

# How Event Alerts work

You can set IDERA SQL Compliance Manager to generate an event alert when it finds a suspicious event in your audit data. Alert rules define what a suspicious event is and how you want SQL Compliance Manager to respond. For example, create a rule to alert on DML events that occur on a sensitive database. You can configure SQL Compliance Manager to write a custom alert message to the application event log and send an alert email notification to your corporate and personal SMTP accounts when the alert is triggered. For more information about customizing alerts, see [Use Event Alerts to analyze audit data](#).

SQL Compliance Manager alerts only on the events you select for an audited SQL Server instance or database. After the Collection Server processes the raw event data sent by the SQL Compliance Manager Agent, the Collection Server uses the criteria defined by your alert rules to search for suspicious events. When the Collection Server finds a matching event, it triggers the alert. ***If you specified a message for this alert***, SQL Compliance Manager saves the alert message in the SQLcompliance Repository database. You can view alert messages and the corresponding events using the Event Alerts tab on the Select SQL Server Instance view.

Depending on the amount of alert activity your environment generates, you may want to groom alert messages on a routine basis. For more information about aiding your system performance, see [Groom alerts from Repository](#).

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