Multisite indexer cluster deployment overview

Before reading this topic, see:

- "Indexer cluster deployment overview". That topic provides a general overview of deployment for both single-site and multisite indexer clusters. The topic you are reading now describes only the multisite differences.

**Important:** This chapter assumes that you are deploying independent search heads in the multisite indexer cluster. For information on how to incorporate search heads that are members of a search head cluster, see "Integrate the search head cluster with an indexer cluster" in the Distributed Search manual.

**Migrating from a single-site cluster?**

To migrate from a single-site to a multisite indexer cluster, read "Migrate an indexer cluster from single-site to multisite".

**Deploy a multisite indexer cluster**

To deploy a multisite cluster, you configure the set of nodes for each site:

- A single master resides on one of the sites and controls the entire multisite cluster.
- A set of peer nodes resides on each site.
- A search head resides on each site that searches cluster data. If you want all searches to be local, you must install a search head on each site. This is known as search affinity.

For example, to set up a two-site cluster with three peers and one search head on each site, you install and configure these instances:

- One master node on one of the sites, either site 1 or site 2
- Three peer nodes on site 1
- Three peer nodes on site 2
- One search head on site 1
- One search head on site 2

**Note:** The master itself is not actually a member of any site, aside from its physical location. However, each master has a built-in search head, and that search head requires that you set a site attribute in the master's configuration. You must specify a site for the master, even if you never use its built-in search head. Note that the search head is for testing only. Do not use it for production purposes.

**Configure multisite nodes**

To deploy and configure multisite cluster nodes, you must directly edit `server.conf` or use the CLI. You cannot use Splunk Web.

**Multisite-specific configuration settings**

When you deploy a multisite cluster, you configure the same settings as for single-site, along with some additional settings to specify the set of sites and the location of replicated and searchable copies across the sites.

**On the master, you:**

- Enable the cluster for multisite.
• Enumerate the set of sites for the cluster.
• Set a multisite replication factor.
• Set a multisite search factor.
• Adjust the single-site replication and search factors as necessary. See "Multisite cluster does not meet its replication or search factors."

On each cluster node, you:

• Identify the site that the node resides on.

**Configure with server.conf**

To configure a multisite master node with server.conf, see "Configure multisite indexer clusters with server.conf".

**Configure with the CLI**

To configure a multisite master node with the CLI, see "Configure multisite indexer clusters with the CLI"

**Use indexer discovery with a multisite cluster**

If you are using indexer discovery to connect forwarders to the peer nodes, you must assign a site to each forwarder. See "Use indexer discovery in a multisite cluster."