



# HCA Tech Note 138

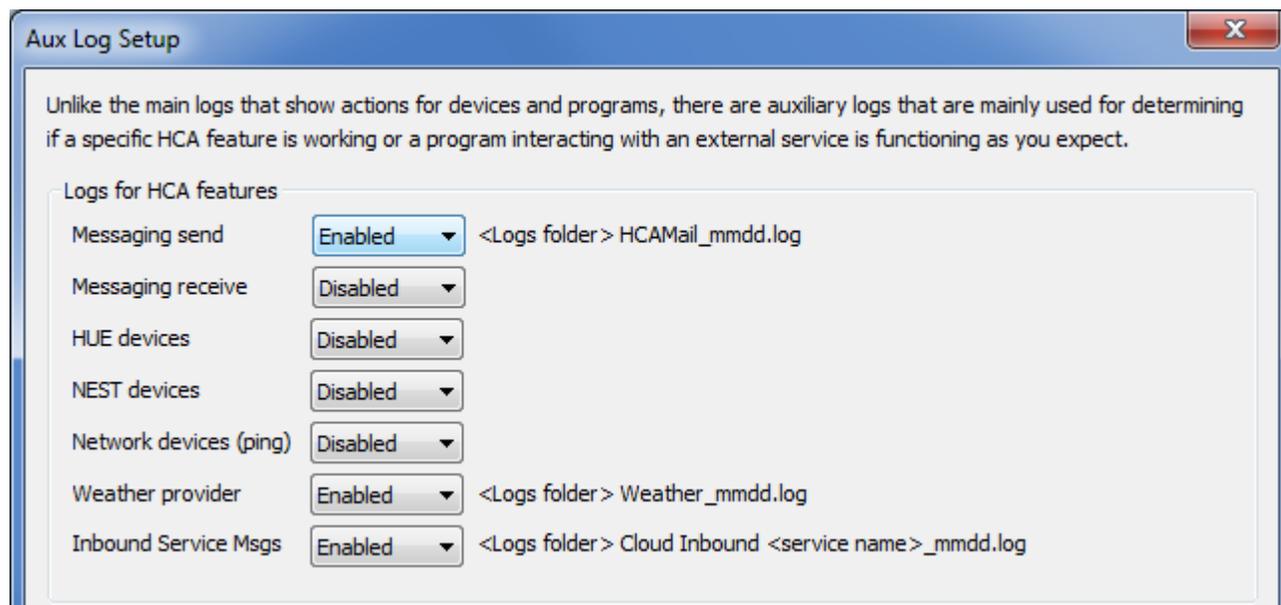
## Aux Log Tool

There are several operations in HCA that operate by communicating to external devices and services and knowing what was sent and received can be useful in resolving problems.

Unlike the three logs that show actions within your home – devices commands sent and received, and program actions - the logs for these services are kept in separate files. These are called "auxiliary logs".

The log file that can be created by the programmer HTTP element is an example of one of these auxiliary files. That log file shows what the HTTP element sent and what it received. That is very helpful because communication with an external agent is always complex and knowing what was sent and received is very helpful during development of the program.

The Aux log tool lets you control what kinds of these logs get created. Open the Aux Log tool from the Tools ribbon category, "Aux Log Setup" button.



The first part of the tool lets you enable/disable logging for:

- Email/SMS sending
- Email receiving



# HCA Tech Note 138

- Communication with the HUE hub
- Communication with the NEST cloud
- What is configured by the “Network devices” tool
- Weather provider
- Messages from other clouds that get received by the HCA Cloud and sent to your server

Normally none of these logs need be enabled but there may be some times where having these logs helps you resolve issues. For example, if message sending isn't working, enabling the message send auxiliary log and then examining its contents may show you the reason why it isn't working – a configuration issue, communication program, bad password, etc.

When enabled, the log files are created with a name that represents the tool. For example, the weather log goes to weather\_mmdd.log and the network devices actions go to Ping\_mmdd.log. Each of these auxiliary log files are saved in the HCA documents area "Logs" subfolder with the filename ending in a month and day suffix. This is so that your disk doesn't fill up with these logs, as older ones get deleted when a new log gets started. Its settable in the registry but by default it is 7 days.

The next part of the aux log dialog is for the HTTP, Camera, and Port I/O programmer elements.

Logs for Program elements

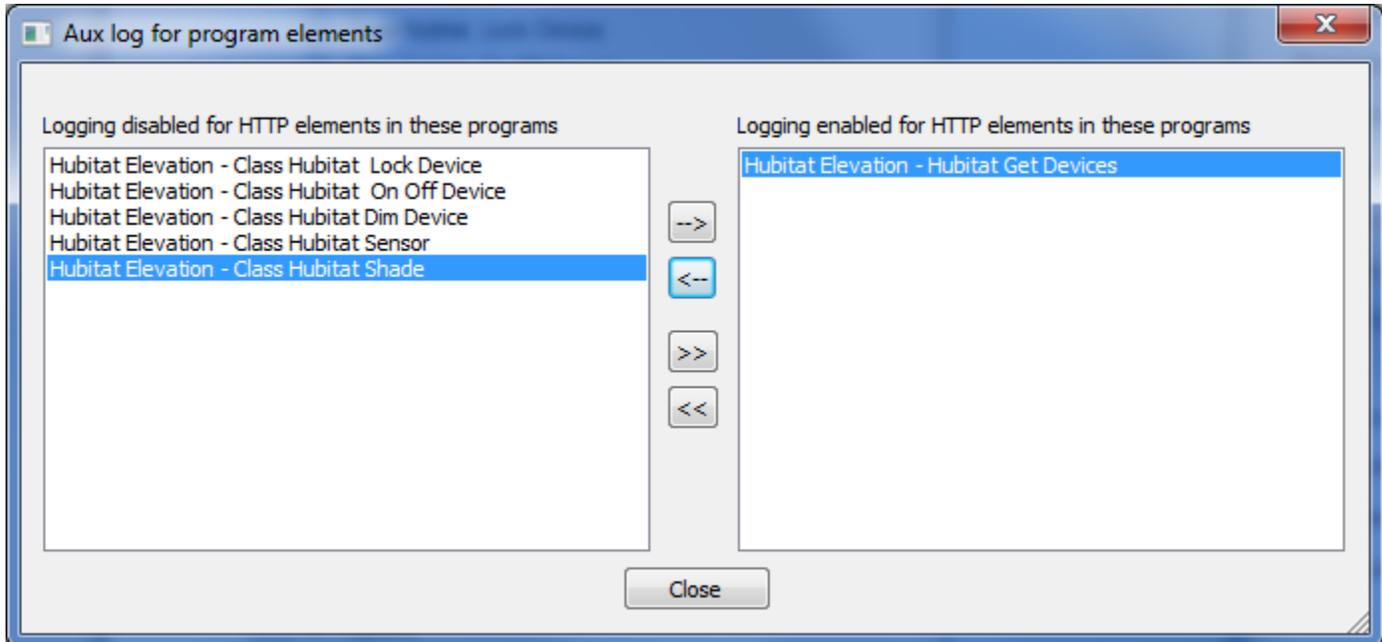
Camera element	Select	
HTTP element	Select	<Logs folder> <Target IP address or DNS Name>_mmdd.log
Port I/O element	Select	

Unlike the first section where logs are enabled or disabled on a system-wide basis, for these you select on a program-by-program basis which programs log and which ones don't. It's not element by element, a program could have more than one HTTP element for example, and if logging is enabled for that program then all the HTTP elements in that program create logs.

To select the program that contains, for example, the HTTP element, press the HTTP element "Select" button.



# HCA Tech Note 138



Any program that contains a HTTP element is listed. Programs in the left column don't log and those in the right do. Make your choices as needed and close the selection dialog with OK.

For HTTP logging, the log file name is the domain address and port number from the HTTP element configuration converted into a legal filename. For example, when the HTTP element for a communication to the SmartThings cloud is made it is connecting to `https://api_smarthings.com:443`, so the filename becomes `api_smarthings_com_443_mmdd.log`

The camera element also uses a network connection, so its log file contains the network address of the camera. The port I/O element could be serial or network, so its log file contains either the network address or the port number.

There is one additional section of the Aux Log Tool that is not normally available – the large empty space in the tool configuration dialog. It is for internal operations of HCA and the selections for log enable and disable are only available if the proper "extra feature" code is added in HCA Options. If necessary to resolve an issue, technical support will provide you the procedure to access these additional logs.

With so many possible logs it can become confusing and it is important when using the auxiliary tool to understand the larger picture of what is happening. For example, when you control a SmartThings managed

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# HCA Tech Note 138

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device, the HCA server talks to the SmartThings cloud. That is done in the class program for that kind of device and is an HTTP transaction and so would generate an HTTP log file if that program has HTTP logging enabled.

Continuing with this SmartThings example, when a SmartThings managed device changes state, it tells the SmartThings hub, which tells the SmartThings cloud, which tells the HCA Cloud, which tells you server. That is an inbound message and is logged as “Cloud Inbound SmartThings SmartApp\_mmdd.log”. But only if “inbound service messages” logging is enabled – in the 1st section of the Aux Log tool dialog.'

##end##