Altiris™ Log Viewer User Guide



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Chapter 1

Introducing the Altiris™ Log Viewer

This chapter includes the following topics:

- About the Altiris Log Viewer
- Altiris Log Viewer User Interface

About the Altiris Log Viewer

The Altiris Log Viewer (also known as NS Log Viewer) lets you monitor several log locations for different components like IT Management Suite, Symantec Management Agent and Symantec Installation Manager. The Altiris Log Viewer is a WinForms executable that lets you view the Notification Server logs.

The Altiris Log Viewer is installed by the **Diagnostics** package during the initial installation of the Symantec Management Platform. The altiris_diagnostics_[product-version]_x64.msi is located at ...\Program Files\Altiris\Symantec Installation

Manager\Installs\Altiris.

The Log Viewer lets you perform the following tasks:

- View error, warning, informational, trace, and verbose messages.
- Search the logs and view the results.
- Bookmark the log items.
- Filter the logs to display a subset of messages.
- Save the filter definitions for later use.
- Perform search in log files without loading them into Log Viewer.

Log Viewer automatically detects whether a component is installed to custom location and monitors the custom path. Log Viewer lists the real-time events, errors and warnings. These messages help you monitor and troubleshoot your Notification Server.

You can use the Log Viewer to determine the problems and their cause. After you identify errors or warnings in the Log Viewer, you can use the error messages to search the Symantec Knowledge Base for the articles that help you correct the error. You can also raise the issue to the technical support team.

Altiris Log Viewer User Interface

The following figure and table describe the sections of the Altiris Log Viewer user interface.

Figure 1-1 Sections of the Altiris Log Viewer user interface

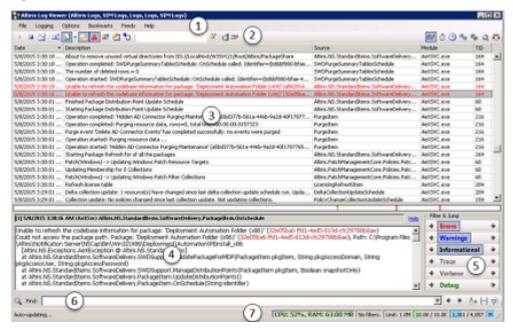


Table 1-1 Sections of the Altiris Log Viewer user interface

Section	Description
Top menu (1)	The top menus let you specify the settings of the Log Viewer and use different ways of analyzing the logs.
	For example, under File > Watch Folders , you can manage the list of folders containing logs that the Log Viewer monitors. You can add or remove the folders and reset to the default logging folders.
	The Log Viewer Filters under Options > Filters help you include or exclude certain types of messages to analyze the NS Logs or Agent Logs. While troubleshooting errors on your Symantec Management Platform, you may have a lot of messages that can cause additional noise on the actual issue. You can then exclude the messages that you already know about or only include the messages that contain a specific word. After you enter the include filters as a list of items separated with semicolons, the grid only shows the log entries that contain these values. You can save the defined filter for later use.
	The Item Browser under Options > Item Browser lets you view the details of an item that you have selected in the data grid. You can also search for a specific GUID and see its details.
	Under Options > SMP Verbose Levels , you can adjust the SMP verbosity.
Frequent action icons (2)	The frequent action icons let you quickly start or stop auto-updating, monitor recent files, apply quick filter, and perform other frequently used tasks.

Sections of the Altiris Log Viewer user interface (continued) Table 1-1

Description
The data grid on the upper section of the Log Viewer window displays the log file entries. Note that by default only Error, Warning and Information level events are captured. Under Options > Log Options , you can specify the severity levels to be logged.
You can drag and drop the log files (or folders containing log files) to the data grid to display their content.
For each log entry, the following data is displayed:
 Date - The date and time the log entry was made in the log. Description - The description of the log entry. Source - The name of the source that generated the log entry. Module - The module that generated the log entry. TID - The ID of the thread within the process that generated the log entry.
The right-click menu in the data grid lets you copy, bookmark or filter the log entries.
The log entries are colored according to their severity as follows:
 Errors - red. Warnings - blue. Informational messages - black. Trace and Verbose messages - grey. Debug messages - green.

Sections of the Altiris Log Viewer user interface (continued) Table 1-1

Section	Description
Log entry details (4)	The left section of the bottom pane displays the full details of the log entry that is currently selected in the data grid.
	The details section displays the following data:
	■ Description - The description of the log entry. If the description contains a dynamic link, you can click it and open the Item Browser to view the details of the current item.
	■ Date - The date and time the log entry was generated.
	■ Tick Count - The tick count that the log entry was generated.
	■ Host Name - The name of the host machine that the log entry was generated on.
	Size - The size of the log entry. Size - The size of the log entry.
	Process - The name of the process that generated the log entry.
	Thread ID - The ID of the thread within the process that generated the log entry.
	Module - The name of the module within the process that generated the log entry.
	■ Priority - The severity of the log entry (1 = error, 2 = warning, 4 = informational, 8 = trace, 16 = verbose).
	Source - The name of the source that generated the log entry.
	■ File - The path and the name of the log file that contains the log entry.
Filters section (5)	The Filters section lets you quickly switch on and off the types of the log messages that are displayed in the data grid. The arrows let you jump to the next or the previous log message of this type in the data grid.
Find section (6)	The Find section at the bottom of the Log Viewer window lets you search and highlight specific log entries based on the text or a regular expression. All matching items are highlighted in the data grid.
	The following options let you manage your search:
	 Search up - lets you select the next log message that matches the search text. Search down - lets you select the previous log message that matches the search
	text. Case sensitive search - lets you specify that the search should be case sensitive.
	 Use text as regular expression - lets you specify that the search text is a .NET regular expression. Text is a set of filters with +/- operators - lets you add several operators.
	2 15.1.1.2 2 350 51 Interior Interior Political Security Special Security S
Status bar (7)	The status bar at the bottom of the Log Viewer window displays the CPU and RAM usage, allocated buffers, the number of rows, the Log Viewer activity, etc.

Working with the Altiris™ Log Viewer

This chapter includes the following topics:

- Opening the Log Viewer
- Configuring the logging severity settings
- Finding the log files
- Filtering the log messages
- Using advanced filtering
- Working with the bookmarks
- Viewing the remote log feed
- Walking the log files

Opening the Log Viewer

The 7.5 release of IT Management Suite introduced a new Log Viewer with enhanced usability and functionality.

To open the Log Viewer

◆ On the Notification Server computer, click Start, and then click All Programs > Symantec
 > Diagnostics > Altiris Log Viewer.

The LogViewer2.exe file is located at the following path:

...\Program Files\Altiris\Diagnostics

Configuring the logging severity settings

The Log Viewer lets you specify the types of messages that you want to be logged for your system. After you specify the message severities that you want to log, the Symantec Management Platform is automatically configured to collect the appropriate information and the registry setting for the error logging configuration is changed. Alternatively, you can change the **Severity** regkey value manually in the Registry Editor.

Additionally, you can adjust the amount of **Verbose** level messages that are written into the log for Notification Server or Task Server. Sometimes, if Notification Server has a lot of active client computers, the amount of **Verbose** level messages can be very large. It may then be hard to find particular Verbose level messages that you need, such as, for example, the messages related to the schedules. In this situation, you can reduce the amount of **Verbose** level messages that are collected for Notification Server.

To configure the general logging severity settings

- In the Log Viewer, click **Options > Log Options**.
- In the Log Options dialog box, on the NS Settings tab, under Loggable Severities, check the severities that you want to log.
 - You can also specify if you want to log the information about Symantec Management Platform, about Symantec Management Agent, or both.
- 3 Click OK.

To adjust the amount of Verbose level messages for Notification Server

- 1 In the Log Viewer, click **Options > SMP Verbose Levels**.
- 2 In the **SMP Verbose Levels** dialog box, on the tabs, edit the severity levels.
- 3 Click Apply.

To adjust the amount of Verbose level messages for Task Server

- In the Log Viewer, click **Options > TM Extended Settings**.
- 2 In the **TM Extended Settings** dialog box, on the tabs, edit the severity levels.
- 3 Click Apply.

To configure the general logging severity settings in the Registry Editor

Open the Registry Editor and go to the following location: 1

```
HKEY Local Machine\SOFTARE\Altiris\eXpress\Event Logging\LogFile.
```

Change the **Severity** regkey value manually.

By default, the Altiris Log Viewer logs options for the **Severity** regkey with the value of 7. You can change the logging option to value f or ff in hexadecimal or 255 in decimal, which will log every message option allowed in the Altiris Log Viewer.

The following are the values in decimal for each message type:

- 1 = error
- 2 = warning
- 4 = informational
- 8 = trace

Note that enabling **Trace** on your NS Logs provides extra information but it is recommended to disable this option after troubleshooting. If the **Trace** option is enabled, the trace entries overwrite the NS Logs very fast and other valuable data might get lost.

- 16 = verbose
- 32 = debug

The debug messages are the system messages that are not part of the log files. In the Log Viewer process, a special "listener" runs to catch such messages. Note that if you use other tools to catch the debug messages in your system, you should run only one listener at once. If several tools are active at the same time and catching the debug messages, the result for both tools will be inaccurate, because some messages get collected by one tool and some messages by another.

For example:

- Severity = 7 (1 + 2 + 4)
- Severity = 15(1 + 2 + 4 + 8)

For more information about configuring the logging, see the following Knowledge Base Article: How to configure logging on the Notification Server and an Altiris Agent computer.

Finding the log files

The NS Log files are named a.log and the name of the files is incremental: al.log, a2.log, etc. The most recent file is a.loq. The file size can be up to 2000 KB. When the file size reaches this limit, the previous file is automatically archived and renamed to al.log. There can be 200 log files. Once this limit is reached, the oldest log file is overwritten. By default, when the Log Viewer opens, it opens the a.log file.

You can change the NS Log settings in the Registry Editor, at the following location:

```
HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Altiris\eXpress\Event Logging\LogFile
```

The Agent Log files are named agent.log and the name of the files is incremental: agent1.log, agent2.log, etc. The most recent file is agent.log. The file size can be up to 200 KB and there can be 50 log files.

You can change the Agent Log settings in the Registry Editor, at the following location:

HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Altiris\Altiris Agent\Event Logging\LogFile

Depending on the version of the Symantec Management Platform that you use, the NS Log files and the Agent Log files are stored in different locations.

Table 2-1 Log types and locations

Log type	SMP version	Location
NS Log	NS 6.0/SMP 7.0	\Program Files\Altiris\Notification Server\Logs
NS Log	SMP 7.x and later	\ProgramData\Symantec\SMP\Logs
Agent Log	NS 6.0	\Program Files\Altiris\Altiris Agent\Logs
Agent Log	SMP 7.x and later	Due to enhanced security in Windows Vista and later operating systems, where the processes that run with User credentials do not have elevated rights to modify files in the Program Files location, this path cannot be used.
		Instead, Windows mirrors this location to a virtual store, which appears in C:\Program Files for the Log Viewer. The path is specific to the User account under which the process runs, and the created entries are stored under this User profile, at the following location:
		%UserProfile%\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Program Files\Altiris\Altiris Agent
		Because of this security model, in SMP 7.x and later, the default Agent Log path is already in the User folder. You can find it in the Registry at HKLM\SOFTWARE\Altris\Altris Agent\Event Logging\LogFile, under the FilePath entry. The logs are stored at the following location: C:\Users\Public\Public Documents\Altris\Altris Agent\Logs\

Filtering the log messages

The filtering option lets you search for the log messages in the Log Viewer according to the criteria that you specify. You can filter the messages that contain or do not contain the specified tokens.

The **Exclude** option filters out the log entries that do not contain the tokens that you specify. For example, if you enter "w3wp;container", the log content will display the entries that do not have these tokens in **Description**, **Source**, or **Module** field.

After you remove the irrelevant messages from the log, you can set up additional filtering using the Include option. For example, you enter "operation; delta". After you also apply the Include tokens to the filter, you get the list of the log messages that do not contain "w3wp;container" tokens, and contain "operation; delta" tokens in the Description, Source, or Module field.

See "Using advanced filtering" on page 14.

To filter log messages

- In the Log Viewer, click **Options > Filters**.
- In the **Log Viewer Filters** dialog box, do the following:
 - In the Exclude box, type the tokens that the log messages should not contain. If you want to enter multiple tokens, use semicolon to separate the values. Note that the more tokens you add in the **Exclude** box, the fewer messages are displayed.
 - (Optional) To see the messages that do not contain the tokens that you entered, click Apply.
 - In the Include box, type the tokens that the remaining log messages should contain. If you want to enter multiple tokens, use semicolon to separate the values. Note that the more tokens you add in the **Include** box, the more messages are displayed.
 - Click Apply.

Note: Note that if you apply the Include and Exclude tokens to the log messages, and close the Log Viewer Filters dialog box, the filter still applies to the log. To remove the filter, you must empty the Include and Exclude boxes, and then click Apply once more.

 (Optional) To save the filter for using it later, click Save on the toolbar, specify the name of the file, and then click Save.

Using advanced filtering

Simple filtering lets you search for the messages that contain or do not contain the specified tokens in Description, Source, or Module field.

See "Filtering the log messages" on page 13.

Advanced filtering lets you specify more log entry fields where you want to perform the search. The operators and various comparison values let you create a very flexible custom filter.

To define the logical operators, enter the following syntax in the **Include** or **Exclude** sections of the Log Viewer Filters dialog box:

```
<Operator1>{
<SmartFilter1>
<Operator2>{
<SmartFilter2>
```

The syntax supports **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** operators.

To define the smart filter, use the following syntax:

\$<Field><Comparison><Value>

Table 2-2 Supported values for the filter syntax

Filter item	Supported values
Field	Field is a short name of the data field of the log entry.
	The following short names are supported:
	■ PID - process ID (numeric)
	■ TID - thread ID (numeric)
	■ DT - date time
	■ TM - time value that is part of the date time
	■ PIN - process name (text)
	■ SRC - source (text)
	■ MOD - module (text)
	■ MSG - part of the message or description (text)
	■ TXT - all text fields of the log entry (text)
	■ SEV - severity level of the log entry (numeric: 1 - error, 2 - warning, 4 - info, 8 - Trace, 16 - Verbose)
	SZ - size of the log entry (numeric)

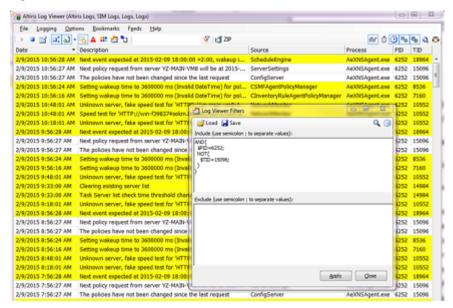
Supported values for the filter syntax (continued) Table 2-2

Filter item	Supported values	
Comparison	The following comparisons are supported:	
	 = (==) equal ~ (~=) around (partial equality, for text fields it's going to be "contains") ! (!=) not equal > greater >= greater or equal < less <= less or equal ? (?=) equal to value as a regular expression ?! (?!=) not equal to value as a regular expression & (&=) bitwise AND provide non-zero result ^ (^=) bitwise AND provide zero result 	
Value	The value that is used for the comparison. Note that some fields use text values, some numeric values, and some date/time values.	

Note: The syntax of the filters is very strict. The operators and the short names of the fields must be uppercase and no extra spaces are allowed in the filter definition.

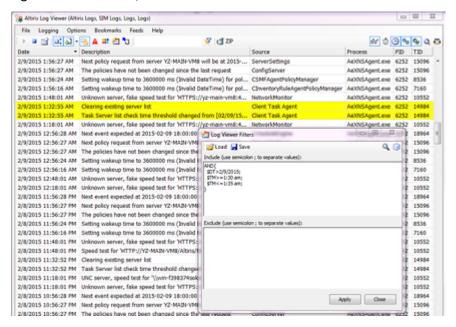
For example, \$TID=125 is a correct statement, while \$Tid = 125 is not applied as a filter for the **TID** field.

Example 1 Figure 2-1



The filter in Figure 1 shows to the log entries where the process ID (PID) is 6252 and the thread ID (**TID**) is not 15096.

Example 2 Figure 2-2



The filter in Figure 2 shows to the entries that were logged on 2/9/2015 (DT), between 1:30 A.M. and 1:35 A.M. (TM).

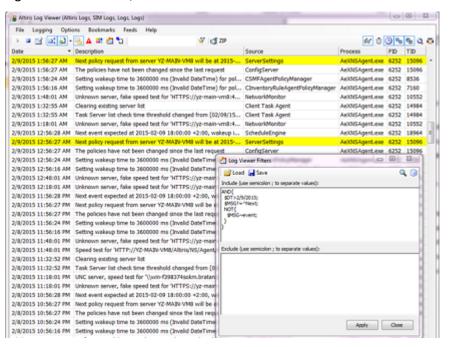


Figure 2-3 Example 3

The filter in Figure 3 shows the entries that were logged on 2/9/2015 (DT) and where the description field (MSG) of the log entry contains the token "Next", and does not contain the token "event".

Working with the bookmarks

Bookmarks let you quickly find the items that you have saved for later use. You can toggle bookmarks in the log that you currently view. You can also export the bookmarks and view them later.

To set the bookmarks

In the Log Viewer, right-click the log message in data grid, and then click Toggle

The log message that is set as a bookmark has a red triangle in the upper left corner of the Date field.

To work with the bookmarks

In the Log Viewer, do one of the following:

To move to the next bookmark.	Right-click the log message in data grid, and then click Go to next Bookmark .
	You can also use the keyboard shortcuts to jump between the bookmarks.
	See "Altiris Log Viewer keyboard shortcuts" on page 23.
To export the bookmarks.	 Set the bookmarks for the log entries that you want to export. On the top menu, click Bookmarks > Export. In the Save As dialog box, specify the location and the name of the file, and then click Save. The file is saved with the .lvbm extension.
To import the bookmarks.	 On the top menu, click Bookmarks > Import. In the Open dialog box, locate the bookmarks file with the .lvbm extension, and then click Open.
To clear the bookmarks.	Right-click the data grid area, and then click Clear all bookmarks.

Viewing the remote log feed

Altiris Log Viewer lets you view the log feeds of the remote computers. To view the log of a computer remotely, you must start the remote log feed on this computer.

To view the remote log feed

- On the computer for which you want to view the log remotely, open the Log Viewer, and then do the following:
 - Click Feeds > Start Remote Log Feed.
 - In the Start Remote Log Feed dialog box, specify the necessary options, and then click Start.

Note that you can also use the command line options to start the remote log feed. See "Command line options" on page 24.

- 2 On the computer where you view the remote log, open the Log Viewer.
- In the Log Viewer, click Feeds > Remote Log Feeds.
- In the Remote Log Feeds dialog box, do the following:

To add a new remote computer.

- Click Add.
- In the **New feed** dialog box, specify the data of the remote computer and the severity level of the log messages that you want to collect.

You must enter the same port and password that you specified on the remote computer when starting the remote log feed in step 1.

Click Connect.

To view the remote log feed of a previously defined computer.

Select the remote computer from the list, and then click **OK**.

- 5 (Optional) To solve the GUID-s in the remote log messages, do the following:
 - In the Log Viewer, click **Options > Log Options**.
 - In the Log Options dialog box, on the Remote DB tab, specify the details for connecting to the remote database.
 - Click OK.

Walking the log files

The Walk Log Files feature lets you browse through the multiple log files and search for specific tokens.

To walk the log files

- In the Log Viewer, click File > Walk Log Files.
- 2 In the Walk Log Files dialog box, click Get Files.

This option loads the log files from the default location only.

3 (Optional) To add files from custom locations, click +Folders or +Files. (Optional) Check the boxes for the following options:

Only selected files Lets you search within the selected files only.

Match case Lets you search for the items with matching token case.

Regex Lets you search for the items by regular expression.

Prescan If this option is checked, the file that is currently scanned is entirely

loaded into the memory in text format and quick search is performed.

If the token is not found, the next file is loaded.

fetch

Lookaround +/- entries for When the token you are looking for is found, the messages before and after this log entry are shown in the result window. Check this

box if you want to see the context of this log entry.

5 In the **Find** box, type the token that you want to find, and then click the **Search** icon.

Appendix A

Keyboard Shortcuts

This appendix includes the following topics:

Altiris Log Viewer keyboard shortcuts

Altiris Log Viewer keyboard shortcuts

Altiris Log Viewer provides you with a set of keyboard shortcuts.

Table A-1 Keyboard shortcuts

Shortcut	Description
Home	Lets you jump to the first (latest) line and enables auto-scroll.
ALT+Q	Lets you automatically resize column widths.
CTRL + F2	Lets you toggle bookmarks.
F2	Lets you walk through the bookmarks.
CLTR + SHIFT + F2	Lets you clear all bookmarks.

Appendix

Command line options

This appendix includes the following topics:

Command line options

Command line options

Using the command line options, you can open the Log Viewer in the following modes:

- -v opens the Log Viewer in log viewer mode. (Default.)
- -f opens the Log Viewer in log feed source mode.
 If you open the Log Viewer on Notification Server in log feed source mode, it will monitor the log and send the information to peers. The peers are the Log Viewers that run on the external computers. These computers can securely connect to Notification Server and receive the log content from the source Log Viewer.

The supported command line options for each mode are as follows:

```
LogViewer [ -v ] [ -a | -r | -c | -i ]* [ <folder> | <file> ]*

LogViewer -f [ -e | -q | -l <port> | -p <password> ]* [ <folder> ]*
```

Table B-1Log Viewer Mode Options

Option	Description
-a	Start with auto-scroll on.
-r	Start with recursive (sub-folder) monitoring on.
-c	Clear persistent data store on load.
-i	Start with auto-updating off (idle).

Option	Description
-е	Use encryption to protect the feed.
-q	Quiet mode.
-l <port></port>	Listen on the specified port instead of the default.
-p <password></password>	Require the given password to access the feed.

Table B-2 Log Feed Source Mode Options

The following examples explain the usage of the command line options:

- LogViewer -a -i C:\Temp\Logs This command starts the Altiris Log Viewer in log viewer mode, with auto-scroll on and auto-updating off. The given folder (C:\Temp\Logs) is monitored instead of the default NS log folder.
- LogViewer -f -p PasswordHere This command starts the Altiris Log Viewer in log feed source mode, with the password PasswordHere. The specified password must be provided to access the log feed.
- LogViewer -f -e C:\Temp\Logs This command starts the Altiris Log Viewer in log feed source mode for the given folder (C:\Temp\Logs). Encryption is used to protect the log feed, but no password is required.

Appendix

FAQ

This appendix includes the following topics:

Altiris Log Viewer FAQ

Altiris Log Viewer FAQ

What do I do with the information in the Log Viewer?

After you identify the errors or warnings in the Log Viewer, copy the main part of the error message from the bottom window and search the Knowledge Base for any articles on how to correct the error. Sometimes, an error might appear in the log, but it does not cause any problems in your environment. However, if you have a problem, the error in the log helps you identify it. The Warning messages provide information that help you avoid problems that may develop if no action is taken.

The following examples show you different messages:

- Unable to open a handle to Service 'Altiris Agent for Mac Service'. Error 424.
 This is an error message and appears in red. However, if you have no Mac computers in you environment, the error message does not really indicate a problem.
- The server is currently paused and will not process any create resource requests. This is a warning message and is displayed in blue. This could cause problems if the server does not start soon. The requests would continue to back up, and the network and the server would start to slow down and could affect the whole network.

How do I know if the information in the Log Viewer is valid?

The only way to know if the information is valid is to search for the error/warning message in the Symantec Knowledge Base and see if the results indicate that you need to take some action. The first priority should be the error messages, and then the warnings. If you have problems with the Altiris environment and cannot find an article in the Knowledge Base, you need to open an incident with the support.