SE Field Article: Stratusphere API Automation
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Document Purpose: Show how to automate Stratusphere API pulls of data.

The JSON REST API provided in Stratusphere allows access to all the data in Stratusphere, with extensive filters, time ranges and output options. Clients have asked if Stratusphere could automate the API but the definition of "REST API" is a "PULL" technology. It is up to external systems to activate the API and pull the data required.

Pulling of data can be done from the Stratusphere Web API Builder Interface or using external programs to pull data using the API strings that you can build in the API Builder.

This document assumes you know how to use and access the Stratusphere API Builder. Note that it is not turned on by default.

For more information on the Stratusphere API please review the following links:

Video: API Builder Usage
Blog: API Builder Usage
How to enable API Access: Stratusphere Installation and Configuration Guide

This document shows one example of how to automate the pull of data using Wget running on MS Windows. This could be done on Linux with Wget or you could use PowerShell to accomplish the same goals.

NOTES:

1. Integration of Stratusphere data with helpdesk, ticketing, and asset control systems has been done by many of our clients using processes similar to the one described in this document. Most helpdesk, ticketing, and asset controls systems have the ability to pull JSON REST API data directly from Stratusphere.
2. This document and the examples shown are NOT supported by Liquidware Inc. Liquidware Inc. supports our software, but this document shows how to pull data using external apps and OSes outside of our control.

For this example, we will be using Wget to pull data from Stratusphere and store it into a local file. Wget is a small utility that has been ported from Linux. Using this "GNU-FREE" utility will provide you with good flexibility.

Use the Stratusphere API Builder to construct and test your API call. Then place that call into a text file to be read by Wget. Once you format your commands, options and test you can use the Windows Task Scheduler to automate the reports intervals.

GNU Wget Info: (Version of 32 and 64 Bit EXE's are included in ZIP File)
https://www.gnu.org/software/wget/

Wget Command Example:

wget --no-check-certificate --no-config -t2 --timeout=180 --waitretry=30 -iAPICall-2Hours.txt -Ooutput.txt

Wget Options Used:

--no-check-certificate
- Stratusphere by default uses a self-signed certificate
--no-config
- Turns off checking for Wget config file
-t2
- Wget will try to do the download 2 time
--timeout=180
- Allows Wget to wait 180 seconds (3 Minutes) for Stratusphere to return data.
This may need to be increased depending on Stratusphere load and amount of data.
--waitretry=30
- If first query fails Stratusphere is still parsing data. This option will wait for 30 seconds before trying again then Stratusphere should have data in cache.
-i{Input File Name}
-O{Output File Name}

Notes:

1. The "Input" file contains the API string built in the Stratusphere API Builder. Examples are provided in the example folder.

How to use the Windows Task Schedule:
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/schedule-task#1TC=windows-7