

## LOGZILLA DOCUMENTATION

# Receiving Events from Nginx

Forward NGINX access and error logs to LogZilla using syslog with a key=value log\_format that captures client IP, status, bytes, and request details

Receiving Data in LogZilla · Generated April 29, 2026 · [logzilla.ai/docs/receiving-data/nginx](https://logzilla.ai/docs/receiving-data/nginx)

## NGINX Version

Requires NGINX v1.7.1+ (open source) or v1.5.3+ (commercial) for syslog logging.

## Prerequisites

- Confirm syslog listener ports in LogZilla (see [Syslog Settings](https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-settings) (<https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-settings>)).
- Ensure the NGINX host can reach LogZilla on the chosen syslog port.

## Configure logging

Verify the include is present under the `http {` block in `/etc/nginx/nginx.conf`:

```
include /etc/nginx/conf.d/*.conf;
```

Create `/etc/nginx/conf.d/logging.conf` with a key=value log format and syslog destinations. Replace `LOGZILLA_HOST` with the server hostname/IP.

### LogZilla custom log format (key=value pairs)

```
log_format logzilla_kv
'Site="$server_name" Server="$host" DstPort="$server_port" '
'DstIP="$server_addr" Src="$remote_addr" SrcIP="$realip_remote_addr" '
'User="$remote_user" Time_Local="$time_local" Protocol="$server_protocol" '
'Status="$status" Bytes_Out="$bytes_sent" '
'Bytes_In="$upstream_bytes_received" HTTP_Refferer="$http_referer" '
'User_Agent="$http_user_agent" Nginx_Version="$nginx_version" '
'HTTP_X_Forwarded_For="$http_x_forwarded_for" '
'HTTP_X_Header="$http_x_header" URI_Query="$query_string" URI="$uri" '
'HTTP_Method="$request_method" Response_Time="$upstream_response_time" '
'Cookie="$http_cookie" Request_Time="$request_time" ';

access_log syslog:server=LOGZILLA_HOST:514,facility=local0,severity=info,tag=nginx_access
logzilla_kv;
error_log syslog:server=LOGZILLA_HOST:514,facility=local0,severity=notice,tag=nginx_error notice;
```

NGINX writes in key=value pairs with the `log_format` above. LogZilla extracts these pairs automatically for tagging and rewrites (see [Data Transforms](https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/data-transforms/rewrite-rules) (<https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/data-transforms/rewrite-rules>)). Alternatively, a JSON `log_format` can be used; LogZilla extracts fields from both key=value and JSON bodies.

## Reload and verify

Test and reload NGINX:

```
sudo nginx -t
sudo systemctl reload nginx
```

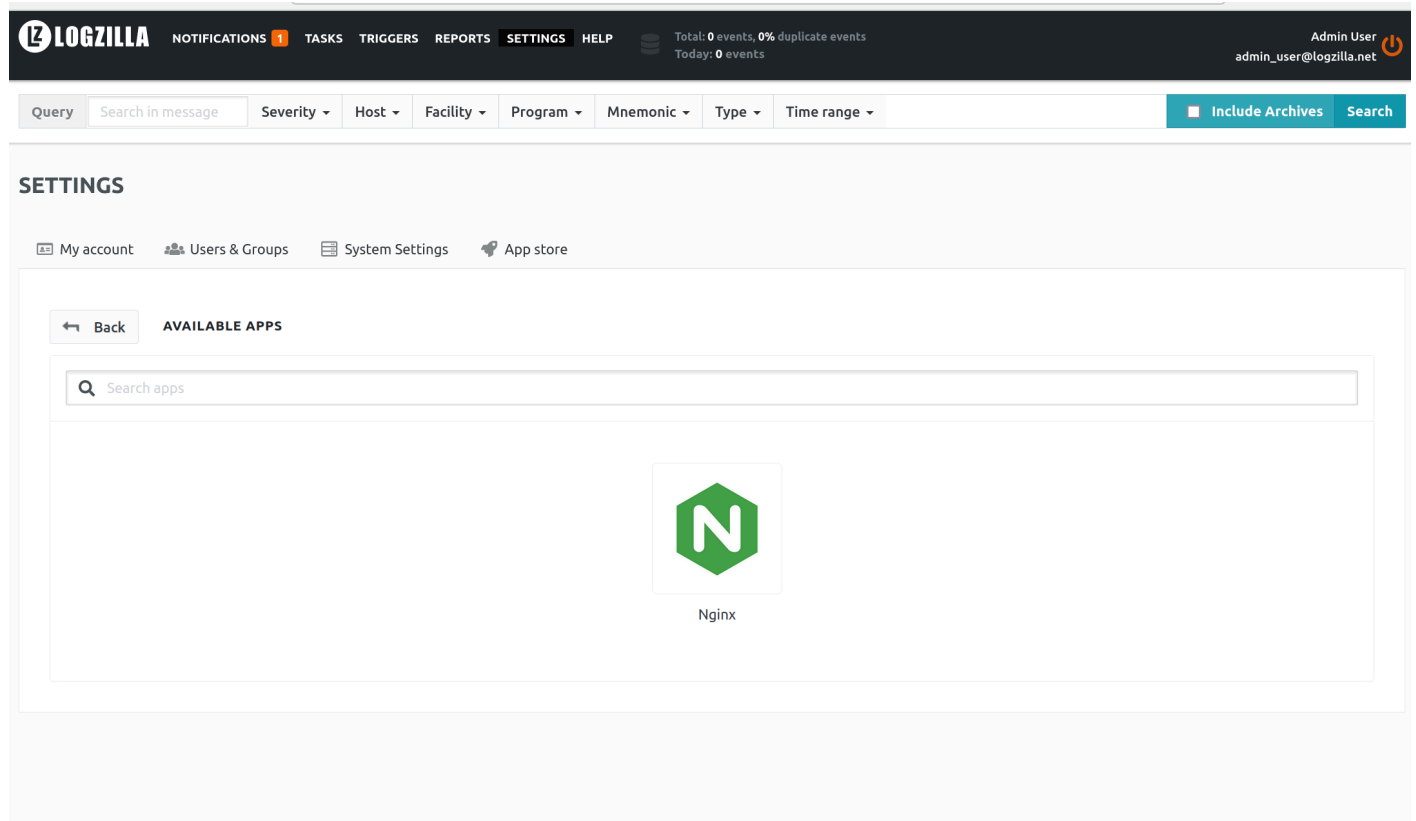
In LogZilla, search for the configured tags/programs to confirm reception:

- `program: "nginx_access"` or `program: "nginx_error"`
- Specific key=value fields (for example, `Status: "200"`)

For packet-level checks, use [Syslog Troubleshooting](https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-troubleshooting) (<https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-troubleshooting>). For encrypted or WAN paths, consider sending to a local relay and forwarding securely to LogZilla. See [Syslog Relays](https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-relays) (<https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-relays>).

Next, the nginx LogZilla rule must be installed. This rule is available from the LogZilla *appstore*. The rule is installed by going to Settings -> App store in the LogZilla UI.

Add the *Nginx* app to enable the rule.



The screenshot shows the LogZilla web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the LogZilla logo, menu items (NOTIFICATIONS, TASKS, TRIGGERS, REPORTS, SETTINGS, HELP), and user information (Admin User, admin\_user@logzilla.net). Below the navigation bar is a search bar with various filters (Query, Search in message, Severity, Host, Facility, Program, Mnemonic, Type, Time range) and buttons for 'Include Archives' and 'Search'. The main content area is titled 'SETTINGS' and contains a sub-section for 'AVAILABLE APPS'. A search bar for apps is present, and the 'Nginx' app is displayed with its logo (a green hexagon with a white 'N') and the name 'Nginx' below it.

The LogZilla server should now have entries similar to the following:

```
Site="localhost" Server="192.168.250.112" DstPort="80" DstIP="192.168.250.112"  
Src="192.168.250.2" SrcIP="192.168.250.2" User="-"  
Time_Local="17/Nov/2021:17:45:07 +0000" Protocol="HTTP/1.1" Status="304"  
Bytes_Out="189" Bytes_In="-" HTTP_Refferrer="-" User_Agent="Mozilla/5.0 (X11;  
Ubuntu; Linux x86_64; rv:94.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/94.0" Nginx_Version="1.18.0"  
HTTP_X_Forwarded_For="-" HTTP_X_Header="-" URI_Query="-" URI="/main.html"  
HTTP_Method="GET" Response_Time="-" Cookie="-" Request_Time="0.000"
```

If logs are not being sent or received, check the nginx log. For LogZilla-side troubleshooting steps, see [Syslog Troubleshooting](#) (<https://www.logzilla.ai/docs/administration/syslog-troubleshooting>).

## NGINX Dashboard Widgets

Widgets will now contain tags similar to:

