

IBM Sterling Gentran:Server for Windows



HTTP Message Forwarder Guide

Version 5.3.1

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Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in "Notices" on page 7.

This edition applies to the 5.3.1 version of IBM Sterling Gentrans:Server for Microsoft Windows and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

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Chapter 1. HTTP Message Forwarder Overview

HTTP Message Forwarder

The HTTP Message Forwarder facilitates the flow of files through a dual firewall, in through one firewall and out through another.

By using the HTTP Gateway and the HTTP Message Forwarder in concert, you can receive and send messages of any format from outside your enterprise using the HTTP or HTTPS transport methods in environments with double firewalls.

See the *IBM® Sterling Gentran:Server® for Microsoft Windows HTTP Gateway Configuration Guide* for more information on the Sterling Gentran:Server HTTP Gateway.

Error notifications

If an E-mail address is configured to receive error notifications, the HTTP Message Forwarder uses this e-mail address to report any errors that occur when receiving or forwarding incoming messages. One e-mail message is used for each error occurrence.

The following information is included in the body of the e-mail message:

- Local date time stamp when the error occurred
- Free form text describing the error

HTTP Message Forwarder Message Flow

The sender of a message packages and sends the data as an HTTP POST request, which sends the request to a URL configured on the HTTP server for the HTTP Message Forwarder. The HTTP server receives the request and forwards it to the HTTP Message Forwarder, which takes the incoming message and forwards it to the message destination via an HTTP POST request.

Then, the HTTP Message Forwarder keeps the incoming HTTP connection open until the message destination returns with the appropriate HTTP status code. This status code and any response data is then returned to the sender via the open HTTP connection with any data that the destination provides. If the HTTP Message Forwarder is unable to forward the incoming message to the message destination, the appropriate HTTP status code indicating this error is returned to the sender. Once the status code and the response data, if any, is returned to the sender, the HTTP connection for the incoming message will be closed.

This table describes the inbound flow of messages through the HTTP Message Forwarder.

Stage	Process
1	The incoming message is sent to the HTTP server via an HTTP or HTTPS POST request, using the SCHTTPMessageForwarder.dll file. An example URL is: http://www.gensys1.com/MessageForwarder/SCHTTPMessagForwarder.dll .
2	Microsoft IIS routes the request to the HTTP Message Forwarder.

Stage	Process
3	The HTTP Message Forwarder parses the URL and looks for a routing parameter. If one is found and configured, the POST is forwarded to the destination URL that is configured for that routing parameter. If the routing parameter is not found, the default destination URL is used. If the routing parameter is not configured, the incoming POST is discarded. All forwarding is performed via an HTTP POST or an HTTPS POST.
4	This HTTP status code is sent to the sender of the incoming message.

Chapter 2. Configuring Communications

HTTP Message Forwarder Properties

The HTTP Message Forwarder user interface enables you to configure the HTTP Message Forwarder properties.

This table describes the parts of the HTTP Message Forwarder UI and their functions.

Part	Function
Send E-mail Notifications	Specifies (if checked) that E-mail notifications are sent. Note: Only Error messages are E-mailed.
To	Specifies the E-mail address where all notifications are sent.
From	Specifies the E-mail address of the sender of the notification. Note: This entry is displayed in the "From" line of all E-mail notifications.
Subject	Specifies the subject for all E-mail notifications. Note: This entry is displayed in the "Subject" line of all E-mail notifications.
SMTP Server	Specifies the host name for the SMTP server to use for sending E-mail notifications.
SMTP Port	Specifies the port number for the SMTP server.
Logging Level	Specifies the level of logging to use when receiving and forwarding messages. Valid selections are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Errors only• Detailed• Errors and Warnings Note: The log messages are located in the XML log file accessible by clicking View Log File.
View Log File	Accesses the HTTP Message Forwarder log file, which enables you to view error message information including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• date and time of message• severity of message (informational, warning, error)• error message text
Purge the Log File	Specifies (if checked) that the contents of the log file are purged and the number of entries is set to zero at the next attempt to add an entry to the log file.
Save Incoming POST Data	Specifies (if checked) that a byte for byte copy of the incoming POST request is saved.
Routing Parameter	The routing parameter for the associated destination URL (the URL listed to the right of this routing parameter). Note: At a minimum, you must configure the default routing parameter/URL mapping.
URL	The message destination URL. Note: At a minimum, you must configure the default routing parameter/URL mapping.
Test URL	Enables you to test the connection to the URL listed to the left of this button.

Part	Function
Delete	Deletes (if checked) the routing parameter to the left of the check box (after you click Save Settings).
Save Settings	Allows you to save the HTTP Message Forwarder Configuration settings.

HTTP Message Forwarder Configuration Process

This table lists the stages in configuring communications for use with HTTP Message Forwarder.

Stage	Description
1	Install the Sterling Gentran:Server HTTP Message Forwarder. Refer to the <i>Installation Guide</i> for more information.
2	Note the directory in which you installed the HTTP Message Forwarder.
3	<p>Manually set up one virtual directory pointing to the directory you noted in Stage 2. You must set the access permissions for this virtual directory to: Read, Run scripts, and Execute.</p> <p>For the HTTP Message Forwarder Gateway to work properly with IIS 6.0, the schttpmessageforwarder.dll file must be allowed in the ISAPI Web Service Extensions.</p> <p>Refer to your Microsoft IIS documentation for more information on creating this virtual directory.</p>
4	<p>Modify the access permissions for the messageforwarderconfig.asp file (located in the same directory you noted in Stage 2) to turn off (deactivate) "Anonymous Access" and turn on (activate) Integrated Windows Authentication to access this file.</p> <p>Refer to your Microsoft documentation for more information on modifying access permissions for this file.</p>
5	<p>From Microsoft Windows Explorer, access the properties of the directory in which you installed the HTTP Message Forwarder, and modify the NTFS access permissions for the local IWAM_pcName user to grant this user "Write" access.</p> <p>For example: If the machine name is GENSYS, the IWAM_pcName user is IWAM_GENSYS.</p> <p>Refer to your Microsoft documentation for more information on modifying access permissions for this user.</p>
6	Configure the HTTP Message Forwarder. See Configuring the HTTP Message Forwarder for more information.

Configuring the HTTP Message Forwarder

You must configure the HTTP Message Forwarder. At a minimum you must configure a default routing parameter/URL mapping so the HTTP Message Forwarder can determine where to route the incoming messages if the message doesn't specify a destination URL.

About this task

Use this procedure to configure HTTP Message Forwarder.

Note: You can also use this procedure to modify any of your settings.

Procedure

1. Access the **HTTP Message Forwarder** configuration.

Note: The URL to access the HTTP Message Forwarder configuration is in the form of the following: `http:\server_name\virtual_directory_name\messageforwarderconfig.asp`

2. If necessary, select **Send E-Mail Notifications**.
3. In the To box, type the E-mail address where all notifications are sent.
4. In the From box, type the E-mail address of the sender of the notification.
5. In the Subject box, type the subject for all E-mail notifications.
6. In the SMTP Server box, type the host name for the SMTP server to use for sending E-mail notifications.
7. In the SMTP Port box, type the port number for the SMTP server.
8. From the Log Settings list, select the level of log settings you want to see.
9. If necessary, select **Purge the log file**.

Note: If you want to view the HTTP Message Forwarder log file, click **View Log File**.

10. If necessary, select **Save Incoming POST Data**.
11. In the Message Forwarder URL Routing Table section, type the routing parameter/URL mappings.

Note:

- At a minimum, you must configure a default routing parameter/URL mapping. You cannot delete the default routing parameter/URL mapping, but you can change it.
 - Click **Test URL** to test the connection to the URL listed to the left of this button.
 - If you want to delete a routing parameter/URL mapping (other than the default one), select the **Delete** check box to the right of that mapping.
12. Click **Save Settings** to save your HTTP Message Forwarder configuration.

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