

CS Series® System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA) User Guide

(1.7.2)

S-2649

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1 About the CS Series® SSA User Guide

CS Series® System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA) User Guide (1.7.2) S-2649 describes how to download, install, and use release 1.7.2 of Cray System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA) software.

Table 1. Revisions to this Publication

Publication Title	Date	Updates
CS Series [™] System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA) User Guide (1.7.2) S-2649	December 2018	Supports SSA release 1.7.2.
CS Series [™] System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA) User Guide (1.7.1) S-2649	September 2018	Supports SSA release 1.7.1.

Scope and Audience

Procedures should be performed by trained Cray system administrators or service providers familiar with CS Series software administration.

SSA Supported CS Series Platforms

CS Series refers to the CCS platforms that SSA supports with the 1.7.2 release. These products include CS500, CS-Storm 500NX, and CS-Storm 500GT running Bright Cluster Management software.

Typographic Conventions

Monospace	Indicates program code, reserved words, library functions, command-line prompts, screen output, file/path names, key strokes (e.g., $Enter$ and $Alt-Ctrl-F$), and other software constructs.
Monospaced Bold	Indicates commands that must be entered on a command line or in response to an interactive prompt.
Oblique Or Italics	Indicates user-supplied values in commands or syntax definitions.
Proportional Bold	Indicates a graphical user interface window or element.
\ (backslash)	At the end of a command line, indicates the Linux® shell line continuation character (lines joined by a backslash are parsed as a single line). Do not type anything after the backslash or the continuation feature will not work correctly.

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Related Resources

- Refer to Cray Field Notice FN 6122 for more information about SSA client release history
- Release notes for SSA 1.7.2 are available on crayport.cray.com (CrayPort)
- A README file for SSA 1.7.2 is included in /opt/cray/ssa/default/share/doc/README.plugin-doc that describes what each plugin in the release was designed to do (this file is also available on *CrayPort*)
- The ssacli man page
- Cray SSA White Paper
- www.cray.com/support

2 SSA Introduction

Cray system snapshot analyzer (SSA) software is support analytics technology that securely collects, analyzes, and uploads (if upload is enabled) product health, configuration, or triage information about a CS Series system to Cray service. After being captured and uploaded by SSA, the data is analyzed using a sophisticated analytics platform to detect and enumerate changes over time, detect changes in the health state of various aspects of a system, or process triage information to assist with case resolution. Through automation, SSA improves the overall customer experience by reducing the manual effort and time required to report and resolve support issues.

The SSA *shepherd* is the client software that manages the collection, first-level analysis, and secure transport of support telemetry information back to Cray.

For additional information and references on SSA, please visit <u>www.cray.com/support</u>. For details on how to activate an SSA account and download SSA software, refer to Cray <u>SFDC Article 6765</u>, <u>Getting Started with the Cray System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA)</u>.

Request Support for SSA

To request support, contact a Cray support representative or file a service case against the SSA component. The option to submit a request for enhancement (RFE) or defect report (bug) against SSA is also available. Feedback and suggestions are valued and welcomed.

3 Configure SSA for CS Series

Download the SSA shepherd software by following guidance in Cray SFDC Article 6765, Getting Started with the Cray System Snapshot Analyzer (SSA). Customers can access Article 6765 at CrayPort.

A CrayPort account is required to download software and activate a SSA account. SSA account activation is required in order to obtain authentication credentials for use during the configuration of SSA for snapshot upload to Cray.

Visit https://crayport.cray.com if you have active support entitlements and would like to register for CrayPort accounts.

Shepherd Overview

SSA shepherd software is delivered in two packages. One contains the shepherd command line interface (ssacli) and libraries. The other contains plugins for the specific Cray platform (Cray XE, Cray XC, ClusterStor/Sonexion, or Cray CS Series). These packages are revision matched, with the plugin package dependent on the base shepherd software.

The shepherd operates in three progressive stages—collect, snapshot and upload.

Collect Stage The collect stage is responsible for utilizing plugins to perform collection and analysis of

system information, and to prepare for subsequent stages.

Snapshot Stage The snapshot stage searches for collections which have not been previously processed. It

encodes them into a network friendly format in preparation for upload to Cray.

Upload Stage The upload stage then takes any snapshots which have not been uploaded and attempts to

upload them to Cray for further analysis and processing.

The upload takes place over a secure network connection, using transport layer security (TLS), and is further authenticated using credentials from customer SSA accounts.

The shepherd uses a configurable purge policy to remove older collections or snapshots and is either invoked ondemand or automatically via cron.

The supported run configurations for the shepherd for CS Series systems are covered in *Collect and Upload a Snapshot* on page 10.

3.1 SSA Prerequisites

SSA Upload Account Activation

The activation of a SSA account in CrayPort is required in order to obtain the organization name and passphrase to use in the configuration of SSA for the upload of snapshot information to Cray.

Network Connectivity

The shepherd application only initiates outbound network connection—over TCP/IP (version 4) TCP port 443—to the network host ssa.cray.com. Cray does not initiate an inbound connection to the customer network/system. The outbound network session is established only long enough to submit a snapshot of information to Cray. Then it terminates.

To communicate with the Cray upload system, outbound connectivity must be provided from the user site as described. Optionally, a local network proxy (HTTP, SOCKS) can be utilized through features in the shepherd application. For additional details about how to configure a proxy, refer to the comments in the shepherd.conf file distributed with the shepherd.

Configuration of the sudo Utility

The shepherd leverages the functionality provided by the <code>sudo</code> utility to drop privileges and provide an audit trail of application activity. The <code>root</code> user must be able to execute any command, as any user, on installation nodes via <code>sudo</code>. The <code>root</code> user must not be prompted for a password to execute <code>sudo</code> commands. In addition, the <code>requiretty</code> setting must not be enabled because <code>sudo</code> will not allow the execution of any scheduled jobs via SSA (e.g. those not run directly on a real TTY by an interactive user).

3.2 Install the CS Series SSA RPM Packages

Prerequisites

This procedure must be performed as the root user on the CS Series head node.

About this task

This procedure installs the base SSA shepherd application and system-specific plugins for CS Series systems.

Time Required: Approximately 30 minutes. SSA RPMs can be installed during customer operations.

Packages for CS Series are used in the examples for illustration only. Always download the latest shepherd software specific to the system.

Perform the RPM installation steps on the head node.

The SSA installation process creates cron entries in /etc/cron.d/cray-ssa/ for scheduled operation.

Procedure

1. Log in to the head node as root.

- 2. If upgrading SSA, disable SSA using *Enable or Disable SSA* on page 14.
- **3.** Install the RPM packages:

Installation of the RPMs yields messages associated with the alternatives software. For information about how to manage the version of shepherd used, refer to the man page for update-alternatives and Specify a Different Version of SSA on page 15 (if the RPM for the platform uses alternatives).

4. Exit and sudo to root on the head node to invoke the new root user environment.

3.3 Edit the CS Series Shepherd Configuration File

Prerequisites

This procedure must be performed as the root user.

About this task

The CS Series shepherd uses a single configuration file, <code>/opt/cray/ssa/default/etc/shepherd.conf</code>. The configuration file is structured into sections and contained within square brackets, for example <code>[control]</code>. Each section and each of its related parameters contain a header of descriptive configuration information. Sections may contain individual or groups of related parameters. Prior to running the shepherd, edit this file on the head node.

The steps below describe commonly configured parameters for desired shepherd features.

Always make a backup copy of the shepherd configuration file (shepherd.conf) for reference.

IMPORTANT: Review the SSA release notes for versions that have compatible configuration files. If the version being installed is compatible with the previous version, simply make a backup copy of the new version's configuration file and overwrite it with the existing shepherd configuration file.

Procedure

- **1.** Login to the head node as root.
 - If using an existing compatible configuration file, copy the file to the appropriate location as shown and skip to step 8.

```
# cd /opt/cray/ssa/default/etc
# cp -a shepherd.conf shepherd.conf-dist
# cp -a /opt/cray/ssa/ssa_version/etc/shepherd.conf .
```

• If this is an initial installation, proceed to step 2.

- 2. From the head node, edit /opt/cray/ssa/default/etc/shepherd.conf file.
- **3.** Enable the shepherd master operation mode. This configuration setting allows all stages (collection, snapshot, upload) to be active.

 $\textbf{Set} \; \texttt{master_enabled:} \; \; \textbf{true in the} \; [\texttt{control}] \; \textbf{section}.$

```
[control]
master_enabled: true
```

- **4.** Set system identification information in the [sysinfo] section.
 - a. Set the serial number of the system.

```
[sysinfo] serial_num: 99999
```

b. Set the system type.

```
[sysinfo]
system_type: CS500NX
```

c. Set the system name.

```
[sysinfo]
system name: prod
```

d. Set a short system description.

```
[sysinfo]
system_description: CS500NX PROD
```

5. Set upload information in the [upload] section.

IMPORTANT: If SSA must be run in local mode, (no information is uploaded to Cray), see *Configure SSA for Local Only Mode* on page 17 and skip steps 5 through 7.

The upload_server, upload_org, and upload_pw parameters in the [upload] section must be set before using the snapshot or upload stages.

a. Set the organization received when the SSA account was activated that snapshots will be uploaded for.

```
[upload]
upload_org: cto01
```

b. Set the password received when the SSA account was activated.

```
[upload]
upload_pw: SuperSecretPassword
```

These parameters must be set for a successful authentication and upload of SSA information to Cray.

- **6.** Optional: Set, in the [upload] section, the upload server (upload_server) address to an IP address. Or, if using IP name resolution, set an additional X.509 (SSL/TLS) certificate validation option.
 - a. Optional: If using DNS or a local resolution method (e.g., /etc/hosts), set verify_x509_host to true.

This enables additional protection within the shepherd to validate that the subject name in the X.509 SSL/TLS certificate matches that of the server (ssa.cray.com), allows resolution of the DNS name ssa.cray.com, adds a small amount of security to the upload process, and should be enabled if using a suitable resolution method. The certificate chain for the SSA upload system is maintained locally within the shepherd application (isolated from other certificate stores on the system). The CA bundle file is located in /opt/cray/ssa/default/etc/ssl/ssa.pem.

```
[upload]
verify_x509_host: true
```

b. Optional: If not using DNS and if a manually configured local resolution method is not desired, set the upload server to an IP address.

The upload system uses, at the time of this writing, a single IP address, 136.162.62.191. This IP address should resolve via a DNS PTR reference to an A record ending in .cray.com. Any changes in SSA upload addressing will be communicated directly to customers by Cray.

1. Set upload server to IP address (using the documented IP above).

```
[upload]
upload server: 136.162.62.191
```

2. Ensure that verify x509 host is set to false.

```
[upload]
verify_x509_host: false
```

7. Save the file and exit.

After the configuration file is saved (with master_enabled: true) the cron schedule for the shepherd will be activated. The cron schedule can be located in /opt/cray/ssa/default/etc/cray-ssa. It is symbolically linked from /etc/cron.d/cray-ssa.

8. Validate the configuration.

```
# ssacli --check_conf
[stdout] Configuration File and CLI Options Valid.
```

The ssacli command should only be executed on the head node. If output differs from the above, review the messages presented and make corrections to the configuration file.

3.4 Collect and Upload a Snapshot

Prerequisites

IMPORTANT: This procedure is not necessary if upgrading to a newer version of SSA software.

This procedure must be performed on the CS Series head node as root. The output examples in this section have been reduced for the sake of brevity. They will vary depending on the task being performed.

About this task

SSA terminology:

Run Set

Each (shepherd) plugin is associated with zero or more plugin run sets. A run set is an alphanumeric, textual label for a configuration that the shepherd uses to select plugins for execution. Plugins can, and often are, associated with multiple plugin run sets. CS Series shepherd utilization of the scenarios feature removes the necessity of providing the --runset option on the command line.

Output Channel

Every shepherd collection and related snapshot is associated with exactly one output channel. A channel is an alpha-numeric label. Channels allow information collected and reported by SSA to be categorized by use. CS Series shepherd utilization of the scenarios feature removes the necessity of providing the --channel option on the command line.

Scenarios CS Series SSA utilizes the shepherd feature **Scenario** to examine its runtime environment and determine the appropriate run set to execute. Release 1.7.2 makes explicit use of **Scenario** feature and all collections should utilize this command line option.

Release 1.7.2 contains three scenarios that provide appropriate run sets, each targeting a different SSA use case. These scenarios are provided in the table.

Table 2. Supported Shepherd Run Configurations on CS Series Systems

Purpose	Scenario	Scheduled/On-Demand	Frequency
Baselining and detecting change in product configurations	baseline	Either	Once daily
Product health monitoring	health	Scheduled	Every 15 minutes
Product support bundle capture	triage	On-demand	As requested

To observe behavior for the baseline scenario, perform each stage of the shepherd process separately and review the shepherd output on the system console.

IMPORTANT: This procedure is not necessary if upgrading to a newer version of SSA software.

Procedure

1. Execute a collection for the baseline scenario.

The execution time can vary between several minutes to up to 20 minutes on the largest CS Series systems.

```
# ssacli --scenario baseline --collect
[stdout] OS Distribution = CentOS
[stdout] Bright Cluster Management is active. Channel default - Runset ['bright_active_default']
[stdout] UI master_control status is (enabled) [no control file created]
[stdout] MASTER CONTROLS -> (M:True, C:True, S:True, U:True)
[stdout] UI CONTROLS -> (C:True, S:False, U:False)
[stdout] Snapshot control not enabled, only performing collection
[stdout] Shepherd Session: 1544469186
[stdout] Exclusive run: Lock file created @ /var/opt/cray/ssa/lock/ssa.lock_channel-default_device-CS500NX99999 CS500NX_99999
[stdout] COLLECT stage start
[stdout] PLOAD: 27 plugin source modules loaded
[stdout] Collection Session: '1544469186'
[stdout] Collection Directory: '/var/opt/cray/ssa/collection/CS500NX99999 CS500NX_99999/default/
```

```
1544469186
[stdout] Collection Channel:
                               'default'
                    '['bright_active_default']'
ugins: 'None'
[stdout] Run Sets:
[stdout] Explicit Plugins:
[stdout] ** Entering run-level 20 **
[stdout] Plugin 'shepherd.encode.diagnostic' started
[stdout] Plugin 'shepherd.encode.diagnostic' stopped, return 0, time 7.00
[stdout] 16637813.0 raw bytes collected via directives.
[stdout] no collection directories meet purge requirements
[stdout] COLLECT stage stop (with survivable exception)
[stdout] Collection output directory @ /var/opt/cray/ssa/collection/CS500NX99999 CS500NX 99999/
default/1544469186
[stdout] shepherd session stop successfully
[stdout] run took 280.33 seconds
```

If the COLLECT stage stops either normally or as stated with survivable exception, the collection process was successful. The shepherd creates a text report named <code>collection_report.txt</code> in the collection output directory located

in:/var/opt/cray/ssa/collection/<collection device>/default/<timestamp>

This report provides a high-level summary of the collection, including:

- Information on the shepherd
- Amount of storage consumed by the collection
- The status of health checks the shepherd performed during the collection
- Platform summary information
- A plugin execution summary trace

This report can be useful to local operators in reviewing system status and high-level configuration. Survivable exceptions are part of the shepherd design. Individual plugins can fail in controlled ways, report these failures, and continue operation.

2. Execute a snapshot for the baseline scenario.

```
# ssacli --scenario baseline --snapshot
[stdout] OS Distribution = CentOS
[stdout] Bright Cluster Management is active. Channel default - Runset ['bright active default']
[stdout] UI master_control status is (enabled) [no control file created]
[stdout] MASTER CONTROLS -> (M:True, C:True, S:True, U:True)
[stdout] UI CONTROLS -> (C:False, S:True, U:False)
[stdout] Upload control not enabled, only performing collection then snapshot
[stdout] Shepherd Session: 1544469631
[stdout] Exclusive run: Lock file created @ /var/opt/cray/ssa/lock/ssa.lock channel-default device-
CS500NX99999 CS500NX 99999
[stdout] Starting SNAPSHOT stage
[stdout] Added '/var/opt/cray/ssa/collection/CS500NX99999 CS500NX 99999/default/1544469186' to
snapshot source list
[stdout] Est 20243800 bytes needed to snapshot, based on raw storage of 2 collection(s) [stdout] Snapshot encoding dir created at '/var/opt/cray/ssa/snapshot/default/isodx/cdat01/Linux/out/
CS500NX99999_CS500NX_99999/1544469186'
[stdout] no snapshot directories meet purge requirements
[stdout] Stopping SNAPSHOT stage normally
[stdout] shepherd session stop successfully
[stdout] run took 5.06 seconds
```

The SNAPSHOT stage should complete normally. Report other status messages to Cray support.

3. Invoke an upload of the baseline scenario.

```
# ssacli --scenario baseline --upload
[stdout] OS Distribution = CentOS
[stdout] Bright Cluster Management is active. Channel default - Runset ['bright_active_default']
[stdout] UI master_control status is (enabled)
[stdout] MASTER CONTROLS -> (M:True, C:True, S:True, U:True)
[stdout] UI CONTROLS -> (C:False, S:False, U:True)
[stdout] Shepherd Session: 1544552940
```

```
[stdout] Exclusive run: Lock file created @ /var/opt/cray/ssa/lock/ssa.lock channel-default device-
CS500NX99999 CS500NX 99999
[stdout] Starting UPLOAD stage
[stdout] Upload Organization: cdat01
[stdout] Upload Server: ssa.cray.com
[stdout] Upload Device: CS500NX99999 CS500NX 99999
[stdout]
[stdout] Upload Statistics: 2018-12-11T12:29:00.730401CST
[stdout] total size: 0, transferred: 0, progress: 0%
[st.dout.]
             elapsed time: --:--, remaining time (est): --:--:-
[stdout]
             speed: 0/s, avg speed: 0/s
[stdout]
[stdout] Upload Statistics: 2018-12-11T12:29:02.898732CST
[stdout] total size: 1544k, transferred: 1544k, progress: 100% [stdout] elapsed time: 0:00:01, remaining time (est): --:--:-
[stdout]
             speed: 1308k/s, avg speed: 1302k/s
[stdout]
[stdout] Upload transfer complete, waiting on server snapshot receipt
[stdout] Stopping UPLOAD stage normally
[stdout] shepherd session stop successfully
[stdout] run took 17.50 seconds
```

The UPLOAD stage should complete successfully. If the stage does not complete successfully, ensure the connectivity requirement has been met. Then report the issue to Cray support.

If the process above completes successfully, the first snapshot of the system support information is uploaded to Cray.

NOTE: Cray recommends that the triage step be completed on an initial install of SSA to make sure there are no issues when collecting a triage snapshot.

4. Optional: If this is an initial installation, repeat steps 1 through 3 for the triage run set and channel. Add command line --scenario triage to each of the ssacli command lines for --collect, --snapshot, and --upload.

4 Common Administrative Tasks

4.1 Enable or Disable SSA

Prerequisites

System snapshot analyzer (SSA) is installed on the CS Series head node.

About this task

IMPORTANT: Disable SSA prior to performing system maintenance to prevent erroneous health reports from being sent to Cray. Disabling SSA does not halt existing ssacli sessions but will prevent new sessions from starting. After maintenance is complete, enable SSA for system monitoring and reporting.

To automate control changes based on booted system state, administrators should integrate status information and enable/disable functionality into system boot control scripts. After maintenance operations are complete, enable SSA on the head node for proper operation.

Cray recommends that SSA be enabled and disabled using the <code>ssacli</code>, as opposed to making modifications to the <code>master_enabled</code> control setting in the <code>shepherd.conf</code> file. Make sure the <code>master_enabled</code> setting in the <code>shepherd.conf</code> file is set to <code>true</code>, then use the <code>ssacli</code> to enable or disable SSA from the command line.

Procedure

- 1. Log in to the CS Series head node as root.
- 2. Disable SSA.

```
# ssacli --master_control disable
[stdout] UI master_control initial state set to (disabled)
```

3. Enable SSA.

```
# ssacli --master_control enable
[stdout] UI master_control changed from (disabled) to (enabled)
```

4. Check status.

```
# ssacli --master_control status
[stdout] UI master_control status is (enabled)
```

4.2 Upload On-demand Snapshots to Cray

Prerequisites

System snapshot analyzer (SSA) is installed on the CS Series head node.

About this task

Cray service may request a site to upload a configuration baseline snapshot or triage snapshot specifying an SFDC case number. SFDC case 100000 is used in this example.

Procedure

- Log in to the CS Series head node as root.
- Upload an on-demand snapshot to Cray.

```
# ssacli --scenario baseline
```

Upload a triage snapshot to Cray and substitute the case number(s) associated with the service request(s) on the command line.

```
# ssacli --ref 'sfdc:100000' --scenario triage
```

4.3 Control Shepherd Verbosity and Debug Behavior

The STDOUT verbosity of the console messages from shepherd can be controlled using two CLI flags: --quiet and --debug. The --quiet option displays errors only to STDERR if they occur (including survivable errors). The --debug setting is highly verbose.

The location of the shepherd log files is defined in the [sysconf] section of the shepherd.conf file with the log dir setting.

4.4 Specify a Different Version of SSA

Prerequisites

System snapshot analyzer (SSA) is installed on the CS Series head node.

About this task

SSA uses the alternatives software to manage the active version when multiple versions are installed on CS Series systems.

Procedure

- 1. Log in to the CS Series head node as root.
- 2. To list the available versions for SSA.

```
# update-alternatives --display cray-ssa
cray-ssa - status is auto.
link currently points to /opt/cray/ssa/1.7.2-0
/opt/cray/ssa/1.7.0-0 - priority 136052736
/opt/cray/ssa/1.7.1-0 - priority 136053248
/opt/cray/ssa/1.7.2-0- priority 136053760
Current `best' version is /opt/cray/ssa/1.7.2-0.
```

3. Specify a target version path.

```
# update-alternatives --set cray-ssa /opt/cray/ssa/version
Using '/opt/cray/ssa/version' to provide 'cray-ssa'.
```

4. Exit and sudo root into the appropriate CS Series head node to invoke the new version.

4.5 Specify the Latest Version of SSA Automatically

Prerequisites

System snapshot analyzer (SSA) is installed on the CS Series head node.

About this task

SSA uses the alternatives software to manage the active version when multiple versions are installed on CS Series systems.

Procedure

- **1.** Log in to the head node as root.
- 2. To list the available versions for SSA.

```
# update-alternatives --display cray-ssa
cray-ssa - status is auto.
link currently points to /opt/cray/ssa/1.7.2-0
/opt/cray/ssa/1.7.0-0 - priority 136052736
/opt/cray/ssa/1.7.1-0 - priority 136053248
/opt/cray/ssa/1.7.2-0- priority 136053760
Current `best' version is /opt/cray/ssa/1.7.2-0.
```

3. To select the most recent SSA version automatically:

```
# update-alternatives --auto cray-ssa
```

4. Exit and **sudo root** into the appropriate CS Series head node to invoke the changes.

4.6 Configure SSA for Local Only Mode

Prerequisites

System snapshot analyzer (SSA) is installed on the CS Series head node.

About this task

There may be a requirement to run SSA in local only mode (information is not uploaded to Cray). Use this procedure to enable SSA to run in local only mode.

IMPORTANT: When SSA is run in local mode, no information is uploaded to Cray.

Procedure

- **1.** Log in to the head node as root.
- 2. Edit the shepherd.conf file.
- **3.** In the [control] section, change the snapshot enabled setting to false.
- 4. Change the upload enabled setting to false.
- 5. Comment out the upload server setting In the [upload] section.

Type a pound sign (#) as the first character of the line to comment out that setting.

```
#upload_server: ssa.cray.com
```

- **6.** Comment out the upload org setting.
- 7. Comment out the upload pw setting.
- 8. Save the shepherd.conf file.
- **9.** Validate the configuration.

```
# ssacli --check_conf
[stdout] Configuration File and CLI Options Valid.
```

4.7 Locate Collection and Snapshot Repositories

CS Series SSA 1.7.2 shepherd collection and snapshot repository locations are defined in the /opt/cray/ssa/default/etc/shepherd.conf file on the head node.

The [collection] section collection_dir parameter defines the path name for the collection repository.

The [snapshot] section snapshot dir parameter defines the path name for the snapshot repository.



CAUTION: Manual modifications the contents of either of these directories is not supported and can lead to unpredictable shepherd operation. Do not modify the contents of these directories unless instructed to do so by Cray support.