APPDYNAMICS

APM for .NET
AppDynamics Pro Documentation
Version 4.0.x

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APM for .NET

Once you instrument your .NET application environment with the .NET Agent, you can start monitoring .NET application performance. For general information on configuring AppDynamics deployment, see the topics under AppDynamics Essentials.

This section describes considerations specific for monitoring .NET applications. It also describes how to fine tune the configuration for specific .NET frameworks and technologies. These include, for example, monitoring and configuration topics for your IIS applications, Windows services, and standalone applications.

Get a PDF version of the .NET monitoring documentation.

Learn by watching

End-to-end APM for .NET

.NET Supported Environments
Install a Controller or get a SaaS
Controller
Instrument .NET Applications
Monitor CLRs
Monitor Windows Hardware
Resources

What's New in .NET Monitoring in 4.0?

More videos...

- Development mode
- Percentile metrics
- Business transaction lock down
- See more in the release notes

Configure AppDynamics for .NET

- Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET
- Getter Chains in .NET Configurations
- Configure Service Endpoints for .NET
- Configure Backend Detection for .NET

Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET

On this page:

.NET Entry Points

Related pages:

- Business Transaction Entry Points
- Configure Business Transaction Detection
- Organize Traffic as Business Transactions
- Import and Export Transaction Detection Configuration

This topic introduces .NET entry points and the way that they are used in business transaction detection. If the auto-discovered entry points don't include all your critical business transactions, use custom match rules to customize entry point discovery.

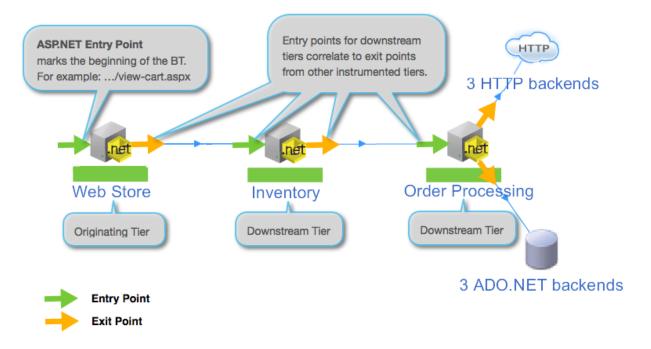
.NET Entry Points

AppDynamics detects entry points in the following places:

- On originating tiers, the method or operation that marks the beginning of a business transaction is an entry point. In most cases, this type of entry point maps to a user request or action such as "View/Cart". Entry points on originating tiers define the business transaction name.
- On downstream tiers, entry points correlate to incoming http calls, web service requests, and other communications from instrumented tiers.

The .NET Agent (agent) automatically detects entry points for the frameworks listed as automatical ly discovered business transactions. See Supported Environments and Versions (.NET).

If the agent detects an entry point on the originating tier, it registers a business transaction with the Controller. The Controller displays the business transaction in the Business Transactions list. If an entry point correlates to an upstream exit point, such as an exiting service call, the agent includes it as part of the existing business transaction.

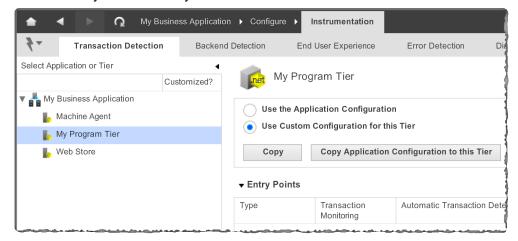


If you need to monitor transactions not automatically discovered by the App Agent for .NET, you can customize entry point detection. See Organize Traffic as Business Transactions to learn how to plan your business transactions. After you have identified the critical business transactions for your application, create custom match rules for them to enable transaction detection.

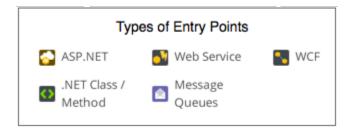
To create custom match rules for .NET entry points:

- 1. Click Configure > Instrumentation > Transaction Detection.
- Click the .NET Transaction Detection tab.
- 3. From the **Select Application or Tier** list at the left, click either:

- an application, to configure transaction detection for all tiers in a business application.
- a tier, to configure transaction detection at the tier level. At the tier level click Use Custom Configuration for this Tier. AppDynamics copies the application configuration to the tier level so that you can modify it for the tier.



- 4. Use the **Custom Match Rules** pane to add and remove business transaction match rules. For details on types of .NET entry points and how to setup custom match rules, see:
 - ASP.NET Entry Points
 - Message Queue Entry Points
 - POCO (.NET Class/Method) Entry Points
 - WCF Entry Points
 - Web Service Entry Points



POCO Entry Points

On this page:

- Defining a POCO Entry Point
- Discovery of POCO Transactions

Related pages:

- Monitor Background Tasks
- Configure Business Transaction Detection
- Business Transaction Entry Points

Some applications use frameworks that the .NET Agent doesn't automatically detect. This is frequently the case with Windows services and standalone applications. AppDynamics lets you specify entry points using custom match rules for Plain Old CLR Objects (POCOs). Once you've defined POCOs, we measure performance data for POCO transactions the same as for other transactions.

Define the custom match rule on the .NET class/method that is the most appropriate entry point for the business transaction (BT). Someone who is familiar with your application code should help make this determination.

Defining a POCO Entry Point

On an originating tier, a POCO entry point is the method that starts the BT. If the POCO entry point is on a downstream tier, it may correlate to an upstream exit point. When defining a POCO entry point, it is important to choose a method that begins and ends every time the BT executes. For more on entry points, see Monitor Business Transactions.

Good candidates for POCO entry points include the following:

- A timer in a Windows service that executes a database call to check for new records to process. For example, an order processing system that periodically checks for new orders in the system.
- A loop in a standalone application that batch processes records via a web service call. For example, an expense reporting system that loops through approved expenses to submit them for reimbursement.
- A method in a web application that executes every time a client connects. For example, consider the method execution sequence:

```
using System.Net;
using System.Net.Sockets;
using System. Threading. Tasks;
namespace MyService
{
class MyProgram
    static void Main(string[] args)
        TcpListener myList = new TcpListener(IPAddress.Parse("127.0.0.1"),
8000);
        using (Socket s = myList.AcceptSocket())
            Task.Factory.StartNew(DoWork, s);
    }
    static void DoWork<Socket>(Socket s)
        // ...
    }
}
}
```

The AcceptSocket() method is the blocking method that accepts a job and invokes it. The MyP

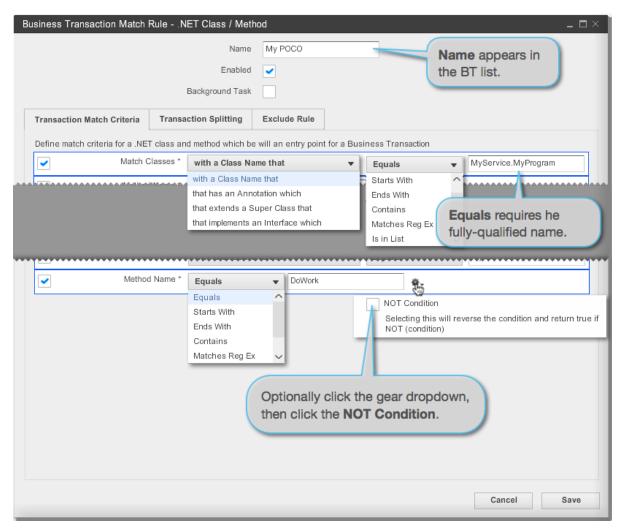
rogram. DoWork() method is the unit of work because it executes every time a client calls the business transaction and it finishes at the same time as the business transaction. This makes DoWork() a good POCO entry point.

Discovery of POCO Transactions

By default, once you configure a custom match rule for a POCO entry point, the .NET Agent detects and displays it in the Business Transactions list. AppDynamics names the BT for the name of the custom match rule. For more information, see Configure Business Transaction Detection.

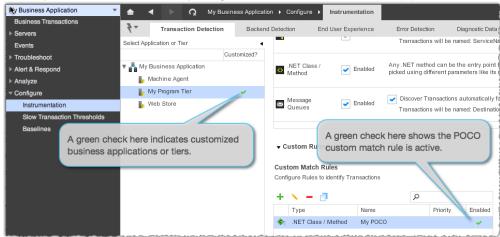
To set up a POCO entry point, define a custom match rule for a .NET Class/Method. For steps to access the **Custom Match Rules** pane, see To create custom match rules for .NET entry points.

- 1. In the Custom Match Rules pane, click the plus symbol (+) to add an entry point.
- 2. Click .NET Class/Method in the dropdown list, then click Next.
- 3. Name the New Business Transaction Match Rule.
 - AppDynamics uses the rule Name to name the BT.
 - The Controller enables the rule by default. Disable it later if needed.
 - The POCO is a foreground task, to configure it as a background task, see POCO Transaction as a Background Task.
- 4. In the Transaction Match Criteria tab, specify the Match Classes criteria.
- 5. Specify the **Method Name** match criteria.



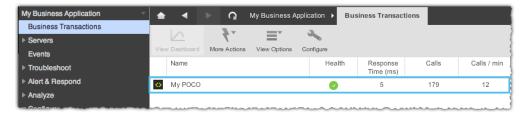
- 6. Click Create Custom Match Rule. If you are configuring at the application level, click Configure all Tiers to use this Configuration.
- 7. Click **OK** to the notification message **Instrumentation changes require restart**.

 After you save the rule, it appears in the **Custom Match Rule** list. The business application or tier you customized displays a green check in the **Select Application or Tier** pane.



8. Wait one minute and restart the CLR/application.

The next time the POCO method executes, the agent detects it and registers the entry point. If the entry point is on an originating tier, the Controller displays it as a business transaction in the Business Transactions List.



The agent identifies all the qualifying transactions using the custom match rule. In some situations you may need to further refine the discovery rules. Use the splitting options on the **T** ransaction **Splitting** tab.

ightharpoologies If you create an application-level POCO that applies to a tier that has not yet registered with the Controller, you may need to restart the application after the tier registers in order to see the business transaction.

POCO Transaction as a Background Task

Click the **Background Task** check box in the **Business Transaction Match Rule** window to indicate that a POCO transaction runs in the background.

When a request runs as a background task, AppDynamics reports only Business Transaction metrics for the request. It does not aggregate response time and call metrics at the tier and application levels for background tasks. This prevents background tasks from distorting baselines for the business application. Also, you can set a separate set of thresholds for background tasks. See Monitor Background Tasks.

Learn More

- Monitor Background Tasks
- Configure Business Transaction Detection

ASP.NET Entry Points

On this page:

- Default Automatic Naming for ASP.NET Transactions
- Identify Transactions Using URI Segments
- Identify Transactions Using Headers, Cookies, and Other Parts of HTTP Requests
- Custom Match Rules for ASP.NET Transactions

Related pages:

- Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET
- Business Transaction Entry Points
- Configure Business Transaction Detection

AppDynamics automatically detects entry points for client requests to ASP.NET applications. If the request occurs on an originating tier, the method or operation marks the beginning of a business

transaction and defines the transaction name. In most cases, this type of entry point maps to a user request or action such as "Cart/Checkout". AppDynamics allows you to configure transaction naming based upon the ASP.NET request.

Default Automatic Naming for ASP.NET Transactions

By default, the AppDynamics auto-detection naming scheme identifies all ASP.NET transactions using the first two segments of the URI.

For example, the following URI represents the checkout operation in an online store:

```
http://example.com/Cart/Checkout
```

AppDynamics automatically names the transaction:

```
/Cart/Checkout
```

For another example, the following URI represents a funds transfer operation in an online bank:

http://webbank.mybank.com/Account/Transferfunds/NorthernCalifornia

AppDynamics automatically names the transaction:

/Account/Transferfunds

Customize the Automatic Naming Scheme

AppDynamics lets you customize the auto-detected naming scheme to best fit your environment:

- Identify transactions using URI segments
- Identify transactions using headers, cookies, and other parts of HTTP requests

To modify automatic naming

- 1. Click Configure > Instrumentation > Transaction Detection.
- 2. Click the .NET Transaction Detection tab.
- 3. From the **Select Application or Tier** list at the left, click either:
 - an application to configure transaction detection for all tiers in a business application.
 - a tier. At the tier level click **Use Custom Configuration for this Tier**. AppDynamics copies the application configuration to the tier level so that you can modify it for the tier.
- 4. If necessary, click **Enabled** under Transaction Monitoring and **Discover Transactions** automatically for ASP.NET requests.
 - 1 You can configure naming with Discover Transactions automatically for ASP.NET requests disabled, but the agent doesn't discover ASP.NET transactions.
- 5. Click **Configure Naming** for the ASP.NET type in the in the Entry Points panel.
- 6. Change the naming scheme in the ASP.NET Transaction Naming Configuration window and click **Save**.

The following sections provide examples to help you decide how to configure the naming scheme.

Identify Transactions Using URI Segments

AppDynamics offers the following options to automatically name ASP.NET transactions based upon the URI:

- Use all, first, or last URI segments
- Use specific URI segments

To name transactions using all, first, or last URI segments

Consider the following URL that represents the checkout operation in an online store:

```
http://example.com/Web/Store/Checkout
```

The first two segments of the URI don't provide a significant name for the business transaction:

```
/Web/Store
```

Identify a more meaningful name using one of the following options:

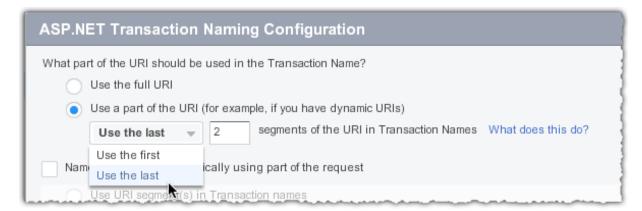
Click Use the full URI to identify the transaction by all URI segments. For example:

```
/Web/Store/Checkout
```

 Click Use the first or Use the last n segments to use two contiguous segments at the beginning or end of the URI, where n is the number of segments.

For example, to identify the checkout transaction using the last two segments of the URI:

/Store/Checkout



If you need more flexibility, such as using non-contiguous segments in the name, click Nam
e Transactions dynamically using part of the requests and specify the segments with
the Use URI segments in Transaction names option.

To use specific URI segments in transaction names

You can choose specific URI segments to use in the transaction name. This enables you to skip URI segments or use non-contiguous segments in the naming scheme.

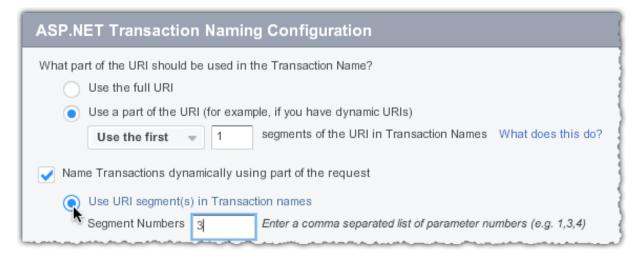
1. Click Use a part of the URI.

- 2. Enter the number of first or last segments to use.
- 3. Click Name Transactions dynamically using part of the request.
- 4. Click Use URI segment(s) in Transaction names.
- 5. Enter the segment numbers separated by commas.

For example the following URL represents the checkout transaction requested by a customer with ID 1234:

http://example.com/Store/cust1234/Checkout

The checkout transaction is the same regardless of the customer, so it makes sense to name the transaction based upon the first and third segments of the URI.



AppDynamics names the transaction:

/Store/Checkout

Identify Transactions Using Headers, Cookies, and Other Parts of HTTP Requests

You can also name ASP.NET transactions using parameters, headers, cookies, and other parts of HTTP requests.

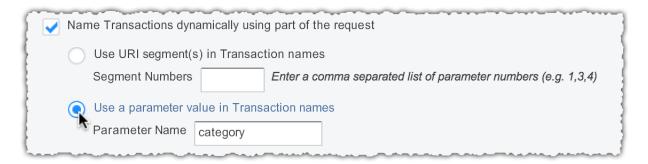
To identify all your ASP.NET transactions using particular parts of the HTTP request, use the Name **Transactions dynamically using part of the request** option.

① Carefully consider your naming configuration choices. If you use a value such as the request originating address and you have many clients accessing your application, you may see the All Other Traffic Business Transaction.

To use HTTP parameter values in transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- Click Use a parameter value in Transaction names and enter the Parameter Name. For example, consider the following

URL: http://example.com/Store/Inventory?category=electronics



AppDynamics names the transaction to include the category parameter value: /Store/Inventory.electronics

To use a header value in transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- 2. Click **Use header value in transaction names** and enter a **Header Name**. For example, consider a site that uses the custom header "Version", AppDynamics names transactions with the header value as follows: /Store/Inventory.v2.5

Use a cookie value in transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- 2. Click **Use a cookie value in Transaction names** and enter the **Cookie Name**. For example, a website tracks a user's loyalty status in a cookie. Set the Cookie Name to "loyalty". AppDynamics names transactions for the loyalty cookie value: /Store/Inventory.Status=Gold

Use a session attribute value in transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- 2. Click Use a session attribute in Transaction names and enter the Session Attribute Key

For example, a website stores a customer's region in the session property. Set the Session Attribute name to "region". AppDynamics names transactions for the region session attribute value: /Store/Inventory.NorthAmerica

Use the request method in Transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- Click Use the request method (GET/POST/PUT) in Transaction names.
 AppDynamics names transactions for the request method. For example: /Store/Inventory.GET

Use the request host in Transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- 2. Click Use the request host in Transaction names.

AppDynamics names transactions for the ip address of the request host. For example: /Store/Inventory.192.0.2.0

Use the request originating address in Transaction names

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- 2. Click **Use the request originating address in Transaction names**. AppDynamics names transactions for the ip address of the request client. For example: /St ore/Inventory.192.0.2.10

Use a custom expression on the HttpRequest

Custom expressions enable you to name transactions using getter chain(s) for HttpRequest proper ties and methods.

- 1. Set the URI identification option.
- 2. Click Apply a custom expression on HttpRequest and use the result in Transaction Names.
- 3. Enter your custom expression getter chain as follows:
 - Enclose getter chain(s) inside braces: \${}
 - Use getter chain syntax.
 - Use any HttpRequest request attributes or methods.

For example, consider this URL:

```
http://mystore.example.com/Store/Inventory-Furniture
```

The following custom expression uses two getter chains:

- The first getter chain fetches the URL, splits it on the dash character ("-"), and uses the second string in the array.
- The second getter chain fetches the HttpRequest.UserAgent property.
- The literal dash character "-" separates the two getter chains.

```
${Url.ToString().Split(Char[]/-).[2]}-${UserAgent}
```

The result is the following business transaction name:

Furniture-Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.3; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko

Custom Match Rules for ASP.NET Transactions

Custom match rules provide greater flexibility for transaction naming. When you define a match rule, AppDynamics uses the rule name for the business transaction name.

For steps to access the **Custom Match Rules** pane, see To create custom match rules for. NET entry points .

Create an ASP.NET custom match rule

- 1. In the Custom Match Rules pane, click the plus symbol (+) to add an entry point.
- 2. Click ASP.NET in the dropdown list. Click Next.

- 3. Name the New Business Transaction Match Rule.
 - AppDynamics uses the rule Name to name the BT.
 - The Controller enables the rule by default. Disable it later if needed.
 - Set the **Priority** for the match rule. AppDynamics applies higher priority rules first.
- 4. Set one or more of the following match criteria. When AppDynamics detects a requests matching your specified criteria, it identifies the request using your custom name.

Method: Match on the HTTP request method, GET, POST, PUT or DELETE.



With automatic discovery for ASP.NET transactions enabled, configuring the match on GET or POST causes the the agent to discover both GET and POST requests. If you only want either GET or POST requests for the transaction, consider the following options:

- Disable automatic discovery for ASP.NET transactions.
- Create an exclude rule for the method you don't want: GET or POST.

URI: Set the conditions to match for the URI.

- For rules on regular expressions for .NET, see .NET Framework Regular Expressions.
- Optionally click the gear icon to set a NOT condition.
- You must set an URI match condition in order to use transaction splitting.

HTTP Parameter: Match on HTTP parameter existence or a specific HTTP parameter value.

Header: Match on a specific HTTP header's (parameter's) existence or a specific HTTP header value.

Hostname: Match on the server host name. Optionally click the gear icon to set a NOT condition

Port: Match on the server port number. Optionally click the gear icon to set a NOT condition.

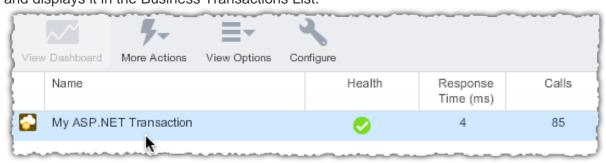
Class Name: Match on the ASP.NET class name. Optionally click the gear icon to set a NOT condition.

Cookie: Match on cookie existence or a specific a specific cookie value.

5. Click Create Custom Match Rule.

The rule appears in the **Custom Match Rule** list. The business application or tier you customized displays a green check in the **Select Application or Tier** pane.

After the agent receives the updated configuration, it discovers the new business transaction and displays it in the Business Transactions List.



Split custom ASP.NET transactions

AppDynamics lets you further refine ASP.NET custom transaction names using transaction splitting. See Transaction Splitting for Dynamic Discovery.

- 1. Create a custom match rule. To use transaction splitting, you must specify URI match criteria.
- 2. Click Split Transactions Using Request Data.
- 3. Click the splitting option to use.

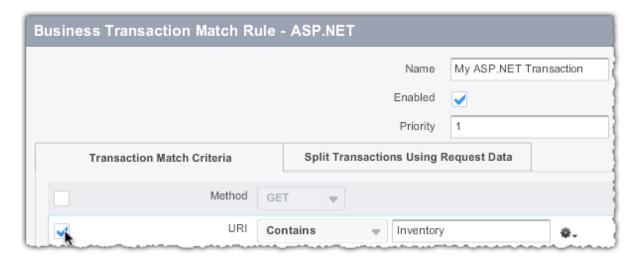
The transaction splitting options work the same as the methods described in the previous sections:

Identify transactions using URI segments
Identify Transactions Using Headers, Cookies, and Other Parts of HTTP Requests

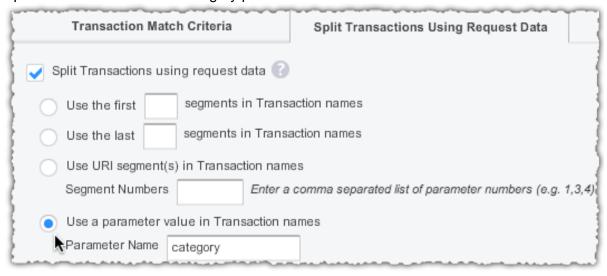
For example, consider the following URL:

http://example.com/Store/Inventory?category=electronics

Configure the custom match rule to match on the "URI contains Inventory".



Split the transaction on the category parameter.



4. Click Save.

After the agent receives the updated configuration, it discovers the new business transaction and displays it in the Business Transactions List.



WCF Entry Points

On this page:

- Automatic Naming for WCF Transactions
- Custom Match Rules for WCF Transactions

Related pages:

· Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET

Microsoft Windows Reference:

Windows Communication Foundation

AppDynamics automatically detects entry points for client requests to Windows Communication Foundation (WCF) services. If the request occurs on an originating tier, the method or operation marks the beginning of a business transaction and defines the transaction name. For information on originating tiers, see Configure Business Transaction Detection.

The .NET Agent detects async entry points for the following patterns:

- Task-based asynchronous operations
- New in 4.0.2, IAsyncResult Begin-End Asynchronous pattern

When WCF calls execute on a downstream tier, AppDynamics includes them as part of the business transaction from the originating tier.

Automatic Naming for WCF Transactions

By default, the AppDynamics auto-detection naming scheme identifies all WCF transactions using the service name and operation name:

ServiceName.OperationName

For example, a web service for a travel website books reservations from client front ends.



You can rename or exclude automatically discovered transactions from the Business Transactions List.

Custom Match Rules for WCF Transactions

Custom match rules provide flexibility for WCF transaction naming. When you define a match rule, AppDynamics uses the rule name for the business transaction name.

For steps to access the **Custom Match Rules** window, see "To create custom match rules for .Net entry points" on Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET.

Create a WCF custom match rule

- 1. In the Custom Match Rules window, click the plus symbol (+) to add an entry point.
- 2. Click WCF in the dropdown list. Click Next.
- 3. Name the **New Business Transaction Match Rule**.
 - AppDynamics uses the rule Name to name the BT.
 - The Controller enables the rule by default. Disable it later if needed.
 - Set the **Priority** for the match rule. AppDynamics applies higher priority rules first.
- 4. Set one or more of the following match criteria. When AppDynamics detects a requests matching your specified criteria, it identifies the request using your custom name.

Web Service Name

- For rules on regular expressions for .NET, see .NET Framework Regular Expressions.
- Optionally use the gear dropdown to set a NOT condition.

Operation Name

- For rules on regular expressions for .NET, see .NET Framework Regular Expressions.
- Optionally use the gear dropdown to set a NOT condition.

For example, you could report all operations for a TravelService, such as SearchTravel and BookTravel, as one business transaction.

5. Click Create Custom Match Rule.

The rule appears in the **Custom Match Rule** list. The business application or tier you customized displays a green check in the **Select Application or Tier** pane.

After the agent receives the updated configuration, it discovers the new business transaction and d isplays it in the Business Transactions List.

ASP.NET Web Service Entry Points

On this page:

Automatic Naming for Web Service Transactions

 Custom Match Rules for ASP.NET Web Service Transactions

Related pages:

Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET

AppDynamics automatically detects entry points for client requests to ASP.NET web services. If the request occurs on an originating tier, the method or operation marks the beginning of a business transaction and defines the transaction name. For more information on originating tiers, see Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET.

When web service calls execute on a downstream tier, AppDynamics includes them as part of the business transaction from the originating tier.

Automatic Naming for Web Service Transactions

By default, the AppDynamics auto-detection naming scheme identifies all web service transactions using the service name and operation name:

ServiceName.OperationName

For example, a web service for a travel website books reservations from client front ends.



You can rename or exclude automatically discovered transactions from the business transaction list.

Custom Match Rules for ASP.NET Web Service Transactions

Custom match rules provide flexibility for ASP.NET web service transaction naming. When you define a match rule, AppDynamics uses the rule name for the business transaction name.

For steps to access the **Custom Match Rules** pane, see "To create custom match rules for. NET entry points," on Configure Business Transaction Detection for .NET.

To create an ASP.NET web service custom match rule

- 1. In the Custom Match Rules pane, click the plus symbol (+) to add an entry point.
- 2. Click **Web Service** in the dropdown list. Click **Next**.
- 3. Name the New Business Transaction Match Rule.
 - AppDynamics uses the rule Name to name the BT.
 - The Controller enables the rule by default. Disable it later if needed.
 - Set the Priority for the match rule. AppDynamics applies higher priority rules first.

4. Set one or more of the following match criteria. When AppDynamics detects a requests matching your specified criteria, it identifies the request using your custom name.

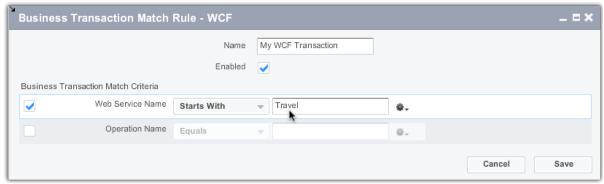
Web Service Name

- For rules on regular expressions for .NET, see .NET Framework Regular Expressions.
- Optionally use the gear dropdown to set a NOT condition.

Operation Name

- For rules on regular expressions for .NET, see .NET Framework Regular Expressions.
- Optionally use the gear dropdown to set a NOT condition.

For example, to report all operations for a TravelService, such as SearchTravel and BookTravel, as one business transaction:



5. Click Create Custom Match Rule.

The rule appears in the **Custom Match Rule** list. The business application or tier you customized displays a green check in the **Select Application or Tier** pane.

After the agent receives the updated configuration, it discovers the new business transaction and d isplays it in the Business Transactions list.

Identify MVC Transactions by Controller and Action

Related Pages:

 All Other Traffic Business Transaction App Agent Node Properties Configure Business Transaction Detection

Microsoft External Reference:

ASP.NET Routing

You can configure the agent to identify transactions by MVC Controller/Action instead of the default naming by URI. For general information on organizing and naming business transactions, see Organize Traffic as Business Transactions.

By default the .NET Agent (agent) identifies ASP.NET MVC business transactions by the request URL or server URI.

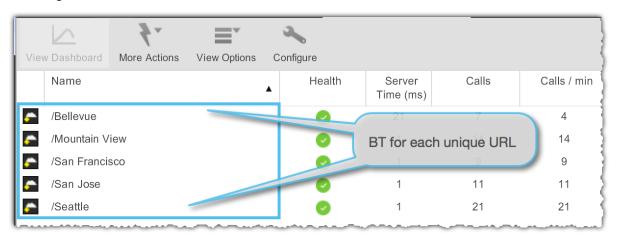
In cases where an application accepts numerous client URLs for a single MVC controller and action, naming business transactions with the client URL can cause several issues including the following:

- The number of business transactions exceeds the limits. See Business Transaction Limits in All Other Traffic Business Transaction.
- Most requests wind up in "All other traffic". See All Other Traffic Business Transaction.
- Requests per minute per business transaction is inconsistent.

For example, consider a MVC application that lists store locations. City-specific URLs list the locations for a city:

http://myapp.mycompany.com/Bellevue

The business transaction name for this URL defaults to /Bellevue. Each request for a unique city generates a business transactions. None of the URIs contain common elements that you can use to configure business transaction names.



In the web application, all city location searches, such as /Bellevue, map to the *Results* action of the *Search* controller. After you configure the agent to name transactions by controller and action, the agent identifies the business transaction as **Search/Results**.



The Search/Results business transaction combines search requests for all cities into one transaction.

To configure the agent to identify MVC transactions as Controller/Action

 Register the aspdotnet-mvc-naming-controlleraction node property. The node property works for MVC 3, MVC 4 and WebAPI transactions.

For instructions on how to register a new node property, see App Agent Node Properties.

Name: aspdotnet-mvc-naming-controlleraction

Description: Identify ASP.NET MVC Business Transactions as Controller/Action.

Type: Boolean

Value: True

1 The default value is False.

After the agent registers traffic with a business transaction named for the Controller/Action and after traffic to the old business transactions named for the client URL diminishes, delete the old business transactions.

Business Transaction Naming Convention

If you use Areas to organize your MVC application, the agent includes the Area name in the business transaction name:

/Area name/Controller name/Action name

For example, if your travel application has separate Areas for hotel, airfare, and car rentals:

/Hotel/Search/Results

Otherwise the agent names the transaction as follows:

/Controller name/Action name

Getter Chains in .NET Configurations

On this page:

- Separator Characters in Getter Chains
- Getter Chain Use Cases
- Getter Chains for HttpRequest Objects

Related pages:

- Configure Business Transaction Detection
- Configure Data Collectors

Use getter chains to add basic programmatic functions to AppDynamics data collection and business transaction configuration. This topic describes the getter chain syntax for the .NET Agent and provides examples to help you get started.

Configurations that support getter chains include:

- Data collectors
- ASP.NET transaction naming
- HTTP backend naming

• If a getter chain calls a heavy processing method, such as one that makes numerous SQL calls, the getter chain may degrade performance for both the application and the .NET Agent. When possible, use getter chains only with simple Get() methods.

For example, a simple getter that returns a property for a class, such as MyUser.GetName():

```
public class MyUser
{
  private String Name {get; set;}
  private String Url;
  public GetUrl(){
   return this.Url;
  }
}
```

Separator Characters in Getter Chains

The following special characters are used as separators:

- comma (,) for separating parameters
- forward slash (/) for separating a type declaration from a value in a parameter
- dot (.) for separating the methods and properties in the getter chain

If a slash or a comma character is used in a string parameter, use the backslash (\) escape character. Except in the case of type/value.

If a literal dot is used in a string parameter, use the backslash escape character before the dot: \.

Getter Chain Use Cases

The following examples illustrate the AppDynamics getter chain syntax for common scenarios in .NET applications.

Declare parameter types

• The following example demonstrates how to declare the parameter types to resolve the overloaded Susbstring() method. The forward slash serves as the type separator.

```
GetAddress(appdynamics, sf).Substring(int/0, int/10)
```

For instance, if GetAddress(appdynamics, sf) returns "303 2nd St, San Francisco, CA 94107," then the agent returns "303 2nd St" for the full getter chain.

 The following example shows how to declare the parameter types for a user-defined method that takes a float parameter, a boolean parameter, and an integer parameter. The forward slash serves as the type separator.

```
GetAddress(appdynamics, sf).MyMethod(float/0.2, boolean/true,
boolean/false, int/5)
```

1 When you declare a type using the forward slash in a type declaration (type/char), don't escape the value after forward slash.

Escape a character

• The following example shows the how to escape the dot in the string parameter.

```
GetAddress().GetParam(a\.b\.c\.)
```

The agent executes GetParam("a.b.c.") on the result of GetAddress() and returns the value of of the parameter.

• In the following example, the first dot is part of the string method parameter, which requires an escape character. The second and third dots don't require an escape character because they are part of the getter chain syntax.

```
GetUser(suze\.smith).GetGroup().GetId()
```

Access indexed properties and dictionary values

• The following example returns the value for the key "suze.smith" using the implied getter.

```
UserDictionary.get_Item(suze\.smith)
```

Split a character array

• The following example splits a URL on the forward slash character, which is escaped. It returns the fourth item in the array.

```
GetUrl().Split(char[]//).[3]
```

The agent returns "Search" when it applies the getter chain to the following URL:

http://howdyworld.example.com/Search/Airfare

The following example splits on the forward slash character, then returns the length property
of the resulting array.

```
GetUrl().Split(char[]//).Length
```

 The following example illustrates a transaction splitting rule for URIs that use a semicolon delimiter. The getter chain splits on the forward slash, then splits the fourth element on the semicolon.

```
GetUri().Split(char[]//).[3].Split(char[]/;).[0]
```

The agent returns "create-user" when it applies the getter chain to the following URL:

http://HowdyWorld.example.com/create-user;sessionid=BE7F31CC0235C796BF8C6DF376

6A1D00?act=Add&uid=c42ab7ad-48a7-4353-bb11-0dfeabb798b5

Getter Chains for HttpRequest Objects

The .NET Agent requires special syntax for getter chains on System.Web.HttpRequest objects in ASP.NET WebForms, MVC, and MVC WebAPI applications. Use the following syntax to delineate the boundaries of the getter chain:

```
${myobject.myproperty}
```

For example, to determine the user principal:

```
${Context.User.Identity.Name}
```

Places to use this syntax include:

HTTP Request Data Collectors.

Configure Service Endpoints for .NET

On this page:

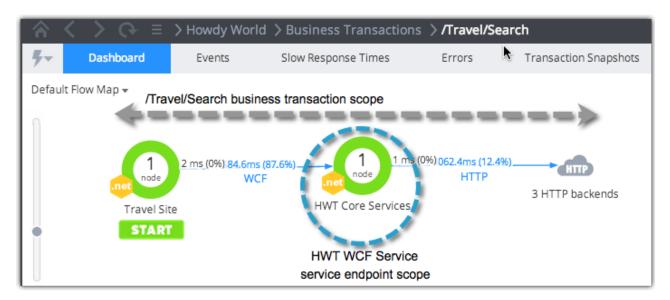
Tips for Defining .NET Service Endpoints

Related pages:

Monitor Service Endpoints

Configure service endpoints to monitor the performance of an entry point for a service or application on a single tier.

For example, consider a Travel site that has an ASP.NET MVC front end. When a customer searches, the /Travel/Search business transaction originates on the MVC tier that calls a WCF service. The WCF service in turn calls external travel sites, aggregates the results, and returns the search results to the MVC front end.



If you are solely responsible for the HWT Core Services tier or the WCF service, a service endpoint lets you focus on the performance metrics that apply to your tier.

Because you decide which endpoints are important, the .NET Agent doesn't automatically discover service endpoints. Define the service endpoint as you would a custom match rule for a business transaction. See Monitor Service Endpoints and Configure Business Transaction Detection.

You can create service endpoints for the following entry point types:

ASP.NET
Message Queues
POCO
WCF
Web Service

1 The .NET Agent doesn't support service endpoints for MSMQ.

After you configure a service endpoint, you can monitor it on the service endpoint dashboard that shows KPIs and transaction snapshots where the service endpoint executed. You can also use the metric browser to analyze service endpoint performance. See Monitor Service Endpoints.

Tips for Defining .NET Service Endpoints

Although the .NET Agent doesn't automatically discover service endpoints, frequently you want to monitor service endpoints that match automatically discovered entry points in a business transaction:

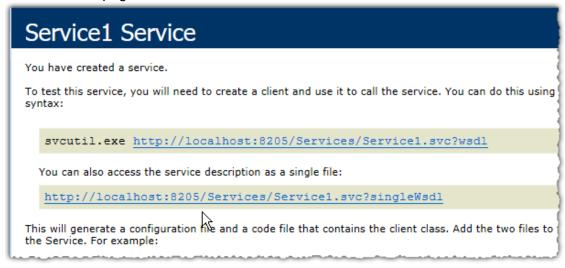
- You can create service endpoints on the originating entry point for a business transaction.
- For ASP.NET service endpoints, you can use the URL.

For example, in the Travel Site tier above: URL matches "/Travel/Search"

- For WCF and ASP.NET web service entry points, you can use an existing transaction snapshot to find the URL for the service.
 - 1. Open a full transaction snapshot for the business transaction.
 - 2. From the upstream tier, click the exit call link, either **WCF** or **Web Service**. The exit call window shows the URL for the web service.



- 3. Open the service URL in a browser.
- 4. On the service page, the url to access the wsdl file.



5. The service name element shows the service name.

<wsdl:service name="Service1">

Define POCO service endpoints exactly as you would a POCO custom match rule.

Configure Backend Detection for .NET

On this page:

- View and Revise Backend Discovery Rules
- ADO.NET Backends
- Directory Service Backends
- HTTP Backends
- Message Queue Backends
- .NET Remoting
- WCF Backends
- .NET Web Services Backends
- All Other Traffic

Custom Exit Points

Related Pages:

- .NET Supported Environments
- Configure Backend Detection
- Configure Custom Exit Points
- Monitor Async Backends for .NET

To review general information about monitoring databases and remote services (collectively known as backends) and for an overview of backend configuration see Backend Monitoring.

View and Revise Backend Discovery Rules

To view the discovery rules the .NET Agent uses to automatically discover backends:

- 1. Click the application or tier.
- 2. In the left navigation pane, click **Configure -> Instrumentation**.
- 3. Click the Backend Detection tab.
- Click the .NET Backend Detection tab.
 The .NET Backend Detection tab lists the default configurations for Automatic Backend Discovery
- 5. In the Automatic Backend Discovery list, click the backend type to view. A configuration summary appears on the right.

For example, AppDynamics enables automatic discovery for HTTP backends by default and names them for the host and port.

Each automatically discovered backend type has a default discovery rule and a set of configurable properties. For instructions to revise backend discovery rules, see Configure Backend Detection.

ADO.NET Backends

The .NET Agent automatically discovers ADO.NET data providers implementing standard Microsoft interfaces as database backends. For a complete list, see "Supported ADO.NET Clients" on .NET Supported Environments.

Because the ADO.NET API is interface-based, by default AppDynamics instruments all ADO.NET database providers that implement these interfaces.

For database identification, AppDynamics uses information from the ADO.NET connection string. The connection string specifies the server address and schema or the local file name. Most connection strings are formatted according to well-known rules that can be parsed and distilled to a database name. However, because there is no standard on the connection string, it is up to the ADO.NET provider implementer to choose the format.

For some providers, AppDynamics may fail to parse the connection string. In these cases, the .NET agent uses the complete connection string minus any user password. The property is labeled **ADO.NET connection string** and the value shows the connection string minus any user password.

For example, the agent names following database backend using the connection string pattern <a href="databas

.\SQLEXPRESS-HowdyWorldDB

ADO.NET configurable properties

You can enable or disable the use of the following properties for ADO.NET exit points:

Configurable Properties	Property Used by Default in Detection and Naming	Description
Host	Yes	data source or database server
Database	Yes	database name
Vendor	No	type of the client-side ADO.NET library
Connection String	No	full connection string with password filtered out
Port	No	port number

Directory Service Backends

The .NET Agent automatically discovers exit calls to directory services that use the System.DirectoryServices.Protocols (S.DS.P) libraries.

The agent names the backend for the server name. If the agent is unable to derive the server name from the request, it constructs a name using Domain Component (DC) values.

For example:

activedirectory.example.com

HTTP Backends

AppDynamics automatically detects HTTP exit points (backends) that use the Microsoft HTTP client. The default HTTP automatic discovery rule uses the URL property. From the enabled properties AppDynamics derives a display name using the URL.

For example:

http://api.example.com:8989/searchfares

HTTP configurable properties

You can enable or disable the use of the following properties for HTTP exit points:

Configurable Properties	Property Used by Default in Detection and Naming	Description
Host	No	HTTP host
Port	No	HTTP port number

URL	Yes	full URL
Query String	No	HTTP parameters/query string

Message Queue Backends

By default, AppDynamics automatically detects and identifies many message queue exit points. For a list of the supported message-oriented middleware products, see Supported Remote Service Detection for .NET.

The default queue automatic discovery rule uses the destination property.

For example:

HowdyWorldQueue\$\HWT_MQ_Server1_MsgQ

Message Queue Configurable Properties

In general, the properties listed below are used for queue exit points. However, each message-oriented product is different and there may be variations in the properties or their names.

Configurable Properties	Property Used by Default	Description
	in Detection and Naming	
Host	No	queue server name
Destination	Yes	name of topic or queue
Destination Type	No	queue or topic
Vendor	No	vendor from the client library



Note

See Monitor RabbitMQ Backends for .NET for backend naming configuration options.

See Monitor MSMQ Backends for .NET for MSMQ and NServiceBus configuration.

.NET Remoting

AppDynamics automatically detects and identifies remoting exit points (backends) when an application uses .NET remoting.

The default remoting automatic discovery rule uses the URL property.

For example:

tcp://remoting.example.com:8648/MovieTicketBooking

See Enable Correlation for .NET Remoting to configure downstream correlation.

.NET Remoting configurable properties

You can configure the use of the following property for .NET Remoting exit points:

Configurable Properties	Property Used by Default	Description
	in Detection and Naming	
URL	Yes	full URL

WCF Backends

AppDynamics automatically detects and identifies WCF exit points (backends) when an application uses the WCF client library. The default WCF automatic discovery rule uses the remote address property. The agent uses the enabled properties to derive a display name using the remote address.

For example:

http://wcf.example.com:8205/Services/Service1.svc

WCF configurable properties

You can enable or disable the use of the following properties for WCF exit points:

Configurable Properties	Property Used by Default in Detection and Naming	Description
Remote Address	Yes	URL minus the query, fragment and user information (name and password)
Operation Contract	No	WCF operation name
URL	No	full URL
Host	No	host portion of URL
Port	No	port number if present in the URL, otherwise protocol default
SOAP Action	No	for web service calls, the SOAP action

.NET Web Services Backends

By default, AppDynamics automatically detects and identifies web services exit points (backends)

when an application uses the Microsoft Web Services client library. The default web services automatic discovery rule uses the URL property. From the enabled properties AppDynamics derives a display name using the URL.

For example:

http://webservice.example.com:8105/Services/Service1.asmx

Web Services configurable properties

You can enable or disable the use of the following properties for Web Services exit points:

Configurable Properties	Property Used by Default	Description
	in Detection and Naming	
Service	No	web service name
URL	Yes	full URL
Operation	No	web service operation name
Soap Action	No	SOAP action

All Other Traffic

For information on All Other Traffic transactions, see All Other Traffic Business Transaction.

Custom Exit Points

If you want to monitor a backend that isn't listed under "Remote Service Detection" on .NET Supported Environments, then configure a custom exit point.

Monitor Async Backends for .NET

On this page:

- Asynchronous Backend Calls in .NET
- Identify Asynchronous Backend Calls in Dashboards
- Troubleshoot Asynchronous Calls in Transaction Snapshots
- Analyze Asynchronous Activity in the Metric Browser

Related pages:

- Configure Backend Detection for .NET
- Using Asynchronous Methods in ASP.NET 4.5

This topic describes the .NET asynchronous programming patterns the agent detects and provides instruction on how to use AppDynamics Controller features that represent asynchronous transactions.

For more information about remote services and exit points, see Monitor Remote Services and Configure Backend Detection for .NET.

Asynchronous Backend Calls in .NET

Developers use asynchronous programming patterns to create scalable, more performant applications. Microsoft .NET lets you designate methods as asynchronous tasks. The .NET runtime releases resources for asynchronous methods while tasks complete. When task processing finishes, the runtime calls back to the originating asynchronous method so the method may continue processing.

Because tasks may execute in parallel, AppDynamics sometimes represents asynchronous activity differently from synchronous activity in the Controller.

Supported asynchronous exit point patterns

The agent automatically discovers the following asynchronous programming patterns for HTTP, Web Service, and WCF exit points:

Microsoft .NET 4.5 **async** and **await** keywords. See Asynchronous Programming with Async and Await.

New in 4.0.5, the agent automatically discovers ADO.NET async and await exit calls.

AppDynamics separates .NET async backend tracking from thread correlation. To configure thread correlation, see Enable Thread Correlation for .NET.

Identify Asynchronous Backend Calls in Dashboards

When AppDynamics detects asynchronous exit points in an application it displays a dotted line labelled "async" for the flow in the dashboards. Because they may execute simultaneously the Controller doesn't display percentage value of the end-to-end transaction time for asynchronous calls.

Troubleshoot Asynchronous Calls in Transaction Snapshots

Transaction snapshots include several features to help you discover problem areas in business transactions that use asynchronous methods. For an overview of transaction snapshots, see Transaction Snapshots.

Transaction Snapshot Flow Map

The Transaction Snapshot Flow Map graphically represents the business transaction. It displays the user experience, execution time, and timestamp of the transaction. The flow map also provides details of the overall time that is spent in a particular tier and in database and remote service calls. The **async** label indicates asynchronous calls.

Snapshot Execution Waterfall View

The transaction Snapshot Execution Waterfall View shows a timeline representation of the end-to-end execution of the business transaction. Synchronous and asynchronous processes appear on a bar diagram illustrating their relative execution time arranged in chronological order.

The waterfall view enables you to visually identify which processes are running the longest. Double-click a bar to drill down to a call graph and investigate problematic code.

Call Graph

When the agent detects asynchronous exit points, it displays an **await** link in the **Exit Calls/Threads** column of the call graph in the Call Drill Down. Click the link to display a list of the asynchronous calls. The format of the await link is as follows:

```
await@<tier name>
```

For example, the Travel Search Web tier makes asynchronous calls to the internal customer management system and to provider backends. The link shows as "await@Travel Search Web".

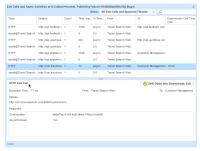


The Exit Calls and Async Activities window shows a list of the exit calls and the corresponding **aw ait** continuation calls.

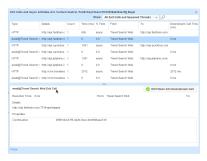
- Exit calls display by type: HTTP, web service, or WCF.
- Continuations/call backs display as await@tier name.

For example:

HTTP call to the Customer Management tier



Continuation call back to the Travel Search tier

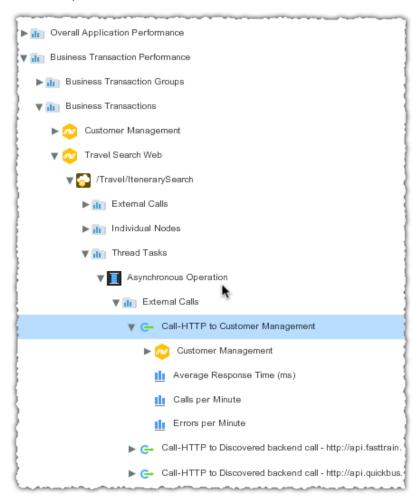


Analyze Asynchronous Activity in the Metric Browser

The Metric Browser displays asynchronous activity in the following places:

- Business Transaction Performance -> Business Transactions -> tier > business transaction -> Thread Tasks -> Asynchronous Operation -> External Calls
- Overall Application Performance -> tier -> Thread Tasks -> Asynchronous Operation
 -> External Calls
- Overall Application Performance -> tier -> Individual Nodes -> node name -> Thread Tasks -> Asynchronous Operation -> External Calls

For example:



For more information on how to use the Metric Browser, see Metric Browser.

Monitor MSMQ Backends for .NET

On this page:

- Remote Service Detection
- Exit Points and Backend Naming
- Entry Points

Related pages:

- Configure Backend Detection for .NET
- App Agent Node Properties

Remote Service Detection

The AppDynamics .NET Agent (agent) automatically detects MSMQ backends based upon exit calls from instrumented tiers. MSMQ exit points are methods that publish or push messages to a queue.

Before the agent can detect entry points or perform downstream correlation for MSMQ you must define the correlation field and, for multi-threaded architectures like NServiceBus, specify threading architecture.

To view MSMQ or NServiceBus in the list of backends, click **Servers->Remote Services** in the left navigation pane.

Exit Points and Backend Naming

The agent names the queue for the queue name returned from the system.

Entry Points

To enable downstream correlation for MSMQ, you must configure the agent as follows:

Define the MSMQ correlation field

Register the **msmq-correlation-field** app agent node property on both the publishing tier and on the receiving tier. Specify the field where the agent will write and read correlation information.

The agent supports using "Label" or "Extension." In general, "Extension" is the best choice because it is a larger field. However, the NServiceBus implementation of MSMQ uses the "Extension" field, so for NServiceBus you must use "Label."

① Choose a field not in use by your queue implementation. If your implementation uses both the "Label" and "Extension" fields, downstream correlation is not currently possible.

See "msmq-correlation-field" on App Agent Node Properties Reference. For instructions to register a node property, see App Agent Node Properties.

Specify the threading architecture

If your queue implementation uses a multi-threaded architecture, you must register the **msmq-sin gle-threaded** app agent node property to specify the threading architecture. Set

msmq-single-threaded to "False" for NServiceBus or other multi-threaded implementations of MSMQ. See "msmq-single-threaded" on App Agent Node Properties Reference. For instructions to register a node property, see App Agent Node Properties.

The threading architecture dictates how the agent calculates the call timing for the message queue:

For single-threaded queues, the agent calculates the call time between receive requests.
 The call time begins at the end of the first receive method and ends when the next receive method starts.

In the following example, the length of the ProcessMessage() method:

```
MessageQueue messageQueue;
for(;;)
{
    var message = messageQueue.Receive();
    ProcessMessage(message);
}
```

For multi-threaded queues, the agent does not capture timing.

Monitor Oracle Backends for .NET with AppDynamics for Databases

On this page:

- Prerequisites
- Monitor Oracle Database Backends

Related pages:

- Introduction to AppDynamics for Databases
- Monitor Databases

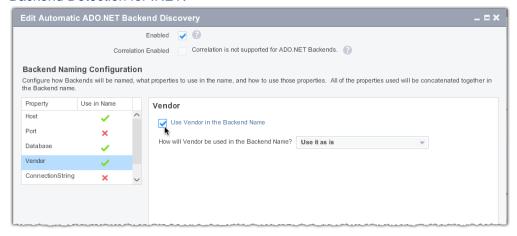
Oracle ODP.NET database backends integrate with AppDynamics for Databases. This topic covers how to configure integration and an introduction to the enhanced features.

Prerequisites

Before you can take advantage of the integration for Oracle backends with AppDynamics for Databases, you must perform the following setup:

- 1. Install AppDynamics for Databases and Add a collector for your Oracle database. See Install AppDynamics for Databases and Add an AppDynamics for Databases Collector.
- 2. Enable integration with AppDynamics for Databases in the Controller. See Integrate with AppDynamics for Databases.

- 3. Log off from the Controller, then log on again.
- 4. Enable the Vendor property for ADO.NET backend naming. For more information see Configure Backend Detection for .NET.



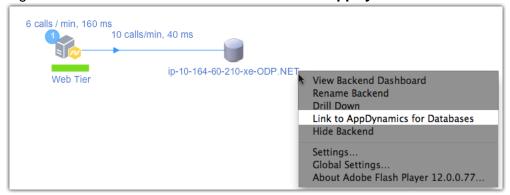
① AppDynamics for Databases requires the Vendor property to identify the Oracle database.

Monitor Oracle Database Backends

After you configure integration, AppDynamics enables links from the Controller to AppDynamics for Databases.

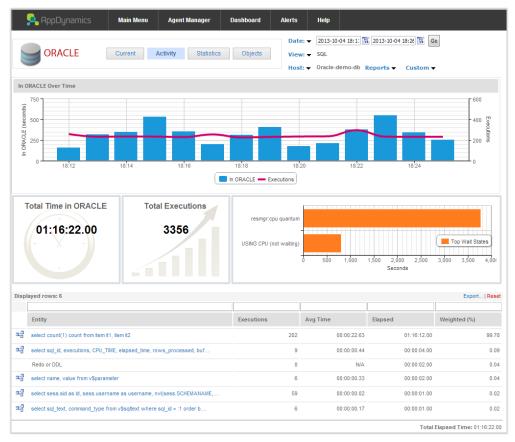
To monitor Oracle databases from the Controller

1. Right-click the Oracle database and click **Link to AppDynamics for Databases**.

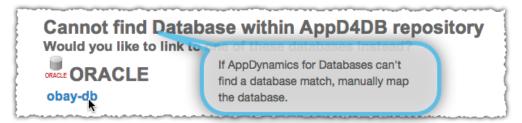


In addition to the flow map, you can right-click the Oracle database in Servers > Databases to display the Link to AppDynamics for Databases.

AppDynamics for Databases looks for a database match in its repository and displays the database platform window.



2. If it doesn't find a match, you can select your database from a list and manually map it. You only need to map the database once. The next time you link, the database platform window displays automatically.



For information on manually mapping your database, see Manually Map a Database.

See Monitor Databases for more information on monitoring with AppDynamics for Databases.

Monitor RabbitMQ Backends for .NET

On this page:

- Remote Service Detection
- Exit Points and Backend Naming
- Entry Points

Related pages:

- Configure Backend Detection for .NET
- RabbitMQ Exchanges and Exchange Types
- RabbitMQ Monitoring Extension
- App Agent Node Properties

Remote Service Detection

The AppDynamics .NET Agent automatically detects RabbitMQ backends based upon calls from instrumented tiers. RabbitMQ exit points are methods that publish or push messages to a queue. RabbitMQ entry points are methods that listen or poll for new messages in the queue.

To see RabbitMQ in the list of backends, in the left navigation pane click **Servers->Remote Services**.

Exit Points and Backend Naming

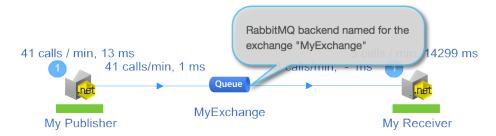
The agent discovers a RabbitMQ backend exit point when your application sends a message to the queue using the BasicPublish() method.

By default, the agent names the RabbitMQ backend for the exchange parameter of the BasicPublish() method.

For example:

```
model.BasicPublish("MyExchange", "", false, false,
  basicProperties, Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(message));
```

In this case the agent names the queue **MyExchange**.



You can refine the backend name to include some or all segments of the routing key. To configure RabbitMQ naming you must be familiar with your implementation RabbitMQ exchanges and routing keys. See RabbitMQ Exchanges and Exchange Types.

Refine backend naming

Register the **rmqsegments** node property. For instructions on how to set a node property, see Ap p Agent Node Properties.

Name: rmqsegments

Description: "Configure RabbitMQ naming to include routing key segments."

Type: Integer

Value: <integer>

The routing key is a string. The agent treats dot-separated (".") substrings of the routing key as segments. Set the value to an integer that represents the number of routing key segments to include in the name.

In the following example the routing key is **abc.def.ghi**. Set the rmqsegments value to "2" to name the queue **MyExchange.abc.def**.

```
model.BasicPublish("MyExchange", "abc.def.ghi", false, false,
   basicProperties, Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(message));
```

After you save the node property, the Controller sends the configuration to the agent. After some time the RabbitMQ backend shows up with the new name.



Entry Points

The agent discovers RabbitMQ backend entry point when your application polls the the queue. AppDynamics auto-detects RabbitMQ based upon the following patterns:

- BasicGet
- HandleBasicDeliver

BasicGet Method

The agent detects the pattern below where the application periodically polls the message queue using the BasicGet() method. The call timing is limited to time spent inside the while loop. The timer only starts when the BasicGet result returns a value at line 4. The timer ends when the next BasicGet executes. In this example, the application polls every five seconds, so the execution time equals the time in the if loop plus five seconds.

```
while (true)
{
    var result = channel.BasicGet("MyExchange", true);
    if (result != null)
    {
        var body = result.Body;
        var message = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(body);
        Console.WriteLine("Received: {0}.", message);
    }

    Thread.Sleep(5000);
}
```

HandleBasicDeliver Method

The agent detects the <code>HandleBasicDeliver()</code> method for custom implementations of the <code>IBasicConsumer</code> interface. In this case the call timing reflects the execution time for the <code>HandleBasicDeliver</code> method.

Monitor Windows Hardware Resources

Related pages:

- Monitor IIS
- Monitor CLRs
- Enable Monitoring for Windows Performance Counters

The AppDynamics .NET Agent includes an embedded .NET Machine Agent that runs as part of the AppDynamics.Agent.Coordinator service. Among other things, the Machine Agent regularly gathers system performance data metrics such as:

- CPU activity
- Memory usage
- Disk reads and writes
- Network traffic
- New in 4.0.2, percent free disk space and megabytes free

View Windows Hardware Resource metrics in the Metric Browser.

When IIS is installed on the machine, the .NET Machine Agent also reports IIS, ASP.NET and ASP.NET Application metrics. See Monitor IIS.

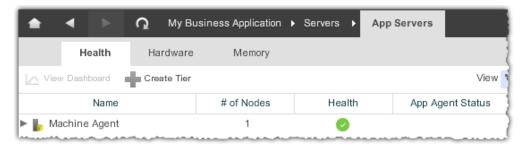
The .NET Machine Agent also reports CLR metrics, which are based on performance counters. See Monitor CLRs.

Machine Agent Tier

Immediately after you install and configure the .NET Agent, the .NET Machine Agent registers with

the Controller and starts reporting performance data.

Frequently the machine agent metrics reach the controller before the app agent has had time to instrument and register IIS applications, Windows services, or standalone applications. If there are no application tiers, the machine agent registers as the Machine Agent tier.



Once the app agent begins reporting metrics for configured application tiers, the .NET Machine Agent reports to the application tiers and stops sending data to the Machine Agent tier. If you don't instrument any IIS applications, Windows services, or standalone applications on the server, the .NET Machine Agent always reports to the Machine Agent tier.

If you install the Standalone Machine Agent, a Java application, in a .NET environment, then you can add custom monitors and extensions such as the HTTP listener. See Configure the .NET Machine Agent for details.

Machine Snapshots for .NET

On this page:

- Requirements
- Working With Machine Snapshots

Related pages:

- Configure Machine Snapshots for .NET
- Monitor Infrastructure
- Transaction Snapshots

Watch the video:

What is a Machine Snapshot?

Sometimes environmental conditions cause trouble on the machines where your application runs. Issues that occur outside monitored application code don't show up on transaction snapshots. Machine snapshots provide critical details about CPU usage, memory usage, and the IIS queue on a server at a specific moment in time. Use the data in machine snapshots to uncover and resolve environmental problems.

AppDynamics generates machine snapshots to capture the state of a server at a specific moment in time. The machine snapshots show the processes running on the machine, the IIS application pool activity, and any related transaction snapshots. By default the .NET Machine Agent takes machine snapshots under the following conditions:

- Periodic collection: The agent takes one snapshot every 10 minutes.
- Breached thresholds: The .NET Machine agent takes samples of machine statistics every 10

seconds within a 10 minute window. For each sample, the agent checks the CPU percent usage, the memory percent usage, and oldest item in the IIS application pool queue. The agent flags a sample as a violation when the current usage meets or exceeds one of the following thresholds:

- CPU at 80% or higher
- Memory at 80% or higher
- IIS application pool queue item older than 100 milliseconds

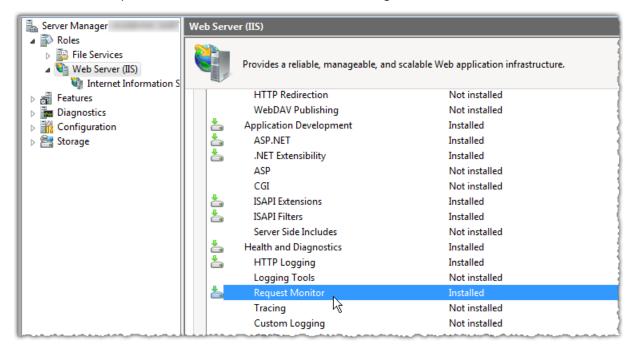
The agent takes a snapshot when it identifies 6 violations of a single type, such as CPU usage, within the window. The agent only takes one snapshot per window for breached thresholds.

To customize the periodic collection or threshold settings, see Configure Machine Snapshots for .NET.

Requirements

The .NET Machine Agent requires the following conditions to return machine snapshot data for IIS application pools:

- IIS 7 or later
- Enable the Request Monitor for the IIS Health Monitoring feature.



To enable Request Monitor from the Windows PowerShell command line, launch PowerShell as an administrator and run the following command:

Install-WindowsFeature Web-Request-Monitor

Working With Machine Snapshots

The Machine Snapshot tab on the application dashboard lists all the snapshots for the selected

time range. Entries for individual snapshots show the following:

- Time the .NET Machine Agent took the snapshot
- Machine name for the snapshot
- Snapshot trigger, either periodic snapshot collection or threshold exceeded
- Percent CPU usage
- Percent memory usage

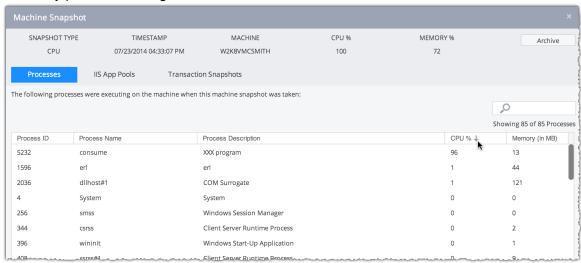
Use **Filters** to limit the snapshot list to a specific snapshot trigger:

- Periodic collection
- Memory events
- CPU events
- IIS events
- Machines where the agent took snapshots
- Archived snapshots

Double-click a snapshot to open the Machine Snapshot window:

- The Processes tab shows information similar to that from the Windows Task Manager, including the following:
 - Process id
 - Process name
 - Process description
 - Percent CPU used by the process
 - Percent memory used by the process

Click a column heading to sort by the column. For example, click **CPU** % and sort descending to identify processes using the most CPU.



- The IIS App Pools tab shows information on the active IIS application pools:
 - Application pool name
 - Arrivals to the queue per second
 - Queue requests processed per second
 - · Age of the oldest item in the queue

The Transaction Snapshots tab displays all transaction snapshots involving the current machine for five minutes prior to and five minutes after the machine snapshot. This demonstrates how current environmental factors are affecting your business transaction performance. For example, when CPU usage is high, you may discover slow and stalled transactions.

Double-click a transaction snapshot to open it.

Monitor Memory Usage with Object Instance Tracking for .NET

On this page:

- Requirements
- Working With Object Instance Tracking

Related pages:

CLR Memory Diagnostics

When you enable object instance tracking for a node, AppDynamics analyzes the heap to identify classes with the most instances on the heap. AppDynamics tracks the top 20 .NET framework classes and the top 20 application classes based upon the number of instances. Use object instance tracking to identify memory usage trends in classes with large numbers of instances.

Requirements

- The .NET Agent only supports object instance tracking for .NET 4 and later.
- The .NET Agent Coordinator Service must be the same architecture as the monitored application. For example, a 64-bit coordinator with a 64-bit IIS application.

Working With Object Instance Tracking

Enable object instance tracking on a node

- 1. In the left navigation pane, click Servers > App Servers > <tier> > <node>.
- 2. On the node dashboard, click the Memory tab.
- 3. Click the Object Instance Tracking subtab.
- 4. Click ON.

Once the agent completes the heap analysis, AppDynamics begins to track the top 20 application classes and the top 20 system (core .NET) classes in the heap.



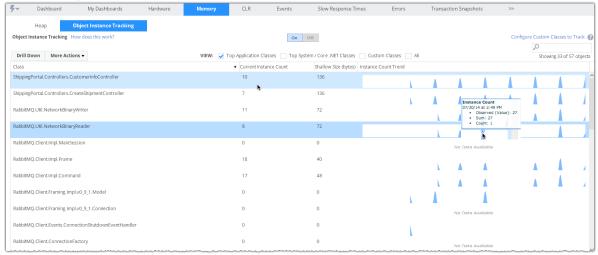
When you enable object instance tracking, the application pauses during heap analysis and cannot process requests. Enable object instance tracking while you're diagnosing memory issues. Turn it off when you finish troubleshooting.

Identify memory usage problems with object instance tracking

Use the following guidelines to identify memory usage problems:

The controller resolution for object instances is one minute, but the .NET Agent agent only sends data every 10 minutes, so .NET memory appears as a series of peaks over time.

- It is normal for the controller to display 0 for the Current Instance Count and Shallow Size in between instance count collection times.
- Hover over a peak to display information about the instance count.
- Look for trends where the peaks increase in size from left to right. This may be an indication
 of a memory leak.



Track object instances for custom classes

If you want to track a class that doesn't appear in the top 20 on the Object Instance Tracking tab, you can configure a specific class to track.

- 1. On the Object Instance Tracking tab, click **Configure Custom Classes to Track** to navigate to the Configure Instrumentation > Memory Monitoring tab.
- Click Add. The Create New Instance Tracker window opens.
- Leave Enabled checked.
- 4. Enter the fully qualified class name for the instance to track.
- 5. Click Save.

Monitor CLRs

On this page:

- CLR Events
- CLR Metrics
- Alerting for CLR Health

Related pages:

Enable Monitoring for Windows Performance Counters

The AppDynamics .NET Agent includes the .NET Machine Agent that runs as part of the AppDynamics.Agent.Coordinator service. Among other things, the .NET Machine Agent regularly gathers CLR performance data and reports it back to the Controller as metrics.

CLR Events

The .NET Machine Agent monitors for CLR shutdown and restart events:

- The agent reports an App Server Restart event and indicates if the restart was graceful or not.
- For non-graceful shutdown, if the agent detects a crash, it reports a CLR Crash event.

1 The default exit code for a graceful shutdown is "0", if your Windows service or standalone application uses a different exit code, see "Profiler - Successful Exit Code Element" on .NET Agent Configuration Properties.

CLR Metrics

CLR metrics give insight into how the .NET runtime is performing. The AppDynamics preconfigured CLR metrics include:

- .NET CLR memory usage
- Total classes loaded and how many are currently loaded
- Garbage collection time spent, and detailed metrics about GC memory pools and caching
- Locks and thread usage
- Memory heap and non-heap usage, including the large object heap
- Percent CPU process usage

Alerting for CLR Health

You can set up health rules based on the infrastructure metrics. Once you have a health rule, you can create specific policies based on health rule violations. One type of response to a health rule violation is an alert.

In addition to the default metrics, you may be interested in additional metrics. You can specify additional performance counters to be reported by the .NET Machine Agent. See Enable Monitoring for Windows Performance Counters for details.

Once you add a custom metric you can create a health rule for it and receive alerts when conditions indicate problems.

See Alert and Respond for details on health rules and policies.

Monitor CLR Crashes

On this page:

- Monitor for CLR Crash Events
- Analyze and Respond to CLR Crashes
- Disable CLR Crash Event Reporting
- Crash Events the .NET Machine Agent Monitors

The .NET Machine Agent monitors Windows for non-graceful CLR shutdowns on IIS, Windows

services, and standalone applications. The agent raises CLR crash events in the Controller when such crashes occur. Use a policy to alert responsible parties when the agent reports a CLR crash.

Monitor for CLR Crash Events

Create a policy that sends notifications when a CLR crash event occurs.

- 1. Verify your **Email / SMS Configuration**. See Configure the SMTP Server.
- Create a notification action configured to alert the parties who respond to CLR crashes. See Notification Actions.
- 3. Create a policy to trigger on **CLR Crash** under **Other Events** on the Create Policy window. For the action, choose the notification action you created in step 2. See Configure Policies.

After you create the policy, the Controller sends a notification when the .NET Machine Agent raises CLR crash events.

Analyze and Respond to CLR Crashes

When a CLR crashes, the .NET Machine Agent raises an event in the Controller. The events pane on the application dashboard displays the number of server crash events, including CLR crashes, during the selected time range.

- 1. Click the **Server Crashes** link in the application dashboard to display a list of all server crash events during the selected time range.
- 2. Optionally filter on the **CLR Crash** event type.

Entries for individual CLR crashes display information about the crash event, including the process id and the Windows event log id.

- 1 After a CLR crash, IIS automatically tries to restart the CLR, so one issue frequently causes multiple CLR crash events.
- 3. Double-click a CLR Crash type event to display more information in the **CLR Crash** window:
 - The **Summary** tab shows the Windows process id of the w3wp process that crashed and the Windows event log id for the crash. The summary also includes the affected tier and node names.
 - If multiple tiers have nodes on the same machine, you may see more than one tier in the CLR Crash window.
 - The **Details** tab displays essential information about the crash.
 - The Actions Executed tab shows any actions the event triggers. See Monitor for CLR crash events.
 - Read and add new comments on the Comments tab. For example, add a comment to the CLR crash event to notify colleagues that you're triaging the issue.

Disable CLR Crash Event Reporting

The .NET Machine Agent enables CLR crash event reporting by default. Disable it as follows:

- 1. Edit the agent config.xml as an administrator. See Where to Configure App Agent Properties
- 2. Set **enabled="false"** for the CLR Crash Reporting element. See CLR Crash Reporting Element.

3. Restart the AppDynamics. Agent. Coordinator service.

Crash Events the .NET Machine Agent Monitors

The .NET Machine Agent listens on the following Windows event logs for crash events:

- Application Log
- System Log

The agent listens for events logged at event level "Warning" and higher on the following sources:

- Application Error
- .NET Runtime
- WAS (Windows Process Activation Service)

The agent listens for events logged at event level "Information" and higher on the following source:

Windows Error Reporting

The agent reports CLR crashes as events to the Controller as follows:

- all w3wp process crashes
- instrumented Windows service crashes
- instrumented standalone applicationcrashes

1 To monitor CLR crashes only for instrumented w3wp processes, see "Process Monitor Element" on .NET Agent Configuration Properties.

The Controller treats all events as "Warning" severity, which is not directly related to the Windows event level.

Monitor IIS

On this page:

- IIS Events
- Default IIS Metrics for .NET
- Monitor IIS Application Pools

Related Pages:

Monitor CLR Crashes

The AppDynamics .NET Agent includes the .NET Machine Agent that runs as part of the AppDynamics.Agent.Coordinator service. Among other things, the .NET Machine Agent regularly gathers IIS performance data and reports it back to the Controller as metrics.

IIS Events

The .NET Machine Agent monitors IIS for shutdown and restart events:

- The agent reports an App Server Restart event and indicates if the restart was graceful or not.
- For non-graceful shutdown, if the agent detects a crash, it reports a CLR Crash event.

Default IIS Metrics for .NET

The .NET Machine Agent uses Microsoft Windows Performance Counters to gather IIS metrics. In the Controller, you can view preconfigured metrics for IIS in the Metric Browser.

1 Internet Information Services (IIS) must be installed on the machine for you to view the metrics for the following:

IIS Metrics

From the Metric Browser:

- To view the IIS metrics for a tier, expand Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Tier> -> IIS.
- To View the IIS metrics for a node, expand Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Tier> -> Individual Nodes -> <Node> -> IIS.

AppDynamics reports each metric for the entire tier, each individual application pool, and each individual node as follows:

- Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Tier> -> IIS = combined for all IIS processes in all Application Pools for this tier
- Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Tier> -> Application Pools -> <application pool name> = combined for all processes in this specific Application Pool
- Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Tier> -> Individual Nodes -> <Node> = metrics for the specific node

ASP.NET Metrics

To view the ASP.NET metrics in the Metric Browser, expand **Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Node> -> ASP.NET**.

AppDynamics reports the following ASP.NET metrics:

- Application Restarts
- Applications Running
- Requests Disconnected
- Requests Queued
- Requests Rejected
- Request Wait Time
- Worker Process Restarts

ASP.NET Application Metrics

To view the ASP.NET Application metrics in the Metric Browser, expand **Application Infrastructure Performance -> <Node> -> ASP.NET Applications**.

AppDynamics reports the following ASP.NET Application metrics:

- Anonymous Requests
- Anonymous Requests/sec
- Cache Total Entries
- Cache Total Hit Ratio
- Cache Total Turnover Rate
- Cache API Entries
- Cache API Hit Ratio
- Cache API Turnover Rate
- Errors Unhandled During Execution/sec
- Errors Total/sec
- Errors During Preprocessing
- Errors During Compilation
- Errors During Execution
- Errors Unhandled During Execution
- Errors Unhandled During Execution/sec
- Errors Total
- Errors Total/sec
- Output Cache Entries
- Output Cache Hit Ratio
- Output Cache Turnover Rate
- Pipeline Instance Count
- Requests Executing
- Requests Failed
- Requests In Application Queue
- Requests Not Found
- Requests Not Authorized
- Requests Succeeded
- Requests Timed Out
- Requests Total
- Requests/sec
- Session State Server Connections Total
- Session SQL Server Connections Total
- Sessions Active
- Sessions Abandoned
- Sessions Timed Out
- Sessions Total
- Transactions Aborted
- Transactions Committed
- Transactions Pending
- Transactions Total
- Transactions/sec

Monitor IIS Application Pools

You can monitor the health of IIS application pools for the instrumented .NET nodes in a tier. You can view the information by application pool, machine, and process IDs in varying hierarchies.

These groupings enable you to visualize key performance indicators for your infrastructure:

- Health of the node in the specified time-range for a particular group.
- App Server Agent's status in the specified time-range.
- Last CLR restart.
- A link to the parent tier.

View the IIS application pools:

- 1. In the left navigation pane, select the tier that you want to monitor: **Servers -> AppServers -> <Tier>**.
- 2. Click the **IIS App Pools** tab.
- 3. (Optional) From the **Group Nodes By** dropdown menu, select how you want to view the application pools and machines for this tier.



- 4. To view a node's dashboard, double-click the node in the list. From there you can select the various tabs for details about performance of the node.
 - i If a machine or application pool name is not available for a .NET node, an "Unknown App Pool" / "Unknown Machine" grouping is created.

Troubleshoot Slow Response Times for .NET

On this page:

- Initial Troubleshooting Steps
- .NET Resource Troubleshooting
- Need More Help?

Related pages:

Monitor Windows Hardware Resources

You can learn that your application's response time is slow in the following ways:

- You receive an alert: If you have received an email alert from AppDynamics that was configured through the use of health rules and policies, the email message provides a number of details about the problem that triggered the alert. See Email Notifications. If the problem is related to slow response time, see Initial Troubleshooting Steps.
- You view the Application Dashboard for a business application and see slow response times.
- A user reported slow response time that relates to a particular business transaction, for

example, an internal tester reports "Searching for a hotel is slow".

Initial Troubleshooting Steps

In some cases, the source of your problem might be easily diagnosed by choosing **Troubleshoot**-> **Slow Response Times** in the left navigation pane. See Troubleshoot Slow Response Times.

.NET Resource Troubleshooting

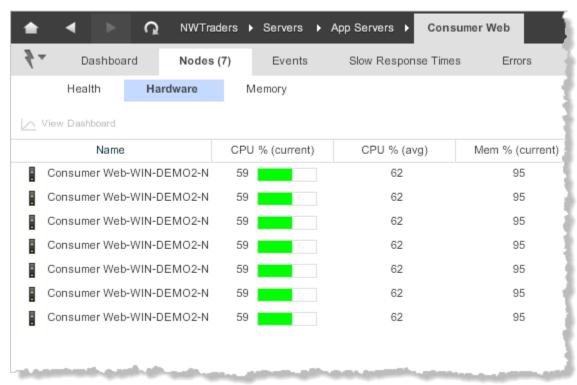
If you've tried to diagnose the problem using those techniques and haven't found the problem, use the following troubleshooting approaches to find other ways to determine the root cause of the issue.

Step 1 - CPU saturated?

Is the CPU of the CLR saturated?

 → How do I know?

- 1. Display the Tier Flow Map.
- 2. Click the Nodes tab, and then click the Hardware tab.
- 3. Sort by CPU % (current).



If the CPU % is 90 or higher, the answer to the question in Step 4 is Yes. Otherwise, the answer is No.

Yes – Go to Step 2

No – Review various metrics in the Metric Browser to pinpoint the problem.

In the left navigation pane, click **Servers -> App Servers -> <slow tier>**. Review these metrics in particular:

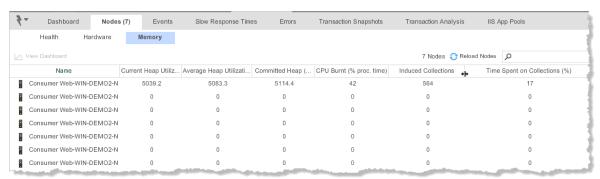
- ASP.NET -> Application Restarts
- ASP.NET -> Request Wait Time
- ASP.NET -> Requests Queued
- CLR -> Locks and Threads -> Current Logical Threads
- CLR -> Locks and Threads -> Current Physical Threads
- IIS -> Number of working processes
- IIS -> Application pools -> <Business application name> -> CPU%
- IIS -> Application pools -> <Business application name> -> Number of working processes
- IIS -> Application pools -> <Business application name> -> Working Set

You have isolated the problem and don't need to continue with the rest of the steps below.

Step 2 - Significant garbage collection activity?

How do I know?

- 1. Display the Tier Flow Map.
- 2. Click the Nodes tab, and then click the Memory tab.
- 3. Sort by Time Spent on Collections (%) to see what percentage of processing time is being taken up with garbage collection activity.



If Time Spent on Collections (%) is higher than acceptable (say, over 40%), the answer to the question in Step 5 is Yes. Otherwise, the answer is No.

Is there significant garbage collection activity?

Yes - Go to Step 3.

No – Use your standard tools to produce memory dumps; review these to locate the source of the problem.

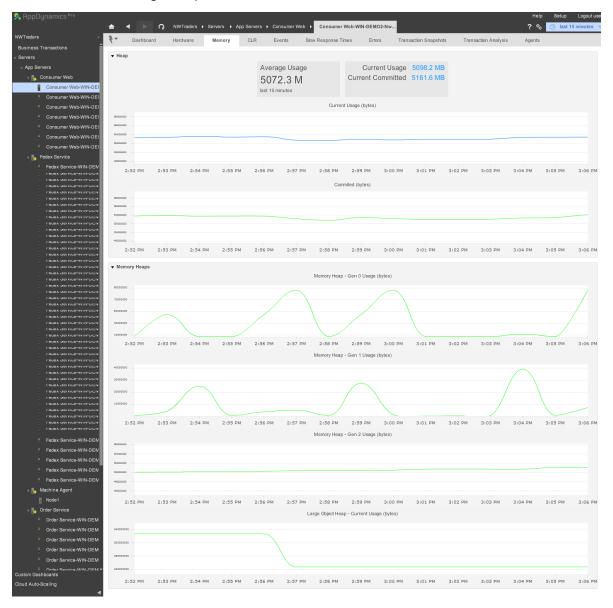
You have isolated the problem and don't need to continue with the rest of the steps below.

Step 3 - Memory leak?

Is there a memory leak?

→ How do I know?

- From the list of nodes displayed in the previous step (when you were checking for garbage collecting activity), double-click a node that is experiencing significant GC activity.
- 2. Click the Memory tab, then review the committed bytes counter and the size of the Gen0, Gen1, Gen2 and large heaps.



If memory is not being released (one or more of the above indicators is trending upward), the answer to the question in Step 6 is Yes. Otherwise, the answer is No.

Yes – Use your standard tools for troubleshooting memory problems. You can also review ASP.NET metrics; click **Servers -> App Servers -> <slow tier> -> ASP.NET**.

No – Use your standard tools to produce memory dumps; review these to locate the source of the problem.

Whether you answered Yes or No, you have isolated the problem and don't need to continue with the rest of the steps below.

Need More Help?

If slow response time persists even after you've completed the steps outlined above, you may need to perform deeper diagnostics. If you can't find the information you need on how to do so in the AppDynamics documentation, consider posting a note about your problem in a community discussion topic. These discussions are monitored by customers, partners, and AppDynamics staff. Of course, you can also contact AppDynamics support.

• Community Discussion Boards (If you don't see AppDynamics Pro as a topic, click Sign In at the upper right corner of the screen.)