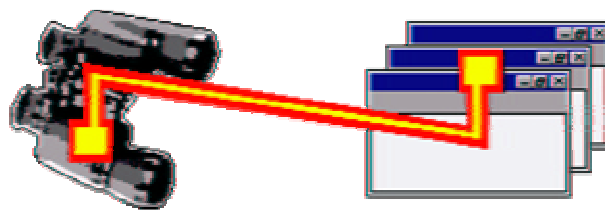


APPMON

Network Application Monitor



User Manual

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Setup

Hardware Requirements

Pentium 133, 32Mb RAM, Network Interface Card.

Software Requirements

Windows 9x/Me or Windows NT/2000, TCP/IP network connection.

Installation Procedure

STEP 1: *Run the application setup program provided (following all prompts).*

STEP 2: *Create either shortcuts with command line arguments or shortcuts to start an INI batch job (along with the actual INI files).*

STEP 3: *Configure your network monitoring package to monitor the machine and port specific to your AppMon installation.*

Testing

After installing AppMon and running it using either its command line mode or INI batch mode, AppMon will start the applications you have specified. If the applications do not start, re-check your configuration.

Once AppMon has started an application, try closing the application. At this point AppMon will alert you by flashing its tray icon and beeping. If you have configured your network monitoring program at this time, it should be alerting you also. Select the "down" application from AppMon's down list and click the "restart" button to start the application and reset AppMon's alert status.

Application

Functionality

AppMon provides the ability for network monitoring packages to monitor applications they would normally not have access to. Without AppMon, many critical applications may exit (or be closed inappropriately) leaving IT personnel no way of knowing the loss of service until notified by users. With AppMon, IT personnel are notified instantly and consistently with their own network monitoring package.

Technical Overview

AppMon starts programs specified in its configuration and monitors them for activity. AppMon also exposes a TCP/IP port so that network monitoring packages may monitor it (AppMon will report itself as down if any of its applications are not functioning).

Features

Command Line Interface

Fully configurable for single application jobs from its command line interface, allowing for easy setup through other batch processes.

INI Batches

Multiple programs can be started with a single instance of AppMon. This also allows for “canned” groups of programs for AppMon to start and allows for those settings to be duplicated between machines easily.

Notification

AppMon has four modes of notification, visual for those currently at the console, audio for those in close proximity of the machine (such as in a computer room), e-mail for passive alerts, and network to interface with current third-party network monitoring solutions.

Logging

Optional logging for all failures and restarts to aid in system diagnostics.

Auto Re-Start

Applications may be optionally configured to re-start themselves if they fail.

Auto Kill

AppMon may be optionally configured to kill(close) applications it has started when AppMon itself is closed..

Definitions

Network Monitoring Solutions/Packages

Third party software packages such as Ipswitch’s “What’s Up” or CMC Online’s “Server’s Alive” that monitor individual services on a network, reporting outages.

User Procedure & Navigation

Graphical User Interface(GUI)

AppMon's GUI has two parts; the system tray icon, and the Application Status Window.

System Tray Icon

The system tray icon is used to keep AppMon in a convenient, but still out-of-the-way place. The system tray icon appears in the lower right-hand corner of the screen by your system time, normally appearing as a pair of binoculars(just like AppMon's desktop icon). In the event of problems though, the icon comes to life flashing a small flash to gain attention.

By right-clicking on the system tray icon, three possible menu items appear.

Show/Hide This options shows the Application Status Window if it is hidden, and hides it if it is currently displayed.

Turn Off Notification If AppMon is currently in notification mode (one of its applications has failed), selecting this will silence visual and audible alarms (AppMon will still show as 'down' to your network monitoring package).

Exit Shutdown AppMon

By double-clicking on the system tray icon, the Application Status Window will be displayed and notification will be turned off as above.

Application Status Window

The Application Status Window displays the number of items being monitored, their status (whether they are up or down), the TCP/IP port used for network monitoring as well as offering several menu options.

By clicking on a monitored item, you may view certain information about that item. If the item being viewed is currently down, you will be given the option to restart it.

File

Exit Shutdown the Application Status Window

Logs

View Current Display AppMon's log for today.

Delete Current Delete the AppMon log for today.

View by Date Select a date and view that particular log

Purge All Delete all AppMon Logs.

Enable Logging Turns logging on or off.

Command Line Interface

A simple and direct interface to AppMon is through the command line interface. Command line is simply the command you use to start AppMon (i.e. C:\AppMon\AppMon.exe). By adding "switches" to the end of the command, you can control the way AppMon starts.

Command Line Switches

- /L:<OFF> Turns logging off (On by default)
- /KILL Kills (closes) application started by AppMon when AppMon is exited.
- /W:<state> Sets the window state to either maximized(max) or minimized(min) on program startup.
- /P:<port> Sets the network monitoring port to <port>. Default = 180
- /I:<filename> Uses <filename> for all launching tasks and settings ignoring all other command line arguments.
- <filename> Starts specified filename as monitored task (may be used repeatedly).

INI Batch Interface

Using INI the batch interface, multiple programs can be started with a single instance of AppMon. This also allows for "canned" groups of programs for AppMon to start and allows for those settings to be duplicated between machines easily. Batches are created by making simple ASCII text files with the appropriate entries and starting AppMon with the "/I" switch explained above. Lines beginning with a semicolon are not processed and can be useful for documenting the particular functionality of an INI file.

INI Entries

| | |
|--|---|
| PORT=<x> | network monitoring will be done on TCP port<x>. The default port is 180. |
| WINDOWSTATE=<x> | startup state for main application window <min>imized to the taskbar or <max>imized to the screen. Omit this line for regular startup. |
| LOG=OFF | turn event logging off. |
| KILL=<TRUE/FALSE> | Auto Kill(close) applications started by AppMon when AppMon is exited. |
| START=<app path>,<app name>,<windowstate>,<auto-restart> | <p>may be used multiple times to start programs. only <app path> is required, all others are optional but must have comma "," separators if no value exists (Example: START=notepad,,max,true)</p> <p><app path> the command line to start the program.</p> <p><app name> a meaningful name to appear on AppMon's screen interface.</p> <p><windowstate> sets task program's window state to either <max>imized or <min>imized on program startup.</p> <p><auto-restart> if set to "true", AppMon will attempt to re-start the program if it fails. NOTE: if this is set to true on any program, AppMon will need to be closed before closing the monitored application (this could interfere with automated scripts set up on the system).</p> |
| SMTP_SERVER=<x> | server name or address to receive SMTP email notifications |
| SMTP_TO=<x> | email address to receive SMTP email notifications |
| SMTP_PORT=<x> | TCP port that SMTP_SERVER uses to receive SMTP mail. The default port is 25. |
| SMTP_TIMEOUT=<x> | timeout value in seconds when sending an SMTP message. The default is 30. |