

# Collect flow records

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You can automatically collect all flow records, which are network-layer communications between two devices over an IP protocol. If you enable this feature, but do not add any IP addresses or port ranges, all detected flow records are captured.

## Before you begin

- You must [connect your Command or Discover appliance to your Explore appliances](#) or [configure a third-party recordstore](#) before you can collect flow records.
- You must have [unlimited privileges](#) to configure automatic flow record collection.

Configuring flow records for automatic collection is fairly straight-forward and can be a good way to test that your Explore appliances or third-party recordstore are connected.

1. Log into the Admin UI on your Discover appliance.
2. In the Records section, click **Automatic Flow Records**.
3. Select the **Enabled** checkbox.
4. In the Publish Interval field, type a number between 60 and 21600. This value determines how often records from an active flow are sent to the Explore appliance. The default value is 1800 seconds.
5. In the IP Address field, type a single IP address or IP address range in IPv4, IPv6, or CIDR format. Then, click the green plus (+) icon. (You can remove an entry by clicking the red delete (X) icon.)
6. In the Port Ranges field, type a single port or port range. Then, click the green plus (+) icon.
7. Click **Save**.

Flow records that meet your criteria are now automatically sent to your configured recordstore. Wait a few minutes for records to be collected, and then verify that flow records are being collected in the next step.

8. In the Web UI, click **Records** from the top menu to start a query. If you do not see any records, wait a few minutes and try again. If no records appear after five minutes, review your configuration or contact [ExtraHop Support](#).