
Fluid Tail

Manual

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Chapter 1 Introduction

About this manual

How is this manual structured

This manual is structured in line with the logical chain of configuration operations required to get Fluid Tail up and running.

Chapter 1 gives an overview of how Fluid Tail works.

Chapter 2 explains how to successfully install Fluid Tail.

Chapter 3 describes how to configure the key operational parameters which Fluid Tail requires at first startup. These instructions are presented in their proper logical sequence and include all the information required to get Fluid Tail up and running.

Chapter 4 describes Miscellaneous and Troubleshooting

Glossary of terms used in this manual

Tail	The tail's concept originates from Unix Command. The command is a standard way of watching log files in Unix where it will display the line once detects there is line addition and exit to continue watching the file.
Windows Service	On Microsoft Windows operating systems, a Windows service is a long-running executable that performs specific functions and which is designed not to require user intervention. Windows services can be configured to start when the operating system is booted and run in the background as long as Windows is running, or they can be started manually when required.
Windows Events Log	Windows Events Log is centralized log service where applications and operating system components can make use of to report events that have taken place, such as a failure to start a component or complete an action.
Filtering Rules	Transmissions refer to messages that went in the system for processing and out for delivery.

About Fluid Tail

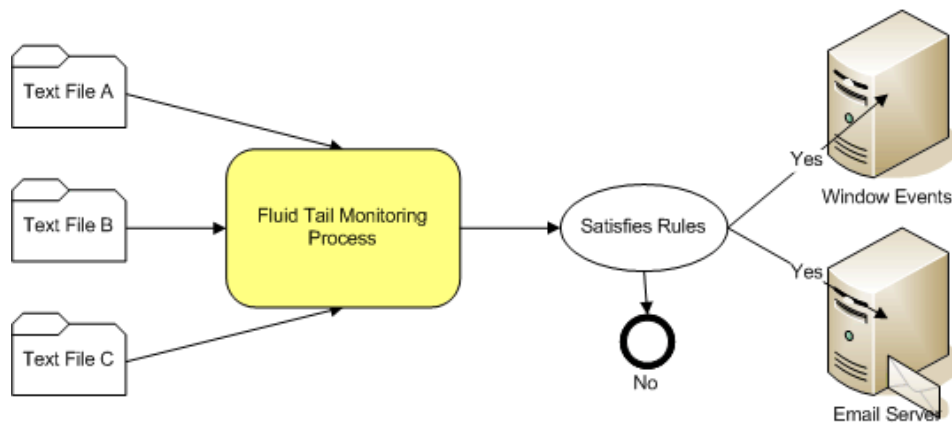


Figure 1 – Basic Process of Fluid Tail

Fluid Tail is a window service agent that is able to monitor line entries in log files. It 'tails' the line data in the log files and will decide whether to alert based on a set of defined rules. The alert can be in the form of window events or email. As such, it functions as an agent gateway for third party enterprise event monitoring software to collect for further analysis.

Key Features

Easy Monitor of Text Based Log Files

Fluid Tail can monitor any text based files that are incremental line in nature. It will capture the latest line for triggering.

Concurrent Log Files Monitoring

Multiple Log Files can be monitored concurrently in the same server.

Real Time Monitoring

New line entries to the log file are automatically being 'watched' once there are any changes made to the file.

Scanning Options

Fluid Tail has three options of scanning log files:

1. Scan Latest Record On Change

This option tracks latest line record once there is any modification to the file.

2. Scan After Last Accessed Line

This option tracks all the line records after the last accessed line once there is any modification done to the file.

3. Onstart Scan Reset After Line

This option will scan right from the top line of the file till the end. Then it will change to option 2.

Based on Window Service

Fluid Tail's monitoring operation is programmed in Window Service. Running in Window Service allows Fluid Tail to keep on monitoring even if no one logs onto the machine. It also allows you to run the service under a different account from the current logged-in account.

Multiple Filtering Rules

Filtering Rules constitute the decision whether to trigger notification alert action via Window Events or Email.

Multiple Window Events Alert

Multiple window events can be configured to allow for different window event alert for each monitored log files. Event Type, ID and Source can be easily configured.

Multiple Email Alert

Multiple email accounts can be configured to allow for different email alert for each monitored log files. It also allows easy customization of mail server, mail port, user id, password, recipients and sender.

Easy Start/Stop Fluid Tail Service

This feature is inbuilt into the administration console for easy control of the Fluid Tail Service.

How does Fluid Tail work?

The operational functionality of Fluid Tail is divided into 3 stages:

- **Stage 1: Rules Configuration**
- **Stage 2: Notification Actions Configuration**
- **Stage 3: Monitored Job Configuration**

A description of every stage is provided below.

Stage 1: Rules Configuration

During rules configuration stage, user can input filters into the database. These filters can then be applied during monitored job configuration.

Stage 2: Notification Actions Configuration

In the current version, there are two notification actions: Window Events and Email respectively.

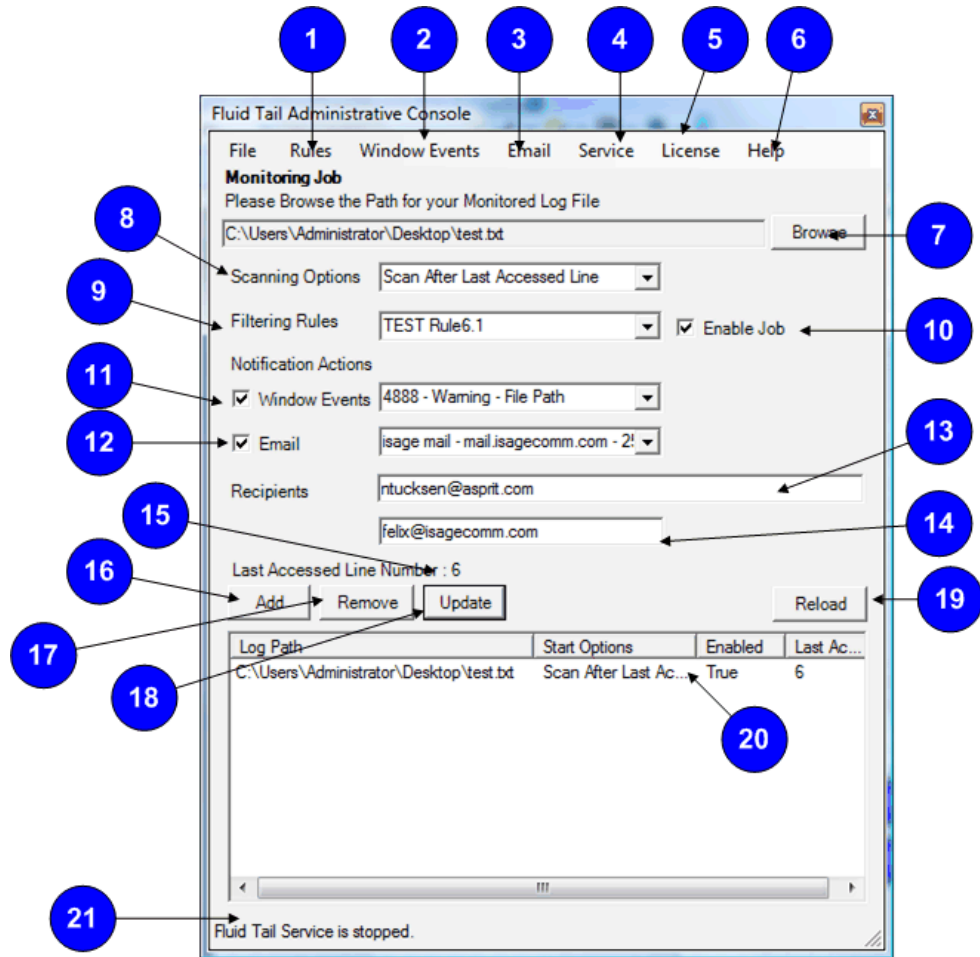
Stage 3: Job Configuration

This is the stage where user inputs the log files to be monitored. Rules and notification actions entered in stage 1 and stage 2 respectively can be applied on the monitored job.

Operational privileges

Fluid Tail is run under Local System access right.

Navigating the Fluid Tail



Screenshot 2 - The Fluid Tail Navigation Guide

- 1 **Rules**– Use this option to specify the rules needed to trigger a notification.
- 2 **Window Events** – Use this option to configure the settings necessary to alert by window events.
- 3 **Email** – Use this option to configure the settings necessary to alert by email.
- 4 **Service** – Use this option to start/stop Fluid Tail Service.
- 5 **License** – Use this option to configure the License Settings.
- 6 **Help** – Use this option to get documentation and to enable debug log when necessary.
- 7 **Browse** – Use this option to browse for the file you wish to monitor.
- 8 **Scanning Options** – Use this option to specify the scanning options required to monitor the file.
- 9 **Filtering Rules** – User this option to specify rules to determine

triggering.

- 10 **Enable Job** – Use this option to set whether the job is active or inactive.
- 11 **Window Events Notification Action** – Use this option to specify window events.
- 12 **Email Notification Action** - Use this option to specify email notification action.
- 13 **Recipients** – Use this field to enter custom recipients.
- 14 **Sender** – Use this field to enter custom sender.
- 15 **Last Access Line** – Use this function to view version.
- 16 **Add** – Use this function to add a monitored job.
- 17 **Remove** – Use this function to remove a monitored job.
- 18 **Update** – Use this function to update monitored job settings.
- 19 **Reload** – Use this function to refresh the screen.
- 20 **Status** – The status of the service will be shown here.

Licensing

During evaluation all features within Fluid Tail are available. The initial evaluation license provides a 30-day evaluation period. This license key can be activated during first installation.

Upon expiry, a license key must be purchased to be able to once again access Fluid Tail features. Only one license key of Fluid Tail is required at any one time. The license key type indicates which features are to be activated.

NOTE: Fluid Tail does not need to be uninstalled and reinstalled when entering a purchased license key.

Chapter 2 Installation

Introduction

Where can I install Fluid Tail on my network?

Fluid Tail should be installed on any computer which the monitored log files are reside. Additional installations of the Fluid Tail is required if there are more log files in other servers

Figure 3 - Deployment of Fluid Tail on LAN

Hardware requirements

Windows 2000/XP/2003 - Installation machine(s)

- Processor: 800 MHz or higher processor clock speed
- RAM: 256 MB
- Hard disk: 20 MB of available space
- Others: Keyboard and mouse or compatible pointing device.

Software requirements

Software requirements - Installation machine(s)

- Windows 2000/XP/2003/VISTA
- .NET framework 2.0
- Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) 2.8 or later

Installation procedure

Fluid Tail includes an installation wizard which will assist you through the installation process. To start the installation:

1. Close all running applications and log-on the target computer using an account which has local administrative privileges.
2. Double-click on **setup.exe**.
3. If Fluid Tail detects that the basic dependencies are not present, a dialog will outline the missing dependency or dependencies and you will be allowed to install the missing dependencies manually or automatically.
4. As soon as the welcome dialog is displayed, click **Next** to start the installation.



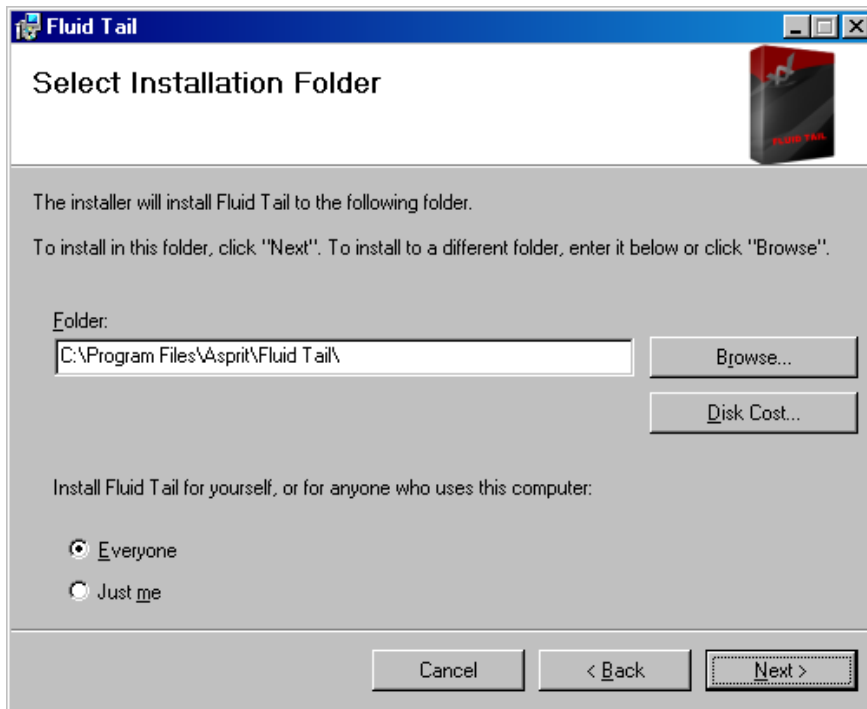
Screenshot 4 – Welcome screen

5. Read the licensing agreement carefully. To continue installing the product, select the '**I Agree**' option and click **Next**.



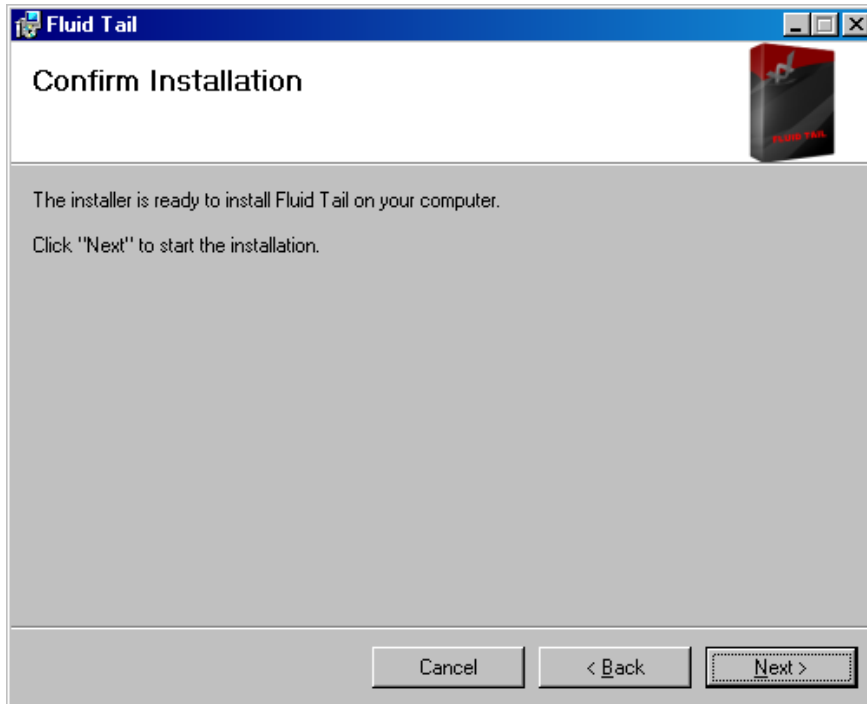
Screenshot 5 - License agreement screen

6. Specify an alternative installation path or click on **Next** to leave as default and proceed with the installation.



Screenshot 6 - Select Installation Folder screen

7. Click **Finish** to finalize the installation.



Screenshot 7 – Confirm Installation screen

Chapter 3 Getting Started

Introduction

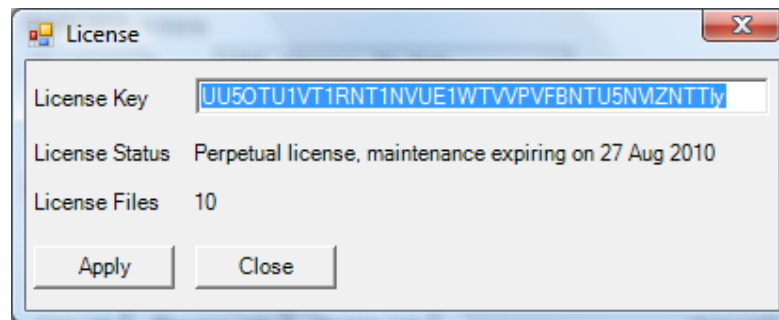
What is a Fluid Tail?

Fluid Tail is a window service agent that is able to monitor line entries in log files. It 'tails' the line data in the log files and will decide whether to alert based on a set of defined rules. The alert can be in the form of window events or email. As such, it functions as an agent gateway for third party enterprise event monitoring software to collect for further analysis.

Getting Started: Launching Fluid Tail for the first time

All configuration settings for Fluid Tail are carried out from the Fluid Tail administration console. To open the console click on: **Start > All Programs > Fluid Tail > Fluid Tail**. After clicking, the administration console will be launched.

License Configuration



Screenshot 8 – First Screen to Configure License

The first time that the application is launched, the 'License Configuration' will open up by default. If you have already bought the product, a license key would have issued to you. Please enter the license key in the text box and click 'Apply'. If you are evaluating the product, the evaluation of the software will last for 30 days. The software will cease to work on the 31 days if no valid license is entered by then.

Parameters to be configured for a successful monitoring:

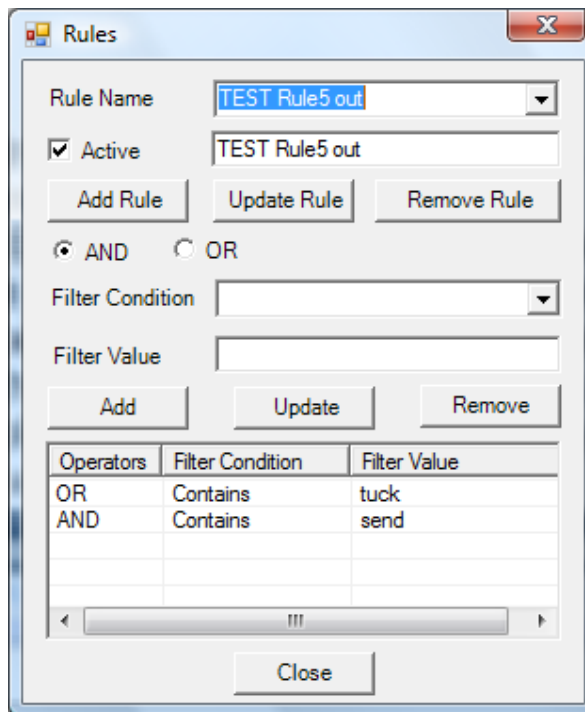
- 1 **Rules:**
- 2 **Window Events:**
- 3 **Email:**
- 4 **Monitored Job:**

Configuring Rules

Managing Rules

Rules parameters are essential for alert triggering. Rule Name needs to be specified first before Rule Conditions can be added.

Filter Conditions consist of decision factors: Contains and Does not Contain. Filter Value are values that will be compared to the string values in the line data. You could form multiple Rule Conditions by joining them with logical operators: AND or OR.



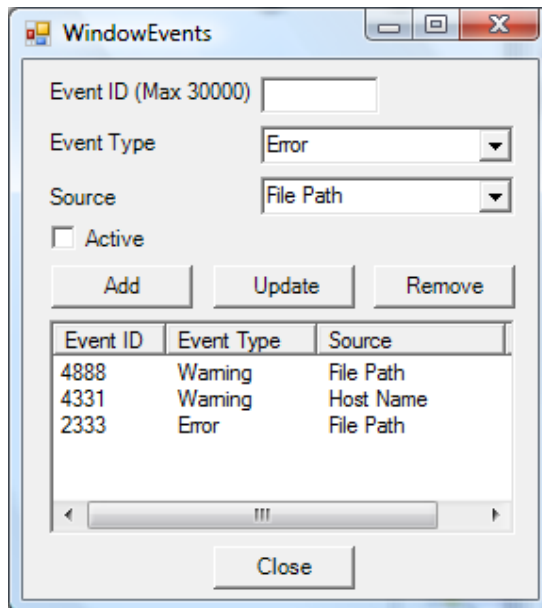
Screenshot 10 – Rules

To create Rule Conditions

Configuring Microsoft Windows Events

Manage Microsoft Windows Events

In order to trigger Windows Events once the line data satisfies the designated filtering rules, you have to configure the settings of the Windows Events first. Select **Events** from the top menu of the main form and select **Manage**.



Screenshot 12 – Configuring Windows Events Log

Steps to configure Windows Events:

Please note the Window Events will default trigger to the Application Log.

■ Enter Event ID

Please enter a numeric number that is less than 30000

■ Enter Event Type

Please choose from the following options to determine the type of Windows Events you are going to trigger:

- Error
- Failure Audit
- Information
- Success Audit
- Warning

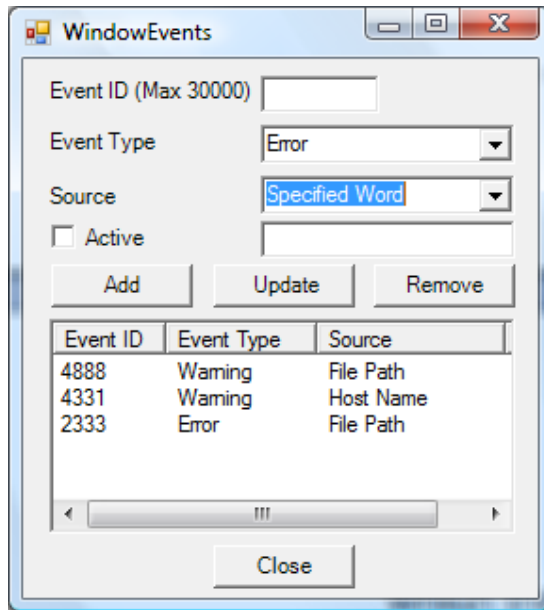
■ Enter Event Source

Please choose a Event Source from the following options:

- File Path – This option will retrieve the file path of the monitored file.
- Host Name – This option will retrieve the machine path in

which the Fluid Tail is installed

c. Specified Word – This option will show a box where you can enter any custom word to be entered into the source.



Configuring Email

Manage Email Settings

To configure Mail Accounts do as follows:

1. From the **Main Form**, click on the **Email > Manage**.
2. Specify a Mail Account Name. Please enter a meaningful account name so that you are able to recognize the mail account easily in the job options setting.
2. Specify the name/IP of your mail server. If required, specify also the mail server authentication details.
3. Specify the email addresses that will be used for testing if you wish. This is optional though. You can click **Test Mail** to test the connection with the mail server that you have specified.
4. Click on **Add** to finalize settings.
5. To update any details of the Mail Account, click on the **Update** button.
6. To remove the Mail Account, click on the **Remove** button.

Account Name

Mail Server/IP

Mail SMTP Port

User ID

Password

Default To

Default From

Enable SSL Active

Account Name	Mail Server	Port	A..
smtpmail mail	mail.smtpmail.com	25	T..

Screenshot 13 – Configure Mail Accounts

Configuring Monitoring Job

Configuring the job to monitor files

Fluid Tail Administration Console

File Rules Window Events Email Service License Help

Monitoring Job

Please Browse the Path for your Monitored Log File

C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\test.txt Browse

Scanning Options Scan After Last Accessed Line

Filtering Rules TEST Rule6.1 Enable Job

Notification Actions

Window Events 4888 - Warning - File Path

Email smtpmail mail - mail.smtpmail.com - 2

Recipients

xxxx@smtpmail.com

xxx3@smtpmail.com

Last Accessed Line Number : 6

Add Job Remove Job Update Job Reload Form

Log Path	Start Options	Enabled	Last Ac...
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\test.txt	Scan After Last Ac...	True	6
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\test2.txt	Scan After Last Ac...	True	0

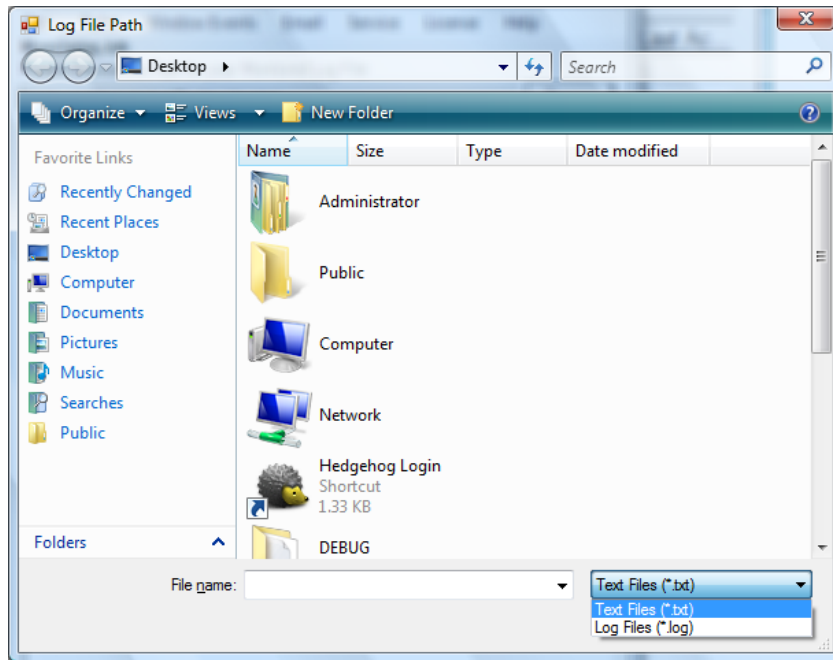
Fluid Tail Service is Running.

Screenshot 14 – Log Database Source MS Access Configuration

To configure the monitor job details:

1. Specify the monitored File Path.

Click Browse. It will show you a file dialog as below. The current version only accepts txt or log extension.



2. Choose a Scanning Options.

a. Scan Latest Record On Change

This option tracks latest line record once there is any modification to the file.

b. Scan After Last Accessed Line

This option tracks all the line records after the last accessed line once there is any modification done to the file.

c. Onstart Scan Reset After Line

This option will scan right from the top line of the file till the end. Then it will change to option b.

3. Choose Filtering Rules.

If you have configured it properly, the rule names will appear in the combo box. Choose your rules accordingly.

4. Choose Notification Actions.

You can check Email or Windows Events or both. Choose the corresponding Window Events Settings and the Email Settings.

Windows Events:

Choose a event in the combo box.

Email:

Choose a email setting in the combo box. It will show you recipients and sender fields. You can customize these data from there.

Getting started:

At this stage, you have configured all the core operational parameters required by Fluid Tail on first start up. To proceed to the next stage, you can click on the main form top menu Service>Start to start monitoring:

Chapter 4 Miscellaneous and Troubleshooting

Debug operation

Fluid Tail provides you a debug option in the Help Option. If you encounter any problem, check the debug option. Repeat the instance where you encounter problem. There will be a log file generated in the DEBUG folder of application folder. The log filename for the Fluid Tail service is fl_debug.log.

Once it is done, please zip up and send to the technical team of Asprit Solutions Pte Ltd

Reaching for support

You can reach us at the following contacts for support

- Email: support@asprit.com
- Phone: 65 68467882
- Fax: 65 62707205

