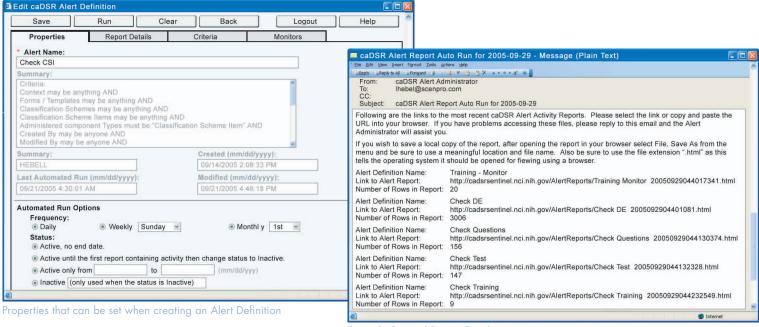Using the Sentinel Tool is easy. The first step is to tell the Sentinel Tool what you want to monitor and how often it should examine the data based on a set of rules. These collections of rules are called Alert Definitions and include options for naming individual sentinels, setting the frequency (daily, weekly, monthly), and identifying the specific metadata components or attributes you want to monitor. Each Alert Definition will generate a report when the conditions are met. The reports are generated in HTML and stored on the server where the Sentinel Tool is deployed. Once the reports are compiled, the Sentinel Tool sends you an email with links to all of your reports. You can peruse the reports at your leisure without worrying about large files being delayed because of email server or network constraints.

The Sentinel Tool is designed to meet the needs of anyone with a caDSR and the appropriate permissions. Whether you are a context administrator interested in your team's curation progress or a caBIG developer wanting to monitor changes that may impact your project or application, the Sentinel Tool will provide you with real-time information about changes to your metadata.

Properties that can be set when creating an Alert Definition

Example Sentinel Report Email

Future Plans

The next release of the Sentinel Tool is planned for the Spring of 2006.
Please see the NCICB caCORE website [http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/core] for additional details about the release.

Technical Specifications

Required Core Software Components

- Java 1.4.2_06
- Tomcat 4.1.18 or JBoss 4.0
- Oracle 9.0.1.1 Client installed on web server (Should work with any 9.x or higher Oracle Client but has not been tested)
- Oracle 9i Installed

Server

- Any Operating System
- The Server machine must have a Web Server and Servlet container that is J2EE 2.3 Servlet compliant.
- This software will use a minimum of 12MB of memory on the server.

Client

- Windows Operating System 98, 2000, XP, or NT
- Internet Explorer 5.0 or better
- DSL internet connection or higher

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The Sentinel Tool is one of several tools that supports the development and administration of the Cancer Data Standards Repository (caDSR).

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http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/core/caDSR/#SoftwareDocumentation