



# **CONFIRMIT SERVER MANUAL**

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

References to the CONFIRMIT company are indicated by the use of all upper case. References to the company's product Confirmit are indicated by initial upper case.

The information herein describes Confirmit Server setup and its features as of August 2012. New features may be introduced into Confirmit Server after this date. Go to [www.confirmit.com](http://www.confirmit.com) or check "News" on the Customer Extranet for the latest updates.

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## What's New in this Issue?

Changes in revision 2 of the Confirmit 17 Server Manual are as listed below:

- Some of the Archiving details in Appendix A are updated (see the Appendix A - Configuration Setting Descriptions section on page 91 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@confirmit.com](mailto:documentation@confirmit.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](mailto:documentation@confirmit.com).

**Note: User Access Control (UAC) is enabled for Confirmit. This means that the setup will ask for the required Administrator rights during installation and/or configuration of Confirmit.**

## 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 two database systems:

- Versant FastObjects .NET, storing application objects such as project definitions, questionnaires, report templates, ACL's, etc.
- Microsoft SQL Server, storing response data and system databases.

Figure 1 illustrates the Confirmit architecture and layout:

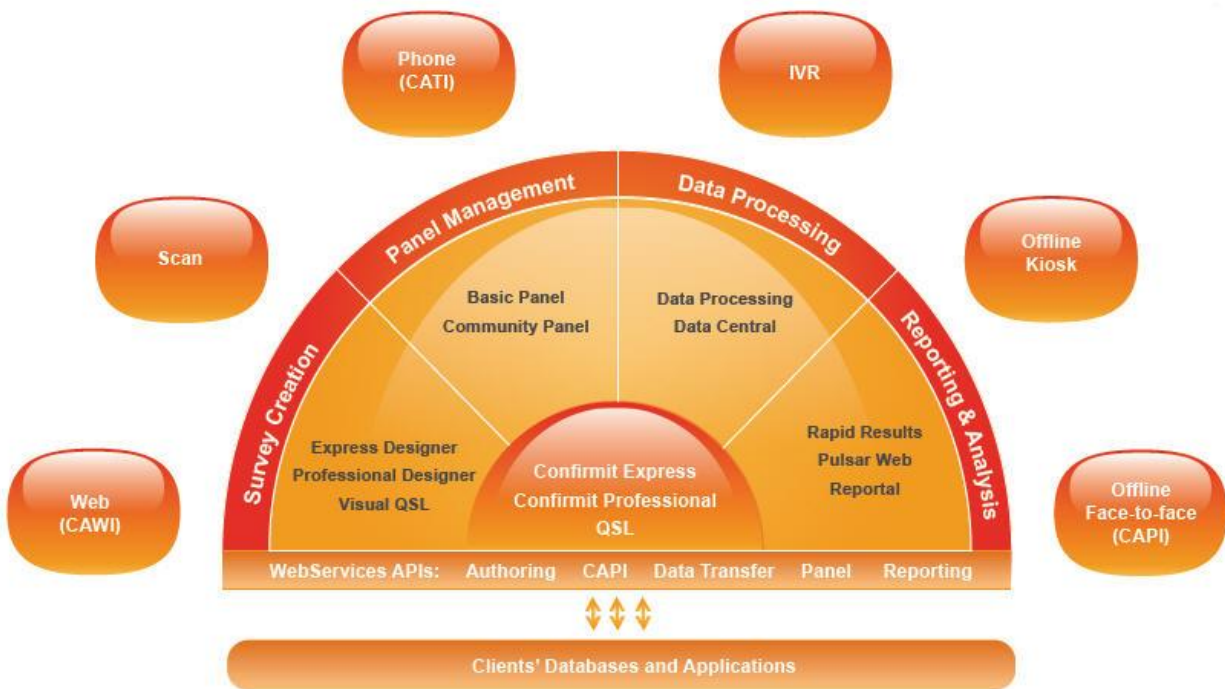


Figure 1 Confirmit architecture

### 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 Microsoft Internet Explorer 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. For many systems it's common to run the FastObjects database on the server that is also running this module. You can find more information on the FastObjects database system later in this chapter. FTP services are an optional add-on for uploading files for importing into the system.

### 2.2.2. 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.

### 2.2.3. 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.

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.

### 2.2.4. 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), 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.

## 2.2.5. 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.**

## 2.2.6. Application Data Storage

The FastObjects Universal Object Server is the central repository for storing application objects such as questionnaire definitions, project ACLs and user, group, role and company objects. This object oriented database system allows for fast indexing and efficient storage of such object types. The FastObjects database supports replication and clustering, although Confirmit does not officially support live fail-over of FastObjects databases. Replication can be used to ensure the database content is cloned onto a passive system which can be activated manually if the primary database server should fail.

### **Important**

**The FastObjects database is a critical component 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.**

## 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 outsourcing questionnaire translation 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 Confirmit Flex extension in the user guide, located on the Confirmit Extranet.

### 2.2.7.6. 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

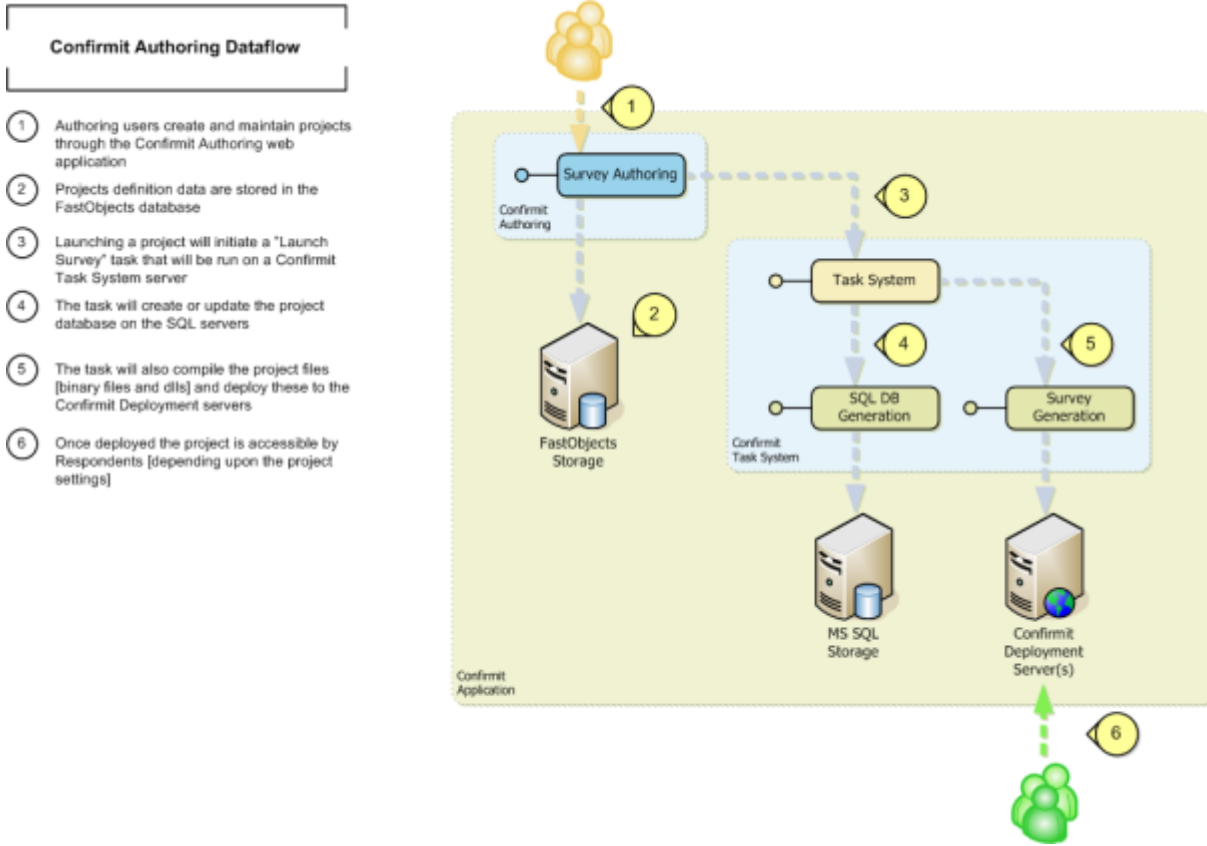


Figure 2 The Confirmit Authoring dataflow

### 2.3.2. Confirmit Survey Dataflow

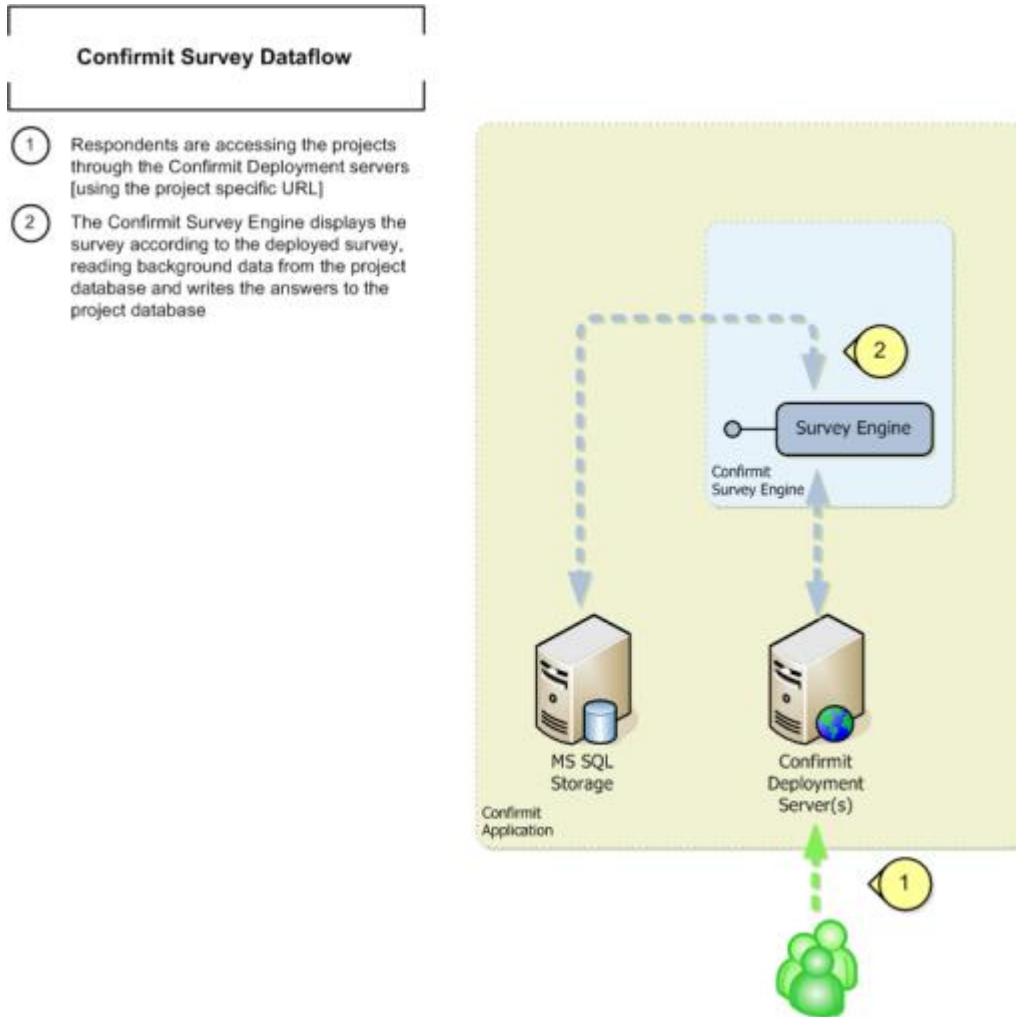


Figure 3 The Confirmit Survey dataflow

### 2.3.3. Confirmit Reportal Dataflow

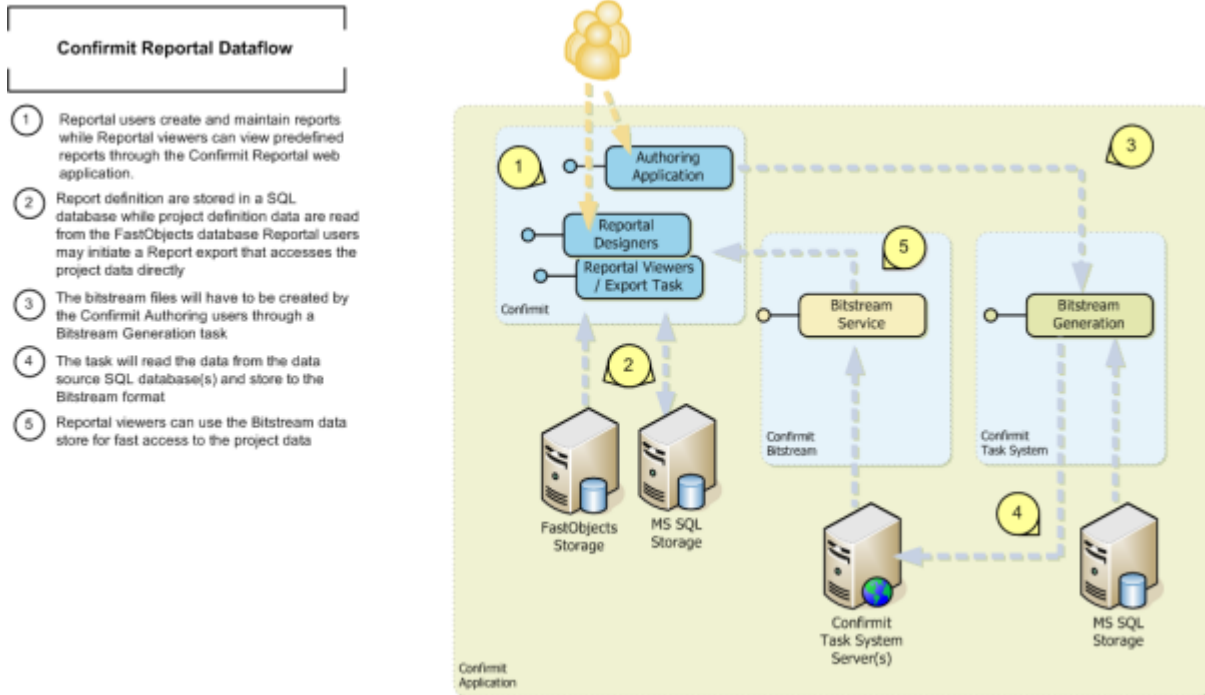


Figure 4 The Confirmit Reportal dataflow

### 2.3.4. Confirmit Data Export Dataflow

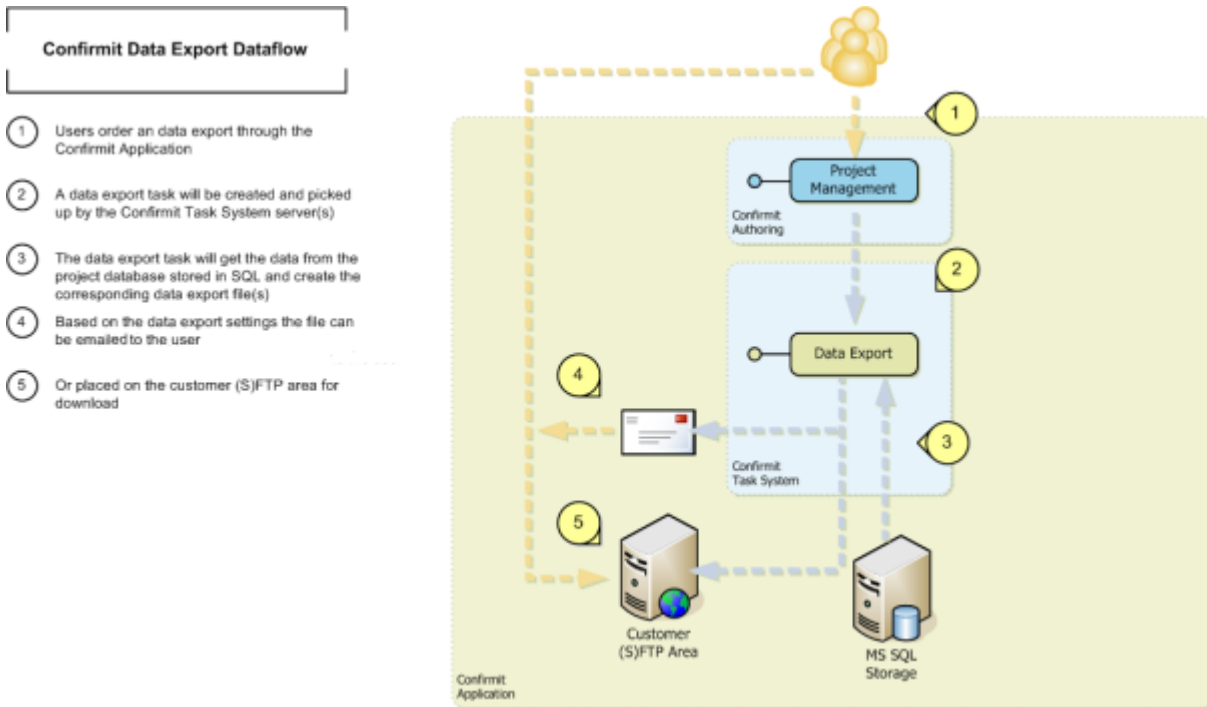


Figure 5 The Confirmit Data Export dataflow

## 2.3.5. Confirmit BitStream Dataflow

### Confirmit Bitstream Dataflow

- 1 Reportal users create and maintain reports while Reportal viewers can view predefined reports through the Confirmit Reportal web application.
- 2 Bitstream task is set up and picked up by a task server. A Bitstream server with the BitstreamWrite flag is contacted to produce the files.
- 3 The assigned Bitstream server gets the updated data from the survey database, writes the Bitstream fileset locally, copies the fileset to the Bitstream repository and updates the SQL database with the written timestamp.
- 4 Bitstream servers with the BitstreamRead flag set will synchronize their Bitstream directory from the repository based on the timestamp in the SQL database, and provide Bitstream data to the requesting web servers.
- 5 Bitstream writers may temporarily provide web servers with Bitstream data if the readers have not completed synchronizing before requests for the fileset are received.

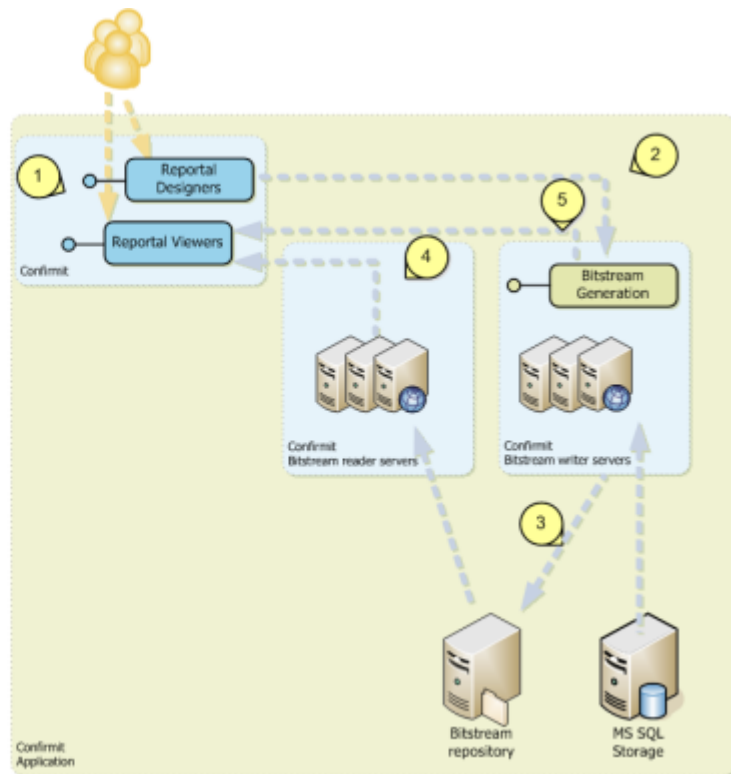


Figure 6 The Confirmit BitStream dataflow

## 3. Building a Confirmit Site

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

### 3.1. Before You Start

As mentioned in the previous chapter, Confirmit 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 Confirmit 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 Confirmit Site can use the same Confirmit license file.

The Confirmit On-Demand 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@confirmit.com](mailto:support@confirmit.com) or your account manager for assistance.

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

- **Availability** - Everyone involved in systems maintenance knows that servers are prone to error both in hardware and software. If your Confirmit 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 Confirmit system is more vulnerable for several components to stop working. For instance, Confirmit 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 Confirmit 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. Confirmit 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 Confirmit On-Demand Operations Team can also assist in setting up a tailored recommendation on request.

##### 3.2.1.1. Web Servers (Frontend)

The typical minimum hardware outfit for a web or combined server (deployment, stand-alone Authoring or Reportal) would be:

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

Testing of Confirmit 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 the Load Balancers section on page 12 for more information).

A typical recommended hardware setup:

- Dual quad-core CPUs
- 4GB RAM
- RAID-1 disk system for system partition and Confirmit application in separate volumes
- Separate RAID-1 disk system for Confirmit data partition
- Dual teamed Gbit NICs

### **3.2.1.2. Task System Servers (Backend)**

Dedicated Task System servers would typically not require as much memory as a web server. 2GB should be sufficient for most cases, 4GB is recommended if the server will also be running SQL Server Integration Services. Other hardware recommendations would follow that of a web server above. There should also be enough disk space on batch servers to store BitStream files unless dedicated BitStream servers are used. From Confirmit 16, the Confirmit Task System .exe file has been compiled with LARGEMEMORYAWARE, and thus should be able to use all 2 GBs of memory.

### **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.

Confirmit 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).
- 2GB RAM (recommended: increase by minimum 2GB per additional instance).
- RAID-1 disk system for system partition.
- Separate RAID-1 disk system for SQL instance running Confirmit databases.
- 100Mbit NIC.

Typical recommended hardware setup:

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

### 3.2.1.4. FastObjects Database Server

In larger systems it might be preferable to run the FastObjects database on a dedicated server. The recommendations for a server would follow that of a SQL Server database server configured for a single DB instance with the database stored on a fast disk set. If using incremental backups for FastObjects, a separate disk may be used for storing database incremental update files (see the Incremental Backup section on page 58 for more information).

### 3.2.1.5. Multimode Server

Confirmit Multimode requires (a) separate, dedicated machine(s) for installation of the multimode component. Hardware requirements are the same as for Web Servers (Frontend) (see the Web Servers (Frontend) section on page 10 for more information). The multimode component can be load-balanced if necessary for performance distribution and redundancy.

## 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. Confirmit 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 Confirmit 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 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 Confirmit Site

From	To	Service	Ports	Protocol
Users	Deployment servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
Users	Authoring servers	HTTP	80,443 (customizable)	TCP
All Confirmit servers	Remote mail servers	SMTP	25	TCP
<i>Users</i>	<i>Server holding shared data / FTP data</i>	<i>FTP / SFTP / SSH / FRTPS</i>	<i>21 / 22, 990 or custom</i>	<i>TCP</i>

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	FastObjects Database server	FastObjects connection	6001, 6002	TCP
Authoring servers, Task System servers	All Confirmit servers (also database servers if Archiving is enabled)	File system access over SMB/CIFS	445	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	TCP
Deployment servers	Confirmit Services accessed in Custom Code Libraries	Web	80	TCP
Reportal servers	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80	TCP
Confirmit Translator servers	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80	TCP
Confirmit CATI servers *	Confirmit Webservices	Web	80	TCP
Confirmit CATI servers *	Confirmit Authoring URL	Web	80	TCP
Confirmit CATI servers *	Confirmit Deployment URL	Web	80	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

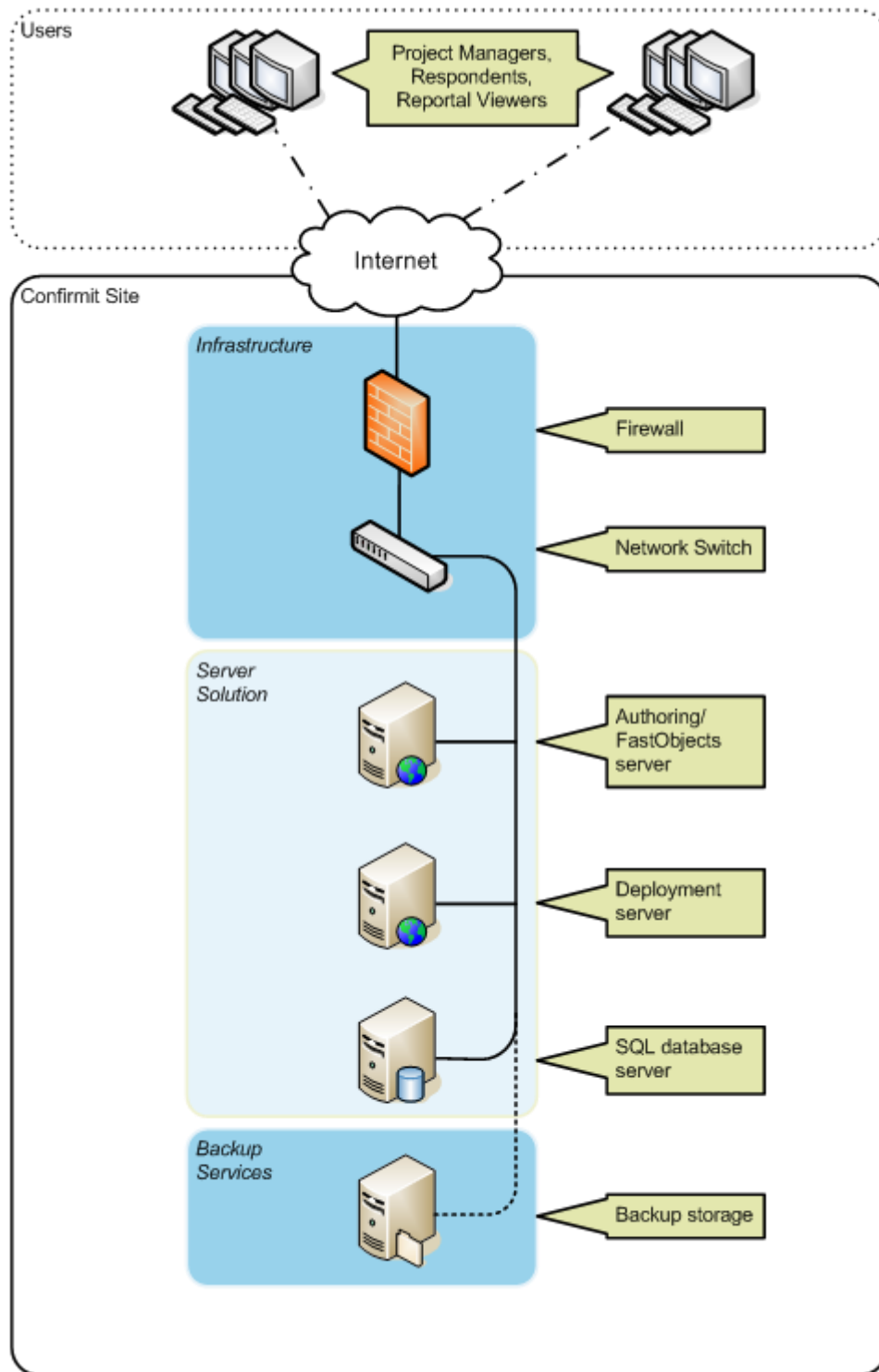
A customer with 100 Authoring users expects to launch 2000 surveys over the course of a year. 500 of these will be launched in February, with an expectancy of 20 survey page hits per respondent to complete a survey. 1,000,000 completed responses are expected over the full year, with 150,000 of these 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 FastObjects database since this does not add noticeable strain to the server on which it runs.



**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.

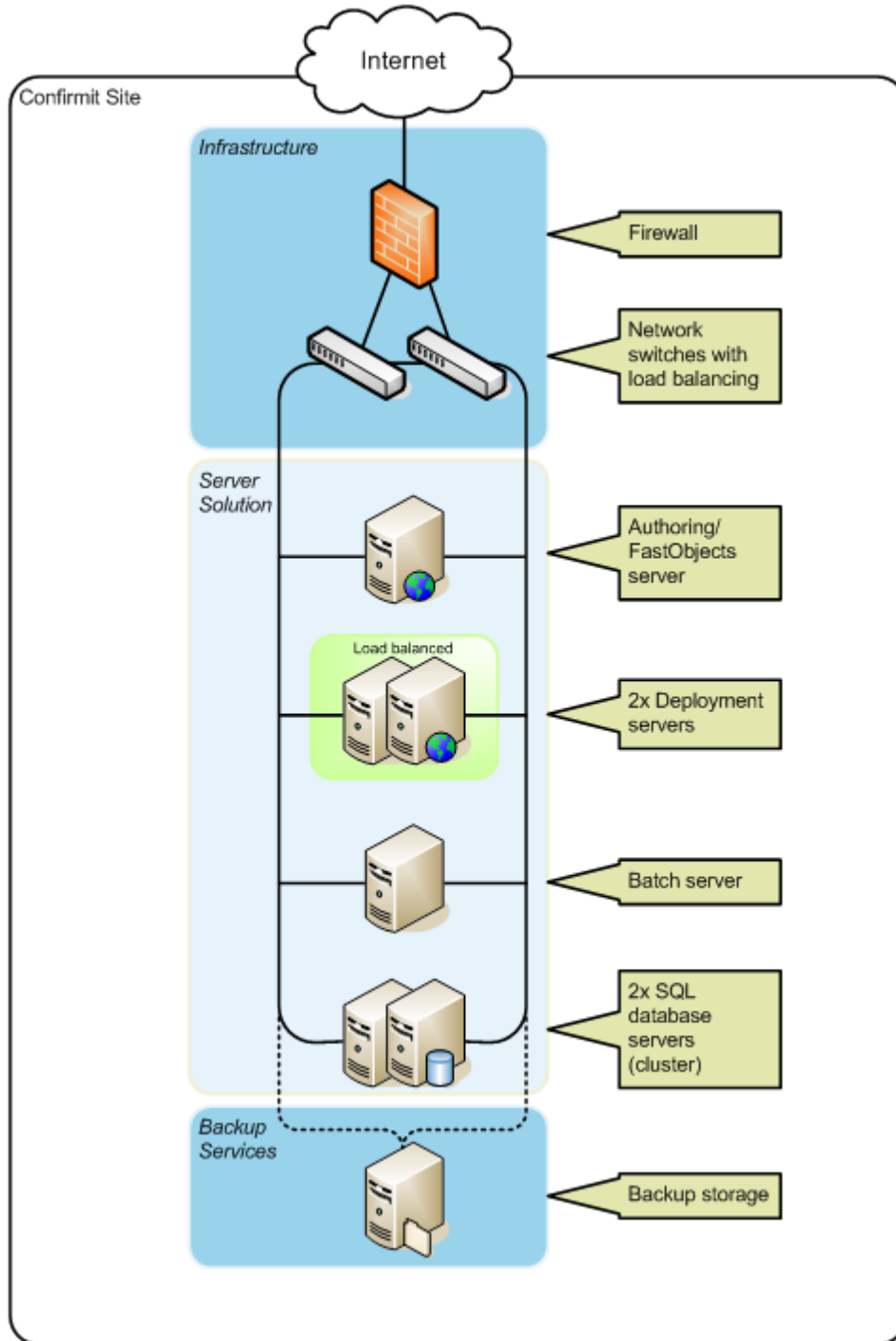
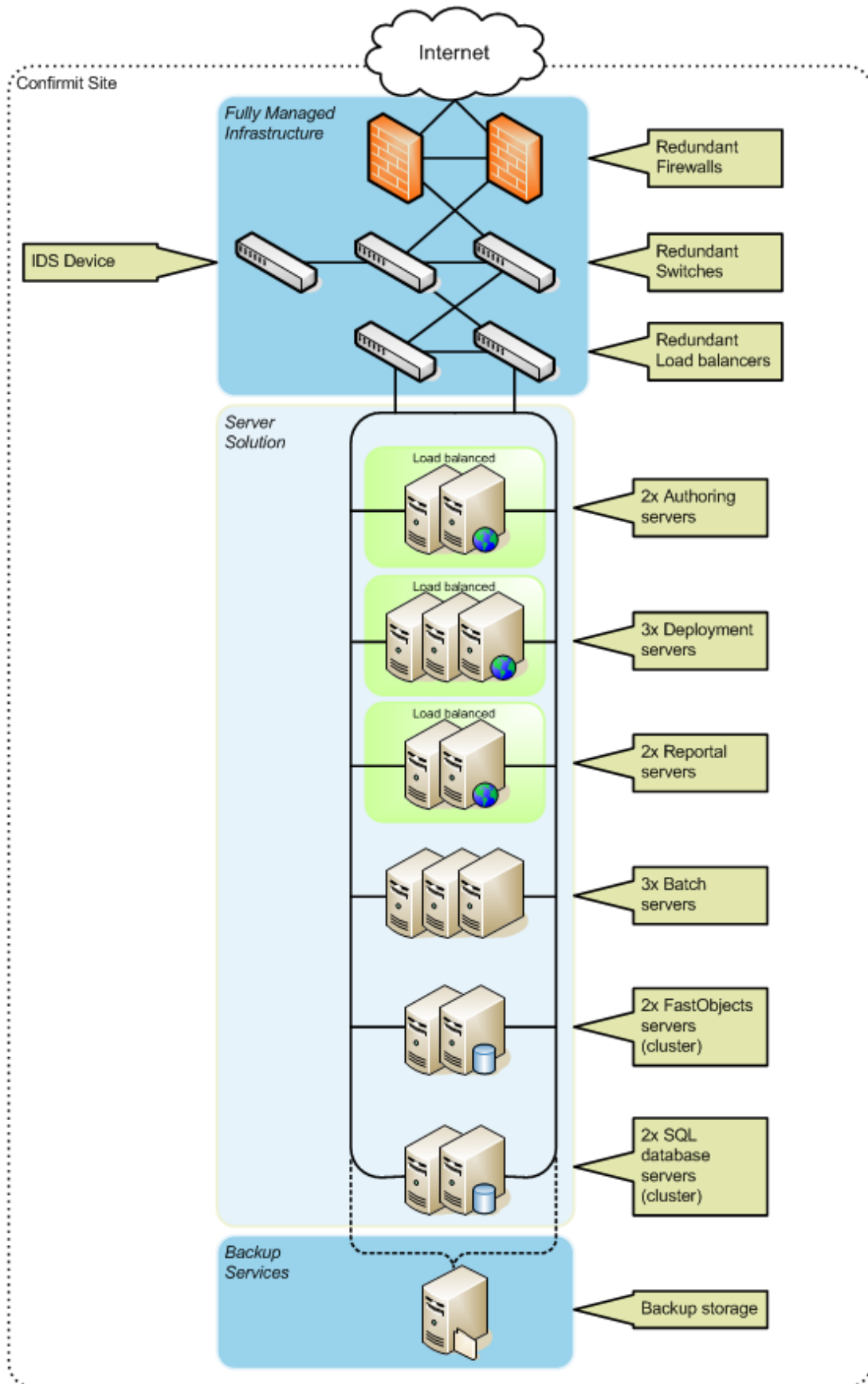


Figure 8 Multi-server setup with redundancy for data collection and response storage

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.

### 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.

Confirmit 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 Confirmit 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 Confirmit application on our systems, as it could potentially result in overall performance degradation.

Confirmit supports installation in virtual infrastructures using the following virtualization options:

- VMware vSphere 4 (ESX 4.0 and 4.01)
- VMware ESXi

**Disclaimer:**

**Confirmit does not support running SQL Server or FastObjects on virtual servers.**

**Disclaimer:**

**In the event you were to experience issues with the Confirmit Professional software that, to Confirmit's reasonable discretion, appear to be directly related to the underlying virtualization infrastructure's availability or ability to deliver sufficient performance to virtual servers, then Confirmit 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.**

**As of the Effective Date CONFIRMIT supports the use of the Confirmit Professional software on Equipment that is virtualized on VMware Infrastructure vSphere 4, provided however that CONFIRMIT shall not support hosting environments with virtualized database servers, such as the servers running Microsoft SQL Server and FastObjects. VMware requirements may change for later Confirmit Professional software versions, and if so will be set forth in the Documentation. In the event Client was to experience issues with the Confirmit Professional software that, to CONFIRMIT's reasonable discretion, appear to be directly related to the underlying virtualization infrastructure's availability or ability to deliver sufficient performance to virtual servers, then Confirmit may not be able to support Client in relation to such issues unless Client is 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 2008 R2	Required	Required	Changed from v16 FP.	Confirmit only supports installation on Windows Server 2008 R2 operating systems.
IIS 7.5	Required		Enabled as a Role in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
Static Content	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
Default Document	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
Directory Browsing	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
HTTP Redirection	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
ASP.Net	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
ISAPI Extension	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
ISAPI Filters	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	

Windows Configurations	Confirmit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
Windows Authentication	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
Dynamic Content Compression	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
IIS Metabase Compatibility	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
IIS 6 WMI Compatibility	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
IIS 6 Scripting Tools	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
IIS Management Console	Required		Enabled as a Role Service in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
SMTP	Required		Enabled as a Feature in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1	Required		Enabled as a Feature in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager.	
Filestream Enabled		Required		
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. Persistent local administrator permissions required on Batch servers.
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.	

Windows Configurations	Confirmit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
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	
Microsoft Report Viewer Redistributable 2008 SP1	Required		Download	
Office 2007 Primary interop assemblies	Required		Download	
Open XML SDK 2.0 for Microsoft Office	Required		Download	
SQL Server 2008 Native Client (x64)	Required		<a href="#">Download (Not needed if "Client tools" is installed from SQL setup (recommended))</a>	
SQL Server System CLR Types (x64)	Required		<a href="#">Download (Not needed if "Client tools" is installed from SQL setup (recommended))</a>	
SQL Server 2008 Shared Management Objects (x64)	Required		<a href="#">Download (Not needed if "Client tools" is installed from SQL setup (recommended))</a>	
Microsoft SQL Server 2008 x64, Database Engine (not R2)		Required		
Optional/Add-on Components				
SQL Server 2008 Datamining Viewer Controls	OLAP Only		Download	

Windows Configurations	Confirmit Server	Database Server	Comments	Additional info
SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services 10.0 OLE DB Provider (x64)	OLAP Only		Download	
Microsoft SQL Server 2008 x64, Reporting Services (SSRS)	Any			Requires SQL License
Microsoft SQL Server 2008 x64, Analysis Services (SSAS)	Any			Requires SQL License
Microsoft SQL Server 2008 x64, Integration Services (SSIS)	Batch		Management Tools - Complete x86 have to installed	Requires SQL License
Microsoft Office 2007	Batch		Required on Batch servers running Microsoft Office type exports.	Requires Microsoft Office License
Dundas Web Chart / Dundas Web Gauge	Author/ Reportal/ Batch		Obtained from Confirmit Support	Chargeable Add-On
ActivePDF Server 2009 R23	Batch		Obtained from Confirmit Support	Changed from v16 FP. Chargeable Add-On

## 4.1. Operating System

Confirmit Horizons v17 supports installation on the Windows Server 2008 R2 operating system.

### 4.1.1. Microsoft .NET framework 3.5 SP1

Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 can be enabled as a server feature in the Windows Server 2008 Server Manager, by enabling the Application Server server role.

### 4.1.2. 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>

### 4.1.3. 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. Microsoft Report Viewer Distributable 2008 SP1**

The Microsoft Report Viewer Distributable is used by Community Panels Panelist Reporting feature and is required on all servers. It can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?familyid=BB196D5D-76C2-4A0E-9458-267D22B6AAC6>

##### **4.1.4.1. Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Native client**

The Microsoft SQL 2008 Native client is used by all servers with Confirmit installed, to communicate with the SQL server. It is a part of the SQL server 2008 Feature Pack and can be downloaded from:

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

##### **4.1.4.2. Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Shared Management Objects**

The Shared Management Objects component is used by all servers with Confirmit installed. It is a part of the SQL server 2008 Feature Pack and can be downloaded from:

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

##### **4.1.4.3. Microsoft SQL Server 2008 CLR Types**

The SQL Server CLR Types component is used by all servers with Confirmit installed. It is a part of the SQL server 2008 Feature Pack and can be downloaded from:

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

##### **4.1.4.4. Open XML SDK 2.0**

The Open XML SDK 2.0 Add-on can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=c6e744e5-36e9-45f5-8d8c-331df206e0d0>

Only the OpenXMLSDKv2.msi file is needed.

##### **4.1.4.5. 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, as 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. Authoring and Express Features

### 4.2.1.1. Dundas Web Chart and Web Gauge Components (Optional)

The Dundas Web Chart and Web Gauge Components are delivered as 3rd party Add-ons, and are included with the Confirmit Reportal chargeable add-on. Installation on Confirmit Authoring servers is required to display charts in Rapid Results (without this component, only tables will be displayed in Rapid Results.) The component should be added to the Global Assembly Cache on the server. To install them, add them to the Global Assembly Cache by dragging all the .dll files into the C:\Windows\Assembly folder:

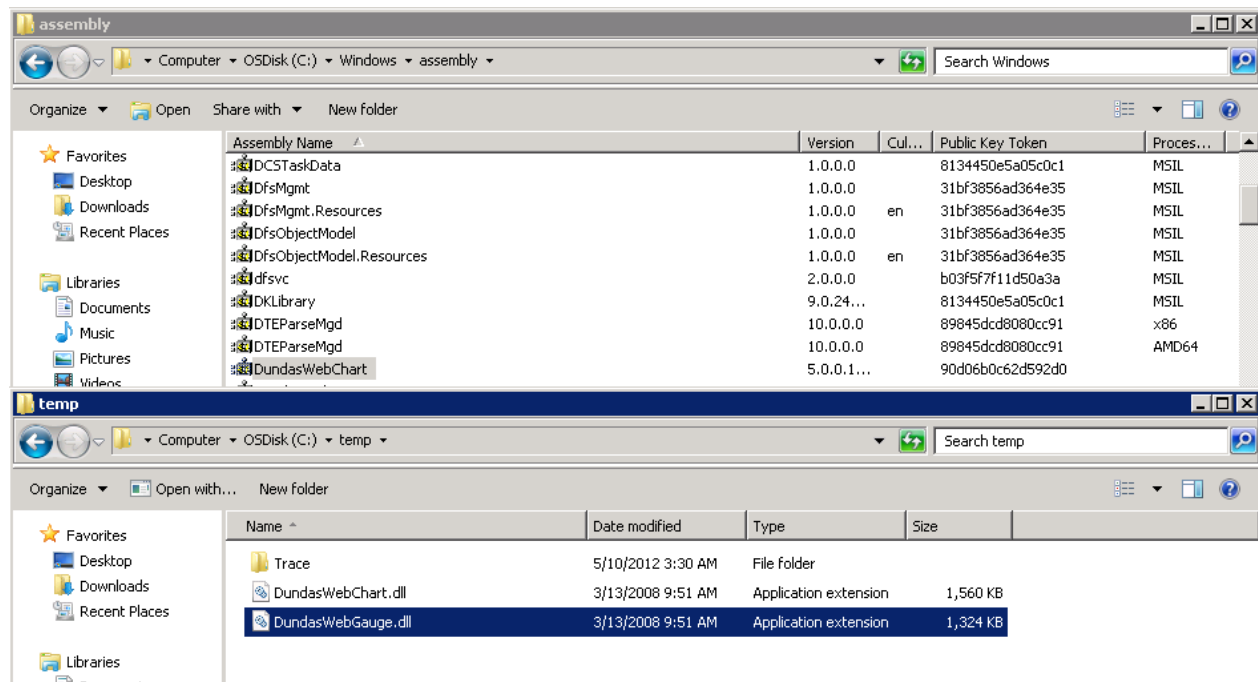


Figure 10 Installing the Dundas component

## 4.2.2. Task System Features (Batch Server)

### 4.2.2.1. 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.

### 4.2.2.2. Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services x64 (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 2008 Management Tools - Complete, x86 version.

### 4.2.2.3. Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services x64 (SSRS)

SQL Server Reporting Service is required only if the Community Panel Panelist Reporting is used (OLAP.). Installation instructions follow in separate documentation.

#### **4.2.2.4. Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services 10.0 OLE DB Provider**

This requirement only applies if the Community Panel Panelist Reporting feature is being used. The SSAS OLE DB provider is downloadable from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c6c3e9ef-ba29-4a43-8d69-a2bed18fe73c&displaylang=en>

#### **4.2.2.5. Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Datamining Viewer Controls**

This requirement only applies if the Community Panel Panelist Reporting feature is being used. The datamining viewer controls are downloadable from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c6c3e9ef-ba29-4a43-8d69-a2bed18fe73c&displaylang=en>

#### **4.2.2.6. SQL Server Components Version Support**

The only version of the SQL Server component that includes SSIS, SSAS and SSRS, is Microsoft SQL Server 2008 x64.

#### **4.2.2.7. Dundas Web Chart/Gauge Components (Optional)**

If the Reportal Add-on has been purchased, Dundas Web Chart/Gauge Components are required on batch servers to produce exports from Reportal. The components should be added to the Global Assembly Cache. The Dundas components are distributed by Confirmit as part of the Reportal activation package and are licensed on a per machine basis.

#### **4.2.2.8. Microsoft Office 2007 (English Version)**

Microsoft Office 2007 is required on batch servers for producing exports in Microsoft file formats such as .xls, .ppt and .doc. The minimum required Office components are:

- Excel
  - o .NET Programmability Support
  - o Add-ins
    - o Internet Assistant VBA
- PowerPoint
  - o .NET Programmability Support
- Word
  - o .NET Programmability Support
- Office Shared Features
  - o Converters and Filters
    - o Graphics Filters
  - o Digital Certificate for VBA projects
  - o Fonts
  - o International Support
  - o Microsoft Office Themes
  - o Proofing Tools
    - o English Proofing Tools
  - o Visual Basic for Applications
- Office Tools
  - o Microsoft Graph

- o Windows SharePoint Services Support

### 4.2.3. Dundas Web Chart/Gauge Components in Reportal

If the Confirmit Reportal Add-on is purchased, the Dundas Web Chart and Web Gauge Component is required on Reportal servers to produce graphs and gauge components in reports. The components should be installed in the Global Assembly Cache on the Reportal server. This component is distributed by Confirmit as part of the Reportal activation package and is licensed on a per machine basis.

**Note: If Dundas components are not installed, you will not be able to log in to Confirmit Reportal.**

### 4.2.4. Confirmit XML Web Services Development

To connect to Confirmit Web Services, SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) is required. There are several SOAP toolkits on the market; the one you require will depend on which environment you are developing in. If you are developing in a Windows-based environment, the Microsoft SOAP toolkit version 2.0, or the .NET Framework v1.1 can be used.

### 4.2.5. Database Server - Version Support

The only version that is currently supported is SQL Server 2008 x64 with a minimum service pack SP2. Anything older and SQL Server 2008 R2 is not supported.

In multi-database server environments, please note that all instances/servers must run the same version of Microsoft SQL Server.

#### 4.2.5.1. Microsoft SQL Server 2008 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 2008 Standard Edition will be sufficient for running Confirmit in a production environment. SQL Server 2008 Standard Edition also supports installation in a fail-over cluster, albeit only with two servers in the cluster. For enterprise installations, SQL Server 2008 Enterprise Edition can be considered for high availability features such as 16-node cluster support, 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).

To determine which edition of SQL Server 2008 is right for your environment, the following link might be of help:

<http://www.microsoft.com/sqlserver/2008/en/us/editions-compare.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. Since Confirmit v17 does not use any login account with sysadm permissions, a login may have to be temporarily enabled to allow future upgrades to be performed.**

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.

#### 4.2.5.1.1. Required Update

SQL Server 2008 Service Pack 2 is required for installing Confirmit Horizons v17.

#### 4.2.5.1.2. 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.

#### 4.2.5.2. 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.

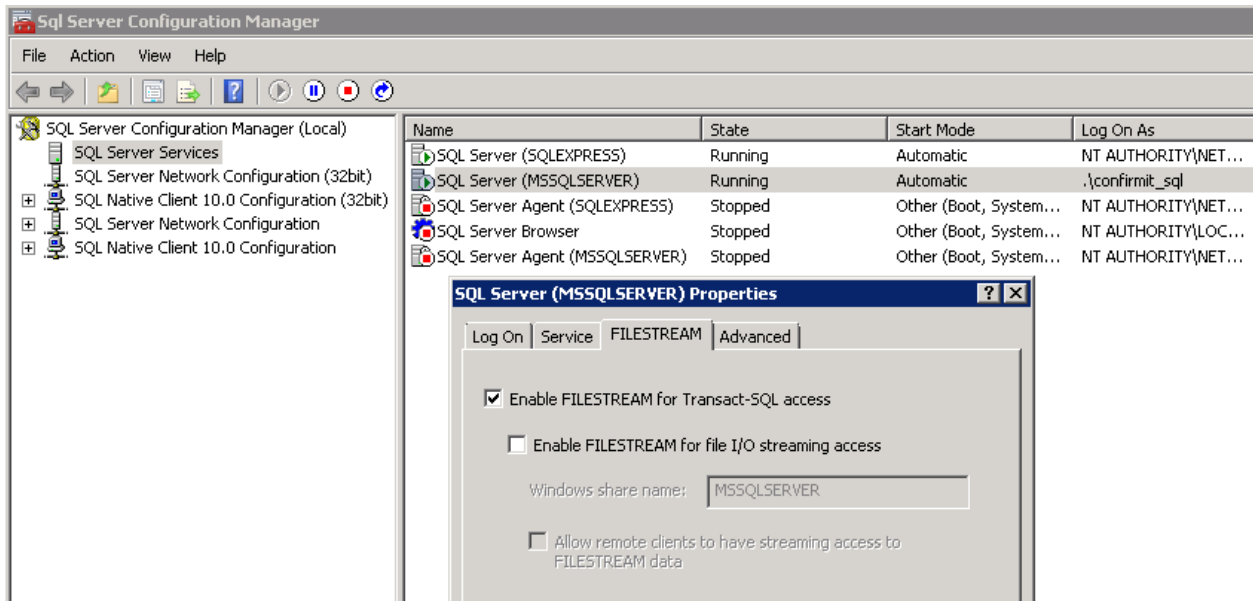
- **Autogrow** – should be set to allow databases to grow in size automatically when needed. If this setting is not enabled, Confirmit will produce errors similar to "The primary filegroup for database <db name> is full", and a larger size will have to be adjusted manually. We strongly recommend enabling the autogrow feature for both data and log files. Note: The default option is to grow the database by 10% of the database size. 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.

#### 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.**

#### 4.2.5.3. Enable FILESTREAM on SQL

FILESTREAM is required on the main (first) SQL Server instance for installing Confirmit Horizons v17. This is 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 11 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 v17**.

### 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 v17, 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 v17 is from Confirmit Horizons v16.0 Feature Pack on SQL Server 2008 SP2 with the latest Confirmit v16.0 FP patch installed. For Confirmit v15.0, in addition to ensuring the correct SQL version, you must upgrade to the v15.0 Service Pack and apply the latest patch before installing v17 - see the table below:

	<b>Direct upgrade to:</b>			
<b>Current version</b>	<b>v15 SP</b>	<b>v16</b>	<b>v16 FP</b>	<b>v17</b>
<b>v15</b>	SP install	v15 SP install + v16 install	v16 install + FP install	v15 SP install + v17 install
<b>v15 SP</b>		v16 install	v16 install + FP install	v17 install
<b>v16</b>			v16 FP install	v16 FP install + v17 install
<b>v16 FP</b>				v17 install

If you are running Confirmit version 12.0, 12.5 or 14.0 on SQL Server 2005, you will have to upgrade Confirmit to version 15.0, and upgrade the database server to SQL Server 2008 before proceeding to upgrade to version 15.0 SP and version 17. 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 the Obtaining and Installing a License File section on page 46 for more information).

If you are upgrading from a version that already uses a license, the existing license should continue working with Confirmit Horizons v17. 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. Cleanup when Upgrading from Previous Versions

In Confirmit v16, a lot of work went into removing legacy features. This has resulted in some prerequisites that can be removed, and some cleanup of old distributed files which can be made when upgrading from v15 to v17. These are outlined here:

Removed prerequisite	Notes
Microsoft .Net Framework 1.1	A requirement for running Enterprise Instrumentation Framework which has been replaced.
Enterprise Instrumentation Framework	Previously utilized for logging from ASP.NET to Confirmit Monitors.
Browscap.ini	Exchanging this from the default browscap.ini is no longer needed, as you may use the machine.config to add browser support instead.
Confirmit Legacy User	This account is no longer required, and can be removed.
Bcp.exe and bcp.rll	These files are no longer required in the <confirmprog>\bin folder.
ASP for IIS	All webpages are now running in .NET. This feature can be turned off; this requires a reboot of the Web server.
<confirmitdata>\wi and <confirmitdata>\witest folders	The <confirmitdata>\wi and \witest folders can now be cleaned out, as these folders contained old ASP pages.

### 5.1.3. Assign FastObjects Role

For the Confirmit Horizons v16 and v17 upgrades to function correctly, the FastObjects role must be set for your FastObjects server before you run the setup. If you are upgrading to v17 from v14 via v15 SP, this must be done explicitly when on v15SP. To do this:

1. Go to **System Configuration**.
2. Double-click on the server where FastObjects is running, check the FastObjects box and save.

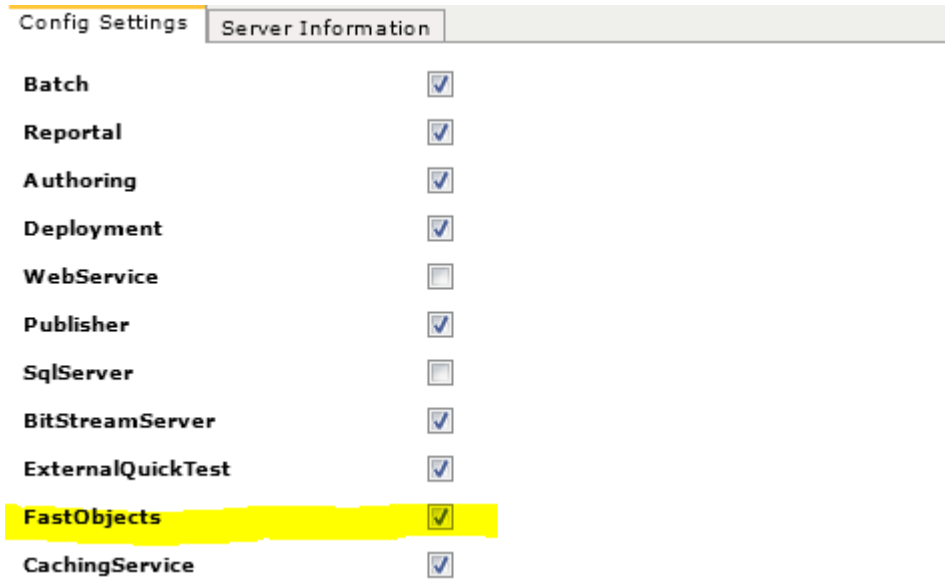


Figure 12 Assigning the FastObjects role

The FastObjects server role was introduced into System Configuration in Confirmit Horizons v15, but was not implemented before v16.

#### 5.1.4. Changing the Location of PGP Folders

If upgrading to Confirmit v17 from a version older than v15, be aware that PGP key rings have been migrated from the <confirmdata>\PGP folder to the <Confirmit Shared Data>\PGP folder to remain accessible. PGP keys will no longer have to be distributed across multiple servers; they are read from the shared data folder when requested.

#### 5.1.5. 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.

#### 5.1.6. Stop the Confirmit Task System Service

Due to schema and dictionary updates for the FastObjects database during upgrade, the setup will require exclusive access to the database for a few moments. If the Confirmit Task System service is left running on any servers, it may lock the database during a read and cause the upgrade task to fail. To avoid having to redo the upgrade manually after the setup has completed, stop the Confirmit Task System service prior to upgrading. Also, ensure no tasks are still in the executing state when the setup runs. The same also applies for the patch which must be installed immediately after upgrade.

**Note:** In addition, the Windows Installer-based setup program can sometimes experience problems uninstalling and reinstalling Confirmit system services during upgrades if the Services MMC is running during install, so ensure any instances of the MMC for all logged on users are closed before proceeding with the upgrade.

### 5.1.7. Back up the FastObjects Database

**Important**

**Always perform a full backup of the FastObjects database before starting an upgrade of Confirmit (see the The FastObjects Database section on page 57 for more information).**

### 5.1.8. Disable FastObjects Incremental Backup

**Warning**

**If incremental FastObjects backup is running, disable it before starting the Confirmit Setup.**

### 5.1.9. Back-up Confirmit System Databases

In addition to the FastObjects database, Confirmit system databases should also be backed up before an update in case a rollback is required (see the SQL Server Databases section on page 56 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. The user account under which it runs must be a member of the local Administrators group on the server. Before installation this user must also be granted two permissions in the Local Security Policy:

- 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 the Confirmit and UAC (User Account Control) section on page 82 for more information).

### 5.2.2.2. Account for Reading File Library Files from External Location (Optional)

The Confirmit File Library allows users to upload files for using in surveys, such as images, videos, HTM files, CSS style sheets, etc. (File types are configurable in the system administration area in Confirmit.) Files uploaded from the GUI are deployed along with generated thumbnails to a central repository under the **Shared Data** folder.

A change from Confirmit pre v17 is that from v17 onward, all thumbnails are distributed to all Authoring servers. This means that if you have previously configured the /isa virtual folder on Authoring servers to access the SharedData folder, you can synchronize the thumbnail folder from the SharedData folder onto the Authoring servers and remove the connection to SharedData on the /isa virtual directory. This removes the need for an additional user for this purpose. The thumbnail folder will be renamed to \_\_Thumbnail when the configuration tool for v17 is run.

## 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 start looking for existing installations, and if any are found, will proceed to upgrade the existing version. One or more of the steps below might be required for the update to continue.

### Important

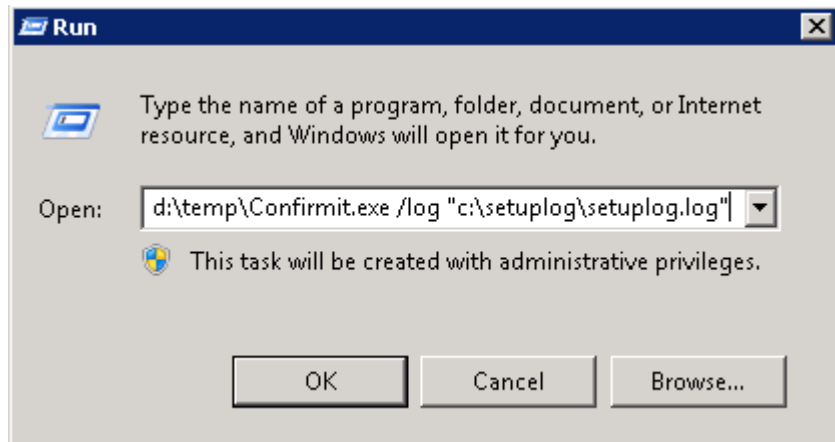
**The user performing the Confirmit installation must be member of the local administrators group on the server, either via user or group membership. The setup uses system calls that require full access to the server components, and will fail unless the user has administrator permissions. No information 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:

- Dedicated FastObjects server(s)
- Authoring servers
- Deployment servers
- Task system and BitStream servers
- Reportal servers
- Other

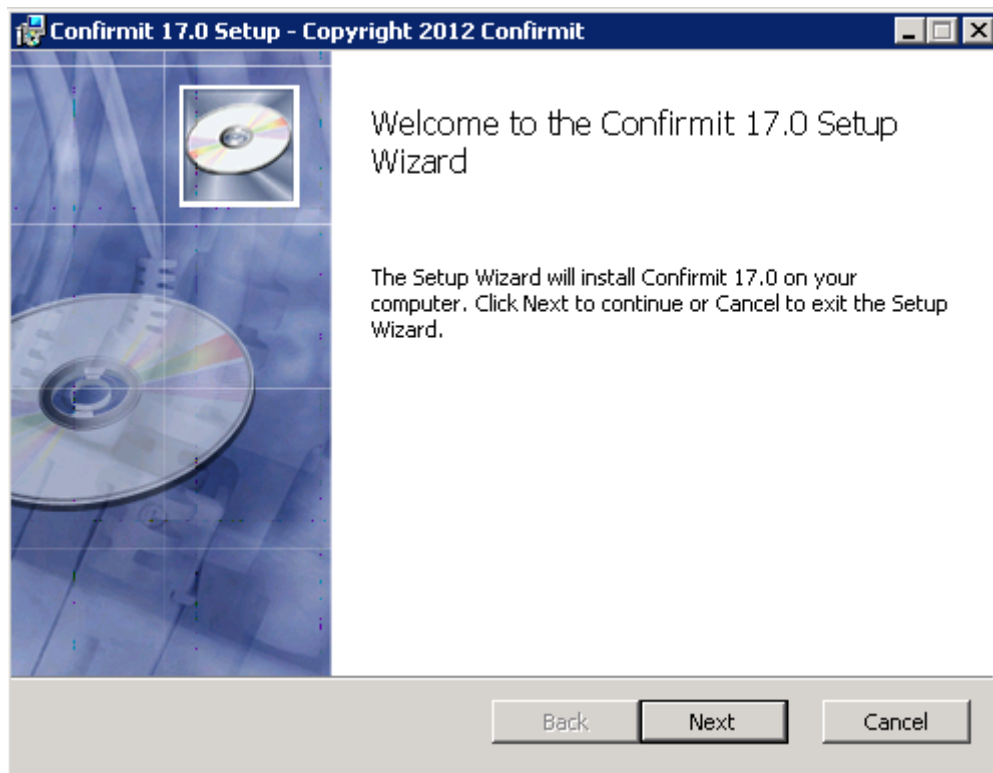
**Note: If the Setup program fails before reaching the Confirmit Configuration tool, a setup log exists in %temp%. This log file can be explicitly stored elsewhere by running the setup with a log parameter:**



*Figure 13 Running the setup with a log parameter*

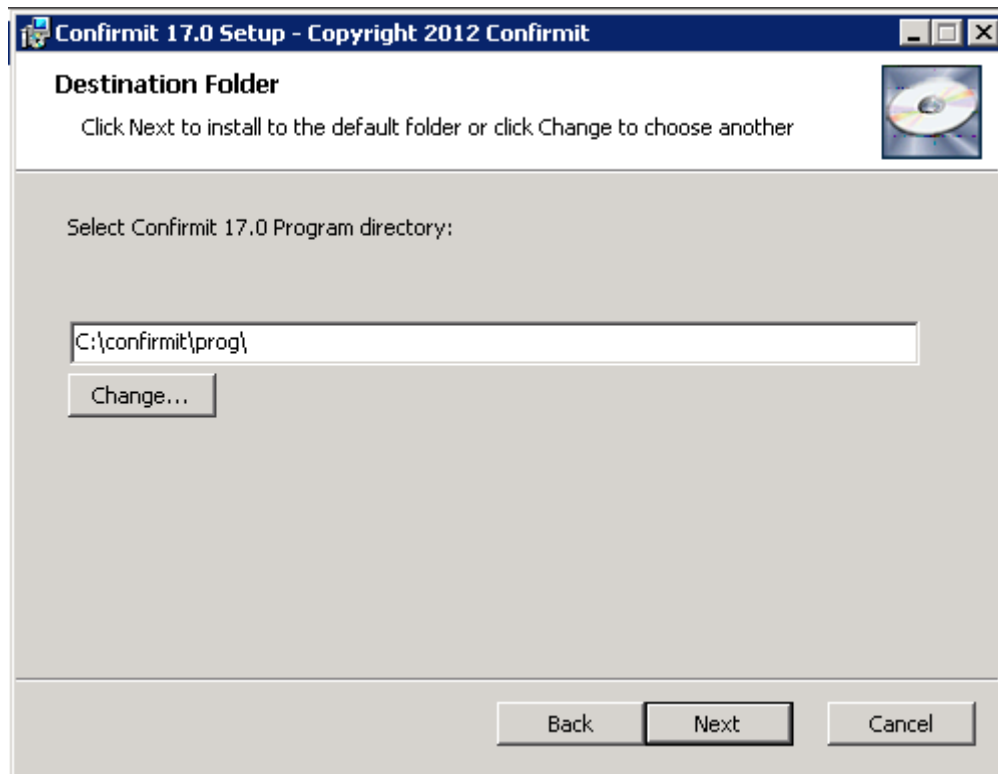
### 5.3.2. Confirmit Installation

The first page of the installation is the Welcome page.



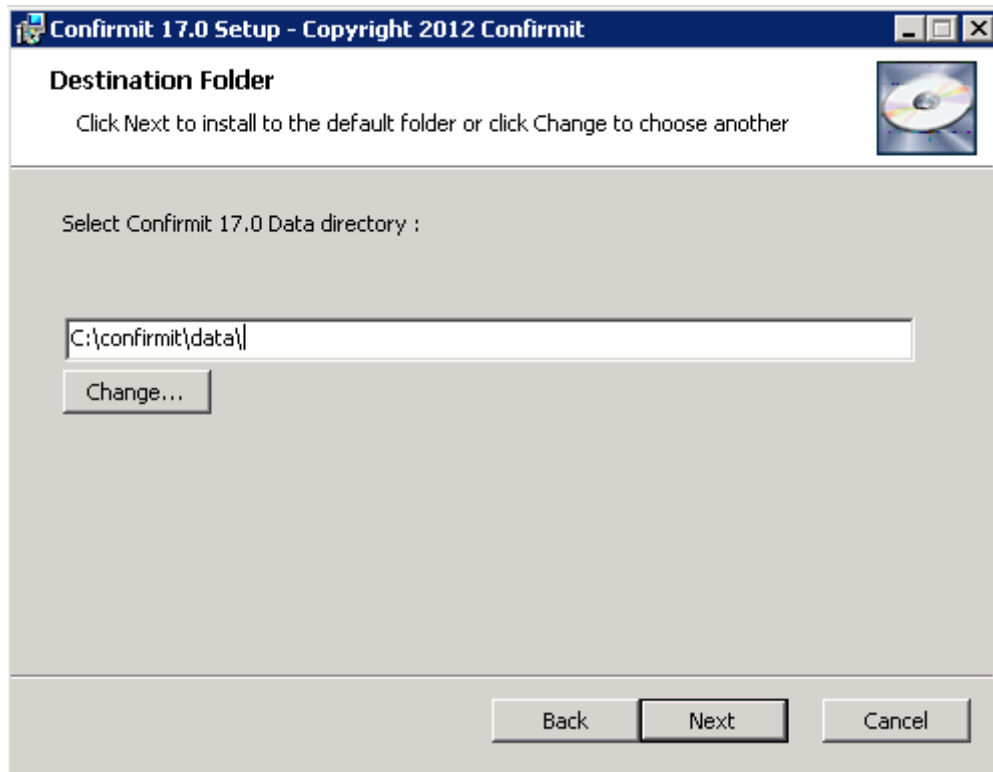
*Figure 14 The Welcome page*

1. Click the **Next** button to proceed to the next step.  
The Destination Folder page opens.



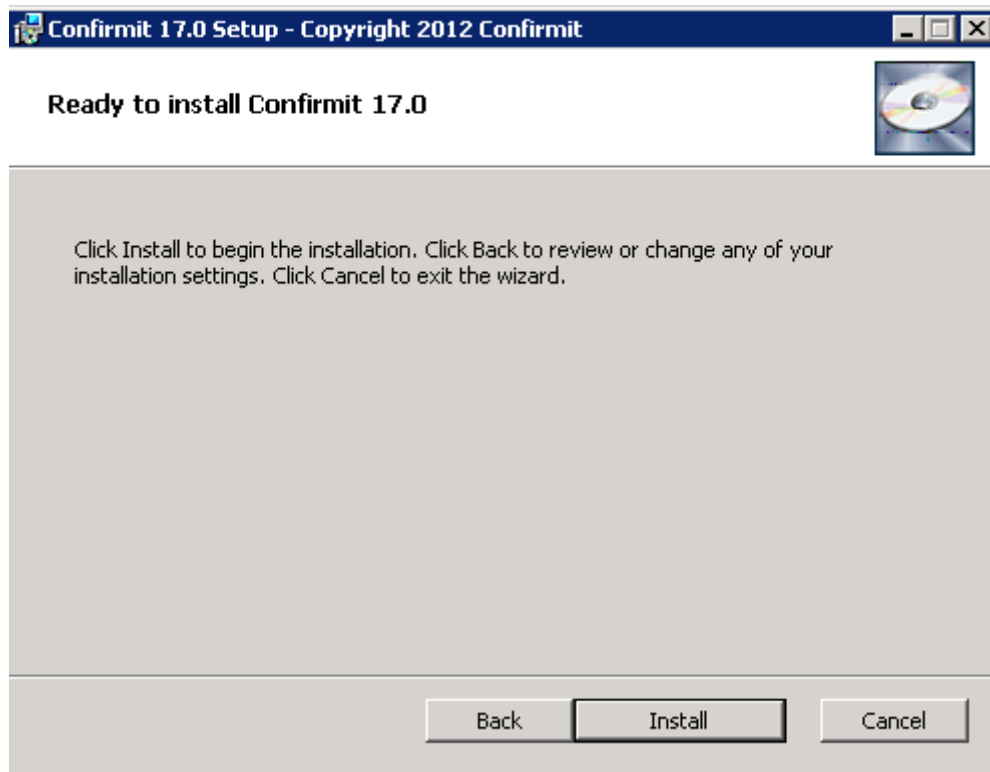
*Figure 15 The Destination Folder page - 1*

2. Choose a target location for the Confirmit application files (approximately 150MB is required).
3. Click **Next** to proceed.



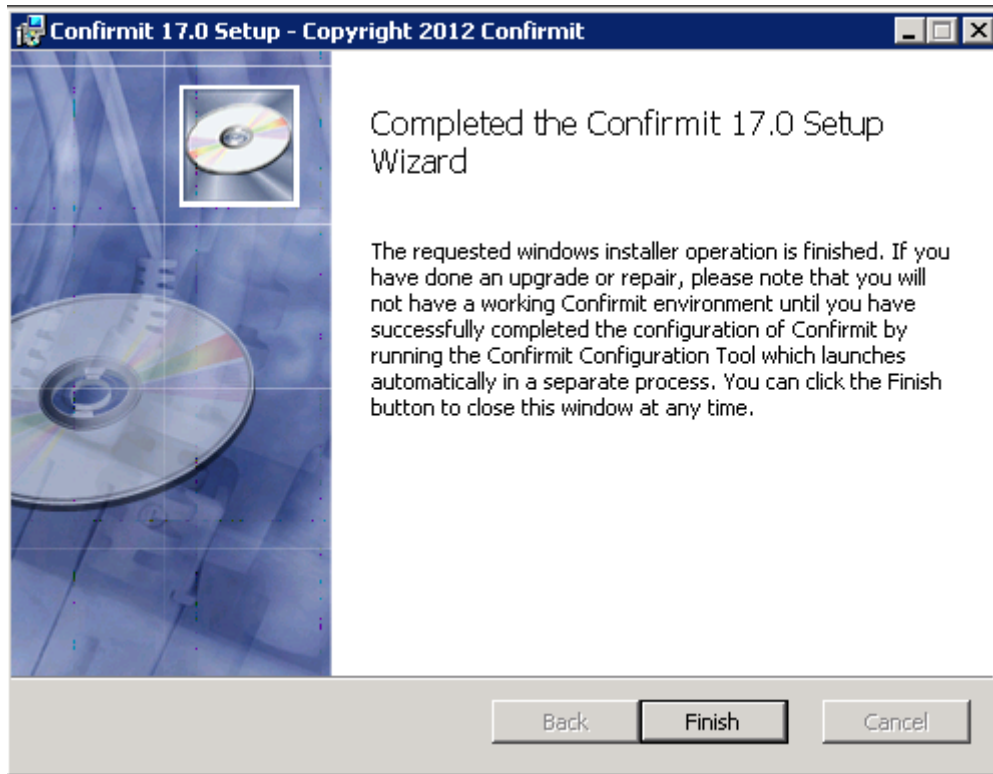
*Figure 16 The Destination Folder page - 2*

4. Choose a target location for the Confirmit data files (space requirements are subject to application usage; see previous chapters for server sizing recommendations).
5. Click **Next** to proceed.  
The Ready to Install page opens.



*Figure 17 The Ready page*

6. Click **Install** to proceed.



*Figure 18 The Completed page*

7. Click **Finish** to close the setup.

### **5.3.3. The Confirmit Configuration Tool**

After a successful installation the Confirmit Configuration Tool will be started automatically, and this **must** be run on every Confirmit server to apply the upgrade. The configuration tool includes help texts in the yellow box for each parameter to make the installation easier. The tool will also create a shortcut in the start menu and can be run again later to change the roles of the server in question if necessary.

The first page of the Confirmit configuration tool provides a selection of features to be installed.

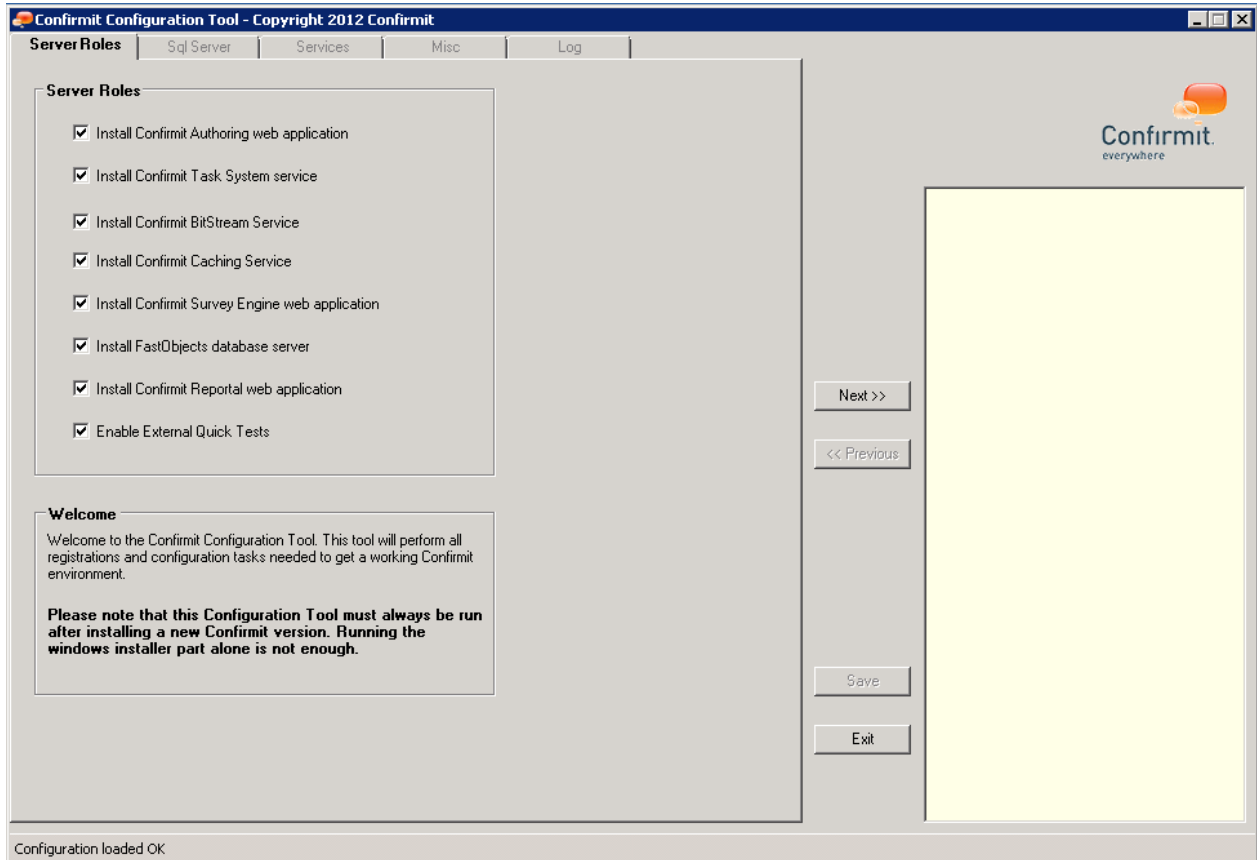


Figure 19 The Confirmit Configuration Tool

1. Select the relevant features for your server and click the **Next >>** button to proceed.

The next page configures details for the connection to the primary SQL Server such as server name, database file locations and login details for SQL Server logins used by Confirmit. If this is an upgrade, the values will be pre-populated from the existing configuration. Note however that the password for the **aspstate** login must be re-entered, also during upgrades, as Confirmit is not able to decrypt this value to use it in the configuration tool. From v17, this password will be stored in SQL and will not require entering.

**Confirmit Configuration Tool - Copyright 2012 Confirmit**

Server Roles: **Sql Server** | Services | Misc | Log

**Sql Server**

Name of primary SQL database server: confirm\_db

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
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

Confirmit everywhere

Settings for this server have successfully been collected from SQL. If this server is being upgraded or reinstalled, this information can safely be ignored. If this is a new server, the hostname of this server may need to be changed, or the existing server may need to be removed from the system configuration. Please contact support for details on how to do this.

Figure 20 The SQL Server page

**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 the Creating Data Folders for SQL Databases section on page 33 for more information).

2. Make the settings as appropriate and click **Next >>**.

The next section of the setup covers locations of common Confirmit Services that are used for all servers. When installing on a multi-server installation, the same values must be used for all servers.

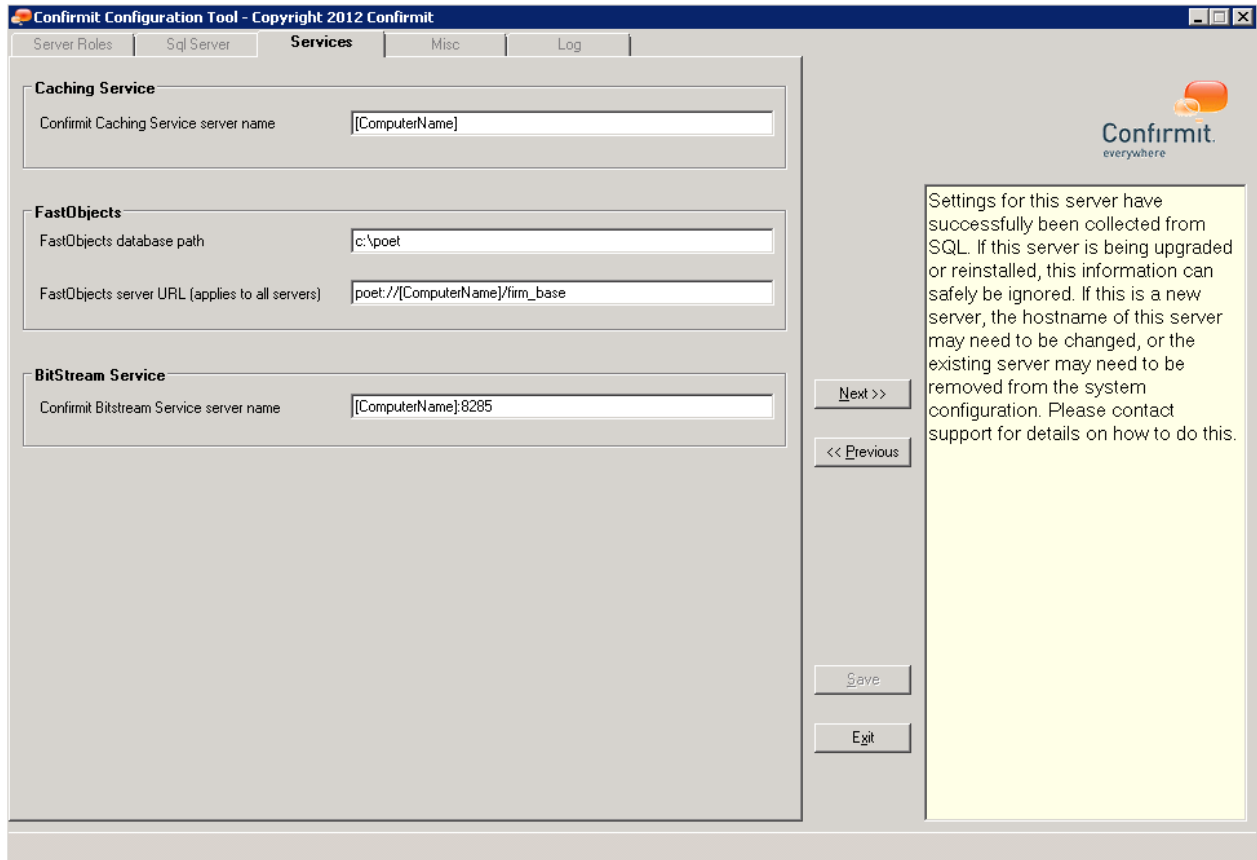


Figure 21 The Services page

3. Make the settings as appropriate and click **Next >>**.

The next section of the setup covers various items that are either unique to the specific server, settings that are optional or conditional based on the feature set, or whether the installation is new or an upgrade.

Confirmit Configuration Tool - Copyright 2012 Confirmit

Server Roles | Sql Server | Services | **Misc** | Log

**Tool to run**

Run the Community Panel upgrade tool

**Windows Accounts**

Confirmit Deployment account name: [ComputerName]\confirm [password masked]

**Site Settings**

Confirmit Authoring URL: http://localhost/confirm

**Server Settings**

Automatically create data folder share

Data folder share name: confirm\_data

Root path: \\[ComputerName]\confirm\_data\web

**Confirmit Administrator Account**

Confirmit user account with admin permissions: administrator

Confirmit Admin Password: [password masked]

Apply

<< Previous

Save

Exit

Confirmit everywhere

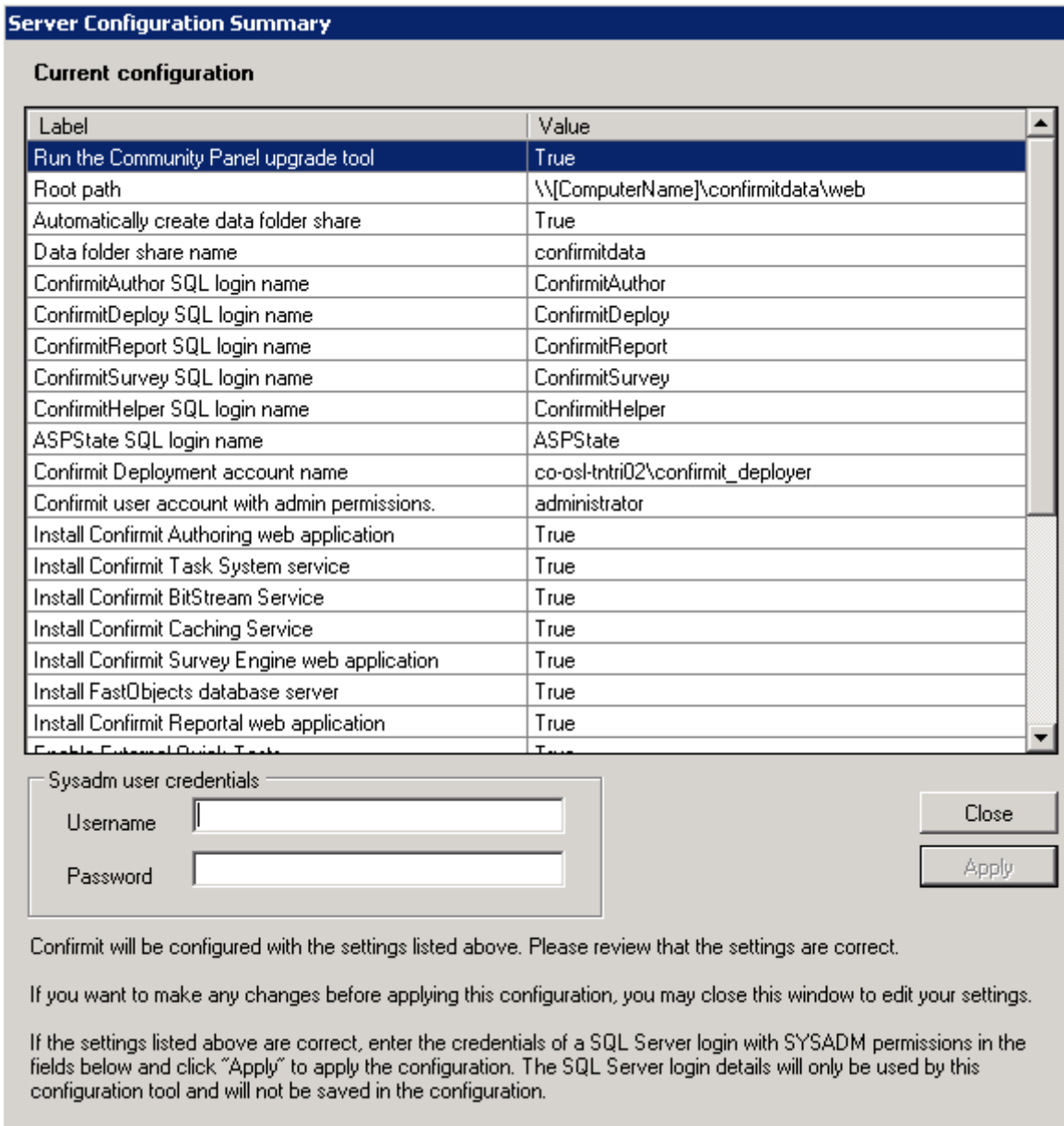
Run the Community Panel upgrade tool as part of the upgrade for this server (only needs to be run once per upgrade).

**Figure 22 The Miscellaneous page**

- The Community Panel upgrade tool only needs to run if the installation is an upgrade from an existing version, and only if the Community Panel feature is licensed. Additionally, for multi-server installations, the tool only has to run once for an upgrade and can be skipped for additional servers.
- 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.
- For new installations, the Confirmit Administrator account can be left as is. For upgrades, a Confirmit Authoring Administrator user with System Administrator permissions must be added here.

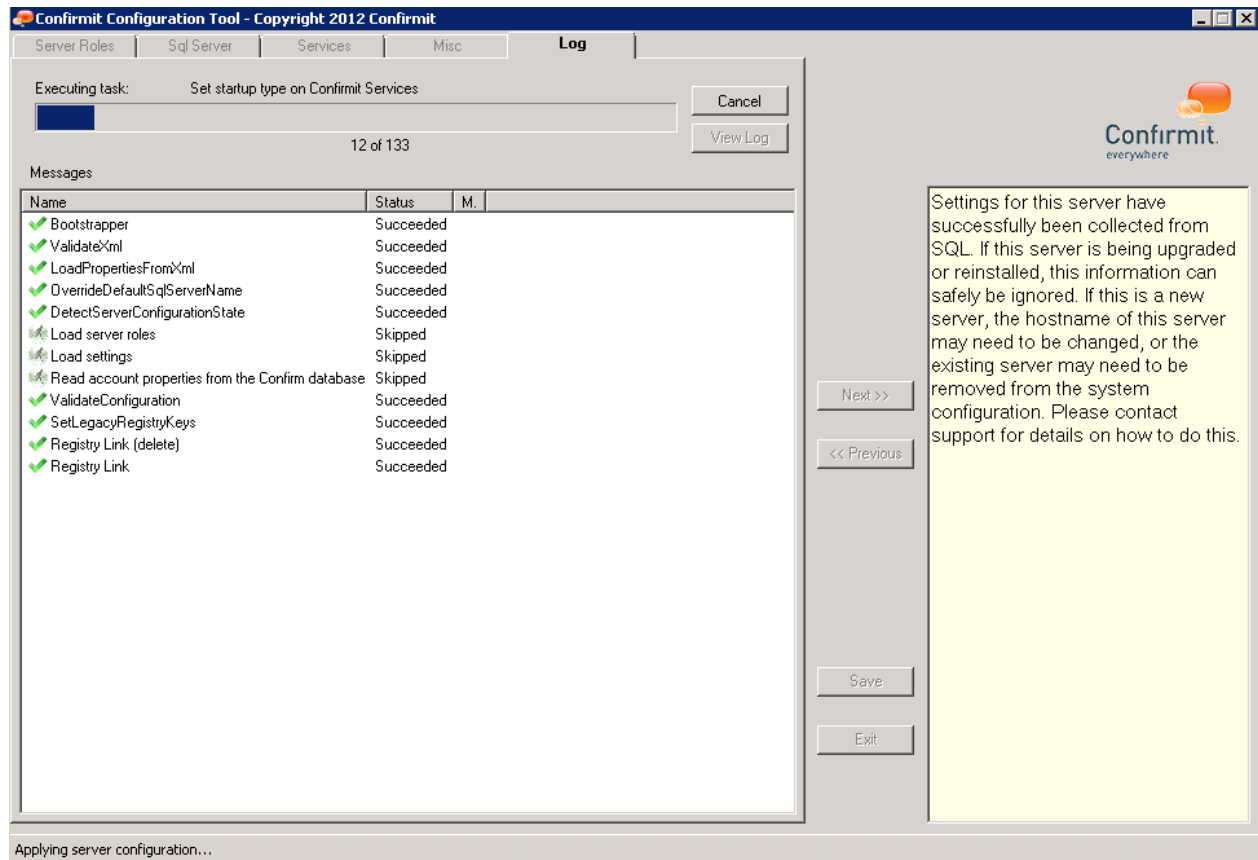
When all options are configured, the configuration may be saved to an XML file in the **<Confirmit data>\config** folder using the **Save** button. If the tool is started again at a later time, it will load the known configuration items from this file automatically as long as the file exists (all password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

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



**Figure 23 Review the selected settings**

- On this screen, supply SQL Server login details for a user with System Administrator (sa) permissions.  
Note that the value for this setting is not stored after the configuration tool exits and will have to be specified each time the tool is run.
5. Finally, click the **Apply** button to apply the 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 24 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 in the `<confirmdata>\log` directory after installation.

**Note: If errors occur during the installation and you need help from [support@confirmit.com](mailto: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 2008 R2 servers. To give permissions manually, run the following command:

**C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v2.0.50727\aspnet\_regiis.exe -pa CONFIRMIT\_RSA\_Crypto IIS\_IUSRS**

## 5.4. Post-Installation Server Configuration

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

### 5.4.1. Obtaining and Installing a License File

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

#### 5.4.1.1. 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.

#### 5.4.1.2. 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
Code Completion for Scripting	No	Yes (included)
Community Snapshot Panel	Yes (included with Community Panels)	No
Data Processing	Yes	Yes
Sample Only	Yes	Yes
CATI	Yes	Yes
Database Encryption	Yes	No
Flex Framework	Yes	No
SSO	Yes	Yes

### 5.4.1.3. Finding the Site ID

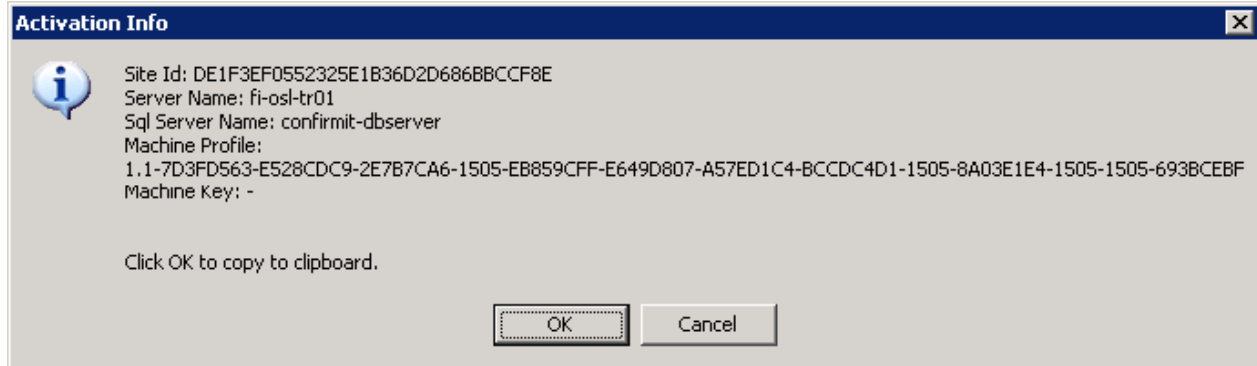
Once the installation has completed, start the Confirmit Licensing Manager program from `<confirmprog>\licensing\LicenseManagerClient\` - the executable filename is `Firmglobal.Confirmit.Licensing.LicenseManager.exe`.

1. Start the Confirmit License Activation application on any of the servers in the site.



Figure 25 The License Overview page

2. Click the **Activation Info** button to launch a popup with information relevant to the installation.



**Figure 26 The Activation Info page**

3. Click **OK** to copy the information to the clipboard.

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.

#### **5.4.1.4. Installing the License File**

When the license file has been obtained from Support:

1. Start the Confirmit License Manager again.
2. Click the **Install license** button, browse for the license file and click **OK**.

This must be done for all servers running Confirmit application code (except for dedicated database servers which do not require a Confirmit license). Using this alternative will also validate the file for use on the relevant system before installing it to the license directory.

After the license is installed, it will be listed in the License Overview list in the Confirmit License Manager.

3. Once the license file has been installed, restart IIS on web servers and the Confirmit Task System service on task system servers to force a license reload on each server.

All issued license files have a specified expiry date. 90 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.

When replacing an existing license file, use the Confirmit License Manager to replace the existing license. In the unlikely event that the new license file does not work, replace it with the old one again, which should still be working provided the expiry date has not been overshoot. When installing the new license file, it is recommended to first install the license file on one server and verify that the installed license file is working correctly before deploying it across all servers in the site.

#### **5.4.1.5. Confirmit SDK License**

Customers using the Confirmit Web Services must install an additional license for the SDK. The procedure for installing the license file is the same, but the license is only required on servers where the Confirmit SDK is installed.

**Note: The Confirmit License Manager tool will fail to validate an SDK license file unless the SDK is installed on the server.**

### 5.4.2. 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`.

### 5.4.3. File System Permissions - Sendmail Scripts on Deployment Servers

Application pools run under different identities under IIS7 (Windows 2008 R1) and IIS7.5 (Windows 2008 R2) by default. This means that on a 2008 R2 server, application pools will by default be set to run as ApplicationPoolIdentity:

This page lets you view and manage the list of application pools on the server. Application pools are associated with worker processes, contain one o

Name	Status	.NET Frame...	Managed Pipeli...	Identity	Applications
DefaultAppPool	Started	v2.0	Integrated	ApplicationPoolIdentity	1
InternalApps	Started	v2.0	Integrated	ApplicationPoolIdentity	2
Maintenance	Started	v2.0	Integrated	ApplicationPoolIdentity	1
SMI_WS	Started	v2.0	Integrated	ApplicationPoolIdentity	2

Context menu options:

- Add Application Pool...
- Set Application Pool Defaults...
- Help
- Online Help

Figure 27 Windows 2008 R2

This means that a 2008 R2 Deployment Server that attempts to use a sendmail script to send emails directly from a survey will not by default have write permissions to the email pickup directory, and thus not be able to send mail. To fix this, you will have to grant the local IIS\_IUSRS account write permissions on the email pickup directory (`inetpub\mailroot\pickup`).

### 5.4.4. 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.

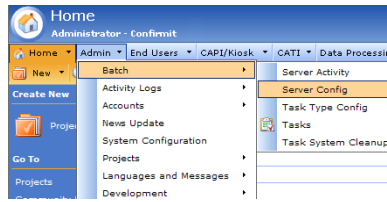


Figure 28 Going to the Admin > Batch > Server Config menu

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

### 5.4.4.1. 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.

### 5.4.5. Deploying Language and Resource Files

**Note: Languages and resources (such as survey error messages) are read from local files on each server rather than from the resource SQL database to reduce overhead. The language and resource files must be deployed initially to all Confirmit servers after installation in order for each server to find the files. This can be done by initiating the task from the Admin > Languages and Messages menu in Confirmit.**

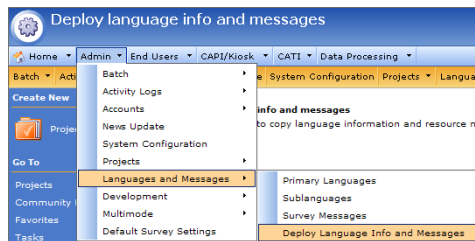


Figure 29 Going to the Admin > Languages and Messages menu

The Languages and Resources Deployer runs as a task, and must be assigned to a task system server in order to run.

If the task fails to deploy to all servers, you can copy the files manually from the task system server where the task ran, over to the other servers within the site. The files are located in the **<confirmdata>\surveys** folder on the server where the task ran:

- Firmglobal.Confirmit.SurveyEngine.ScriptCode.Languages.dll
- languageinfo.bin
- resourcetexts.bin

**Note: If languages or messages are modified later, the task must be run again in order for servers to pick up the changes.**

## 5.4.6. 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:

### 5.4.6.1. 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.

### 5.4.6.2. 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:

Project ID	Project Name	Company	192.168.100.150:8285 (C)	192.168.100.86:8285 (R)	192.168.100.24:8285 (R)
	test		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p998416962	test	Confirmit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p990833058	test	Confirmit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p987538825	TEST	Confirmit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p984206134	TEST	Confirmit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
p982468714	test	Confirmit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
p977971356	test	Confirmit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
p976894047	test	Confirmit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
p969515872	Test	Confirmit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Figure 30 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).**

### 5.4.7. 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.

## 5.5. Upgrading From a Previous Version

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

### 5.5.1. 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.

### 5.5.2. Deploying Language and Resource Files

After each upgrade, language and resource files must be deployed to include new error messages and resources.

## 5.6. 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 the Multiple SQL Server Instances section on page 78 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:

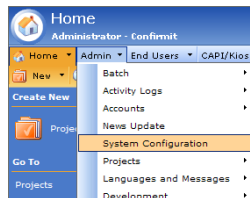


Figure 31 The Admin > System Configuration menu

## 5.6.1. 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.

### 5.6.1.1. 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.

### 5.6.1.2. 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 32 Role-wide settings



Figure 33 Role-wide settings overridden at the server level

### 5.6.1.3. 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.

## 5.7. The Command Line Management Tools

### 5.7.1. 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>]
```

### 5.7.2. 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.

### 5.7.3. 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>
```

#### **5.7.4. Uninstalling Confirmit**

If you need to uninstall Confirmit from a server, be aware that the uninstaller does not remove the server from the config in SQL. This means that the server will still display in Admin > System Configuration, and if you try to install a new server with the same host name, this new server may adopt the settings from the uninstalled server. If you need to remove a server from the Confirmit configuration, please contact Support. An SQL Script is available on the Confirmit Extranet to assist you.

## 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.
- **[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.
- **[Individualreports]** – contains individual report information (hit lists, single views, etc.).
- **[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.

#### 6.1.4. The FastObjects Database

Versant's FastObjects database stores all questionnaire ACLs and user information. The database contains an object model that supports cross-referencing that allows object linking on the database level, which works faster than cross-referencing in application code.

The database should be backed up regularly.

##### 6.1.4.1. The *ptadmin.exe* tool

The *ptadmin.exe* tool can be used for many different operations, such as starting backup tasks, setting up replication, checking the state of the database, etc. The commands can be scripted into Windows batch files or scripts for scheduled runs.

The tool is located in the `<confirmprog>\3rd party\poet\bin` folder. This path is inserted in the system `%path%` environment variable during installation, so it should be possible to run the command from any directory on the server.

Usage of the tool normally requires specifying which server and database to run the command against. This is specified by the `-server` and `-base` logical database arguments. When running the command locally on the server where the FastObjects database is installed, the `-server` argument can take the parameter `localhost` and `-base` should always be `firm_base` for the Confirmit FastObjects database logical name. When running a command, **`ptadmin -server localhost -base firm_base`** should always be included with the desired command.

## 6.1.4.2. Backup

### 6.1.4.2.1. Concepts

The FastObjects database server will lock its database files for exclusive writing while the service is running, so the files cannot be backed up by normal file system copy tools. The FastObjects system includes support for setting both online and incremental backup modes though, which will allow the administrator to create a backup plan that won't interfere with production availability. It is also possible to back up the database offline if this is desired, but Authoring, Reportal and Task System modules will then be unavailable for the duration of the backup. Incremental backup can be used regardless of the strategy for full backups.

### 6.1.4.2.2. Full Offline Backup

The full offline backup refers to a full file copy of the database folder **<poetdir>** (including both the database (`\firm_base\*.*`) and dictionary (`\firm_dict\*.*`) as the database cannot function without a matching dictionary. Offline backup requires stopping the "FastObjects Server 10.0" system service where this is running before backing up the **<poetdir>** folder, and then restarting the service once the backup is completed to restore connectivity. Authoring, Reportal, Translator and tasks will be unavailable during a full offline backup.

### 6.1.4.2.3. Full Online Backup

Full online backup is similar to the full offline backup, but differs in that it does not require the system service to be stopped, and full connectivity will be maintained for application modules while the backup is running. This requires setting the database in an online backup mode, where any incoming changes that would normally be stored in the database, will be temporarily stored in server memory as long as the database is in online backup mode. Once the backup is completed and the database mode is set back to normal, the database system will automatically flush changes down to database files on disk.

**Note: If the backup is scripted and the database is not set back to online mode by the script after completion, the server will continue to store incoming transactions in system memory. If available memory runs out or the server should fail while the server is in backup mode, any changes made since the database was placed in backup mode might be lost. When scripting backups, the scripts should log the status of its operations so an administrator can check the status later without having to query the database directly. Consult the Server Admin Scripts section on the Confirmit Extranet for script examples.**

**Note: If database recovery is enabled (as it should be at all times), all incoming changes (also during backup mode) will also be flushed down to a recovery file, and if the server process should end abruptly, the database will automatically perform a full recovery the next time it is started. This might take a while to complete, depending on the database and recovery log file size, but it keeps the database consistent in the event of an unforeseen server failure.**

To set the database in online backup mode, run this command on the server hosting the FastObjects database:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -backup=begin
```

The **<poetdir>** folder can then be backed up like if the database was offline. Remember to backup both the database and dictionary.

To end the backup mode, run this command:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -backup=end
```

### 6.1.4.2.4. Incremental Backup

In addition to full backups, which could be run weekly, bi-weekly or even daily with small databases, incremental backup can be enabled to provide a smaller, more frequent backup that only contains changes since the last full backup. Incremental backup can be started at any time, but should preferably be started right after a full backup for consistency. Once initiated, the database server starts writing all changes to an increment file in addition to the database itself. With the relatively small amounts of data changes committed to the FastObjects database, the overhead should be negligible on a server in line with the recommendations (see the Task System Servers (Backend) section on page 11 for more information).

Incremental backup can be started with the following command (on the server hosting the FastObjects database, while the service is running):

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -ibackup=begin -
location=<folder>
```

<folder> determines where the increment file should be created, i.e. d:\increments. The command would then be:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -ibackup=begin -
location=d:\increments
```

When issued, the database will create a numbered increment file in the given folder, starting with 'f0000000.ptd' if the folder contains no previous increment sets.

The increment file is locked for writing by the database, and, like the database itself, cannot be backed up externally. In order to release the file for backup, the database can be instructed to start writing to a new, consecutively numbered increment file. This is achieved by running the following command:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -ibackup=switch
```

The "switch" command can be issued as often as required. The database will keep track of which files belong together as long as they are all created within the same incremental backup session. In order to be able to restore the database up until a specific point in time, the database can restore increment files from a specific folder when issuing a restore command, including all files from the incremental backup session or files only up to a specific point in time. This information can be useful when considering a frequency for switching increment files (daily, several times a day, hourly, etc.).

**Note: The default maximum size for the FastObjects increment file is ~360 MB. If the increment file reaches this size without being switched, the FastObjects service will stop accepting new requests. Incremental backup must then be turned off and the FastObjects service restarted.**

To prevent huge data sets required for restoring a recent operation (i.e. with a monthly full backup and 25 days' worth of increment files, it would take a while to restore all transactions from the increment files) it would be recommended to start a new incremental backup session whenever a full backup is run.

To end incremental backup mode the following command can be issued:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -ibackup=end
```

The server will release the current increment file for external backup, and a new incremental session can be started following a new full backup (online or offline).

### 6.1.4.3. Restore

Restoring the FastObjects database from a full offline or online backup quite simply is a matter of replacing the current database files on the server with a copy from backup while the service is not running. Make sure incremental backup is not running when attempting to restore a database. Please note that partial restores are not directly supported by the database system due to its object structure.

**Note: If you restore a full database backup, all questionnaire definitions, report definitions, users and ACLs will be reset to that of the time of the backup. If changes have been made to surveys, and database/survey package files have been recompiled and re-launched in the meantime, new questions added between the point of backup and the point of restore might no longer be accessible from the GUI.**

#### 6.1.4.3.1. Restore with Incremental Backups

If you have been running incremental backups, you can restore the database back up until the last available increment file before the event that caused the need for a restore. To achieve this, first restore the latest full backup, and place all required increment files from that particular incremental backup session in a folder on the server, then run the following command to restore the database up to the increment point:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -ibackup=restore -
location=<folder>
```

Similar to the initiation of incremental backup, the <loc> parameter again points to the path of the increment files, i.e. d:\increments, which would lead to the following command example:

```
ptadmin -server=localhost -base=firm_base -ibackup=restore -
location=d:\increments
```

The procedure might take some time to complete, depending on the database size and amount/size of increments included in the restore process.

#### 6.1.4.4. Confirmit Upgrades

Before upgrading Confirmit, both external and incremental backup modes **must** be disabled to prevent problems updating the database schema, which can fail if the database has any agents attached to it and in the worst case crash the whole setup, potentially requiring a reinstall or manually running upgrade scripts. Incremental backup can be re-enabled when the upgrade is complete.

## 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.

#### 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>. (Login required). 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.

### 6.2.1.5. 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 2008 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)
```

## 6.2.2. 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.

## 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 Maintenance

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. Configuring IIS to Enforce Compatibility Mode for IE8 Browsers

With the introduction of Internet Explorer 8, the browser is partially incompatible in its 'native' mode with current versions of Confirmit due to changes in the rendering engine. In order to support web sites that have been developed specifically to support settings used in Internet Explorer 7, the browser includes a compatibility mode that can be enabled on the client side, or enforced on the server side in IIS for any connecting client.

The compatibility mode can be set in IIS by adding a custom HTTP Response header that the client browser will read and interpret. The header name should be '**X-UA-Compatible**' and the value should be '**IE=EmulateIE7**'. The setting can be applied to individual web sites or to the top 'Sites' level.

#### 7.1.2. 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 On-Demand sites, both sites have 10GB 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.

##### 7.1.2.1. Configuration

How to set up the ConfirmitWIXAppPool recycle settings:

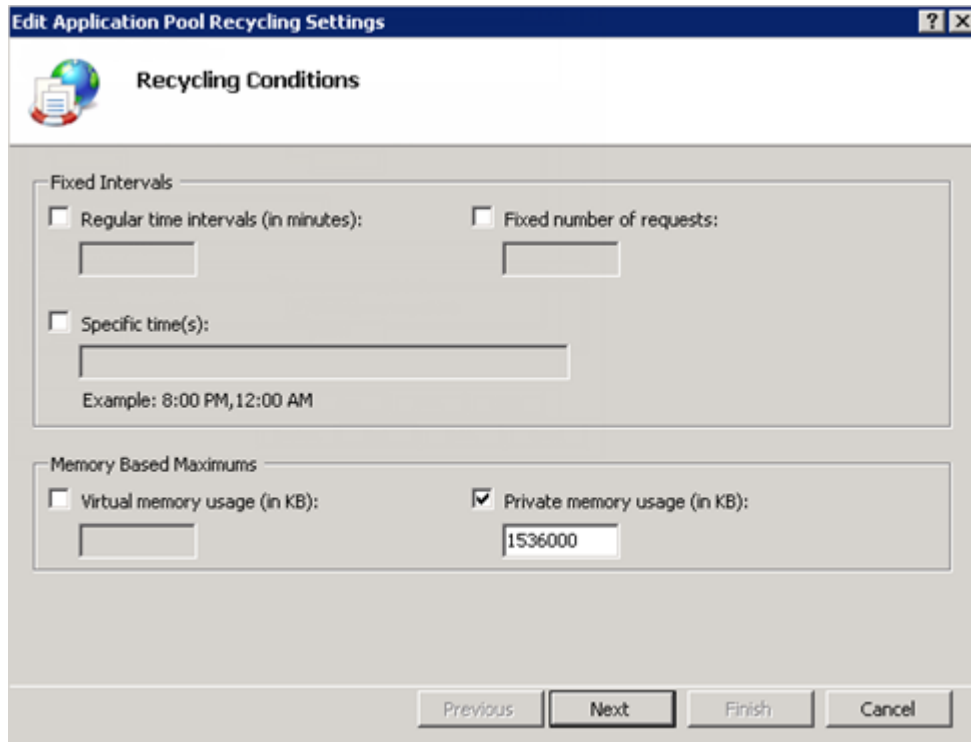


Figure 34 The Recycling Conditions page

1. Disable recycle every xx minutes.
2. Set to recycle at ~1536 MB used memory.

**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.

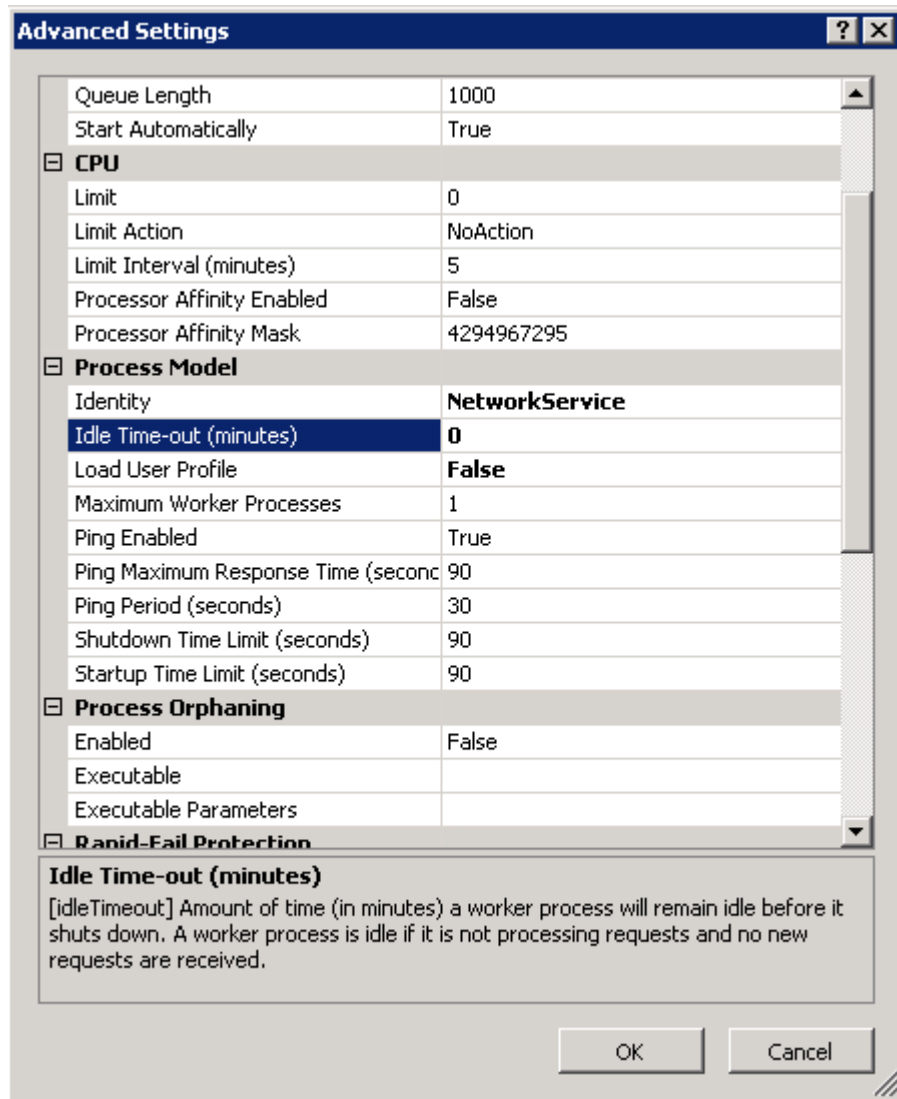


Figure 35 The Advanced Settings page - 1

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.

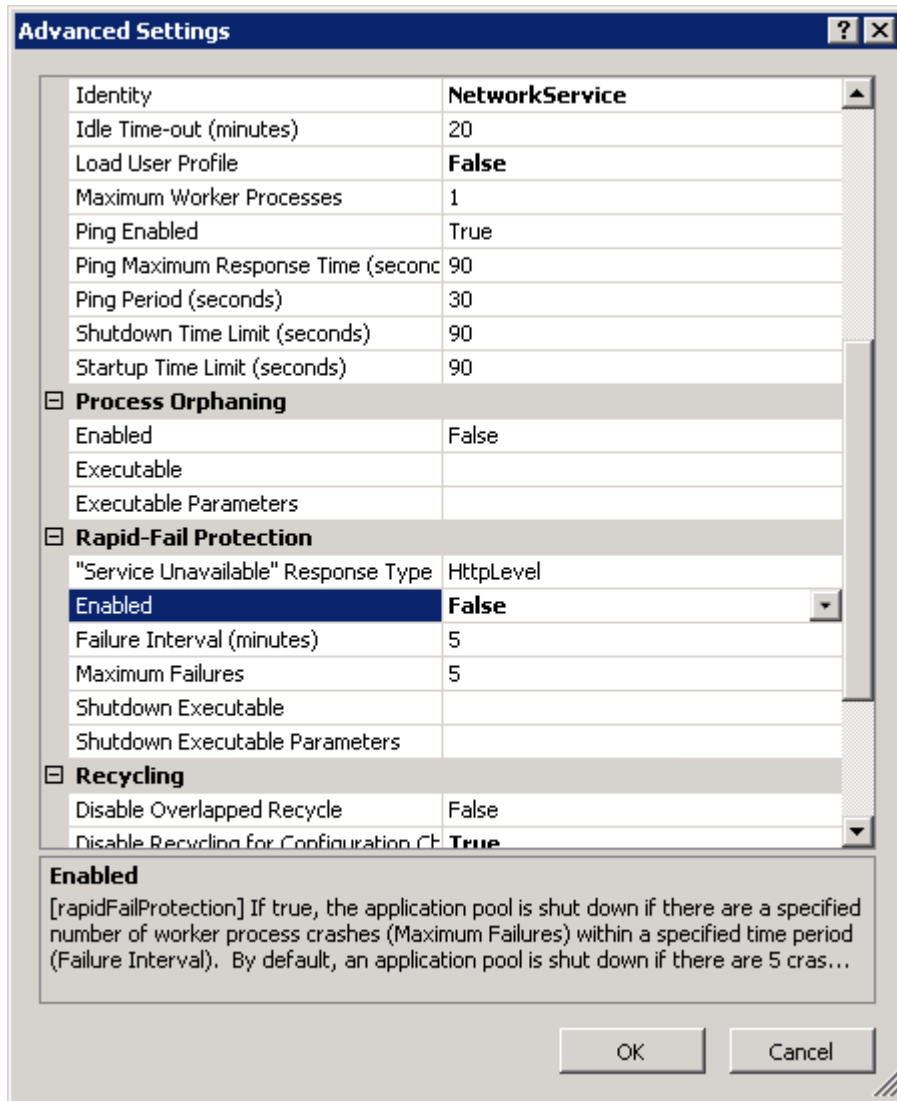


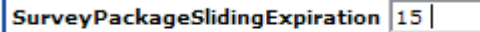
Figure 36 The Advanced Settings page - 2

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**.

A screenshot of a configuration field in a software interface. The field is labeled "SurveyPackageSlidingExpiration" and contains the value "15". The field has a light blue border and a small blue vertical bar on the left side.

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.

### 7.1.2.2. Other Application Pool Recommendations

**Authoring Servers:**

- ConfirmitAuthorAppPool
  - o Idle Time-out (minutes): 90 (original 20)
  - o Recycling
    - Private Memory Limit (KB): 1536000
    - Regular Time Interval (minutes): 0

**Reportal Servers:**

- ConfirmitReportalAppPool
  - o Idle Time-out (minutes): 20 (not changed)
  - o Recycling
    - Private Memory Limit (KB): 1536000
    - Regular Time Interval (minutes): 0

**Note: Although you are able to configure Confirmit Application pools to run in 64 bit mode on an x64 server, Confirmit only supports running in 32 bit mode, as configured by default by the setup.**

### 7.1.3. 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.

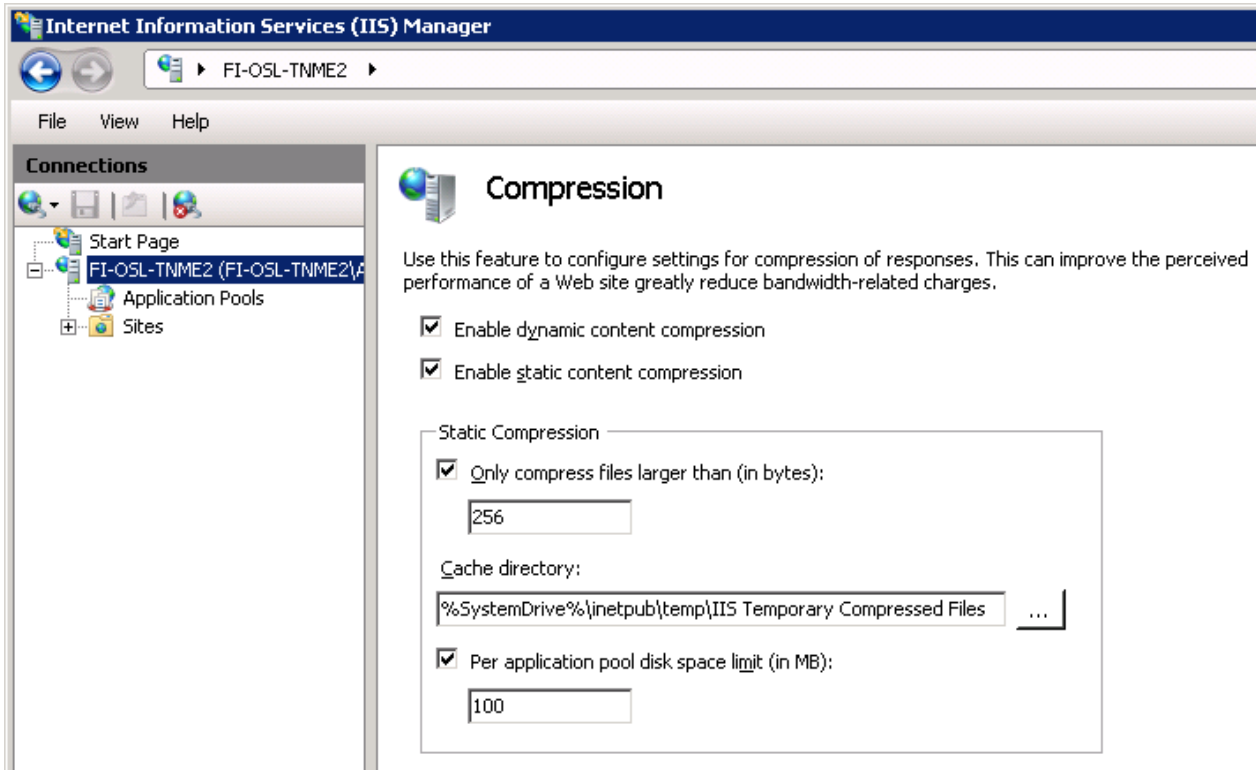


Figure 37 Compression settings for servers

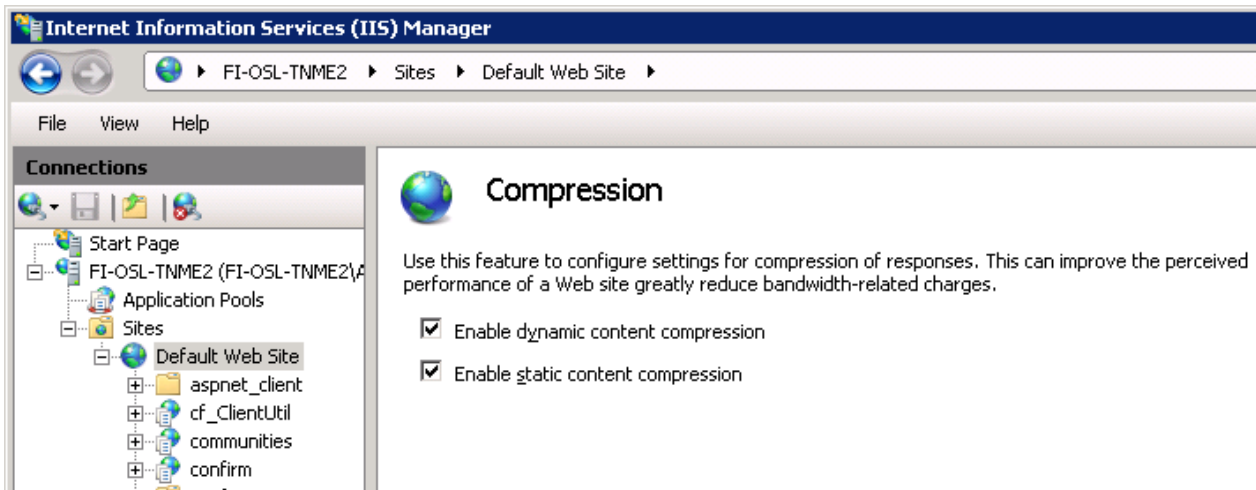


Figure 38 Compression settings for web site

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:

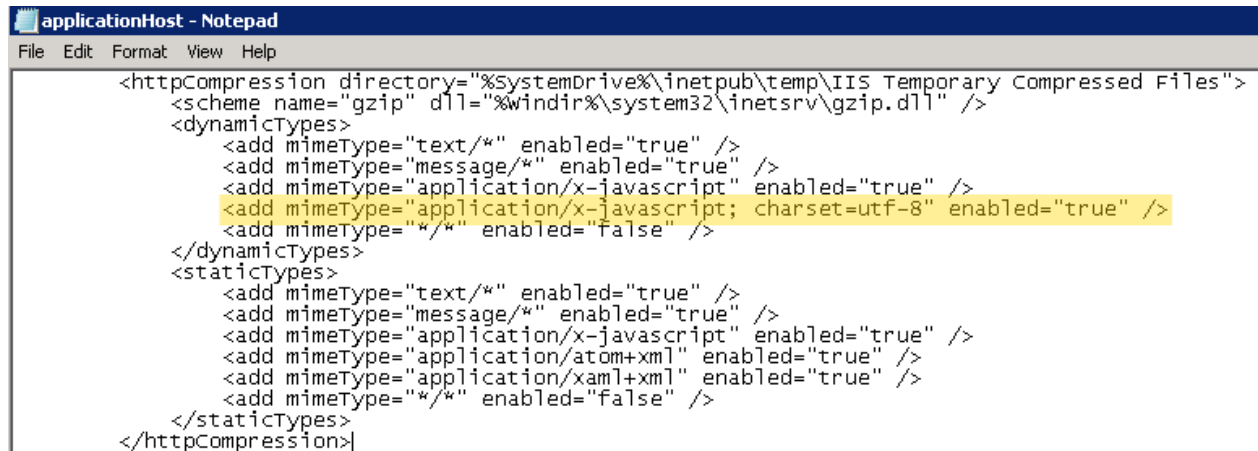
```
<httpCompression directory="%SystemDrive%\inetpub\temp\IIS Temporary
Compressed Files" minFileSizeForComp="256">
  <scheme name="gzip" dll="%Windir%\system32\inetsrv\gzip.dll" />
  <staticTypes>
    <add mimeType="text/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="message/*" enabled="true" />
    <add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

### 7.1.4. Dynamic Compression for New Mime Type

In order to perform dynamic gzip compression of the new Javascript handler 'combo.aspx' in v16, compression for its MIME type must be added explicitly in the IIS configuration. To do this, open the `c:\windows\system32\inetsrv\config\applicationHost.config` file in Notepad and locate the `<httpCompression>` section. Navigate to the `<dynamicTypes>` subsection and add the following line:

```
<add mimeType="application/x-javascript; charset=utf-8" enabled="true" />
```

So the configuration looks like this (note that the directory parameter may be different than the default configuration below, this does not have to be changed):



```
applicationHost - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<httpCompression directory="%systemDrive%\inetpub\temp\IIS Temporary Compressed Files">
  <scheme name="gzip" dll="%windir%\system32\inetsrv\gzip.dll" />
  <dynamicTypes>
    <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="*/*" enabled="false" />
  </dynamicTypes>
  <staticTypes>
    <add mimeType="text/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="message/*" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/x-javascript" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/atom+xml" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="application/xaml+xml" enabled="true" />
    <add mimeType="*/*" enabled="false" />
  </staticTypes>
</httpCompression>
```

Figure 39 Setting up the dynamic compression

### 7.1.5. 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: /
```

### 7.1.6. 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

### 7.1.7. 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 Runing	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

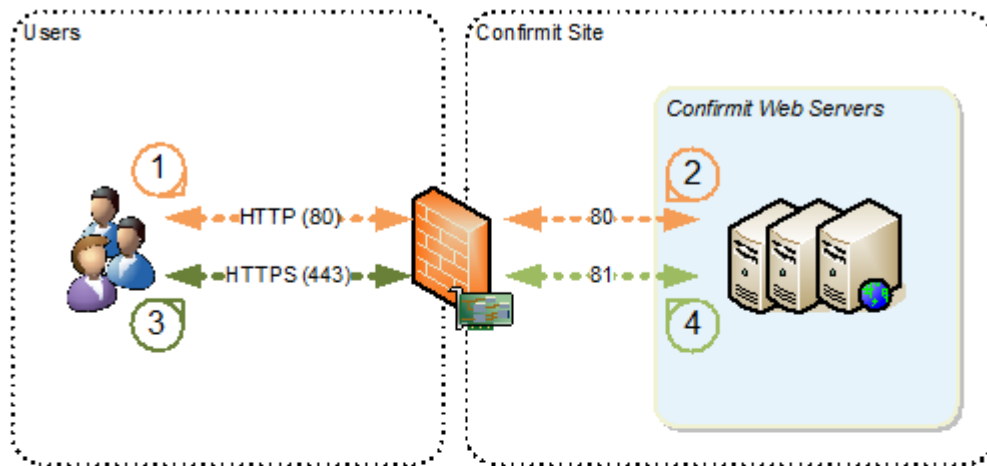
When the '**SSLAuthorCertificate**' config setting is enabled, Authoring logins will be redirected to SSL even if the '**EnforceSSLOnSite**' is not - the former only allows SSL to be used - and enforces it for the entire session for all users. If the user reaches the server via HTTP, a redirect will 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.**



- ① Clients connects to Confirmit on HTTP (port 80)
- ② Firewall allows port 80 trough to Confirmit which redirects client to to HTTPS
- ③ Client reconnects to Confirmit on HTTPS (port 443)
- ④ SSL Accelerator translates 443 to 81 and passes traffic to Confirmit. As the internal port matches the SSLAcceleratorPort Confirmit knows this is encrypted traffic

Figure 40 Using Confirmit with a load balancer

## 7.3. Database System Redundancy

### 7.3.1. FastObjects in Windows Cluster

The cluster must be set up with a cluster name, and at least one disk; preferably two separate physical LUN's if possible (one for the database and one for increments), before installing Confirmit.

Recommended disk configurations are RAID-10 with as many spindles as possible.

Install on FastObjects servers before any other Confirmit Servers.

### 7.3.1.1. First Cluster Server

Make sure the resources are online on the First Cluster Node.

Run the Confirmit installation as you would on a normal Authoring server. Use the cluster disk resource as the target drive for FastObjects.

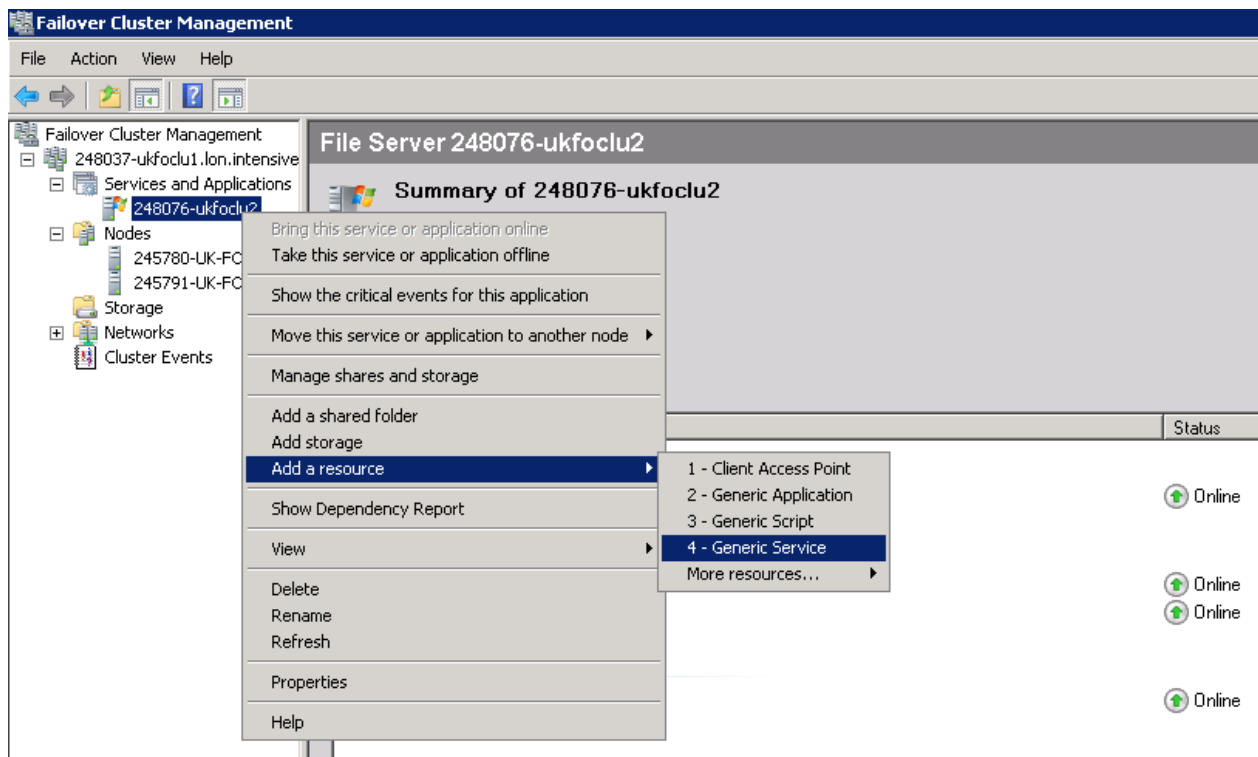
**Note: Use non-clustered drives for Confirmit program and data folders!**

### 7.3.1.2. Second Cluster Server

1. Fail over resources to the Second Cluster Node.
2. Run the Confirmit installation as you would on a normal Authoring server. Use the cluster disk resource as the target drive for FastObjects.

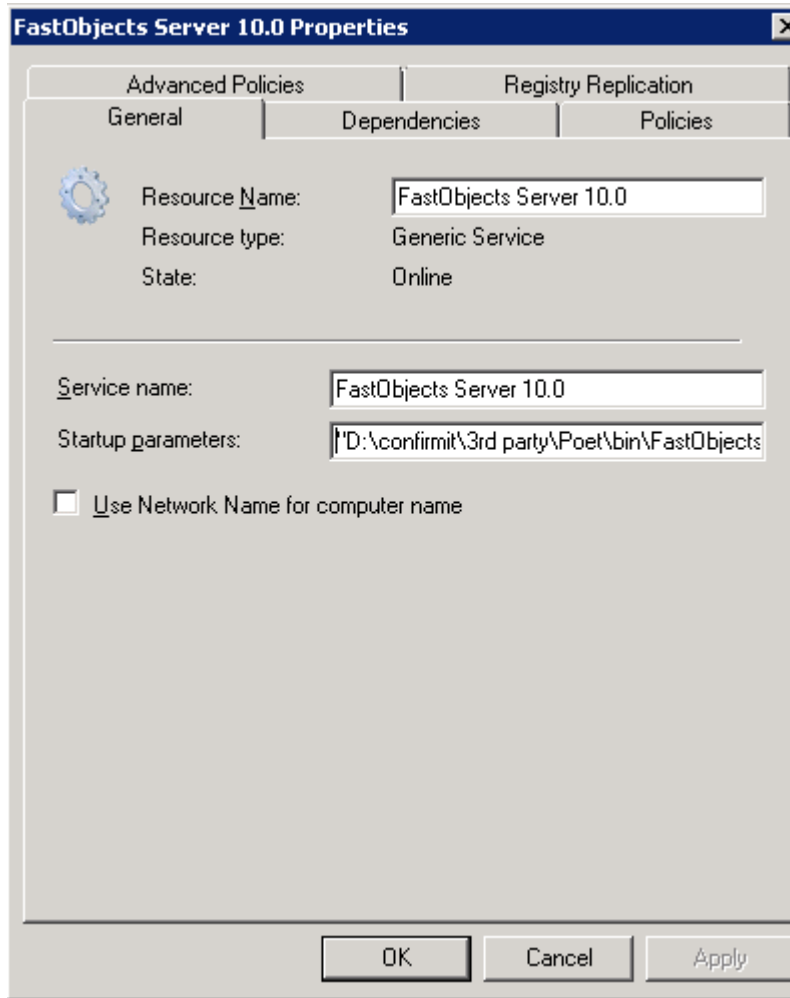
**Note: Use non-clustered drives for Confirmit program and data folders, and use same install path for Confirmit for all cluster servers!**

3. Repeat above steps for any additional Cluster Nodes.
4. Add the FastObjects service as a Generic Service resource in the cluster.



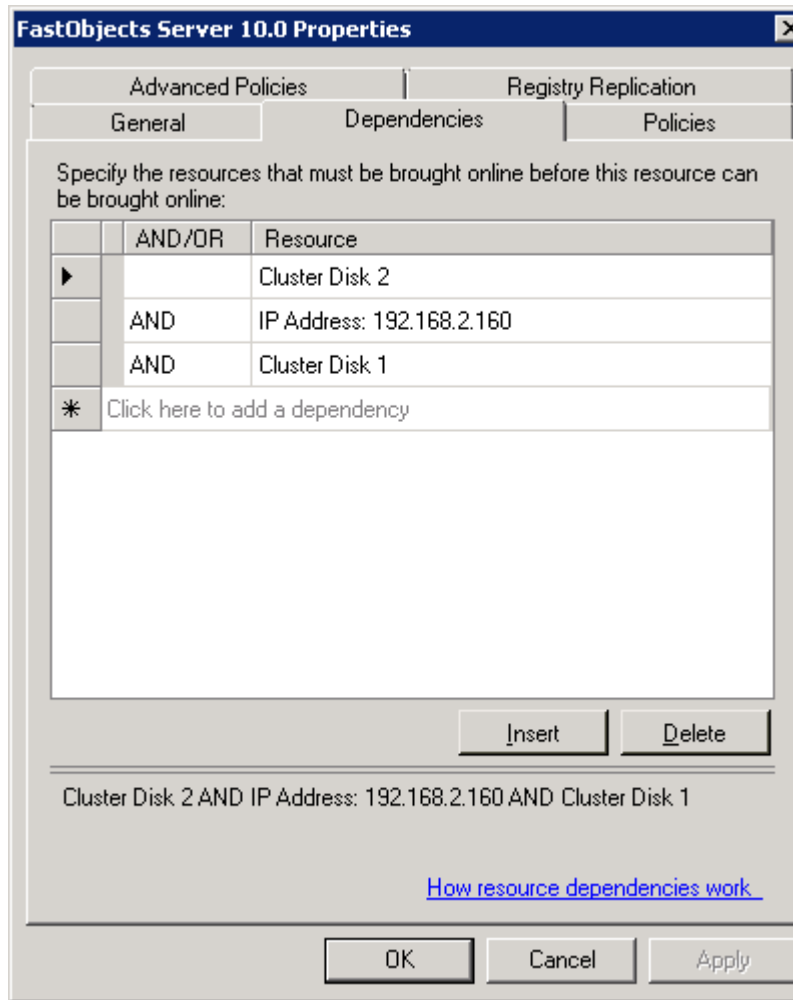
5. Modify the General parameters of the service to reflect the local paths (may be messed up by the install, so verify).

I.e. if Confirmit was installed to D:\confirmit, this should be: "D:\confirmit\3rd party\Poet\bin\FastObjectsServer.exe" -config "D:\confirmit\3rd party\poet\bin\ptserver.cfg".

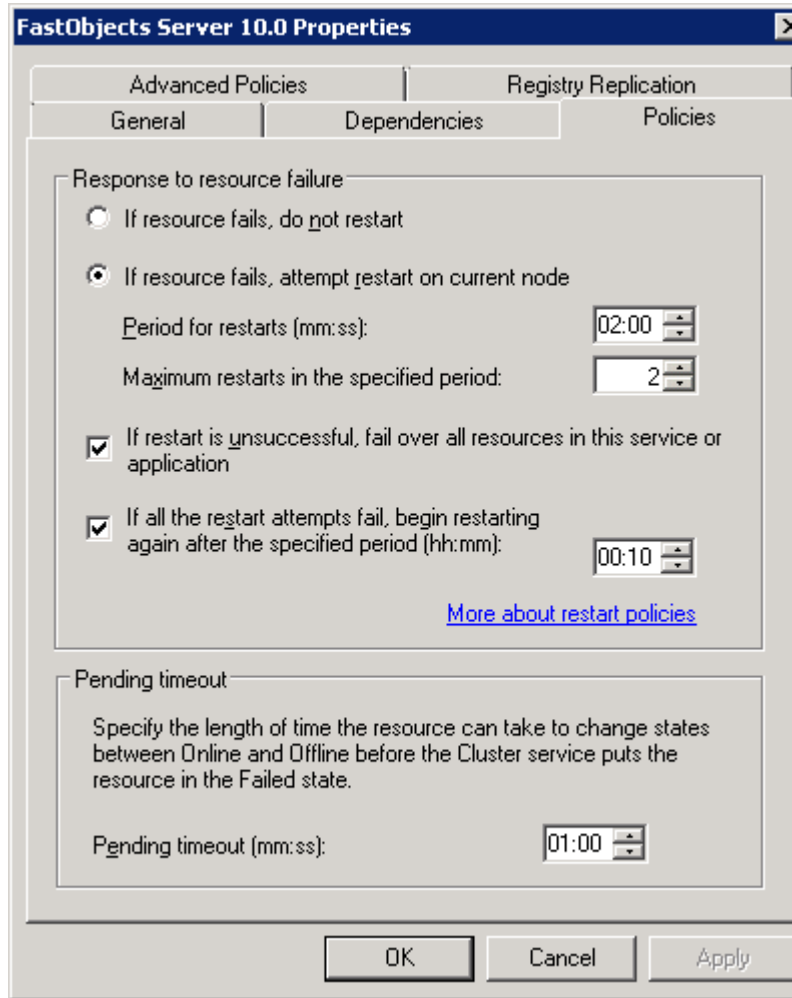


6. Set up dependencies for the service.

Recommended: at least one cluster disk, and the cluster name/IP. See the figure below for an example configuration.



7. Set up policies for the service to control behavior.  
See the figure below for an example configuration.



8. If using incremental backup, the ibackup needs to run towards a clustered drive and must follow any fail-over along with the service and primary disk.

### 7.3.2. 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.

### 7.3.3. 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.

### 7.3.3.1. 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.**

### 7.3.3.2. 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.

### 7.3.3.3. 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.

### 7.3.3.4. 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.

### 7.3.3.5. The [confirm\_admin] Database

This database controls the status of all survey databases attached to a specific instance of SQL Server and must be present on all SQL Server instances. When setting up additional SQL Server instances for Confirmit, this database must be created manually and set up with required tables. After installing Confirmit, scripts for this can be found in the <confirmprog>\setup\sql\database\confirm\_admin.

To set up the database, run the following steps:

1. Create the database and files, either in the SQL Server Enterprise Manager or from the SQL Server Query Analyzer using the following syntax (NB: should be done with the 'ConfirmitDeploy' login(see chapter 5.4.2.5):

```
create database [confirm_admin]
on(name='confirm_admin_dat',filename='<sqldatadir>\confirm_admin.mdf')
log on(name='confirm_admin_log',filename='<sqllogdir>\confirm_admin.ldf')
```

2. If the step above was performed with a different user than 'ConfirmitDeploy', also run:

```
use [confirm_admin]
go
sp_changedbowner 'ConfirmitDeploy'
go
```

3. Locate and run the following scripts in the SQL Server Management Studio from the <confirmprog>\setup\sql\database\confirm\_admin\ on one of the Confirmit application servers:

- o Schema\create.sql

**Note: This script is created dynamically on the server during setup and uses text substitution during runtime on the primary server, so it will require some editing before running. Specifically, all SQL Server login names will be generic and have two preceding and trailing underscores, i.e. '\_\_confirmitauthor\_\_'. Open the file in a text editor and run a search-replace throughout the file for the three SQL Server logins specified in the first part of the file.**

- o Schema\content.sql
- o Schema\update\verN\stepN.sql

- o Schemaupdate\verN\stepN+1.sql
  - o ...
  - o Schemaupdate\verN+1\stepN.sql
  - o Schemaupdate\verN+1\stepN+1.sql
  - o ...
4. Run all scripts in the **schemaupdate** folders to bring the database up to the current version.

### 7.3.3.6. 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.

### 7.3.3.7. Making the New Database Server Visible in Confirmit

Log on to the primary database server as a user with system administrate permission using SQL Server Query Analyzer and run the following query (substituting 'ConfirmitDB2' with the chosen alias or IP address for the new server:

```
use [confirm]
go
insert into cfgServer (ServerName)
values ('ConfirmitDB2')
```

This statement will add the server to the system configuration table and concludes the SQL Server part of the setup. The final step is setting up the server properties in the Confirmit system configuration; assigning the SQLServer role, setting up target directories for databases, assigning a Server ID (incrementally higher than the existing IDs for existing servers) and setting a database weight. Consult the post-installation chapter for details.

## 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 the Multiple SQL Server Instances section on page 78 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.

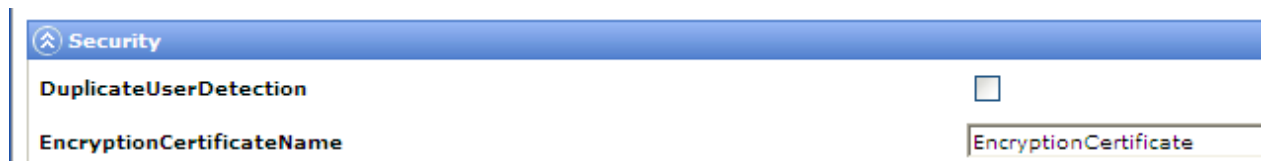


Figure 41 Entering the certificate name

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.

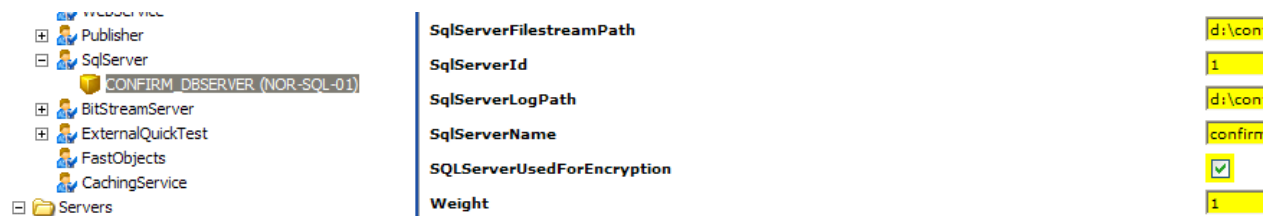


Figure 42 Checking the SQLServerUsedForEncryption checkbox

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 43 Adding the Database Encryption add-on

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



Figure 44 Selecting Enable Database Encryption

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

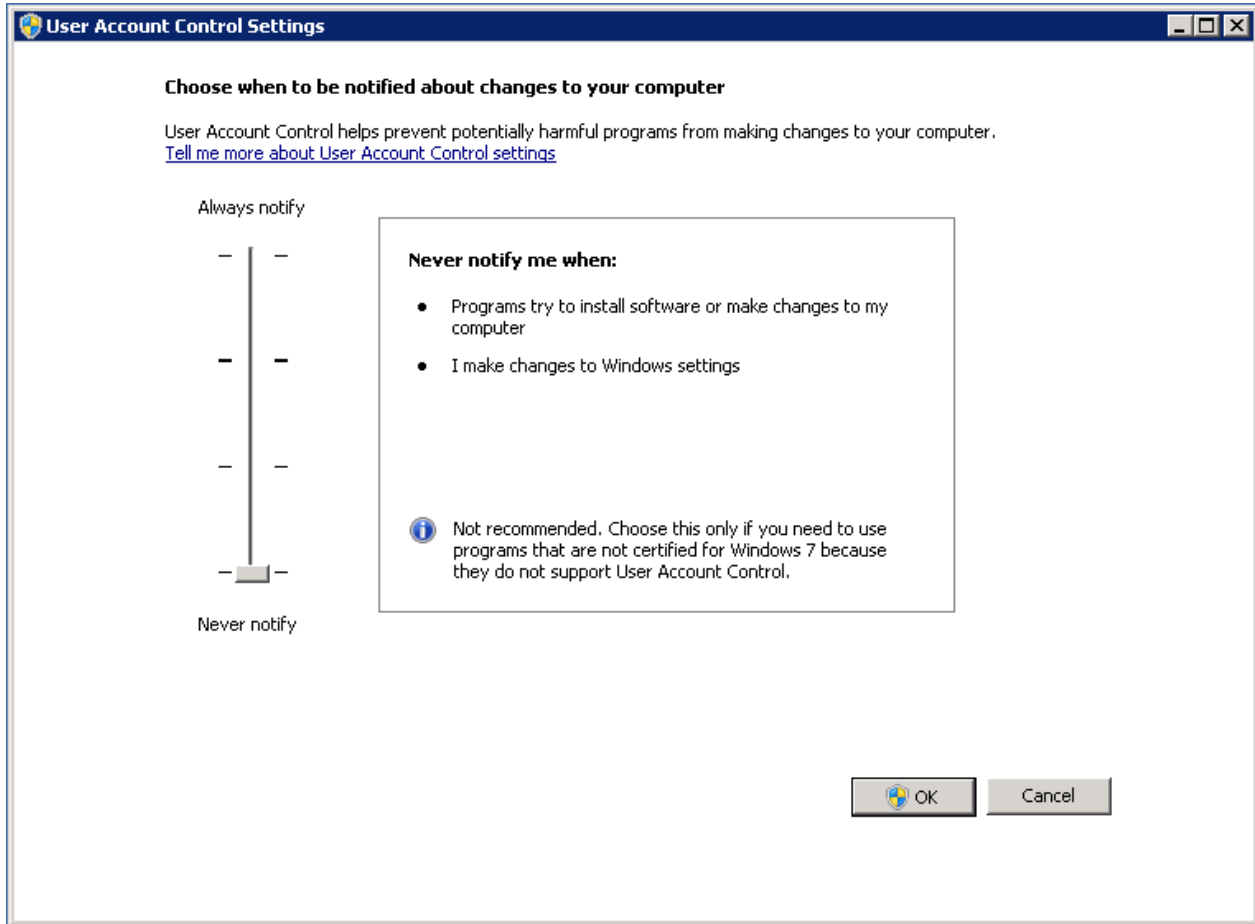
**Important**  
 Selecting 'Create new database' will cause a new database to be created and will result in loss of data if the data is not backed up.

## 7.5. Confirmit and UAC (User Account Control)

### 7.5.1. 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.

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



**Figure 45 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).

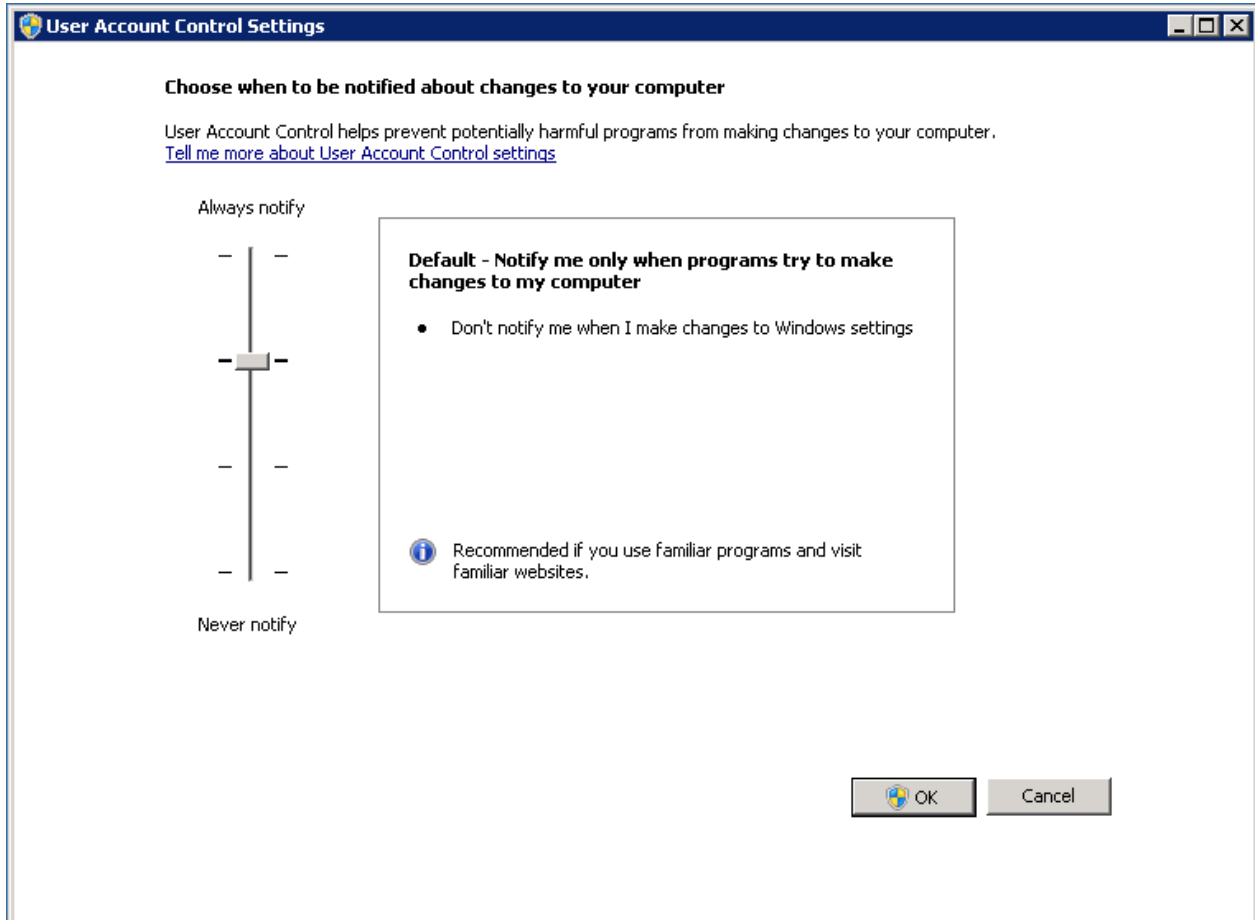


Figure 46 Enabling UAC

**Note: Enabling and disabling UAC requires a reboot.**

### 7.5.2. 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:\lnetpub\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.
4. The following DCOM configuration must be performed in order for "Reportal Office2003 Export" tasks to work:
  - o Run "mmc -32".
  - o Add the snap-in Component Services.

- o Browse to **Computers > My Computer > DCOM Config > Microsoft Excel Application** and select **Properties**.
- o On the Security tab choose "Customize" for "Launch and Activation Permissions" and click "Edit...".
- o Add the Confirmit Deployer user and give it "Local Launch" and "Local Activation".
- o Do the same for "Microsoft Office PowerPoint Slide".

**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.**

## 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 On-Demand 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 On-Demand Operations team.**

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

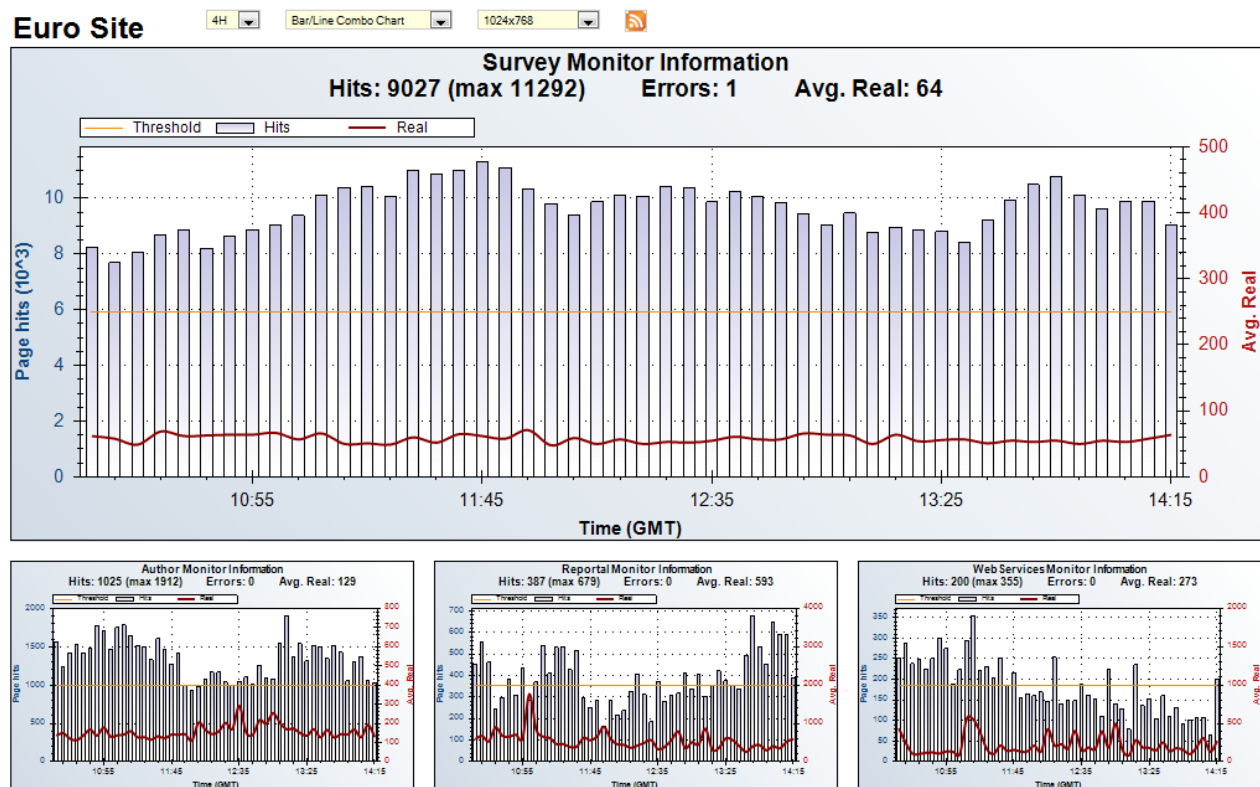


Figure 47 Example of the monitoring utility screen layout

### 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.

### 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 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.
- **FastObjects Service** – Runs on the FastObjects server, contains Survey designs, Access Control Lists and Survey Layouts. If this service is stopped, Confirmit Authoring will not work and some Tasks will have problems completing.

#### 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. Monitoring Memory Usage for the Confirmit Task System Service

The Confirmit Task System service includes calls to third party code that runs in unmanaged memory, which may end up using up all available memory (2GB total including private and virtual bytes) after running for a prolonged time. We have written a script that can be set up to run as a scheduled task on any Confirmit server within a given site, that will monitor the memory usage of the Task System Service on all registered servers running the Confirmit Task System service, and restart the service if the memory has reached a certain threshold. The script can be obtained by contacting support@confirmit.com. Some parameters are configurable within the script itself. Note: The script must be run using the 32-bit version of Windows Script Host, or it will fail creating remote server connections. The script requires access to WMI on remote servers, access to the main Confirmit SQL Server, and must be run under a user context with permissions to control system services remotely.

**Note: As this script 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 On-Demand Operations team.**







### 8.4.9. 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;
```

## 8.5. 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diskspace</li> <li>CPU (100%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIS (Isalive.aspx)</li> <li>Author Login (Localhost)</li> <li>SMTP Service</li> <li>(Caching Service)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Author.company.com (isalive.aspx)</li> <li>Author.company.com (Forms Login)</li> <li>Latency</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diskspace</li> <li>CPU (100%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIS (Isalive.aspx)</li> <li>Reportal Login (Localhost)</li> <li>SMTP Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reportal.company.com (isalive.aspx)</li> <li>Reportal.company.com (Forms Login)</li> <li>Latency</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diskspace</li> <li>CPU (100%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIS (Isalive.aspx)</li> <li>WIX AppPools (local IP)</li> <li>Monitoring Survey (Limited)</li> <li>SMTP Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey.company.com (isalive.aspx)</li> <li>Survey.company.com (Survey - WIX AppPools)</li> <li>Latency</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diskspace</li> <li>CPU (100%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task System Service</li> <li>Memory Usage</li> <li>Task Queue (SQL)</li> <li>SMTP Service</li> <li>SMTP Queue (BADMAIL) Pickup</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFTP\FTP Service (If applicable)</li> <li>SMTP Service (Port)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diskspace</li> <li>CPU (100%)</li> <li>I/O</li> <li>Service Thread count</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FastObjects service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diskspace</li> <li>CPU (100%)</li> <li>Custom SQL Perflogs</li> <li>I/O</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task Queue (Project\Type)</li> <li>Bugreports (Monitor Tables)</li> <li>Performance Info (Latency)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

**Figure 48 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.

## 9. 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
AggregateSQLStatistics	When enabled, will collect CPU statistics for page hits for .NET web application in the surveymonitor table.
AnalysisServerLocalCubePath	Determines the local storage path for storing reporting cubes on the server where SSAS is installed. Used to override the default server settings configured in SSAS where required.
AnalysisServerName	Sets the name of the server running SSAS. (Windows server name or IP address)
AnalysisServerSharedCubePath	The equivalent shared path for the AnalysisServerLocalCubePath as available through UNC (from other servers). Only required when overriding the path settings configured on the server running SSAS.
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.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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 produce BitStream files.)
BugReportEmailingLevel	A setting to control bugreport 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.
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.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
ConfirmProgram	Specifies the path where Confirmit application files are installed.
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
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 overridden on the company level.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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».
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 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
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 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 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.
EnableSSASPartitions	Enables use of Partitions for SSAS cubes. Cube partitions can improve query performance and reduce downtime. SQL Server Enterprise Edition is required

Configuration Setting Name	Description
EnableTransactionLogReporting	Enables use of Transaction Log Reporting
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.
ExporterPadPreCodes	When enabled, ASCII file exports will be padded with «0».
ExportFileSizeLimit	Limits size (in MB) of generated export files.
ExpressExternalHelpUrl	Link to external help file or web site for Confirmit Express users
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.
FileLibraryEnhancedFileTypes	Specifies allowed file types for upload for companies with Enhanced file library setting. Companies with Enhanced setting 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 «httprunimesection» 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)

Configuration Setting Name	Description
GridviewMax	Specifies the maximum number of questionnaire nodes shown simultaneously in the gridview.
HideConfirmitMarketplace	When enabled, links to Confirmit Marketplace will not be displayed.
HTMLEncode	Specifies whether question text, title and comment should be HTML encoded to prevent XSS.
InstallationID	Unique server name used to identify server in logs and error messages.
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.
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 Confirmit user that can be used to bypass LDAP logon.
LdapLogOnEnabled	Enables LDAP directory authentication will be used when logging on to Confirmit. If disabled, normal Confirmit authentication will be used.
LdapNewUserCompany	Specifies which company in Confirmit new users authenticated by LDAP should be add to. Company must already exist in Confirmit.
LdapNewUserLanguage	Specifies new language users authenticated LDAP should have by default. Must be a valid language code.
LdapNewUserLevel	Specifies «level» of the Confirmit user that is created during LDAP logon. Must be a valid level code.
LdapNewUserRole	Specifies «role» of the Confirmit user that is created during LDAP logon. Must be a role that has already been defined in Confirmit, if specified.
LdapNewUserType	Specifies «type» of Confirmit user that is created during LDAP logon. Must be a valid type code.
LdapPath	Path to LDAP server, starting with ldap://
LdapServerType	Directory server type. 1 = MS Active Directory 2 = OpenLDAP
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.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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 logon.
LdapUserFirstNameAttribute	Specifies directory attribute that is used to provide the first name of the Confirmit user that is created during LDAP logon.
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 logon.
LicenseConfirmit	NULL
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 logon if the logged on user has the SYSTEM_ADMINISTRATE permission set.
LogThresholdBitStreamQueryTime	Threshold for logging BitStream queries. Unit is seconds.
LogThresholdFastObjectsQuery	Threshold for logging FastObjects 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.
MaxConcurrentThreads	Specifies the number of concurrent threads that can run on one server. Default value is 1. Currently only used by Confirmit BitStream service.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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
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.
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.
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 <a href="http://server/cp/">http://server/cp/</a>

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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.
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).
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)

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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).
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.
Poet URL	Specifies the global URL for the FastObjects database in the format poet://<servername>/firm_base
PoetErrorRedirectURL	If the FastObjects server is unavailable due to backups or technical issues, logon attempts will be redirected to this URL. Can be used for maintenance purposes. (String, URL)
PoetPath	Determines the physical location of the FastObjects database files. (Used during upgrades only.)
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 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.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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)
RealtimeStatusingDisabled	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.
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.
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://&lt;reportalserver&gt;/Reportal/default.aspx">http://&lt;reportalserver&gt;/Reportal/default.aspx</a> .
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,

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	and the servers must reside in the same domain (i.e. confirmit.com.) The value should link directly to the Reportal logon page: 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.
ReportBuilderUrl	The url to SSRS Report Builder.
ReportingActivityOverviewTimeout	Used to limit the time a request of activity overview executes towards database (Seconds).
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).
ReportServerAdminUser	Username of the Confirmit user which is the SSRS report administrator.
ReportServerReportBuilderEnabled	Indicates if the Panel Report Builder application is enabled.
ReportServerUrl	The URL used to communicate with the MS Reporting Services Server (SSRS.)
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.), 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).
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).
ShowHelpVideos	When enabled, clickable video icons will be displayed where help videos are available (Note: Help videos must be downloaded

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	separately, and made available under /Help/Videos 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.
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).
SQLEngine	NULL
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

Configuration Setting Name	Description
	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).
SSEnduserCertificate	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 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: Can not be reverted, consult the server documentation before enabling this setting.
SurveyEngineLogThresholdHttpCollectionKeys	Log threshold for number items in HttpCollectionKeys for the survey engine.
SurveyExport70Enabled	NULL
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.

Configuration Setting Name	Description
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
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.



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