Release: GroundWork Monitor Open Source 5.1.3

GroundWork Monitor Open Source 5.1.x is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2, or (at your option) any later version. GroundWork Monitor Open Source is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details

GroundWork Monitor Open Source 5.1.3 Release Notes

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline new features in GroundWork Monitor Open Source 5.1.x.

DISTRIBUTION NOTES

In addition to this Release Notes document, please read the Readme and Installation Guide which accompany this release. These documents contain important information regarding bug fixes, known issues, and new installation and upgrading instructions.

SUPPORT

Product support is available through a GroundWork subscription agreement. For more information, go to GroundWork Support at http://www.groundworkopensource.com/support/options.html.

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 – WHAT'S NEW IN GROUNDWORK MONITOR OPEN SOURCE 5.1.x SECTION 2 – BEHAVIOR THAT HAS CHANGED IN VERSION 5.1.0 SECTION 3 – BEHAVIOR THAT HAS CHANGED IN VERSION 5.1.3

SECTION 1 – WHAT'S NEW IN GROUNDWORK MONITOR OPEN SOURCE 5.1.x

GroundWork Monitor Open Source is designed to provide centralized visibility and control over your entire IT infrastructure. It monitors systems, applications, databases, and network equipment. GroundWork Monitor Open Source features a flexible architecture that supports custom configurations and custom reporting. The system is built on a modern architecture that combines the best of open source with innovative software developed by GroundWork's IT management experts for monitoring and managing your network availability and performance. New features in this version include:

New Functionality:

Now includes GroundWork Foundation

A high performance IT management data abstraction layer and development platform (the same one integrated into GroundWork Monitor Professional).

The Foundation data model allows the integration of any state, event, and performance data, independent of the Monitoring Application that produces it.

Uses MySQL 5.0 as the back-end database..

Performance Graphing (RRDtool integration)

Allows you to create groups of hosts or services that you want to see in performance reports. Any combination of performance graphs can be customized and saved as reports for repeated viewing with constantly updated data.

With a more complete implementation of web services at the data retrieval level, all screens that access data from the Foundation database are more responsive

Straightforward upgrade from GWMOS 5.1.x to GWMPRO 5.1.x:

Preserves stored monitoring data, since the persistent store is now the same between both products

Performance Improvements:

- We are seeing performance increases of 2x to 5x for data intensive screens. In almost all cases the screens refresh within a couple of seconds.
- The improved Status Viewer allows users to quickly navigate to the information of interest, with fewer clicks, and a cleaner interface.
- With a more complete implementation of web services at the data retrieval level, all screens that access
 data from the Foundation database are more responsive.

Scalability:

- The product scales to 15 concurrent users, maintaining acceptable performance.
- Support for 500 hosts per monitoring server
- Support for 500 service checks per minute (5000 service checks total)
- Support for 6 child servers (total of 3000 hosts, 3000 service checks/minute)

Enhanced Status Viewer:

Optimized Display

- Eliminates redundant clicks to get to pertinent information
- More efficiently structured to handle large datasets
- More efficiently retrieves data and less memory required per user
- Faster display by only retrieving visible information

Host Search on all pages:

- Tree Navigation on all pages
 - Navigate and expand tree to see status of all host groups, hosts and services
- Pie charts to better visualize system state
- Dual pane TroubleView
 - Independent scrolling of hosts and services
 - Bar graph indicates overall health of hosts and services

Additional supported configurations:

- Seamless upgrade from GroundWork Monitor Open Source 5.1.x to GroundWork Monitor Professional 5.1.x
 With version 5.1.x, the persistent data store is the same between the two products providing a seamless upgrade from Open Source to Professional.
- Support for SSL
 - Our new Configuration Guide documents how to set-up SSL with GroundWork Monitor Open Source
- Support for LDAP
 - Our new Configuration Guide documents how to integrate LDAP with GroundWork Monitor Open Source

SECTION 2 – BEHAVIOR THAT HAS CHANGED IN VERSION 5.1.0

Logic used to determine Pending status for services

In GroundWork Monitor Open Source 5.0 there was an inconsistency between how Nagios and GroundWork Monitor determined which services are "pending". The logic that Nagios uses (and GroundWork has adopted for version 5.1.x):

For either passive or active checks, look at the following fields in the status.log:

If both the "has been checked" and "last checked" field are "0", then the service should be shown as "pending"

If either the "has been checked" field is "1", or "last checked" is non-zero, then use the "current status" field to determine the service's status.

Pending status in TroubleView

In the 5.0 version of the product, services that were in a pending state were shown in TroubleView. With release 5.1.x, that is no longer the case. This change was made because many of our customers have passive checks that may remain in a pending state for long periods of time, and consequently these services are not considered to be in trouble.

FilterView has been removed from Status Viewer

With the Dashboard feature added in version 5.0, the functionality that FilterView provided can more easily be satisfied through dashboards. With the enhanced Status Viewer, the FilterView has been removed.

Default polling time changed from 5 minutes to 10 minutes

The best practices recommendations from our Professional Services group is to actively poll the hosts and services on a 10 minute interval, so the default polling time has been updated accordingly in the default settings of the product.

SECTION 3 – BEHAVIOR THAT HAS CHANGED IN VERSION 5.1.3

TroubleView suppresses display of services on hosts that are down

To avoid crowding the display and allow faster location of problem hosts and services, the behavior of the TroubleView has changed. Services in a non OK and non-pending state will not be shown in the Troubled Services section of the display if the hosts to which they are associated are down. Note that this may result in the bar graph for Troubled Services showing red and/or yellow for services in critical or warning states, and yet none of these services may be listed. This is by design.