FAQ: Using ERRORLOG Events As Triggers

28-Apr-2003

Checking the errorlogs [errpt] can be time consuming if you support multiple hosts. This procedure allows you to automatically act on any event that is posted to the AIX errorlog. You could do something as simple as forwarding the errorlog entry to a central host; or, use the error event as the trigger to run an automated recovery action [script] of your choice.

Example #1:   Create an ODM entry that immediately runs the logger command whenever an error is logged. The logger command sends the error message to the local syslog demon , which forwards it to a central host.

On each AIX host that you want to monitor the errorlog:

1) Create an ODM entry to run the logger command whenever an error is logged.

```
#vi /tmp/syslog.add
errnotify:
en_name="syslog1"
en_persistenceflg = 1
en_method = "logger -pnotice Msg from Error Log: $(errpt -a -l $1 | grep -v 'ERROR_ID TIMESTAMP')"
```

2) Add the entry to ODM

```
#odmadd /tmp/syslog.add
```

3) Add a syslog entry to forward notice priority messages to remote host centhost:

```
#vi /etc/syslog.conf
*. @centhost
```

4) Refresh the syslog demon to pick up the new entry

```
#refresh -s syslogd
```

On the central host centhost where you want to collect error events:

1) Add a line to the syslog.conf file that saves the messages to a file

```
#vi /etc/syslog.conf
*.notice /var/central_syslog.txt
```

2) Create an empty log file (file must exist for syslog to use it)

```
#touch /var/central_syslog.txt
```

3) Refresh the syslog demon to pick up the new entry

```
#refresh -s syslogd
```

Example #2: Send a tailored email message when a specific event is posted

Change the en_method in the errnotify stanza to:

```
en_method = "errpt -a -l $1 | mail -s 'Error Log' joe@xyz.com"
```

Example #3: Send a SNMP Message when a specific event is posted

Page 183:   http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/pubs/pdfs/redbooks/sg246606.pdf

ERRORLOG Event Codes:

A summary of the AIX5L errorlog codes, descriptions, causes and recommended actions is available at:

http://rainsux.dyndns.org/AIX5L-Messages-Codes.html

For yet more information on the AIX Error Notification facility, forwarding specific error messages and working with the ODM commands used in this example:

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/doc_link/en_US/a_doc_lib/aixprggd/genprogc/error_notice.htm