

TOOLBOX

Monitor Event Logs, Generate Office Documents, and More

SCOTT MITCHELL

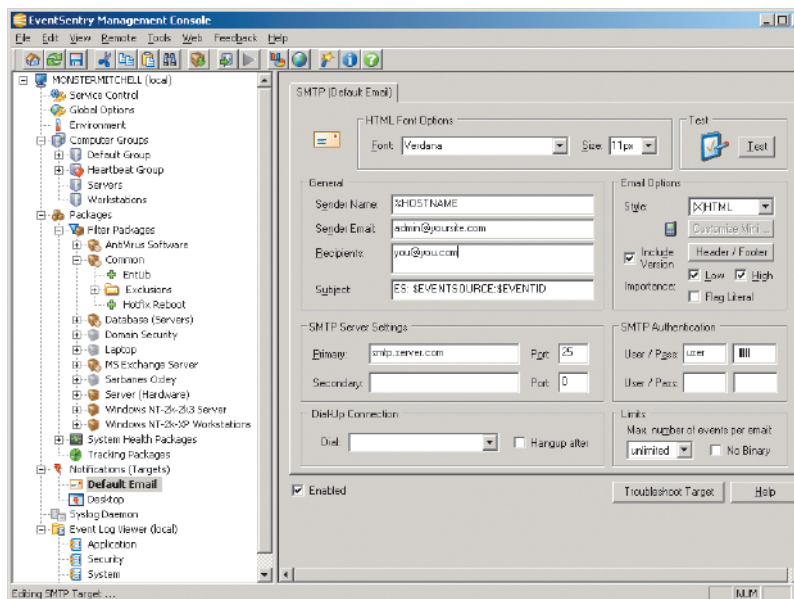
Monitor Your Event Logs

The Windows® Event Log serves as a centralized repository for security, system, and application-level information. While the Event Log contains information of interest primarily to system administrators (for example, failed login attempts, disk errors, unexpected shut-downs, and so on), it also contains database and application errors that concern developers. When these errors occur on production servers, it's important that the responsible developers are alerted immediately.

There are a number of products designed for system administrators to provide monitoring of the Event Log and notifications. One such tool is Event Sentry version 2.70, by NETIKUS.NET, which offers an easy-to-use, yet powerful interface for receiving notification when certain conditions are met in the Windows Event Log. Event Sentry provides filters that allow for only specific event conditions to trigger a notification. The filterable criteria include the event source, the event ID, the event severity, and the event text, among others.

You can also set a threshold indicating that you only want to be notified if an event occurs a certain number of times, like twice in the span of five minutes. Once a filter's criteria are met, a notification is generated. Event Sentry supports 12 forms of notification, including RSS feeds, sending e-mail, starting a process or script, and recording the results to a database or file.

For example, you might be using the Enterprise Library's ExceptionHandling feature to log unhandled



exceptions to the server's Event Log with the Source "My Application". If you'd like to receive an e-mail notification when your application raises an unhandled exception, simply create a filter that looks for events from the "My Application" Source. Next, add an e-mail notification, specifying the SMTP server to use and the recipient list. Henceforth, any unhandled exceptions in your application will result in an e-mail notification in your Inbox!

Price: \$69 per server (with discounts for multiple licenses).
www.eventsentry.com