

Configuring Singlewire InformaCast with Carousel

Overview

This document shows how to configure Singlewire InformaCast with Carousel. InformaCast is an emergency alert management system and Carousel is a digital signage content management system.

InformaCast can be configured to send a HTTP GET over the network when an alert is triggered. Carousel can receive HTTP GET requests and act on the data contained.

InformaCast will contain two pieces of information in the query string of the GET request. For this integration, we will use the 'Short Text' and 'Long Text' placeholders. The Short Text will map to a Carousel bulletin tag, the Long Text will map to a message field in a Carousel bulletin.

The InformaCast system will need to connect to the Carousel server via the TCP/IP network. The systems must have a routable path.

There will be two messages in InformaCast to be configured. The message triggering the alert and a message sending the 'ALL CLEAR' message to turn the alerts off.

Informacast Configuration

- Log into InformaCast
- Go to the Plugins menu
- Select Quick URL



- Configure the URL Devices
- Click Add
- Configure the following:
 - Device Name: (User defined Name)
 - Authenticating User: (Carousel Authenticating User) or blank
 - Authenticating Password: (Carousel Authenticating Password) or blank
 - Network Location: http://(CAROUSEL SERVER ADDRESS)/Carousel/Services/SingleWire.aspx
 - Short Text Parameter Name: tag
 - Long Text Parameter Name: message
 - Request Type: GET



The screenshot shows the 'Add URL Device' form in the InformaCast interface. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Device Name:** A text input field.
- Authenticating User:** A text input field with 'admin' entered.
- Authenticating Password:** A text input field with 'xxx' entered.
- Confirmation Password:** A text input field with 'xxx' entered.
- Network Location:** A text input field with 'http://demo.inma.com/outplug/singlewire/' entered.
- Short Text Parameter Name:** A text input field with 'tag' entered.
- Long Text Parameter Name:** A text input field with 'message' entered.
- Request Type:** Radio buttons for 'POST' and 'GET', with 'GET' selected.

At the bottom of the form are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. A red asterisk indicates that the 'Device Name' field is required.

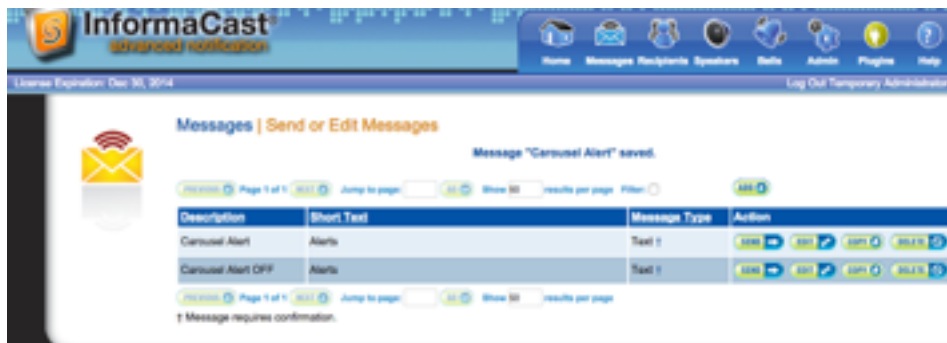
- Save
- Add the Device Name you created to the Recipient Group of your Choice



The screenshot shows the 'Recipients' page in the InformaCast interface. The page includes the following elements:

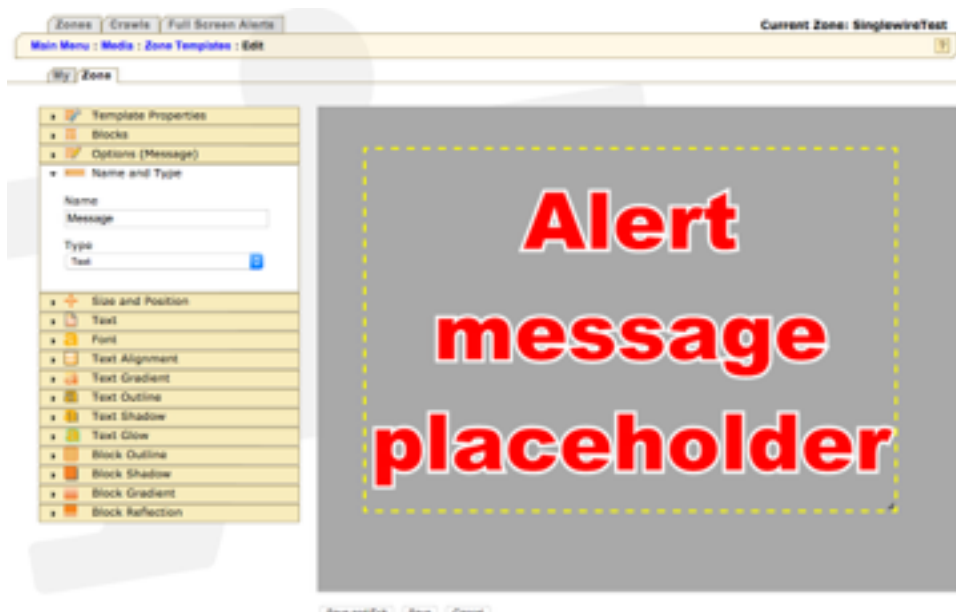
- Navigation:** Links for 'Name', 'Sample Group', 'Add Recipient Group', 'Edit Recipient Groups', and 'Add Recipient Group'.
- Form Fields:**
 - Name:** A text input field with 'Sample Group' entered.
 - Dist Code:** A text input field.
 - Tags:** A text input field with an 'Add a Tag' button next to it.
- Select Recipients:**
 - Individually:** A radio button that is selected.
 - Quick URL:** A dropdown menu with 'Carousel Alert' selected.
 - Filter with Recipient Groups:** A radio button.
 - Filter with Rules:** A radio button.
 - Exclusions:** A radio button.
- Buttons:** 'Save', 'Cancel', and 'Apply' buttons at the bottom.

- Configure the two required messages
 - 1: The message to turn the alert on
 - Short text should be the Carousel tag you wish to activate
 - Long text should be the the content of your message
 - 2: The message to turn the alert off
 - Short text should be the Carousel tag you wish to deactivate
 - Long text should be 'ALL CLEAR'



Carousel Configuration

- Log into Carousel
- Go to the zone you wish the alert to activate on
- Configure or create a template that has a text block named 'Message'



- Create a new Alert bulletin
- Tag the bulletin with the same text you put in the 'Short Text' field in InformaCast

- This bulletin can be scheduled for a date in the past so is inactive. The InformaCast trigger will make it active

Usage

When a message is triggered in InformaCast the HTTP GET is requested to the Carousel server. Carousel receives the two pieces of data (short text/tag and long text/message). These pieces of data are used to turn on a specific bulletin via it's tag (short text/tag) and update a text field of that bulletin (long text/message).

To clear the alerts the same process above is repeated but sending 'ALL CLEAR' as the long text/message content.

In Carousel, any bulletin tagged with the above short text/tag will be activated. Furthermore, each bulletin can have more than one tag. This means you can create complex alert configurations in Carousel while maintaining a simple setup in Informacast.