from the host. If an agent is later re-installed on that host a new agent UUID is created (the old one is not used).

Sample Uninstall agent commands

For 32 bit machine:
"%programfiles%\qualys\qualysagent\uninstall.exe" Uninstall=True Force=True

For 64 bit machine:
"%programfiles(x86)%\qualys\qualysagent\uninstall.exe" Uninstall=True Force=True
Proxy Configuration

Our lightweight QualysProxy tool lets you configure proxy settings for Windows Agent (available with Windows Agent 1.2 and later). This tool stores proxy information in a Qualys owned registry path that is ACL’d to SYSTEM and Administrators. Authentication credentials are encrypted and used by the agent.

QualysProxy lets you:

- Configure proxy username and password credentials
- Configure PAC file URLs for cases when WPAD is not available
- Configure a private proxy URL that the Agent communicates through

Proxy configurations prior to Windows Agent 1.2

The QualysProxy tool replaces “netsh winhttp” usage. Setting the agent proxy using “netsh winhttp” will no longer work. Installations that previously used “netsh winhttp” (1.1 and older) will need to have proxy configuration set again by using the QualysProxy tool. This is to ensure that the agent does not inadvertently inherit proxy settings previously intended for other purposes.

What do I need to know?

Tell me about installation The QualysProxy tool, and proxy tool updates, are downloaded to the cloud agent whenever the agent is self-patched. The tool is also distributed in the agent setup when manually installed. You’ll find the tool here:

On all 1.x builds on x86 systems, the QualysAgent program path is located at:

C:\Program Files\Qualys\QualysAgent\QualysProxy.exe

On all 1.x builds on x64 systems, the QualysAgent program path is located at:

C:\Program Files (x86)\Qualys\QualysAgent\QualysProxy.exe

On all 2.x builds on x86 and x64 systems, the QualysAgent program path is located at:

C:\Program Files\Qualys\QualysAgent\QualysProxy.exe
Run from elevated prompt  The proxy tool must be run from an elevated command prompt by right clicking the command prompt start menu item:

... or by typing cmd into the Search/Run start menu edit control and right clicking on the cmd.exe menu item:

**Support for systems management software**  The command line interface (CLI) tool is designed to be used in shell scripts executed by systems management software. When execution of the tool completes, the ERROR_LEVEL will be set to 0 (zero) on success, and non-zero on error. No window’d UI is displayed to the user.

**Changes made through the proxy tool** happen automatically and there’s no need to restart the agent service. Changes can be verified by inspecting the Agent’s log.txt file:

```
C:\ProgramData\Qualys\QualysAgent
```

On XP and Windows Server 2003, the Agent’s log.txt file is located here:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application
Data\Qualys\QualysAgent
```

**All connection errors** will be logged and proxy configuration archived each time the Agent attempts to communicate with the cloud.

**QualysProxy syntax**

```
QualysProxy [/u <proxy url> [/n <proxy username>] [/p <proxy password>] [/a <PAC file url>]] [/d]
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/u</td>
<td>Proxy URL. If set, do not set /x option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/n</td>
<td>Username used to access proxy. If set, /u option must be set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/p</td>
<td>Password used to access proxy. If set, /u option must be set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/a</td>
<td>URL path to PAC file for proxy auto-configuration. If set, do not set /u option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/d</td>
<td>Deletes all Qualys cloud agent proxy settings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

If any argument contains spaces, please surround that argument with quotes.

If any argument contains a " character, precede that character with a backslash \\

**Use cases**

**Example 1 – Set proxy and port number**

The following example shows how to set a proxy and port number:

```
QualysProxy /u http://my-proxy:12345
```

**Example 2 – Set proxy and credentials**

The following examples shows how to set a proxy (default port: xxx) along with proxy credentials:

```
QualysProxy /u http://my-proxy /n ProxyUsername /p ProxyPassword
```

**Example 3 – Tell agent to use PAC file**

The following example shows how to tell the cloud agent to use a PAC file directly in lieu of allowing it to be found through WPAD:

```
QualysProxy /a http://my-pac-file-server/QualysAgent.pac
```

**Example 4 – Specify credentials for use with PAC file**

The following example shows how to specify credentials for use with a PAC file. The credentials will get passed to the resulting proxy URL:

```
QualysProxy /n ProxyUsername /a ProxyPassword /a http://my-pac-file-server/QualysAgent.pac
```