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Novell[®] Connector[™]

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WMI Connector Differences in Sentinel 6

Product Version(s): Requires Sentinel 6.0 or higher



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About this Guide

This manual gives you a general understanding of this Connector and the differences between this connection method in Sentinel 6 and previous versions of Sentinel. It is intended mainly for the system administrators to configure the Connector to establish connection between Collector and Event Source.

Additional Documentation

The other manuals on this product are available at the following URLs:

- <http://www.novell.com/documentation/sentinel5>
- <http://www.novell.com/documentation/sentinel6>
- <http://support.novell.com/products/sentinel/collectors.html>

The additional documentation includes:

- Sentinel User's Guide for Sentinel 6
- WMI Connector Guide for Sentinel 6
- Windows Collector Guide for Sentinel 5
- Windows Collector Guide for Sentinel 6

Documentation Conventions

The following are the conventions used in this manual:

- `ls`, `--help`: commands, options
- Go to *Start > Program Files > Control Panel* to perform this action: Multiple actions in a step
- Any references to Sentinel 5.x also apply to Sentinel 4.x. Sentinel 5.x is used for simplicity.
- For more information, refer to *Chapter Name* in *Guide Name*: This is a reference to a chapter/section in another book.

NOTE: Any important notes for the user are mentioned as a Note.

<p>Caution: A Caution indicates information that the user should read to avoid a potentially undesirable result.</p>

Introduction

Sentinel 6 includes an all-new Event Source Management framework for deploying, managing, and troubleshooting event collectors from within the Sentinel console. This framework allows for management of all event collection components from within an intuitive, graphical interface. This GUI replaces functionality previously in the Sentinel Collector Builder and provides a number of new features not available in previous versions of Sentinel.

Collectors and connectors are now created as plug-ins to Sentinel (previously, connector functionality was built into Collector Builder). Collectors and connectors are stored within a central repository in the Sentinel system and are configured and deployed through a simple, wizard based interface. Other ESM features include a collector debugger, the ability to open filters on a single data source with a single mouse click, and integrated right-click actions for analysis and management tasks such as viewing the raw data or creating a Sentinel Active View.

The addition of Event Source Management has led to some differences in how collectors are stored, managed, and deployed within Sentinel. The objective of this document is to instruct users of Sentinel 6 on how to use collectors written for Sentinel 5.x with the WMI connection method with the Sentinel 6 software (including the Event Source Management framework.) This document assumes familiarity with the following topics:

- Importing connectors into Sentinel 6
- Importing collectors into Sentinel 6
- Configuring parameters in Sentinel 6
- General differences between collector management in Sentinel 6 and previous versions (For more information, refer to *Using 5.x Collectors in Sentinel 6*.)

For more information about using Sentinel 6, please refer to the Sentinel User's Guide, Chapter 8 on Event Source Management.

This document focuses on the WMI connector and the differences between using this connection method in Sentinel 6 and previous versions. In addition to the topics above, this document assumes familiarity with the following topics:

- Windows event log configuration
- Domain accounts in Windows

Device Configuration

The configuration of Source Devices (the Windows machines whose event logs will be monitored) for this collector is the same in Sentinel 6 and previous versions.

Collector Functionality

The general functionality of the WMI connector is the same in Sentinel 6 as in previous versions. For more information about the functionality of the collector, refer to the 5.x documentation for a WMI-based collector.

Collector Configuration and Operation

There are several configuration differences in the WMI connector for Sentinel 6.

Eventlog.exe and Servers.txt

In Sentinel 5.x, eventlog.exe is spawned in conjunction with the process connector. It used a manually created configuration file called servers.txt. The servers.txt file indicated which servers to collect data

from, log types (application, system, or security), date-time to start collecting data, and a filter to apply to the collected data.

During the collector's operation, the date-time offset was updated in the servers.txt file to indicate the last data read from each Windows server.

In Sentinel 6, the Windows WMI connector should be imported using the instructions in the *Event Source Management* chapter of the *Sentinel User's Guide*. The Windows collector should also be imported.

It would be easiest to set up the Event Sources in Sentinel 6 if you print the servers.txt file and use it for a reference while using the Event Source Management interface. You can create Event Sources that specify the servers to collect data from, log types (application, system, or security), date-time to start collecting data, and a filter to apply to the collected data. The Event Source Management framework will create a configuration file for you, similar to the servers.txt file.

- Server name is entered as a text field when you create a new Event Source.
- Log types are selected from a drop-down menu.
- One Event Source should be configured in ESM for each server and log type in the original servers.txt file.

In Sentinel 5.x, it was possible to run multiple eventlog.exe instances on the same Collector Manager machine. Eventlog.exe had to be installed on each Collector Manager machine individually.

In the first release of the WMI Connector (r1) for Sentinel 6, the Collector Manager can run only one instance of the WMI Connector per machine. The second release (r2) of the WMI Connector will enable multiple WMI connectors per Collector Manager. In both releases of the WMI Connector, all necessary setup of .exe and .jar files on the Collector Manager is handled by the Event Source Management framework when the connector is configured.

Accounts and Permissions

In Sentinel 5.x, Collector Manager was a distinct service, which is configured to run as a logon account that has permission to access the remote Windows servers. This is necessary in order to receive the events through WMI.

In Sentinel 6, the Sentinel Service (which now includes the Collector Manager service) must be configured to run as a logon account that has permission to access the remote Windows servers. This is necessary in order to receive the events through WMI.

Date-Time Offset

In Sentinel 5.x, the date-time offset was updated in the servers.txt file while the collector was in operation. This offset indicated the last data read from each Windows server.

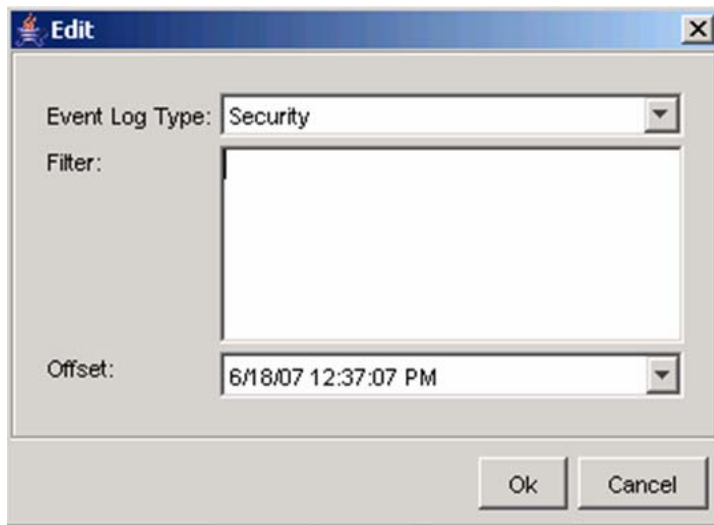
In Sentinel 6, date-time offset is entered when you create a new Event Source. This information is updated in the database as a connector property during the collector's operation.

Using the date-time offset from servers.txt configuration file(s) from Sentinel 5.x when configuring the Sentinel 6 Event Sources will prevent data duplication resulting from the same data being read twice.

Event Filtering

In Sentinel 5.x, the filtering criteria for messages was included in the servers.txt file in WQL (a language very similar to SQL but used for WMI queries).

In Sentinel 6, the WQL filtering criteria is entered in the ESM interface when you configure an Event Source.



Special Considerations

In Sentinel 6, the Event Sources must be unique for the WMI connector to work properly. The administrator must validate manually that there are no duplicates. If there are duplicates, it may lead to file I/O exception errors.

Revision History

Revision 01

Initial Document

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