



Confirmit Horizons Server Manual

This is document revision 2 of the Conformat Horizons v19 Server Manual published in March 2016. The information herein describes Conformat Horizons and its features as of Build nr. 19.1.2025. New features may be introduced into the product after this date. Go to www.conformat.com or check "News" on the Customer Extranet for the latest updates.

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The companies, names and data used or described in the examples herein are fictitious.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
What's New in this Issue?	7
1. About This Manual.....	1
2. Confirmit Architecture and Features	2
2.1. Basics	2
2.2. Features and Modules	2
2.2.1. Confirmit Authoring	2
2.2.2. Confirmit MetaData	3
2.2.3. Confirmit Deployment	3
2.2.4. Confirmit Reportal.....	3
2.2.5. Confirmit Task System.....	4
2.2.6. Response Data Storage	4
2.2.7. Subsystems and Optional Components.....	4
2.2.7.1. Confirmit Web Services	4
2.2.7.2. Confirmit Translator	4
2.2.7.3. Confirmit BitStream Service.....	4
2.2.7.4. Confirmit Multimode.....	4
2.2.7.5. Confirmit Flex Extension	4
2.2.7.6. Confirmit URL	5
2.2.7.7. Confirmit Search Service	5
2.2.7.8. Confirmit SmartHub	5
2.2.7.9. Add-ons	5
2.3. Application Dataflow	5
2.3.1. Confirmit Authoring Dataflow	5
2.3.2. Confirmit Survey Dataflow	6
2.3.3. Confirmit Reportal Dataflow.....	7
2.3.4. Confirmit Data Export Dataflow.....	8
3. Building a Confirmit Site.....	9
3.1. Before You Start	9
3.2. Network and Hardware Configuration.....	9
3.2.1. Server Hardware.....	9
3.2.1.1. Web and Webservice Servers	9
3.2.1.2. Task System Servers (Backend)	10
3.2.1.3. Database Servers (Backend).....	10
3.2.1.4. Multimode Servers	11
3.2.2. Network Equipment	11
3.2.2.1. Switches	11
3.2.2.2. Load Balancers.....	11
3.2.2.3. Firewalls/IDS.....	11
3.2.2.3.1. Network Traffic Requirements to/from the Confirmit Site	11
3.2.2.3.2. Network Traffic Requirements Between Servers Internally Within the Site	12
3.3. Site Layout.....	13
3.3.1. Basis for Setting Up the Recommendations	13
3.3.2. Example Scenario.....	13
3.3.3. Entry-Level Multi-Server Setup	13

3.3.4. Mid-Level Multi-Server Setup	14
3.3.5. High-End Multi-Server Setup	15
3.4. Virtual Infrastructure	16
4. Preparing an Installation	18
4.1. Operating System	21
4.1.1. Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1	21
4.1.2. Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5	21
4.1.3. Microsoft Visual J# 2.0 for .NET Framework 2.0 Second Edition	21
4.1.4. Web Services Enhancements 2.0 for .NET Framework 1.1	21
4.1.5. Web Services Enhancements 3.0 for .NET Framework 2.0	22
4.1.6. Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Native client	22
4.1.7. Open XML SDK 2.5	22
4.1.8. Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable Package	22
4.2. Additional Components	22
4.2.1. Task System Features (Batch Server)	22
4.2.1.1. ActivePDF Server 2009 R23 (Optional)	22
4.2.1.2. Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)	23
4.2.2. Confirmit API Development	23
4.2.3. Database Server - Version Support	23
4.2.3.1. Microsoft SQL Server Editions	23
4.2.3.1.1. Required Updates	23
4.2.3.1.2. Licensing	24
4.2.3.2. Configuring the Model Database	24
4.2.3.3. Enable FILESTREAM in SQL Server	24
5. Installing Confirmit	26
5.1. Upgrading from an Existing Version	26
5.1.1. Confirmit Licensing	26
5.1.2. Keeping Existing Settings	27
5.1.3. Back-up Confirmit System Databases	27
5.2. Pre-Installation	27
5.2.1. Creating Data Folders for SQL Databases	27
5.2.2. Setting up User Accounts for Confirmit System Services	27
5.2.2.1. Account for the Confirmit Task System and Confirmit BitStream Services	27
5.3. Installation	28
5.3.1. Install / Upgrade Sequence	28
5.3.2. Confirmit Installation	28
5.4. Confirmit and UAC (User Account Control)	37
5.4.1. When Installing Confirmit	37
5.4.2. When Using Confirmit	39
5.5. Post-Installation Server Configuration	40
5.5.1. Obtaining and Installing a License File	40
5.5.1.1. Licensing Concepts	40
5.5.1.2. Add-ons	40
5.5.1.3. Finding the Site ID for the License	41
5.5.1.4. Installing/Updating the Confirmit License	41
5.5.1.5. Confirmit SDK License	42
5.5.2. File System Permissions - Confirmit Data Share	42
5.5.3. Assigning Tasks to a Task System Server	42

5.5.3.1. Task Isolation Level	43
5.5.4. BitStream Server Operation Modes	43
5.5.4.1. Single Server	43
5.5.4.2. Multi Server.....	43
5.5.5. Synching the Confirmit File Library on a New Confirmit Authoring Server	44
5.6. Upgrading From a Previous Version.....	44
5.6.1. Assigning New Task Types to Task System Servers.....	44
5.7. Confirmit Configuration	44
5.7.1. Configuration System Concepts	45
5.7.1.1. Site-Wide Settings	45
5.7.1.2. Role-Wide Settings	45
5.7.1.3. Server-Wide Settings.....	46
5.8. The Command Line Management Tools.....	46
5.8.1. The ConfirmitAdministrator Tool	46
5.8.2. The aspnet_setreg.exe Tool	46
5.8.3. The ConfirmitAdmin Tool	47
5.8.4. Uninstalling Confirmit.....	47
6. Confirmit Maintenance	48
6.1. Backup and Recovery.....	48
6.1.1. System Files / Partitions	48
6.1.2. Data Files Generated by Confirmit.....	48
6.1.3. SQL Server Databases.....	48
6.2. Monitoring and Systems Maintenance.....	49
6.2.1. SQL Database Server Maintenance	49
6.2.1.1. Restoring Survey Databases	49
6.2.1.2. Automatic Detachment of Inactive Survey Databases	50
6.2.1.3. Deleting Survey Test Databases	51
6.2.1.4. Clearing Contents of Log Tables	51
6.2.1.5. Defragmenting Indexes.....	51
6.2.1.6. Shrinking Databases.....	51
6.2.1.6.1. SQL Server LOB Compaction	51
6.2.1.7. Design Log Cleanup	51
6.2.1.8. DocumentStore Cleanup Task.....	52
6.2.1.9. NodeStore Cleanup Task	53
6.2.1.10. Searching and Indexing History Cleanup.....	54
6.2.1.11. Hub Cleaning	54
6.2.1.12. Single Page Survey Cleanup	54
6.2.2. Anti-Virus Recommendations	54
6.2.3. Time Synchronization	55
6.2.4. Event Logs.....	55
6.2.4.1. Secure Event Log Viewing.....	55
6.2.5. IIS Configuration.....	55
6.2.5.1. IIS Hardening.....	55
6.2.5.1.1. Moving the Web Root	55
6.2.5.2. IIS Log Files.....	55
6.2.5.2.1. IIS Log File Archiving	56
6.2.6. IIS Monitoring.....	56
6.2.6.1. Using a Basic Page to Monitor Web Server Availability	56

6.2.6.2. Using a Survey to Monitor Survey Engine Availability	56
7. Advanced System Configuration	58
7.1. IIS Advanced Configuration	58
7.1.1. IIS Application Pool Performance Tuning	58
7.1.1.1. Configuration	58
7.1.1.2. Other Application Pool Recommendations	61
7.1.2. IIS Compression Tuning	61
7.1.3. Preventing Search Engine Indexing of Surveys.....	64
7.1.4. Allowed Verbs in Request Filtering or URLScan.....	64
7.1.5. Using Performance Counters to Troubleshoot Survey Problems	64
7.1.6. Using Confirmit BitStream Performance Counters.....	65
7.2. Using Confirmit with a Load Balancer with SSL Acceleration	66
7.3. Database System Redundancy	67
7.3.1. SQL Server in Windows Cluster	67
7.3.2. Multiple SQL Server Instances	67
7.3.2.1. SQL Server Collation	68
7.3.2.2. SQL Server Logins	68
7.3.2.3. Linked Servers.....	68
7.3.2.4. System Databases and Survey Databases.....	68
7.3.2.5. Creating Aliases for the New Database Server.....	68
7.4. Database Encryption	68
7.4.1. Configure Database Encryption	68
7.4.1.1. Preparing SQL Server for Database Encryption	68
7.4.1.2. Preparing Confirmit for Database Encryption.....	69
7.5. TCP Offloading	70
7.5.1. Disabling TCP Offloading	70
8. Monitoring Confirmit	73
8.1. The Confirmit Monitoring Utility.....	73
8.2. Generic Server Monitoring	73
8.3. External Location Monitoring	74
8.4. Confirmit-Specific Monitoring and Recommended Sensors.....	74
8.4.1. Confirmit System Service Monitoring.....	74
8.4.2. SQL Query for Monitoring Surveys Returning Errors.....	74
8.4.3. SQL Query for Monitoring Errors from Authoring.....	75
8.4.4. SQL Query for Monitoring Errors from Reportal.....	75
8.4.5. SQL Query for Monitoring Errors from Web Services	75
8.4.6. SQL Query for Monitoring Delays in Task Queue Execution	75
8.4.7. SQL Query for Monitoring Failing Launch Survey Tasks	75
8.4.8. SQL Query for Monitoring the Number of Attached Survey Databases	76
8.4.9. SQL Server Audit for Surveys.....	76
8.4.10. SQL Query for Monitoring REST API Server Errors	76
8.5. Monitoring Example	76
Appendix A - Configuration Setting Descriptions	78
Index	95

What's New in this Issue?

Note: Only the latest changes to this documentation are listed here. Changes made to earlier revisions are listed in the "Changes to the User Documentation" document which can be downloaded from the Confermit Extranet at <https://extranet.confermit.com>.

The following changes have been made in revision 2 of the Confermit Horizons v19 Server Manual:

- Some of the port references in the network Traffic Requirements... table are corrected (see Network Traffic Requirements Between Servers Internally Within the Site on page 12 for more information).
- In the Preparing an Installation table, two items are moved from the Optional Add-on section to the Software section and one item is removed as it is no longer valid (see Preparing an Installation on page 18 for more information).
- The MetadataRestAPIURL configuration setting is updated and the RestAPIURL configuration setting is added to Appendix A (see Appendix A - Configuration Setting Descriptions on page 78 for more information).

Note: The general layout and language in this document is continually being corrected, adjusted and improved to ensure the user has the best possible source of information. Only NEW information and details of functionality that has changed since the previous issue will be listed here - minor corrections to the text and document layout are not listed.

Important

We need your feedback so we can improve this document and provide you with the information you require. If you have any comments or constructive criticism concerning the content or layout of this documentation, please send an email to documentation@confermit.com. Please include in your email the section number and/or heading text of the section to which your comment applies.

1. About This Manual

This manual is intended as guide for preparing, installing and maintaining a Confirmit server environment. The content of the document is written from a technical viewpoint, and some experience with referenced Microsoft server products is recommended for achieving full value from the material contained herein.

Older versions of manuals can be downloaded from our Extranet at <http://extranet.confirmit.com> (requires login).

Please report any errors and misspellings in this document to documentation@confirmit.com.

2. Confirmit Architecture and Features

2.1. Basics

Confirmit is a three-tier web based application based on i386-compatible hardware architecture and runs on the Microsoft Windows Server platform.

The first tier is based on the Microsoft .NET Framework. This supports dynamic page content by providing an environment for interpreting server side scripts that process HTTP requests and generate HTML, which is returned to the client browser. The Microsoft .NET Framework is natively supported by Microsoft's web platform, Internet Information Services.

The .NET application accesses a middle tier of components that implement business logic and data access.

In the third tier, data storage is provided by Microsoft SQL Server for storing project and system data.

Figure 1 illustrates the Confirmit architecture and layout:

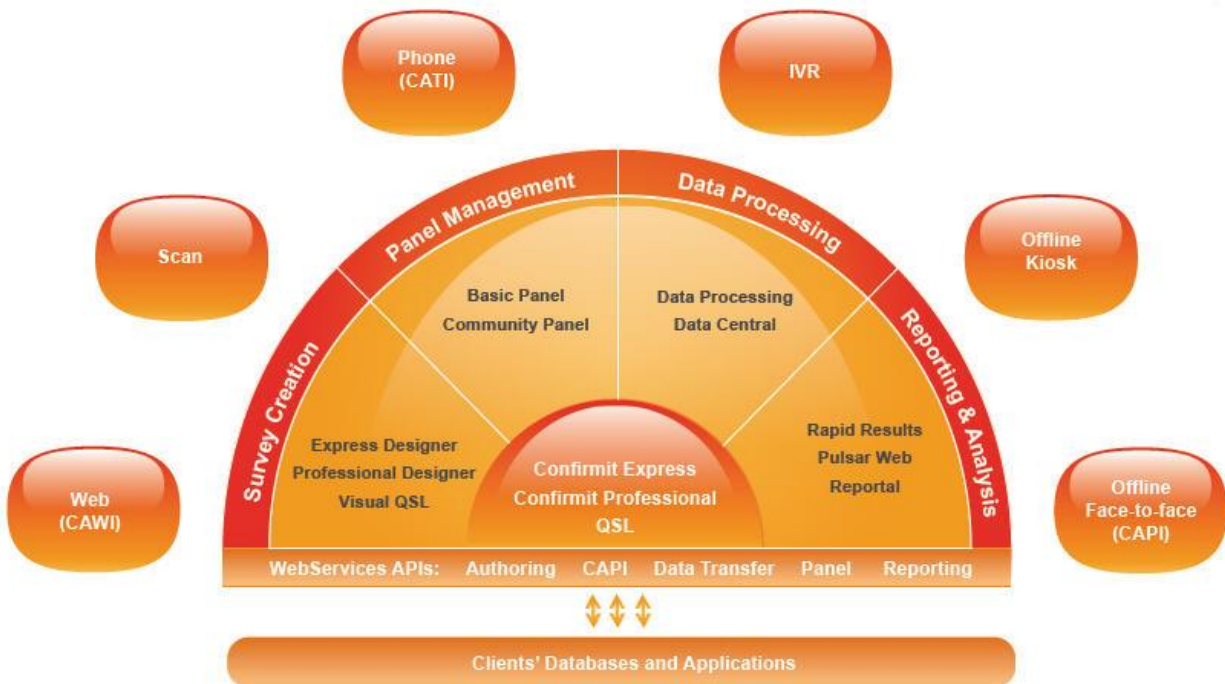


Figure 1 Confirmit architecture

2.2. Features and Modules

To ensure scalability and versatility for different usage scenarios, Confirmit has been designed from the ground up as a scalable, module-based application. Different application modules can run on dedicated hardware, and can scale both upwards and outwards with more powerful and/or additional servers, load balancing, load controlling and clustering up to theoretically any setup size.

2.2.1. Confirmit Authoring

The Confirmit Authoring system is a session-based web application running under Microsoft Internet Information Server and the Microsoft .NET Framework. Clients can use a range of modern Internet browsers for connecting to the application via the Internet or intranet. The term 'Confirmit', although not technically accurate, is widely used for describing the GUI of the Authoring module.

The Authoring module can be extended onto multiple web servers using a load balancing-capable network device that supports sticky user sessions.

The Authoring module uses Internet Information Services with WWW/.NET Framework features configured for content delivery and SMTP for dispatching error notifications from the system to system administrators. FTP services are an optional add-on for uploading files for importing into the system.

2.2.2. Confirmit MetaData

With the removal of FastObjects (removed in version 18), a new Rest API was introduced to manage project definitions.

Data that was previously stored in FastObjects is now stored in the MetaDataDocumentStore, items that are currently being worked on will be loaded to the MetaDataNodeStore, and checked back to MetaDataDocumentStore when changes are committed. Both MetaDataDocumentStore and MetaDataNodeStore are stored in Microsoft SQL Server databases.

A new front end server role MetaDataRestApi was introduced in Confirmit v18 to manage communication between servers and the database layer. This provides a more scalable solution regarding performance and resilience. The MetaDataRestApi role can be load balanced across several servers.

2.2.3. Confirmit Deployment

The Deployment module consists of the Survey Engine, which loads interview pages requested by respondents and renders them for display in the respondents' browser.

Generated surveys are binary application packages served by Internet Information Services and the .NET Framework. Client scripts and HTML are session less; i.e. all necessary user states are preserved in the rendered HTML and relevant survey databases and are submitted between pages as hidden form values. This makes the Deployment module suitable for hardware or software load balancing. Load balancing also provides redundancy, which is strongly recommended for minimizing the risk of system unavailability in most setups.

The SMTP service is used for dispatching emails via web surveys. Scripts can be added to Confirmit surveys using Jscript.NET for sending emails directly from survey interview pages.

A standard Confirmit survey complies with the HTML v3.2 specification, which should make it viewable in most browsers in the field today. Project managers can deviate from the HTML v3.2 standard by designing Web Interview templates, survey layouts or using custom HTML code or scripts calling active content that might require extra functionality from the respondent's browser. The Confirmit user should keep this in mind when designing surveys.

2.2.4. Confirmit Reportal

Confirmit Reportal provides a dynamic interface for designing and publishing real-time reports based on data gathered in the Deployment module. Reports are created and generated in a GUI similar to the Authoring module. Reports can also be ordered via email in different formats for offline viewing.

In order to preserve SQL server performance, recently viewed report pages are cached by a dedicated system service (Confirmit Caching Service) for faster repeated views. The caching interval can be customized on a report level. For faster report generation, much of the strain has also been lifted from SQL with the introduction of the BitStream service. The service makes a periodical pull of data from the SQL database into BitStream files, which are used by the web servers for extracting data. This assures greatly improved performance in report delivery.

Implicit HUB as a BitStream replacement was introduced with V18. This requires Microsoft SQL Server 2014 (Enterprise edition required) which utilizes Columnstore index to improve performance over BitStream and to introduce the ability to use report on Open Text data.

Reportal uses Internet Information Services and the .NET Framework for content delivery, and attaches to the Confirmit BitStream and Confirmit Caching Services for accelerated report content delivery. Reportal is normally run in parallel with surveys on the deployment servers, but can also be configured to run on dedicated servers. Reportal supports sticky-free load balancing, and user session persistence can be achieved via SQL or the Microsoft ASP State Service. The session state control can be configured in Reportal's web.config file.

2.2.5. Confirmit Task System

Project managers wishing to deploy a survey into production, order data exports or send out email invitations, will do so by initiating a Confirmit task on the system. Upon this action, the task is queued, and later picked up and executed at first available time spot by the Confirmit Task System, which runs as a system service on one or several servers. Different task types can be set to run on different servers for multiplying the number of possible concurrently running tasks in high-performance systems.

The task system requires some additional application components for enabling certain data export formats (Microsoft Office Open XML, Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services), and uses SMTP for dispatching emails. Exports can be encrypted via PGP before delivery, and (secure) FTP services can be optionally installed for downloading exported contents directly from the server instead of getting data via email.

2.2.6. Response Data Storage

Respondent answers are stored in Microsoft SQL Server databases. Each survey has its separate database and multiple servers/instances can be utilized to distribute survey database access. Some common system databases need to reside on a common database instance, while Confirmit supports a virtually unlimited number of dedicated survey database instances/servers. For high availability systems, SQL server can also be set up in a failover cluster.

Important

The SQL Server databases are critical components of any Confirmit installation and regular backup routines should always be implemented in a production environment. Backup recommendations are given in the maintenance chapter of this manual.

Important

The SQL software must run on equipment dedicated to Confirmit. The sharing of SQL Server with other applications is not supported.

2.2.7. Subsystems and Optional Components

2.2.7.1. Confirmit Web Services

The Confirmit Web Services provide application programming interfaces for allowing customers to attach custom applications to a set of APIs provided with the Confirmit Web Services. The web services are available as an add-on component for server customers.

2.2.7.2. Confirmit Translator

The Confirmit Translator module can be acquired as an add-on to Confirmit. When enabled, it allows for questionnaire translation to be out-sourced to external users working within a GUI limited to translation, with access only to the projects the project manager has enabled. Dedicated translators will typically not require standard Confirmit training.

2.2.7.3. Confirmit BitStream Service

The Confirmit BitStream service acts as an optimized buffer between Rapid Results / Reportal and the SQL Server databases. The service optimizes queries for large and complex reports, and effectively improves the I/O performance on database servers in environments with heavy report usage. The service generates BitStream files, a proprietary binary file format that supports incremental updates and provides faster access to report data.

2.2.7.4. Confirmit Multimode

Confirmit not only supports surveys over the web, but also provides options for offline personal interviewing (CAPI) and telephone-assisted interviewing (CATI). These features require a separate installation of the Confirmit Multimode module, which is covered in a separate manual.

2.2.7.5. Confirmit Flex Extension

An extension is a computer program designed to be incorporated into and run by another "parent" application to provide additional functionality for the parent application - effectively a type of add-on.

Extensions can be used to modify the behavior of existing Confirmit features or add entirely new features. The Flex Extension feature is a separate installation not covered by this manual.

Read more about the Flex extension in the Confirmit Flex User Guide, which you can download from the Confirmit Extranet.

2.2.7.6. Confirmit URL

This service provides the means to create short URLs for survey invitations. This is similar to other URL shorteners.

2.2.7.7. Confirmit Search Service

This is a service to facilitate the search for questions and nodes across all projects the users has access to. The service uses a Lucene search index to deliver fast results.

2.2.7.8. Confirmit SmartHub

A centralized area for data management and optimization, allowing multiple data sources of different types to be brought together. This feature requires Microsoft SQL Server 2014 (Enterprise edition required).

2.2.7.9. Add-ons

Several other features can be unlocked by purchasing Confirmit add-ons. For a full list of available add-ons, consult the installation section of this document.

2.3. Application Dataflow

2.3.1. Confirmit Authoring Dataflow

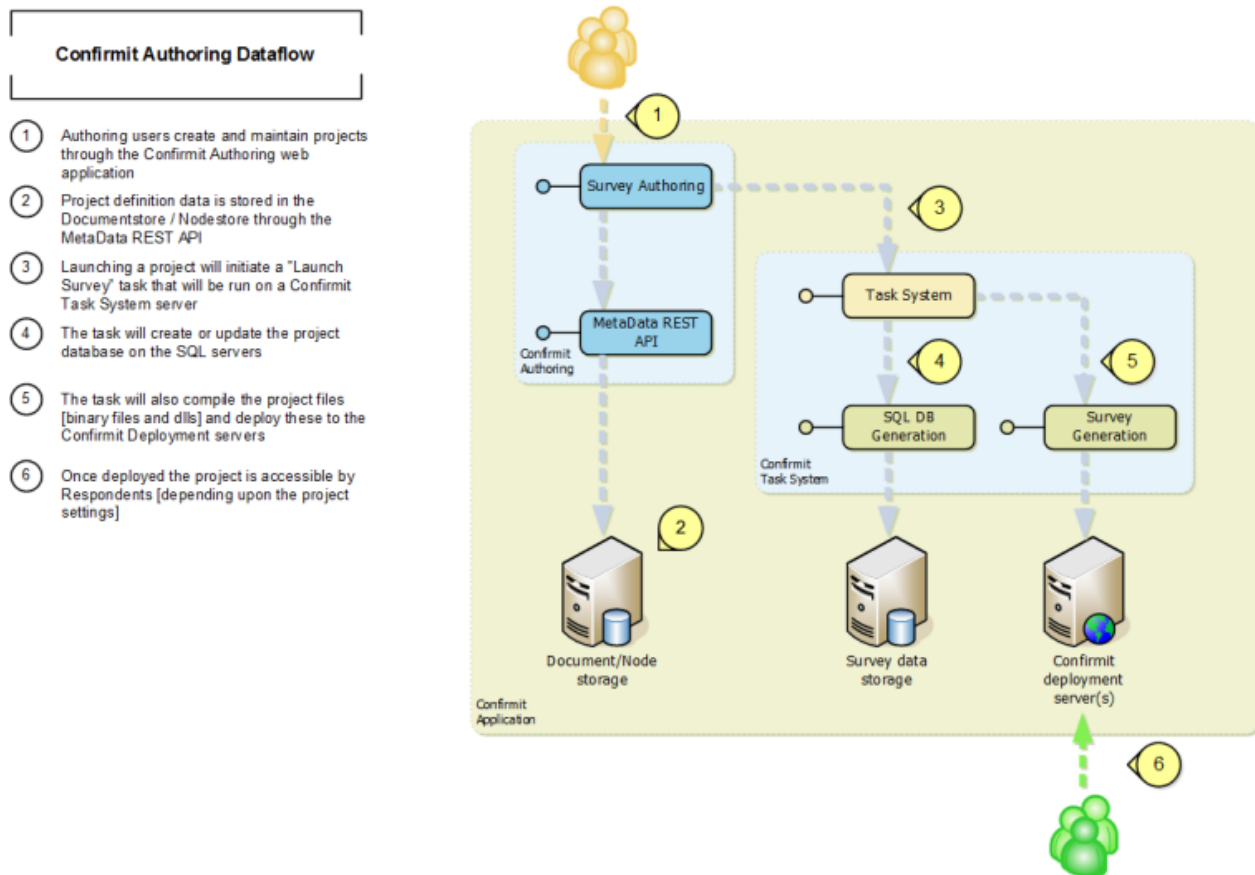


Figure 2 The Confirmit Authoring dataflow

2.3.2. Confirmit Survey Dataflow

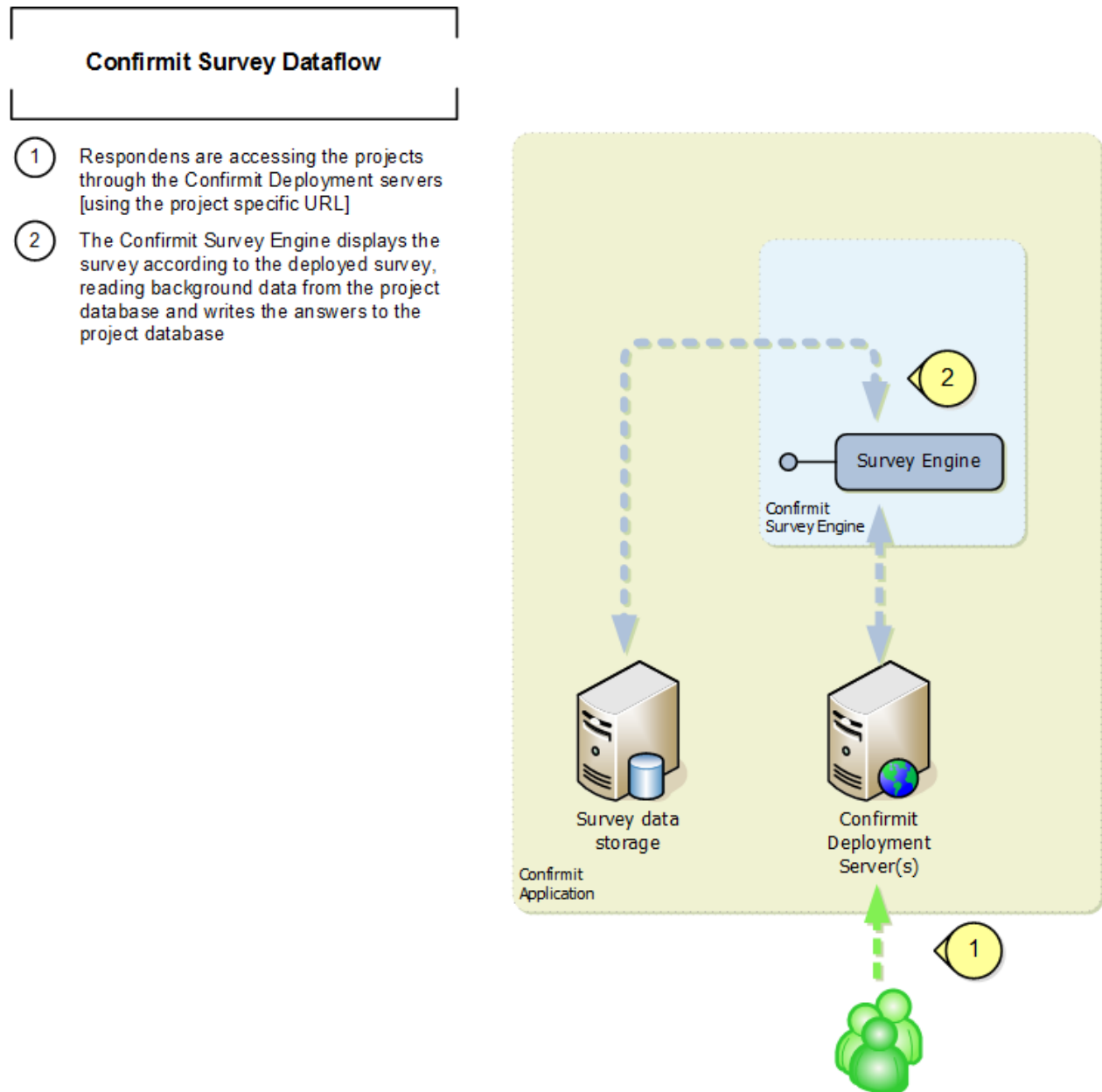


Figure 3 The Confirmit Survey dataflow

2.3.3. Confirmit Reportal Dataflow

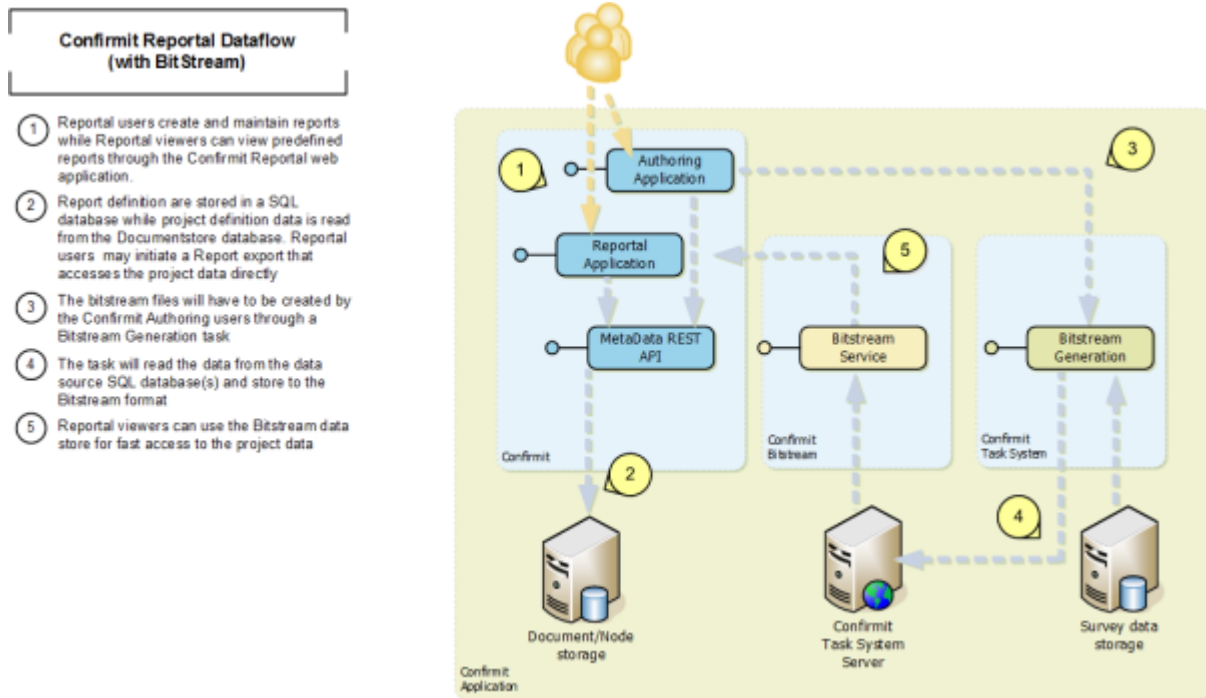


Figure 4 The Confirmit Reportal dataflow with BitStream files

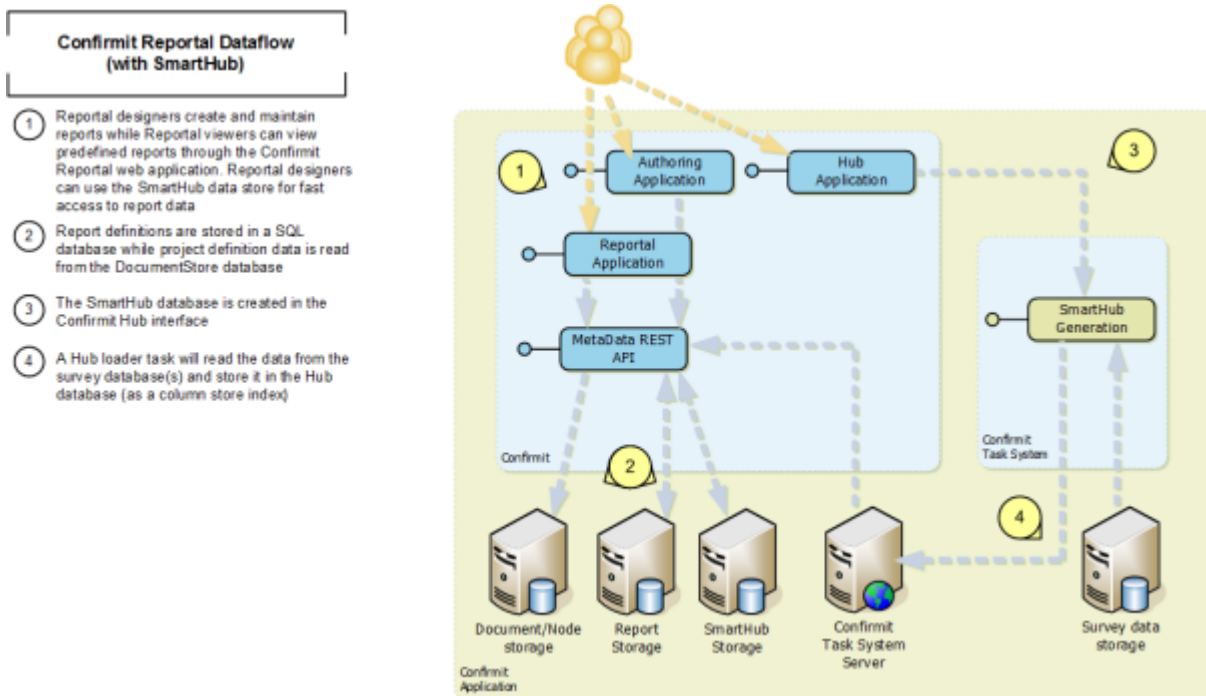


Figure 5 The Confirmit Reportal dataflow with SmartHub

2.3.4. Confirmit Data Export Dataflow

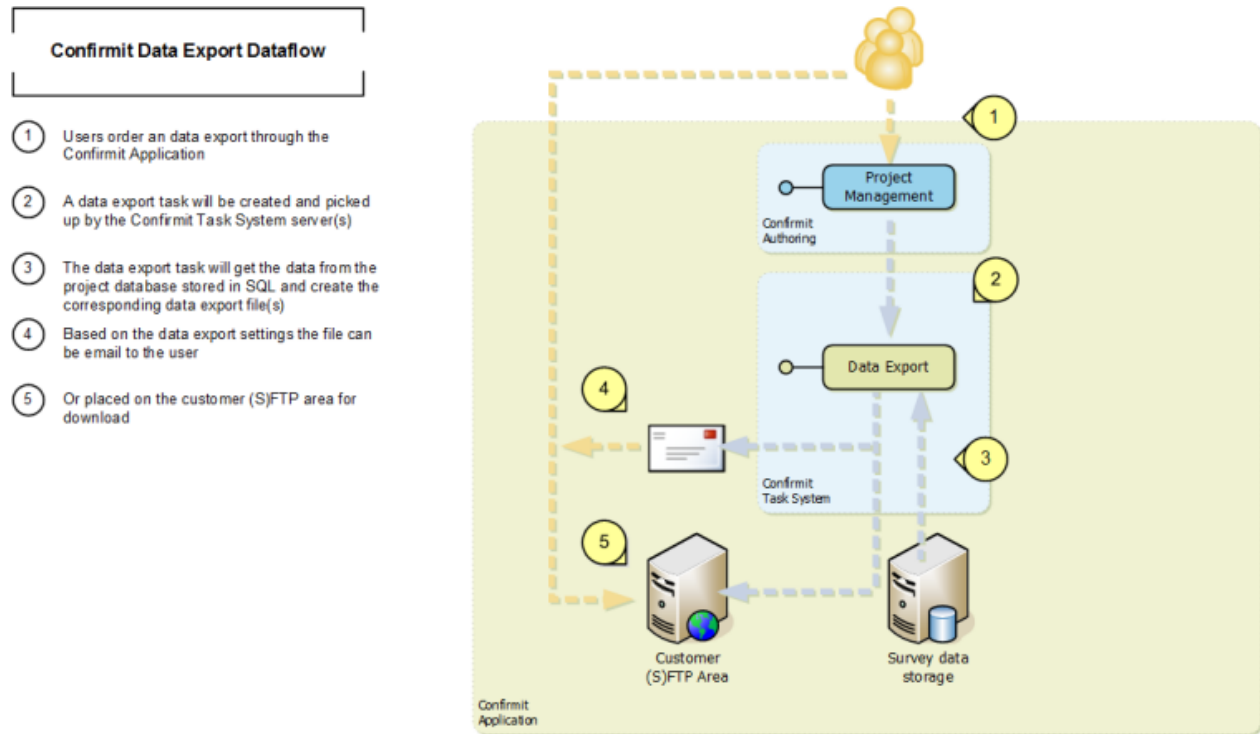


Figure 6 The Confirmit Data Export dataflow

3. Building a Confermit Site

The topics under this heading describe the hardware required for a Confermit site.

3.1. Before You Start

As mentioned in the previous chapter, Confermit is built to be highly scalable both outwards and upwards. Performance capability or availability prediction can be increased by either deciding to use additional servers, or by upgrading existing servers with additional and/or faster CPU's and more memory. When one or more servers are working together towards the same database repository, the group is collectively named a Confermit Site. The number of servers that can be used for a site is virtually unlimited, and servers can be added or removed from the configuration on the fly in most scenarios. All the servers in the same Confermit Site can use the same Confermit license file.

The Confermit SaaS Operations team can assist you both with deciding which configuration is more suited to your needs and with planning site architecture based on some key figures from the expected usage levels. Contact support@confermit.com or your account manager for assistance.

The most important factors to consider when planning a Confermit site are:

- **Availability** - Everyone involved in systems maintenance knows that servers are prone to error both in hardware and software. If your Confermit installation is business critical, consider at least N+1 redundancy for your critical components such as deployment servers and database servers (as well as underlying services such as power and network.)
- **Performance** - With more features running on a single server, the Confermit system is more vulnerable for several components to stop working. For instance, Confermit tasks might often use high amounts of CPU and memory resources for shorter periods of time, which might also affect database server or web server performance.
- **Scalability for future growth** - In virtually all scenarios, it will be possible to extend or expand existing Confermit site architecture with additional or updated hardware. Analyzing expected usage patterns and planning one or two upgrade steps ahead could save both time and expenses later.

3.2. Network and Hardware Configuration

When planning and setting up network components and servers, there are some basic recommendations to consider:

3.2.1. Server Hardware

Server hardware from a reputable vendor is generally recommended due to the regular inclusion of support agreements that guarantee hardware replacement within a given time period in the case of a failure, as spare parts are usually widely available. Confermit should be installed on 64-bit platforms ([go to Supported Operating Systems for more information](#)), but individual components will run in 32-bit Windows-on-Windows mode. The exception is SQL Server services, which can run in native 64-bit.

The hardware recommendations provided in the following sub-sections should be considered as examples only, and the actual recommended hardware will depend strongly on the type and level of usage expected. The Confermit SaaS Operations Team can also assist in setting up a tailored recommendation on request.

3.2.1.1. Web and Webservice Servers

The typical minimum hardware outfit for a web or combined server (Deployment, Webservice, API Rest Service, Authoring or Reportal) would be:

- 2 CPU cores
- 2GB RAM (more recommended for high-volume usage)
- RAID-1 disk system for system partition and Confermit application
- Separate RAID-1 or RAID-5 disk system for Confermit data partition
- 100Mbit NIC

Testing of Confermit modules in Microsoft's ISV labs in Redmond have shown that it's usually more effective scaling out rather than scaling up when adding additional capacity. Generally one would scale up to a dual-CPU server then add additional dual-CPU servers. This makes it easier to scale the site to handle large loads. This will also provide extra redundancy for the service module being strengthened. Note that additional web servers will require load-balancing services (see Load Balancers on page 11 for more information).

A typical recommended hardware setup:

- 4 CPU cores
- 4GB RAM
- RAID-1 disk system for system partition and Confermit application in separate volumes
- Separate RAID-1 disk system for Confermit data partition
- Dual teamed Gbit NICs

3.2.1.2. Task System Servers (Backend)

Dedicated Task System servers would typically follow that of a web server above. There should also be enough disk space on batch servers to store temporary task system files for certain task types such as archiving, data processing jobs and data exports. You also need to ensure space for BitStream files unless dedicated BitStream servers are used. BitStream servers would typically be scaled the same as Task System servers.

3.2.1.3. Database Servers (Backend)

Generally, for database servers we recommend ensuring an abundance of CPU power, memory and disk I/O. Multiple disk spindles or SAN storage can provide improved performance for database I/O operations. With .NET survey engine tuning, stress testing has shown that the database server is more likely to become a bottleneck in an under-dimensioned system due to the increasing levels of I/O on database servers during high loads, than web servers ever will, even when otherwise matched 1-to-1 on specifications.

Confermit supports multiple SQL server instances as a Premium feature, and additional instances can be added to existing servers using dedicated disk spindles or SAN volumes to provide improved performance. If possible, system and survey databases should run on separate spindles/instances; and in a large multi-server setup, additional survey database instances or even separate servers (also with potentially multiple instances) can be added for optimal performance.

Minimum hardware setup recommendation:

- Dual-core CPU (additional/faster CPUs recommended if more than one SQL Server instance is running).
- 4GB RAM (recommended: increase by minimum 4GB per additional instance).
- RAID-1 disk system for system partition.
- Separate RAID-1 disk system for SQL instance running Confermit databases.
- 100Mbit NIC.

Typical recommended hardware setup:

- 2x or 4x quad-core CPUs.
- 8GB RAM (recommended: increase by minimum 8GB per additional SQL Server instance - the more the better).
- RAID-1 disk system for system partition.
- RAID-10 disk system for SQL instance running Confermit system databases (data files) (local or SAN storage).
- RAID-10, RAID-5 or RAID-1 disk system for SQL instance running Confermit system databases (log files) (local or SAN storage).
- Additional data/log volumes for each SQL instance running Confermit survey databases (local or SAN storage).
- Dual, teamed Gbit NICs.

Important

The SQL software must run on equipment dedicated to Confermit. The sharing of SQL Server with other applications is not supported.

3.2.1.4. Multimode Servers

Confermit Multimode requires (a) separate, dedicated machine(s) for installation of the multimode component. Hardware requirements are the same as for Web and Webservice Servers (see Web and Webservice Servers on page 9 for more information). The multimode component can be load-balanced if necessary for performance distribution and redundancy.

If using a dialer service, a separate dedicated Webservice server of the same specification as a Web Server is required.

3.2.2. Network Equipment

3.2.2.1. Switches

High-speed, full duplex network switches are recommended. Dual switch layout can be used to provide network redundancy, although this could require additional configuration in the network department in terms of setting master/slave devices, routing etc.

3.2.2.2. Load Balancers

If using a load balancer or pair of load balancers, the device(s) should be able to balance traffic based on different patterns, and preferably also supporting multiple virtual IP addresses with individual rule sets (i.e. Authoring would require sticky session management via the LB, while Reportal, being written entirely in .NET, supports sessions across servers using SQL Server or ASP state session control. Confermit surveys are completely session-less, and require no session tracking on the LB device.)

Load balancers should preferably also be able to use health checks using URL patterns or HTTP HEAD requests to check for actual availability in the real server pool, in order to allow performing maintenance on servers in the load balanced pool without interrupting the service as a whole.

Network Load Balancing (NLB) services in the Windows Server platform may also be used, but its functionality for providing sticky sessions for Authoring servers is not tested by Confermit and therefore cannot be recommended in a production environment.

3.2.2.3. Firewalls/IDS

There are no specific requirements in terms of firewall hardware. However it is strongly recommended that firewalls from reputable vendors are deployed to provide some security on inbound connections to web servers to minimize the surface area for potential attacks.

3.2.2.3.1. Network Traffic Requirements to/from the Confermit Site

From	To	Service	Ports	Protocol
Users	Deployment servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
Users	Authoring servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
Users	Webservice servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
Users	Rest API servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
Users	Reportal servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
All Confermit servers	Remote mail servers	SMTP	25	TCP
Users	Server holding shared data / FTP data	FTP / SFTP / SSH / FRTPS	20, 21, 22, 990 or custom	TCP

The rule marked in *italics* is only required when the FTP add-on is enabled. Most FTP, SFTP / FTPS / SSH servers may be configured to run on custom ports if you wish to use ports other than the default.

Note: With respect to email delivery - some remote mail server systems may run a connection test towards sending servers to verify the validity of the server, as a means to determine spam score. Allowing incoming SMTP connections to Confirmit servers that are sending email may increase email deliverability.

Confirmit web servers can also be set up to listen on non-standard ports if required.

3.2.2.3.2. Network Traffic Requirements Between Servers Internally Within the Site

It is recommended to run servers in the same network segment. However, if network access control between servers is required, the services required by Confirmit are listed below:

From	To	Service	Ports	Protocol
All Confirmit servers	SQL Database server(s)	SQL connection	1433 (customizable)	TCP
All Confirmit servers	Metadata Rest API server	Web	80	TCP
Authoring servers, Task System servers	All Confirmit servers (also database servers if Archiving is enabled)	File system access over SMB/CIFS	445	TCP
Authoring servers	Searching service	Searching service	9731	TCP
Reportal servers	Server running 'Confirmit Caching Service'	Confirmit Caching Service	8282	TCP
All Confirmit servers	Servers running 'Confirmit BitStream Service'	Confirmit BitStream Service	8285 (customizable)	TCP
Task System servers	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80 / 443	TCP
Deployment servers	Confirmit Services accessed in Custom Code Libraries	Web	80 / 443	TCP
Reportal servers	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80 / 443	TCP
Confirmit Translator servers	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80 / 443	TCP
Confirmit CATI servers *	Confirmit Webservices	Web	80 / 443	TCP
Confirmit CATI servers *	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80 / 443	TCP
Confirmit CATI servers *	Confirmit Deployment URL	Web	80 / 443	TCP

* If applicable

3.3. Site Layout

In this chapter we have provided some examples for Confirmit server and infrastructure scenarios for different requirements relevant to the points above. The examples show how Confirmit can be an easily maintainable application running off a server, and how it via different scenarios can evolve into a fully-fledged enterprise solution. The scenarios presented are only meant as examples, and are not absolute. Furthermore, they are deliberately conservative, and real capacity should exceed the outlined calculations. Other combinations of modules than those listed here are of course possible. Confirmit Technical Support can help design the site based on your requirements; please contact Confirmit Support or your Account Manager for more information.

3.3.1. Basis for Setting Up the Recommendations

When setting up site recommendations for customers, and in the examples provided below, some key numbers are collected in advance. These include:

- The number of concurrent Authoring users.
- The number of concurrent Reportal viewers.
- The number of launched surveys per year.
- Estimated maximum surveys (peak) launched over a period of one month.
- The number of expected completed responses collected per year.
- Estimated average survey pages per complete response ratio / average survey complexity. In the examples below, we have used an average ratio of 20 survey pages per completed response.
- Estimated response completion ratio (total page hits versus completes.) In the examples below, we have used an average completion ratio of 20% across all surveys.
- Estimated survey pages visitation peak over 24 hours (for instance if surveys are only visited by internal users within a company during work hours).

3.3.2. Example Scenario

A customer with 100 Authoring users expects to launch 2000 surveys over the course of a year. 500 of these will be launched in February, with an expectancy of 20 survey page hits per respondent to complete a survey. 1,000,000 completed responses are expected over the full year, with 150,000 of these expected in February, with 80% of the total page visits occurring during the working hours between 8am and 6pm, and 60% between 12pm and 4pm. The second year, a usage growth of 25% in response data collection is estimated. The following three years, 30% growth from the year before. Additionally, 25 new Authoring users will be hired each year.

From this, we can calculate that about 150,000 completed responses x 20 page hits will yield 3,000,000 page hits for the completes only. However, adding incompletes will result in $3,000,000 \times (100/20) = 15,000,000$ page hits in total in February alone. Spread out over 20 working days gives 750,000 page hits per day. 80% of these (600,000) hit the server in a ten-hour window, resulting in a total of 60,000 page hits on average, with 450,000 occurring over 4 hours – 112,500 page hits per hour in the peak period. The second year: ~140,000 page hits. The fifth year: $112,500 \times (1+25/100) \times (1+30/100) \times (1+30/100) \times (1+30/100)$ resulting in ~310,000 page hits/hour peak. Additionally, there will be 225 Authoring users in the fifth year.

Based on this information, we can set up a site recommendation capable of handling the expected loads. In the first year, the mid-level scenario below should be sufficient, although by the fifth year, a layout somewhere between the mid-level and high-end setups would be recommended.

3.3.3. Entry-Level Multi-Server Setup

The minimum recommended configuration consists of a tri-server configuration, with dedicated database and deployment servers for data collection priority, and a combined Authoring/task system server for a small amount of project managers. In this scenario, the combined Authoring/task system server also runs the Metadata Rest API since this does not add noticeable strain to the server on which it runs with this amount of load.

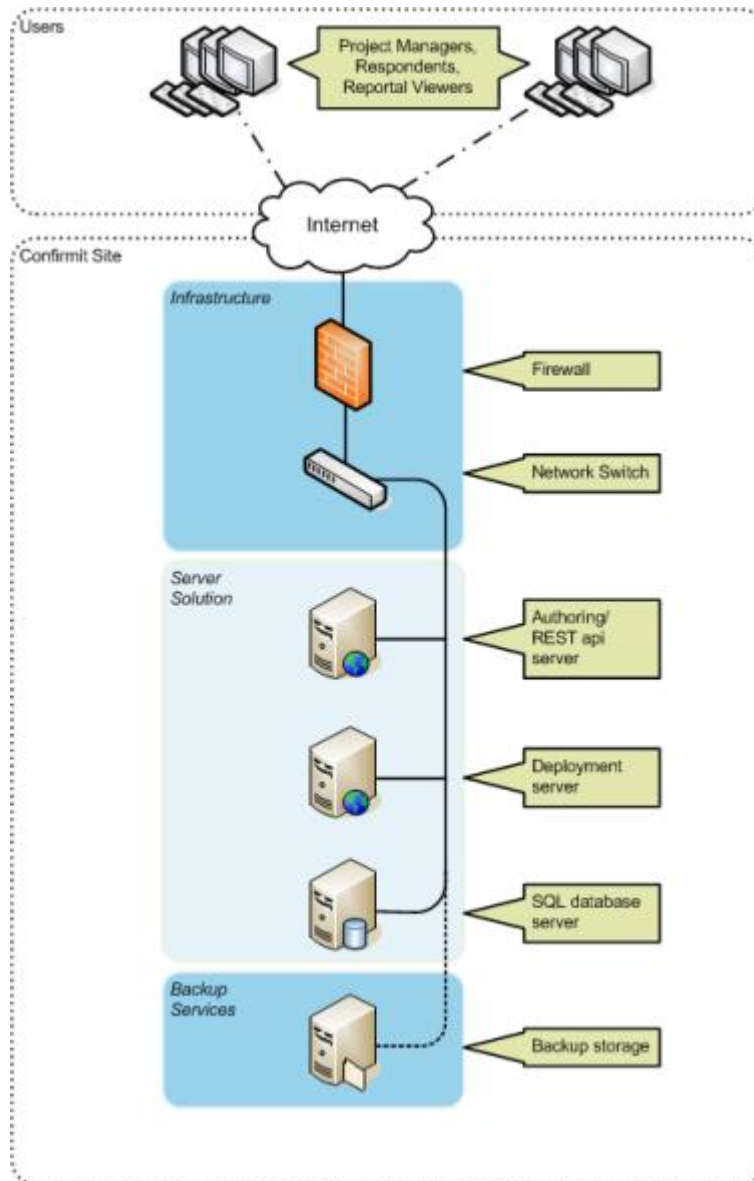


Figure 7 Features divided across three servers

The proposed configuration should be capable of handling approximately 40 concurrent Authoring users, and at least 120000 survey page hits per hour.

3.3.4. Mid-Level Multi-Server Setup

If service availability is starting to become a critical factor, one can start adding several servers into the same role to provide service redundancy, as shown in the example below. The proposed scenario would be recommended when data collection is of high importance, while temporary loss of Authoring services would be less critical.

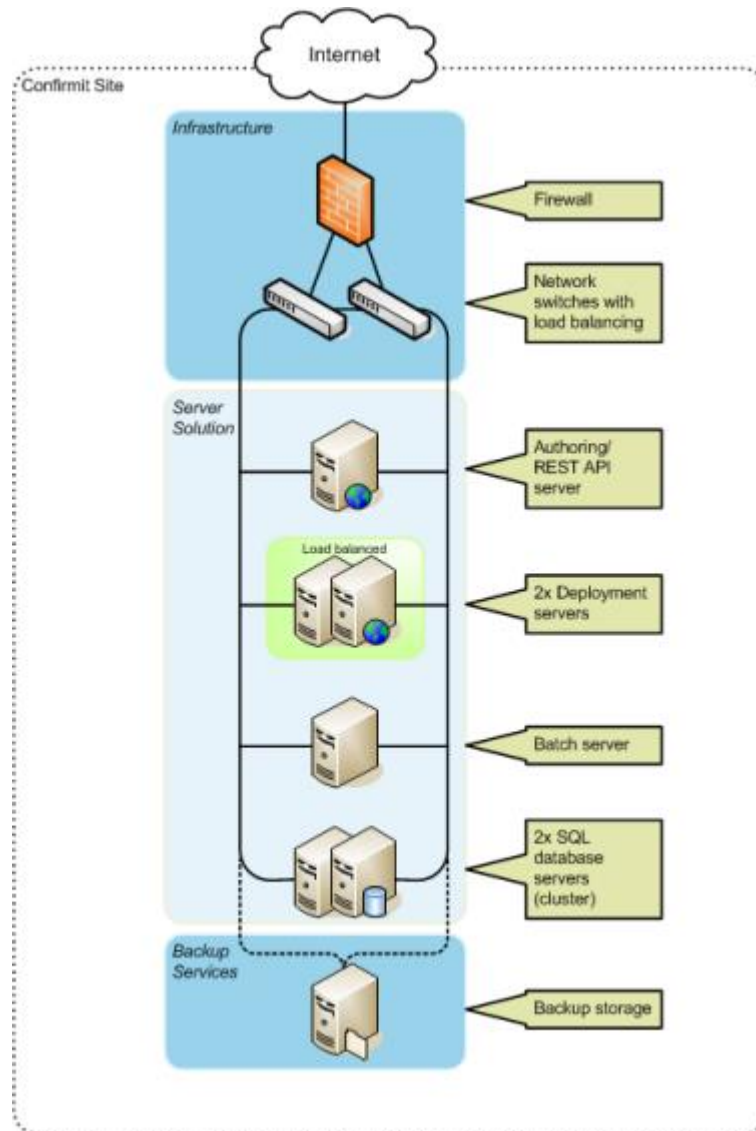


Figure 8 Multi-server setup with redundancy for data collection and response storage

The proposed configuration should be capable of handling approximately 75 concurrent Authoring users, and at least 250000 survey page hits per hour.

3.3.5. High-End Multi-Server Setup

When extreme performance and redundancy in all parts of the application is required, even more servers and network infrastructure can be added to the setup:

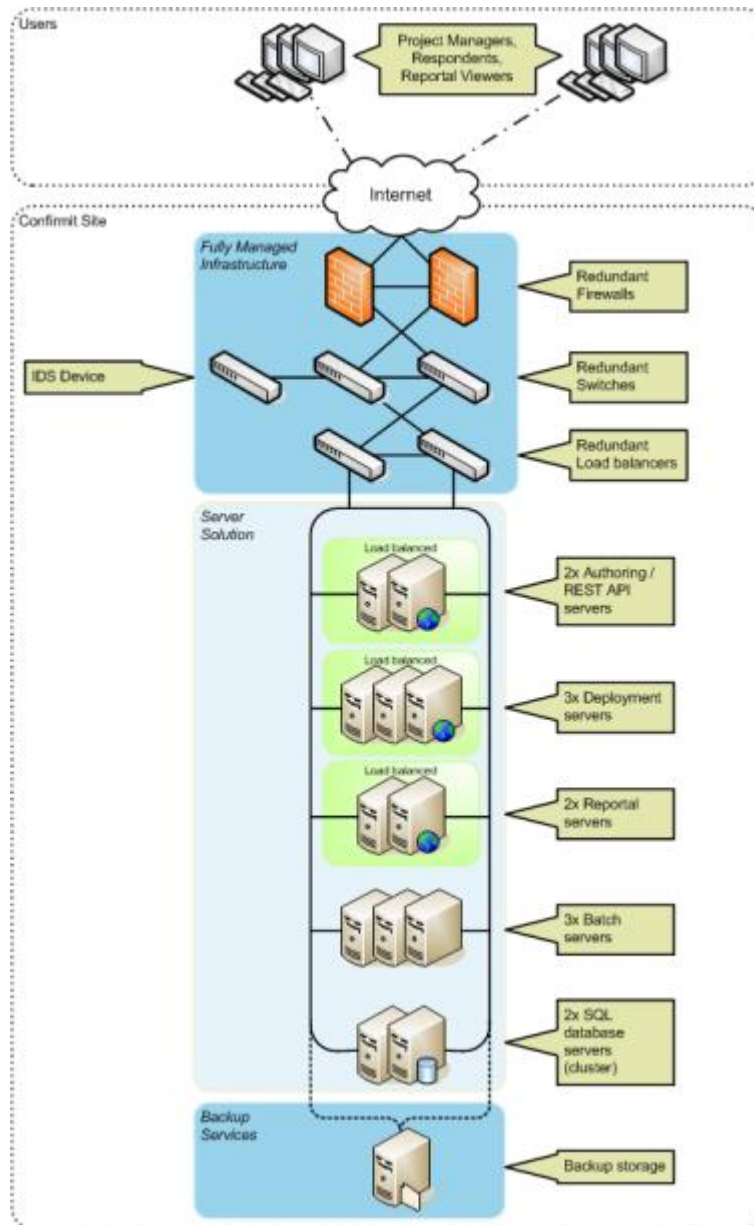


Figure 9 Full redundancy for all features

The proposed configuration should be capable of handling approximately 250 concurrent Authoring users, and at least 400000 survey page hits per hour. Larger environments can be suggested on request.

3.4. Virtual Infrastructure

Virtualization of servers has become a hot topic since many server application environments do not utilize their hardware at an optimal rate. Enterprise virtualization applications have been making way for more optimal processing power distribution, and we receive requests about virtualization support more often than before.

Confermit runs On-Demand services hosted with a Microsoft Gold-certified partner with a strong technology experience and an advantage in communication with third parties, so we have chosen to run our environment in a VMware Infrastructure-based environment for our own hosted Confermit installations. We have taken recommendations from our hosting provider's dedicated virtualization team to ensure the best possible performance for our environments. No database services are being run under virtualization as this was not recommended for the amount of I/O traffic generated by the Confermit application on our systems, as it could potentially result in overall performance degradation.

Confermit supports installation in virtual infrastructures using VMware vSphere 5 and above.

Disclaimer:

Confermit does not support running SQL Server on virtual servers.

Disclaimer: Limited support for virtualized servers.

As of the date of this manual, Confermit supports the use of the Horizons software on client equipment that is virtualized, subject however to the limitations set forth herein. Confermit itself runs VMware on those servers that are virtualized on the Horizons SaaS environments, and Confermit has not run tests of virtualization on other virtual platforms. Confermit does not run virtualized database servers for Horizons SaaS and we have no first-hand experience with this. Our recommendation for companies wanting to run high volume / high strain environments, with high I/O requirements, is to run database servers on physical hardware, as we do ourselves. We do however have On-Premise clients that run virtualized database servers for Horizons, and as of mid-2015 we have not been informed of any mayor performance issues related to the virtualization. That said, those clients run low volumes / strain and have low to medium I/O requirements. Please note that Horizons software databases must be installed and hosted on a dedicated SQL instance. In the event you experience issues with the Horizons software that, to Confermit's reasonable discretion, appear to be related to the underlying virtualization infrastructure's availability or ability to deliver sufficient performance to virtual servers, then Confermit may not be able to support you in relation to such issues unless you are able to reproduce such issues on physical hardware without VMware.

4. Preparing an Installation

Confirmit is an extensive software suite that relies on different underlying components, and configurations on the server to be made, for many of its features. It is therefore important that servers built to host the Confirmit software are set up with the correct requirements before attempting to install Confirmit. Confirmit strongly recommends that servers intended for running Confirmit are dedicated for this purpose to avoid conflicts with other software. Support for problems running the software due to such conflicts will be chargeable if the cause of the problem is proven to be the conflicting software.

A condensed list of requirements and the configurations that must be made before running the Confirmit setup follows. Each item is discussed in detail later in the manual.

Windows Configurations	Confirmit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
Microsoft Windows 2012 R2	Required	Required	Changed from v18.5.	
IIS 8.5	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Static Content	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Default Document	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Directory Browsing	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
HTTP Redirection	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
ASP.NET 3.5 and 4.5	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
ISAPI Extension	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
ISAPI Filters	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Windows Authentication	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server	

Windows Configurations	Conformit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
			Manager.	
Digest Authentication	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Basic Authentication	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Dynamic Content Compression	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
IIS Metabase Compatibility	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
IIS 6 WMI Compatibility	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
IIS 6 Scripting Tools	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
IIS Management Console	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Windows Process Activation Service	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
HTTP Activation	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	Enable under both .NET Framework 3.5 Features and .Net Framework 4.5 Features/WCF Services.
File Server	Required		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	
Application Initialization	Recommended		Enabled as a Role in Windows Server Manager.	Allows application pools to be pre-loaded when deploying Conformit with Octopus
SMTP	Required		Enabled as a Feature in Windows Server Manager.	
Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5	Required		Enabled as a Feature in Windows Server Manager.	
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5	Required		Included as part of Windows 2012 R2.	
SQL Filestream		Required		

Windows Configurations	Confirmit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
Enabled				
Create directories on SQL server for SQL data, SQL Log and SQL Filestream		Required		
ConfirmitDeployer account	Required		Must be created, logged into, and have Administrator permissions when running setup.	Can be local Windows user or a domain user. Note the 20 character SAM account name length limit if using domain accounts: http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms679635.aspx This account cannot include a semicolon in the password.
Confirmit account permissions	Required		Allow "Log on as a service" and "Log on as a batch job"	
Set a CLIConfig Database Alias (32 bit and 64 bit)	Recommended		Setting up a server alias is strongly recommended as this will provide flexibility for future usage.	
Software				
Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable Package (x86)	Required		Download	
Microsoft J# Runtime 2.0 SE (x64)	Required		Download	
Web Services Enhancements 3.0	Required		Download (Use Setup Type - Administrator)	
Microsoft Core XML Services (MSXML) 6.0 (x64)	Required		Download	
Open XML SDK 2.5 for Microsoft Office	Required		Download	
SQL Server 2012 Native Client (x64)	Required		Download (Not needed if "Client tools" is installed from SQL setup (recommended))	

Windows Configurations	Confirmit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
Microsoft SQL Server 2012 x64 (not R2) or SQL Server 2014 x64, Database Engine		Required		
Microsoft SQL Server 2012 x64, Integration Services (SSIS)	Batch		Management Tools - Complete must be installed	Requires SQL License
Microsoft Powershell 3.9 and above	All			The default version of Powershell for Windows 2012 R2 is 4.0. Powershell 4.0 should be enabled on all Confirmit servers.
Optional/Add-on Components				
Microsoft SQL Server 2014 x64 Enterprise Edition Database engine		Optional (required for SmartHub)		

4.1. Operating System

Confirmit Horizons v19 supports installation on the Windows Server 2012 R2 operating system.

4.1.1. Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1

Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 can be enabled as a server feature in the Windows Server Manager, by enabling the Application Server server role.

4.1.2. Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5

Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5 is a highly compatible, in-place update to .NET Framework 4, and can be downloaded from Microsoft using this link:

[http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/5a4x27ek\(v=vs.110\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/5a4x27ek(v=vs.110).aspx)

4.1.3. Microsoft Visual J# 2.0 for .NET Framework 2.0 Second Edition

Visual J# 2.0 SE (Second Edition) is used by Confirmit for communicating with the FastObjects database from the .NET Framework. It can be downloaded from Microsoft:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=42c46554-5313-4348-bf81-9bb133518945&displaylang=en>

4.1.4. Web Services Enhancements 2.0 for .NET Framework 1.1

Web Services Enhancements 2.0 for .NET 1.1 is a required component. It can be downloaded from Microsoft using this link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=8070e1de-22e1-4c78-ab9f-07a7fcf1b6aa>

A full („Administrator“) WSE 2.0 SP3 installation is only required if the x509 certificate signing tool is required (for servers handling Confirmit CAPI or Debug Station distribution certificates.) For other servers, only the WSE Runtime Distributable is required, this can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=8070e1de-22e1-4c78-ab9f-07a7fcf1b6aa>

4.1.5. Web Services Enhancements 3.0 for .NET Framework 2.0

Web Services Enhancements 3.0 for .NET 2.0 can be downloaded from Microsoft using this link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=018a09fd-3a74-43c5-8ec1-8d789091255d&DisplayLang=en>

A full („Administrator“) WSE installation is only required if the x509 certificate signing tool is required (for servers handling Confirmit CAPI or Debug Station distribution certificates.) For other servers, only the WSE Runtime Distributable is required, this can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=9e59c3fb-e7bc-4d91-908e-411a8d329f3d&DisplayLang=en>

4.1.6. Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Native client

The Microsoft SQL 2012 Native client is used by all servers with Confirmit installed, to communicate with the SQL server. It is a part of the SQL server 2012 Feature Pack and can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyId=C6C3E9EF-BA29-4A43-8D69-A2BED18FE73C&displaylang=en>

4.1.7. Open XML SDK 2.5

The Open XML SDK 2.5 Add-on can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30425>

Assembly „DocumentFormat.OpenXml.dll“, version is 2.5.5631.0

4.1.8. Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable Package

The Visual C++ Redist package can be installed from here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?familyid=9B2DA534-3E03-4391-8A4D-074B9F2BC1BF&displaylang=en>

4.2. Additional Components

Some of the main Confirmit features require third party software. Software and licenses are to be purchased, installed and maintained by the Client, at the Client's own expense, unless the 3rd party software is distributed with the Confirmit installation.

It is recommended that servers are dedicated to running Confirmit and that no other software than the requirements (except for monitoring/management tools) and Confirmit are installed. This is to avoid any potential conflicts with other applications running on the same servers. If the investigations from a support request identify problems caused by other software, the support may be deemed chargeable as per the support agreements.

The operating system components and 3rd party applications that are needed will depend on the Confirmit features installed on a server.

4.2.1. Task System Features (Batch Server)

4.2.1.1. ActivePDF Server 2009 R23 (Optional)

The ActivePDF Server is used for generating PDF exports and is included as a chargeable Add-On. This can be obtained from Confirmit Support upon enabling the Add-On. This component has been upgraded to R23 from v16FP to v17, so any installation of Confirmit v17 requires a change if this component has been installed. The licenses for these versions are the same.

4.2.1.2. Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)

SQL Server Integration Services must be installed on batch servers to support import features and sampling for Community Panels and respondent uploads. SSIS is also used by Data Central Server Rules, Excel exports from Confirmit Express, and respondent upload to CATI projects. SSIS might require additional SQL Server licenses for batch servers that are set up to run these task types. Note that you will also need Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Management Tools - Complete version.

4.2.2. Confirmit API Development

To connect to Confirmit APIs, SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) is required.

4.2.3. Database Server - Version Support

The versions that are currently supported for all components **except SmartHub** are: SQL Server 2012 with minimum service pack SP1, or SQL Server 2014. Anything older than SQL Server 2012 is not supported for Confirmit Horizons v18.5.

The SmartHub requires SQL Server 2014 Enterprise.

4.2.3.1. Microsoft SQL Server Editions

Microsoft SQL Server comes in various editions that greatly vary in price. Choosing the correct version for your environment is important in order to provide the necessary features required by Confirmit.

In most cases, SQL Server Standard Edition will be sufficient for running Confirmit in a production environment. SQL Server Standard Edition also supports installation in a fail-over cluster, albeit only with two servers in the cluster, and database backup compression. For enterprise installations, SQL Server Enterprise Edition can be considered for high availability features such as 16-node cluster support, encryption at rest, online indexing, online restore, fast restore and support for multiple partitions in SQL Server Analysis Services (which may be used in the Panelist reporting feature).

SQL Server 2012

To determine which edition of SQL Server 2012 is right for your environment, the following link might be of help:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc645993.aspx>

SQL Server should be installed with Mixed-mode authentication to allow SQL login authentication from applications rather than using Windows logins. It is recommended that SQL Server is always installed with the SQL_Latin1_General collation. It is highly recommended to set a strong password for the 'sa' account or disable the account altogether after installation.

Note: Confirmit requires access to an SQL login with 'sysadm' permissions during installation but the account is not needed after the initial installation is complete. As Confirmit v19 does not use any login account with sysadm permissions, a login may have to be temporarily enabled to allow future upgrades to be performed.

Note: If installing the SQL Server service to run under a named local or domain account, it is also recommended that the same account is used for the SQL Server Agent service in order to prevent issues with permissions to database files on the file system level.

Note: If using Confirmit CATI, the user account for the SQL Server Agent Service must be added as a local Administrator user on all SQL server instances.

SQL Server 2014

The Confirmit SmartHub, which can also serve as a replacement for BitStream, requires SQL Server 2014 Enterprise edition.

Note: SQL Server 2014 can run alongside SQL Server 2012 on the same server.

4.2.3.1.1. Required Updates

SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 1 is required for installing Confirmit Horizons v19.

4.2.3.1.2. Licensing

Due to the way Confirmit uses connection pooling to connect to the database server, a CPU-license is usually the most feasible option as the amount of CALs required for a regular per-user license may not always be clear. For servers running SSRS/SSIS, licensing recommendations will depend on the number of users connecting to the individual features. Assume one CAL license is required for each Confirmit user accessing either SSIS or SSRS will give an estimate of the cost versus a CPU license.

4.2.3.2. Configuring the Model Database

The Model database is set up when SQL Server is installed and works as a template for new databases –settings on the Model database will be inherited by all new databases created on the system, and some settings should be configured before installing Confirmit in order to ensure Confirmit databases are created with recommended options. The database properties can be adjusted in the SQL Server Enterprise Manager.

- **Autogrow** – should be set to allow databases to grow in size automatically when needed. If this setting is not enabled, Confirmit will produce errors similar to "The primary filegroup for database <db name> is full", and a larger size will have to be adjusted manually. We strongly recommend enabling the autogrow feature for both data and log files. Note: The default option is to grow the database by 1MB of the database size. This can lead to high fragmentation, so we suggest setting the initial size to 15MB, and autogrowth to 10MB. For databases that become large (10GB+), this option can be changed individually on each database to set a fixed MB size growth for each growth operation. This may prevent issues with autogrow operations timing out and causing issues on the server.
- **Autoshrink** – when enabled, the database system will periodically optimize database white space and shrink the file size of the database. The feature will produce quite some performance overhead, so in most cases this should be disabled, and instead periodical maintenance jobs may be scheduled to shrink databases at given times if disk space becomes an issue
- **Autoclose** – when enabled, the feature will automatically shut down a database when all connections to it have been closed. The setting must be disabled as it could potentially cause substantial performance overhead on the database server.
- **Recovery model** – Depending on the backup strategy in use, simple or full transaction logging is recommended. For full/differential database backups, simple transaction logging is sufficient, while for systems where point-in-time recovery is required, full transaction logging is required. Refer to Microsoft KB articles related to SQL recovery model for more information.

Important

Some Confirmit databases (particularly [aspstate], [confirm] and [confirmlog]) can produce very large transactions logs for active systems if full transaction logging is enabled. If full transaction logging is used, setting up a maintenance plan for periodically creating checkpoints and backing up transaction logs is paramount, particularly for these two databases.

4.2.3.3. Enable FILESTREAM in SQL Server

FILESTREAM is required on the main (first) SQL Server instance for installing Confirmit Horizons v19. This can be enabled by opening the SQL Server Configuration Manager, opening properties for the SQL instance running the Confirmit System databases, opening the FILESTREAM tab and checking the Enable FILESTREAM box:

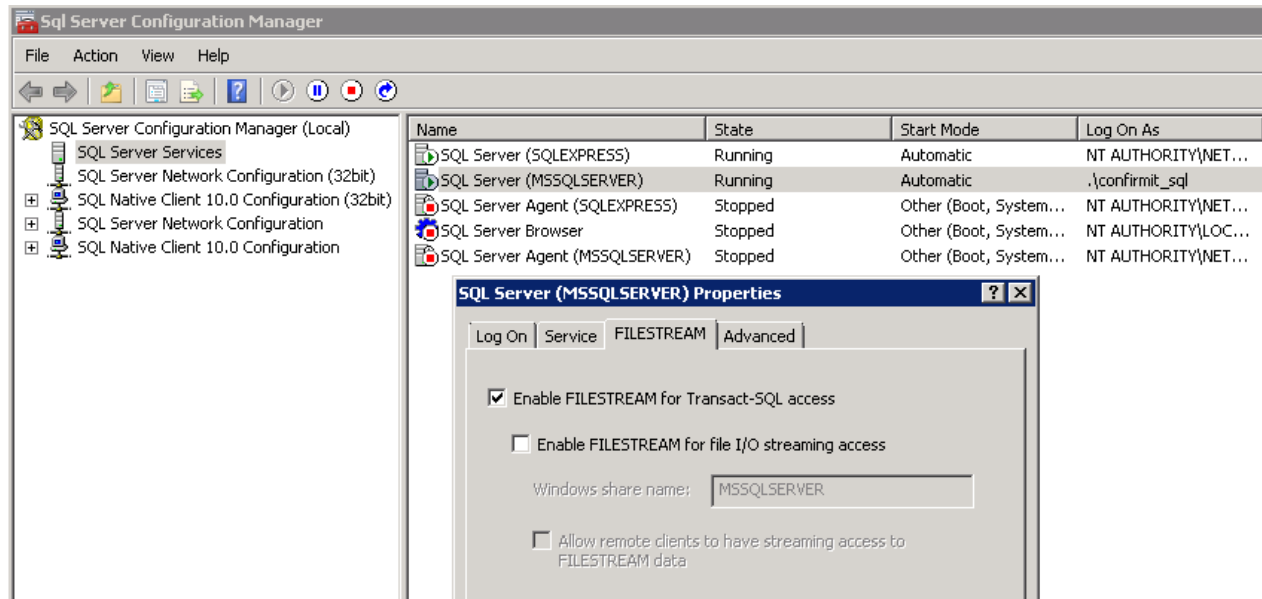


Figure 10 Enabling FILESTREAM

Finish the configuration by running the following statement on the server:

```
exec sp_configure'show advanced',1
go
reconfigure
go
exec sp_configure'filestream access level', 2
go
reconfigure
go
```

The setting can be enabled without having to restart SQL Server.

5. Installing Confirmit

After the servers have been set up, all connectivity has been tested and Confirmit system requirements have been installed, the next step is to install Confirmit itself. This version of this manual provides instructions for installing **Confirmit Horizons v19**.

5.1. Upgrading from an Existing Version

For an upgrade, most of the data needed will be fetched from the system databases, and does not need editing in the setup. Any discrepancies are outlined below.

Important

After you have installed Confirmit Horizons v19, you must immediately apply the latest available patch. You can download the latest patch from the Confirmit Extranet.

The only supported upgrade path to Confirmit Horizons v19 is from Confirmit Horizons v18.5 on SQL Server 2012 with the latest Confirmit v18.5 patch installed. For earlier versions, in addition to ensuring the correct SQL version, you must apply the latest patch of v17.5 and then migrate from Fast Objects (FO) to SQL before installing v18 - see the table below:

	Upgrade to		
Current version	v18	v18.5	v19
v17.5	FO2SQL Migration + v18 install	FO2SQL Migration + v18 install + v18.5 install	FO2SQL Migration + v18 install + v18.5 install + v19 install
v18		v18.5 install	v18.5 install + v19 install
v18.5			v19 install

For systems running versions v17.5 and older we recommend building v19 on a new site rather than performing an upgrade if possible. You can request upgrade assistance by contacting support@confirmit.com or your account manager.

Note: Upgrade to the latest patch in the “Current Version” is required before upgrade to new version!

Important

If an upgrade fails, requiring a full uninstall/reinstall of Confirmit on the server, the encrypted connection string for the Confirmit Deployment account may have obsolete/invalid values in the configuration tables in the confirm database. Bug reports may ensue as a result of this. The solution for this is to manually run confirmitadministrator.exe in the "CD" mode to re-encrypt the connection string after reinstallation. Usage of the confirmitadministrator.exe tool is documented in the tool itself. Contact Support for further assistance.

5.1.1. Confirmit Licensing

Confirmit is protected software and requires a license file to work. Confirmit is not installed with a standard license.

In order for Confirmit Technical Services to provide you with a valid license file, a **Site ID** value for the site you are installing on is required (see Obtaining and Installing a License File on page 40 for more information).

If you are upgrading from a version that already uses a license, the existing license should continue working with Confirmit Horizons v19. Licensable add-ons introduced in newer versions than the one you are upgrading will not be enabled automatically; a new license file enabling these add-ons will have to be installed, even if those add-ons are included in the contract or are provided free of charge with a new version.

Note: In a virtual environment, make sure that the server clocks on all hypervisors are in sync before syncing time with virtual machines. If the clock on a VM rolls back, this may invalidate the license as it will be perceived as tampering to extend the license period.

5.1.2. Keeping Existing Settings

If you upgrade an existing version of Confirmit, .NET configuration files (web.config files for web applications), **<servicename>.config** files for system services, and web folder configuration) will be overwritten by the setup. If you have edited the files to include custom settings (for instance referencing installed custom code), you should back up the files from their original locations and take note of the IIS configuration (or back up your IIS metabase) before proceeding with the upgrade.

Note: All configuration settings in the Confirmit system configuration will be kept during an upgrade.

Important

As some new settings have made their way into Confirmit's .config files (for .NET applications) these files should not be replaced with older versions. Instead, it is recommended to edit the new files and paste in the configuration changes required from older ones, such as session state handling, links to custom code libraries, custom error documents, etc.

5.1.3. Back-up Confirmit System Databases

Confirmit system databases should be backed up before an update in case a rollback is required (see SQL Server Databases on page 48 for more information). Confirmit Survey databases are not touched during an upgrade; schema updates occur when the survey is launched after upgrade.

5.2. Pre-Installation

5.2.1. Creating Data Folders for SQL Databases

Prior to installing, data folders for SQL databases, log files and the SQL Filestream databases must be created on the database server. If the data folders do not exist, the Confirmit setup cannot continue and will display a warning message stating this.

5.2.2. Setting up User Accounts for Confirmit System Services

Confirmit installs a system service on servers installed with the 'Batch' role that must be run under user specific credentials. This applies to the Confirmit Task System service, which runs scheduled tasks such as deploying files onto other servers. Since the service requires file access to remote servers, it cannot be run under the Local System credentials. The credentials for the service are therefore set during install/upgrade. As the user account must also exist on other servers, the user credentials must be entered for all server role types.

5.2.2.1. Account for the Confirmit Task System and Confirmit BitStream Services

The Confirmit Task System service is installed on combined or dedicated task system servers only, and is configured during installation. This account does not have to be part of the local Administrators group, (although it can be), the user requires at least the following permissions:

- Allow log on locally.
- Log on as batch job
- Log on as a service

After creating the user, it is recommended to log on to the server console with the account, starting any MS Office application (Excel, PowerPoint, or Word) to finalize the personalization for MS Office which requires user input. If this is not done, exports to Office formats may fail when run.

The Confirmit BitStream service, if selected during the installation process, is set up to run with the same credentials as the Confirmit Task System service.

Note: UAC must be turned off during installation. If the application must be run with UAC enabled, special procedures must be followed (see Confirmit and UAC (User Account Control) on page 37 for more information).

5.3. Installation

If all requirements are installed, backups are complete, Windows user accounts have been created and the Confirmit setup and latest patch have been downloaded from the Extranet, you should be ready to install Confirmit. Once started, the installer will look for existing installations, and if any are found, will proceed to upgrade the existing version. One or more of the steps described in the following sections might be required for the update to continue.

Note: An installation log directory is created when running the setup, containing Setup log, Configuration log and Uninstall log (if performing an upgrade). When the installer is started from Windows Explorer, the log directory will be created in the same location as the installer. When you run it by command line, or from Windows run command (example: C:\temp\Confirmit.exe), the log will be created in the user's profile directory: C:\Users\<UserName>\<LogDirectoryTimeStamp>.

Important

The user performing the Confirmit installation must be member of the local administrators group on the server, either via user or group membership. The setup uses system calls that require full access to the server components, and will fail unless the user has administrator permissions. No information about the installing user is stored during the installation, so the permissions can be removed once the installation is complete, but will need to be added again during future upgrades.

5.3.1. Install / Upgrade Sequence

As a Confirmit upgrade makes changes to database schemas as well as updating the code running locally on each server, it is recommended to upgrade servers in a specific order to prevent new code from creating files that are incompatible with the version still running on servers that have not yet been upgraded. The recommended installation / upgrade sequence is listed below:

- Metadata REST API servers (new role from v18 onwards)
- Authoring servers
- Deployment servers
- Task system and BitStream servers
- Reportal servers
- Other (Search indexing, XML Web Services)

5.3.2. Confirmit Installation

The first page of the installation is the Welcome page.

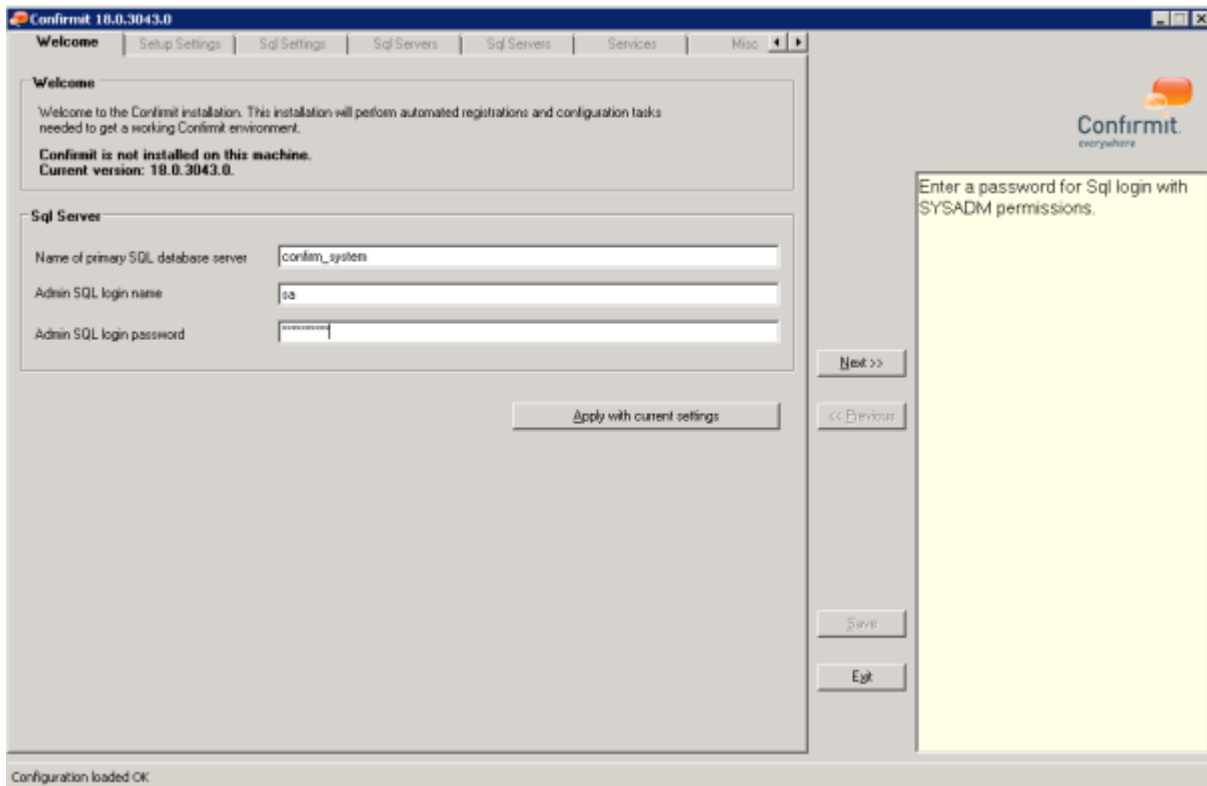


Figure 11 The Welcome page

1. Enter details for the primary SQL server where the Confirmit system data will be stored, along with credentials for a SQL Server account with 'sa' permissions. These credentials will not be stored on the system after setup is complete. Click the **Next** button to proceed.

Note: The value used for the SQL Server Name or IP Address field is hard-coded into the generated binary survey packages, and if the database server name or IP address changes after installation, the links may be broken and surveys may not be able to connect to SQL Server. For this reason, using the SQL Client Configuration Utility to set up a server alias is strongly recommended, as this will provide flexibility for future usage; if the server name/IP changes, simply update the alias and Confirmit will continue to work without any additional changes required. This feature is also helpful in scenarios where deployment servers and batch servers are on different sub-nets and use different network interfaces connecting to the database server.

As Confirmit applications run in 32-bit mode, you will need to add the aliases in both 64- and 32-bit client configuration when installing on a 64-bit server. The two different tools can be started from:

C:\Windows\System32\cliconfg.exe for the 64-bit version
C:\Windows\SysWow64\cliconfg.exe for the 32-bit version

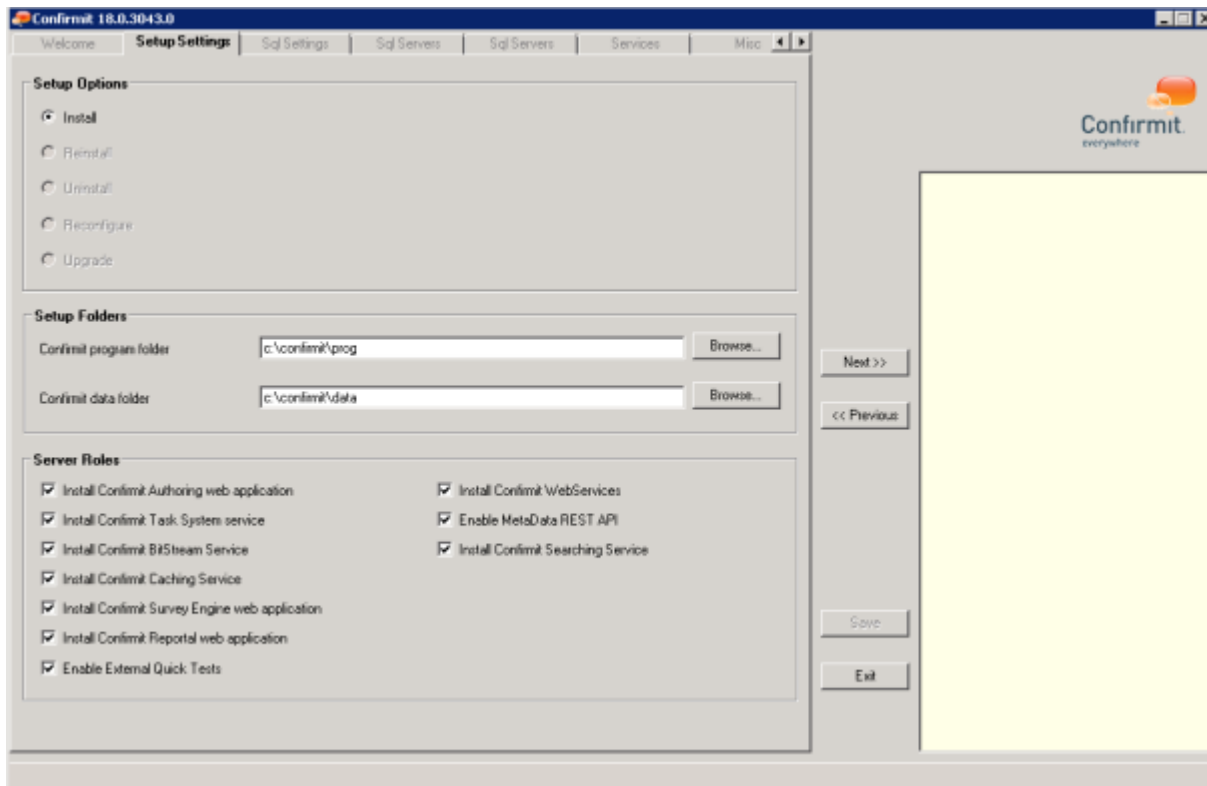


Figure 12 The Destination Folder and Role Selection page

Note: When installing on a server that does not already have Confirmit installed, only the 'Install' option will be available. If Confirmit is installed already, the application can be reinstalled or reconfigured to run a different set of modules than the ones selected during the initial install.

2. Choose a target location for the Confirmit application files (approximately 150MB is required) and a separate folder for data files (the size required will vary depending on usage and roles selected).
3. Select the applicable server roles that the server should have and click **Next** to proceed to the next screen.

Note: New roles since Confirmit v18 include Metadata REST API and Confirmit Searching Service. The Metadata REST API service functions as an interface between the authoring application and the document/nodestore databases (FastObjects replacements used by v17.5 and earlier) and is mandatory in a v18+ installation. The Metadata REST API service does not store any data locally. The Confirmit Searching Service is an optional feature that enables quick searching for content across surveys on the system (nodes, answer lists, texts, etc.). The index location can be configured later in the setup.

Confirmit 18.0.3043.0

Welcome | Setup Settings | **Sql Settings** | Sql Servers | Sql Servers | Services | Misc

System Databases Sql Server

SQL Server database data file path: c:\confirmit_sql_data

SQL Server database transaction log file path: c:\confirmit_sql_log

SQL Server database FileStream path: c:\confirmit_sql_filestream

Sql Server Users

	Username	Password	Confirm Password
ConfirmitAuthor SQL login name	ConfirmitAuthor		
ConfirmitDeploy SQL login name	ConfirmitDeploy		
ConfirmitReport SQL login name	ConfirmitReport		
ConfirmitSurvey SQL login name	ConfirmitSurvey		
ASPState SQL login name	ASPState		
ConfirmitHelper SQL login name	ConfirmitHelper		

Next >> << Previous Save Exit

Figure 13 Database server configuration

4. Enter relevant paths for Confirmit SQL data / log / FileStream files (note: folders must exist, see pre-installation chapter).
5. Enter credentials for Confirmit SQL logins to be used by the application and click **Next** to proceed.

Confirmit 18.0.3043.0

Welcome | Setup Settings | Sql Settings | **Sql Servers** | Sql Servers | Services | Misc

MetaData NodeStore

NodeStore server: confirm_system
 NodeStore user: sa | NodeStore password: [password]
 NodeStore data path: e:\confirmit_sql_data | NodeStore log path: e:\confirmit_sql_log

MetaData DocumentStore

DocumentStore server: confirm_system
 DocumentStore user: sa | DocumentStore password: [password]
 DocumentStore data path: e:\confirmit_sql_data | DocumentStore log path: e:\confirmit_sql_log

Confirmit URL Database

URLDatabase server: confirm_system
 URLDatabase user: sa | URLDatabase password: [password]
 URLDatabase data path: e:\confirmit_sql_data | URLDatabase log path: e:\confirmit_sql_log

Survey Databases

SurveyDatabasesServerName	SurveyDatabasesUserName
confirm_system	sa

Next >> | << Previous | Save | Exit | Add | Edit | Delete

Figure 14 The SQL Servers page

- On this page, enter connection details for SQL servers and locations that will be used to store NodeStore and DocumentStore data, and the Confirmit URL Database (ShortURL).

The NodeStore and DataStore databases contain project definitions and metadata and replaces the FastObjects database from previous versions. The Confirmit URL database contains mappings between shortened URLs and the original URLs for redirecting respondents when the service is used during launch / respondent invitations.

- In order to support high volume systems, Confirmit supports multiple instances/SQL servers for survey databases. Servers can be added to the Confirmit configuration in the Survey Databases section in this part of the setup by clicking the **Add** button at the bottom of the page and entering the required information.

Note: The value used for the SQL Server Name or IP Address field is hard-coded into the generated binary survey packages, and if the database server name or IP address changes after installation, the links may be broken and surveys may not be able to connect to SQL Server. For this reason, using the SQL Client Configuration Utility to set up a server alias is strongly recommended as this will provide flexibility for future usage; if the server name/IP changes, simply update the alias and Confirmit will continue to work without any additional changes required. This feature is also helpful in scenarios where deployment servers and batch servers are on different sub-nets and use different network interfaces connecting to the database server.

As Confirmit applications run in 32-bit mode, you will need to add the aliases both in 64-and 32-bit client configuration when installing on a 64-bit server. The two different tools can be started from:

C:\Windows\System32\cliconfg.exe for the 64-bit version
 C:\Windows\SysWow64\cliconfg.exe for the 32-bit version

For the SQL Server database FileStream path, use the location configured during pre-install (see Creating Data Folders for SQL Databases on page 27 for more information).

Note: If you are installing all features on a single SQL server instance, the main instance will already be populated for all features on this page and no changes are required to the suggested configuration.

8. Once all the information has been entered, click **Next** to proceed.

Figure 15 The Searching service and HUB/Reporting server page

9. On this page, enter connection details for the Searching Service (if different from the main system instance, otherwise just leave the details as is).
10. If SmartHub is going to be used, select the checkbox under 'Reporting SQL Server' to enter connection details for the SQL server where databases for this feature will be stored.
11. Once all data is entered click **Next** to proceed.

Note: SmartHub requires SQL Server 2014 Enterprise Edition in order to function, and should not be installed on the same instance that runs the main Confirmit system databases.

Figure 16 The Services page

12. This page controls settings that will be used for various Confirmit services and will be applied to the system configuration. In a multi-server environment, the Caching Service and MetaData REST API server names should be reachable by other servers in the environment. The Search index location applies to the new Searching service.
13. If the built-in SMTP service is used to deliver emails from Confirmit, we suggest leaving the 'SMTP Event Sinks' checkbox enabled. This will ensure delivery reports from respondent invites are delivered when emails are sent using the 'Batch Emailing – Fixed Domain' task type. If a separate email delivery / tracking system is being used, this setting will not make any impact on external emailing.

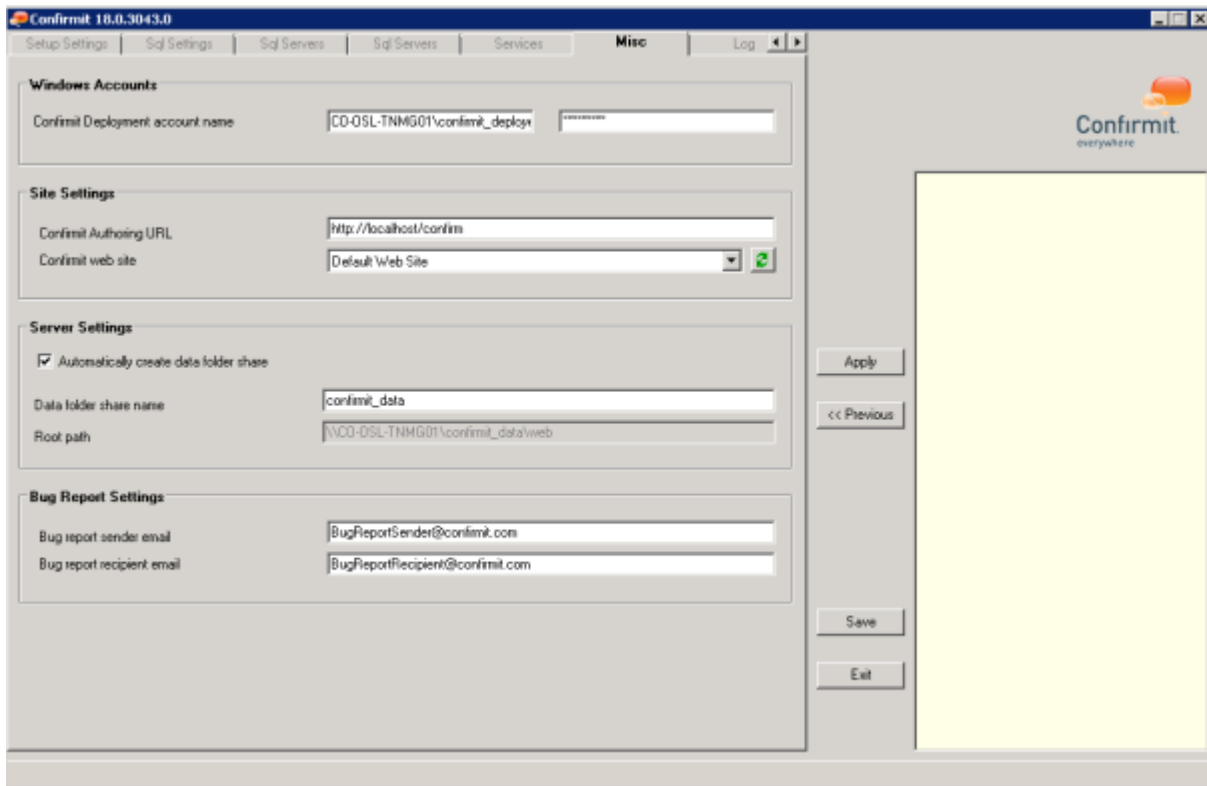


Figure 17 The Miscellaneous page

- The Confirmit Deployment account name must be set for all servers as the configuration tool will apply the values to the Confirmit Task System Service (when this feature is selected for installation).
- If you have a defined URL for the Authoring service, this can be added here as <http://www.example.com/confirm>. This can be changed in System Configuration later.
- Confirmit web applications will be installed under the Default Web Site in IIS by default. If you want to install under a different site, this can be selected here.
- Confirmit uses Windows CIFS shares to distribute generated files to the Confirmit Data folder between servers. The share can be created automatically on the Confirmit Data folder with the appropriate permissions for the Confirmit Deployment account by leaving the 'Automatically create data folder share' checkbox enabled. The share name can be changed if required. The value under 'Root path' will be stored in the server configuration and will be used by other servers to reach the data share on this particular server.
- The Bug Report Settings control the sender and recipient address of generated error messages from Confirmit. These settings can also be set later in the System Configuration.

When all options are configured, click the **Save** button to save the configuration to an XML file in the <Confirmit data>\config folder. If the tool is started again at a later time, it will load the known configuration items from this file automatically as long as the file exists (all password strings will be stored encrypted in the XML file).

14. Click the **Apply** button to open the final configuration screen, where you can review the selected options before committing the settings.

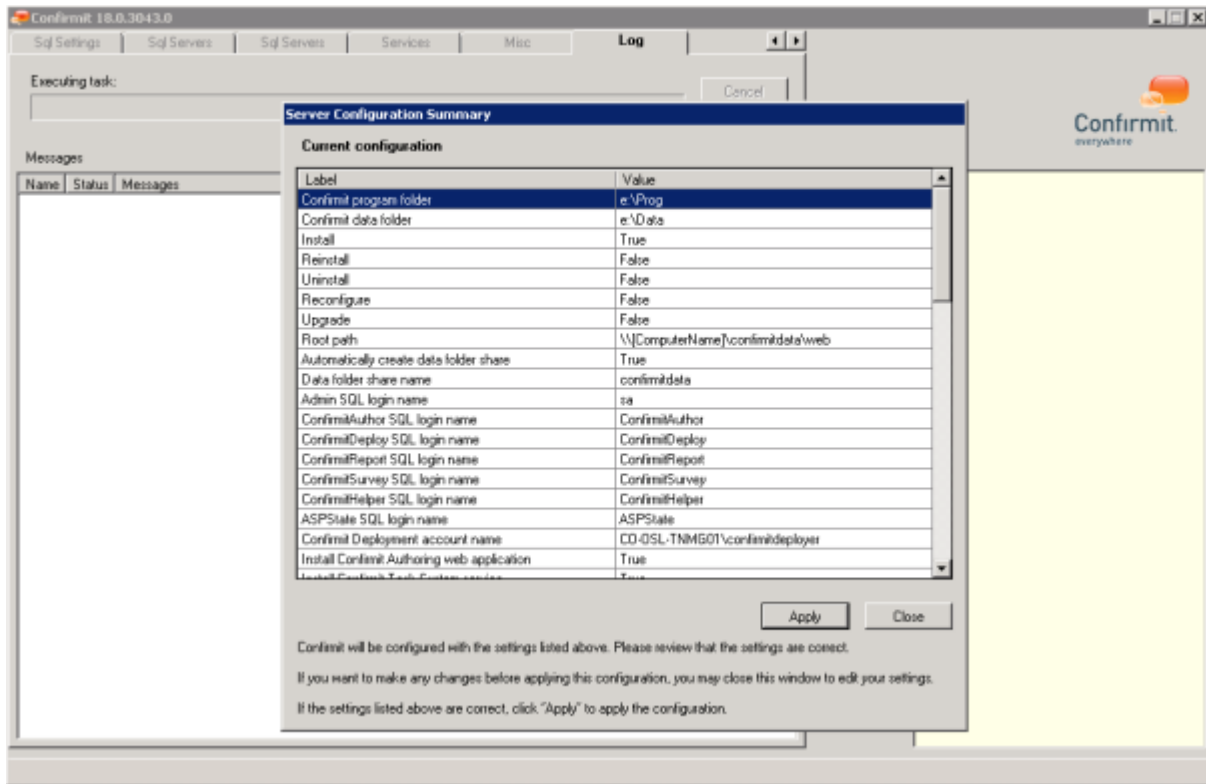


Figure 18 *Reviewing the selected settings*

Click the **Apply** button to install Confirmit with the configured settings. If you need to change any settings you may also close the window and go back to the configuration screens to make any necessary changes.

After you click **Apply**, the configuration tool will configure the server with the selected parameters. While the tool runs it will show a status update for all the tasks it performs

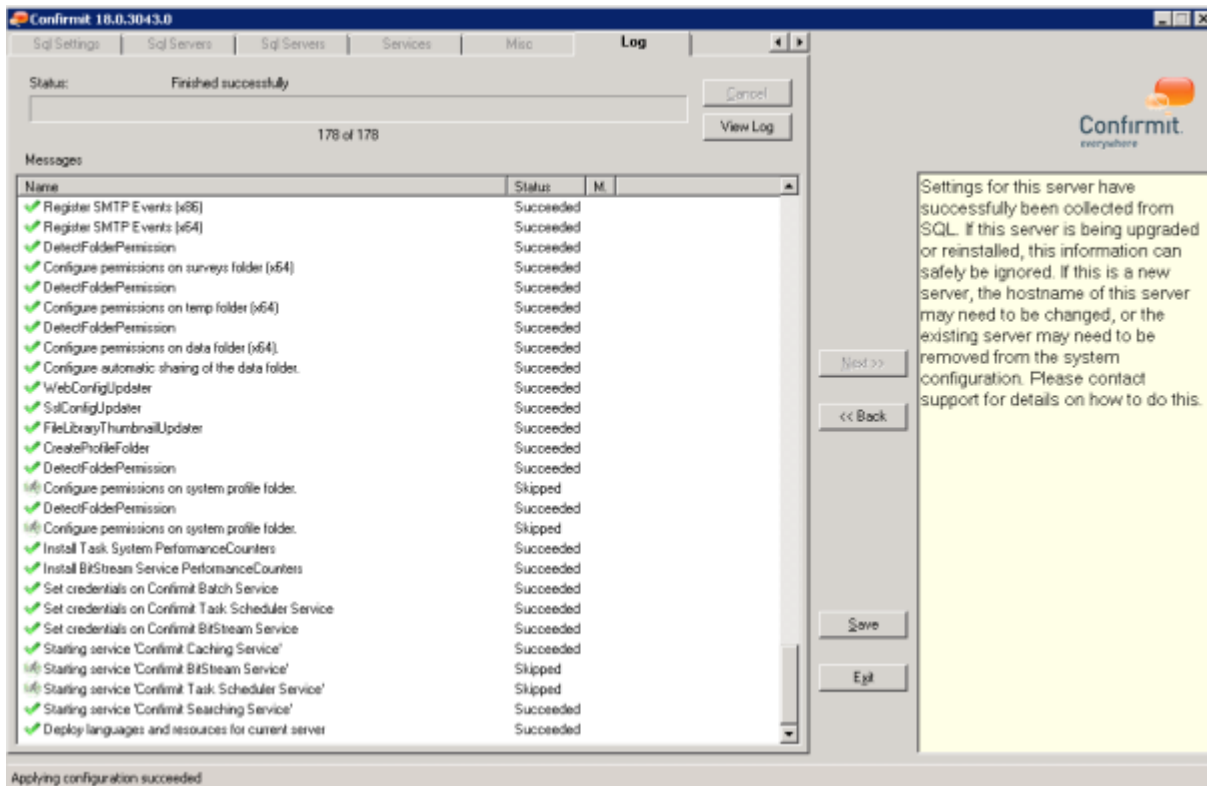


Figure 19 The Status page

If any tasks should fail during the installation, you can view the log for that step by selecting the step and clicking the **View Log** button. Depending on the severity of the error (most warnings can be ignored while errors should be investigated), the configuration tool may have to be run again after the cause of the error is resolved.

The full installation log will be located under a directory with the installation timestamp as the name, in the same directory as the installer after installation.

Note: If errors occur during the installation and you need help from support@confirmit.com to identify the problem, please attach the full installation log to the support request for reference as it may contain information that could be very helpful for troubleshooting the issue.

Note: If the following error is present in the log files:
030511 17:33:54 ERRO: Task 'Configure access to container - IIS WPG Group' Failed (Exit Code=1)
 then adding ACL access to the RSA Container may fail on Windows 2012 R2 servers. To give permissions manually, run the following command (and then re-run setup afterwards):
C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319aspnet_regiis.exe -pa CONFIRMIT_RSA_Crypto IIS_IUSRS

5.4. Confirmit and UAC (User Account Control)

5.4.1. When Installing Confirmit

Confirmit can not be installed properly while UAC is enabled. Follow these steps to disable UAC on your servers prior to installing Confirmit.

1. Run: **UserAccountControlSettings.exe**
2. Move the slider to **Never notify**.

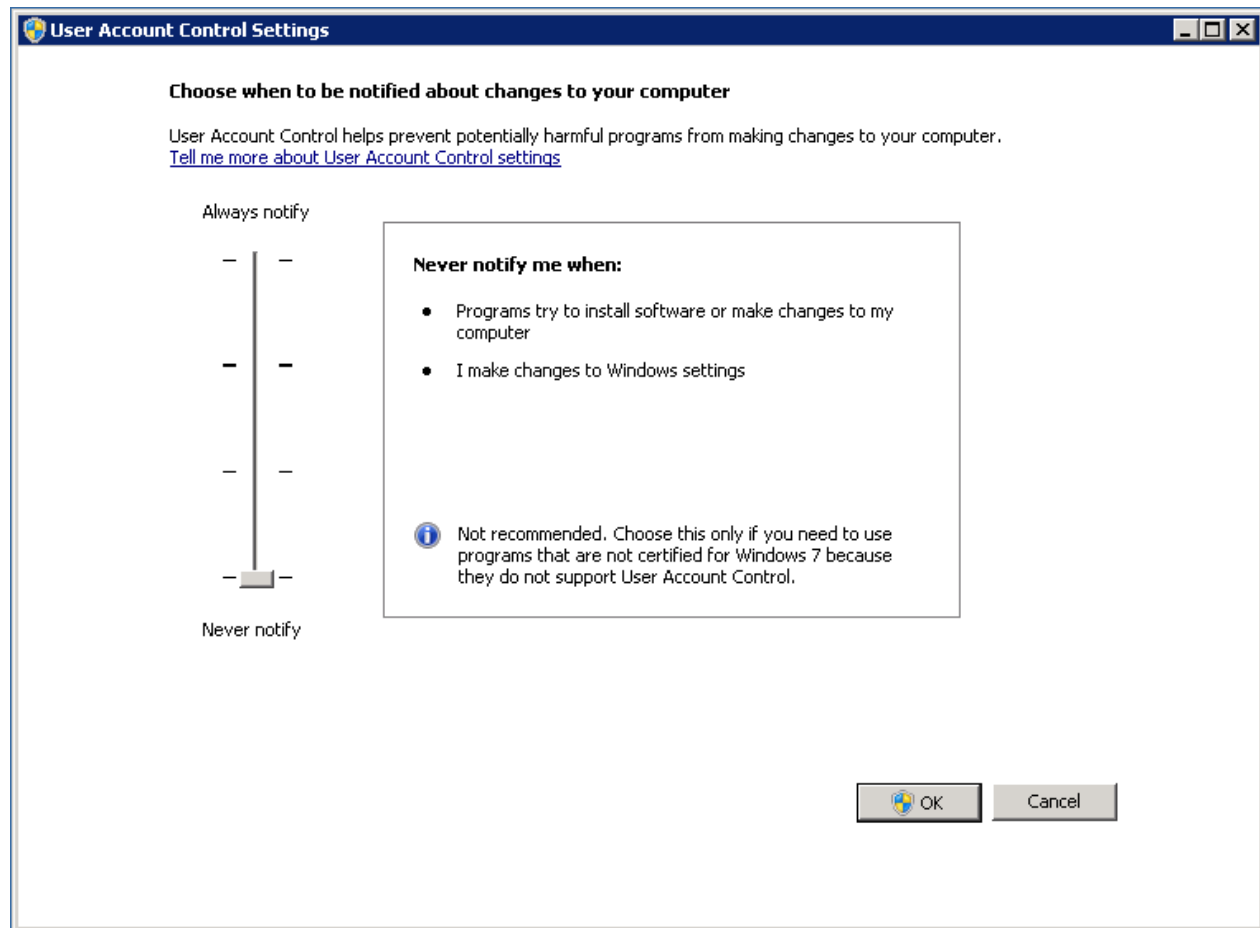


Figure 20 Disabling UAC

To enable UAC:

1. Run: **UserAccountControlSettings.exe**
2. Move the slider to the default setting (Default - Notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer).

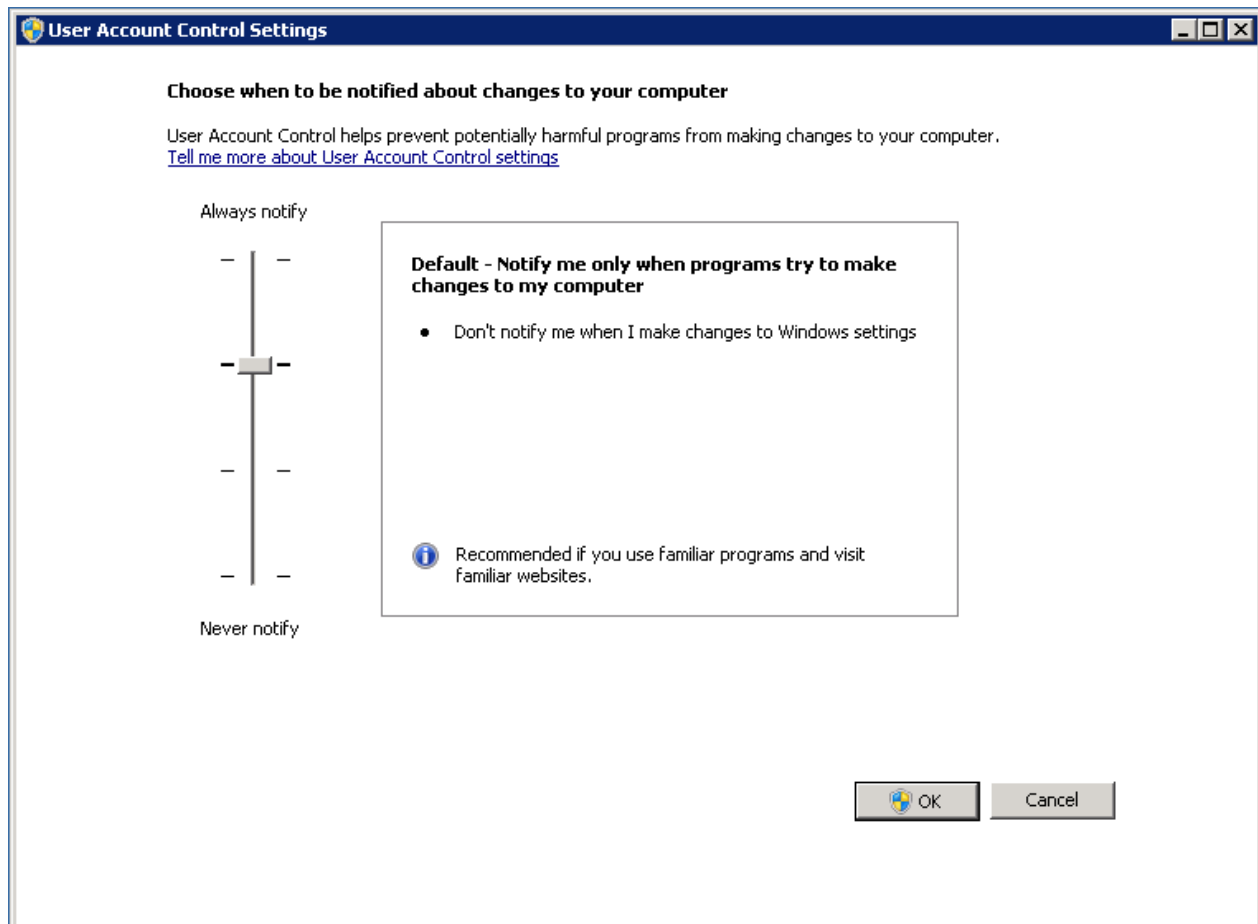


Figure 21 Enabling UAC

Note: Enabling and disabling UAC may require a reboot.

5.4.2. When Using Confirmit

If for security and policy requirements your site must have UAC enabled, you must perform the following steps to get Confirmit working:

ConfirmitDeploy cannot be member of local Administrators group, so

1. Add to **Remote Desktop User** so you can log on and perform required logins (For Batch servers).
2. Assign folder permissions.
 ConfirmitDeploy must have read/write permissions to Email server pickup directory (X:\inetpub\mailroot\pickup).
 ConfirmitDeploy must have read/write/change permissions to Confirmit data directory (and sub directories).
3. Assign the same user name and password for ConfirmitDeploy on the other Confirmit servers in the site
 This is also applicable if you have Shared data stored on a server that is not running Confirmit code.

Note: Confirmit will not work if you have UAC enabled and your ConfirmitDeploy user has Administrative rights. This is because when ConfirmitDeploy has Administrative rights, UAC will try to show the Raise Privileges overlay. This cannot be shown for a service account, and Confirmit will fail in performing the requested action.

5.5. Post-Installation Server Configuration

A number of procedures must be completed after the main installation phase to set the system up.

5.5.1. Obtaining and Installing a License File

The appropriate license files must be purchased and installed before Confirmit can be used.

5.5.1.1. Licensing Concepts

Confirmit requires a valid license file to function. The concept of license keys was introduced to protect the software against piracy. By default, Confirmit is not installed with a license.

Note that major changes to your SQL Server (such as migrating to a new server) might warrant having to issue a new license file for your site.

5.5.1.2. Add-ons

Confirmit functionality can be expanded with add-ons. Access to add-ons is controlled by the license file. Some add-ons are free of charge, while others are chargeable. Currently available add-ons include:

Add-on	Chargeable	Requires 3rd-party software
Spell Checker	Yes	No
Basic Panel	No	No
Translator	Yes	No
FTP for file transfer	Yes (included in Security Package)	Yes
PGP Encryption	Yes (included in Security Package)	Yes (included)
Reportal	Yes	Yes
CAPi	Yes	No
File Library	Yes	No
Reportal PDF Export	Yes	Yes
Kiosk	Yes	No
DomainKeys	Yes (included in Premium Emailing)	No
Dedicated IP	Yes (included in Premium Emailing)	No
Email Delivery Report	Yes (included in Premium Emailing)	No
Fixed Sender Domain	Yes (included in Premium Emailing)	No

Community Panels	Yes	No
Questionnaire Reviewer	Yes	No
ConcurrentSampling	Yes (included with Community Panels)	No
Community Snapshot Panel	Yes (included with Community Panels)	No
Data Processing	Yes	Yes
Sample Only	Yes	Yes
CATI Call Centers	Yes	Yes
Database Encryption	Yes	No
Flex Framework	Yes	No
SSO	Yes	Yes
Single Sign-On	Yes	Yes

Note: If you wish to remove the CATI Call Centers add-on, you must first remove all the call centers from the system manually.

5.5.1.3. Finding the Site ID for the License

Once the installation has completed, log on to Confirmit Authoring using the local machine: <http://localhost/confirm>.

1. Once logged on, go to **Admin > System Configuration** and open the License tab.
2. Beside Activation Info, click the **Copy to Clipboard** link.

Activation Info 119A14191418D77611AFB4C066C3C5C9 [Copy to Clipboard](#)
[\[View license \]](#) [\[Install license \]](#)

Figure 22 The Activation Info

3. Allow access to the Clipboard if prompted by the browser.

Save the information from the clipboard and send it to support@confirmit.com. Support will confirm that the request has been received and will issue a valid license file as soon as possible, and within two working days after receiving the request (if Confirmit is notified about the installation in advance, this step will typically be performed a lot faster). Once generated, the license file will be issued to the contact who initiated the request, provided this user is a designated support contact. Support will confirm delivery of the license file and follow up any requests for installation assistance if required. Note that the license file is valid for all servers within the same site, so it is not necessary to repeat the process for all servers.

5.5.1.4. Installing/Updating the Confirmit License

Note: The license file handling has been changed from v17.5 onward. Licenses must now be installed using the Confirmit Authoring GUI. Licenses can no longer be manually copied out to Confirmit servers

When the license file has been obtained from Support, log on to Confirmit Authoring:

1. Once logged on, go to **Admin > System Configuration** and open the License tab.

2. Click the **Install License** link.
3. Click **Browse** and locate the file obtained from Confirmit support.
4. Click the **Install license** button.
5. Examine the license overview and ensure it is correct, then click the **Close** button at the bottom of the page.

All issued license files have a specified expiry date. 30 days prior to the license expiry date, system administrators will receive a notification when logging on to Confirmit explaining that the license is about to expire. Confirmit maintains an updated list of license expiration dates, and will proactively provide new license files with extended expiry periods as long as the contract is not terminated. Renewed license files will be delivered to registered technical contacts no later than two weeks before the actual expiry date.

5.5.1.5. Confirmit SDK License

Customers using the Confirmit Web Services must install an additional license for the SDK if this has not been included in the regular license file. The procedure for installing the license file is the same, but the license is only required on servers where the Confirmit SDK is installed.

5.5.2. File System Permissions - Confirmit Data Share

Confirmit supports uploading from the user interface that requires files to be copied between different servers within the site, and also produces files itself that require deployment to remote servers (such as compiled survey packages, HTML reports, respondent files for importing, shared files in the File Library, etc.). In order to know which servers are supposed to receive specific types of files, Confirmit uses the role membership from the server setting (for example, production surveys go to servers with the Deployment role, while test surveys are deployed to servers with the Authoring role since that is where Authoring users are testing).

If you have not used the option in the Configuration Tool to set up the share, you must perform this manually.

Each server has a unique configuration setting in the Confirmit system configuration (named 'Root Path'), which determines the root target folder for files that Confirmit deploys to it. When installing Confirmit, the setting is by default set to the value of the local data path on the server that was given during installation, plus the addition of 'web'. In order to deploy servers to remote servers in a multiserver environment, this setting needs to be changed to a UNC path which other servers can use to reach the Confirmit data path. We recommend creating a file share on the Confirmit data path for this purpose. In order for Confirmit to function properly, the Confirmit deployment account should be set up with full access to this share. On systems where the user is not a member of the Administrators group (not required on dedicated Authoring, Reportal and Deployment servers), the root drive share (i.e. d\$, e\$) cannot be used as this can only be accessed by members of the Local Administrators group on each server.

After creating the share, the Root Path setting in Confirmit should be changed to reflect the change. Either use the server NetBIOS name or the IP address, share name, and the trailing 'web' folder, i.e. `\\servername\confirmitdatashare\web` or `\\192.168.0.10\data$web`.

5.5.3. Assigning Tasks to a Task System Server

When the Confirmit Task System service has been started on the task system server(s), the service will register itself in the Confirmit system database and allow tasks to be assigned to it. This can be done in the Confirmit GUI, in the **Admin > Batch > Server Config** menu, by selecting or deselecting a task type for the listed task system servers.

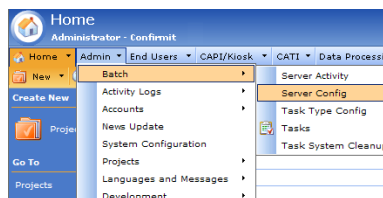


Figure 23 Going to the Admin > Batch > Server Config menu

For information about the task types in Confirmit, refer to the Confirmit Software Administrator Manual.

5.5.3.1. Task Isolation Level

Most tasks in Confirmit Horizons are written in C# and run in the context of the Confirmit Task System service (a few tasks still remain from older versions that are not converted to C#). All C# tasks can be configured to run in one of two isolation levels; Thread, or Process. The different settings can be configured in the **Admin > Batch > Task Type Config** area in Confirmit.

On this page, the various tasks can also be configured in a weighting system. Tasks are set up with a default configuration that has been tested to work in most configurations, with a suggested maximum number of concurrent tasks for that task type and the percentage-wise load a single instance of the task has on the server. If you experience task queuing on your system, especially for specific task types, then dedicating more servers to handling that task type or allowing more task instances to be run concurrently may be an option.

5.5.4. BitStream Server Operation Modes

The Confirmit BitStream service will be installed when the 'BitStream' role is selected in the Configuration Tool. The BitStream service provides fast access to reporting data than SQL Server, and it provides a proprietary file format and query language developed by Confirmit. Confirmit BitStream Service can operate in three different modes:

5.5.4.1. Single Server

The '**Single server**' option is the default option when the Confirmit BitStream Service is installed on a single machine. The server will be responsible for handling BitStream generation and queries for all projects within the site.

5.5.4.2. Multi Server

The '**Multi server**' option allows running Confirmit BitStream as a 'load balanced' feature. This entails that multiple servers will be using the same repository for keeping their local file copies of load balanced projects synchronized, and that BitStream queries are spread across several servers.

To enable multi server with sync in an existing environment, follow the steps below:

1. Upgrade Confirmit. Existing BitStream settings will be retained.
2. Create a BitStream repository folder in the desired path and create a share for this location that can be accessed from all servers running the Confirmit BitStream Service.
3. Temporarily disable the BitStream Generator task type in Confirmit to prevent tasks from starting
4. Set the repository path (UNC) as the BitStreamSyncRepositoryPath in System Configuration.
5. Restart the Confirmit BitStream Service.
6. Re-enable the BitStream Generator task in Confirmit.

When Multi-Server has been set up, projects will automatically be assigned to one BitStream server upon BitStream file generation, based on weighting set on the servers under the BitStream server role in System Configuration. If all servers have the same weight, server assignment will be random.

To load balance a project across several servers, select which projects are to be load balanced onto which servers by going to **Admin > Projects > BitStream Server Configuration**, and tick the box corresponding to the chosen server:

Search [X] Reset Save				192.168.100.150:8285 (L) 192.168.100.86:8285 (R) 192.168.100.24:8285 (R)		
Project ID	Project Name	Company				
	test					
p998416962	test	Confirmit	☒	☒	☐	☐
p990833058	test	Confirmit	☐	☐	☐	☐
p987538825	TEST	Confirmit	☒	☒	☐	☐
p984206134	TEST	Confirmit	☒	☐	☒	☐
p982468714	test	Confirmit	☐	☒	☒	☐
p977971356	test	Confirmit	☐	☒	☒	☐
p976894047	test	Confirmit	☒	☒	☒	☐
p969515872	Test	Confirmit	☐	☐	☐	☐

Figure 24 Load balancing projects across several servers

For every BitStream task on a load balanced project, the service will generate BitStream files locally and copy the resulting file set to the BitStreamSyncRepositoryPath, from where additional BitStream servers assigned to the same project will synchronize. If you want to monitor this process, tracing can be enabled in the <confirmprog>\services\Firmglobal.Confirmit.BitStreamService.exe.config file, producing a detailed log of the operation.

In a Multi-Server environment, you are also able to assign BitStream servers to only be BitStream Writer or BitStream Reader servers, which could be beneficial in a heavily utilized system. This is performed on each corresponding server under the BitStream server role in System Configuration.

- Load balanced BitStream sets that are written from now on will be copied to the BitStreamWritePath repository.

Note: If you have Reportal Reports with several Data Sources, and joins between these, you may receive a notice in Reportal about having to assign the BitStream filesets to the same BitStream server(s).

5.5.5. Synching the Confirmit File Library on a New Confirmit Authoring Server

Note: This only applies when introducing a new Authoring server, or exchanging the active Authoring server for a new one.

In order for new Authoring servers to be able to read file library data, the ContentUpload data store must be synchronized onto that server from the ShareData location.

Copy the <confirmit shared data path> \ContentUpload, including subfolders, to the <confirmitdata>\web\contentupload folder.

5.6. Upgrading From a Previous Version

The following tasks must be performed if you are upgrading your Confirmit installation from a previous version.

5.6.1. Assigning New Task Types to Task System Servers

New versions of Confirmit often include new task types, which will need to be assigned to one or more batch servers. This can be done in the Confirmit GUI, in the **Admin > Batch > Server Configuration** menu. If a task is not run on any of the servers, the text for the task will turn red.

5.7. Confirmit Configuration

The GUI-based Confirmit configuration can be accessed from the Confirmit Authoring module by a system administrator, and configuration settings are stored in an SQL database. When installing additional servers to a Confirmit environment, new servers will automatically register in the configuration system, with assigned roles based on the features that were selected during setup.

Important

There is one exception where servers will not automatically be added to the Confirmit configuration, specifically when setting up additional dedicated SQL Server instances or servers. Since there is no Confirmit code being run when installing additional SQL Server instances, adding database servers must be done manually (see Multiple SQL Server Instances on page 67 for more information). Contact support@confirmit.com if you need more information about this subject. For customers with the premium support package, configuration assistance for multiple SQL Server instances will normally be provided free of charge. Functionality to enable additional database servers from the GUI may be included in a future version of Confirmit.

Once the installation is completed for all servers, log on to Confirmit on an Authoring server as a user with the SYSTEM_ADMINISTRATE permission. The first logon should automatically redirect you to the system configuration page. If you need to access it later, it can be located in the **Admin** menu as shown below:

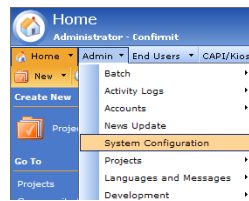


Figure 25 The Admin > System Configuration menu

5.7.1. Configuration System Concepts

Configuration settings have been arranged into categories that can apply to the whole site, for a group of servers assigned to a role, or per-server only for settings that can differ for each server. Descriptions for configuration settings are displayed when you allow the mouse pointer to hover over the setting name.

5.7.1.1. Site-Wide Settings

Site wide settings apply to all servers within the site. They can only be set on the site (top) level and cannot be overridden on a role or server level. The initial site wide settings are migrated from the first server to be installed or upgraded, and will not be overwritten by subsequent installs. Once set, new servers added to the site or upgraded from a Confirmit version with registry-based configuration will automatically inherit the site wide settings when added to the site.

5.7.1.2. Role-Wide Settings

Role-wide setting applies to the group of servers configured with that role. To assign a role to a server, double-click on the server in the **Servers** folder and select the checkboxes corresponding to the roles you want to assign:

Some role-wide settings apply to more than one role and will change for all roles if the setting is changed in one of the roles.

Note: Servers installed with specific features only cannot be adapted to running new features simply by assigning the role. This is because certain features must be installed during setup and cannot be added on the fly in the system configuration in the versions of Confirmit currently available. Selecting a role for a server will only enable configuration options for the server that are applicable to the role, and will make the server a deployment target for certain tasks (for example, selecting the 'deployment' role will make the server a target for launched production surveys but will not copy existing surveys on the system to the new server.) To change the role on a server, it is recommended to start by re-running the Confirmit Configuration Tool on the server, select the required role, apply the changes, then synchronize necessary data folders. Contact Support for details.

Role-wide settings can be overridden at the server level. When a role setting is overridden on a server, the setting value will be shown in a yellow background when viewing the server settings - see below. Also, a 'Revert to default' checkbox will be available (checking it and clicking **Save** will revert the setting to the value defined on the role level).



Figure 26 Role-wide settings



Figure 27 Role-wide settings overridden at the server level

5.7.1.3. Server-Wide Settings

Some settings (such as server name, UNC path for file deployment, etc.) are unique to each server and needs to be set on a per-server basis. These settings can be changed when a server is selected from the **Servers** folder.

5.8. The Command Line Management Tools

5.8.1. The ConfirmitAdministrator Tool

During the initial installation of the first Confirmit server within a site, a set of four SQL Server logins are created on the database server. Each of these four logins has permissions to the various databases that match their access requirements.

The SQL connection strings used by the ADO.NET component to connect different application features to the SQL Server databases are encrypted and stored in the configuration database. If the password for any of the Confirmit SQL logins is changed, the encrypted connection string must also be updated to reflect the setting. Since the encrypted connection string is unique to each server within the site, it would have to be changed on all servers where Confirmit is installed. This is the purpose of the **ConfirmitAdministrator.exe** tool. The tool also serves a second purpose – for updating the connection string used by the Confirmit Task System Helper service,

Run the tool from the command line to see a help screen explaining the various input parameters that can be passed into the tool.

```
ConfirmitAdministrator.exe /t:<type> [/r:<role>] /u:<user>
[/p:<password>] [/au:
<user> /ap:<password>]
```

5.8.2. The aspnet_setreg.exe Tool

.NET web applications spanning over several servers require that a logged on session is valid between the servers that run the application. To achieve this, the .NET Framework allows for two means of maintaining sessions. The first runs the ASP.NET State Service, installed with the .NET Framework, on one of the servers, and configures the .NET applications to connect to this service.

The second maintains sessions via a dedicated ASPState session database. If this is the preferred method, (it is how Confirmit applications are configured by default) each server serving the specific application must be able to read and write to this database. This is done using the last user account specified during Confirmit installation; the 'aspstate' account (if you used the suggested login name).

If the password for this SQL Server login is changed, the connection string used by the .NET applications will also have to be updated. This connection string is stored in an encrypted format in the system registry and must be changed using a tool normally installed with the .NET Framework SDK, **aspnet_setreg.exe**. The tool can be found in the **<confirmprog>\3rd party\Microsoft** folder.

The tool requires two parameters in order to insert the new encrypted password into registry:

- '-k:' = registry key location, relative to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE ('HKLM')
- '-c:' = the Sql Connection String.

The complete command string is as follows:

```
aspnet_setreg.exe -k:SOFTWARE\FIRM\ConFIRM\SessionState -c:"data
source=<sqlservername>;user
id=<ASPStateUserSQLlogin>;password=<ASPStateUserSQLpassword>"
```

The data source in the SQLConnectionString should match the name of the database (preferably the SQL Server Client Network Utility alias used during installation.)

If the suggested user name was used during installation, a typical syntax might look like this:

```
aspnet_setreg.exe -k:SOFTWARE\FIRM\ConFIRM\SessionState -c:"data
source=ConfirmitDB;user id=aspstate;password=MyPassword"
```

Note: If using the aspnet_setreg tool to update a changed password after the initial installation, permissions to the updated registry key are reset by the aspnet_setreg tool, and must be altered to allow Confirmit read access.

Note: The <confirmprog>\bin\SetRegPerm.exe tool will set the required permissions in registry automatically

Alternatively, start the registry editor on the server and browse to the 'SOFTWARE\FIRM\ConFIRM\SessionState' key. Right-click the key and choose 'Permission', and allow read access to this key for the Network Service system account. Also allow for permissions to be inherited by sub keys.

5.8.3. The ConfirmitAdmin Tool

ConfirmitAdmin.exe is a powerful tool that can be used for a variety of features on a server without having to log on to the Confirmit GUI. The various actions are documented in the tool itself, simply run the tool from the command line without any arguments to display a list of available commands.

```
ConfirmitAdmin.exe /U:(username) /P:(password) -command <arguments>
```

5.8.4. Uninstalling Confirmit

To uninstall Confirmit from a server, run the setup tool and choose **Uninstall** to remove the server from the Confirmit configuration and remove the application files from the server. The Confirmit Data folder will not be deleted, but the CIFS share will be removed as part of the uninstall process.

6. Confirmit Maintenance

This chapter contains information about recommended day-to-day maintenance routines, such as backup and logging, application monitoring, recommendations for server hardening and script examples for helping the system administrator set up scheduled maintenance jobs.

6.1. Backup and Recovery

6.1.1. System Files / Partitions

One advantage of having Confirmit installed on a dedicated partition/drive on the server is that required changes to the system such as a full reinstall do not affect Confirmit data. If C is your system drive, installing Confirmit application files in C and data files on a separate D-drive might be useful. This would allow you to set up the server exactly how you want it, and later using a partition imaging tool to back up the system drive completely. In the event of a system crash, the partition can be restored to a fully functioning state within a short timeframe. With data on a separate partition, the system partition size can be kept to a controllable level, and system restores would not require restoration of data.

6.1.2. Data Files Generated by Confirmit

The **<confirmdata>** folder contains files that have been generated and deployed to different servers by the Confirmit Task System service. The amount of data for each server will vary; servers belonging to the Deployment role will typically contain the largest amount of generated data.

Backing up the **<confirmdata>** folder is strongly recommended, and especially so for servers where only one server is a member of a specific role. If that particular server should crash completely, the data contained on it would be lost if no backups or additional servers containing the same data were present in the server park.

The NT Backup tool included in Windows Server 2003 has shown itself to be useful when backing up the **<confirmdata>** folders. If you do not have a 2003 server to take this from, in 2008/ R2 the tool was replaced with Windows Server Backup tool explained here:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc770757.aspx>.

It works quite fast for large volumes of files and directories, creates a backup file in a general TAR format that is readable by many other backup tools, can be set up in a schedule and supports both differential and incremental backups. However, it does not support compression of backup data. Using WinZip (with the command line plug-in) or a similar compression tool allows for compression of the output NTBackup file if this is required. WinZip can also be used for backing up the **<confirmdata>** folders directly, although it does not traverse directories as fast as NTBackup and might even run into problems on very large systems with files in the millions (during initial traversing of the file system to determine the estimated time required for the operation..)

When backing up the **<confirmdata>** folders, **<confirmdata>\temp** can usually be omitted from the backup.

If a restore of any data from the **<confirmdata>** backup is required, NTBackup supports restore of single files or directories. If restored to their original location, Confirmit should become automatically aware of the data providing it was backed up from the same Confirmit version.

6.1.3. SQL Server Databases

Confirmit system and survey databases should be backed up on a regular basis to ensure the possibility of restoring the system or a survey to a previous point.

The recommended approach is using the SQL Server Agent to set up a scheduled backup job that runs online backup of all databases on the system without affecting availability of any databases on the system. The databases that should be included in a backup schedule are:

- **[Authentication]** – contains information about Confirmit logins.
- **[Confirm]** – contains task system information, Reportal reports, system configuration, etc.
- **[Confirmlog]** – contains logs from the survey monitor, Reportal, Authoring, and user activities.

- **[ConfirmitCache]** – Contains Reportal data cache. Does not require regular backup but should be backed up at least once (for instance immediately after installation/upgrade/patch) in order to restore the schema if necessary.
- **Confirmit Search** - contains search queue information for Confirmit Searching Service.
- **[Custom_tables_design]** – contains hierarchy data in design mode.
- **[Custom_tables_runtime]** – contains hierarchy data in runtime mode.
- **[DataCentral]** – contains temporary data for Data Central processing.
- **Document Store** - contains data used by the Rest (Metadata) API interface (primarily survey definitions etc.).
- **[Individualreports]** – contains individual report information (hit lists, single views, etc.).
- **Node Store** - temporary data storage used by the Rest (Metadata) API.
- **[PanelManagement]** – contains community panel data.
- **[Project_management]** – contains information about projects and companies.
- **[Resources]** – contains languages and system messages.
- **[Templates]** – contains panel templates.
- **[WITemplates]** – contains web interview templates.
- **[Survey_p{N}]** – contains respondent and response data for a survey compiled in production mode (legacy or optimized format).
- **[Survey_p{N}_test]** – contains respondent and response data for a survey compiled in test mode (legacy or optimized format).
- **[Surveys_{companyid}_dp]** – Contains required Reportal metadata for reporting on non-Confirmit data.
- **[Surveys_{companyid}_express]** – Contains Confirmit Express surveys for a specific company (optimized format).
- **[Surveys_{companyid}_poll]** – Contains Poll surveys for a specific company (optimized format).
- **[Surveys_{companyid}]** – Contains optimized format surveys for a specific company where the 'reusable databases' option has been enabled.

6.2. Monitoring and Systems Maintenance

6.2.1. SQL Database Server Maintenance

To maintain a healthy and well-performing environment, the database server should run a number of scheduled maintenance jobs. Some jobs are included during installation as stored procedures in Confirmit databases, but are not started by default, and others can be added to fit individual setups.

Note: Confirmit does not by default hard-delete deleted projects. You must start and schedule the Confirmit Database Cleanup task to permanently delete projects from SQL and FastObjects databases.

1. To adjust the number of days that deleted projects are to be kept as soft-deleted, tune the `DaysToKeepSurveyDatabasesForDeletedProjects` in the sitewide System Configuration settings.
2. Go to **Admin > Database Cleanup** and change from "ASAP" to "Schedule for later execution", then click **OK** and create an appropriate recurring schedule.

Keep in mind that this task does put stress on the system, so it is highly recommended to run it out of high peak hours.

6.2.1.1. Restoring Survey Databases

If a Confirmit database is restored from backup, service broker must be set manually for the database so that Confirmit will function correctly. Run the following command after restoring a survey database to enable the broker on the database:

```
ALTER DATABASE <database name> SET NEW_BROKER WITH ROLLBACK IMMEDIATE (or  
use 'ROLLBACK AFTER XX' seconds instead of 'ROLLBACK IMMEDIATE').
```

Note: Ensure that the ConfirmitDeployer SQL account is the database owner after restore. The current user will always take ownership when restoring databases.

**The following SQL command will allow you to change database owner:
(use <database name>; exec sp_changedbowner ConfirmitDeployer;)**

6.2.1.2. Automatic Detachment of Inactive Survey Databases

The traditional Confirmit database model operates with a separate database for each survey created on a site (two if a survey is compiled in test mode.) Although this provides a fully segregated database model and allows for individual maintenance of particular surveys, it would eventually become a problem if the server was loaded with more databases than it could effectively operate with in memory, potentially leading to an unstable server, and in the worst case, a server crash rendering all databases unavailable. This was not likely to occur until the number of databases reached over 1,000 unless running on database server with very little memory installed, but still something had to be done for the future of growing installations.

One of the issues that can be seen if the amount of databases on the system starts reaching the limit is errors when running certain tasks on the system, typically yielding errors like "There is insufficient memory to run this query". This warning indicates that the SQL Server's MemToLeave area is too small for the current amount of databases and transactions.

Microsoft SQL Server allocates at least one 64KB block used for formatting log records before they are flushed to disk. The allocation takes place when the first log record is generated for a database, following any INSERT, UPDATE or DELETE statement. Depending on the size of the generated log records and the activity on the system, additional 64KB blocks may, and will in most cases be allocated as well.

The situation can be somewhat relieved by configuring the SQL server to use the -g startup flag to instruct the server to leave more memory aside to prevent that the combination of log-related allocations and other allocations causes the SQL server to run out of virtual address space. The more databases are attached and active and on the system, the more memory would likely have to be reserved.

The Microsoft SQL Server Books online provides more documentation on this feature, and <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/316749> references it in more detail as well.

Confirmit can detach survey databases that have not been accessed for a while. The [confirm_admin]..[surveydatabases] table stores and maintains information about the current status of every survey database on the system, as long as the project has not been deleted from the GUI. The table is initially populated during the installation of Confirmit, and is automatically updated with new rows when databases are compiled for new projects.

Included as a stored procedure in the [confirm_admin] database is usp_DeactivateIdleSurveyDatabases. The procedure takes one parameter; an integer specifying (in minutes) how long a database should be inactive before it's detached by the procedure, with 1440 (24hrs) as the default set up in a maintenance job created on the database server during Confirmit installation; "Detach idle surveydatabases". The job is always installed but not enabled by default, and must be enabled manually to run. It is recommended that it is enabled for most environments.

When the procedure runs, it will read through the [surveydatabases] table and store the LastConnect timestamp (which is updated dynamically by any Confirmit application module which uses the database in any way,) and detach any survey databases that exceed the set limit, thus freeing resources for the SQL Server process. It will also set the status of the database as being currently detached (inactive.)

If any part of Confirmit (a survey, report user, etc.) tries to access the database while it's detached, Confirmit will automatically reattach the database (provided the files are still available) and reset the status to attached (active.)

Important

The SQL Agent will reset NTFS permissions on the databases when you detach them. Therefore the SQL Server Agent MUST run under the same user account as the SQL Server, otherwise your SQL Server will not be able to attach the databases.

If for any reason there are databases that should not be detached from the system, the [surveydatabases] table can be modified, altering the donttouch column for the relevant row for a specific database. Setting the value of this column to '1' for required databases will make the detach procedure to overlook them in the detachment process.

Note: only Confirmit survey databases are affected by this procedure, system databases are never, and should never be detached.

Important

To prevent excessive reads to the control table to determine survey database status, each server caches a survey database's status for 60 minutes after a successful status check. Keep this in mind if detaching databases manually with a shorter time frame than 60 minutes, and recycle IIS on web servers and restart the Confirmit Task System on batch servers if there are inconsistencies – or simply wait for the issue to resolve itself within an hour.

6.2.1.3. Deleting Survey Test Databases

Administrators might also notice that survey test databases expand over time, and after a while can take up quite a lot of space on the server. To keep the number of test databases to a minimum, a maintenance job can be added on the database server to delete databases that have been inactive for a specified period. An example script to add a procedure for automating this job is available in the Server Admin Scripts section on the Confirmit Extranet: <http://extranet.confirmit.com/download/AdminScripts.aspx>. Note that you will need to login to the site. If you don't currently have the required access permission then there is a link on the login page that will open an email to the Confirmit support team so you can request the permission.

6.2.1.4. Clearing Contents of Log Tables

The databases [confirm] and [confirmlog] contain task history and survey response history tables respectively. On a busy system, these databases will quickly grow substantially in size, and over time performance might deteriorate when reading from or writing to these databases.

To control the growth of the databases, some tables can be managed on a scheduled basis to reduce the number of stored rows. Scripts are available in the Server Admin Scripts section on the Confirmit Extranet: <http://extranet.confirmit.com/download/AdminScripts.aspx>. Note that you will need to log in to the site. If you don't currently have the required access permission then there is a link on the login page that will open an email to the Confirmit support team so you can request the permission.

6.2.1.5. Defragmenting Indexes

Indexes on large tables may become large after a while, and if the tables are cleared regularly, indexes can contain chunks of white space that could be optimized by defragmenting the index. Scripts are available in the Server Admin Scripts section on the Confirmit Extranet: <http://extranet.confirmit.com/download/AdminScripts.aspx>. Note that you will need to login to the site. If you don't currently have the required access permission then there is a link on the login page that will open an email to the Confirmit support team so you can request the permission.

6.2.1.6. Shrinking Databases

If you experience that the size of a survey database starts to grow excessively and your free disk size becomes a problem, you should check if shrinking the database could free up some space.

6.2.1.6.1. SQL Server LOB Compaction

SQL Server 2012 offers functionality to compact pages that are sparsely populated. Run the following statement to deallocate unused pages:

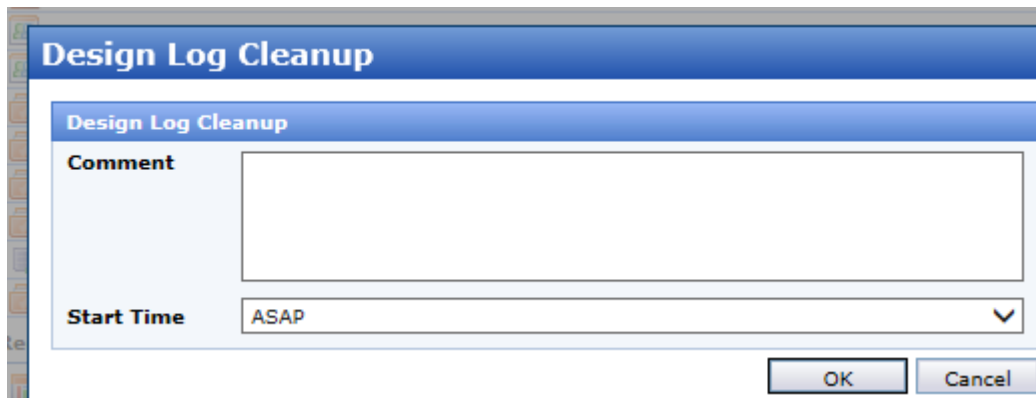
```
ALTER INDEX <indexname> ON <database>.dbo.<tablename>
REORGANIZE
WITH (lob_compaction=ON)
```

Then free the space to the OS by running:

```
use [survey_pXXXXXXXXX]
go
DBCC SHRINKFILE (1, 1)
```

6.2.1.7. Design Log Cleanup

This task does not have any parameters, but uses the DesignerLogCleanupPeriod setting in System Configuration. This is set by default to 180 days, so Design log entries older than 180 days will be deleted.



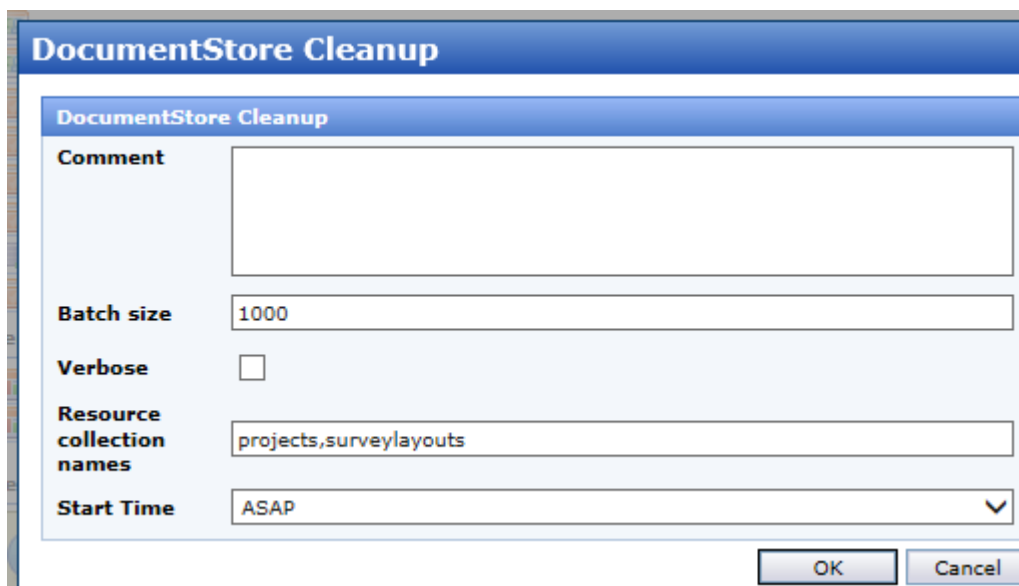
The image shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "Design Log Cleanup". It has a blue header bar with the title. Below the header, there is a section titled "Design Log Cleanup" in a smaller blue bar. Inside this section, there is a "Comment" label followed by a large empty text box. Below the comment box, there is a "Start Time" label followed by a dropdown menu currently showing "ASAP". At the bottom right of the dialog, there are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

Figure 28 The Design Log Cleanup overlay

Design log entries for deleted projects will not be removed with the DB cleanup task, but wait for the Design Log cleanup to do its work.

6.2.1.8. DocumentStore Cleanup Task

The DocumentStore cleanup task will delete all document versions that are marked as expired. Version expiration is set based on the system configuration setting "MaxSurveyVersions". The latest x (MaxSurveyVersions) will be kept; the rest will be marked as expired (and thus cleaned whenever the DocumentStore cleanup task runs).



The image shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "DocumentStore Cleanup". It has a blue header bar with the title. Below the header, there is a section titled "DocumentStore Cleanup" in a smaller blue bar. Inside this section, there is a "Comment" label followed by a large empty text box. Below the comment box, there is a "Batch size" label followed by a text box containing "1000". Below that, there is a "Verbose" label followed by an unchecked checkbox. Below the checkbox, there is a "Resource collection names" label followed by a text box containing "projects,surveylayouts". Below the text box, there is a "Start Time" label followed by a dropdown menu currently showing "ASAP". At the bottom right of the dialog, there are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

Figure 29 The DocumentStore Cleanup overlay

- **Batch size** - defines how many versions will be deleted every time the task runs. So if you have 50 000 expired versions and the batch size is 1000, the cleanup task will delete 1000 versions and then stop.
- **Verbose** - check to get details of individual records that have been deleted. For example:
If Verbose is not activated -
 - o 1000 records deleted
 - o 2000 records deleted

o 3000...

If Verbose is activated -

o p1347856284 v13 has been deleted

o p1237495869 v7 has been deleted

o etc.

Note that Verbose is useful for trouble-shooting, but can quickly lead to very large task logs.

- **Resource collection names** - defines what will be deleted. Ie. Survey layouts and/or projects.
- **Start Time** - defines when the task is to run. Select Schedule for later execution to set up a recurring task.

6.2.1.9. NodeStore Cleanup Task

The NodeStorecleanup task will remove all data for the configured “resource collection names”, that is older than the “expiry days” setting configured in the NodeStore cleanup task definition.

Note: All documents exist in the DocumentStore. No data is lost when this cleanup job executes.

Figure 30 The NodeStore Cleanup overlay

- **Expiry days** - defines the number of days NodeStore entries are to be kept (days to hold). Once the task is set to recurring, any changes to a property will be included for the next task run. The recommended expiry days setting for this task is 8 days.
- **Resource collection names** - defines what will be deleted. Ie. Survey layouts and/or projects.
- **Start Time** - defines when the task is to run. Select Schedule for later execution to set up a recurring task.

The following properties are located in System Configuration. Under "Searching":

- **NodeStorageIndexingEnabled** - If the indexing of changes in the node store is enabled - this is related to the index used by the Confirmit Searching service (not related to the NodeStore cleanup task).

And under "Miscellaneous":

- **NodeStoreExpiry** - This is the number of days before versions will expire from NodeStore. Note that the versions will still be available and compressed in DocumentStore after being removed from NodeStore.

6.2.1.10. Searching and Indexing History Cleanup

Figure 31 The Searching and Indexing History Cleanup overlay

The ...history cleanup task removes old entries in the ConfirmitSearch database. The Days to expire... value specifies the number of days the history is to be kept for each task before it is deleted.

The task parameters specify how long internal activity tracking data is kept. This data is really used for extended troubleshooting, so unless you are in the process of troubleshooting something related to the Confirmit Searching service, the default values can be used when scheduling this task.

6.2.1.11. Hub Cleaning

Hub Cleanup can be performed periodically to permanently remove deleted hubs, sources and related objects from SmartHub. When a hub is deleted from the user interface, it will initially be “soft-deleted” (marked for deletion). The database will not be removed until the hub cleanup task runs after a specified number of days have passed.

There are two configuration settings in “System Configuration” for this:

- DaysToKeepHubDatabaseObjectsAfterSoftDeletion controls the number of days that must expire before the database holding data in the hub column store can be dropped. Note that as the definition of the hub is not deleted it will be possible to restore a deleted hub after the database is deleted. The hub loader will be able to recreate the database in the hub column store from the original sources (unless they have been removed).
- The definition of the hub will be deleted when more than the number of days specified in the DaysToKeepHubDesignObjectsAfterSoftDeletion config setting has passed. This can be set higher than the DaysToKeepHubDatabaseObjectsAfterSoftDeletion, since the definition is small compared to the actual data.

6.2.1.12. Single Page Survey Cleanup

This task cleans up any files created by the single page survey generation task where the files are older than 1 month.

6.2.2. Anti-Virus Recommendations

Servers with file deployment and/or upload (task system and author servers) should have anti-virus software installed to protect the system from infected content. There are two important considerations with regards to performance of a Confirmit server when installing an anti-virus application:

- Real-time file scanning of survey packages (read/write/access) might slow down interviewing, file deployment (WI and report generation) even if **<confirmdata>** folders are added to the exclusion list (files still need to be checked against the exclusion list.) In some cases, anti-virus software might even cause unexpected errors in Confirmit (particularly in task system logs, referencing file deployment.)
- Script blocking might render some parts of the application unusable as this might refuse some of the COM objects to run (i.e. components accessing the file system on behalf of the web server.) If possible, script blocking should be disabled or not installed at all.
- For best performance and to reduce the possibility of corrupted operating system files, Confirmit recommends you adhere to the official Microsoft Anti-Virus Exclusion list:
<https://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/953.microsoft-anti-virus-exclusion-list.aspx>

6.2.3. Time Synchronization

Over time, internal server clocks may drift at slightly different speeds. Running a multi-server installation may eventually lead to servers being out of sync. This can usually be diagnosed by delays in task execution, or in variations of recorded time-stamps from surveys. This can be avoided by updating the server clocks regularly, either by using an Internet time server, a domain server or synchronizing manually.

6.2.4. Event Logs

Event logs are used for investigating issues with applications or the system itself, and for auditing system usage. For example, if a Confirmit installation fails it will log an error in the application log stating why it failed. Confirmit will also create its own event log on servers where it is installed, where errors from modules using the .NET Framework will be logged (in addition to being sent via email to the configured EmailRecipient.)

The size of the event logs can be increased to provide a longer backlog for events on the system.

6.2.4.1. Secure Event Log Viewing

Default configuration allows guests and null logons the ability to view event logs (system, and application logs.) The Security log is protected from guest access by default, though it is viewable by users who have "Manage Audit Logs" permission. The Event log services use the following key to restrict guest access to these logs:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM
CurrentControlSet\Services\EventLog\[LogName]
RestrictGuestAccess: REG_DWORD: 1
```

6.2.5. IIS Configuration

6.2.5.1. IIS Hardening

IIS7.5 is relatively secure with its base configuration. As it is module based, only required modules need to be installed, thereby limiting the surface area for potential attacks against the service.

6.2.5.1.1. Moving the Web Root

By default, IIS installs its web root folder on the system drive. If an attacker were to be able to hack a page residing on the system drive, using folder traversal could potentially give the attacker access to system files. Confirmit recommends moving the web root folder to a different drive, and installing Confirmit on a different drive than the operating system as well. Scripts for performing an IIS folder migration can be found around the Internet. Alternatively, the official steps from the IIS blog may be used:

<http://blogs.iis.net/thomad/archive/2008/02/10/moving-the-iis7-inetpub-directory-to-a-different-drive.aspx>

6.2.5.2. IIS Log Files

IIS supports different log file formats; its own Microsoft IIS log file format, the NCSA Common and the W3C Extended log file formats. The W3C extended log file format is the most versatile as it offers customizable output to accommodate individual needs.

Confirmit recommends setting up IIS to store log files on a different partition than the operating system or setting up a log file archival process if possible to avoid disk space problems if the logs outgrow the available partition space.

6.2.5.2.1. IIS Log File Archiving

Web server and SMTP logs can grow substantially in size on busy systems. Two easy ways of controlling log size are by enabling NTFS compression on the log directory and archiving logs.

Enabling NTFS compression on the log directory will reduce the physical space required to store logs, but can add some overhead to the I/O performance on the system, specifically on very busy servers.

Archiving logs for external storage is a more performance/cost effective solution and can be customized to accommodate most needs. Log archiving can be set up as a scheduled task on the servers. An example script (written for IIS6 but also works with IIS7 when IIS6 WMI compatibility is enabled) can be found in the script repository on the Confirmit Extranet.

6.2.6. IIS Monitoring

Monitoring of the web server health can help resolve situations where the web server becomes unresponsive or unavailable by alerting technical personnel about the server status.

Several 3rd party products can be used for monitoring web service health, amongst others: Mercury SiteScope, HP OpenView, Paessler PRTG, Solarwinds IPMonitor, KeyNote, etc.

6.2.6.1. Using a Basic Page to Monitor Web Server Availability

Alternatively, a basic .aspx page can be used to monitor the availability of the web service. The following script can be saved as an aspx page in the web server root directory. Accessing the file through a monitoring system can monitor the basic health of the IIS server.

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" %>
<!-- IsAlive.aspx
Check that server is alive
-->
<html>
<body topmargin="0" bgcolor="FFFFFF">
<%
Response.Write("<CENTER><BR>");
Response.Write("<table width=250 bgcolor=green><tr
align=center><td><strong><font color=white>Page loaded
successfully</font></strong></td></tr>");
Response.Write("</table></CENTER>");
%>
</body>
</html>
```

6.2.6.2. Using a Survey to Monitor Survey Engine Availability

Monitoring a dummy survey is a good method of ensuring that your Confirmit server environment is working properly. The approach below will only "cost" one complete transaction, and we avoid the additional work of "flagging" certain projects in the transaction logs. The recommended approach for creating and monitoring a Confirmit survey is as follows because it will only generate one complete:

1. Create a short survey; one page with some static text should be sufficient. Add some text to the page that is easily recognized by the monitoring software such as "Survey Loaded" or similar
2. Compile the survey as a limited survey, allowing respondents to reenter the survey upon completion.
3. Upload one respondent to the survey and find the respondent's unique link from the Respondent Editor (or send it as an invitation email from Confirmit if a respondent was uploaded with an email address.)
4. Use the personalized URL to monitor the environment; i.e. <http://server/wix/p12345678.wix?r=1&s=XXXXXX>

If the 'EncryptSystemRequestParameters' configuration setting is enabled, the alternative link can be used. Following the steps above should enable monitoring of Confirmit end-to-end, as failures on either the front-end or back-end will fail the survey. For best coverage you should monitor all deployment servers internally, and any load-balanced public IP-addresses externally. You will then be notified in the event of a failure in the network infrastructure, and if there are any problems reaching the servers.

Note: This model works as long as the survey is completed multiple times within 30 minutes. If more than 30 minutes is allowed to pass between each survey completion with the same respondent, the transactions are counted as individual completes.

7. Advanced System Configuration

This chapter describes the more advanced setup and settings in the system configuration.

7.1. IIS Advanced Configuration

7.1.1. IIS Application Pool Performance Tuning

While monitoring your servers you may see increased memory consumption due to the surveys or services being loaded into memory. As *32 processes (i.e. any 32-bit process running on a 64-bit Windows OS) cannot allocate more than 4GB of memory, you may have to recycle the IIS process from time to time; especially for busy environments. This limit is noticeable for .NET Framework applications as the effective memory limit becomes approximately 50 – 60% of the maximum process memory size.

Confirmit operates two Software-as-a-Service sites. Both sites have 20GB memory installed in the web servers, and the following recycle recommendations are adapted from our current environments. Other recommendations may apply in environments with different memory specifics.

7.1.1.1. Configuration

How to set up the ConfirmitWIXAppPool recycle settings:

Figure 32 The Recycling Conditions page

1. Disable Regular time interval recycling.
2. Enable Private memory usage recycling, and set to 1536000 (which equals 1546MB).

Note: you should monitor each server's virtual bytes and private bytes for the w3wp.exe processes to ensure that they are not recycled too soon or too late. If the server runs into 'OutOfMemory' exceptions, reduce this value. If the server recycles frequently without any errors, consider increasing this value and decreasing the SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration value in Confirmit.

3. Click **Next** to continue.

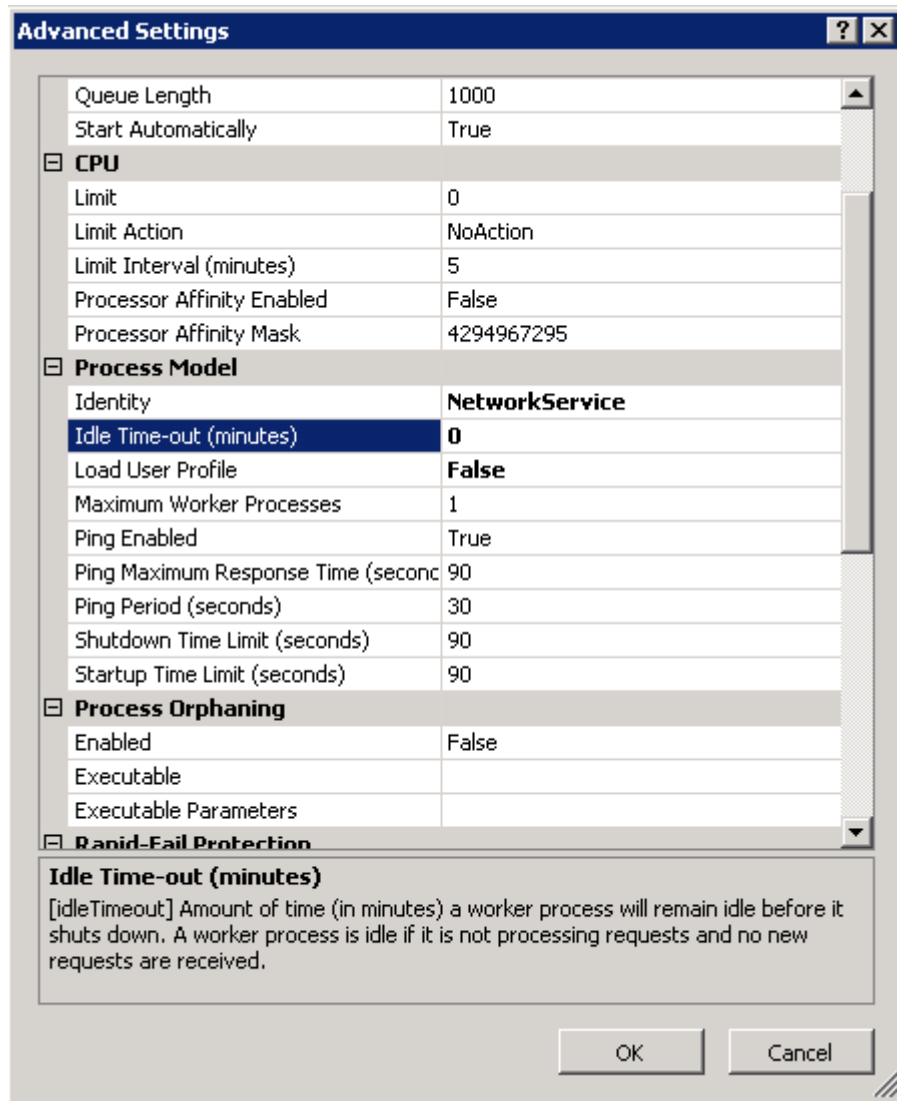


Figure 33 The Advanced Settings page - 1

4. Disable Idle Time-out (minutes) to prevent worker processes from shutting down if they have no work to do.
This option could have some small performance effects, but these will be most likely for systems with little traffic (most usual for other application pools than those handling surveys). Setting the value to 0 will disable idle time-outs.

Advanced Settings	
Identity	NetworkService
Idle Time-out (minutes)	20
Load User Profile	False
Maximum Worker Processes	1
Ping Enabled	True
Ping Maximum Response Time (seconds)	90
Ping Period (seconds)	30
Shutdown Time Limit (seconds)	90
Startup Time Limit (seconds)	90
Process Orphaning	
Enabled	False
Executable	
Executable Parameters	
Rapid-Fail Protection	
"Service Unavailable" Response Type	HttpLevel
Enabled	False
Failure Interval (minutes)	5
Maximum Failures	5
Shutdown Executable	
Shutdown Executable Parameters	
Recycling	
Disable Overlapped Recycle	False
Disable Recycling for Configuration Changes	True
Enabled [rapidFailProtection] If true, the application pool is shut down if there are a specified number of worker process crashes (Maximum Failures) within a specified time period (Failure Interval). By default, an application pool is shut down if there are 5 crashes...	
OK Cancel	

Figure 34 The Advanced Settings page - 2

5. Disable rapid-fail protection to prevent the application pool from shutting down automatically in the event of crashes.

With the setting disabled, a new worker process will be started repeatedly. If the worker process is shut down, all surveying will stop until the process is manually restarted.

Note: Disabling the fail protection merely bypasses the internal protection feature within IIS; it does not correct the cause of the errors.

6. Within Confirmit we set the SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration to 15 minutes site-wide to prevent idle surveys from occupying memory unnecessarily. Go to **Admin > System Configuration > Deployment**.

SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration 15

7. For each survey server under, reset the SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration to the default value to make it inherit the role setting (which is now set to 15 in the step above).

Important

The default Managed Pipeline Mode has changed from Classic to Integrated mode as of Confirmit v17 in order to support new functionality introduced in this version. If you have previously set up multiple WIX application pools using redirects, you must change the managed pipeline mode for all custom WIX application pools. If the pipeline mode is not changed, the “searchable multis” feature will not function.

7.1.1.2. Other Application Pool Recommendations

Authoring Servers:

- ConfirmitAuthorAppPool
 - o Idle Time-out (minutes): 0 (original 20)
 - o Recycling
 - Private Memory Limit (KB): 1536000
 - Regular Time Interval (minutes): 0

Reportal Servers:

- ConfirmitReportalAppPool
 - o Idle Time-out (minutes): 0
 - o Recycling
 - Private Memory Limit (KB): 1536000
 - Regular Time Interval (minutes): 0

Web Service Servers:

- ConfirmitApiAppPool
 - o Idle Time-out (minutes): 0
 - o Shutdown Time Limit (seconds): 300
 - o Recycling
 - Private Memory Limit (KB): 1536000
 - Regular Time Interval (minutes): 0

7.1.2. IIS Compression Tuning

Some pages from Confirmit can become very large, and with the built-in compression support found in most browsers, content delivery time could potentially be reduced with a fair amount of IIS compression is enabled for IIS. Compressed pages are transferred faster to the client browser requesting the page, and also reduce the bandwidth requirement for transmission of the same amount of content. Compressed pages are automatically decompressed on the client so the process is transparent to the end-user. If the browser does not support compression the server will send pages uncompressed, so the only backside for this is a slight performance overhead on the server for handling the compression.-

By default, IIS 7 compression is only enabled for static content, not for dynamic content. Dynamic content compression needs to be enabled in the server role configuration before it can be set in the IIS administration console.

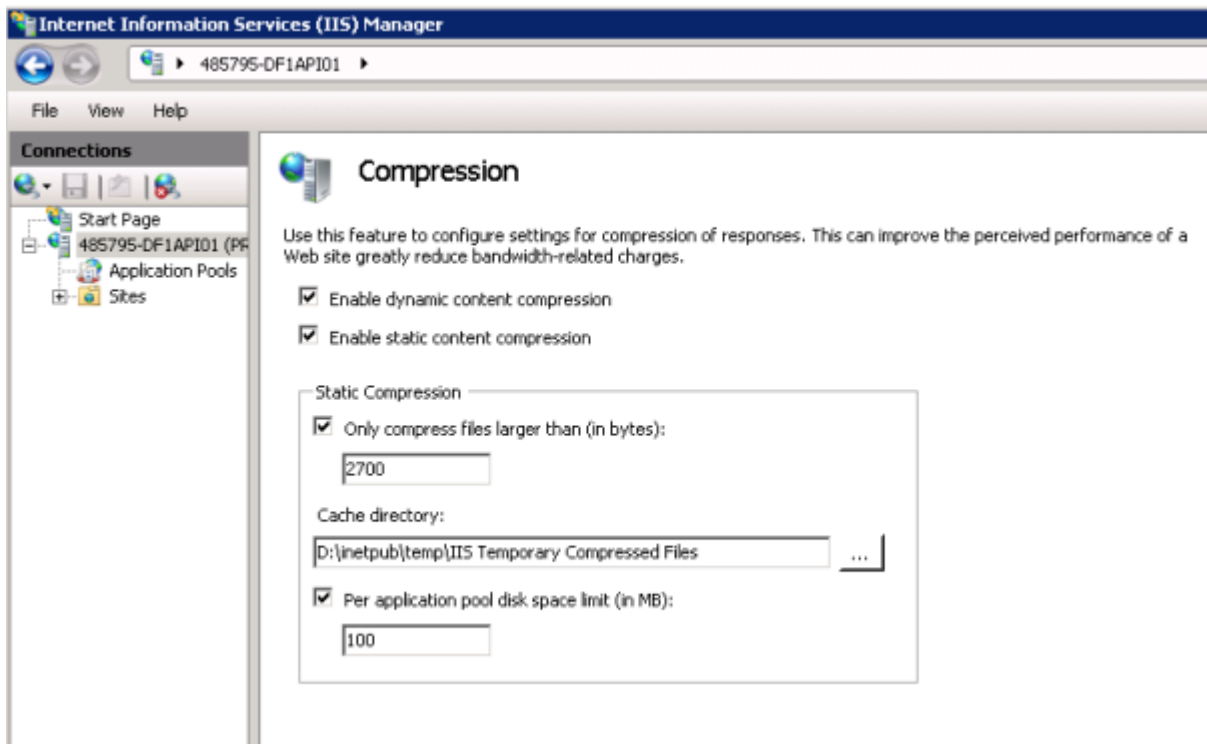


Figure 35 Compression settings for servers

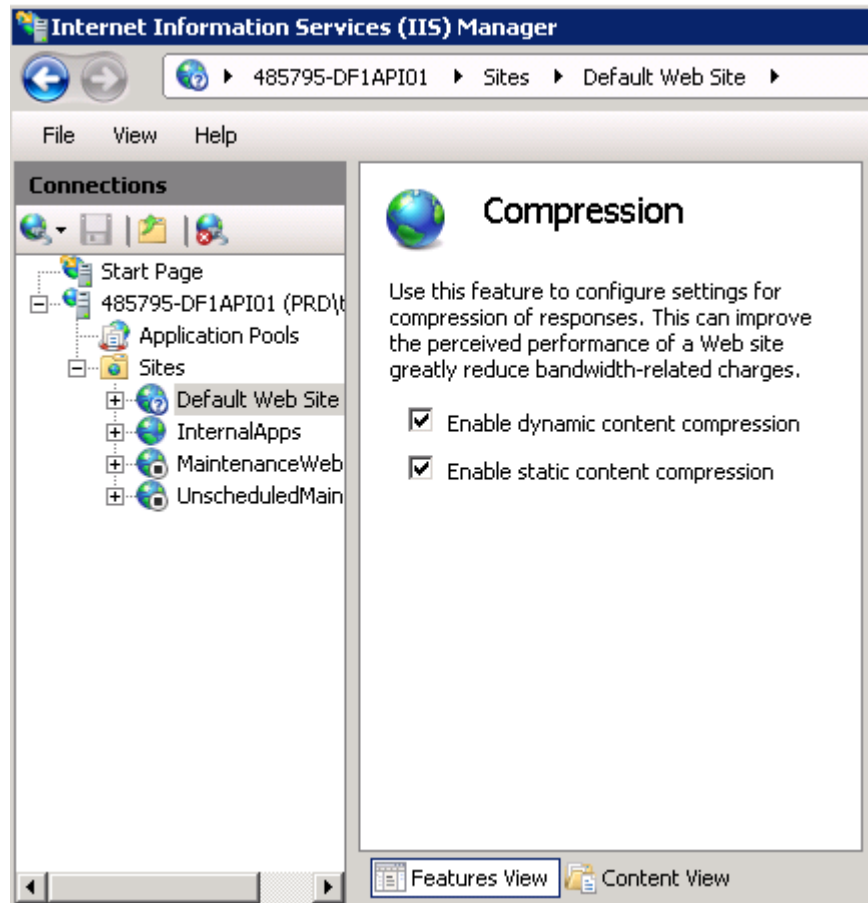


Figure 36 Compression settings for web site

IIS supports many additional compression settings that are not visible in the GUI, these can be set using the `appcmd` tool or by editing the `applicationHost.config` file found in the `c:\windows\system32\inetsrv\config\` folder.

Most options are documented in the IIS.Net config reference, found at: <http://www.iis.net/ConfigReference>.

Warning
Confirmit strongly recommends that you perform a back-up of the existing configuration before making any changes.

For example, the following excerpts from the `applicationHost.config` file on Confirmit's servers have been shown to work quite well with compression. More detail is available at:

<http://www.iis.net/ConfigReference/system.webServer>

In the `<system.webserver>` section, add the following:

```
<httpCompression directory="%SystemDrive%\inetpub\temp\IIS Temporary
Compressed Files" minFileSizeForComp="256">
  <scheme name="gzip" dll="%Windir%\system32\inetsrv\gzip.dll" />
  <staticTypes>
    <add mimeType="text/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="message/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/x-javascript" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/x-javascript charset=utf-8"
enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/atom+xml" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/xaml+xml" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="*/*" enabled="false" />
  </staticTypes>
  <dynamicTypes>
    <add mimeType="text/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="message/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/x-javascript" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="*/*" enabled="false" />
  </dynamicTypes>
</httpCompression>
```

7.1.3. Preventing Search Engine Indexing of Surveys

To prevent indexing of surveys by search engines, copy the text below into a file called **robots.txt** and place it in the web server root folder on deployment servers.

```
User-agent: *
Disallow: /
```

7.1.4. Allowed Verbs in Request Filtering or URLScan

If you have activated Request Filtering or URLScan software, you will need to allow the following verbs:

- GET
- HEAD
- POST

7.1.5. Using Performance Counters to Troubleshoot Survey Problems

The Confirmit survey engine also installs a number of performance counters that can be used to monitor and troubleshoot the web server. The counters are installed under the performance object "Confirmit Survey Engine .Net". The following performance counters are registered:

Category	Counter name	Description
Cache	# SurveyPackages	Number of survey packages currently cached
Cache	SurveyPackage Load Time	Average time in sec used to load survey packages
Cache	SurveyPackage Turnover Rate	Number of additions and removals to the SurveyPackage cache per second
Monitor	CPU milliseconds	Average total CPU time in milliseconds used by a request
Monitor	CPU milliseconds Usercode	Average usercode CPU time in milliseconds used by a request

Monitor	Page errors/sec	Average number of survey page errors per sec
Monitor	Page hits/sec	Average number of survey page hits per sec
Monitor	Real milliseconds	Average total real time in milliseconds used to execute a request
Monitor	SQL Compile CPU milliseconds	Average CPU time in milliseconds used to compile statements
Monitor	SQL Compile Elapsed milliseconds	Average elapsed time in milliseconds used to compile statements
Monitor	SQL Execution CPU milliseconds	Average CPU time in milliseconds used to execute statements
Monitor	SQL Execution Elapsed milliseconds	Average elapsed time in milliseconds used to execute statements
Monitor	SQL Logical Reads	Average number of pages read from the data cache
Monitor	SQL Physical Reads	Average number of pages read from disk
Monitor	SQL Scan Count	Average number of scans performed
SPGen	Alter Save Proc/sec	Rate showing how many store procedures that are altered per sec
SPGen	Alter Select Proc/sec	Rate showing how many select procedures that are altered per sec
SPGen	Create Save Proc/sec	Rate showing how many save procedures that are created per sec
SPGen	Create Select Proc/sec	Rate showing how many select procedures that are created per sec
SPGen	Exec Save Proc/sec	Rate showing how many save store procedures that are executed per sec
SPGen	Exec Select Proc/sec	Rate showing how many select procedures that are Executed per sec

7.1.6. Using Confirmit BitStream Performance Counters

The Confirmit BitStream service contains several performance counters which can be utilized to troubleshoot BitStream issues. The following performance counters are registered:

Category	Countername	Description
Monitor	Write - # Currently Runinng	Current number of BitStream writing operations.

Monitor	Write - # Total Started	Total number of BitStream writing operations since service start.
Monitor	Write - % Success	Current percentage of successful BitStream write operations.
Monitor	Write – Generation Time	Current BitStream write generation time.
Monitor	Query - # Currently Running	Current number of BitStream queries running.
Monitor	Query - # Total Started	Total number of BitStream queries run since service start.
Monitor	Query - % Success	Current percentage of successful BitStream queries.
Monitor	Query – Execution Time	Current BitStream query execution time.

7.2. Using Confirmit with a Load Balancer with SSL Acceleration

When the 'SSLAuthorCertificate' config setting is enabled, Authoring logins will be redirected to SSL even if the 'EnforceSSLOnSite' is not - the former only allows SSL to be used - and enforces it for the entire session for all users. If the user reaches the server via HTTP, a redirect will occur to HTTPS for the login screen, and once authenticated, back to HTTP again. If reaching the server via HTTPS in the first place, the session will remain encrypted. This will also be the case if the user has 'Always use SSL' selected in the user settings, or if this is enforced on the company level as well.

The redirect happens on the server side, which will only work if the server itself decrypts the SSL traffic. If SSL traffic is handled by an external load balancer/SSL accelerator, two configuration settings have been added to support this mode in Confirmit: the SSLAcceleratorMode and SSLAcceleratorPort settings. In order to use these settings you can follow these steps:

1. Add a second listening port for HTTP in the IIS manager for the web site on which Authoring runs.
This can be any port, but we would recommend against using port 443 - we use port 81 for our systems (so both ports 80 and 81 are listening for HTTP traffic.)
2. Configure your load balancer/SSL accelerator module to translate SSL requests and forward the decrypted transactions to the port you set up in step 1.
3. Set the SSLAcceleratorPort in the Confirmit settings to the port number you set up in step 1.
4. Enable the SSLAcceleratorMode setting.
5. **Save.**

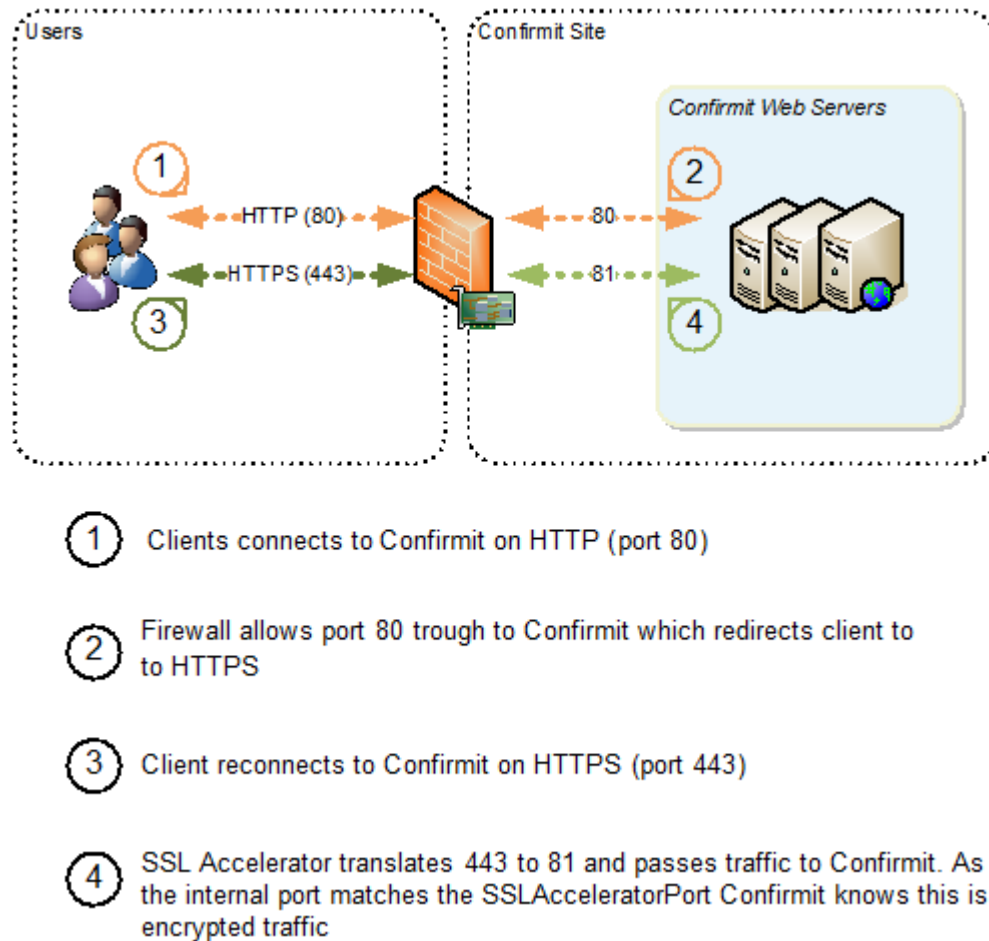


Figure 37 Using Confirmit with a load balancer

7.3. Database System Redundancy

7.3.1. SQL Server in Windows Cluster

SQL server can be set up as a cluster resource if necessary. This would add an extra layer of redundancy if set up correctly, as a cluster resource can be failed over to a secondary server if the primary should fail. Clustering also allows for easier upgrades of the operating system on database servers as a cluster node can be upgraded and rebooted if necessary without affecting SQL Server performance. Once the update is complete, database resources can be failed over to the updated server and the process can be repeated for the other cluster node(s) in the cluster.

In order for a SQL Server cluster to have any use, the server must also be set up with a clustered IP address for connections, and with a cluster resource for database storage such as a DAS or SAN device.

7.3.2. Multiple SQL Server Instances

Confirmit supports multiple SQL Server instances handling survey databases. This allows administrators to set up additional SQL resources if the performance of the primary server should be insufficient. The additional server instance can be installed as a new named instance on the same physical server as the primary instance, or on a separate physical server.

Some manual steps are required to attach additional SQL Server instances to Confirmit, and some points should be taken into consideration before starting.

7.3.2.1. SQL Server Collation

Confirmit features that require reading or writing from multiple databases simultaneously will assume that the SQL collation is identical on all instances. Once SQL Server has been installed, the collation cannot be changed, so make sure to select the same collation for additional servers as the primary. This is equally important both for adding new instances to an existing environment, and when installing a SQL Server to migrate the existing SQL Server databases to.

Note: If a new SQL Server instance has been installed with the wrong collation, it is necessary to re-install SQL Server. If the databases are put into use, collation conflicts may render the site in an unusable state.

7.3.2.2. SQL Server Logins

Confirmit will use the same encrypted login credentials stored in the system configuration database when connecting to secondary servers, so SQL Server logins must be created with identical user names and passwords as the primary server. On the primary server this is done automatically during installation of Confirmit, but for secondary servers it must be done manually by the database administrator.

7.3.2.3. Linked Servers

In order for Confirmit to read or write data from multiple instances, the servers must be mutually set up as linked servers to provide server awareness between the instances.

7.3.2.4. System Databases and Survey Databases

If installing on a system that already has more than one instance of SQL Server intended for Confirmit usage, the first server (the one given during Confirmit installation) must always host the Confirmit system databases. Subsequent servers can only host Confirmit survey databases. To install multiple survey database instances, run the Confirmit setup tool and add servers under the SQL Servers section.

7.3.2.5. Creating Aliases for the New Database Server

If the primary database server uses an alias (for instance: 'ConfirmitDB'), setting up a new alias on all application servers with a similar alias (i.e. 'ConfirmitDB2') would be recommended. If IP addresses or NetBIOS names are used for connecting to SQL Server, this step is not required.

7.4. Database Encryption

Confirmit Horizons v15 Patch 02 introduced a new Database Encryption feature which allows Confirmit Authoring users to encrypt survey databases “at rest” on the database server. The add-on is chargeable and requires an updated license file in order to be used.

If your Confirmit environment has more than one SQL Server Instance (see Multiple SQL Server Instances on page 67 for more information) you can select which instance(s) you want Database Encryption activated on.

Note: Database Encryption requires SQL Server Enterprise Edition.

7.4.1. Configure Database Encryption

After purchasing the add-on and installing a new license file, the following steps are required to prepare your Confirmit site for Database Encryption:

7.4.1.1. Preparing SQL Server for Database Encryption

To prepare the SQL Server(s) you have to create a certificate for encryption on your DB server. This is done by running the following statement in the SQL Server Management Studio (replacing values where required):

```
USE_master;
GO
CREATE_MASTERKEYENCRYPTIONBYPASSWORD='EncryptionPassword';
go
CREATE_CERTIFICATE EncryptionCertificate WITHSUBJECT='Encryption
Certificate Confirmit site';
GO
```

If enabling Database Encryption on multiple SQL Server instances, the certificate must be created with the same name on all instances. Once the Certificate is created, you are strongly recommended to take a backup. This can be done by running the following command (replacing values where required):

```
USE master
GO
BACKUPCERTIFICATE OnDemandEncryptionCertificate
TOFILE='[file location]\[EncryptionCertificateName].cer'
WITHPRIVATEKEY (FILE='[file location]\[EncryptionCertificateName].pvk',
ENCRYPTIONBYPASSWORD='EncryptionPassword')
GO
```

We strongly recommend that you backup and store the certificate in a secure location.

7.4.1.2. Preparing Confirmit for Database Encryption

Once the certificate is created, Database Encryption can be enabled in Confirmit:

1. Open Confirmit System Configuration.
2. Expand the Security settings section.
3. Enter the name of your certificate in the EncryptionCertificateName box.

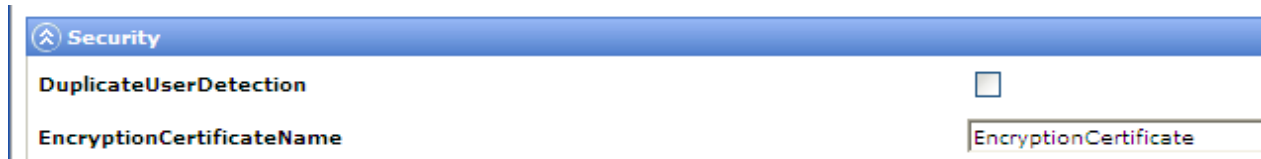


Figure 38 Entering the certificate name

4. Expand the SqlServer role, select the SQL server(s) where the certificate was created, and enable the SQLServerUsedForEncryption checkbox to enable encryption for the server.



Figure 39 Checking the SQLServerUsedForEncryption checkbox

Database Encryption is provided on a per company basis in Confirmit. To enable the feature for a company:

5. Open the **Admin > Accounts > Companies** menu.
6. Select the desired company.
7. Navigate to the Add-Ons tab, and add the Database Encryption add-on to the Selected list.



Figure 40 Adding the Database Encryption add-on

8. To create an encrypted database, the 'Enable Database Encryption' checkbox must be selected when launching a survey.

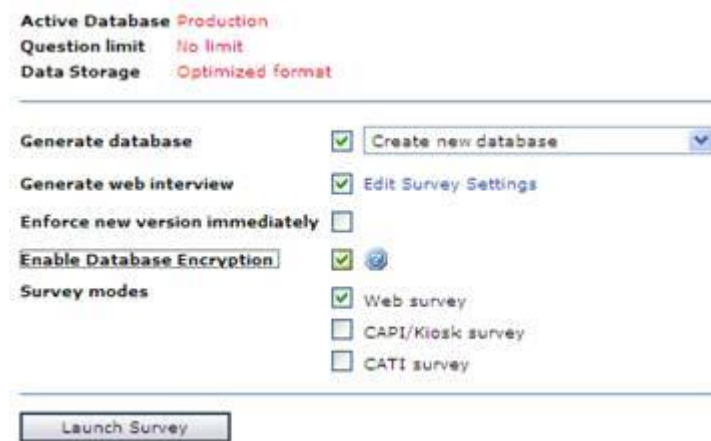


Figure 41 Selecting Enable Database Encryption

Database Encryption only applies to new databases, or databases that are re-launched with the 'Create new database' option.

Important

Selecting 'Create new database' will cause a new database to be created and will result in loss of data if the data is not backed up.

7.5. TCP Offloading

A TCP Offload engine is a function used in network interface cards (NIC) to offload processing of the entire TCP/IP stack to the network controller. By moving some or all of the processing to dedicated hardware, a TCP offload engine frees the system's main CPU for other tasks. Be aware however that TCP offloading has been known to cause some performance issues. Disabling it can help avoid these issues.

7.5.1. Disabling TCP Offloading

To disable TCP Offloading:

1. In Windows server, open the Control Panel and select **Network Settings > Change Adapter Settings**.

2. Right-click on each of the adapters (private and public), select **Configure** from the **Networking** menu, and then click the **Advanced** tab.

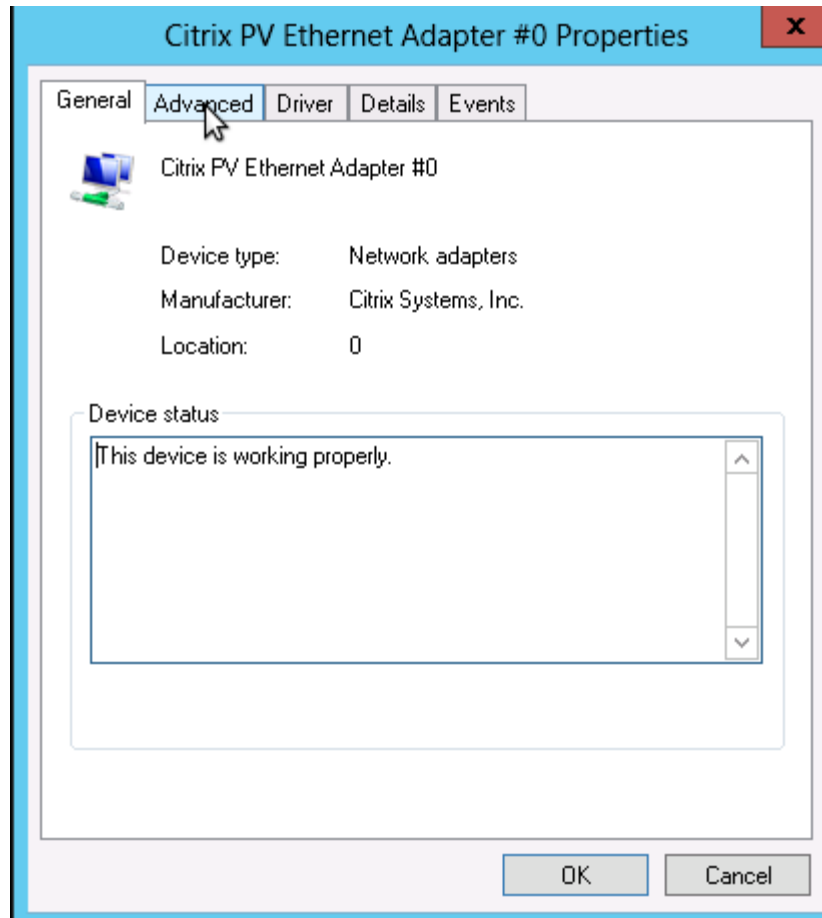


Figure 42 Selecting the Advanced tab

The TCP offload settings are listed for the Citrix adapter.

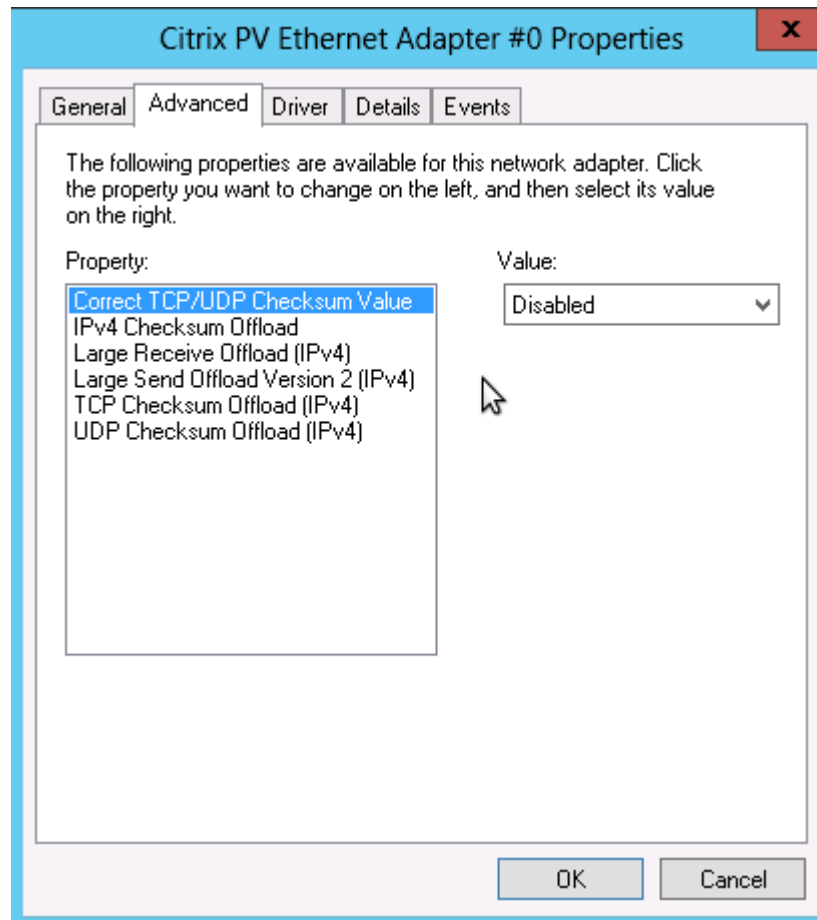


Figure 43 The TCP offload settings for the Citrix adapter

3. Select each of the of the following TCP offload options in turn and set it to **Disabled**.
 - IPv4 Checksum Offload
 - Large Receive Offload
 - Large Send Offload
 - TCP Checksum Offload
4. On completion, click **OK**.

8. Monitoring Confirmit

Confirmit is a complex application suite that should be monitored and maintained closely by trained professionals. A number of self-monitoring features are built into the application itself and can be accessed from the Admin menu after logging on by users with appropriate permissions to the system. These features are described in detail in the Confirmit Administrator Manual.

The built-in features are useful for ad-hoc monitoring and for troubleshooting specific problems, but for day-to-day tracking, additional features should be deployed.

8.1. The Confirmit Monitoring Utility

The Confirmit SaaS Operations team has built a companion utility for the built-in monitors that extracts data to a database on an aggregate level, presents the results in a nice graphical display along with warning and alert features. The system can be provided along with installation instructions to On-Premise customers.

Note: As this utility is not part of the Confirmit main product line, no support is available for troubleshooting/update requests. The product will be updated at a pace to be determined solely by the Confirmit SaaS Operations team.

The graphical report is available as a .NET application and looks as shown in the example below:

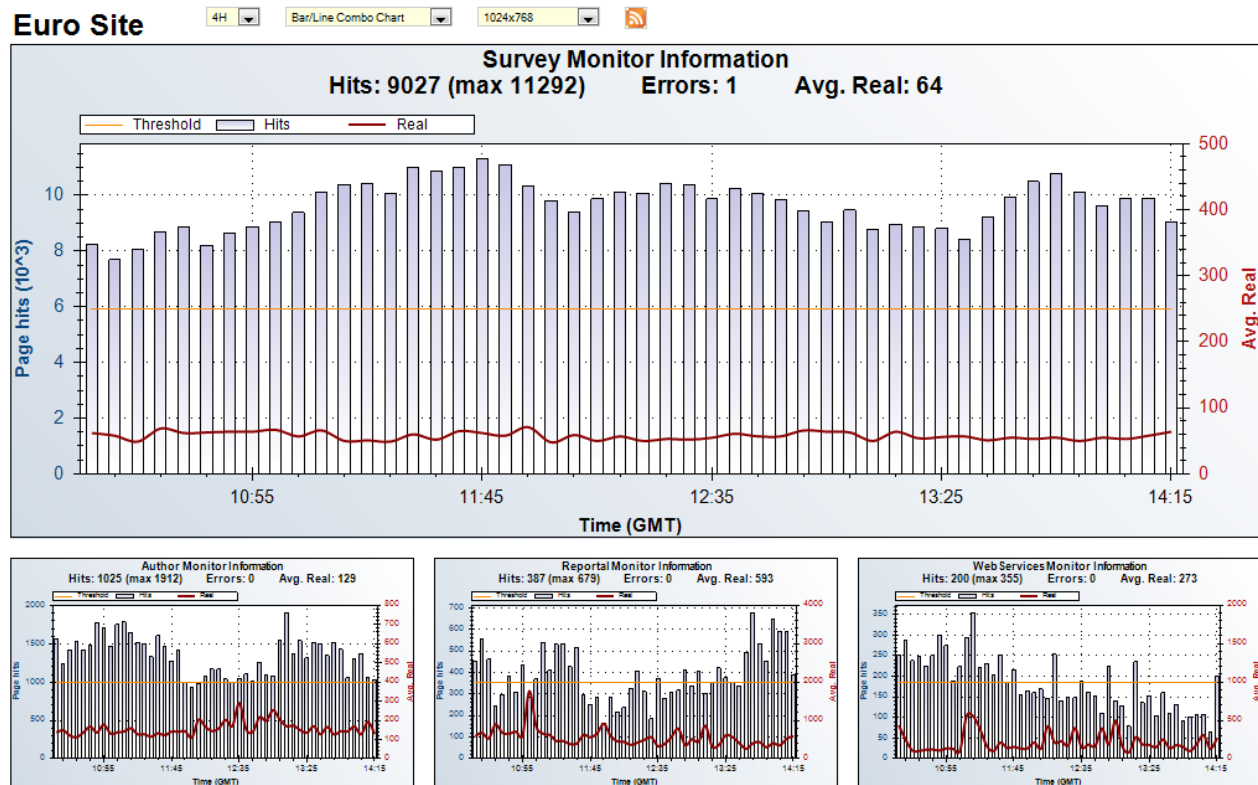


Figure 44 Example of the monitoring utility screen layout

8.2. Generic Server Monitoring

Confirmit recommends using a monitoring application utility with a wide array of capabilities in order to monitor the applications as widely as possible. Some of the more generic items that Confirmit recommends to be included are:

- CPU utilization % levels for server devices (warn/alert on prolonged % thresholds).
- Memory utilization (warn/alert on % thresholds).
- Disk space utilization (warn/alert on % or MB/GB thresholds).
- Availability of web server, database server and mail server applications.
- If HTTPS is used: Website SSL Certificate expiration.

8.3. External Location Monitoring

In addition to internal monitoring systems, Confirmit also uses external services for monitoring performance and availability of web applications from various worldwide locations. This can be used for Confirmit Authoring, Reportal, Surveys, REST API and Web Services.

Note: If you wish to monitor Authoring/Reportal logins, this will require supporting a login transaction.

8.4. Confirmit-Specific Monitoring and Recommended Sensors

Monitoring of certain Confirmit components should be set up for any production installation. For this purpose Confirmit recommends monitoring applications capable of running:

- SQL Server queries.
- WMI queries.
- Custom VBScript/Jscript/PowerShell/Executables returning status values.

The recommended monitor sensors are as linked below follows:

8.4.1. Confirmit System Service Monitoring

Confirmit installs various system services when installed with certain roles selected. Availability of these services should be monitored to ensure systems depending on them are functioning properly. Services include:

- **Confirmit BitStream Service** - Used for creating and queries against Confirmit BitStream files, which are used by many application components. Reportal, Rapid Results and Panel sampling are some features that will not function if this service is not running.
- **Confirmit Caching Service** - Used by Reportal for providing fast access to recently used page contents. If the service is not running, Reportal performance will be drastically reduced and may not function at all.
- **Confirmit Task System Service** - Runs tasks from the queue requested by users such as data exports, launch survey and respondent emailing. If the service is stopped, tasks remain in the queue until the service is started again.
- **Confirmit Task Scheduler Service** – Runs on Batch servers and monitors Hub enabled projects set to continuous synchronization. The service schedules Hub Confirmit Project Loader tasks if changes between data in the Hub and data sources are detected. If the service stops, Hubs set to continuous synchronization will not be updated.
- **Confirmit Searching and Indexing Service** - Service which indexes survey designs for fast searching. The Service monitors changes in the Confirmit Authoring GUI and re-indexes changes. If the service stops, searching from the menu bar does not return any results.

8.4.2. SQL Query for Monitoring Surveys Returning Errors

The following SQL statement will return the amount of distinct surveys on the system returning errors to respondents in the last five minutes:

```
select count(distinct(projectid))
from [confirmlog]..[surveymonitor]
with(nolock)
where errorflag<>0
and performed >dateadd(mi,-5,getdate())
and test=0;
```

The monitoring system could run this at a frequency of 5 minutes or less. If there are many live surveys on the system (more than 100) then warning/error thresholds could probably be set between 5 and 10. Setting a lower value introduces the risk of “over-alerting” on survey errors generated by script code – errors that project owners also receive.

8.4.3. SQL Query for Monitoring Errors from Authoring

Similar to monitoring errors from surveys, the following query may be used to report on the number of errors recently generated by Confirmit Authoring:

```
select count (id) as count
from [confirmlog]..[reportmonitor] with (nolock)
where errorflag<>0
and performed > dateadd(mi,-10,getdate())
and context=2
```

Changing the context value from 2 to 3 will give results for Confirmit Express while omitting the context altogether will return both Authoring and Express results.

8.4.4. SQL Query for Monitoring Errors from Reportal

The following query may be used to report on the number of errors recently generated from Reportal:

```
select count(id) as count
from [confirmlog]..[reportalmonitor] with(nolock)
where errorflag<>0
and performed >dateadd(mi,-10,getdate())
```

8.4.5. SQL Query for Monitoring Errors from Web Services

The following query may be used to report on the amount of errors recently generated from XML Web Services:

```
select count(id) as count
from [confirmlog]..[webservicemonitor] with(nolock)
where errorflag<>0
and performed > dateadd(mi,-10,getdate())
```

8.4.6. SQL Query for Monitoring Delays in Task Queue Execution

The following SQL statement returns the number of tasks in queue that are delayed by more than ten minutes:

```
Select count(id) as QueuedTasks
from [confirm].dbo.taskinstance (nolock)
where status=0
and datediff(mi,schedule,getdate())>10;
```

If a single project is queued up with many different tasks and this is expected behavior that could be ignored as long as it doesn't affect other projects, the above query may be modified to return a count of distinct projects having delayed tasks in queue instead of the total number of tasks:

```
select count(distinct(td.projectid)) as QueuedTasks
from [confirm].dbo.taskinstance ti (nolock)
left join [confirm]..taskdefinition td (nolock)
on td.id = ti.taskdefinitionid
where ti.status=0
and datediff(mi,ti.schedule,getdate())>10;
```

8.4.7. SQL Query for Monitoring Failing Launch Survey Tasks

If users are unable to launch new or updated surveys, the production status of the system is pretty much at a standstill. The query below will return the number of Launch Survey tasks that have failed recently:

```
select count(distinct(td.projectid))
from taskinstance ti (nolock)
join taskdefinition td (nolock)
on ti.taskdefinitionid = td.id
where ti.tasktypeid=43
and ti.status not in (0,1,4)
and ti.starttime>dateadd(mi,-15,getdate());
```

8.4.8. SQL Query for Monitoring the Number of Attached Survey Databases

Confirmit installations with many active surveys should utilize the automatic survey database detachment/attachment feature if possible. It is also recommended to monitor how many survey databases are attached at a given time if you suspect your database server is nearing capacity – detaching inactive databases frees up resources for live ones. The following query returns the amount of attached survey databases on a particular SQL Server instance:

```
select count(*)
from confirm_admin.dbo.surveydatabases
where active = 1;
```

8.4.9. SQL Server Audit for Surveys

This option enables SQL Server auditing at the survey database level. Refer to the Confirmit Administrator Manual for details on how to turn it on. When enabled, all surveys created for a company will have database auditing enabled. This audit log is not accessible through the Confirmit user interface. To access the audit logs, go to the **SQLAudit** folder configured in **System Configuration**. You can also query the SQL Audit logs by using:

```
SELECT * FROM sys.fn_get_audit_file ((SELECT audit_file_path FROM
sys.dm_server_audit_status WHERE name = 'Audit-SQL'),default,default)
```

8.4.10. SQL Query for Monitoring REST API Server Errors

The REST API servers are the backbone of a lot of the services in Confirmit. The logs are IIS based, meaning that all errors in the 500 range are server error messages.

```
select count(id) as count
from [confirmlog]..[qMetadataApiMonitor] with(nolock)
where statuscode >=500
and timestamp >dateadd(mi,-10,getdate())
```

8.5. Monitoring Example

This overview is provided to give an example of which systems should be monitored, broken down per server role. Keep in mind that in cases where servers are set up redundant, all hosts should have separate monitoring. Setting up an "isalive" page which monitoring systems can poll to verify IIS connectivity is highly recommended.

INTERNAL MONITORING		EXTERNAL MONITORING	
RESOURCE MONITORING	APPLICATION MONITORING		APPLICATION MONITORING
- Diskspace - CPU (100%)	- IIS (Isalive.aspx) - Author Login (Localhost) - SMTP Service (Caching Service)	AUTHOR 	- Author.company.com (isalive.aspx) - Author.company.com (Forms Login) - Latency
- Diskspace - CPU (100%)	- IIS (Isalive.aspx) - Reportal Login (Localhost) - SMTP Service	REPORTAL 	- Reportal.company.com (isalive.aspx) - Reportal.company.com (Forms Login) - Latency
- Diskspace - CPU (100%)	- IIS (Isalive.aspx) - WIX AppPools (local IP) - Monitoring Survey (Limited) - SMTP Service	DEPLOYMENT 	- Survey.company.com (isalive.aspx) - Survey.company.com (Survey - WIX AppPools) - Latency
- Diskspace - CPU (100%)	- Task System Service - Memory Usage - Task Queue (SQL) - SMTP Service - SMTP Queue (BADMAIL\ Pickup)	BATCH 	- SFTP\FTP Service (If applicable) - SMTP Service (Port)
- Diskspace - CPU (100%) - I/O - Service Thread count	FastObjects service	FO 	N/A
- Diskspace - CPU (100%) - Custom SQL Perflogs - I/O	- Task Queue (Project\Type) - Bugreports (Monitor Tables) - Performance Info (Latency)	SQL 	N/A

Figure 45 Example of the systems to be monitored

The above is only displayed as a "best practices" example; more systems may have to be monitored to ensure that a Confirmit site is healthy.

Appendix A - Configuration Setting Descriptions

This table lists the configuration settings available to the server administrator, and gives a brief description for each.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
AbortedTasksLimit	Number of aborted tasks allowed before the recurrence pattern is disabled.
ActionManagementSqlServer	Action Management Sql Server.
ActionManagementURL	Action Management URL.
ActiveDashboardURL	Active Dashboard URL.
AggregateSQLStatistics	When enabled, will collect CPU statistics for page hits for .NET web application in the surveymonitor table.
ArchivingBatchSize	Number of projects checked/archived before sleeping.
ArchivingEnabled	Specifies whether archiving is enabled on the site. Archiving must be initiated separately and is not started simply by enabling this option.
ArchivingSleepTime	Sleep time between each batch of checking and archiving.
AscribeFtpLogEnabled	When enabled, FTP uploads to the Ascribe server will be logged verbosely in the task log.
AscribeFtpServer	Specifies the IP address or DNS server name of the remote Ascribe FTP server.
BatchTimeout	Sets the timeout limit for executing tasks. (Seconds).
BitStreamPath	Specifies the local path to Confirmit BitStream files for the BitStream service. Normally <confirmdata>\BitStreams.
BitStreamQueryTimeout	BitStream query timeout in seconds.
BitStreamRead	When checked, the server will register as a BitStream Reader.
BitStreamSyncRepositoryPath	Shared UNC path for the BitStream file set repository. If set, all BitStream servers will use this for synchronizing local file sets.
BitStreamURL	IP/Servername:Port used by other Confirmit servers to connect to the BitStream service on this server.
BitStreamWeight	Indicates weight ratio for BitStream project file set deployment on BitStream servers (used in multi-server systems). Value «0» indicates that no file sets are created on the server. Weights for multiple servers if set differently on the server level are relative to each other. Out of (Sum weight across all servers), (Weight on server x) number of file sets are created on server x.
BitStreamWrite	When checked, the server will register as a BitStream Writer (will

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	produce BitStream files.)
BugReportEmailingLevel	A setting to control bug report emailing from the batch system.
BugReportSender	Email address to use as the sender address for error messages generated by Confirmit.
CachingServiceServerName	Used during installation/upgrade to set the Caching Service Server Name in relevant application configuration files locally on each server. (IP/Windows server name)
CachingServiceServerPort	Used during installation/upgrade to set the TCP port number for the Caching Service.
CapiConsoleCurrentVersion	Specifies which version of CAPI is the current. Must be updated after upgrading CAPI console download repository.
CapiServerCertificateId	Stores generated CAPI certificate data used for issuing activation files for CAPI clients and authorization of installed consoles.
CapiSynchronizationServerUrl	Configures the Web Service URL used by CAPI clients for synchronizing survey contents and data. Note: URL must be http; https is not supported.
ChangeTrackingRetentionDays	Specifies retention days used when enabling change tracking on a survey database.
CodingExportMaxNoOfResponses	The maximum number of responses exported using the Online Coding Administration export action.
CommandTimeout	Specifies how long a survey can attempt to run a SQL command before timing out. (Seconds)
ConcurrentReportViewRequestLimit	Maximum number of report viewers that can request a report page at the same time (The maximum number of concurrent requests for report view). Does not apply to preview and exports.
ConfirmArchive	Specifies UNC target path for archived Confirmit projects.
ConfirmData	Specifies the local target path for generated Confirmit data files.
ConfirmitCookieSuffix	Sets a custom suffix that will be applied to the Confirmit login cookie (used for separating sessions on different sites on the same domain).
ConfirmitURL	Specifies the URL for reaching the Confirmit installation on this site. Required by the Translation XML Import feature to validate translated XML files before upload.
ConfirmitWebSite	IIS web site name to place Confirmit web site.
ConfirmProgram	Specifies the path where Confirmit application files are installed.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
ConnectionTimeout	Specifies how long a survey can attempt to connect to the survey database before timing out. (Seconds)
CookieWarning	Cookie warning for the login page.
DashboardStayLoggedInTimeout	Indicates the lifetime of the permanent cookie for the Dashboard (in hours). Default value is 48
DatabaseCleanupBatchSize	Number of surveys deleted before sleeping.
DatabaseCleanupSleepTime	Sleep time (in seconds) between each batch.
DataCentralHorizontalMergeBuildIndexesLimit	Limitation on number of indexes built by DCS in the Horizontal Merge operation.
DataCentralHorizontalMergeMaxInputSurveys	Maximum number of input surveys used with the Horizontal Merge operation.
DataCentralHorizontalMergeMaxOutputSurveys	Maximum number of output surveys provided by the Horizontal Merge operation.
DataCentralHorizontalMergeRunQueryLimit	Time limit on a query run by the Horizontal Merge operation. (Seconds)
DataCentralMaxInputSurveys	Maximum number of input surveys to Data Central
DataCentralSurveySizeLimit	Maximum file size for one input survey. (MBytes)
DataProcessingTripleSMaxVariables	Determines how many variables can be used in Data Processing for Triple-S formats. (Number)
DataTransferRespondentLimit	Specifies how many rows of respondent data that should be transferred per cycle when using the Web Services.
DataTransferResponseLimit	Specifies how many cells of response data that should be transferred per cycle when using the Web Services.
DaysToKeepSurveyDatabasesForDeletedProjects	Specifies how long the survey database should be protected from permanent deletion on the database server after the project has been soft-deleted in the GUI (Days)
DebugStationInstallationPath	Sets the URL where Confirmit Debug Station can be downloaded from.
DefaultDomainKeysCertificateIdentifier	Used by DomainKeys to add valid header info in outgoing emails signed with DomainKeys. (Certificate key)
DefaultDomainKeysSelector	Used by DomainKeys to add valid header info in outgoing emails signed with DomainKeys. (DomainKeys selector)
DefaultEmailBouncebackDomain	Determines the default email domain to use for sender addresses if the Email Delivery add-on is activated. Can be

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	overridden on the company level.
DefaultOptimisticQuotaTimeout	Gets the default timeout (in minutes) for inactive interviews to be considered as expired and corresponding live achieved counters for optimistic quotas to be decremented. Default value is 5 minutes.
DefaultSqlCommandTimeout	Controls how long SQL commands/queries can execute before they will be aborted with a timeout. (Seconds)
DeployURL	Links generated in Confirmit will use this URL base unless any are overridden with the feature-specific links. Should be a FQDN prefixed by the «http://» or «https://» protocol, i.e. «http://survey.confirmit.com», or using an IP address, i.e. «http://192.168.1.1».
DesignerLogCleanupPeriod	The number of days to keep survey designer log entries. Entries older than this will be deleted when the Design Log cleanup task runs.
DisableLegacyTableEngine	Hide table engine selection option in new reports, always use extended engine.
DisplayEndLinkRedirectInformation	If turned on respondent will see information about upcoming redirect next to OK button.
DisplayLoginOverlayTimer	Specifies how long an inactive session is valid until the Login Overlay is displayed (Minutes)
DuplicateLogonEmail	Specifies recipient(s) of duplicate logon notifications. Multiple email addresses can be entered, using the semicolon character as a separator between each address.
DuplicateUserDetection	When enabled, Confirmit will only allow one concurrent logon per username (unless they are from the same originating machine,) and send a notification email to the address(es) specified in the DuplicateLogonEmail field about the event.
DuplicateUserDetectionRule	DuplicateUserDetectionRule
EmailFooter	This text is added as a footer to emails sent from Confirmit containing data. This does not apply to invitation nor to survey engine generated emails.
EmailPostfix	HTML tags to add in emails before user-generated content.
EmailPrefix	HTML tags to add in emails after user-generated content.
EmailRecipient	Specifies recipient(s) of Confirmit error messages. Multiple email addresses can be entered, using the semicolon character as a separator between each address.
EmailSender	Exports from Confirmit tasks will be sent from this email address.
EmailSendoutLimit	Specifies the maximum number of emails that can be sent from a

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	single email invite task from Confirmit Express. Default value is 100.
EmailServer	When enabled, all emails from Confirmit will be sent through the specified server. Valid formats are FQDN or IP address.
EnableMultimodeWebservicesIPLockdown	When enabled, will lock down access to Multimode Webservices to internal IP addresses.
EncryptionCertificateName	Database Encryption Certificate Name
EncryptSystemRequestParameters	When enabled, encrypts system parameters in respondent email URLs to prevent tampering.
EnforceSslOnSite	When enabled, all connections to pages on all servers in the site will be run over HTTPS.
EnvironmentId	Indicates what transformation will be used for web.config files.
ExporterPadPrecodes	When enabled, ASCII file exports will be padded with «0».
ExportFileSizeLimit	Limits size (in MB) of generated export files.
ExportFixedWidthFileWithFixedMultiCodeAnswer	Controls the Answer Code value for multi questions in the fixed width definition file. Unchecked=Precode, Checked=1
ExpressExternalHelpUrl	Link to external help file or web site for Confirmit Express users
ExpressTrialInvalidDomains	Only applicable to Confirmit On-Demand environment - Specifies domains the user is not able to use for a registration email address.
ExpressTrialMaxEmails	Only applicable to Confirmit On-Demand environment - Specifies maximum number of emails a Confirmit Express user can email.
ExpressTrialMaxQuestions	Only applicable to Confirmit On-Demand environment - Maximum number of questions in a Confirmit Express survey.
ExpressTrialMaxSurveys	Only applicable to Confirmit On-Demand environment - Maximum number of surveys a Confirmit Express user can create.
ExpressUserActivationDisabled	When enabled, disables activation requirement for Confirmit Express users.
ExternalQuickTestURL	Link to quick test for External debug station users. Server must run Confirmit and have sticky sessions enabled, and the ExternalQuickTest role must be enabled. Note that if the Enable External Test option is to be available when launching a survey in Test mode, then the ExternalQuickTest role must be enabled on deployment servers (sticky sessions are not required or recommended on deployment).
FileLibraryEnhancedFileTypes	Specifies allowed file types for upload for companies with Enhanced file library setting. Companies with Enhanced setting

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	will also inherit Standard file types.
FileLibraryMultimediaFileTypes	Specifies allowed file types for upload for companies with Multimedia file library setting. Companies with Multimedia setting will also inherit Enhanced and Standard file types.
FileLibraryStandardFileTypes	Specifies allowed file types for upload for companies with Standard file library setting.
FileLibraryUploadMaxFileSize	Sets a file size limitation on the file library upload function. Note: Whichever is lower of this setting and the MaxRequestLength in the «httpruntime» in the web.config file for Confirmit authoring will take precedence. (File size in KB)
FTPEnabled	Enables FTP option in Export/ Import parameters.
FTPRootPath	Configures the root UNC path of the FTP server. Used by Confirmit to find import and export files relevant to company IDs.
GenericSsoTimestampTimeout	Indicates how long a timestamp is valid when using generic SSO login. (Seconds)
GoogleAnalyticsExternalAccountId	Google Analytics tracker id for external pages (surveys etc)
GoogleAnalyticsInternalAccountId	Google Analytics tracker id for Confirmit (Authoring, Reportal etc)
GridviewMax	Specifies the maximum number of questionnaire nodes shown simultaneously in the gridview.
HideConfirmitMarketplace	When enabled, links to Confirmit Marketplace will not be displayed.
HmacKey	Private key used to sign internal JWT requests.
HTMLEncode	Specifies whether question text, title and comment should be HTML encoded to prevent XSS.
HubBulkLoadBatchSize	Number of rows in each bulk-loading batch during hub data load.
HubDatabaseSourceLimit	Number of sources allowed in a hub database.
HubMaxFieldsInCsiTables	Max number of fields in tables using Column Store Indexes.
HubMaxFieldsInVerbatimTables	Max number of fields in hub tables without Column Store Indexes.
HubResponsePartitionSize	Number of responses put into same database partition in the hub.
HubSparseStorageTreshold	Threshold on minimum numbers of fields in a variable before the variable is stored in sparse format in the hub.
ImageUploadMaxFileSize	Max survey image upload file size (Kb).
ImageUploadMaxHeight	Max image height (resize to).
ImageUploadMaxWidth	Max image width (resize to).
ImageUploadRootFolder	Image upload root folder (UNC).
ImageUploadThumbSize	Thumbnail image width (and height).
ImageUrlExpirationTime	Image URL expiration time (minutes).
IndexingEnabled	If Confirmit search service indexing is globally enabled.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
IndexLocation	The default location for new index files used by the Confermit Search Service.
IndexLocationThresholdItems	The new index creation threshold in indexed items.
InstallationID	Unique server name used to identify server in logs and error messages.
InstantAnalyticsReportMaxResponses	Max number of records allowed when creating or updating an Instant Analytics Report.
InstantAnalyticsReportMaxVariables	Max number of variables allowed to create or update an Instant Analytics Report.
InternalProxyCacheURL	Internal Proxy cache URL. Calls to internal REST services will use this for caching if specified.
IsServerInstallation	When enabled, users will have access to the Database source and target in PanelRule as well as exporting a panel rule to disk on the server instead of email.
KeepIndexingHistoryDays	The indexing history length in days.
KeepMaintenanceTaskHistoryDays	The maintenance task history in days.
KeepSearchHistoryDays	The searching history in days.
KeepSearchingResultMinutes	The searching result timeout in minutes.
LdapAuthenticationType	1 = Anonymous 2 = Delegation 3 = Encryption 4 = FastBind 5 = None 6 = ReadonlyServer 7 = Sealing 8 = Secure 9 = SecureSocketsLayer 10 = ServerBind 11 = Signing
LdapBypassUser	Specifies Confermit user that can be used to bypass LDAP login.
LdapLogOnEnabled	Enables LDAP directory authentication will be used when logging on to Confermit. If disabled, normal Confermit authentication will be used.
LdapNewUserCompany	Specifies which company in Confermit new users authenticated by LDAP should be add to. Company must already exist in Confermit.
LdapNewUserLanguage	Specifies new language users authenticated LDAP should have by default. Must be a valid language code.
LdapNewUserLevel	Specifies «level» of the Confermit user that is created during LDAP login. Must be a valid level code.
LdapNewUserRole	Specifies «role» of the Confermit user that is created during LDAP login. Must be a role that has already been defined in Confermit, if specified.
LdapNewUserType	Specifies «type» of Confermit user that is created during LDAP login. Must be a valid type code.
LdapPath	Path to LDAP server, starting with ldap://
LdapServerType	Directory server type. 1 = MS Active Directory 2 = OpenLDAP

Configuration Setting Name	Description
LdapSyncPassword	When enabled, the Confirmit user will be given the same password as the LDAP directory user.
LdapSyncUserSettings	When enabled, the user settings (first name, last name, email) will be kept in sync with the values found in the LDAP directory.
LdapUserDomain	Specifies the domain of the directory user. Not always required depending on server type.
LdapUserEmailAttribute	Specifies directory attribute that is used to provide the email address of the Confirmit user that is created during LDAP login.
LdapUserFirstNameAttribute	Specifies directory attribute that is used to provide the first name of the Confirmit user that is created during LDAP login.
LdapUserIdAttribute	Specifies the directory attribute that is used when searching for user in directory.
LdapUserLastNameAttribute	Specifies directory attribute that is used to provide the last name of the Confirmit user that is created during LDAP login.
LicenseInstalled	Date of when the current license was installed.
LoginKeyTimeout	Specifies session validation length for web service users. Also controls how long users can be idle before the Login Overlay is displayed. (Minutes)
LoginSysAdminToConfig	If enabled, the system configuration page will be displayed after each login if the logged on user has the SYSTEM_ADMINISTRATE permission set.
LogThresholdBitStreamQueryTime	Threshold for logging BitStream queries. Unit is seconds.
LogThresholdHttpCollectionKeys	Log threshold for number items in HttpCollectionKeys.
LogThresholdQueriesPerRequest	Threshold for logging number of SQL queries per request. Unit is number of queries.
LogThresholdQueryFrequencyPerTask	Threshold for logging query frequency per task. Unit is queries/second.
MaxAggregatedTables	Determines the maximum number of aggregated tables that can be inserted into a Reportal report page.
MaxAnswersAllowedForChart	Maximum number of answers allowed for questions used as source for Chart objects in questionnaire.
MaxBitStreamIncrements	Determines the maximum number of incremental updates that can be made to a BitStream file set before a new full file set must be created.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
MaxConcurrentThreads	Specifies the number of concurrent threads that can run on one server. Default value is 1. Currently only used by Confirmit BitStream service.
MaxDynamicCategories	The maximum number of categories to be created for expanded Open Text or numeric questions in aggregated tables
MaxFileSize	Sets the maximum allowed (precalculated) file size for exports.
MaxLogonAttempts	Defines how many subsequent unsuccessful logon attempts will be allowed before the user is locked out.
MaxNumberOfEmailsPerTask	Maximum number of emails allowed per Batch Emailing task
MaxNumberOfRowsInMultivariateStatistics	Maximum number of rows allowed in Multivariate Linear Regression and Factor Analysis
MaxPoolSize	The maximum number of connections allowed in the pool used by survey engine to connect to survey databases. Default value is 100.
MaxReportalExportSize	Controls the maximum number of exports which are allowed in a single export order. NOTE: The amount allowed is the total number of hierarchy levels which would be generated from the export request. A single hierarchy level might be generated more than once if other languages than the export language are required. This would be the case if the «Send to Endusers» checkbox in the export dialogue has been checked and an enduser with this hierarchy level uses a different language than the export
MaxRequestLengthForWebServices	The maximum number of request length to web service.
MaxSegmentsInCombinedDimension	Sets the maximum number of allowed segments when combining multiple dimensions in a matrix. Default value is 3000.
MaxSurveyVersions	Number of runtime files versions produced during survey launch that are stored. Older versions of such files are used to ensure that a respondent is not affected in the middle of taking an interview by a survey launch even when the definition of the new survey has changed. This setting can be overridden at a per company level. Versions earlier than what has been set here will be deleted whenever the DocumentStore cleanup task runs.
MaxXmlSurveyVersions	Number of versions of the survey definition that are stored. Old survey definitions are used to support versioning, ie. ability to compare the current design mode survey definition with the survey definition at the time of previous survey launches. This setting can be overridden at a per company level.
MaxZipFileSize	Sets the maximum allowed file size for an export after compression.
MetadataApiMonitorEnabled	Enable logging of all Metadata API requests to MetadataApiMonitor.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
MetaDataRestApiURL	Specifies the URL for the MetaDataRestApi servers. This URL is used for all communication between Confirmit servers and the MetaData Api.
MobileDashboardBitStreamUpdateLimitMinutes	How often users are allowed to update BitStream files in the Mobile Dashboard (Report screen)
MultimodeBaseURL	The url to be used for accessing the CATI management component. The full URL to the location of the server hosting the CATI management components should be supplied. I.E http://server/cp/
MultimodeCAPIconsoleDownloadURL	Used in the CAPI - Download CAPI Console page to display and optionally email the url to users. I.E. http://server/download/capiconsole/
MultimodeCATIconsoleDownloadURL	Used on the CATI - Download CATI Console page to display and optionally email the url to users. I.E. http://server/download/caticonsole/
MultimodeCATISupervisorPlayerDownloadURL	URL for downloading the CATI supervisor console. I.E. http://server/download/catisupervisorconsole/
MultimodeWebServiceURL	The full URL to the location of the Web service used for CATI management. I.E http://server/BVFMWS/Service.aspx
NetworkFileSystemObjectEnabled	Specifies if the NetworkFileSystemObject is enabled and should be used for file transfer to the SharedData. If disabled, the NETWORK SERVICE account from all the servers needs to be granted access to the SharedData.
NewsEmailBodySuffix	Text suffix used in news email body.
NewsEmailSubjectPrefix	Text prefix used in news email subject.
NodeStorageIndexingEnabled	Controls if all node store entries are indexed, or only when checked into the document store (on revision updates). Can be enabled if you want the search service to index pending changes. When this setting is disabled the Lucene search will always appear "behind" the contents of the actual survey.
NodeStoreExpiry	Number of days before versions will expire from NodeStore. (Any versions removed from NodeStore will still be available and compressed in DocumentStore).
PanelPortalSlidingExpiration	Specifies how long a Panel Portal will remain in server memory after last being accessed.
PasswordExpiryDays	Number of days before password expires. Default value is 0 (never expires).
PasswordHistory	Controls how many previous passwords Confirmit will remember for each user (preventing the user from reusing any of those passwords).
PasswordLinkTimeout	The number of minutes a password link should remain valid after it has been generated.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
PasswordMinimumAge	The user will have to wait x minutes after changing password before being allowed to change it again.
PasswordMinRequiredLength	Minimum password length (overrides company password validation script).
PasswordMinRequiredNonAlphaCharacters	Minimum required non-alpha characters.
PasswordMinRequiredNonAlphanumericCharacters	Minimum non-alphanumeric characters in password required.
PasswordMinRequiredUppercaseCharacters	Minimum required uppercase characters in password.
PasswordStrengthRegularExpression	Regular expression for validating password strength (overrides company password validation script).
PdfBatchServerIPs	Specify IP addresses of batch servers with ActivePDF installed (servers that are allowed to access Reportal for export purposes). Separate multiple entries with semicolon (i.e. 192.168.0.10;192.168.0.11)
PdfDebug	Enable debug mode in PDF exports for verbose logging. This will affect PDF engine performance and should therefore only be enabled for short periods during troubleshooting.
PdfPort	Specifies port on which ActivePDF is listening on the batch servers.
PdfReportalServer	Specifies IP address/FQDN of the Reportal server ActivePDF should use when running export from (i.e. reportal.confirmit.com).
PermissionListWarning	The permissions that will generate a warning upon application to a user/group/role.
PGPEnabled	Enables PGP encryption as an option for exports/imports (Requires addon).
PGPPassPhrase	If PGP is enabled, the passphrase for the private key on the server should be set here.
PortalRememberMeLoginExpiration	Determines how long user will be logged on in case he checked 'Remember Me' (in minutes).
ProjectInfoCollectorTracing	Enables trace logging when running Project Info Collector tasks. Used for debugging purposes.
ProjectListResponseLimit	Maximum number of projects returned at a time on a project search using Web Services. If the result of a query returns more hits than the ProjectListResponseLimit all the hits can be returned, however split into several parts and controlled by use of tokens.
PublishDataBlockSize	Determines the block size for Reportal report publisher data (publishing large reports can time out if the block size value is

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	too large)
QueryTimeout	Sets a limit for how long a query can run in online reporting before the server times out. (Seconds)
QuestionnaireReviewerLinkExpiryDays	Specifies how long questionnaire reviewer links should be valid for. (Days)
QuotaGridMaxNumberOfCells	The maximum number of cells allowed for a quota grid. If the grid is larger than this number, the page will not open (a warning is shown.)
QuotaListAddAllMaxNumberOfRows	The maximum number of rows that Add All button will generate in quota list. If the rows exceed this number, the «add all» will not be performed.
QuotaListMaxNumberOfColumns	The maximum number of columns for quota list mode. If the quota exceeds this number, some columns will automatically be hidden.
RapidResultsTableLimit	Maximum number of tables displayed in Rapid Results.
RapidResultsTimeout	Determines how long a printer friendly/excel export in Rapid Results can run before it is aborted with a time out. (Seconds)
RdgMaxResponses	Limits the maximum number of responses from the Random Data Generator.
RdgMinResponses	Limits the minimum number of responses from the Random Data Generator.
RdgSleepTime	Defines for how long the Random Data Generator should pause before generating a new response. (Seconds)
RealtimeStatusUsingDisabled	When enabled, surveys linked to panels will not update surveyhistory status in the panels in realtime. Instead, a panel rule must be used for these updates to be performed periodically.
RegisterSmtPEventSinks	Register SMTP Event Sinks (should be unchecked if Confermit MTA notification service is to be used).
RemoveClientScripts	When enabled, scripts in surveys will not be parsed during launch.
ReplicatedVariablesMaxFieldWidthOfOpenText	At launch time CATI enabled surveys that contain open text variables that have the 'Available as CATI filter' property checked are verified that they do not exceed this maximum width value.
ReplicatedVariablesMaxNumber	At launch time for CATI enabled surveys, a count of all variables that have the 'Available as CATI filter' is performed, this count cannot exceed the supplied value.
ReportalCopyrightText	Specifies text to show at the bottom of Reportal report pages.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
ReportalDisableEmailBranding	When enabled, Reportal report export emails will not include Confirmit branding.
ReportalEndUserURL	Sets the public URL used for emailing end users Reportal links. The URL should be in the format <a href="http://<reportalserver>/Reportal/default.aspx">http://<reportalserver>/Reportal/default.aspx .
ReportalEventLogEnabled	Reportal eventlog logs actions performed by users in Reportal and makes it possible to track changes to a report
ReportalHitListTimeout	Controls search timeout in Reportal hitlists (Seconds).
ReportalPPTAddInDownloadURL	Url to download PPTAddIn
ReportalScriptCPULimit	Timeout control for scripting in Reportal (CPU time in milliseconds).
ReportalURL	If Reportal is running on a different server than Authoring, this value can be used for allowing users to open Reportal directly from Authoring without having to log on twice. Single sign-on requires that the SetConfirmitCookieDomain setting is enabled, and the servers must reside in the same domain (i.e. confirmit.com.) The value should link directly to the Reportal logon page: <a href="http://<reportalserver>/Reportal/login.aspx">http://<reportalserver>/Reportal/login.aspx
ReportalUseCachingService	If enabled, Reportal will cache reports in order to improve performance. Requires that the Confirmit Caching Service is running and configured correctly.
ReportingActivityOverviewTimeout	Used to limit the time a request of activity overview executes towards database (Seconds).
ReportingSqlServerId	The unique reporting database server ID number. The first should be "1", second "2", etc.
ReportingSqlServerWeight	Indicates weight ratio for reporting database deployment ratio on database servers (used in multi-database server systems). Value «0» indicates that no new reporting databases are created on the server. Weights for multiple database servers if set differently on the server level are relative to each other. Out of (Sum weight across all servers), (Weight on server x) number of databases are created on server x.
ReportingTimeout	Used to limit the time a report executes individual queries towards the survey database (Seconds).
ReportPackageSlidingExpiration	Specifies how long a Reportal report will remain cached in server memory after last being accessed (Minutes).
RestApiURL	Specifies the root URL for all the REST APIs. This is used as the base path for all APIs.
Root Path	Sets the root UNC path for deployment of files from remote servers, normally \\<servername>\confirmitdatashare\web. Used by batch servers to deploy files to servers belonging to specific roles (i.e. production survey packages to deployment servers.),

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	and for distributing files to file library.
SamplingLoggingEnabled	This setting enables logging to file to disk for sampling tasks (applies to BitStream files for sampling, coffee reports and panelist weights.) This setting replaces the «DumpBitStreamToFile» setting which only applied to sampling BitStream files.
SchemaCacheTimeout	Specifies how long an object will remain in the MetaDataCache (Seconds).
SchemaCacheTimeout	Specifies how long an object will remain in the MetaDataCache (Seconds).
SearchingAndIndexingServiceUrl	The Searching & Indexing service Url.
SearchingEnabled	This controls whether the search magnifier icon is displayed so that people can actually perform searches. You can use this setting to enable indexing but disable searching (in case of troubleshooting).
SetConfirmitCookieDomain	Used to allow single sign on to Reportal for authoring users if Reportal is running on a separate server, and link to Reportalserver uses same DNS domain address as the authoring server (i.e. author.confirmit.com and reportal.confirmit.com)
SharedData	Sets the path to the shared data area where the Confirmit Task System service picks up files for importing, and Confirmit servers looks for shared data files (UNC path).
ShortURL API URL	Address for the short URL service.
ShortURL Redirect URL	Domain name or URL with redirect service.
ShowHelpVideos	When enabled, clickable video icons will be displayed where help videos are available (Note: Help videos must be downloaded separately, and made available under /HelpVideos on the web server.)
ShowSiteIdInTitle	Show the site ID in the client browser title bar.
SingleSignOn	Specifies whether the server should use Single Sign On for authentication (requires SSO configuration.)
SiteID	Sets the Site ID for identifying the current site. (Note: not related to the SiteID used in the license file.) The value will be displayed in the lower right corner of Confirmit, and will also be used for identifying the site when sending periodic transaction logs to Confirmit.
SMTPServerPickupDirectory	Used to specify where new emails should be created so the local SMTP service can find the emails and send them.
SPSSDataModelInstalled	Should be activated if SPSS Data Model is installed on server. Used by DataCentral projects. Must be activated to be able to upload a DC project that has SPSS operations.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
SQLArchivingDataPath	Specifies UNC path for survey database data (mdf) files on the database server that can be reached from the batch server running the Archiving task (required only if Archiving is enabled).
SQLArchivingLogPath	Specifies UNC path for survey database log (ldf) files on the database server that can be reached from the batch server running the Archiving task (required only if Archiving is enabled).
SQLServerDataPath	Specifies the local target path for new survey database data files on the database server.
SqlServerFilestreamPath	Specifies path for survey database FILESTREAM files.
SqlServerId	The unique database server ID number. The first should be «1», second «2», etc.
SQLServerLogPath	Specifies the local target path for new survey database log files on the database server.
SQLServerName	The unique database server name. The server name must be accessible by the application servers as a NetBIOS name, an IP address, or a SQL Server client alias.
SQLServerUsedForEncryption	Check to use this SQL instance to store encrypted databases
SSISColumnLimit	Limits initialization time of SSIS packages.
SSLAcceleratorMode	Enables SSL accelerator mode in Confirmit. Should ONLY be enabled if SSL certificates are loaded onto an external SSL accelerator rather than using local certificates installed on servers. Enabling this setting without proper load balancer configuration will interrupt access to the site, including access to revert this setting! Consult the Confirmit Server Manual before enabling this setting.
SSLAcceleratorPort	Used along with the SSLAcceleratorMode, this setting specifies which port on the server the SSL accelerator should forward decrypted requests to. Do not configure this unless using an external SSL accelerator. Also see separate chapter on SSL Acceleration in the Confirmit Server Manual.
SSLAuthorCertificate	When enabled, Confirmit logons will be encrypted via SSL (requires SSL certificate installed on the server(s) where authoring users log in. Note that if SSLAcceleratorMode is enabled, the SSL certificate only needs to be installed on the SSL accelerator).
SSLEnduserCertificate	When enabled, SSL may be used for end users (requires SSL certificate installed on the server(s) where end users log in. Note that if SSLAcceleratorMode is enabled, the SSL certificate only needs to be installed on the SSL accelerator).
SSLSurveyCertificate	When enabled, survey links will include an SSL option, also enables support for the ^secureslink^ primitive in survey

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	invitation emails (requires SSL certificate installed on the server where respondent accesses surveys. Note that if SSLAcceleratorMode is enabled, the SSL certificate only needs to be installed on the SSL accelerator).
SurveyDataAPIURL	Specifies URL to SurveyData API if used on a separate server.
SurveyDeploymentThroughDatabase	Enables deployment of surveys through SQL database rather than deploying files from the batch server. Can be used on systems where file deployment is not allowed between servers. Note: Cannot be reverted, consult the server documentation before enabling this setting.
SurveyEngineLogThresholdHttpCollectionKeys	Log threshold for number items in HttpCollectionKeys for the survey engine.
SurveyLoginPageLinkTimeout	A setting for controlling the timeout (in minutes) of links in limited login surveys.
SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration	Specifies how long a survey package will remain in server memory after last being accessed. (Minutes)
SurveyPageCPULimit	Controls how much CPU time a script in a survey is allowed to use before it is aborted. Can be overridden on per-server level to set different limits for servers. The rolewide setting is shared between the Authoring, Deployment and ExternalQuickTest roles. (CPU time in milliseconds)
SurveyRouterGetAvailableSurveyRetryAttempts	The number of retry attempts to find an available survey to be routed to when previously selected surveys have already been participated in.
SurveyRouterMaxChainLength	The maximum number of surveys that can be chained together using survey router routing for a single respondent.
SurveyRouterMaxNoOfSurveys	The maximum number of surveys that can be registered in a single Survey Router.
SurveyRouterMaxQuestionsForSurveySelection	The maximum number of questions that can be supplied as criteria for survey selection.
SurveyRouterMaxRegisteredQuestions	The maximum number of questions that can be specified for registration in a Survey Router.
TaskAbortedSender	If a scheduled Confirmit task fails, and the user that set up the task has requested to be notified when tasks fail, this address will be used as the sender address for the notifications. (Email address)
TranslatorUrl	If the Confirmit Translation add-on is enabled, and the module is running on a different server than the authoring feature, this value can be used to override the ConfirmitURL value. If left blank, the ConfirmitURL will be used as the base URL for Translator as well

Configuration Setting Name	Description
TripleSRecordSizeLimit	Limits size (in characters) of a triple-s data record.
UseIERendererForPdfExports	Whether PDF exports on this server should use the old IE engine rather than the new x64-compatible WebKit engine
UserAgentRegExDesktop	Regular expression determining user agent of the client to be a desktop computer
UserAgentRegExTouchDevice	Regular expression determining user agent of the client to be a compatible touch device browser.
ValidIpRangeForInternalWebServices	Limit access to the Internal Web Services to a predefined IP range. Single IP addresses, IP ranges, or combinations may be used, separating valid ranges with the comma character. Example: 192.168.1.50-192.168.1.150,192.168.1.200,172.16.1.7-172.16.1.24.
ValidIPRangeForSysAdmin	Limit admin to accounts with system_administrate to a predefined IP range. Single IP addresses, IP ranges, or combinations may be used, separating valid ranges with the comma character. Example: 192.168.1.50-192.168.1.150,192.168.1.200,172.16.1.7-172.16.1.24.
Weight	Indicates weight ratio for survey database deployment ratio on database servers (used in multi-database server systems). Value «0» indicates that no new survey databases are created on the server. Weights for multiple database servers if set differently on the server level are relative to each other. Out of (Sum weight across all servers), (Weight on server x) number of databases are created on server x.

Index

.NET applications, 2

A

About This Manual, 1
 Account, 27
 ActivePDF Server 2009 R23, 22
 Additional Components
 Per Server Role, 22
 Add-ons, 5, 40
 Advanced System Configuration, 58
 Allowed Verbs, 64
 Anti-Virus Recommendation, 54
 API, 23
 Application
 Dataflow, 5
 Pool Recommendations, 61
 Architecture, 2
 aspnet_setreg.exe Tool, 46
 Assigning
 New Task Types, 44
 Tasks to a Task System Server, 42
 Attached Survey Databases, 76
 Audit, 76
 Authoring, 2
 Autoclose, 24
 Autogrow, 24
 Automatic Detachment of Inactive Survey Databases, 50
 Autoshrink, 24
 Availability, 9

B

Backend, 10
 Backup
 and Recovery, 48
 Confirmit System Databases, 27
 Basics, 2
 Before You Start, 9
 BitStream, 4, 43
 Performance Counters, 65
 Server Operation Modes, 43
 BitStream Service, 74
 Building a Confirmit Site, 9

C

Caching Service, 74
 Cleaning
 Hub, 54
 Cleanup, 54
 Clearing Contents of Log Tables, 51
 Collation, 68
 Command Line Management Tools, 46

Compression, 61
 Configuration, 44, 58
 System Concepts, 45
 Configuration Setting Descriptions, 78
 Configure Database Encryption, 68
 Configuring
 the Model Database, 24
 Confirmit
 add-ons, 5
 API Development, 23
 Architecture, 2
 Authoring, 2
 Authoring Dataflow, 5
 BitStream, 43
 BitStream Service, 4
 BitStream Services, 27
 Configuration, 44
 Data Export Dataflow, 8
 Data Share, 42
 File Library
 Setting up, 44
 Flex Extension, 4
 Installation, 28
 Licensing, 26
 Maintenance, 48
 Monitoring Utility, 73
 Multimode, 4
 Reportal, 3
 Reportal Dataflow, 7
 SDK License, 42
 Survey Dataflow, 6
 System Service Monitoring, 74
 Task System, 4, 27
 Translator, 4
 Web Services, 4
 Confirmit MetaData, 3
 Confirmit URL, 5
 ConfirmitAdmin Tool, 47
 ConfirmitAdmin.exe, 47
 ConfirmitAdministrator Tool, 46
 Creating
 Aliases, 68
 Data Folders
 SQL, 27

D

DAS, 67
 Data
 Export, 8
 Storage, 4
 Data Files Generated by Confirmit, 48
 Database
 Encryption, 68
 Confirmit, 69
 SQL, 68
 Server Version Support, 23
 Servers, 10

- Shrinking, 51
- System Redundancy, 67
- Databases, 68
- Dataflow, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Defragmenting Indexes, 51
- Deleting Survey Test Databases, 51
- Deployment, 3
- Design Log Cleanup, 51
- Disabling TCP Offloading, 70
- DocumentStore Cleanup Task, 52

E

- Enable
 - FILESTREAM in SQL Server, 24
 - UAC, 38
- Encryption, 68
- Entry-Level Multi-Server Setup, 13
- Errors
 - from Authoring, 75
 - from Reportal, 75
 - from Web Services, 75
 - REST API Server, 76
- Event Logs, 55
- Example Scenario, 13
- Existing Settings, 27
- Extension, 4
- External Location Monitoring, 74

F

- Failing Launch Survey Tasks, 75
- Features, 2
 - and Modules, 2
- File Library
 - Setting up, 44
- File System Permissions, 42
- FILESTREAM
 - Enable in SQL Server, 24
- Finding the Site ID for the License, 41
- Firewalls, 11
- Flex Extension, 4
- FTP, 4

G

- Generic Server Monitoring, 73

H

- Hardware Configuration, 9
- High-End Multi-Server Setup, 15
- History Cleanup, 54
- Hub Cleaning, 54

I

- IDS, 11
- IIS, 58
 - Advanced Configuration, 58
 - Compression Tuning, 61

- Configuration, 55
- Hardening, 55
- Log File Archiving, 56
- Log Files, 55
- Monitoring, 56
- IIS7, 55
- Inactive Survey Databases
 - Detachment, 50
- Indexes
 - Defragmenting, 51
- Indexing History Cleanup, 54
- Install Sequence, 28
- Installation, 28
 - Preparation, 18
- Installing
 - Confirmit, 26, 37
 - the License, 41

K

- Keeping Existing Settings, 27

L

- Layout, 13
- License, 41
 - File
 - Obtaining and Installing, 40
 - Installation, 41
 - SDK, 42
 - Update, 41
- Licensing, 24, 26
 - Concepts, 40
- Linked Servers, 68
- Load Balancer, 11, 66
- Log Tables
 - Clearing Contents, 51
- Login, 68

M

- Maintenance, 48
- MetaData, 3
- Microsoft
 - .NET Framework, 2
 - .NET framework 3.5 SP1, 21
 - .NET framework 4.5, 21
 - Internet Information Server, 2
 - SQL Server, 4
 - 2012 Native client, 22
 - SQL Server Editions, 23
 - Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable Package, 22
- Microsoft Visual J#, 21
- Mid-Level, 14
- Model Database
 - Configuring, 24
- Modules, 2
- Monitoring
 - and Recommended Sensors, 74
 - and Systems Maintenance, 49
 - Confirmit, 73

- Delays in Task Queue Execution, 75
- Errors from Authoring, 75
- Errors from Reportal, 75
- Errors from Web Services, 75
- Example, 76
- External Monitoring, 74
- Failing Launch Survey Tasks, 75
- Generic Server, 73
- Number of Attached Survey Databases, 76
- REST API Server Errors, 76
- Survey Engine Availability
 - Survey, 56
- Surveys Returning Errors, 74
- Utility, 73
- Web Server Availability
 - Basic Page, 56
- Moving the Web Root, 55
- Multi Server, 43
- Multimode, 4
 - Server, 11
- Multiple SQL Server Instances, 67
- Multi-Server, 14, 15
 - Setup, 13

N

- Network
 - and Hardware Configuration, 9
 - Equipment, 11
 - Load Balancing, 11
 - Traffic Requirements, 11, 12
- NLB, 11
- NodeStore Cleanup Task, 53
- NTFS compression, 56

O

- Obtaining and Installing a License File, 40
- Open XML SDK 2.5, 22
- Operating System, 21
- Optional Components, 4
- OutOfMemory, 59

P

- Performance, 9
 - Counters, 64, 65
- PGP, 4
- Pool
 - Performance Tuning, 58
 - Recommendations, 61
- Post-Installation Server Configuration, 40
- Pre-Installation, 27
- Preparing an Installation, 18
- Preventing Search Engine Indexing, 64

R

- Recommendations, 13
 - Anti-virus, 54
- Recommended Sensors, 74

- Recovery, 48
 - model, 24
- Redundancy, 67
- Reportal, 7
- Request Filtering, 64
- Required Updates, 23
- Response Data Storage, 4
- REST API Server Errors, 76
- Restoring Survey Databases, 49
- Role-Wide Settings, 45

S

- SAN, 67
- Scalability, 2, 9
- SDK
 - License, 42
- Search Engine Indexing, 64
- Search Service, 5
- Searching and Indexing Service, 74
- Searching History Cleanup, 54
- Secure Event Log Viewing, 55
- Server
 - Configuration
 - Post Installation, 40
 - Hardware, 9
 - Logins, 68
 - Maintenance
 - SQL Database, 49
- Server Audit, 76
- Servers
 - Database, 10
 - Task System, 10
- Server-Wide Settings, 46
- Setting Up
 - User Accounts, 27
- Settings
 - Role-wide, 45
 - Server-wide, 46
 - Site-wide, 45
- Setup, 13, 14, 15
- Shrinking Databases, 51
- Simple Object Access Protocol, 23
- Single Page Survey Cleanup, 54
- Single Server, 43
- Site
 - Layout, 13
- Site ID, 41
- Site-Wide Settings, 45
- SmartHub, 5
- SOAP, 23
- SQL
 - Database Server Maintenance, 49
 - Query, 74, 75, 76
- SQL Server
 - Collation, 68
 - Databases, 48
 - in Windows Cluster, 67
 - Integration Services, 23
 - LOB Compaction, 51
 - Logins, 68
- SQL Server Audit, 76

- SSIS, 23
- SSL Acceleration, 66
- SSLAcceleratorMode, 66
- SSLAcceleratorPort, 66
- SSLAuthorCertificate, 66
- Subsystems, 4
- Survey, 6
 - Databases, 68
 - Restoring, 49
 - Engine, 3
 - Test Databases
 - Deleting, 51
- SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration, 61
- Surveys Returning Errors, 74
- Switches, 11
- Synching 'the Confirmit File Library, 44
- Synchronization, 55
- System
 - Concepts, 45
 - Configuration, 58
 - Databases, 68
 - Files, 48
 - Maintenance, 49
 - Partitions, 48
 - Service Monitoring, 74

T

- Task Isolation Level, 43
- Task Queue Execution, 75
- Task Scheduler Service, 74
- Task System, 4
 - Features, 22
 - Server, 42
 - Servers, 10, 44
- Task System Service, 74
- TCP Offloading, 70
 - Disabling, 70
- Time Synchronization, 55

- Translator, 4
- Troubleshoot Survey Problems, 64
- Tuning, 58, 61

U

- UAC, 37
- Uninstalling Confirmit, 47
- Updating
 - the License, 41
- Upgrade Sequence, 28
- Upgrading
 - From a Previous Version, 44
 - From an Existing Version, 26
- URL, 5
- URLScan, 64
- User Account Control, 37
- User Accounts
 - Setting up, 27
- Using Confirmit, 39

V

- Virtual Infrastructure, 16

W

- w3wp.exe, 59
- Web and Webservice Servers, 9
- Web Root
 - Moving, 55
- Web Services, 4
 - Enhancements 2.0, 21
 - Enhancements 3.0, 22
- Webservice Servers, 9
- Windows
 - Cluster, 67