Update Custom Fields

A article about how-to update custom fields in Microsoft Operations Manager 2005

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October 2006

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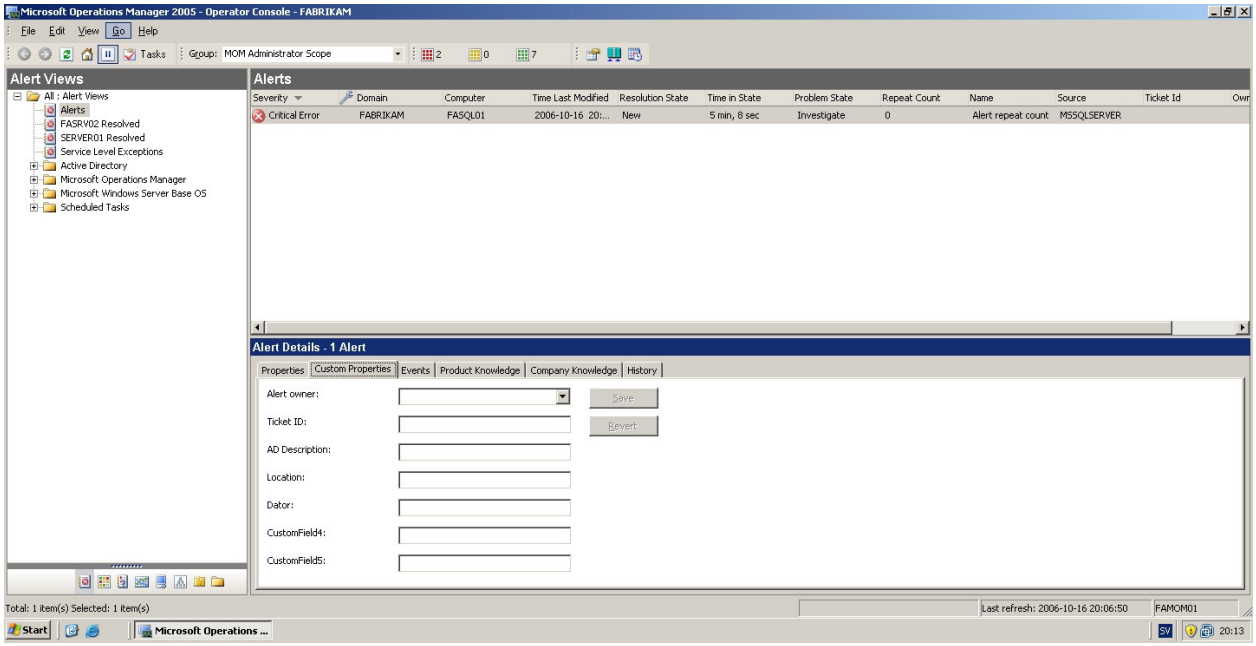
Introduction

When you start understand how Microsoft Operations Manager 2005 works you will presumably want to customize it and create new functions. A great way to do it is using custom scripts. Microsoft Operations Manager 2005 supports VBScript, JScript and Perl script (although you'll rarely see Perl scripts in the field). In this guide we will take a look at some blank fields of an alert, custom field. We will implement a script that extract source computer from the alert, query active directory for some information and then updates the alert custom fields.

This article presupposes that you have some basic knowledge about scripts and working with scripts in MOM. The purpose of this article is not to give you a guide how-to implement a script, the purpose is to give you a hint what to do with the custom fields.



Blank custom fields of an alert

Setup the script

The script

The script is divided into three parts. First it will extract information from the alert, then query active directory and in the last portion, update the custom fields of the alert.

```
'=============================================
' Get information from the alert
'=============================================

Option Explicit
Dim objAlert
Dim strComputer

If (ScriptContext.IsAlert()) Then
Set objAlert = ScriptContext.Alert
strComputer = objAlert.Computer
Set objAlert = Nothing
End If

'=============================================
' Query AD for information
'=============================================
```

```
Dim strLocation
Dim strDescription
Dim objComputer
Dim objProperty

Set objComputer = GetObject _
("LDAP://CN=" & strComputer & ",CN=Computers,DC=europe,DC=fabrikam,DC=net")

objProperty = objComputer.Get("Location")
If IsNull(objProperty) Then
strLocation "The location has not been set."
Else
strLocation = objProperty
objProperty = Null
End If



objProperty = objComputer.Get("Description")
If IsNull(objProperty) Then
strDescription = "The description has not been set."
Else
strDescription = objProperty
objProperty = Null
End If

'================================================
'Update Custom Fields part
'================================================

Dim strRuleGroup

If (ScriptContext.IsAlert()) Then
Set objAlert = ScriptContext.Alert
Call objAlert.SetCustomField (1,strLocation)
Call objAlert.SetCustomField (2,strDescription)
Call objAlert.SetCustomField (3,strComputer)
End If
```

Import the script

Import the script as I have written in my article about implement custom scripts. You will find the article here http://www.momresources.org/momguides/Custom_Script_Implementation.pdf . Please remember to change LDAP search string. If you don't have all your agent computer objects in the same OU you can simple edit the script to search your directory.

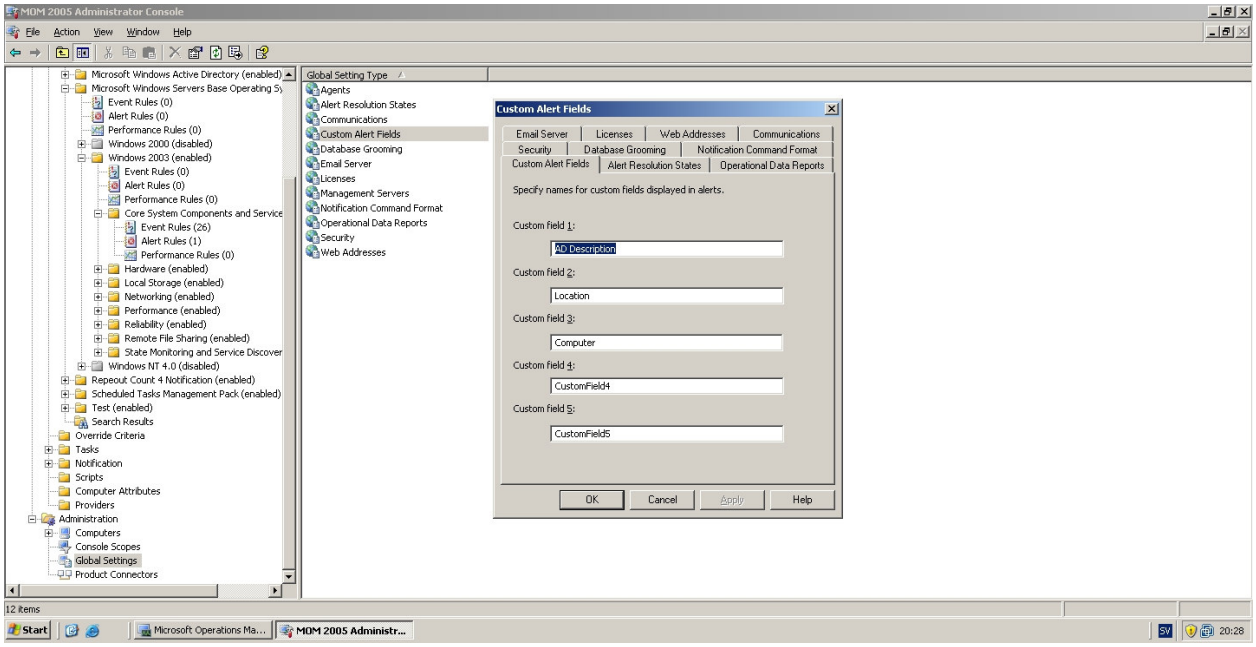
Update custom field labels

This script will update the custom fields with location, description and computer name from Active Directory. To make the work easier for your operators you should rename custom field labels. You can do that under

1. MOM 2005 Administrator Console
2. Administration
3. Global Settings
4. Custom Alert Fields

In this example you should change as following

- Custom Field 1 to AD Description
- Custom Field 2 to Location
- Custom Field 3 to Computer

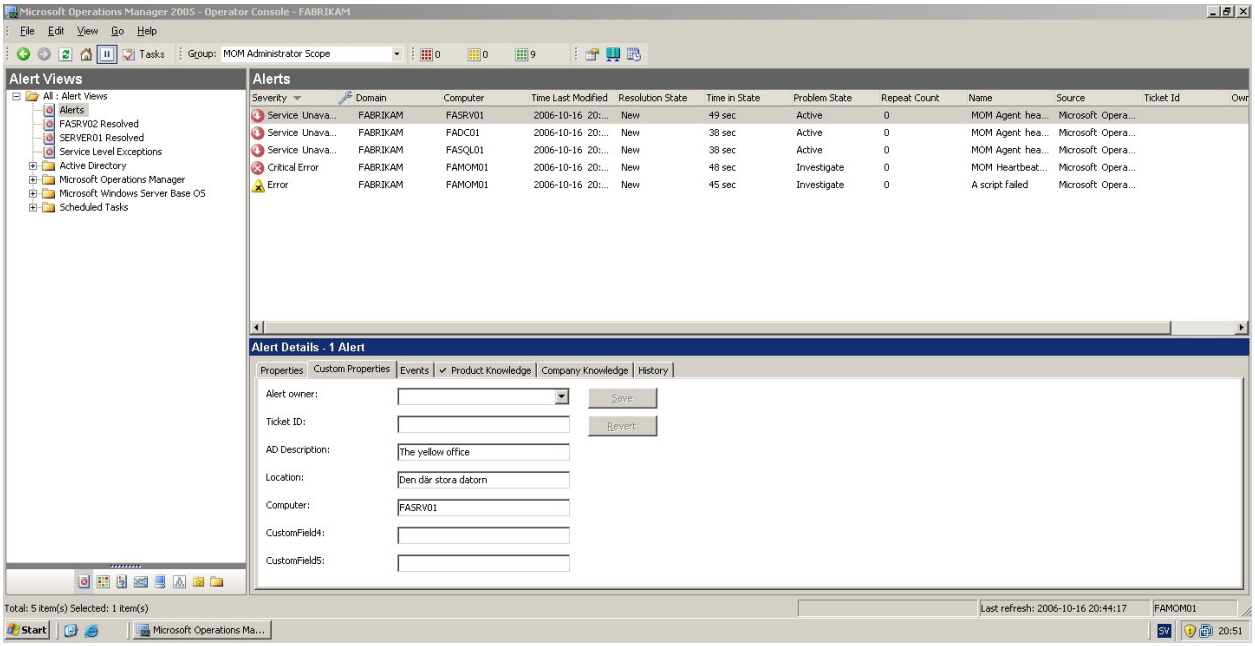


Custom field with new labels

Create a rule to run the script

We need to create a rule that runs the script as response to all alerts where we want to update custom fields. In this example I want to custom fields for all Windows 2003 servers and all alerts.

1. Create a new Rule Group
2. Create a new alert rule
3. Set the new alert to trigger to all rules, for example with criteria “Alert Description matches wildcard ‘*’”
4. At the responses tab, add the script as “Launch a script…”
5. Associated the new rule group with a suitable computer group, for example Microsoft Windows 2003 Servers
6. Commit configuration change



An alert with updated custom fields

Summary

Now you have a simple script that will update custom fields on all alerts generated buy your Windows 2003 servers. You can simple edit the script to insert some other information. You can also add more other script that add different information to different computer groups and rule groups.

Feedback

I hope you find this article helpful. Your feedback is always welcome and appreciated at anders@contoso.se or administrator@momresources.org