VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module User Guide

VMware Smart Assurance 10.0.0

vmware®

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Preface

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As part of an effort to improve its product lines, VMware periodically releases revisions of its software and hardware. Therefore, some functions described in this document might not be supported by all versions of the software or hardware currently in use. The product release notes provide the most up-to-date information on product features.

Contact your VMware technical support professional if a product does not function properly or does not function as described in this document.

Note This document was accurate at publication time. Go to VMware Online Support docs.vmware.com to ensure that you are using the latest version of this document.

This chapter includes the following topics:

- Purpose
- Audience
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager installation directory
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager
- Related documentation
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager documentation
- Conventions used in this document
- Where to get help
- Your comments

Purpose

This guide provides instructions for using the VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module (VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF) application within an VMware Smart Assurance environment to process external events. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is a configuration tool and run-time product for raw event and notification processing. Events and notifications are configured through the flexible graphical user interface, the VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module Configuration Editor (VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor).

In addition to the configuration guides for specific components, administrators should also read the VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Deployment Guide and the VMware Smart Assurance System Administration Guide.

Audience

This guide is intended for users of VMware Smart Assurance products with domain knowledge of how an event is to be processed and filtered. The person deploying and configuring VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF should be familiar with the VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager (Global Manager or SAM), Adapter Platform, and notifications. This guide is intended for any user who needs to manage and import external events into VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager products.

VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager installation directory

In this document, the term BASEDIR represents the location where VMware Smart Assurance software is installed:

- For UNIX, this location is: /opt/InCharge/<*product*>.

  The <*product*> represents the VMware Smart Assurance product to which the product belongs. For example, on UNIX operating systems, VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager is, by default, installed to /opt/InCharge/SAM/smarts.

  Optionally, you can specify the root of BASEDIR to be something other than /opt/InCharge (on UNIX) but you cannot change the <*product*> location under the root directory.

  The VMware Smart Assurance System Administration Guide provides more information about the directory structure of VMware Smart Assurance software.

VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager

The VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager includes the following products:

- Service Assurance Manager (Global Manager), includes Business Impact Manager (BIM) and Failover System
- Global Console
- Business Dashboard
- Companion UI
- SAM Native Adapters:
  - Service Assurance Manager Notification Adapters (E-Mail Notifier Adapter, Script Notifier Adapter, SNMP Trap Notifier Adapter, Log File Notifier Adapter)
  - Adapter Platform (Adapter Platform server, Syslog Adapter, SNMP Trap Adapter, sm_ems command-line interface)

- XML Adapter
- VMware Smart Assurance Adapter for UIM/O

Related documentation

In addition to this document, VMware Corporation provides a help system for command line programs as well as product documentation.

Help for command line programs

Descriptions of command line programs are available as HTML pages. The index.html file, which provides an index to the various commands, is located in the BASEDIR/smarts/doc/html/usage directory.

VMware Smart Assurance documentation

Readers of this guide may find the following related documentation helpful:

- Smarts Foundation EMC Data Access API (EDAA) Programmer Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Common Information Model (ICIM) 1.11 Reference for Non-Service Assurance Manager Products
- VMware Smart Assurance Common Information Model (ICIM) Reference for Service Assurance Manager
- VMware Smarts Foundation Documentation Portfolio
- VMware Smart Assurance System Administration Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance ASL Reference Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Perl Reference Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Dynamic Modeling Tutorial
- VMware Smart Assurance MODEL Reference Guide

Note These documents are updated periodically. Electronic versions of the updated manuals are available on the VMware online support website:

docs.vmware.com.

VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager documentation

The following documents are relevant to users of the VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager:

- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Release Notes
- VMware Smart Assurance Open Source License and Copyright Information

- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Introduction
- VMware Smart Assurance Installation Guide for SAM, IP, ESM, MPLS, and NPM Managers
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Deployment Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Configuration Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Operator Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Dashboard Configuration Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Business Impact Manager User Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Failover System User Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Notification Adapters User Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform User Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Adapter for Unified Infrastructure Manager/Operations Configuration Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance XML Adapter User Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module User Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Troubleshooting Guide
- VMware Smart Assurance Companion UI Online Help
- VMware Smart Assurance Companion UI Open Source License and Copyright Information for GPLv3 as Included with a Distribution of SLES 11
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Documentation Portfolio

  The VMware Smart Assurance Documentation Catalog provides documentation resources for other VMware Smart Assurance products.

Conventions used in this document

VMware uses the following conventions for special notices:

Note NOTICE is used to address practices not related to personal injury.

Typographical conventions

VMware uses the following type style conventions in this document:

Bold	Use for names of interface elements
Italic	Use for full titles of publications referenced in text
`Monospace`	Use for: ■ System output, such as an error message or script ■ System code ■ Pathnames, filenames, prompts, and syntax ■ Commands and options

Monospace italic	Use for variables.
Monospace bold	Use for user input.
[ ]	Square brackets enclose optional values
|	Vertical bar indicates alternate selections — the bar means “or”
{ }	Braces enclose content that the user must specify, such as x or y or z
...	Ellipses indicate nonessential information omitted from the example

Where to get help

VMware support, product, and licensing information can be obtained as follows:

Product information

For documentation, release notes, software updates, or information about VMware products, go to VMware Online Support at:

docs.vmware.com

Technical support

Go to VMware Online Support. You will see several options for contacting VMware Technical Support. Note that to open a service request, you must have a valid support agreement. Contact your VMware sales representative for details about obtaining a valid support agreement or with questions about your account.

Your comments

Your suggestions will help us continue to improve the accuracy, organization, and overall quality of the user publications. Provide your feedback of this document to:

docs.vmware.com.

Introduction

2

This chapter includes the following topics:

- VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module overview
- VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture
- VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF integration with Adapter Platform architecture
- VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF architecture
- VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor functionality
- VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor functionality

VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module overview

The VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module (VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF) augments the VMware Smart Assurance solutions with event management features that are configurable through a graphical user interface. The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF user interface is referred to as the VMware Smart Assurance Notification Module Configuration Editor (VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor). VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF replaces the internal event and notification processing features of the standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform.
VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF provides the user with event and notification configuration access, maintenance, and documentation capabilities without requiring a complete understanding of the underlying products, and without requiring extensive application-specific coding.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF represents an improvement over the standard VMware Smart Assurance trap processing design. To configure the standard SNMP Trap Adapter to process traps, you must decide which traps should become notifications and how the notifications should appear at the Global Console. You can do this by editing the trap_mgr.conf file and then restarting the server. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF makes this process much more user-friendly and robust. With VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF, you can make instantaneous trap processing configuration changes through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor without restarting any servers.

Efficient event and notification processing presents the most important information to the operator by using an VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Global Console. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF enables the user to easily optimize the flow of events and notifications sent through any VMware Smart Assurance system. Advantages of using VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF include the following:

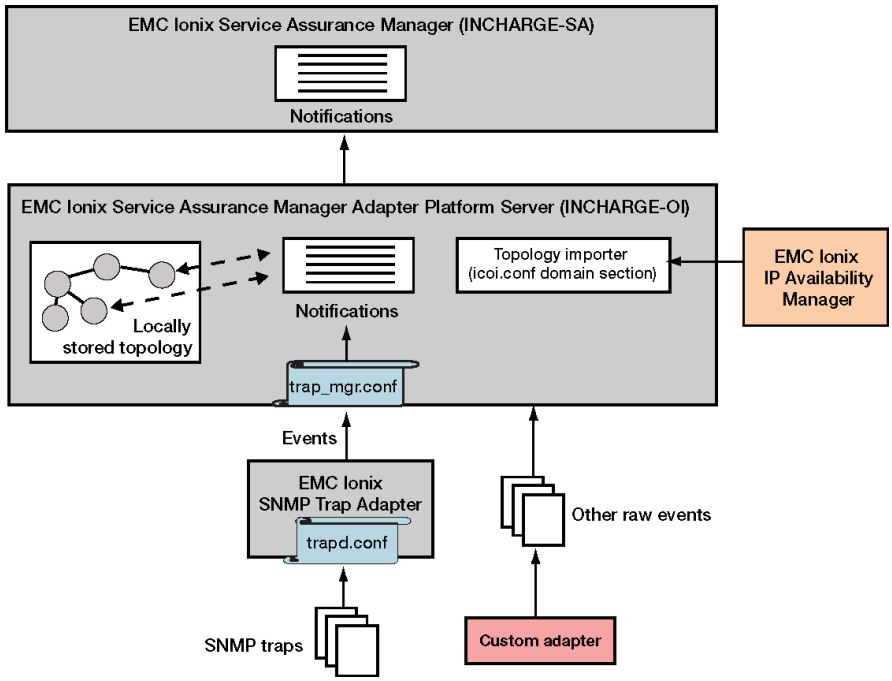
- Handles notifications in a consistent and extensive manner.
- Facilitates configuration of events and notifications through a flexible, user-friendly interface, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.
- Allows for real-time reconfiguration of event and notification processing without server restarts.
- Applies to any event source.
- Integrates with standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager (SAM) and Adapter Platform (OI) repositories and servers.
- Supports current VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform standard SNMP event functions (that is, expiration clearing, unknown agents, logging specifications, notification field setting).
- Provides converter tools for standard configuration sources (for example, trap_mgr.conf file).
- Packages event and notification configurations. This is useful for modular roll-out of configurations.
- Automatically generates an HTML-based document that provides information on all internal event and notification configuration objects for review and documentation purposes.
- Requires no knowledge of the VMware Smart Assurance Adapter Scripting Language (ASL).

VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture

To understand the event management capabilities and advantages that VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF provides in an VMware Smart Assurance implementation, it is important to understand the VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture and the standard VMware Smart Assurance trap processing design.

Standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture is an example of a basic SAM configuration. The Adapter Platform imports topology and event information from third-party applications and prepares it for use by the Service Assurance Manager. Data from third-party applications should not be sent directly to SAM. The Adapter Platform creates notifications from the incoming information and can even associate these notifications to topology information supplied by another VMware Smart Assurance application, such as the VMware Smart Assurance IP Availability Manager as shown in Standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture.

Figure 2-1. Standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture



The Adapter Platform consists of the SNMP Trap Adapter, as shown in Standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture. The SNMP Trap Adapter parses SNMP traps received and generates notifications based on the contents of the traps. The SNMP Trap Adapter can receive SNMP v1, v2c, or v3 traps. However, it forwards only v1 or v2c traps. If SNMPv3 traps are received, they are converted to one of the other formats before being sent to a domain manager or to another trap receiver.

Note The VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform User Guide provides details on the Adapter Platform.

The SNMP Trap Adapter can be configured to handle many different types of traps through two configuration files associated with the SNMP Trap Adapter:

- trapd.conf ” This is the configuration file for the VMware Smart Assurance SNMP Trap Adapter. This conf file determines what port number the trap adapter listens to for traps, and enables trap forwarding to VMware Smart Assurance domain managers (like the IP Availability Manager) and the Adapter Platform.
- trap_mgr.conf ” This configuration file determines how specific traps are mapped into notifications that are sent to the Global Console.

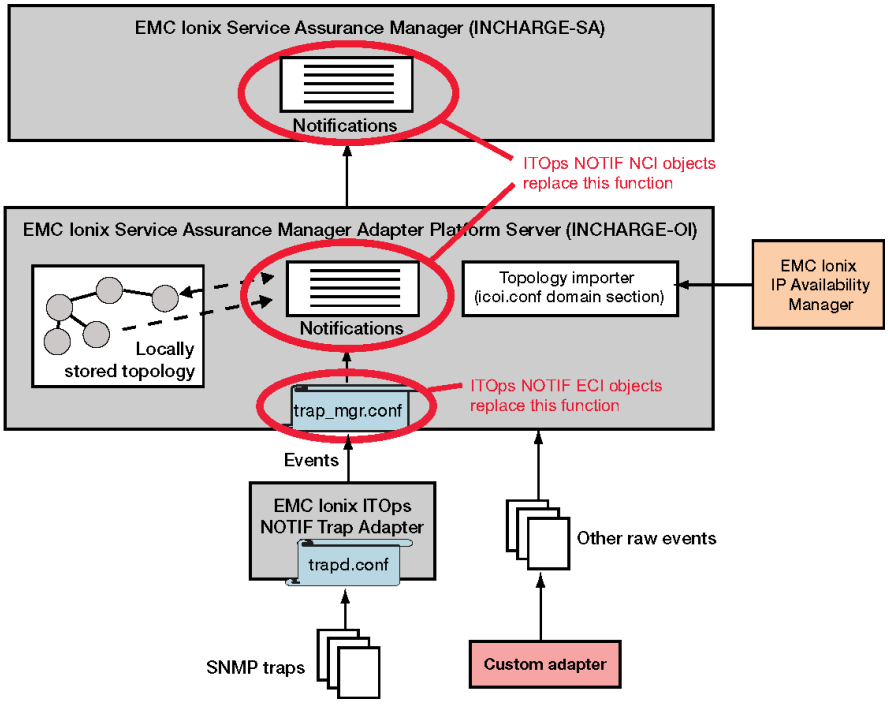
VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF integration with Adapter Platform architecture

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF allows you to filter and forward events and perform other event management configuration through Event Configuration Information (ECI) objects. The event configuration features of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF replace the trap_mgr.conf file in the Adapter Platform (OI) server shown in Overlay of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF functions on Adapter Platform architecture, which performs the event filtering and determines which traps are forwarded for further processing. The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF functions are overlaid on the standard VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager Adapter Platform architecture as shown in Overlay of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF functions on Adapter Platform architecture. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF can be installed on an Adapter Platform server or a SAM server.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF also allows you to process notifications through Notification Configuration Information (NCI) objects. The notification processing features of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF replace the internal notification processing in the Adapter Platform or SAM server, depending on where VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is installed, as shown in Overlay of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF functions on Adapter Platform architecture.

Note VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF architecture provides details on ECI and NCI objects.

Figure 2-2. Overlay of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF functions on Adapter Platform architecture



VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF architecture

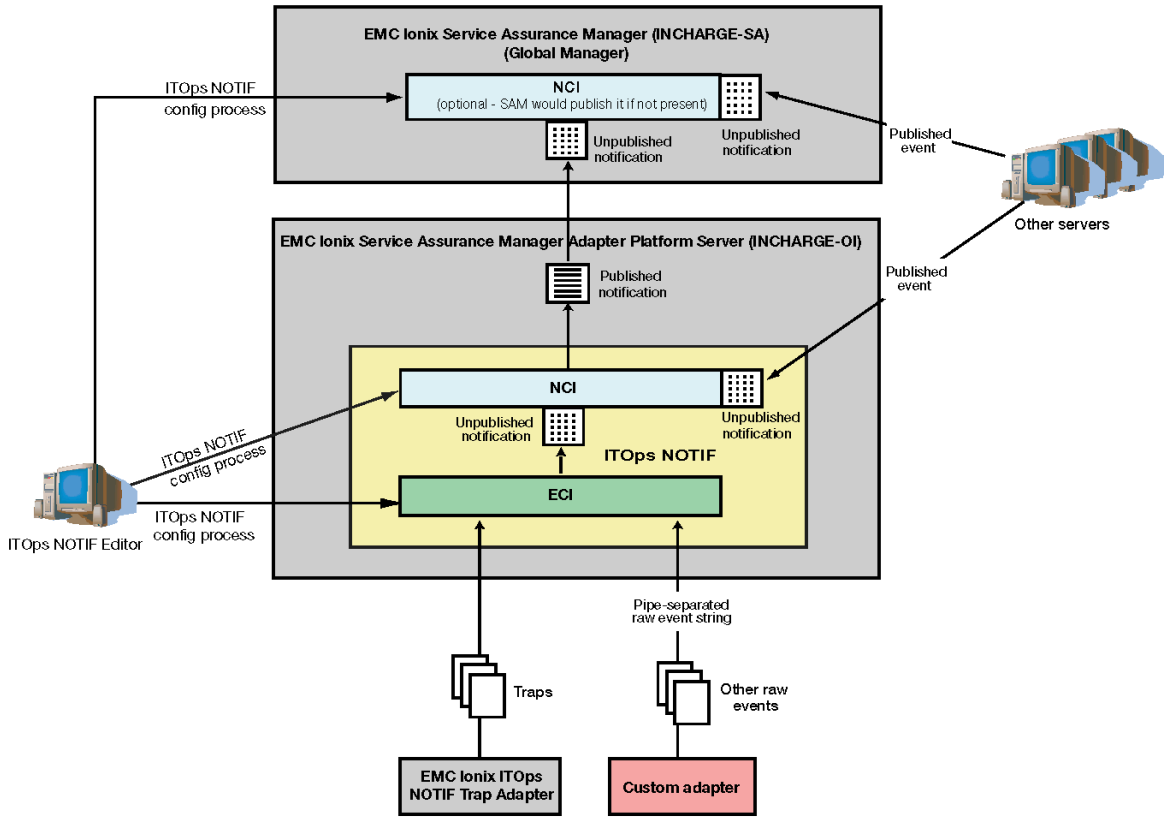
There are two main components of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF. The first is the real-time component which processes SNMP traps or other raw event types according to configuration settings. This configuration processing is performed on raw events by the Event Configuration Information (EventConfigInfo or ECI) objects. ECI objects determine whether a particular event will be processed, that is, whether a notification for an event will be created. ECI processing is discussed in Chapter 3 Event Configuration Information Processing

The second VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF component is notification processing, which is configured by the Notification Configuration Information (NCI) objects. NCI objects determine how notifications are processed. NCI processing is discussed in Chapter 4 Notification Configuration Information Processing

It is important to note the separation of raw event processing (through ECI objects) versus notification processing (through NCI objects) since this allows VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to operate in various architectures. The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows the user to manipulate the configuration settings for both ECI and NCI objects.

In an VMware Smart Assurance implementation, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF can reside on a SAM server or an Adapter Platform Open Interface (OI) server. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF ECI/NCI structure in an VMware Smart Assurance environment shows how ECI and NCI objects are used in an VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF solution where low-level raw events are filtered and processed, and notifications are grouped within the Adapter Platform. An additional VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF process is run within the SAM server to combine and group notifications from the adapter servers and other (analysis) servers.

Figure 2-3. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF ECI/NCI structure in an VMware Smart Assurance environment



Advantages of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF architecture

In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, you configure ECI objects to determine how you want to handle particular events. In the ECI setup window, in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, you can select whether a particular raw event should be handled. If the event is to be processed, select the Active checkbox in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor as shown in this section. When you select whether a particular event is Active, you save the configuration to the local Adapter Platform server (File > Save Configuration or File > Save Configuration As... in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor), and you do not have to restart the Adapter Platform server.

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor also allows you to make changes to varbinds associated with ECI configuration parameters through the ECI setup window in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. Without the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, you would have to do this by writing hook scripts.

Setting up ECI configuration parameters on page 32 provides details on how to configure ECI objects to handle incoming events.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor functionality

When the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor starts up on a server or the Remote > Reload server option in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor is selected, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF browses the *BASEDIR*/smarts/conf/<*config*> and local/conf/<*config*> directories for files that end in ".ncf". The *.ncf files are VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration files. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF loads each*.ncf file into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor and combines them to create the running configuration on the Adapter Platform or SAM server where VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is running.

Note The use of *.ncf files in VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is a major architectural change from previous versions of NOTIF. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF now loads configurations from *.ncf files, one at a time, rather than connect to an VMware Smart Assurance repository.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration files (*.ncf files) are XML files that you can edit using the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor functionality provides an overview of how the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor works.

When VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF reads an *.ncf configuration file and loads the entire configuration from the configuration directories (that is, the /conf/<*icoi or /ics*> or /local/conf/<*icoi or /ics*> directories), the cumulative configuration is written to an *.ncf file in the local/logs directory (for example, the INCHARGE-OI.<*configfilename*>.ncf file). In this way, you can determine the specific VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration elements that are running on a particular server. The *.ncf file written to the local/logs directory is generated when you either start up VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF or select the Remote > Reload server option in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Note When you install the VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager version 9.2, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is not enabled by default. You must start VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF by performing the steps described in *"Starting VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF" on page 66*.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor functionality

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor is designed to allow you to manipulate VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration files (*.ncf), both on the local machine that is running the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor as well as remote servers. The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor accesses local configuration *.ncf files under the File menu option, while remote operations are located under the Remote menu option. Main menu options provides details on The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor menu options.

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor provides key functions through the main menu such as retrieving configurations from remote servers, pushing (or storing) configurations to remote servers, and managing connections to remote servers. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor functionality provides a schematic overview of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor functionality.

Local *.ncf file configuration options (File menu)

On the local server, you can edit an. *ncf file through the following File menu options:

- New Configuration
- Open Configuration
- Merge Configuration
- Save Configuration
- Save Configuration As
- Close Configuration

  You can also import trap_mgr.conf files to your local server through the Import trap_mgr.conf File menu option. This option allows you to load the trap_mgr.conf files used to configure a TRAP-INCHARGE-OI server (SNMP Trap Adapter) into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to replicate the standard file-based functionality.

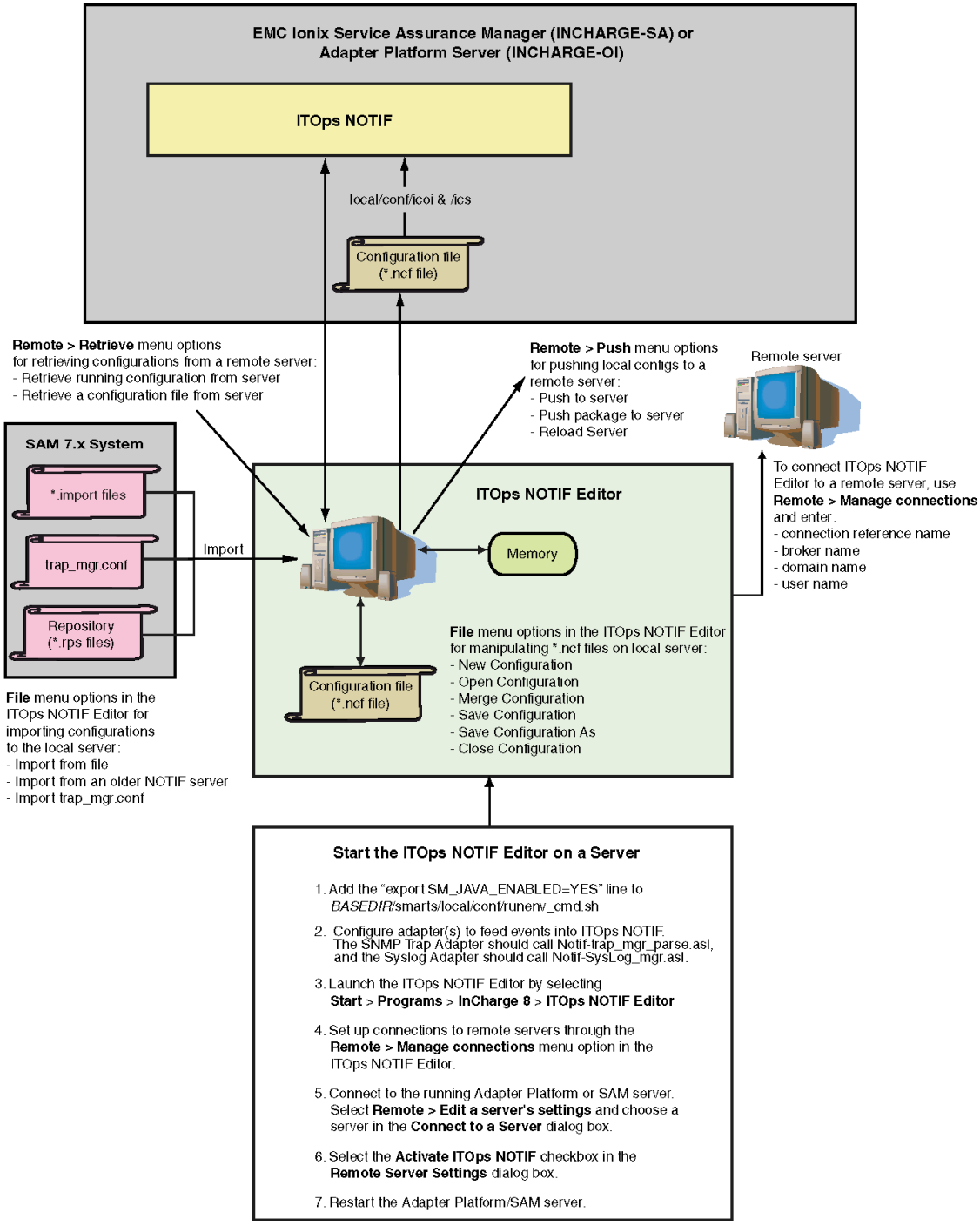
  Note File menu options provides more information on File menu options.

Connecting to a remote server through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor (Remote > Manage connections)

Connections are defined within the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor to access remote servers. Multiple connections may be defined and given a reference name for convenience. The Remote > Manage connections menu option is used to add remote server connections in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. When you select this option, you type a connection reference name and connection details such as broker, domain, and user names.

Note Manage connections... provides more information on how to set up remote server connections.

Figure 2-4. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor functionality



Remote *.ncf file configuration options (Remote menu)

After you have established the remote server connection through the Remote > Manage connections option, push or store a local *.ncf configuration file or package to a remote server through the following VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor options:

- Push to server

- Push package to server

  After the configurations are pushed to a remote server, they do not become active on the remote server until you select the Remote > Reload Server option.

  The Remote menu options associated with retrieving a running configuration or a specific *.ncf file from a remote server to a local server are:

- Retrieve running configuration from server
- Retrieve a configuration file from server

  This Remote > Edit a server's settings option is used to change server settings on remote servers. One of the settings you can change on a remote server is whether VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is active on that server. *"Starting VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF" on page 66* provides details on the process for activating VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF on a remote server by using the Edit a server's settings option.

  Note Remote menu options provides more information on Remote menu options.

Event Configuration Information Processing

3

This chapter includes the following topics:

- ECI processing overview
- Raw event normalization
- Pushing events into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF
- ECI event matching
- Designing ECI naming conventions
- Enumeration of keyword/value pairs
- Value substitutions
- Setting up ECI configuration parameters
- Copying ECI configuration parameters

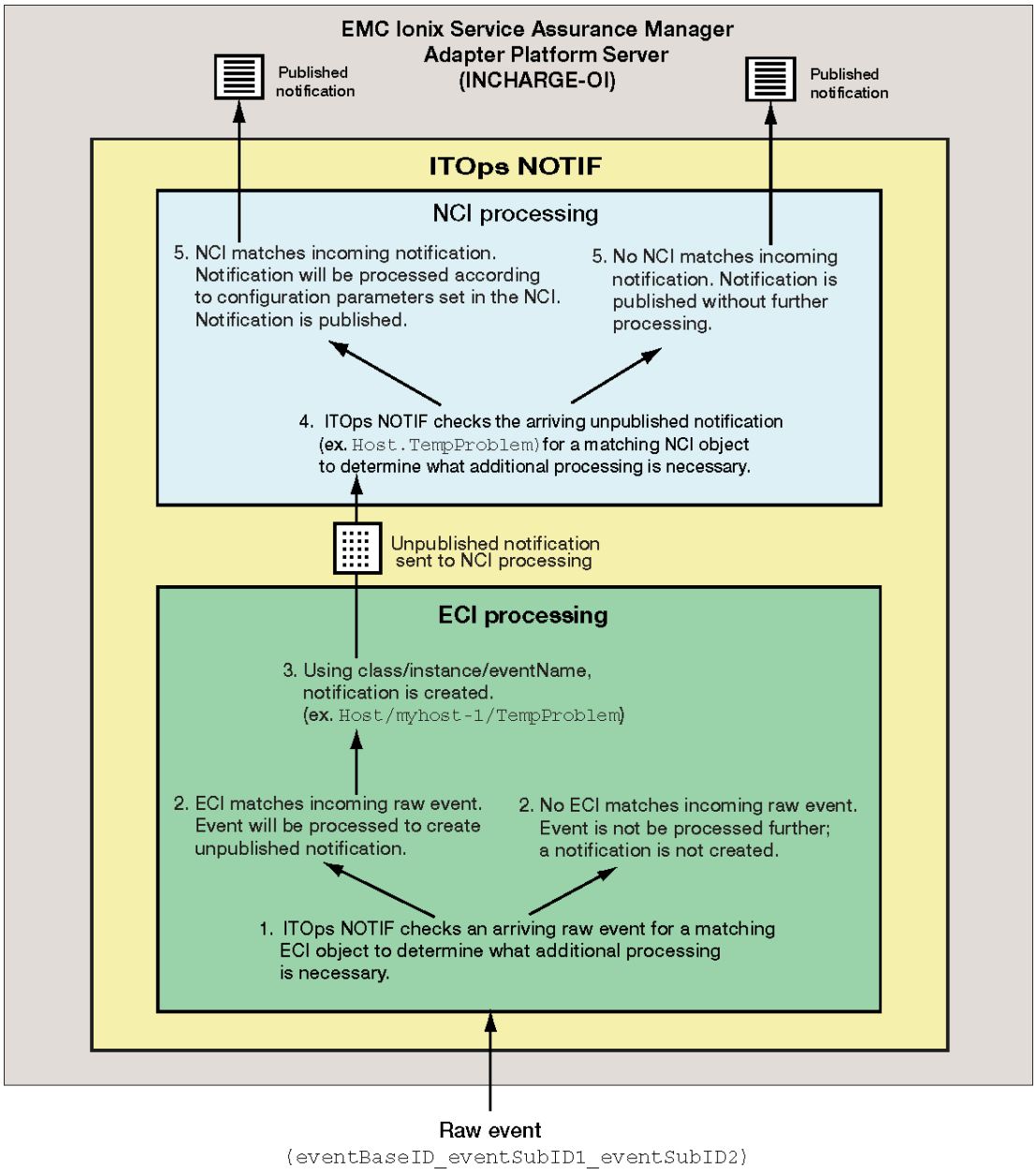
ECI processing overview

Event Configuration Information (ECI) processing involves two steps:

- Determining whether a raw event should be processed to create an unpublished notification that is passed to notification processing (that is, filtering events at the lowest level possible).
- Determining the instance/class/event name of the notification that should be created if the event is processed.

  ECI processing and NCI processing steps within VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF shows the overall flow of ECI processing steps. Chapter 4 Notification Configuration Information Processing provides details on how ECI processing steps relate to the NCI processing steps.

Figure 3-1. ECI processing and NCI processing steps within VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF



Event information is passed to VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF through a common structure. This packaging allows for common information to logically identify an event and pass additional information that may be used to further convert raw information into a specific notification.

The packaging of the event data is performed by the specific adapter and should be referenced by the individual adapter documentation. The general format of the wrapper is explained in *"Raw event normalization" on page 26*.

Events are grouped by three identifying fields: baseID, sub1ID, and sub2ID. An event is only processed if an associated ECI is found to match these fields.

After an ECI matches a given raw event, a series of configuration tests are performed on the raw event to determine if the event should be processed further. Configuration test checks on a raw event include the following parameters:

Event Active	The event must be active in order to be processed.
Is Managed	Un-managed objects are not processed.
< *x* events in *y* minutes	Sliding window squelch.
ASL hook	Hard-coded test of other values.

*Setting up ECI configuration parameters on page 32*provides details on all the available ECI configuration values. Failure of any raw event test prevents the ECI process from determining what unpublished notification will be created or updated.

After basic event tests are complete, the event is formed into a notification. This phase of processing allows the instance, class, event name and all notification values to be changed based upon event data with variable substitution from raw event data. After this point, it is an unpublished notification that is no longer connected to the raw event, though the event data may be passed in the notification.

Note ECI configurations are saved as *.ncf files and remain unchanged through the stopping and starting of the Adapter Platform (OI) server.

There are several ways in which ECI objects can be loaded or added into a SAM/Adapter Platform server. ECI objects can be:

- Defined by *.ncf files provided from other sources (that is, pre-packaged configurations).
- Created directly from the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor from the Edit menu.
- Merged into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor based on specifications in the trap_mgr.conf file.

  Additionally, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor provides a means to copy an existing ECI object as the basis for another, and to save all defined configurations to an .import file.

  After a raw event arrives and the best ECI object match is found, the behavior of the configuration object is performed relative to the event. If ECI objects are modified with the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, the effects of the modifications take place when the next instance of the relevant event arrives.

Raw event normalization

Raw events are passed to VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF through adapters after being *normalized* into a common structure. This structure provides the required basic event information and additional data used for further processing. The format of the data stream is a pipe-separated ("|") string as shown below:

```
<
eventTimeStamp
>|<
eventAgent
```

```
>|<
eventBaseID
>|<
eventSub1ID
>|<
eventSub2ID

>|<
Keyword1
|
Value1
>|

<
Keyword2
|
Value2
>.....
```

The pipe-separated data stream includes the following information:

- eventTimeStamp — Event occurrence time in UNIX time format; seconds since the Epoch
- eventAgent — Agent name or IP address
- eventBaseID — *dot*-separated hierarchical identifier string (abc.123.XYZ….)
- (for example, enterprise for SNMP)
- eventSub1ID — General identifier (generic trap number for SNMP)
- eventSub2ID — Specific identifier (specific trap number for SNMP)
- Keyword1|Value1 — Keyword|value pair (OID1|value for SNMP)
- Keyword2|Value2 — Keyword|value pair (OID2|value for SNMP)

  The eventBaseID, eventSub1ID, and eventSub2ID parameters are used as the unique event identifiers to match with ECI objects. The number of Keyword|Value pairs is variable. Event IDs may use all three fields, the first two, or only the eventBaseID; it depends on the raw events being processed.

  For specific adapters, the adapter documentation provides details to obtain information on the composition of the ID strings and the Keyword|Value pair mapping.

  Note VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF replaces pipe character ("|") in field.(varbind) by double dashes ("--") to process the raw event.

Pushing events into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF uses a named queue to process incoming events. Events are normalized into a common structure and pushed into this queue through MODEL methods. The named queue for events is notifInterface::notifEventQueue. The method used to push an event into the queue is:

```
void pushEvent ( string encodedEvent, string sourceSystemId );
```

The encodedEvent is a pipe-separated ("|") string having the normalized format described in *"Raw event normalization" on page 26*. The sourceSystemId is a string identifying where this event came from.

The following example ASL file shows how a raw SNMP event is pushed into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF:

```
rawEvent.asl
START {
 .. eol
}
do {
 queue = object("notifInterface", "notifEventQueue");
 if(queue->isNull()) {
  print(queue . " was null!");
  return;
 }

 eventTimeStamp = time();
 eventAgent = "192.168.1.100";
 enterprise = "TestECI";
 generic = "";
 specific = "";
 oid1 = "testOID";
 oidValue1 = "test value";

 completeString = eventTimeStamp . "|" . eventAgent . "|" . enterprise . "|" . generic . "|" .
specific . "|" . oid1 . "|" . oidValue1;
 queue->pushEvent(completeString, "rawEvent.asl");
}
```

ECI event matching

EventConfigInfo objects (ECIs) are the configuration objects that instruct VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF how to handle incoming raw events. When a raw event arrives, the best matching ECI is identified and that is used to determine if a notification should be created, and if so, the instanceName and eventName to be associated with the notification.

ECI objects are named based upon a tree structure from the most generic to the most specific field, in the form of eventBaseID_eventSubID1_eventSubID2. An example would be:

Vendor.Product.Version.Equipment.Type_EquipmentSubType_SpecificType

SNMP defines ECI objects as Enterprise_Generic_Specific. Examples of how these names relate to events are given in the following section. ECI naming convention rules describes the ECI naming rules.

eventBaseID naming rules
■ May be any number of *dot*-separated fields, the last of which may be *
eventSub1ID and eventSub2ID naming rules
■ May be explicit, *, or null ■ If eventSub2ID is explicit or *, eventSub1ID must be explicit or * ■ eventSub1ID may exist with eventSub2ID null

Matching examples

When raw events are delivered to VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF finds the best match between a raw event and an ECI in its repository to handle that event. A *best match* is determined by first looking for an ECI that matches eventBaseID_eventSubID1_eventSubID2 (in SNMP, these fields are referenced as enterprise, generic, and specific fields). If the original event is not matched by an exact name for these parameters, wildcard evaluations are performed in order from right to left.

Examples of how VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF matches raw events to ECI objects are:

Defined ECIs

1 ECI-ABC.123.XYZ_TEST_EVENT

2 ECI-ABC.123.XYZ_TEST_*

3 ECI-ABC.123.*_TEST_*

4 ECI-ABC.*_*_*

5 ECI-ABC.*_*

6 ECI-ABC.*

Raw event (eventBaseID_eventSub1ID_eventSub2ID)	ECI processing
ABC.123.XYZ_TEST_EVENT	Uses ECI 1 — Exact match for all three eventBaseID_eventSub1ID_eventSub2ID fields
ABC.123.XYZ_TEST_FOX	Uses ECI 2
ABC.123.xyz_TEST_EVENT	Uses ECI 3
ABC.123.xyz_CAT_EVENT	Uses ECI 4
ABC.123.XYZ_TEST	Uses ECI 5 — Does not match ECI 4 since the eventSub2ID field is null
ABC.123.XYZ.wxy.zero	Uses ECI 6 — Does not match ECI 4 or ECI 5 since the eventSub1ID and eventSub2ID fields are null

Designing ECI naming conventions

Although the naming of ECI objects is determined by the designer of the adapter, it is worth noting here as the entire structure of the ECI tree is based on how this is accomplished. As an example, assume that events are built based upon the date. Some events may use the time format *mmm/dd/yyyy*, others may use *yyyy/mmm/dd*. If the former is used, (*mmm/dd/yyyy*), the month shows up as the primary ID (eventBaseID), and the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor branch shows based on month:

Raw event wrapper of IDs

DATE.Apr_01_1996

DATE.Apr_01_1997

Specific defined ECIs

ECI-DATE.Apr_01_1996

ECI-DATE.Apr_01_1997

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor tree view

Apr -

01 -

1996

1997

1998

02 -

…

A single ECI may be defined to process any month of any year on a specific day by creating ECI-DATE.*_01_*

However, a common ECI cannot be created to process *any* day of *any* year given this wrapper format. If the wrapper format was *yyyy/mmm/dd,* then the tree would appear as:

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor tree view

1996 -

Apr -

01

02

...

1997 -

Apr -

01

02

...

1998 -

Apr -

...

In this case, an ECI could be ECI-DATE.*_*_01 to process any event on the 1st:

ECI-DATE.*_Apr_* to handle any event in April.

ECI-DATE.1996_*_* to handle any event in 1996.

ECI-DATE.*_*_* to handle any event.

There are two issues from the previous example, first is the view from the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor where it is undesirable to have hundreds of ECI objects showing under one branch. Second is the selection of what fields are used for the eventBaseID, eventSubID1, eventSubID2 fields greatly impact how ECI objects are designed.

ECI notification naming

The ECI object is responsible for creating the unpublished notification that will be processed by the NCI thread for further processing. The primary keys for NCI matching are the instance ClassName and EventName, both of which are determined in the ECI as shown in ECI notification naming.

Naming of the ECI is independent of the naming of the notification created by the ECI but consistency is important to avoid confusion. For example, ECI-EventABC could create a notification with an event named EventXYZ. Although this is possible, it is not desirable because the connection between an ECI and an NCI will not be apparent. Avoid inconsistent translations of event names to notification names.

A feature of the NCI name matching allows for the use of a wildcard at the end of the event name, for example: Down-on-port-*. It is important to construct the notification event name such that variables are placed at the end of the event name string. Down-on-port-5 may use the above event name in the NCI for a match whereas Port-5-Down does not facilitate an NCI wild carding match.

Enumeration of keyword/value pairs

After VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF has determined the appropriate ECI for a raw event, but before it starts processing, it will see if the values for the keyword/value pairs should be translated based on enumeration tables. For example, a keyword/value pair with

OID = .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12 may have a table that permits incoming values to be translated. The value 1 may mean *off* and the value 2 may mean *on*. In general, if an object ID (OID) has a translation table, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF converts the value supplied in the raw event to the translation value specified by the table.

In some situations, some devices may append additional nodes to the OID. For example, a device appends an IP address to the OID so that a given raw event might be .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12.192.168.1.234. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF allows you to flag an ECI as one which might have pairs that could use wildcard enumeration lookups. What this means is that VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will first see if there is an enumeration lookup table for .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12.192.168.1.234, and if none is found *and* wildcards are possible for the ECI, then VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF would look for enumeration mapping tables for .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12.192.168.1, .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12.192.168, .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12.192, .1.3.1.6.2.9.4432.12, and so on till a lookup table is found or the name runs out of *dot*-separated values. This is a relatively computationally intense process, so VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF also permits the administrator to set a maximum number of trailing nodes to check before giving up. In our example, where some devices are known to append IP addresses, the administrator might set the maximum number of trailing nodes to be four.

To summarize wildcard enumeration lookups:

- At the system level (in the configuration file) indicate the maximum number of nodes to drop in checking for enumeration tables.
- For specific ECIs that are used with raw events that might have OIDs that need wildcard lookups, set the ECI Use Enum Wildcard flag to true.

  Note this example is specific to SNMP, but any dot-separated keyword string will work in the same manner. A keyword/value pair may appear as Smarts.textSeverity = Critical and be processed by an enumeration of:

  Critical -> 1

  Major -> 2

  ....

  The display name of enumerated values may be changed to make the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor tree view more readable. For example, an enumerated value of .1.3.6.1.4.1.9.9.37.2.13 may not have much meaning to the reader, but typing a display name of Trap.Cisco.FRU.Status makes it easy to identify the actual use of the enumerated value.

Value substitutions

The real-time substitution mechanism begins from the left of the string and finds the first substitution instructions. It evaluates that substitution and comes up with a new version of the string and starts again to evaluate from the left. Nesting of substitution strings may become complex and care should be taken to confirm desired results through testing. An example of using substitution values would be configuring the severity of an ECI to be $V2$, that is, the severity is set to the value of the second keyword/value pair. The severity of an ECI may also use something like $extract(extract(V2,"[",3),"= ",1)$, but this requires a full understanding of the input string and substitution use. A description of the scripting system used within the substitution feature and a complete list of substitution values are listed in Chapter 6 Substitution Scripting and Values

Setting up ECI configuration parameters

After a matching ECI is identified for an incoming raw event, the configuration values for that ECI are used to process the event. You can set the configuration values for an ECI through the following tabs in the ECI Setup dialog box:

- General
- Event Setup
- Event Options
- User Defined
- Calc'd Values

This section provides screen shot examples of an ECI setup and descriptions of each field.

General values

The General tab of the ECI Setup dialog box shown in General tab of the ECI Setup dialog box defines the basic behavior of the raw event.

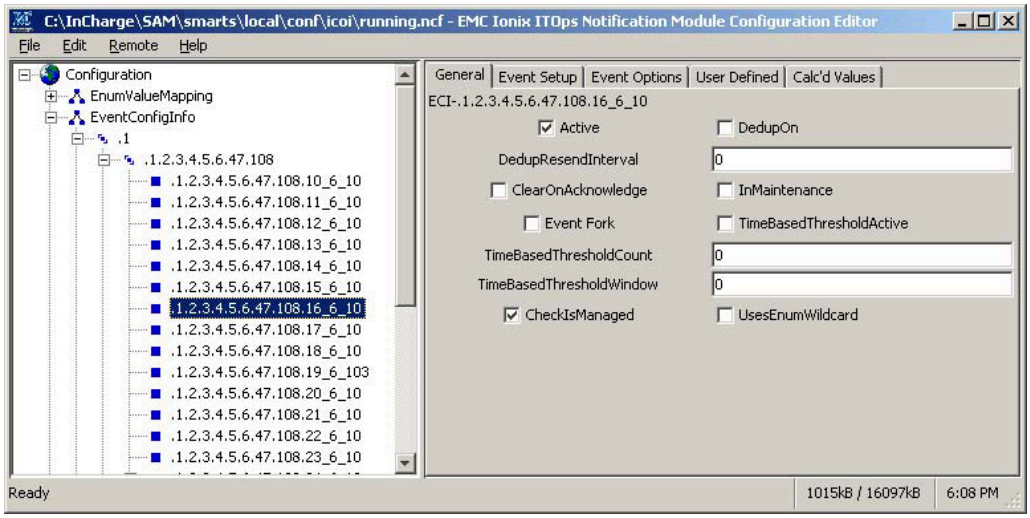


Figure 3-2. General tab of the ECI Setup dialog box

The fields in General tab of the ECI Setup dialog box are:

- **Active** — Selecting this checkbox means that the corresponding raw alarm is to be handled.
- **DedupOn** — Selecting this checkbox means that the corresponding event will always be filtered unless the notification has cleared. If the DedupOn checkbox is not selected, every occurrence of the event will be forwarded with no filtering for deduplication.
- **DedupResendInterval** — If this value is greater than zero and the DedupOn option is selected, then the event will be resent if the time since the event was last published is greater than this number of seconds. For example, if the DedupResendInterval is 60, even if there is already one of these events, if it is more than 60 seconds old, it will be resent.

- **ClearOnAcknowledge** — Selecting this checkbox causes the resulting notifications to be cleared when acknowledged.
- **InMaintenance** — Selecting this checkbox means the event occurred in maintenance.
- **Event Fork** — Selecting this checkbox means that the raw matching event will also look for <*ECI-name*>-2 to create a second thread for additional processing. If the <*ECI-name*>-2 has Event Fork selected, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will then look for <*ECI-name*>-3, and so on.
- **TimeBasedThresholdActive** — This checkbox should be selected if the values for TimeBasedThresholdCount and TimeBasedThresholdWindow are to be used for x times in y seconds time-based event thresholding (where x is the TimeBasedThresholdCount value and y is the TimeBasedThresholdWindow value). For example, select the TimeBasedThresholdActive checkbox if you want a particular event sent if it occurs three times in a 15-second window.
- **TimeBasedThresholdCount** — The number of events that occurs in a given amount of time (that is, the TimeBasedThresholdWindow value) that triggers the forwarding of a particular event. For example, if the TimeBasedThresholdCount value is 3, and the TimeBasedThresholdWindow value is 15, then that means the event should be sent if there are 3 of these events that occur in 15 seconds. This enables you to filter out the odd once-in-a-while event.
- **TimeBasedThresholdWindow** — The number of seconds in which a particular number of events (that is, the TimeBasedThresholdCount value) occur that triggers the forwarding of a particular event. The TimeBasedThresholdWindow is a sliding window; for example, event 1 that occurs at 1 second, event 2 that occurs at 14 seconds and event 3 that occurs at 16 seconds will not generate a notification since all three of these events did not occur within a 15-second window, but event 4 that occurs at 18 seconds will create a notification because events 2, 3, and 4 occurred within a 15-second window.

  The DedupOn feature can be used with time-based event thresholding to prevent multiple notification updates. To explain how deduplication and time-based event thresholding work together, consider the example in which there are 3 events of the same type in 15 seconds, but the events are all deduplicated (that is the DedupOn checkbox is selected for this event type).

  The underlying VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF behavior would be:

  a The event is triggered the first time and ignored (since it has not yet hit the 3 events in 15 seconds threshold requirement).

b The second and third events are deduplicated before they trigger the time-based thresholding rule.

Note To deduplicate this event and have it trigger the threshold would require the event to come in an onset, then clear, then onset, then clear, and finally one last onset and clear. The reason is that the deduplication will deduplicate any event coming in unless it is a clear.

Time-based thresholding generally has no clear event so the ClearOnAcknowledge feature described above and/or the Expiration feature described in the Event Setup tab should be used to clear the notification.

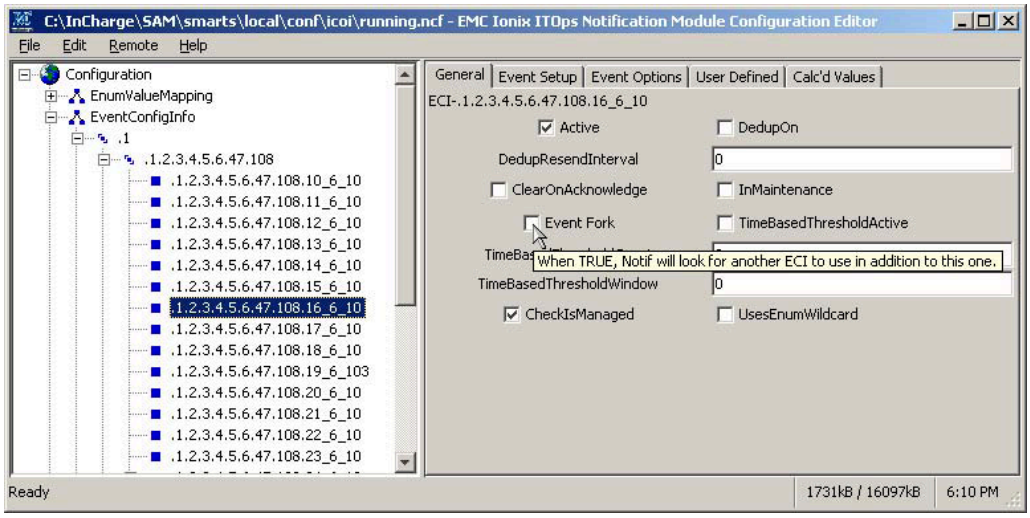
The ClearOnAcknowledge feature works at the SAM level, but does not by default clear the event if it came from the Adapter Platform. This can create confusion between notifications in the console between the Adapter Platform and SAM.

- **CheckIsManaged** — Selecting this checkbox means that the IsManaged property of the instance for this event must be true in order for this event to be processed. If the IsManaged property of the instance for this event is false, then the event will be logged and dropped.
- **UsesEnumWildcard** — Selecting this checkbox means that this ECI might have keyword/value pairs that may use wildcard enumeration lookups.

Note *Enumeration of keyword/value pairs on page 31* provides more information on this feature.

A useful tip for navigating through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor is that the description of a specific configuration parameter will display when your mouse hovers over a checkbox or data entry field in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. Example of mouse-hover tool in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor shows an example of when the mouse-hover tool is used for the Event Fork checkbox for a particular ECI object. You can also use the mouse-hover tool for NCI object VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor parameters.

Figure 3-3. Example of mouse-hover tool in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor



Event Setup values

The Event Setup tab of the ECI Setup dialog box shown in Event Setup tab of the ECI Setup dialog box defines the properties of the notification created by the raw event.

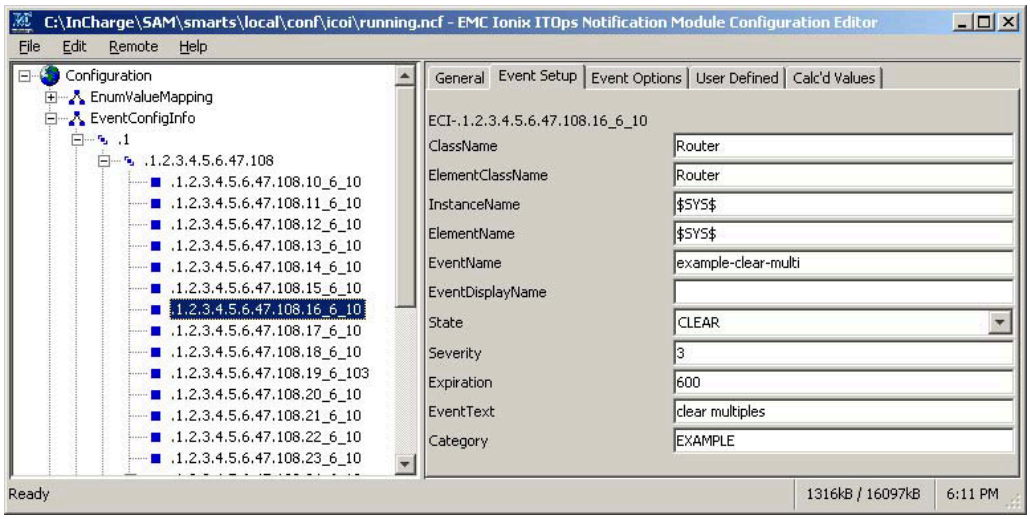


Figure 3-4. Event Setup tab of the ECI Setup dialog box

The fields in Event Setup tab of the ECI Setup dialog box are described below:

- **ClassName** — The class of the instance against which the notification is posted. This includes substitution values.
- **ElementClassName** — The class of the element. This includes substitution values.
- **InstanceName** — The name of the instance. This includes substitution values.
- **ElementName** — The name of the element. This includes substitution values.
- **EventName** — The name of the event used in the notification. This includes substitution values.
- **EventDisplayName** — The name of the event displayed in the VMware Smart Assurance Notification Log Console.
- **State** — The state used for the notification, which is either NOTIFY or CLEAR.
- **Severity** — The numeric VMware Smart Assurance value or substitution value.
- **Expiration** — The length of time in seconds the notification will remain active.
- **EventText** — The text of the notification, which includes substitution values.
- **Category** — The category of the event used in the notification.

Event Options values

The Event Options tab of the ECI Setup dialog box shown in Event Options tab of the ECI Setup dialog box defines additional event options for the notification.

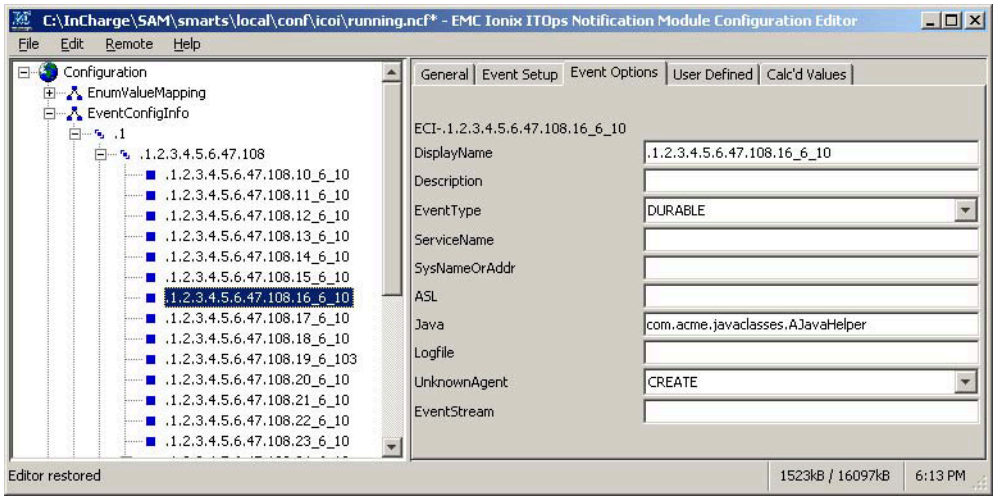


Figure 3-5. Event Options tab of the ECI Setup dialog box

The fields in Event Options tab of the ECI Setup dialog box are described below:

- **DisplayName** — The display name of the event used in the notification.
- **Description** — The description of the event used in the notification.
- **EventType** — The type of event used in the notification, either DURABLE or MOMENTARY.
- **ServiceName** — The name of the service used in the notification.
- **SysNameOrAddr** — The system name or IP address associated with the event used in the notification.
- **ASL** — The ASL script called before the posting of this notification.

  Note VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF uses the value stored in ASL to determine which file to load. The named ASL script is invoked from the local/rules or /rules directories. For example, if you type icoi-trapd/sample_hook.asl in the ASL field in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will look up local/rules/icoi-trapd/sample_hook.asl and rules/icoi-trapd/sample_hook.asl. *Appendix B, "ASL and Java Interfacing with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF"* provides more information on how to write ASL scripts for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF event processing.

- **Java** — The Java class called.

  Note *Appendix B, ASL and Java Interfacing with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF* provides more information on how to write Java classes for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF event processing.

- **Logfile** — The name of the log file recording information about this event.
- **UnknownAgent** — The action taken if the agent is unknown, either CREATE which will create the object, or IGNORE which will discard this event.
- **Event Stream** — When set, the processor guarantees that all events with a given event stream name will be processed in the order in which they were received. If the Event Stream option is not set, there is no such guarantee. An example of a scenario in which setting the Event Stream for an ECI would be helpful is the following: a particular network component is *flapping* and is generating onsets and clears for a single alarm very quickly. In this scenario, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF could receive an onset and then a clear within a few milliseconds. When the ECI does not have an Event Stream set, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF could schedule the onset into one processing queue, and the clear into another. Because it is multithreaded, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF could then possibly process the clear first, which would be incorrect. By providing an Event Stream on the ECI, the user is mandating VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to process the onsets and clears in order, and the problem is solved. Many ECIs can have the same Event Stream, and that guarantees that all of the incoming events for any of those ECIs are processed in the order in which they were received.

User Defined values

The User Defined tab of the ECI Setup dialog box shown in User Defined tab of the ECI Setup dialog box defines additional configurable fields that are passed to the notification. Substitution values may be used in these user-defined fields. Both ASL and Java hook scripts can be initiated from VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processing, which can overwrite these and other notification values.

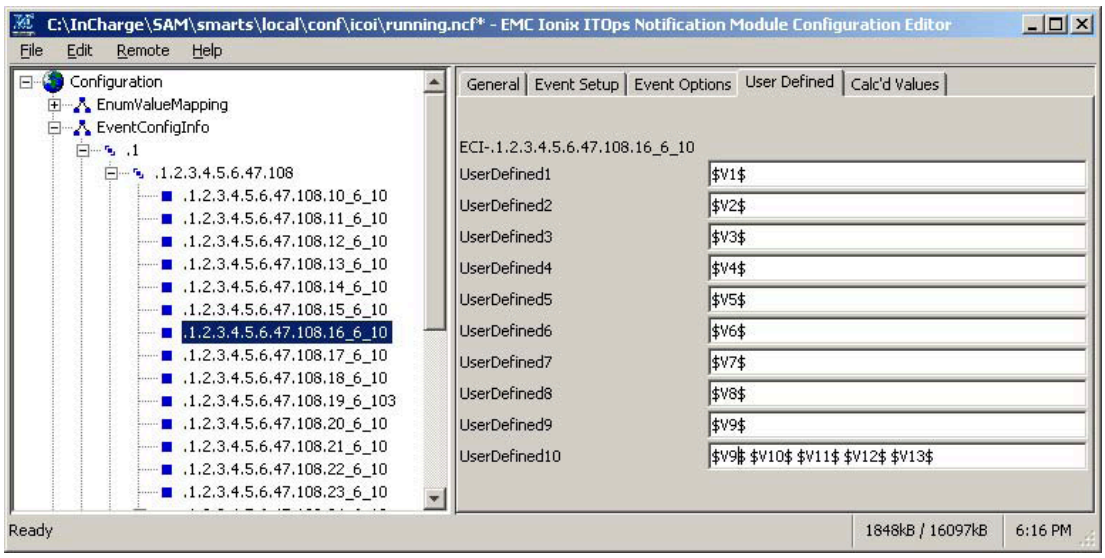


Figure 3-6. User Defined tab of the ECI Setup dialog box

Calculated values

The Calc'd Values tab of the ECI Setup dialog box shown in Calc'd Values tab of the ECI Setup dialog box defines calculated value instructions. The calculated values feature allows the user configuring VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to write simple scripts that use information from the event (or notification) being processed to calculate values for use in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

processor. For example, a user could write a calculated value script that decides to discard an event when the value of SNMP trap varbind 3 (V3) is 0. Note that in the calculated values list in Calc'd Values tab of the ECI Setup dialog box, literal values are enclosed with quotation marks (for example: "0") and variables are not (for example: V3).

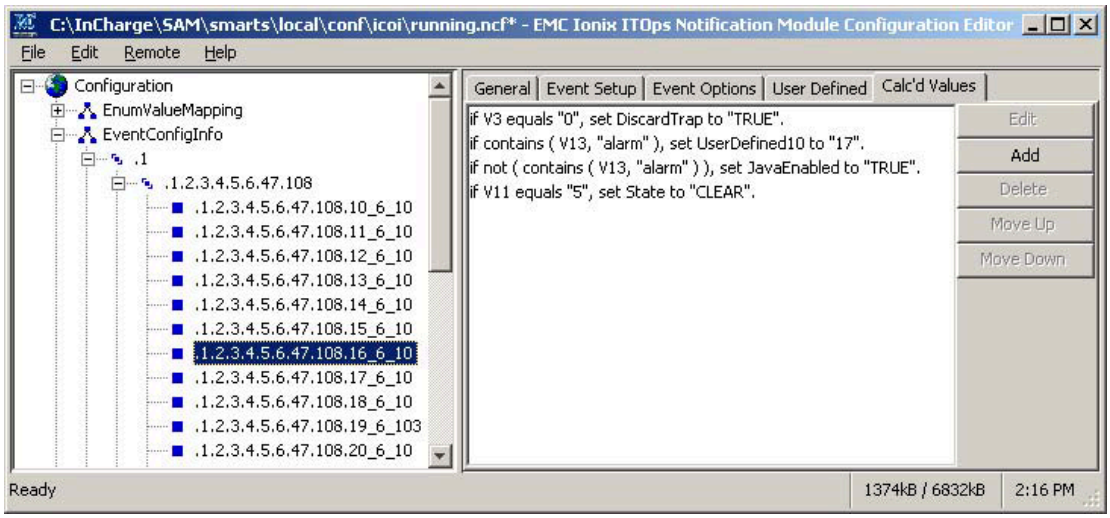


Figure 3-7. Calc'd Values tab of the ECI Setup dialog box

Calculated values comprises of a condition (value) (conditional) (value) and assignment (attribute) (value). Substitution values are allowed in any value field as shown in Calculated values or select Help > Substitutions in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Allowed conditionals include:

==, !=, < , <=, >, >=, contains, (left string contains right string), does not contain, (left string does not contain right string), starts with, ends with

Note == means equal, and != means not equal.

Legal assignment attributes include:

- ASLEnabled
- Category
- ClassName
- ClearOnAcknowledge
- DiscardTrap
- ElementClassName
- ElementName
- EventName
- EventText
- EventType

- Expiration
- InMaintenance
- InstanceName
- JavaEnabled
- Severity
- State
- UpdateUserDefinedFields
- UserDefined1 - 20

Examples of calculated values are the following:

- if V1 equals “1”, set Severity to “1”.
- if contains (SYS, “Demo”), set EventText to “Ignore events against”+SYS.

Adding calculated values

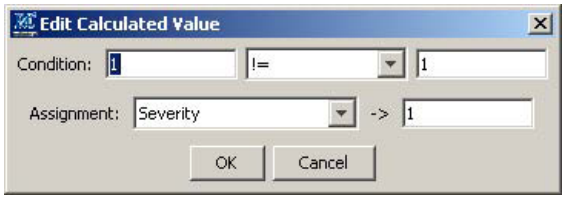
To add a calculated value to an ECI:

1 Select the ECI in the topology tree of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

2 Select the **Calc’d Value**s tab.

3 Click **Add**. The default **Edit Calculated Value** dialog box appears as shown in Edit Calculated Value dialog box.

Figure 3-8. Edit Calculated Value dialog box



4 Type the appropriate values in this dialog box to create the calculated value for the ECI. For example:

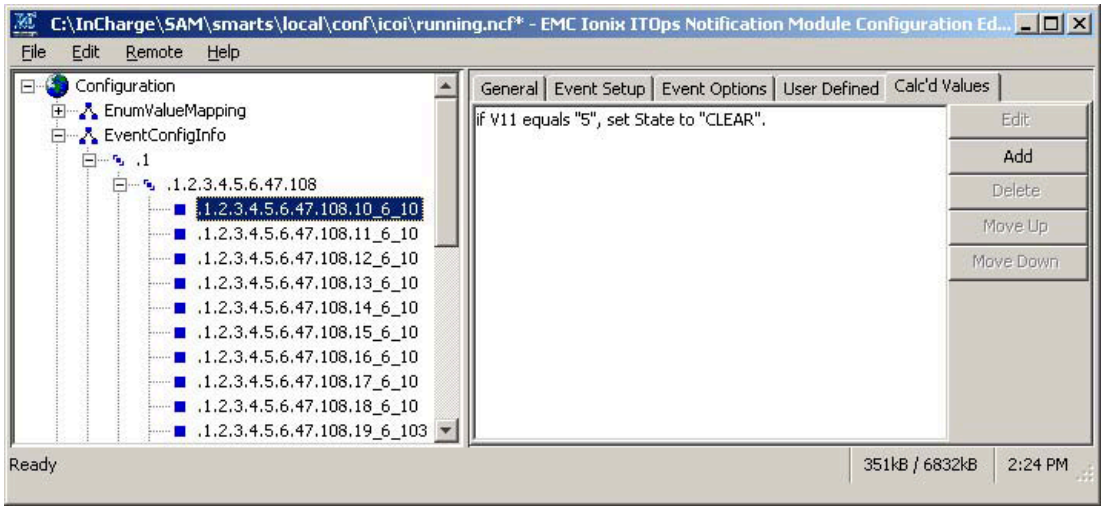
Note In the user-editable fields in the Edit Calculated Value dialog box, you must include dollar signs for varbind variables; otherwise the variable will be read as literal text. For example, if V11 (instead of $V11$) was typed in the Condition: field in the above example, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF would read the V11 entry as a literal text string (not as the value of V11).

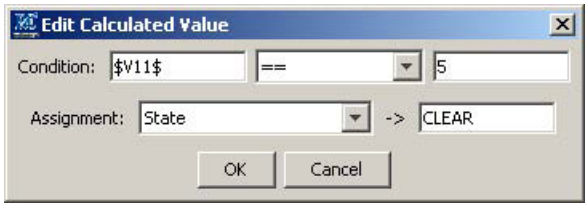
Also, the text typed for values in conditions and assignments should be in upper case. For example, State -> CLEAR, not State -> clear.

5 Click **OK**. The calculated value appears in the calculated value list as shown in Example of adding a Calculated Value to an ECI.

Note In the calculated values list, literal values in the displayed calculated value are enclosed with quotation marks (for example: “5”) and variables are not (for example: V11).

Figure 3-9. Example of adding a Calculated Value to an ECI





Editing calculated values

To edit a calculated value for an ECI:

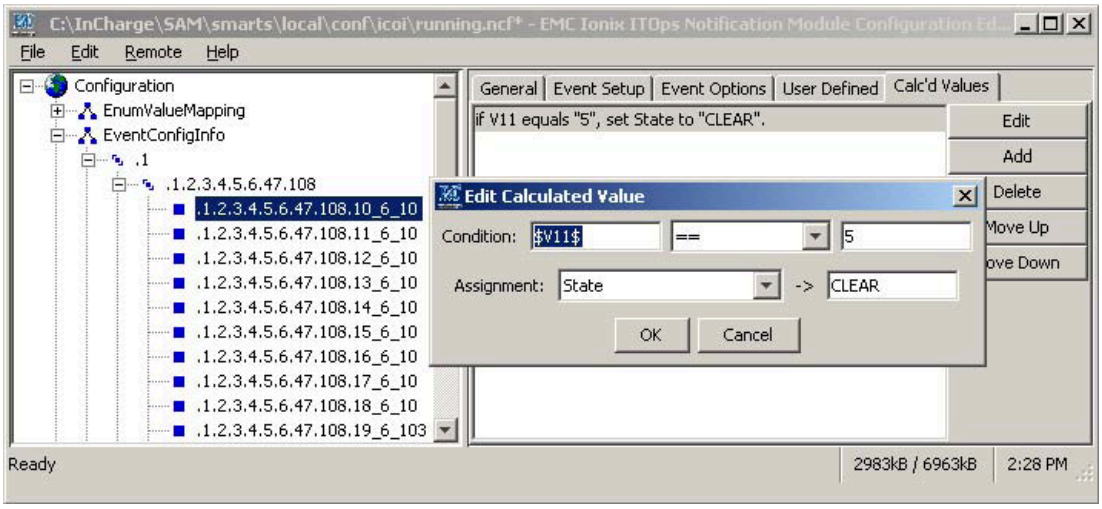
1 Select the ECI in the topology tree of the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor.

2 Select the **Calc’d Values**tab.

3 Select the calculated value you want to edit in the calculated value list.

4 Click **Edit**, or double-click the selected calculated value. The **Edit Calculated Value** dialog box appears as shown in Example of editing a Calculated Value for an ECI

Figure 3-10. Example of editing a Calculated Value for an ECI



5 Type the appropriate values in the **Edit Calculated Value**dialog box to edit the calculated value for the ECI.

6 Click **OK**. The edited calculated value appears in the calculated value list.

When editing calculated values, consider the following:

- Calculated value instructions are evaluated from first to last in order. Later instructions can reset values set in prior instructions. Therefore, the order in which the calculated value instructions appear in this list is important.
- Some assignments affect processing. If ASLEnabled is set to false, then the ASL script will not run, even if it is present. Similarly, if JavaEnabled is set to false, then the Java script will not run even if present.
- In the user-editable fields in the Edit Calculated Value dialog box, you must include dollar signs for varbind variables. Otherwise, the variable will be read as literal text. For example, if V11 (instead of $V11$) was typed in the Condition field, VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF would read the V11 as a literal text string (not as the value of V11).
- Text typed for values in conditions and assignments in the Edit Calculated Value dialog box should be in upper case. For example, State ->CLEAR is an acceptable entry in the Edit Calculated Value dialog box. If the user types State ->clear in the calculated value assignment, VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF will log an error.
- In the calculated values list in the right pane of the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor, literal text is enclosed with quotation marks, and variables are not. For example:

  if V3 equals “4”, set Severity to “2”
- When assigning to a boolean field, VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF converts string values that are used for boolean expressions in the following manner:

7 Converts the string to lower case.

8 Removes any leading or trailing whitespace.

9 Uses true if the string is one of: true, yes or on, or if the string evaluates to an integer that is not zero.

Copying ECI configuration parameters

You can copy ECI objects to reduce configuration time. To copy an ECI object, right-click the ECI object in the topology tree in the left pane and select Copy as shown in ECI copy feature. The original ECI object that you copy is referred to as the *source*. The new ECI object is referred to as the *target*. The source object's properties are copied into the target object. Everything is copied except the DisplayName attribute.

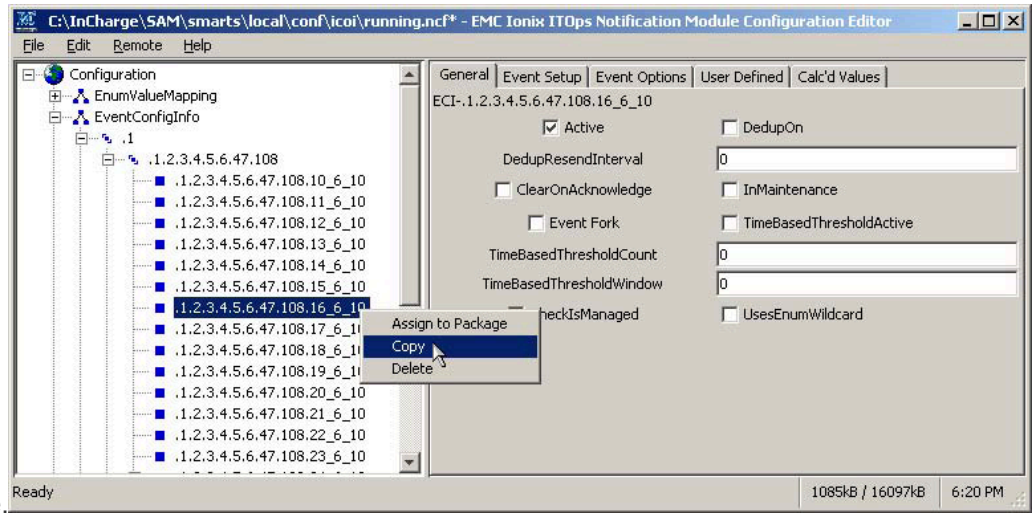


Figure 3-11. ECI copy feature

Notification Configuration Information Processing

4

This chapter describes Event Configuration Information (EventConfigInfo or ECI) processing.

This chapter includes the following topics:

- NCI processing overview
- NCI notification matching
- Designing NCI naming conventions
- Setting up NCI configuration parameters
- Copying NCI configuration parameters

NCI processing overview

Notification Configuration Information objects (NCIs) are the configuration objects that instruct VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to handle incoming unpublished notifications. After VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF completes the ECI processing phase, unpublished notifications are sent to the NCI portion of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to process interactions between notifications. NCI processing steps shows the NCI processing steps.

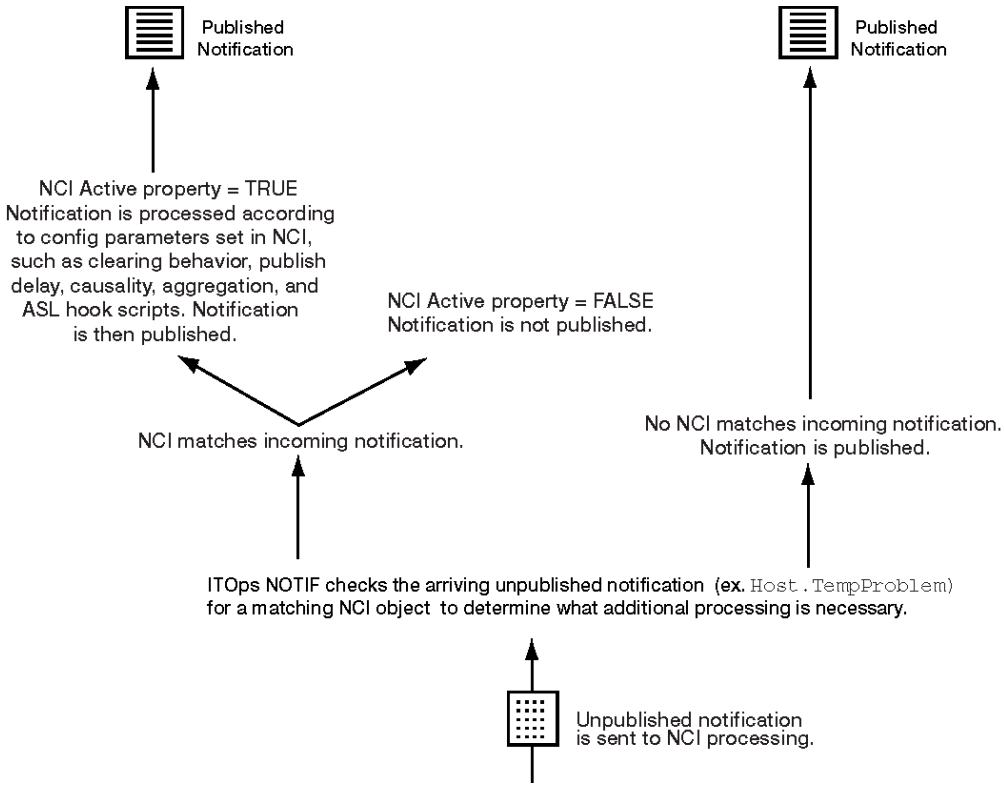


Figure 4-1. NCI processing steps

As shown in NCI processing steps, when VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF receives an incoming unpublished notification, it looks for a matching NCI object. If a matching NCI object is found for the incoming notification, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks several configuration parameters that are set in the NCI. If no matching NCI object is found for the incoming unpublished notification, the notification is published without further consideration.

When a matching NCI object is found for an incoming unpublished notification, the NCI processing portion of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks for the following configuration parameters:

1 Active property of the NCI object (that is, whether the Active checkbox is selected in the NCI setup VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor as shown in NCI processing overview. If the NCI object is Active, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF continues to process that notification, checking the NCI configuration parameters listed below. If the NCI object is not Active, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF does not publish the notification.

2 Clearing behavior ” VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see if the incoming notification clears other notifications, or inversely, whether this notification is cleared by other notifications.

3 Publish delay ” VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see if there is a specified delay associated with the notification before further NCI processing continues.

4 Causality ” VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see if this notification causes another notification, or inversely, if this notification is caused by another notification.

5 Aggregation ” VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see if this notification aggregates from other notifications, or inversely, if this notification aggregates to another notification.

6 NCI hook script ” VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see whether there is an ASL hook script that the NCI should call just before the notification is published (after all other NCI processing has been completed).

7 Calculated Values ” VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see if there are any calculated values associated with the notification.

These NCI configuration values are used to process the notification. The NCI process of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is an independent thread that receives information from other servers for the creation, deletion, and change of notifications through the ICS_NOTIFICATION hook script. It is not directly associated with ECI processing as shown in NCI processing overview.

There are two reasons NCI objects exist within VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF. They are either used to match incoming notifications, or they are used to create new notifications. In general, new notifications are those created because of aggregation.

NCI notification matching

When unpublished notifications are delivered to VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF, it finds the best match between a notification and an NCI object in its repository to handle that notification. The notification must be active in order for it to be processed, that is, the Active checkbox in the NCI setup VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor must be selected as shown in NCI notification matching.

Processing of the notification begins by looking for an exact match of class and event. A best match is determined by first looking for an NCI object that matches the ClassName.EventName of the incoming notification. If that does not match an NCI, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will do the following:

1 VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will first look for an NCI that matches ClassName.EventName* (any ending). VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF looks for an NCI that contains an asterisk (*) at the end to see if the EventName in the notification can match to the beginning of the EventName in the NCI (for example, the NCI named Router.Down-* would match with the notification named Router.Down-2).

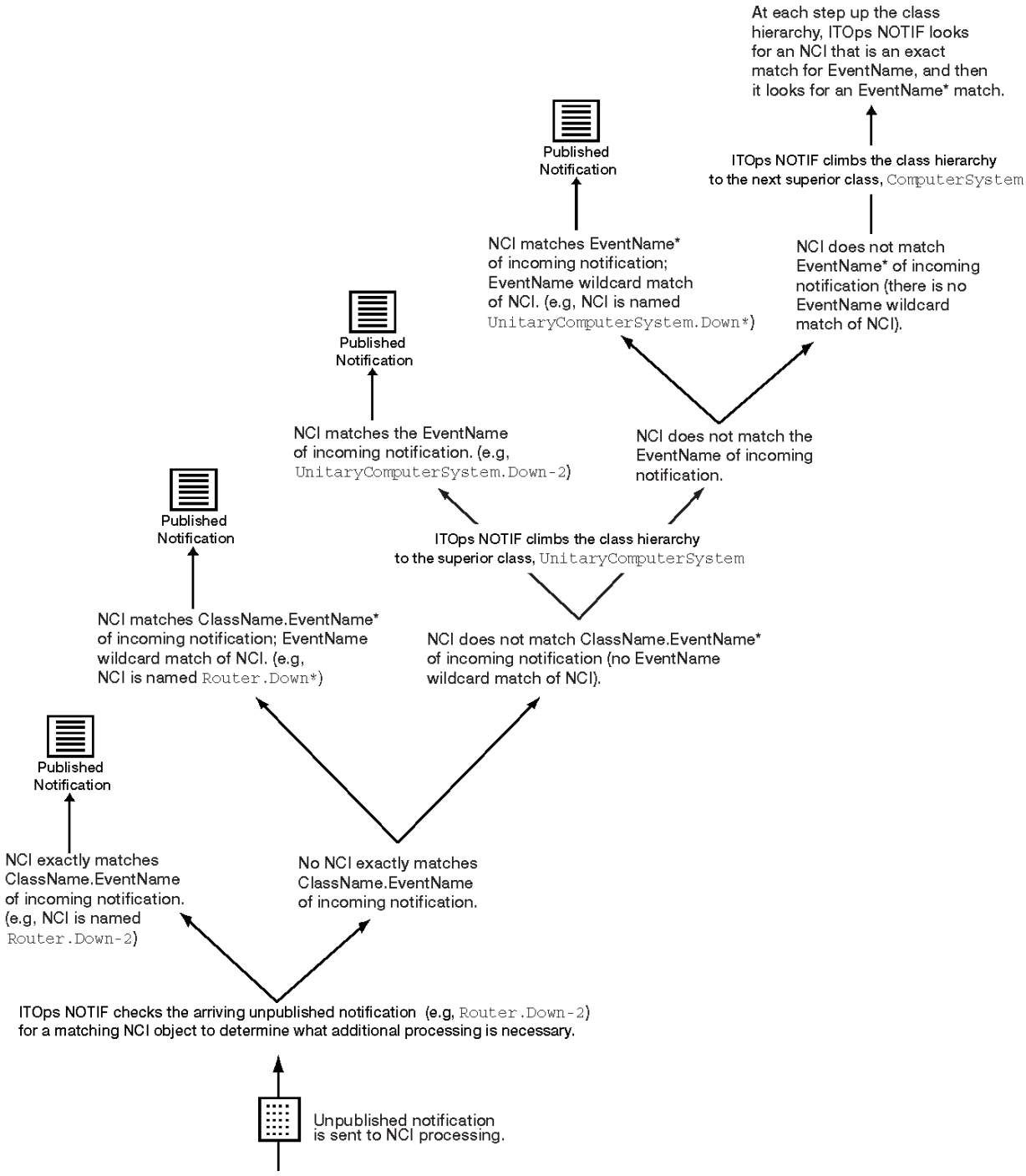
2 If there is no NCI EventName with a wildcard to match the EventName in the incoming notification, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF then begins to climb the class hierarchy to determine if a superior class will match. At each step up the hierarchy, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF first checks for an exact event name match then a wildcard match. In this manner, a single NCI object can handle sub-classed objects as well as event names with different suffixes.

Note Note that VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF expects either an exact event name match or a single wildcard match; ambiguities in wildcard matches will have indeterminate results as to which NCI configuration will be used for processing. A series of NCIs such as Router.Test-1-1-*, Router.Test-1-*, and Router.Test-* will have no determinate order; the first NCI found will be used with no further processing. Supporting the best match at the NCI EventName level has an exponential impact on processing speed and is not practical.

For the same reason, regex expressions are not supported within the NCI EventName string, only a trailing asterisk (*) is supported.

NCI notification matching process illustrates the NCI notification matching process.

Figure 4-2. NCI notification matching process



Matching examples

NCI objects can be created for specific class instances or subclasses based on the overall design and wildcarded EventNames. Examples of how VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF matches notifications to NCI objects are provided below:

Defined NCIs

1 XYZ-Router.Event-1

2 Router.Event-1

3 Router.Event-*

4 UnitaryComputerSystem.Event-1

Incoming notification (ClassName.EventName)	NCI processing
XYZ-Router and Event-1	uses NCI 1 — Exact match for ClassName and EventName
ABC-Router and Event-1	uses NCI 2 — ABC-Router is a router
ABC-Router and Event-2	uses NCI 3 — ABC-Router and Event-2 match the wildcard EventName
Host and Event-1	uses NCI 4f

In the examples above, any subclass of router with an event name of Event-1 will be processed by the NCI named Router.Event-1 (that is, NCI 2), except for XYZ-Router which is a more specific router class definition. As a theoretical example, the NCI named XYZ-Router.Event-1* could represent the handling of any EventName other than that specified by Router.Event-1.

Designing NCI naming conventions

NCI objects are matched to incoming notifications based on the class and event name in the notification. The information in the notification is dependent on the underlying ECI process that created the NCI requirements. Therefore, the NCI requirements are determined in the configuration of the ECI object.

Note ECI notification naming provides more information.

Setting up NCI configuration parameters

When setting up the configuration parameters for an NCI, there are six configuration parameters to consider:

- Clearing behavior
- Publish delay
- Causality
- Aggregation
- NCI hook script
- Calculated Values

Clearing behavior

ClearsForAllNotifications

An NCI can specify that it ClearsForAllNotifications as shown in General tab of the NCI Setup dialog box. Selecting the ClearsForAllNotifications checkbox means that the given notification created for an event will clear all active notifications involving the same instance and element as the given event. When such a notification is created through an NCI, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF considers all the notifications related to the same instance (except the notification triggering this behavior), and clears them. The original specification in the Event Setup tab in the ECI determines if the triggering notification will be a NOTIFY or a CLEAR as shown in ClearsForAllNotifications.

Consider the following example of the ClearsForAllNotifications functionality. There are three notifications (the Down, Faulty, and ActingUp notifications) for the Element::Instance named Interface::FaultyInterface. There is something wrong with FaultyInterface and the Interface is generating several different error alarms.

Assume that you have an NCI called Interface.InterfaceIsGoodAgain with ClearsForAllNotifications = TRUE. FaultyInterface may send a trap that results in a notification like Interface_FaultyInterface_InterfaceisGoodAgain being created when the interface finally fixes itself. This notification will trigger the NCI named Interface.InterfaceIsGoodAgain. The NCI ClearsForAllNotifications property will cause VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to clear all of the notifications against FaultyInterface. The InterfaceIsGoodAgain notification may or may not clear depending on its State (NOTIFY or CLEAR). Most users would have an ECI trigger InterfaceIsGoodAgain with a CLEAR state. The end result is that the device no longer shows active notifications on the console once the *all clear* trap is seen by VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF.

Notifications on Interfaces other than FaultyInterface (since this is the Instance the InterfaceIsGoodAgain notification points to) would still remain active.

Note If VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is running on a SAM server, you must use the ClearsForAllNotifications option with caution. If this option is enabled, then all notifications against that particular instance (that is, router) are cleared and this may override the Caused/CausedBy relationship in the SAM codebook correlation.

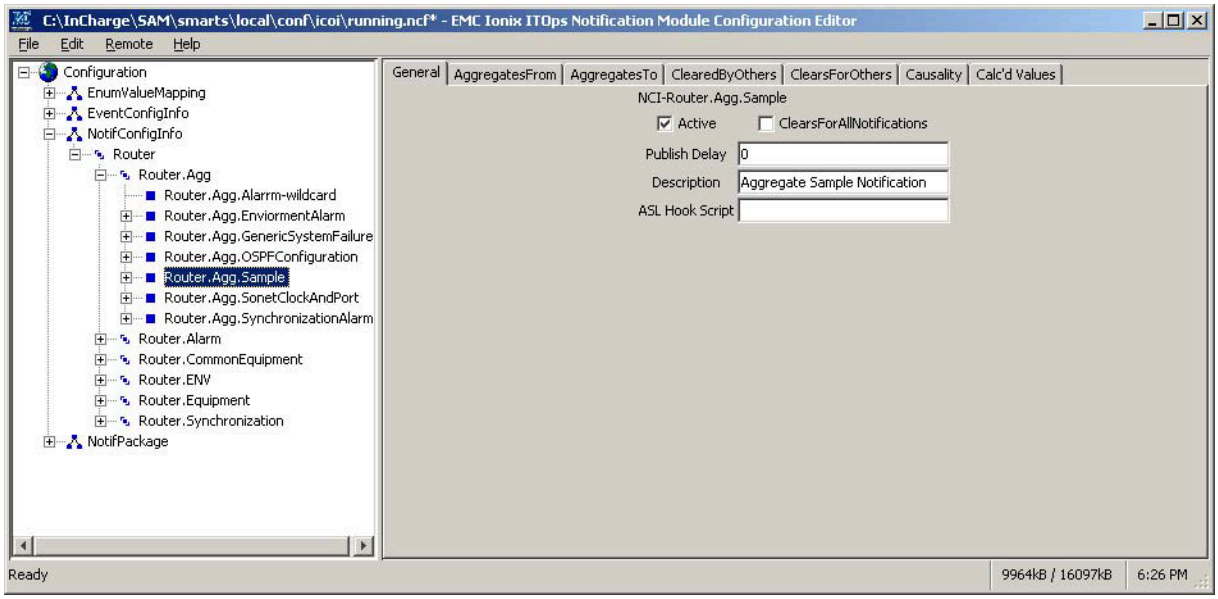


Figure 4-3. General tab of the NCI Setup dialog box

ClearsForOthers

You can specify more finely-tuned clearing of notifications in an NCI with the ClearsForOthers tab in the NCI Setup dialog box (see ClearsForOthers tab in the NCI Setup dialog box). The ClearsForOtherNotifications field in this tab allows you to specify one or more other NCIs that the given NCI clears for. After the specified notification is created, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF finds the existing notifications related to the same instance and with eventNames as specified in the

ClearsForOtherNotifications setting. When the instance and event names both match, the specified companion NCI(s) are cleared. For example, a .Disk.Purged notification may be configured to ClearsFor the .Disk.UsageExceeded and .Disk.UsageWarning notifications.

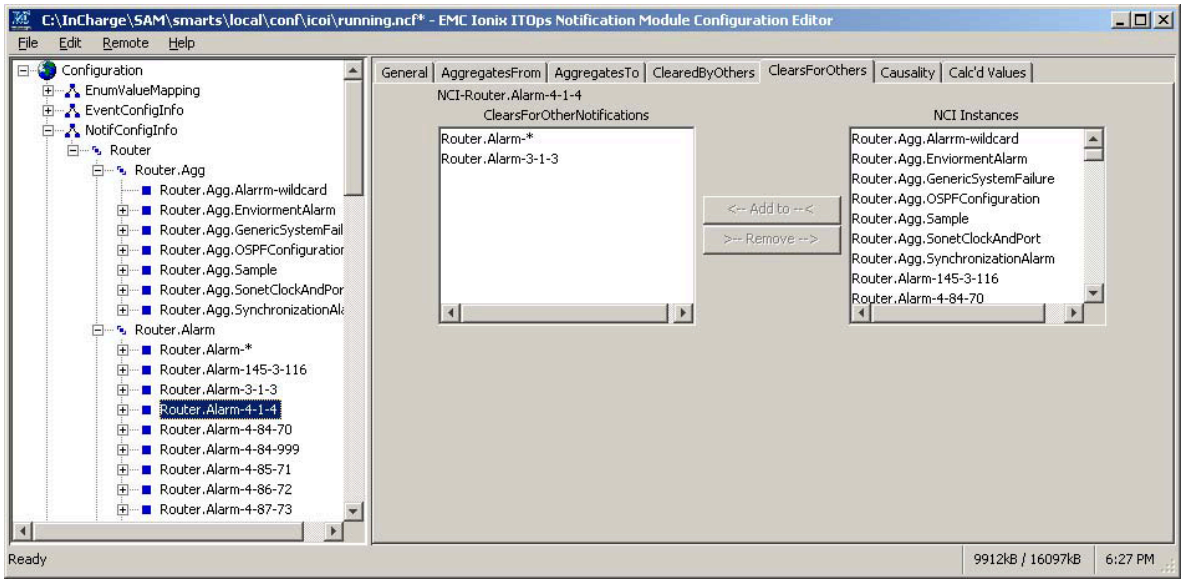


Figure 4-4. ClearsForOthers tab in the NCI Setup dialog box

ClearedByOthers

Inversely, a given NCI may be ClearedBy other notifications. In the ClearedByOthers tab, in the ClearedByOtherNotifications field, you can add all the notifications that clear this NCI. For example, as shown in ClearedByOthers tab in the NCI Setup dialog box, the NCI named Router.Alarm-3-1-3 is cleared by the Router.Alarm-4-1-4 notification.

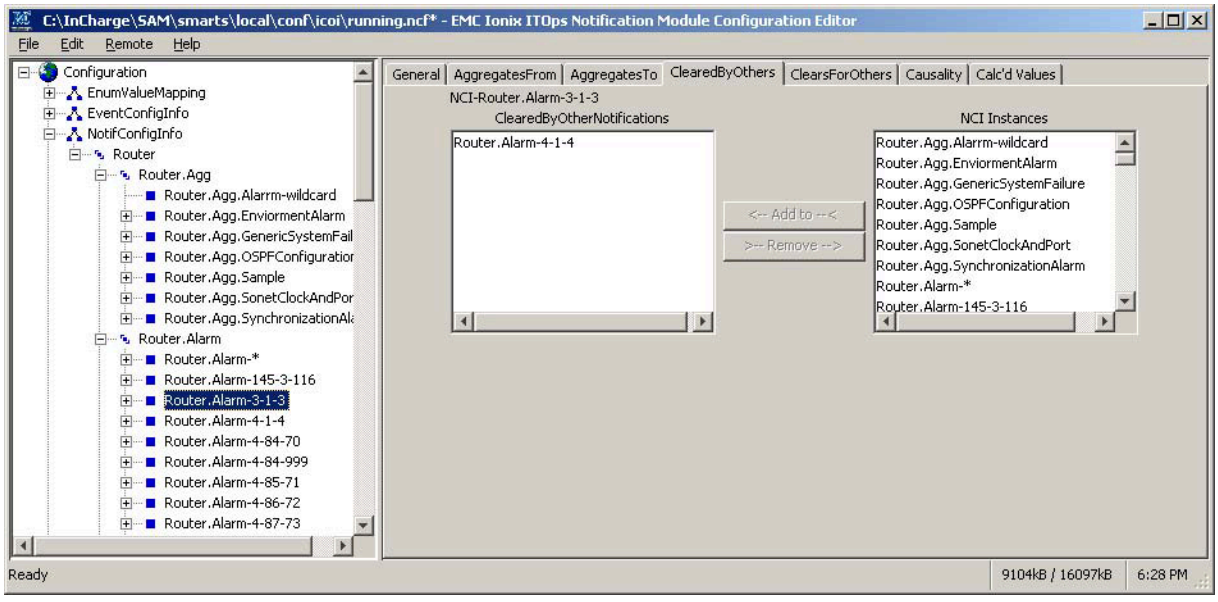


Figure 4-5. ClearedByOthers tab in the NCI Setup dialog box

Publish delay

After an NCI is found for an incoming notification, clearing behaviors are performed as discussed in the previous section. After any clearing is done, the notification may have a delay prior to checking Causes, Aggregates, and getting published. This delay is set in the NCI (in the Publish Delay field in Publish delay) and is specified in seconds. For example, if you set a publish delay for 60 seconds, that means that the notification will be held for a minute before any further NCI processing is performed. If a clearing comes in during that minute, then the notification will be discarded.

Causality

You can configure an NCI to indicate that one notification causes another notification, or inversely, that one notification is caused by another notification. After VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks an incoming notification for clearing behavior, and any publishing delay has expired, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks to see if the new incoming notification causes any other notifications or is caused by any existing notifications. If VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF finds that the given notification causes or is caused by other notifications, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF relates the appropriate notifications.

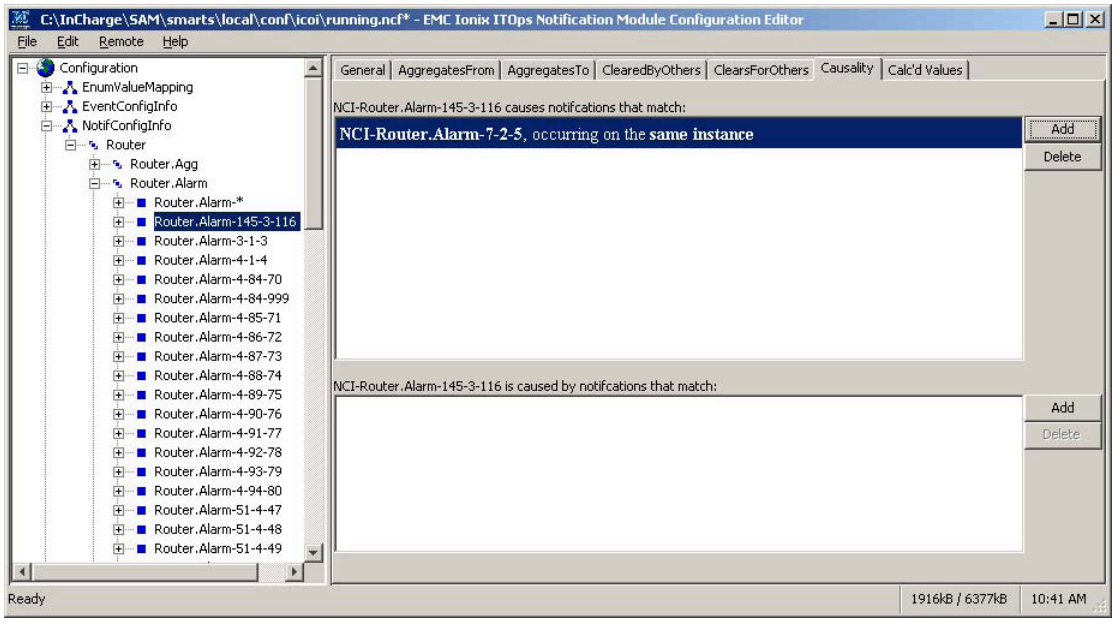
You set up causes/causedby relationships in the Causality tab in the NCI Setup dialog box. For example, to set up a relationship where NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116 causes NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5, you would do the following:

1. Click the Router.Alarm-145-3-116 NCI object in the topology tree of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.
2. Select the **Causality** tab.
3. Click **Add**.
4. The **Add Causes Relationship** dialog box appears, as shown in Add Causes Relationship dialog box. Select NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5 in the **Caused NCI:** drop-down list and click **Add**.

   Figure 4-6. Add Causes Relationship dialog box

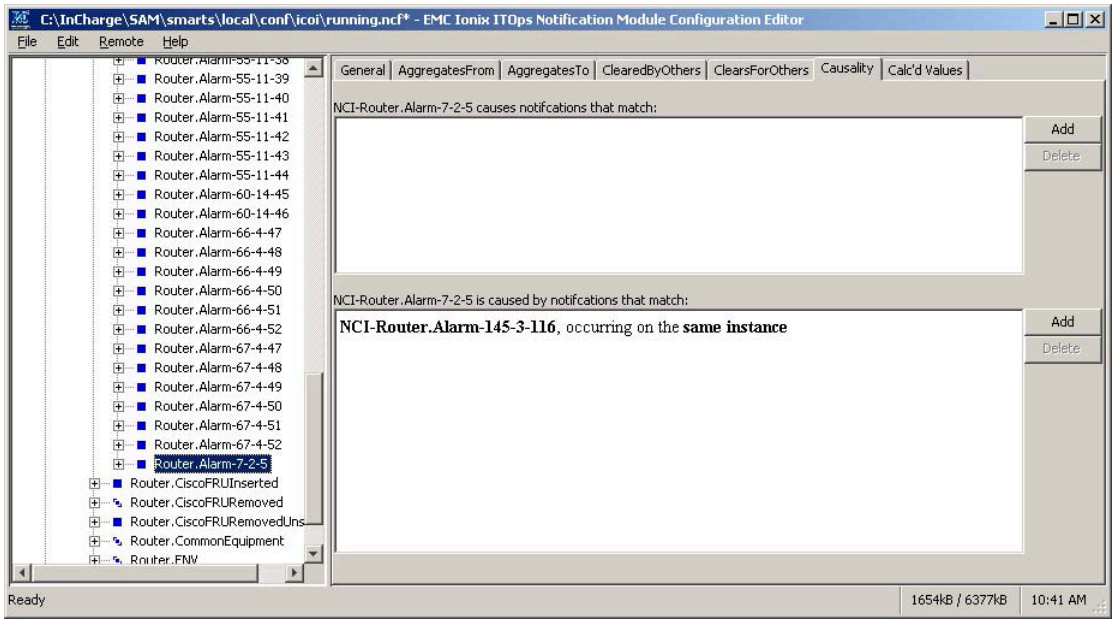
5 The **Causality** tab for NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116 now shows that it causes NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5, as shown in Causality tab shows NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116 cause NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5.

Figure 4-7. Causality tab shows NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116 cause NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5



When you click the Router.Alarm-7-2-5 NCI object in the topology tree of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, the **Causality** tab shows that this NCI is caused by NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116, as shown in Causality tab shows NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5 cause NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116 .

Figure 4-8. Causality tab shows NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5 cause NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116



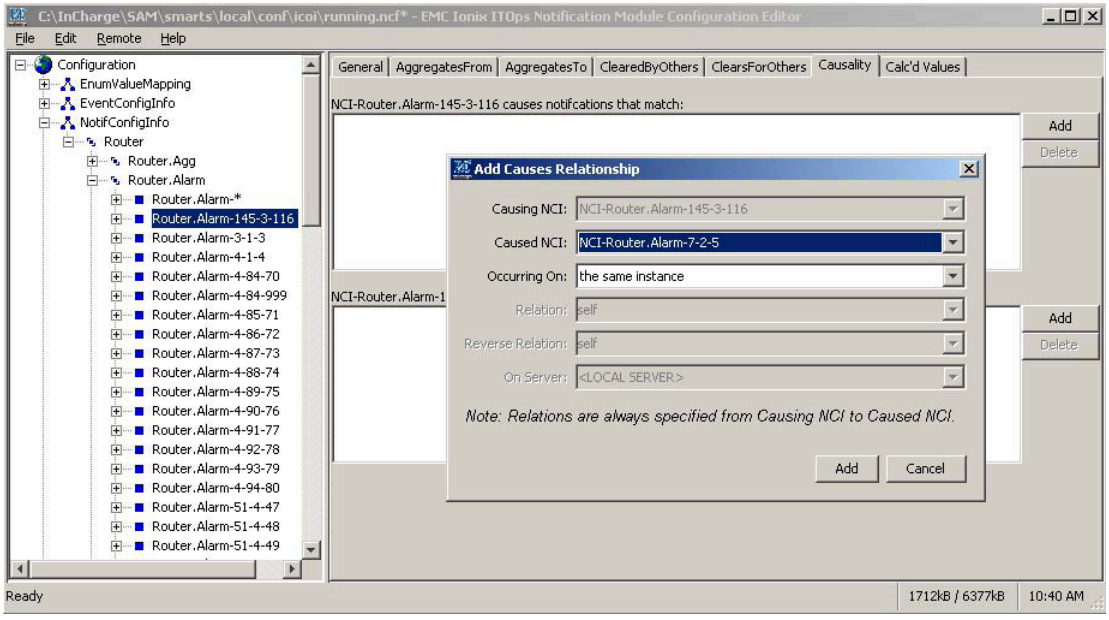
In VMware Smart Assurance systems, notifications usually occur on a particular instance within an element. For example, a Loss of Signal notification might occur on a Port instance within a Router element. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF can use a notification's instance and element to find other instances and elements, and then create causal relationships between the notifications on each of them.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF traces causality through the VMware Smart Assurance objects that correspond to the notifications. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF determines causality by tracing the topology objects in five ways:

- Occurring on the same instance
- Occurring on an instance related to the notified instance
- Occurring on the same element
- Occurring on an instance related to the notified element
- Occurring on an element related to the notified element

  For example, in Causality tab shows NCI-Router.Alarm-7-2-5 cause NCI-Router.Alarm-145-3-116 , the causality specification shows that the NCI named Router.Alarm-7-2-5 is caused by the notification Router.Alarm-145-3-116. The relationship between these two notifications is “Occurring on the same instance.”

  The causality specification shows all the other notifications caused by a given configuration, and the relationship between the given notification’s instance or element to other instances or elements. The relationship tracing allows notifications of a different class and instance to be related, that is, an interface down may be caused by a router down.



Occurring on the same instance

The “Occurring on the same instance” causality relationship in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows a notification on an instance to be set to cause another notification on the same instance. For example, consider the creation of a notification PowerSupply::network:86.2.2.2:PowerSupply-1::Down (note this has class, instance, and eventName elements). Assume the corresponding NCI indicates this notification causes PowerSupply-1.NotRespondingToAgent notifications. The PowerSupply-1.Down notification is set to cause the PowerSupply-1.NotRespondingToAgent notification on the same instance, PowerSupply-1.

Occurring on an instance related to the notified instance

This causality relationship means that using a given notification's instance and the designated relationship you can find all other candidate instances. If there are active notifications for any of these instances, those notifications will be related to the first notification.

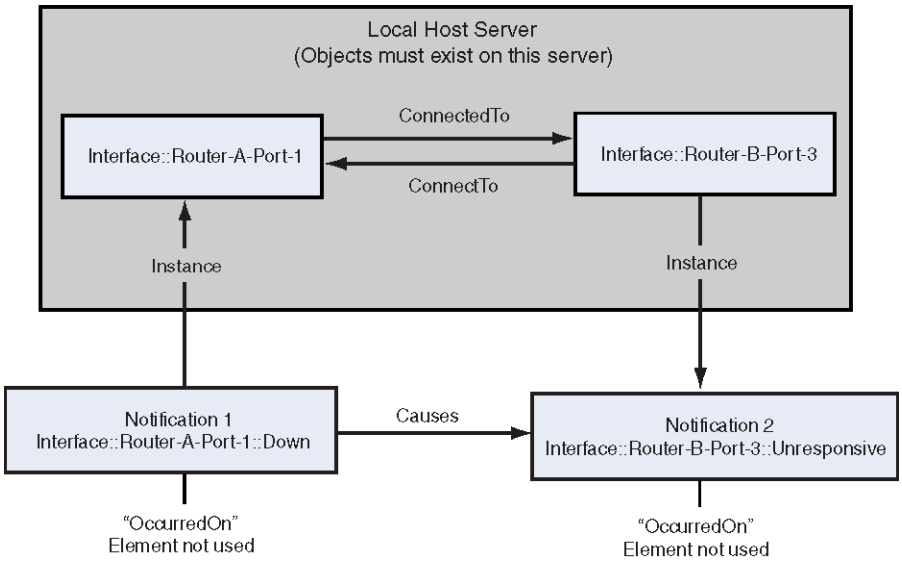
For example, assume the PowerSupply::network:86.2.2.2:PowerSupply-1::Down notification has a corresponding NCI that indicates this notification causes .Card.Down notifications for any Cards this PowerSupply is Underlying. The creation of the notification and the NCI would have VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF look for notifications whose instances are Cards and eventName is Down, and which the PowerSupply is Underlying the Card. If any are found, they are related—the PowerSupply.Down notification is set to cause the other notifications.

The above scenario describes one notification causing another. The inverse scenario is also possible where for example, a .Card.Down notification is caused by PowerSupply.Down and the causality is the same instance through the LayeredOver relationship (that is, the Card is LayeredOver the PowerSupply).

Another same instance example is shown in NCI causality relationship occurs on an instance related to a notified instance where an Interface.Down notification on a particular interface causes an Interface.Unresponsive notification for another interface, and the relationship is ConnectedTo. In this example, the Interface.Down notification for the Router-A-Port-1 interface instance causes the Interface.Unresponsive notification for the Router-B-Port-5 interface instance.

When the Interface::Router-A-Port-1::Down notification and the corresponding NCI are created, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF finds the instance (Interface::Router-A-Port-1) and follows the ConnectedTo relationship. This finds the Interface::Router-B-Port-5 instance with the Interface.Unresponsive notification, and the two notifications are related. The Interface::Router-A-Port-1::Down notification causes the Interface::Router-B-Port-5::Unresponsive notification.

Figure 4-9. NCI causality relationship occurs on an instance related to a notified instance



Occurring on the same element

The "Occurring on the same element" causality relationship in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows a notification on an element to be set to cause another notification on the same element. For example, PowerSupply.Down may cause Router.Down.

Let us slightly change the preceding example where the NCI is for PowerSupply::network: 86.2.2.2:PowerSupply-1::Down, but it is specified as "occurring on the same element" in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. Assume the .PowerSupply.Down causes .Router.Down. If a .PowerSupply.Down notification is created, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will find its elements (probably Routers) and if any of those routers had .Router.Down notifications, then those notifications would be related to the .PowerSupply.Down notification.

Occurring on an instance related to the notified element

The causes that flow from an element to an instance through a relationship are determined as follows:

1 Find the element for a given notification

2 Use the specified relationship to find related instances

3 See if there are corresponding notifications

As an example, the PowerSupply::network:86.2.2.2:PowerSupply-1::Down NCI is specified as "occurring on an instance related to the notified element" in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor and the relationship is ComposedOf. Assume the .PowerSupply.Down Causes .Card.Down. If a .PowerSupply.Down notification is created, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will find its element (probably a Router) then follow the ComposedOf relationship. This would find all the Router's Cards and if any of those cards had Card.Down notifications, then those notifications would be related to the .PowerSupply.Down notification.

The advantage of this specification is that several objects within the element may be able to transfer causality without being directly related.

Looking at this causality in the inverse direction, the Card.Down NCI would show that relationship is followed in the instance to element direction and the relationship would be PartOf. When a Card.Down notification is created, it would follow its PartOf relationship to find an element, then look for all the notifications associated with that element, looking for a .PowerSupply.Down.

Note The “occurring on an instance related to the notified element” specification can be very processor-intensive for environments with large numbers of active notifications. Therefore, it is recommended that use of this specification be kept to a minimum.

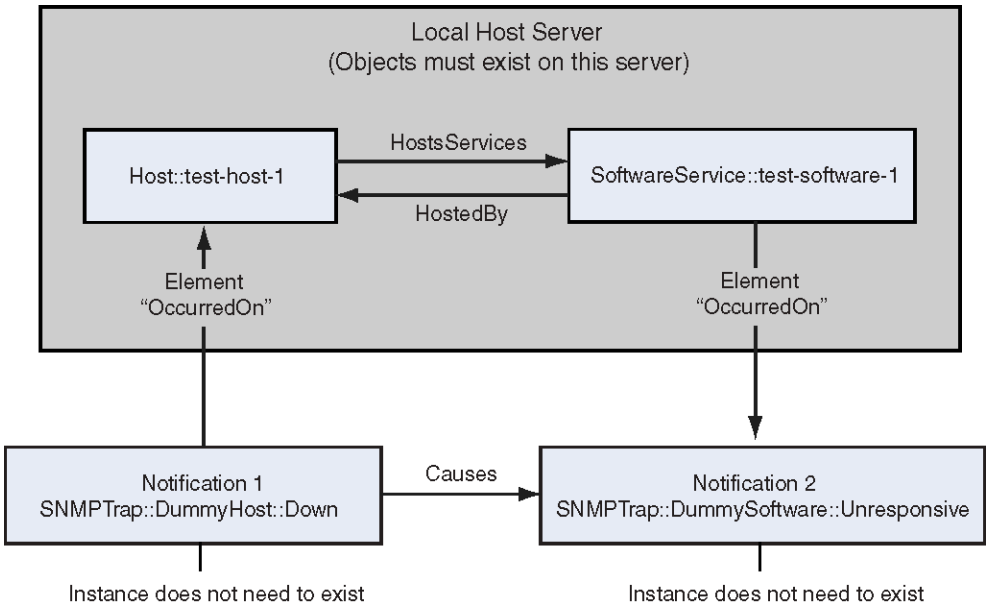
Occurring on an element related to the notified element

Causes that flow from one element to a related element through a relationship are determined as follows: for a given notification, find its element. Then use the relationship to find another element. The notifications associated with the second element are examined for matches to the specified target notifications.

An example of an “occurring on an element related to the notified element” causality relationship is shown in NCI causality relationship occurs on an element related to a notified element where an SNMPTrap.Down notification on a particular host causes an SNMPTrap.Unresponsive notification on a particular software service, and the relationship is HostsServices.

In this example, the SNMPTrap::DummyHost::Down notification causes the SNMPTrap::DummySoftware::Unresponsive notification. When the SNMPTrap.Down notification is created, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF finds its element (the Host named test-host-1) and follows the HostsServices relationship. This finds the SoftwareService element named test-software-1, and any SNMP traps associated with this SoftwareService element that have SNMPTrap.Unresponsive notifications. In this way, the SNMPTrap::DummySoftware::Unresponsive notification is related to (caused by) the SNMPTrap::DummyHost::Down notification.

Figure 4-10. NCI causality relationship occurs on an element related to a notified element



Aggregation

Notification aggregation occurs when one or more notifications on the same instance trigger the creation of an Aggregate notification, which represents the summary of a complex problem. An Aggregate notification sets a notification based on other events being active.

For example, assume an NCI is created where .NetworkConnection.Erratic is specified and it AggregatesFrom:

.NetworkConnection.HighBitErrorRate,

.NetworkConnection.LostPacketsExceeded

.NetworkConnection.ExcessiveFramingErrors

Aggregation is useful when any number of notifications indicate a common problem. The severity of the aggregate notification is that of the highest severity of the underlying notifications. When all underlying notifications have cleared or expired, the aggregate itself will clear. This *roll-up* effect is applicable only from a VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor perspective, the individual notifications will still have the isRoot attribute set to true. Aggregation is limited to notifications against the same class and element.

Notifications may be accessed either through the AggregatesFrom tab or the AggregatesTo tab as shown in AggregatesFrom tab of the NCI Setup dialog box and AggregatesTo tab of the NCI Setup dialog box. However, the Event Text field is only available in the AggregatesFrom tab. In this field you can type the text of the notification and you can provide substitution values for user-defined values.

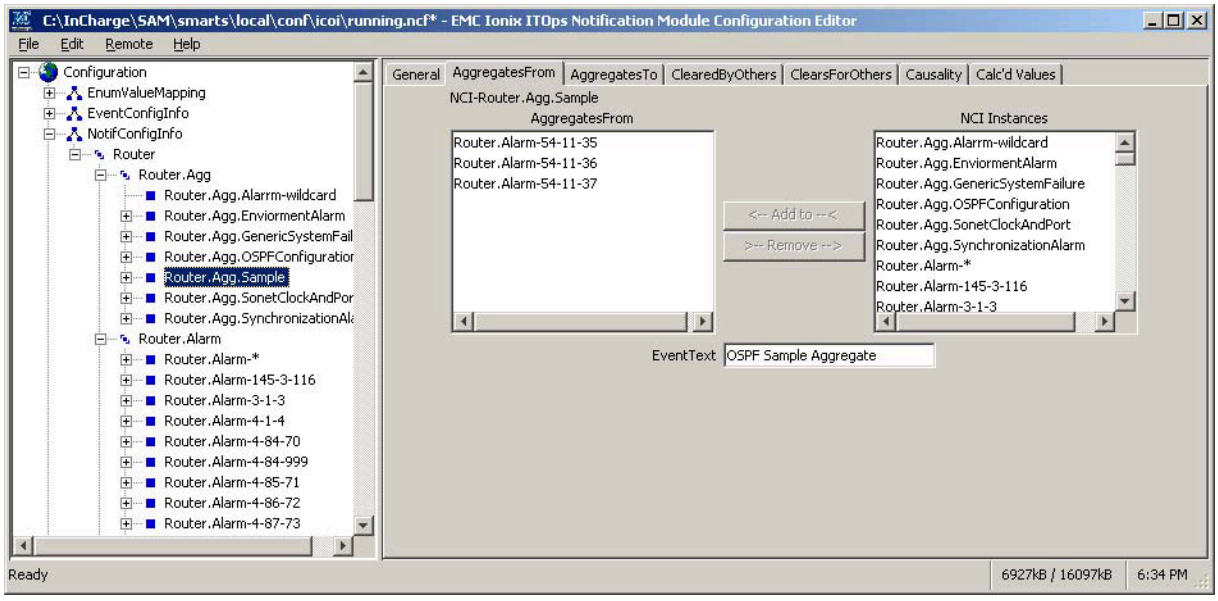
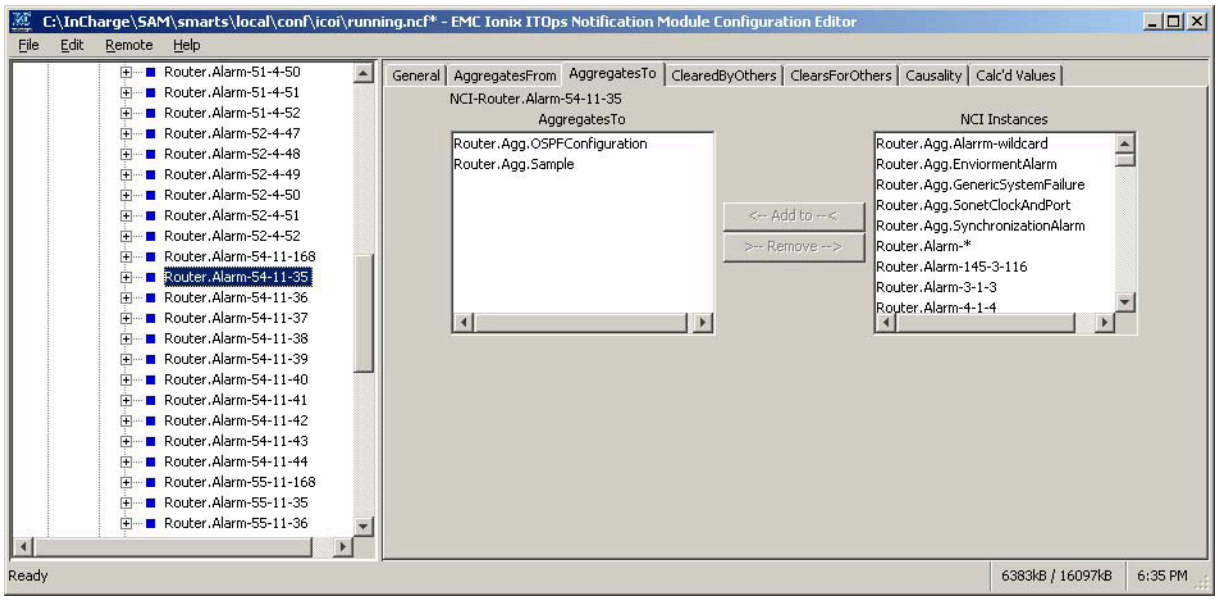


Figure 4-11. AggregatesFrom tab of the NCI Setup dialog box

In AggregatesTo tab of the NCI Setup dialog box, note that unpublished notifications may aggregate to more than one aggregate notification.

Figure 4-12. AggregatesTo tab of the NCI Setup dialog box



Mixing aggregation and causes

A useful feature of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is the ability to relate notifications both on the aggregation level and the causes relationship level. The aggregate notification function allows you to create an independent notification and then roll other notifications under its display; the CausedBy relationship allows notifications from other servers to then be rolled under the aggregate notification. The result is that only the aggregate notification is displayed as the root cause for notifications coming from multiple servers.

NCI hook script

An NCI can be configured to call an ASL hook script just before notification publication; all other VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF NCI processing is performed prior to this call. You can type the hook script in the ASL Hook Script field in the General tab of the NCI Setup dialog box (see NCI hook script). VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF looks up ASL hook scripts in the local/rules or /rules directories. For example, if you type icoi-trapd/sample_hook.asl in the ASL Hook Script field in the General tab of the NCI Setup dialog box, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF will look up local/rules/icoi-trapd/sample_hook.asl and rules/icoi-trapd/sample_hook.asl.

Note *Writing ASL for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF NCI processing on page 106* provides information on how to write an NCI ASL hook script.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF passes the necessary information to reference the notification to the hook script. In return, the hook script passes a flag back to VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF that indicates if the notification should be published. It is the responsibility of the hook script to determine if the notification should be deleted, modified, or related to other notifications.

The hook script is called both on setting and clearing of a notification generated by external sources, but not for an aggregate notification created by this VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF server. In that case, the hook script is only called for the onset of the aggregate since the clearing of the aggregate is done by the internal VMware Smart Assurance processing.

Calculated Values

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows you to define calculated value instructions for an NCI through the Calc'd Values tab. You can add and edit calculated values to an NCI in the same manner as you can for an ECI.

The only difference in defining calculated values for an NCI as compared to an ECI is that the legal assignment attributes are different. Legal assignment attributes for NCI calculated values include:

- Discard
- ElementClassName
- EventDisplayName
- EventState
- EventText
- Severity
- UserDefined1 - 20

Note Calculated values provides information on adding and editing calculated values.

Copying NCI configuration parameters

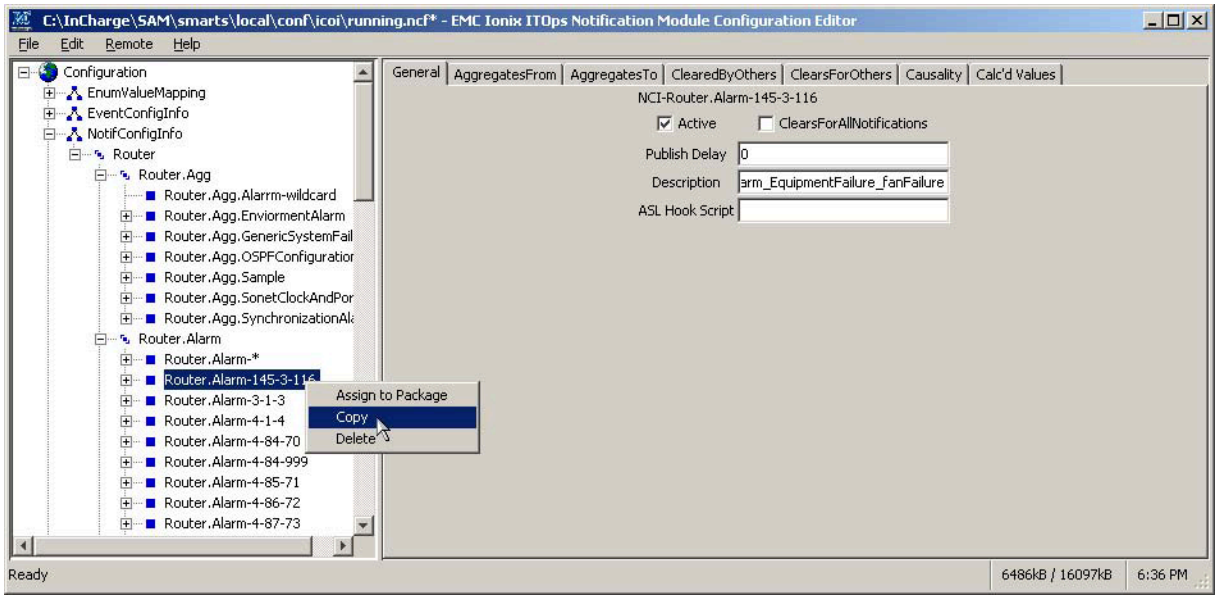
You can copy NCI objects to reduce configuration time. To copy an NCI object, right-click on the NCI object and select Copy as shown in NCI copy feature. The original NCI object that you copy is referred to as the *source*. The new NCI object is referred to as the *target*. The source object's properties are copied into the target object. Everything is copied except:

- The NotifConfigInfoRelationSpecifier instances that the NCI relates to
- The CausedBy attribute
- The Specifies attribute

  The newly-copied NCI object therefore has the same AggregatesTo/

  AggregatesFrom, ClearedByOthers/ClearsForOthers relationships and general attributes, but none of the Causes/CausedBy relationships or associated NotifConfigInfoRelationSpecifiers. This is intended by design. You must configure the Causes/CausedBy relationship information manually after the copy operation.

Figure 4-13. NCI copy feature



Using VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

5

This chapter includes the following topics:

- Starting VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF
- Using the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor
- Generating VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF documentation
- Disabling VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

Starting VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

When you install the VMware Smart Assurance Service Assurance Manager version 9.2, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is not enabled by default; you must start VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF by performing the following steps:

1 Set an environment variable in the *BASEDIR* directory path to ensure that Java can be successfully started for VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF.

2 In *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/runenv_cmd.sh, add the following line:

```
SM_JAVA_ENABLED=YES
```

3 If your setup contains SNMPv3 devices, create a seedfile with the device information using the seedfile template in the IP Manager installation area.

To use the seedfile template to create a seed file:

4 Go to the BASEDIR/smarts/bin directory in the IP Manager installation area and type the following command to open the seedfile template:

```
sm_edit conf/seedfile
```

5 Press **Enter**.

6 Add the seed entries for the systems to be discovered.

7 Save and close the file.

8 Configure the SNMP Trap Adapter to use the Notif-trap_mgr_parse.asl script instead of the default trap_mgr_parse.asl script in order for VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to process SNMP traps.

For example:

```
./sm_trapd --name=TRAP-OI --server=INCHARGE-OI --config=icoi
--port=9013 --model=sm_actions --output
--rules=icoi-trapd/Notif-trap_mgr_parse.asl --daemon
```

9 To process SNMPv3 traps, use the --seed option when starting the SNMP Trap Adapter to point to the seed file you have created, as mentioned in step 2 .

For example:

```
./sm_trapd -n TRAP-INCHARGE-OI --server=INCHARGE-OI
--config=icoi --port=162
--model=sm_actions
--seed=C:\InCharge\SAM\smarts\local\conf\icoi\seedfile
--rules=icoi-trapd\trap_mgr_parse.asl --traceSNMP --output
```

10 Configure the Notif Trap Receiver as a service to automatically the SNMP Trap Adapter on system restart.

For example:

```
sm_service install --force  --unmanaged  --startmode=runonce \
'--name=ic-notif-trap' \
'--description=Notif Trap Receiver' \
'/opt/InCharge/SAM/smarts/bin/sm_trapd' \
'--name=NOTIF-TRAP' \
'--server=INCHARGE-OI' \
'--output' \
'--config=icoi' \
'--port=1162' \
'--model=sm_actions' \
'--rules=icoi-trapd/Notif-trap_mgr_parse.asl'
```

11 Configure the Syslog Adapter to use the Notif-SysLog_mgr.asl script instead of the default SysLog_mgr.asl script in order for VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to process Cisco system log files.

For example:

```
./sm_adapter.exe --NTsErViCeNaMe=ic-syslog-adapter --name=SYSLOG-OI --server=INCHARGE-OI --
tail=/var/log/syslog --model=sm_system --model=sm_actions --output icoi-syslog/Notif-SysLog_mgr.asl
```

12 Configure the Notif Syslog Adapter as a service to automatically the Syslog Adapter on system restart.

For example:

```
sm_service install --force  --unmanaged  --startmode=runonce \
'--name=ic-notif-syslog' \
'--description=Notif Syslog Adapter' \
'/opt/InCharge9/SAM/smarts/bin/sm_adapter' \
'--name=NOTIF-SYSLOG' \
'--server=INCHARGE-OI' \
'--output' \
'--config=icoi' \
'--port=1162' \
'--model=sm_actions' \
'--model=sm_system'\
'--rules=icoi-syslog/Notif-SysLog_mgr.asl'\
'--tail=/opt/InCharge9/SAM/smarts/local/logs/sample.txt'
```

13 Launch the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor by selecting **Start** > **Programs** > **InCharge** > **VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor**.

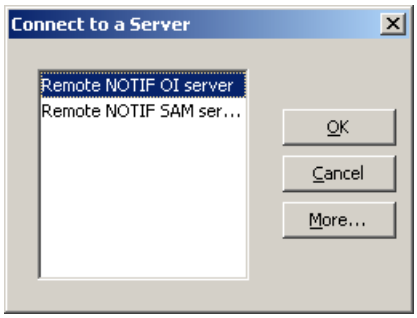
Note You can also launch the editor by double-clicking the NotifGui.sh file (for UNIX systems) in the *BASEDIR*/smarts/notif/editor directory.

14 Use the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor to connect to the running Adapter Platform or SAM server. Select **Remote** > **Edit a server's settings…** in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

15 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears that shows the list of available Adapter Platform or SAM server connections, as shown in Connect to a Server dialog box. Choose a server in the **Connect to a Server** dialog box and click **OK**.

Note Manage connections... describes how to populate the list of server connections. Clicking **More...** in the **Connect to a Server** dialog box launches the **Manage Connections** dialog box where you can add additional server connections, if desired.

Figure 5-1. Connect to a Server dialog box



16 Type the password to connect to the VMware Smart Assurance server and click **OK**.

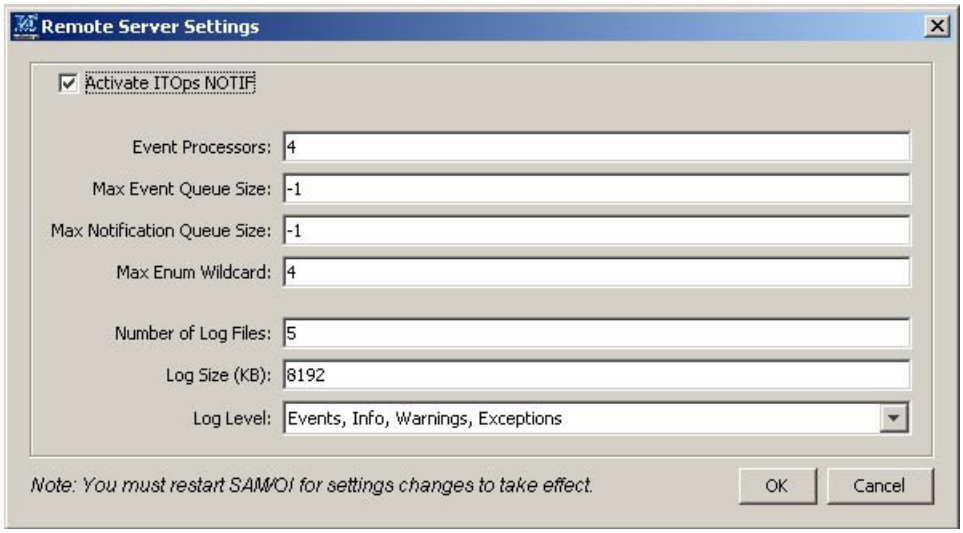
Note The first time you connect to a given server when you use the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor during a given work session, you will be prompted for a password. After that, you are not prompted for a password on that server for the remainder of your work session. If you restart the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, you must type the password again the first time you use a connection.

Figure 5-2. Server connection Password dialog box

17 The **Remote Server Settings** dialog box appears that shows the server's current settings as shown in Remote Server Settings dialog box. In the **Remote Server Settings** dialog box, select the **Activate VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF** checkbox, and then click **OK**. You can also change other server settings in the **Remote Server Settings** dialog box, if desired.

Note Edit a server's settings... provides more information on remote server settings.

Figure 5-3. Remote Server Settings dialog box



18 Restart the Adapter Platform/SAM server. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is now activated on the Adapter Platform/SAM server.

Note Server setting changes made in the Remote Server Settings dialog box are persistent. When you change server settings in the Remote Server Settings dialog box and click OK, the changes are saved to the Notif_Settings.import file that is generated and saved to the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*icoi* or *ics*> directory in the Adapter Platform or SAM server where VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is running.

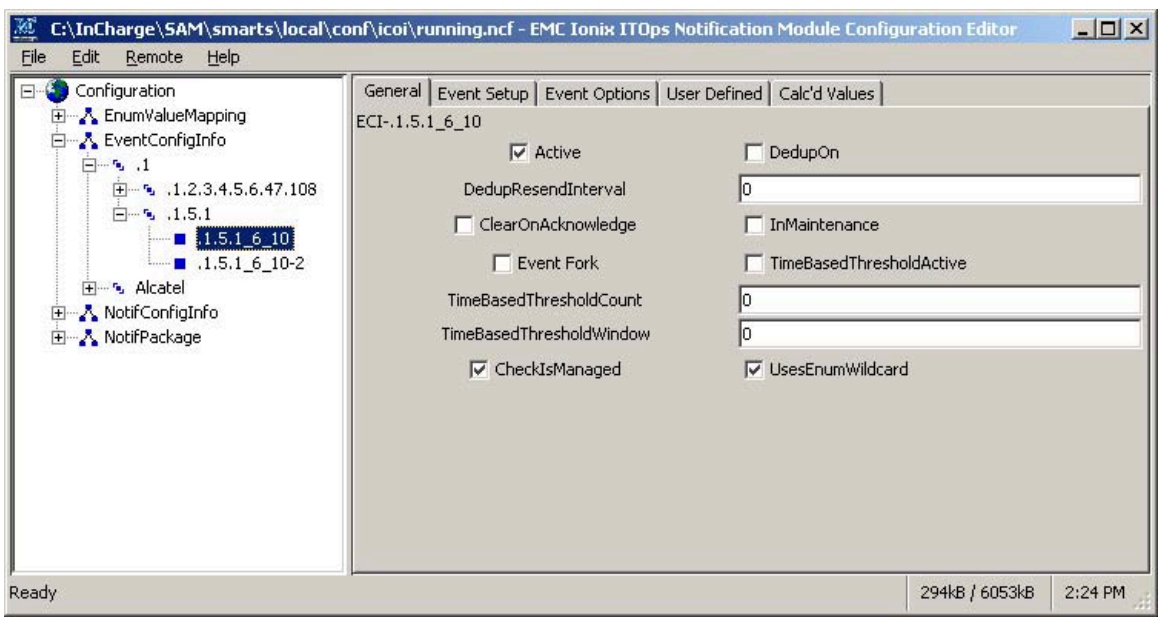
Server setting changes made in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor are preserved even if the repository is deleted. For example, if the repository was erased because you used the **--norestore** option for server startup, the server would still use the last saved settings from the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor saved in *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*icoi or ics*>/Notif_Settings.import.

Using the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows you to save and restore configurations into the internal ECI and NCI configuration objects used by the underlying event management processes. Through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor , you can view the ECI and NCI objects and the configuration settings associated with them through a simple tree-view structure. As shown in VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration objects in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor topology tree , the left pane of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor is used to navigate through VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF objects, and the right pane displays configuration information about the selected object.

Note The title bar for the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor shows the source of the current configuration. In this case, it is an VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration file named running.ncf in the user's *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/icoi directory.

Figure 5-4. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration objects in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor topology tree



VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor tree view

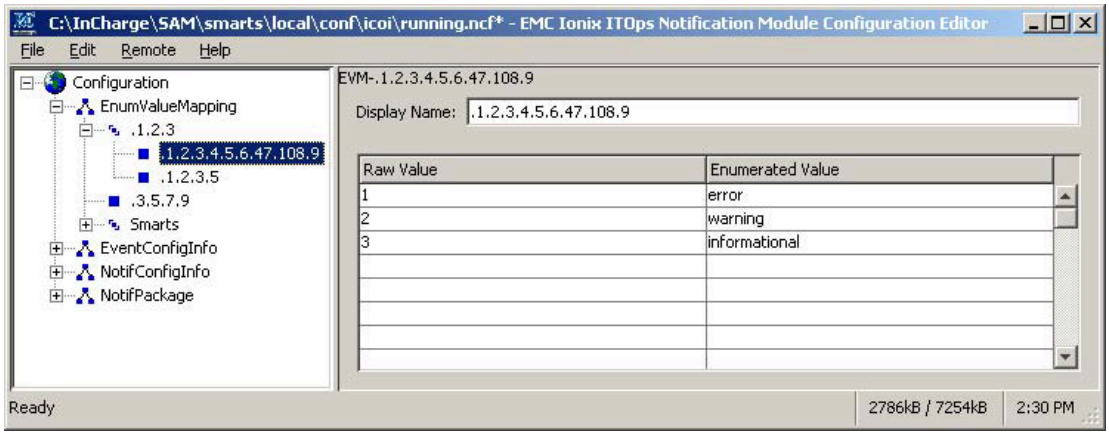
The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows you to browse the configuration objects associated within the server for each of the main classes. In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor topology tree view, there are four main classes:

- EnumValueMapping
- EventConfigInfo
- NotifConfigInfo
- NotifPackage

The expanded VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor view in Enumerated value mapping for EVM-.1.3.6.1.4.1.9.9.385.1.3.1 shows the EnumValueMapping configuration parameters for the EVM object named 1.2.3.4.5.6.47.108.9. An ECI may be configured such that it requires an enumeration table lookup (an EVM object) based on the values in the incoming raw event. For example, an ECI that is matched to a raw event with a keyword|value pair (OID|value for SNMP) of 1.2.3.4.5.6.47.108.9|3 will result in a value of informational when VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF checks the enumerated value mapping table as shown in Enumerated value mapping for EVM-.1.3.6.1.4.1.9.9.385.1.3.1 .

Note *Enumeration of keyword/value pairs on page 31* provides more information on enumerated value mapping.

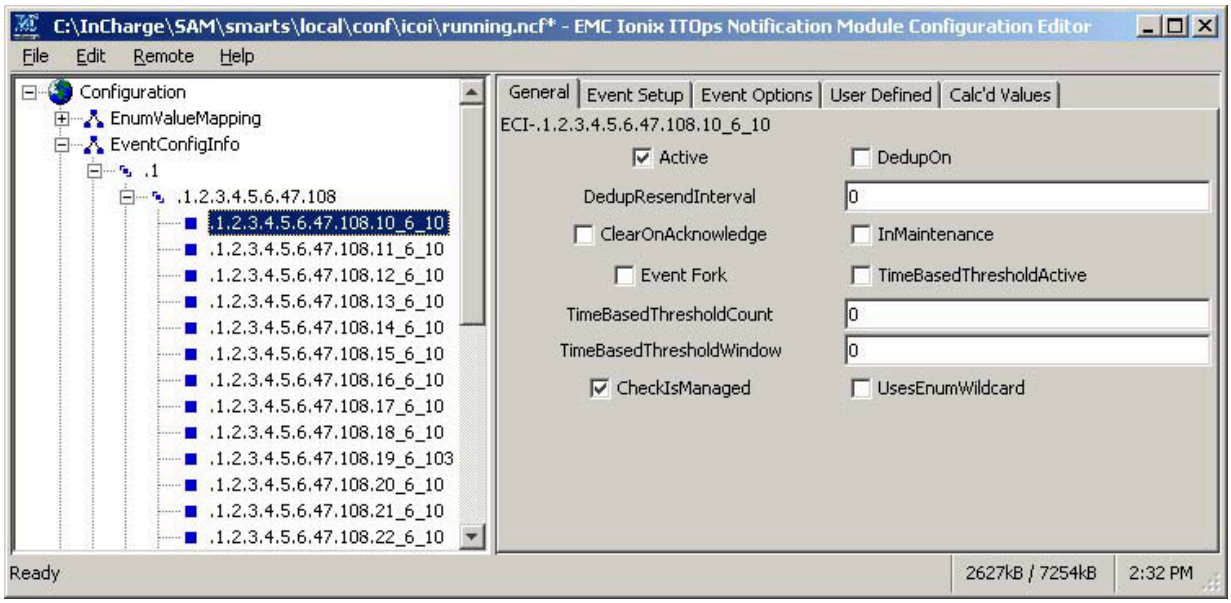
Figure 5-5. Enumerated value mapping for EVM-.1.3.6.1.4.1.9.9.385.1.3.1



SNMP trap configuration parameters for the ECI named 1.2.3.4.5.6.47.108.10_6_10 shows the expanded view of the EventConfigInfo class. The figure shows the SNMP trap configuration parameters for a specific ECI named .1.2.3.4.5.6.47.108.10_6_10.

Note *Setting up ECI configuration parameters on page 32* provides more information on setting configuration parameters for ECI objects.

Figure 5-6. SNMP trap configuration parameters for the ECI named 1.2.3.4.5.6.47.108.10_6_10



Configuration parameters for the NCI named Router.Alarm-4-84-70 shows the expanded view of the NotifConfigInfo class. Note that there is a Router.Alarm grouping of NotifConfigInfo objects: all the NCIs associated with router alarms are listed in this group. Configuration parameters for the NCI named Router.Alarm-4-84-70 shows the configuration parameters for a specific NCI named Router.Alarm-4-84-70.

Note *Setting up NCI configuration parameters on page 50* provides more information on setting configuration parameters for NCI objects.

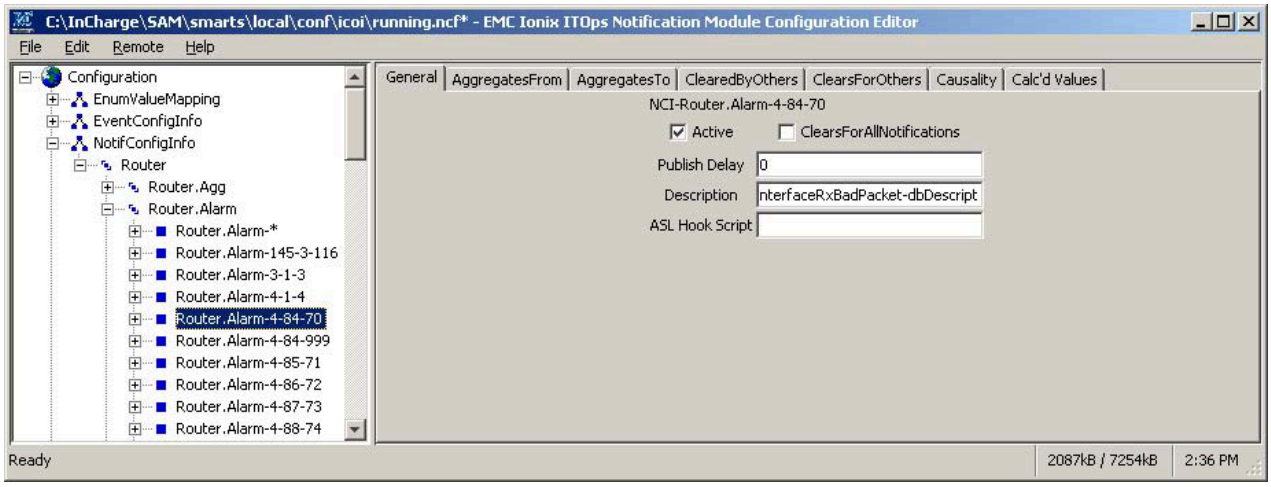
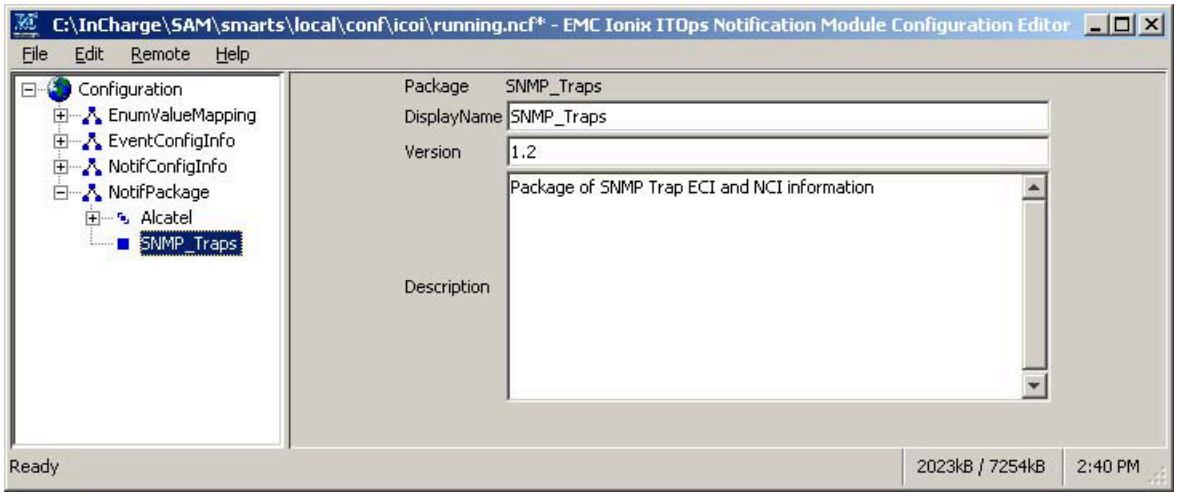


Figure 5-7. Configuration parameters for the NCI named Router.Alarm-4-84-70

Settings for the NotifPackage named SNMP_Traps shows the expanded view of the NotifPackage class. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF packages allow you to group VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF objects into logical areas of separation. For example, a set of ECIs, NCIs, and EnumValueMapping objects that support SNMP traps might be assigned to the SNMP_Traps package as seen in Settings for the NotifPackage named SNMP_Traps.

Note An object may only be assigned to a single package.

Figure 5-8. Settings for the NotifPackage named SNMP_Traps



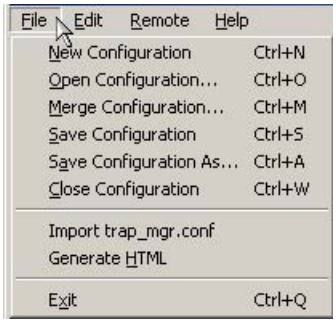
Main menu options

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor allows you to manipulate VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration files (*.ncf), both on the local machine that is running the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor as well as remote servers. The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor accesses local configuration *.ncf files under the File menu option, while remote operations are located under the Remote menu option.

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor provides key functions through the main menu such as: managing connections to servers, editing server settings, creating, changing, merging, and saving configurations, retrieving configurations from remote servers, storing configurations on remote servers, and generating HTML documentation. The following sections describe all of the main menu functions.

File menu options

This section describes the options available under the File menu for local *.ncf file configurations. The File menu options are described in the order they appear in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, as shown below.



The File menu options associated with manipulating *.ncf files on your local server are:

- New Configuration
- Open Configuration...
- Merge Configuration...
- Save Configuration
- Save Configuration As...
- Close Configuration

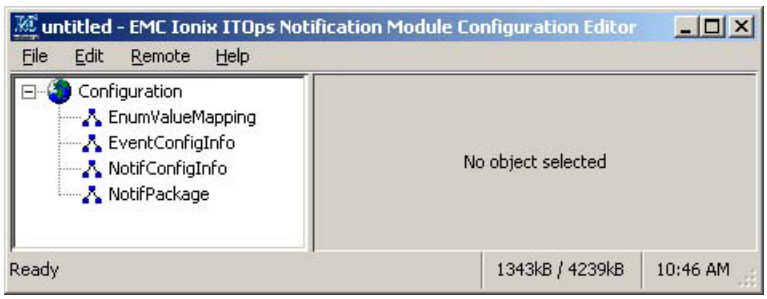
The File menu options associated with importing a trap_mgr.conf file to your local server and generating an HTML version of all NCI objects are:

- Import trap_mgr.conf
- Generate HTML.

New Configuration

This option creates a new configuration on the local server (that is, a new local *.ncf configuration file). The New Configuration option erases the memory of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor and opens a blank topology tree in the left pane with an untitled configuration file, as shown in New Configuration window in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Figure 5-9. New Configuration window in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor

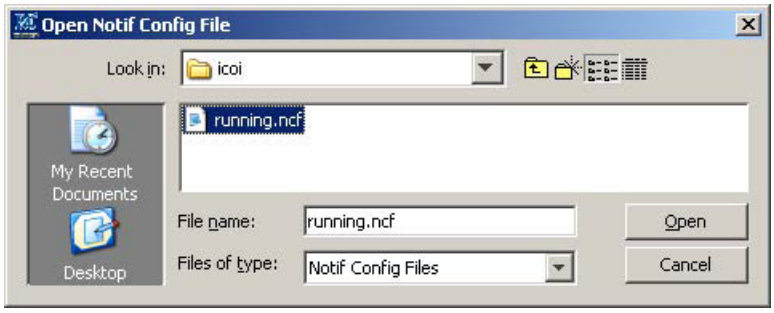


Open Configuration...

This option opens an existing configuration file on the local server. When this option is selected, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF looks for any *.ncf files in the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*config*> directory or the *BASEDIR*/smarts/conf/<*config*> directory on the local server.

When you select File > Open Configuration, the Open Notif Config Filedialog box appears, as shown in Open Notif Config File dialog box. Select the *.ncf file you would like to open and click Open. The selected configuration is loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Figure 5-10. Open Notif Config File dialog box

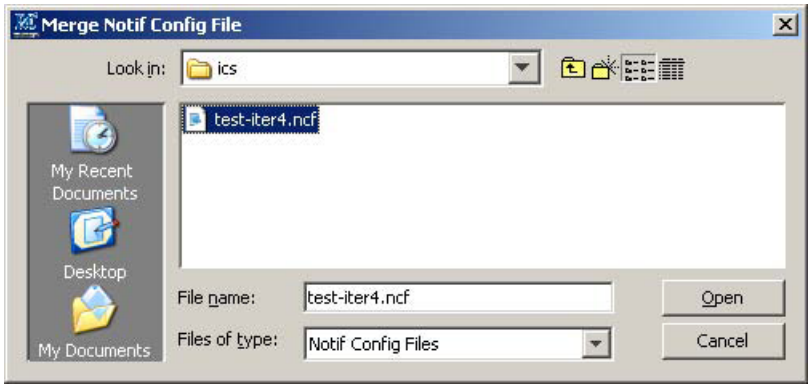


Merge Configuration...

This option adds another *.ncf file into the existing configuration in memory. Unlike the Create or Open Configuration options, the Merge Configuration option adds to or overwrites the existing configuration.

When you select this option, the Merge Notif Config File dialog box appears as shown in Merge Notif Config file dialog box. Select the *.ncf file that you want to merge with your existing configuration and click Open.

Figure 5-11. Merge Notif Config file dialog box



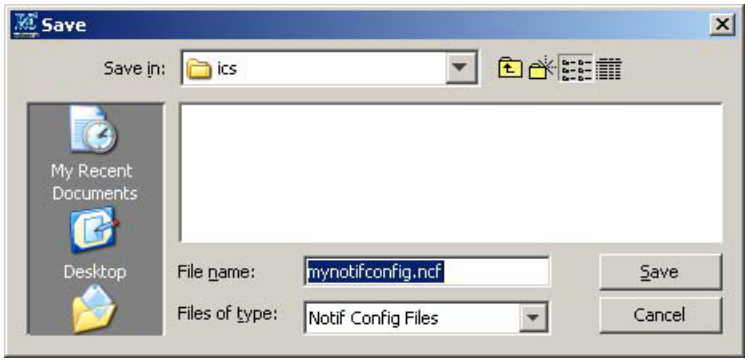
If the two configurations (that is, the existing configuration and the configuration you want to merge) have the same object, a prompt appears to choose between Keep Existing, Always Keep Existing, Use Imported, or Always Use Imported (see Merge Conflict dialog box). The “Always" options stop the prompting and VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF uses that choice for the remainder of the merge operation.

Figure 5-12. Merge Conflict dialog box

Save Configuration

This option saves the existing configuration to an *.ncf file on the local server. If the existing configuration is untitled, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor will prompt for a filename, and the Save dialog box will display, as shown in Save dialog box . Name your *.ncf file and click Save.

Figure 5-13. Save dialog box



Save Configuration As...

This option saves your existing configuration to a new *.ncf file on the local server. You can name or rename (if the existing configuration already has a name) an existing configuration to a specified filename. When you select this option, the Save dialog box appears as shown in Save Configuration As.... Name your *.ncf file and click Save.

Close Configuration

The Close Configuration option clears the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor memory.

Import trap_mgr.conf

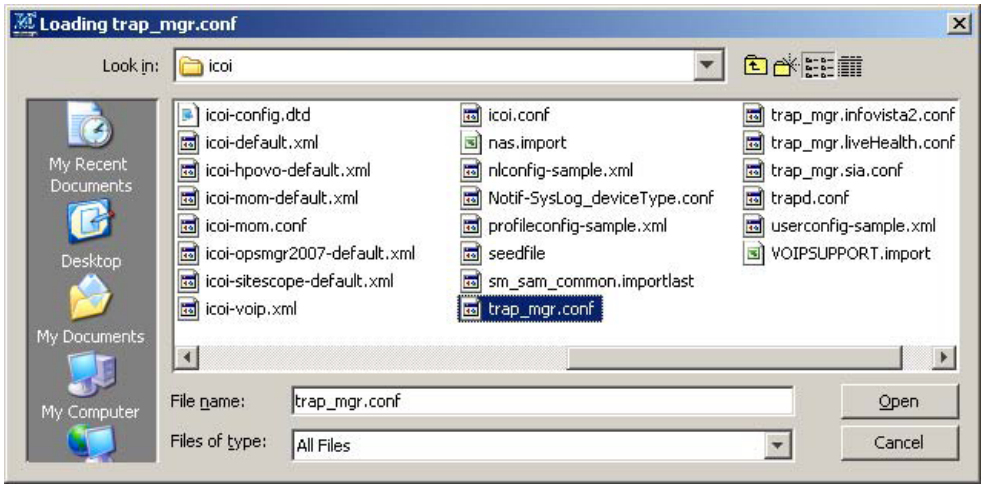
The trap_mgr.conf files used to configure a TRAP-INCHARGE-OI server (SNMP Trap Adapter) may be loaded into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to replicate the standard file-based functionally. All .conf file features and options are supported. Trap_mgr.conf files can be imported into a new configuration (File > New Configuration) or an existing open configuration (File > Open Configuration...) in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

To import a trap_mgr.conf file into a new or open configuration:

1 In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, select **File > Import trap_mgr.conf**.

2 The **Loading trap_mgr.conf** dialog box appears as shown in Loading trap_mgr.conf dialog box. Select the trap_mgr.conf file that you want to import and click **Open**.

Figure 5-14. Loading trap_mgr.conf dialog box



The configuration from the trap_mgr.conf file is loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Note If the trap definitions contain MAP statements, they will not be imported. You need to manually specify a value for the EnumeratedValue option in order to obtain the Map statements. Mapping statement functionally, (trap/varbind position dependant), is replaced with true enumerated value substitutions, (EVM's in NOTIF), that require OID's for generic substitution. Aggregation definitions within trap_mgr.conf generally reference substitution names such as 'E-G-$SomethingElse$,' which is undetermined within the scope of NOTIF aggregation. The user should review the trap_mgr.conf file to determine what EVM's and aggregations need to be created in NOTIF given the appropriate OID's and names.

3 In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, click **File** > **Save Configuration** or **File** > **Save Configuration As...** to save the imported configuration.

Note When you import configuration files, they only become persistent in the Adapter Platform or SAM server when you click **Save Configuration** or **Save Configuration As...** Otherwise, the imported configuration is only in memory (non-persistent).

Generate HTML

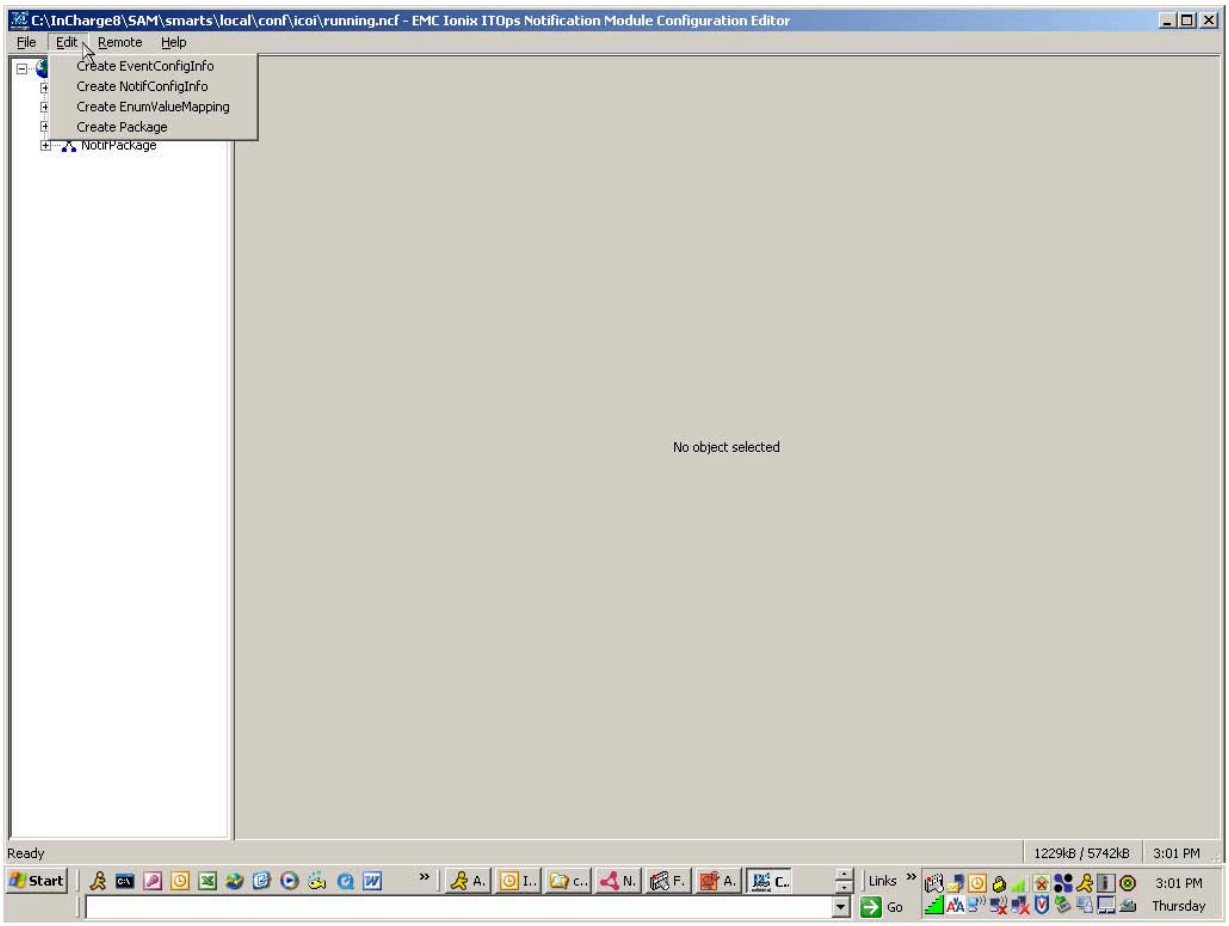
This option creates an HTML version of all NCI objects for review and documentation purposes. Index.html will provide the link to each VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF instance (see *"Generating VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF documentation" on page 95*).

Exit

This option provides clean shutdown of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Edit menu options

This section describes the options available under the Edit menu for open configurations. The Edit menu options are described in the order they appear in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, as follows:



The Edit menu options are:

- Create EventConfigInfo
- Create NotifConfigInfo
- Create EnumValueMapping
- Create Package

Create EventConfigInfo

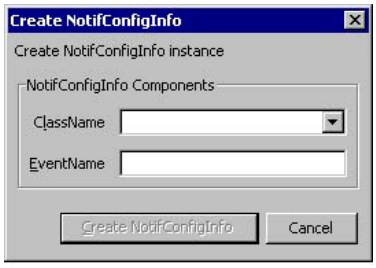
This creates a new ECI object through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. When you select this option, the dialog box shown in Create EventConfigInfo feature appears.

Figure 5-15. Create EventConfigInfo feature

Create NotifConfigInfo

This creates a new NCI object through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. When you select this option, the dialog box shown in Create NotifConfigInfo feature appears.

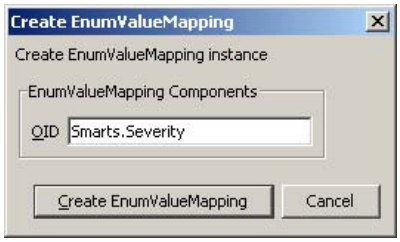
Figure 5-16. Create NotifConfigInfo feature



Create EnumValueMapping

This creates a new EnumValueMapping object through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor. When you select this option, the dialog box shown in Create EnumValueMapping feature appears.

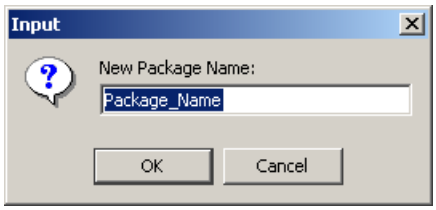
Figure 5-17. Create EnumValueMapping feature



Create Package

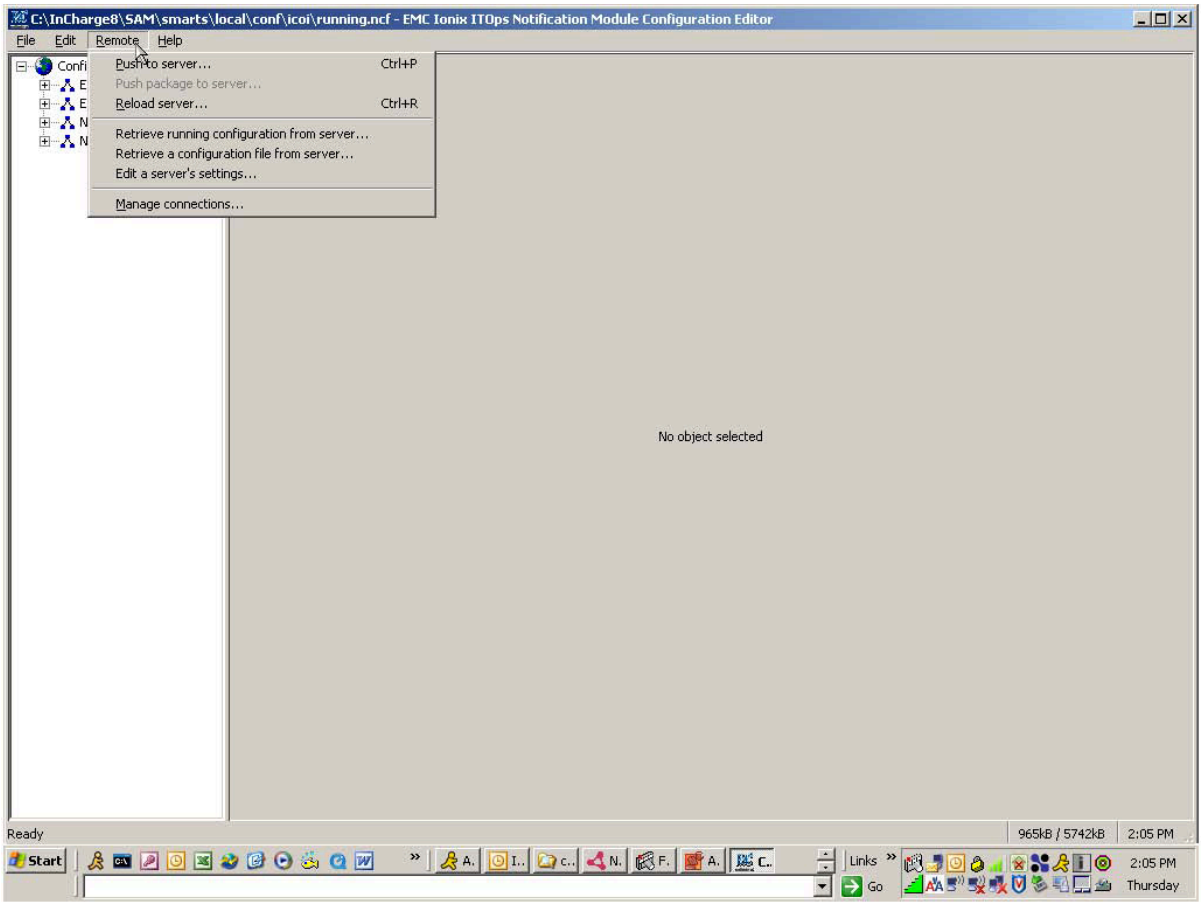
Packages can be defined to group VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF objects into sets for maintainability and transportability. These package sets can be created as a new NotifPackage object through the Create Package option. When you select this option, the dialog box as shown in Create Package feature appears.

Figure 5-18. Create Package feature



Remote menu options

This section describes the options available under the Remote menu for remote *.ncf file configurations. The Remote menu options are described in the order they appear in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, as follows:



The Remote menu options associated with pushing (or storing) a local *.ncf configuration file or package to a remote server are:

- Push to server...
- Push package to server...
- Reload server...

The Remote menu options associated with retrieving a running configuration or a specific *.ncf file from a remote server to a local server are:

- Retrieve running configuration from server...
- Retrieve a configuration file from server...

The Remote > Edit a server's settings menu option is used to edit server settings on a remote server. This menu option is used to activate VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF on a remote server, as mentioned previously in the section *"Starting VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF" on page 66*. Using this menu option creates persistent server settings. Edit a server's settings... provides details.

The Remote > Manage connections menu option is used to manage remote server connections. Manage connections... provides details.

Push to server...

The VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor allows you to manipulate the *.ncf files on a remote VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF server by pushing (or storing) the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor configuration to the remote server and optionally instructing VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF within that server to reload the *.ncf files. Reloading of the *.ncf files reloads *all**.ncf files in the corresponding *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/< *config*>directories in the remote VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF server.

Note Ensure there are no conflicting configurations within multiple *.ncf files as the order in which these files are read is undetermined. Use only one *.ncf file on a remote server.

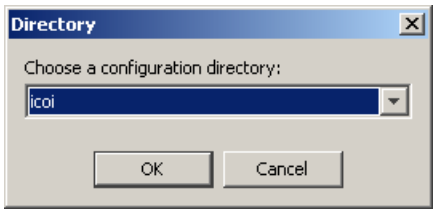
The Push to server option saves the existing open configuration to a file on a remote VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Adapter Platformor SAM server of your choice. When you select this option:

1 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears as shown in Push to server.... Choose the remote server where you want to store your configuration and click **OK**. A prompt may appear to type a password to connect to the remote server as shown in Push to server....

Note The first time you connect to a given server when you use the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor during a given work session, type a password when the prompt appears. After that, the prompt to type a password does appear on that server.

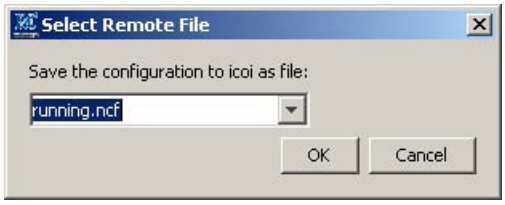
2 The **Directory**dialog box appears as shown in Directory dialog box. Choose the directory location on the remote server where you want to store your configuration and click **OK**.

Figure 5-19. Directory dialog box



3 The **Select Remote File**dialog box appears as shown in Select Remote File. This is the name of the *.ncf file that you are storing on the remote server. The *.ncf file is always stored to the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/< *config*>directory on the remote server. Select the *.ncf file you want to push to the remote server and click **OK**.

Figure 5-20. Select Remote File

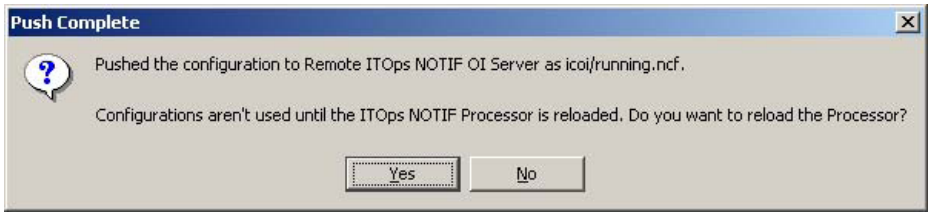


Note If an *.ncf file already exists in the /local/conf/< *config*>directory on the remote server, a prompt appears to overwrite the existing *.ncf file or cancel.

4 The **Push Complete**dialog box appears as shown in Push Complete dialog box. This dialog confirms that the *.ncf file has been pushed to the remote server and prompts you to reload the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF processor on that server so that the new configuration takes effect.

Note Reloading of the *.ncf file on a remote VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF server reloads *all**.ncf files in the corresponding icoi/ics directories in that server. Care should be taken to ensure there are no conflicting configurations within multiple *.ncf files as the order in which these files are read is undetermined.

Figure 5-21. Push Complete dialog box



5 Click **Yes**to reload the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF processor to make the new configuration active on the remote server.

6 The **Reload Complete**dialog box appears as shown in Reload Complete dialog box. This dialog box confirms that the new configuration in the *.ncf file has been reloaded and is persistent in the remote server. Click **OK**.

Figure 5-22. Reload Complete dialog box

Push package to server...

This option allows you to store a selected *.ncf package to a remote server. When you select this option:

1 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears as shown in Push package to server.... Choose the remote server where you want to push the package and click **OK**.

2 The **Directory** dialog box appears as shown in Push package to server.... Choose the directory location on the remote server where you want to push the package and click **OK**.

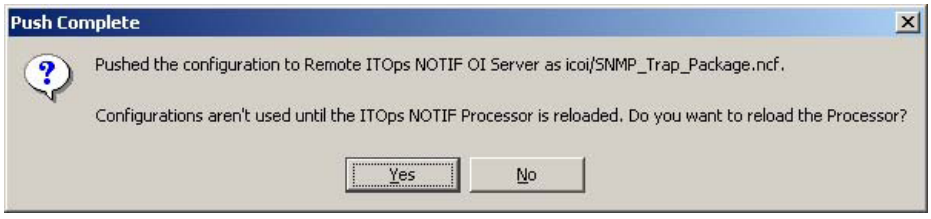
3 The **Select Remote File** dialog box appears as shown in Select Remote File dialog box. Select the name of the *.ncf package file you want to push to the remote server and click **OK**.

Figure 5-23. Select Remote File dialog box

4 The **Push Complete** dialog box appears as shown in Push complete for package dialog box. This dialog confirms that the *.ncf package file has been pushed to the remote server and prompts you to reload the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor on that server so that the new configuration package takes effect on that server.

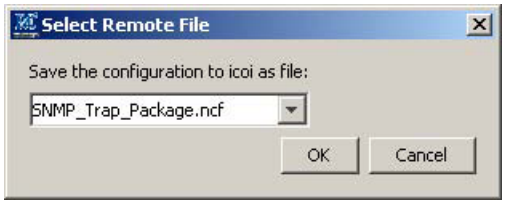
Note Reloading of the *.ncf file on a remote VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF server reloads all *.ncf files in the corresponding icoi/ics directories in that server. Care should be taken to ensure there are no conflicting configurations within multiple *.ncf files as the order in which these files are read is undetermined.

Figure 5-24. Push complete for package dialog box



5 Click **Yes** to reload the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor to make the new configuration package active on the remote server.

6 The **Reload Complete** dialog box appears as shown in Push package to server.... This dialog box confirms that the new configuration in the *.ncf package file has been reloaded and is persistent in the remote server. Click **OK**.



Reload server...

This option allows you to request that a remote server running VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF reload its *.ncf configuration files. The Reload server option is used to make configuration changes active on a remote server. For example, if an *.ncf configuration file is pushed to a remote server through the Push to server option, or a specific *.ncf package file is pushed to a remote server through the Push package to server option, the configuration changes on the remote server will not become active unless the Reload server menu option is selected.

Note Care should be taken to ensure there are no conflicting configurations within multiple *.ncf files on the remote server, as the order in which these files are read is undetermined. Use only one *.ncf file on a remote server.

When you select the Reload server option in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor:

1 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears as shown in Reload server.... Choose the remote server where you want to reload the configuration file and click **OK**.

2 If there are other *.ncf files in the remote server besides the *.ncf file you are pushing from your local server to the remote server, note that *all* of the *.ncf files on the remote VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Adapter Platform or SAM server will be reloaded in the corresponding *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*config*> directory.

3 After the remote server has reloaded the configuration file(s), the **Reload Complete** dialog box shown in Reload server... appears. This dialog box confirms that the new configuration in the *.ncf file has been reloaded and is persistent in the remote server. Click **OK**.

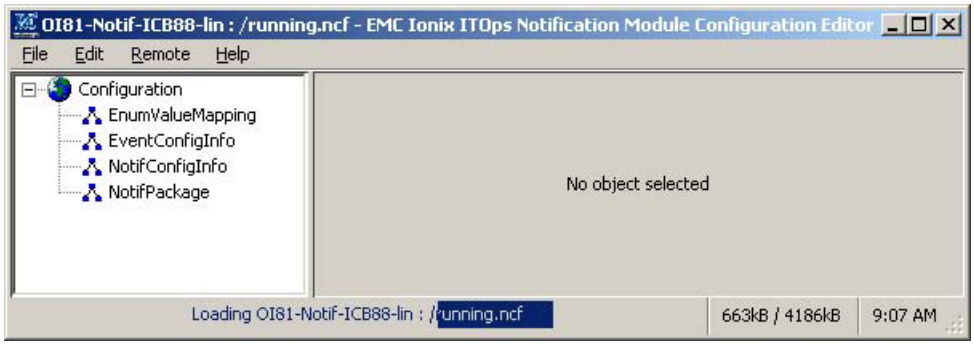
Retrieve running configuration from server...

This option retrieves a running configuration from a remote server (that is, the existing configuration running in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor on the remote server). When you select this option:

1 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears (see Retrieve running configuration from server...). Choose the remote server from which you want to retrieve the running configuration and click **OK**.

2 A progress bar at the bottom of the screen indicates that the running configuration from the remote server is being loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor on the local server, as shown in Loading a running configuration from a remote server. In this example, the running configuration being retrieved is a configuration file named running.ncf on a remote Adapter Platform server named OI81-Notif-ICB88-lin.

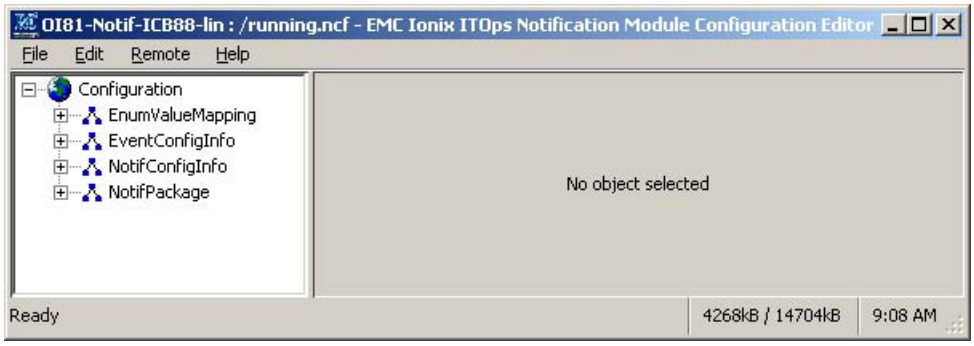
Figure 5-25. Loading a running configuration from a remote server



3 When the configuration data from the remote server is imported into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor on the local server:

- The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration objects in the topology tree are populated (that is, there are now EnumValueMapping, EventConfigInfo, NotifConfigInfo, and NotifPackage objects in the tree), and
  - The word “Ready” appears in the bottom-left corner of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, as shown in Running configuration from remote server loaded into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Figure 5-26. Running configuration from remote server loaded into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor



4 To save the configuration to your local server:

5 Select **File > Save Configuration As...**

6 Name the .ncf file and select the directory on your local server where you want to store the configuration in the **Save** dialog box as shown in Retrieve running configuration from server....

Retrieve a configuration file from server...

This option retrieves a specific named *.ncf file from the remote server’s configuration directories (that is, from the *BASEDIR*/smarts/conf/<*config*> or *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*config*> directories). When you select this option:

1 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears as shown in Retrieve a configuration file from server.... Choose the remote server from which you want to retrieve the specific *.ncf file and click **OK**.

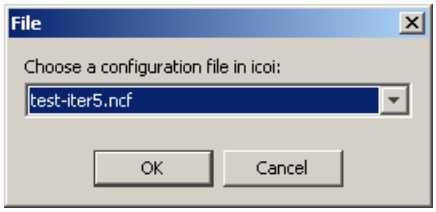
2 The **Directory** dialog box appears as shown in Retrieve a configuration file from server.... Choose a directory on the remote server from which you want to retrieve the *.ncf file and click **OK**.

3 The **File** dialog box appears, as shown in File dialog box. This dialog provides a drop-down list of the *.ncf files in the selected directory.

Note If you are retrieving an *.ncf file from a remote server, and you have existing *.ncf file(s) on your local system, be careful to ensure that there are no conflicting configurations within multiple *.ncf files as the order in which these files are read is undetermined.

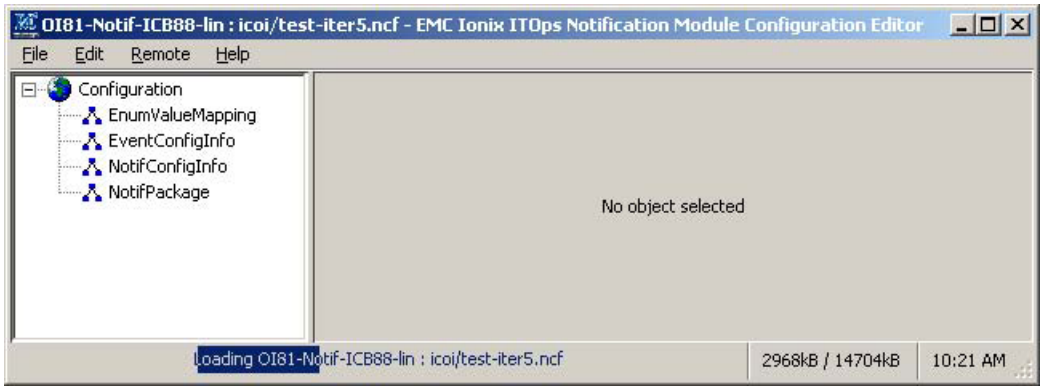
Select the *.ncf file you want to retrieve from the remote server and click **OK**.

Figure 5-27. File dialog box



4 A progress bar at the bottom of the screen indicates that the selected remote *.ncf file is being loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor on the local server, as shown in Loading an .ncf file from a remote server. In this example, the *.ncf file being retrieved is a configuration file named test-iter5.ncf on a remote Adapter Platform server named OI81-Notif-ICB88-lin.

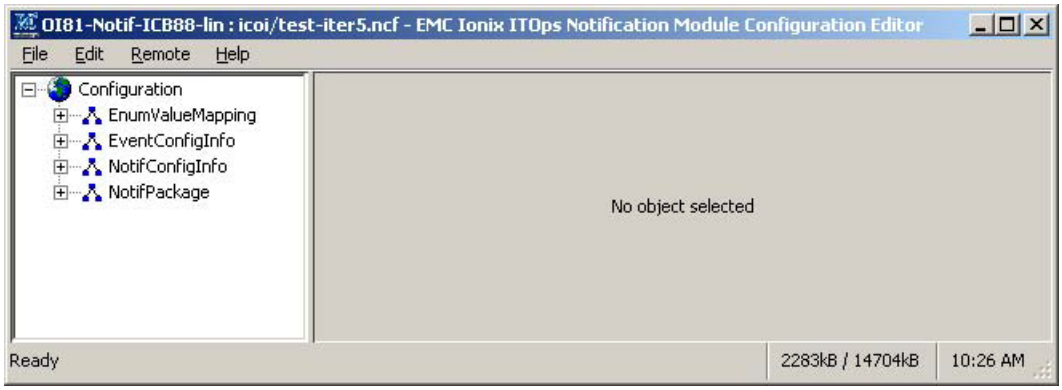
Figure 5-28. Loading an .ncf file from a remote server



5 When the *.ncf file from the remote server is imported into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor on the local server:

- The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF configuration objects in the topology tree are populated (that is, there are now EnumValueMapping, EventConfigInfo, NotifConfigInfo, and NotifPackage objects in the tree), and
  - The word “Ready” appears in the bottom-left corner of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor as shown in .ncf file from a remote server is now loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Figure 5-29. .ncf file from a remote server is now loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor



6 To save the configuration to your local server:

7 Select **File > Save Configuration As...**

8 Name the .ncf file and select the directory on your local server where you want to store the configuration in the **Save** dialog box (see Retrieve a configuration file from server...).

Edit a server’s settings...

This option is used to change server settings on remote Adapter Platform/SAM servers. One of the settings you can change on a remote server is whether VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is active on that server. The process for activating VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF on a remote server using the Edit a server’s settings... option is described in *“Starting VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF” on page 66*.

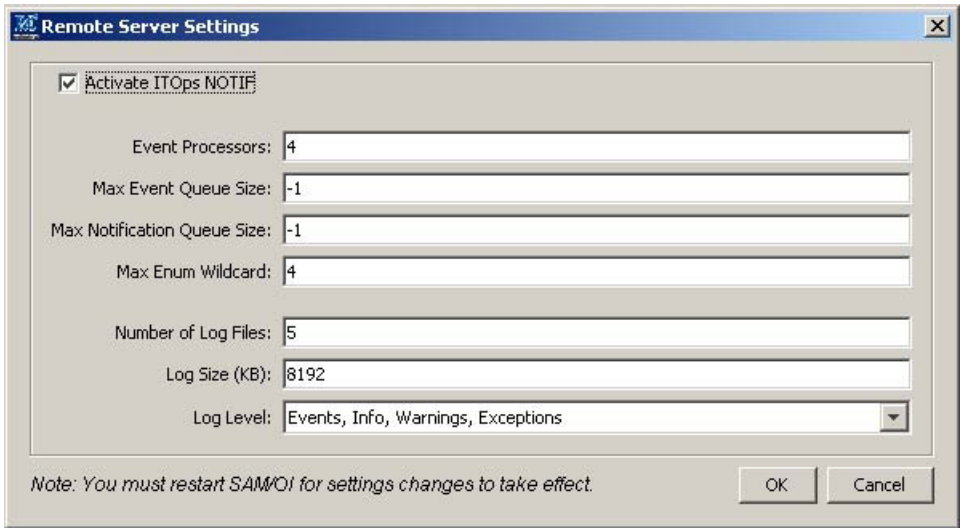
To change settings on a remote Adapter Platform/SAM server:

1 Select **Remote > Edit a server's settings**.

2 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears, as shown in Edit a server’s settings.... Choose the remote server where you want to change server settings and click **OK.**

3 The **Remote Server Settings** dialog box appears that shows the server's current settings as shown in Remote Server Settings dialog box. The options you can change in this dialog are defined in Remote Adapter Platform/SAM server settings .

Figure 5-30. Remote Server Settings dialog box



4 Make any setting changes to the remote server in the **Remote Server Settings** dialog box, and click **OK**.

5 Restart the Adapter Platform/SAM server.

Note Server setting changes made in the Remote Server Settings dialog box are persistent. When you change server settings in the Remote Server Settings dialog box and click OK, the changes are saved to the Notif_Settings.import file that is generated and saved to the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*icoi* or *ics*> directory in the Adapter Platform or SAM server where VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is running.

Table 5-1. Remote Adapter Platform /SAM server settings

Parameter	Type	Default value	Use
Activate VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF	Boolean	Off	Determines whether VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is active on the server.
Event Processors	Integer	4	The number of threads desired to process incoming raw events. This setting also implicitly determines how many connections will exist in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF connection pool. It is recommended that customers work with an VMware representative to determine the best ProcessCount number for their particular deployment.
Max Event Queue Size	Integer	-1	The maximum number of unprocessed events that can wait in the event queue. If the limit is exceeded, new events are dropped. The value “-1” means no limit.
Max Notification Queue Size	Integer	-1	The maximum number of unprocessed notifications that can wait in the notification queue. If the limit is exceeded, new notifications are dropped. The value “-1” means no limit.

Table 5-1. Remote Adapter Platform /SAM server settings (Continued)

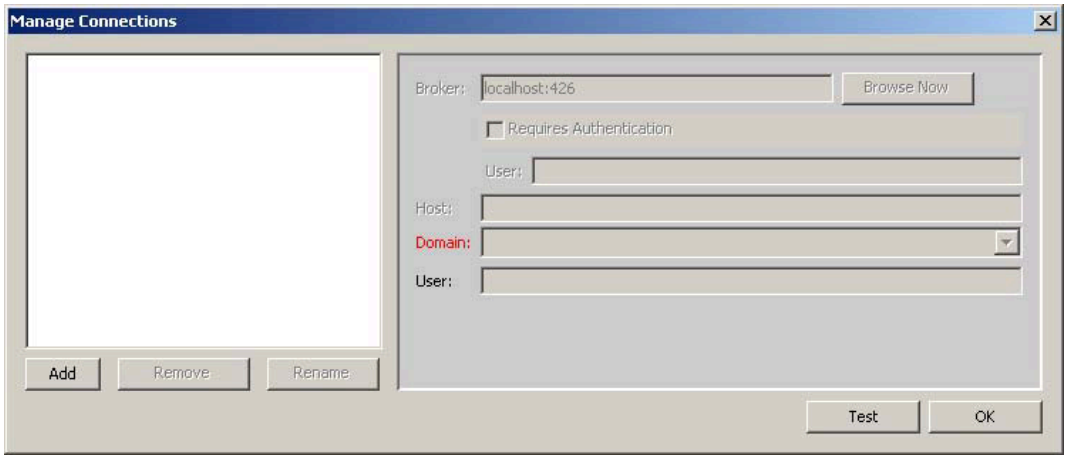
Parameter	Type	Default value	Use
MaxEnumWildcard	Integer	4	If an ECI's varbinds are checking for wildcard enumerations, VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF drops up to this many nodes in looking for a match.
Number of Log Files	Integer	6	The maximum number of log files VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF maintains before deleting old ones.
LogSize	Integer	2000000	When a VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF log reaches this size (in kilobytes), the file is closed and a new one is started. The size of this setting must be between 0 and 2,097,152 KB inclusive.
LogLevel	Integer	Events, Info, Warnings, Exceptions	The log level options are: ■ Exceptions Only ■ Events, Info, Warnings, Exceptions ■ Everything, including debug info

Manage connections...

Connections are defined within the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor to access remote servers. Multiple connections may be defined and given a reference name for convenience. To add a remote server connection in the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor, perform the following steps:

1 Select **Remote >Manage Connections**in the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF Editor. The **Manage Connections** dialog box appears as shown in Blank Manage Connections dialog box.

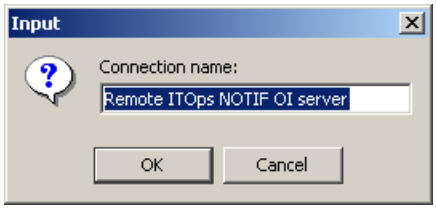
Figure 5-31. Blank Manage Connections dialog box



2 Click **Add**.

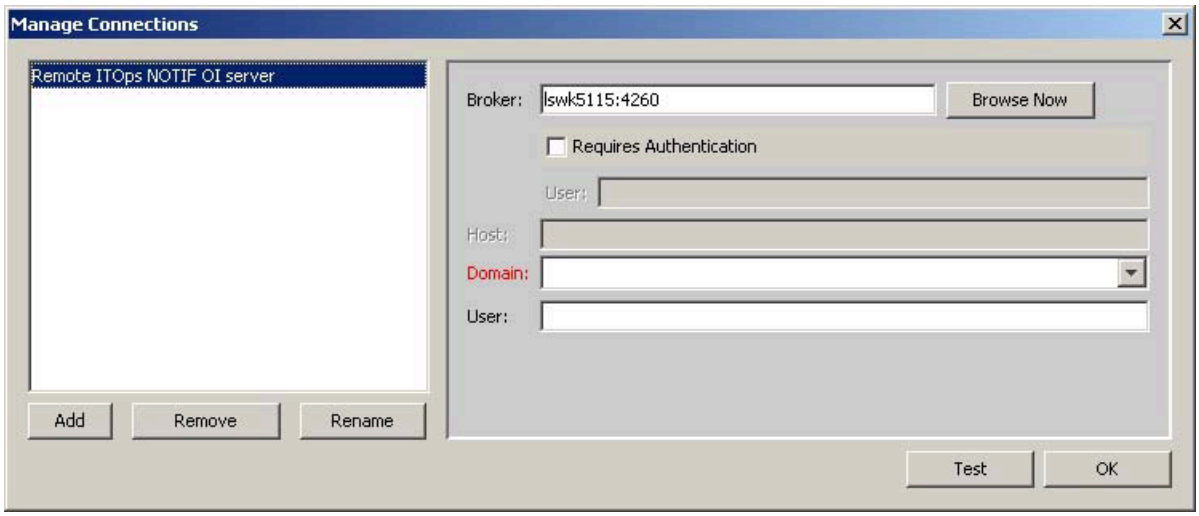
3 The **Input**dialog box appears as shown in Input dialog box for remote server connection reference name. Type a connection reference name (for example, Remote VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF OI server) in the **Input**dialog box and click **OK**.

Figure 5-32. Input dialog box for remote server connection reference name



4 Fill in the new connection record in the right pane of the **Manage Connections** dialog box. An example is shown in Manage Connections dialog box with remote server connection reference name.

Figure 5-33. Manage Connections dialog box with remote server connection reference name



5 If you are connecting to a broker:

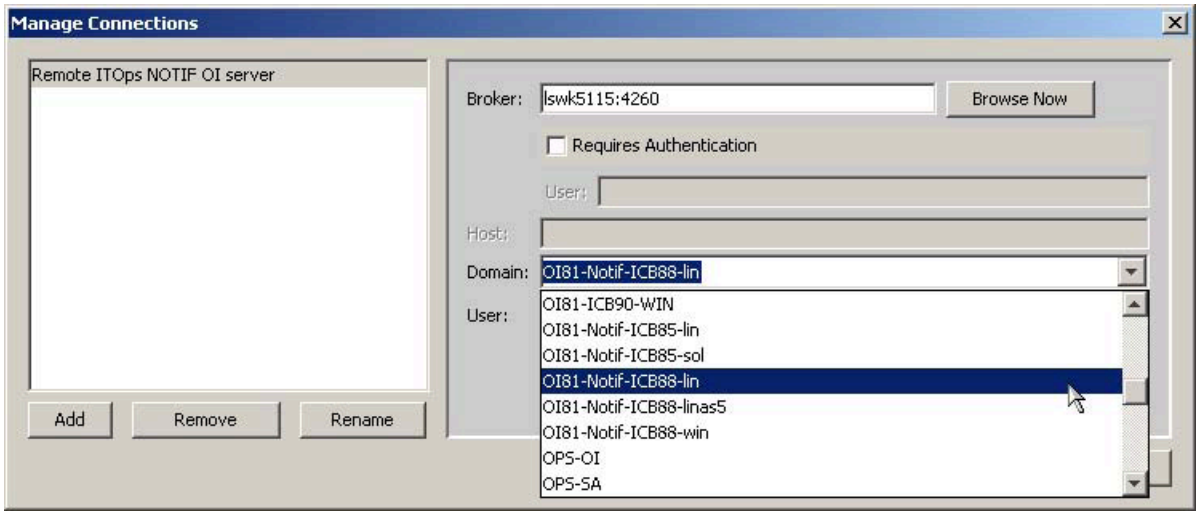
- Type the broker name in the **Broker:**field.
  - Click **Browse Now**and select a domain in the **Domain:** drop-down list as shown in Selecting a domain in the Manage Connections dialog box.
    - Type the username in the **User:** field.

Note If you are connecting to a broker that requires authentication, select the **Requires Authentication**checkbox and type the username in the **User:**field below the checkbox.

6 If you are connecting directly to a server (that is, the **Broker:**field is empty):

- Type the hostname in the **Host:** field.
  - Select a domain in the **Domain:** drop-down list.
    - Type the username in the **User:** field.

Figure 5-34. Selecting a domain in the Manage Connections dialog box

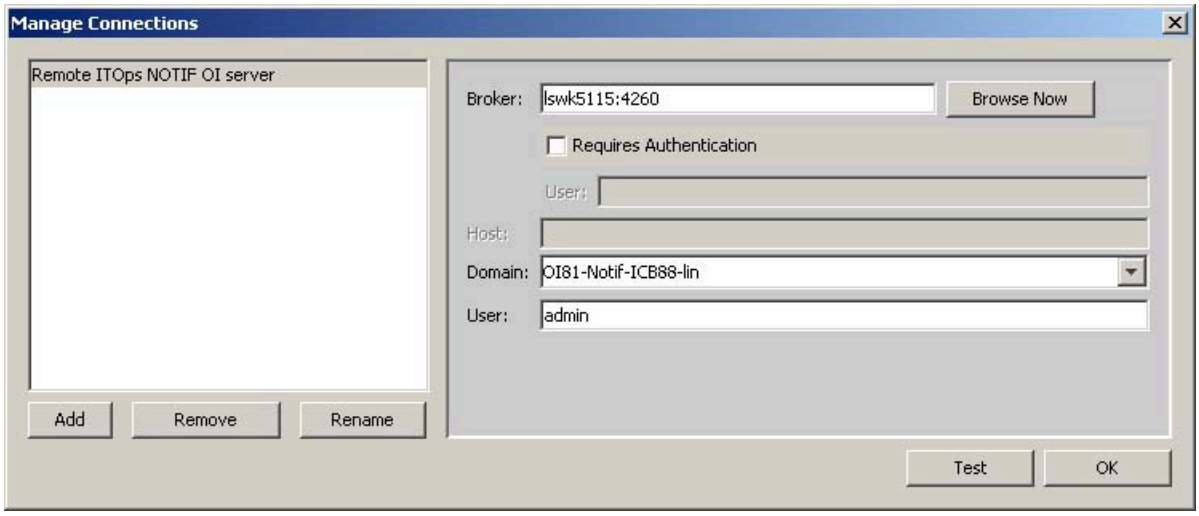


7 Click **Test**to try the remote server connection. If you are connected to the server, the **Connected**dialog box appears as shown in Connection confirmation dialog box.

Figure 5-35. Connection confirmation dialog box

8 Save the connection setup by clicking **OK**. An example of a completed connection setup is shown in Completed connection setup data in the Manage Connections dialog box.

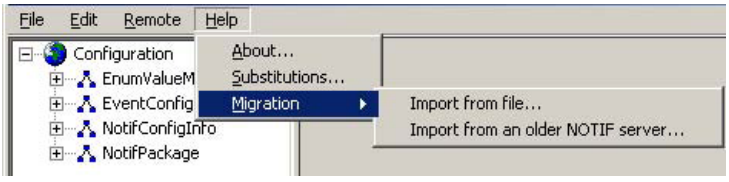
Figure 5-36. Completed connection setup data in the Manage Connections dialog box



Note Connections are stored in the user's preferences data on the local system, so the connection data is persistent.

Help menu options

This section describes the options available under the Help menu. The Help menu options are described in the order they appear in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, as shown below.



The general Help menu options are:

- About
- Substitutions

  The Help menu options associated with migrating configuration files or configurations from previous NOTIF versions to VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF are under the Migration submenu:

- Import from file...
- Import from an older NOTIF server...

About

Provides information regarding the current version of the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

Substitutions

Provides information about the substitution variables supported between raw event values and the notifications created through the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

The Help menu options associated with importing configuration files to your local server are:

Import from file...

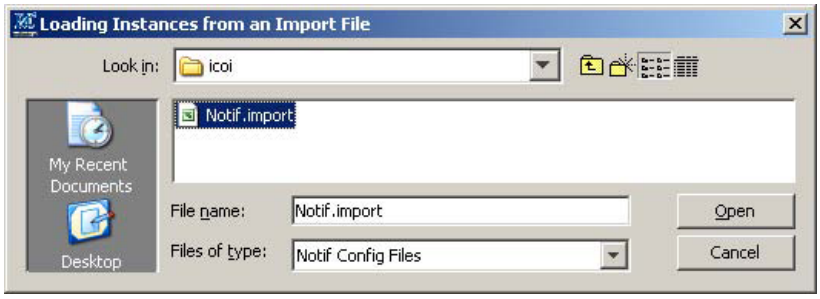
The Import from file... option loads an .import file that contains NOTIF configuration objects from a previous NOTIF version into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor memory. This allows you to edit the configuration (if desired) in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor and save the configuration into an .ncf file. The Import from file... option migrates your previous NOTIF configuration .import file into VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF and converts it into an .ncf file format.

To migrate an import configuration file from a previous NOTIF version into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor memory:

1 In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, select **Help > Migration** > **Import from file…**

2 The **Loading Instances from an Import File** dialog box appears as shown in Loading Instances from an Import File dialog box. Select the .import file with the NOTIF configuration objects (from the previous NOTIF version) that you want to migrate into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor and click **Open**.

Figure 5-37. Loading Instances from an Import File dialog box



The configuration from the .import file is loaded into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

3 In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, click **File** > **Save Configuration** or **File** > **Save Configuration As...** to save the imported configuration.

Note When you import configuration files, they only become persistent in the Adapter Platform or SAM server when you click **Save Configuration** or **Save Configuration As...** Otherwise, the imported configuration is only in memory (non-persistent).

The Import from File option works as follows:

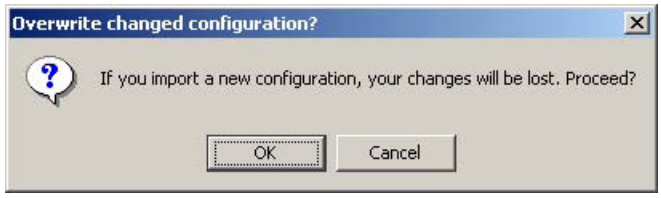
- If no configuration is open (that is, you just started the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, or you closed a configuration), the import will create a new configuration.

- If a configuration is open, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor will ask you if it should Cancel Import, Create New, or Add to Current (see Overwrite Configuration dialog box).

Figure 5-38. Overwrite Configuration dialog box

- When creating a new configuration, if the current configuration is unsaved, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor warns of this and asks whether to proceed, as shown in Overwrite changed configuration dialog box.

Figure 5-39. Overwrite changed configuration dialog box



- When reading an object (during Create New or Add to Current configuration options), if the object does not exist, it will be created with default values.
- VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF accepts incomplete objects in the import file. Missing attributes will be default values (if the object didn't exist) or existing values.

Note If an object selected in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor is changed by an import operation, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor may not refresh the view. You have to click elsewhere and then back to the changed object to see the update.

Import from an older NOTIF server...

This option allows you to import a configuration from a running SAM 7.x/NOTIF 2.x server into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor and save it as an .ncf file on a SAM 9.2/VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF server.

Note This option functions in a similar fashion as the Import from file option previously described. For example, if no configuration is open, the import will create a new configuration; if a configuration is open, the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor will ask you if it should Cancel Import, Create New, or Add to Current, and so on.

To import a configuration from an older NOTIF server:

1. In the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor, select **Help > Migration** > **Import from an older NOTIF server…**

2 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears, as shown in Import from an older NOTIF server... . Choose the running SAM 7.x/NOTIF 2.x server where you want to import the configuration from and click **OK**.

   The configuration from the running SAM 7.x/NOTIF 2.x server is loaded into into the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor.

3 Select **Remote** > **Push to Server...**

4 The **Connect to a Server** dialog box appears. Choose the SAM 9.2 server where you want to push the older configuration to and click **OK**.

5 The **Directory** dialog box appears, as shown in Import from an older NOTIF server... . Choose the directory location on the SAM 9.2 server where you want to store your configuration and click **OK**.

6 The **Select Remote File** dialog box appears as shown in Import from an older NOTIF server... . This is the name of the *.ncf file you are storing on the SAM 9.2 server. The *.ncf file is always stored to the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/conf/<*config*> directory on the SAM 9.2 server. Name the *.ncf file that you want to push to the SAM 9.2 server and click **OK**.

7 The **Push Complete** dialog box appears, as shown in Import from an older NOTIF server... . This dialog confirms that the *.ncf file has been pushed to the SAM 9.2 server and prompts you to reload the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor on that server so that the new configuration takes effect.

   Note Reloading of the *.ncf file on a remote VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF server reloads *all* *.ncf files in the corresponding icoi/ics directories in that server. Care should be taken to ensure there are no conflicting configurations within multiple *.ncf files as the order in which these files are read is undetermined.

8 Click **Yes** to reload the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor to make the new configuration active on the SAM 9.2 server.

9 The **Reload Complete** dialog box appears as shown in Import from an older NOTIF server... . This dialog box confirms that the new configuration in the *.ncf file has been reloaded and is persistent in the SAM 9.2 server. Click **OK**.

   Note In SAM 8.1 and above, the configurations are saved to the .ncf file and can be imported to SAM 9.2 using *Open Configuration* and *Push to server operation* . Open Configuration... and Push to server... provide more details.

Generating VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF documentation

A useful function provided by VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF through the File, Generate HTML menu option is that it automatically creates an HTML-based document that includes information on all the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF internal configuration objects (EVM, ECI, NCI, and NotifPackage objects). This makes it easy to view all the VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF event and notification

information in one place. As shown in VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF HTML documentation, index.html provides a link to each VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF instance—in the example below the description is shown for the NotifConfigInfo object named Router.Alarm-3-1-3.

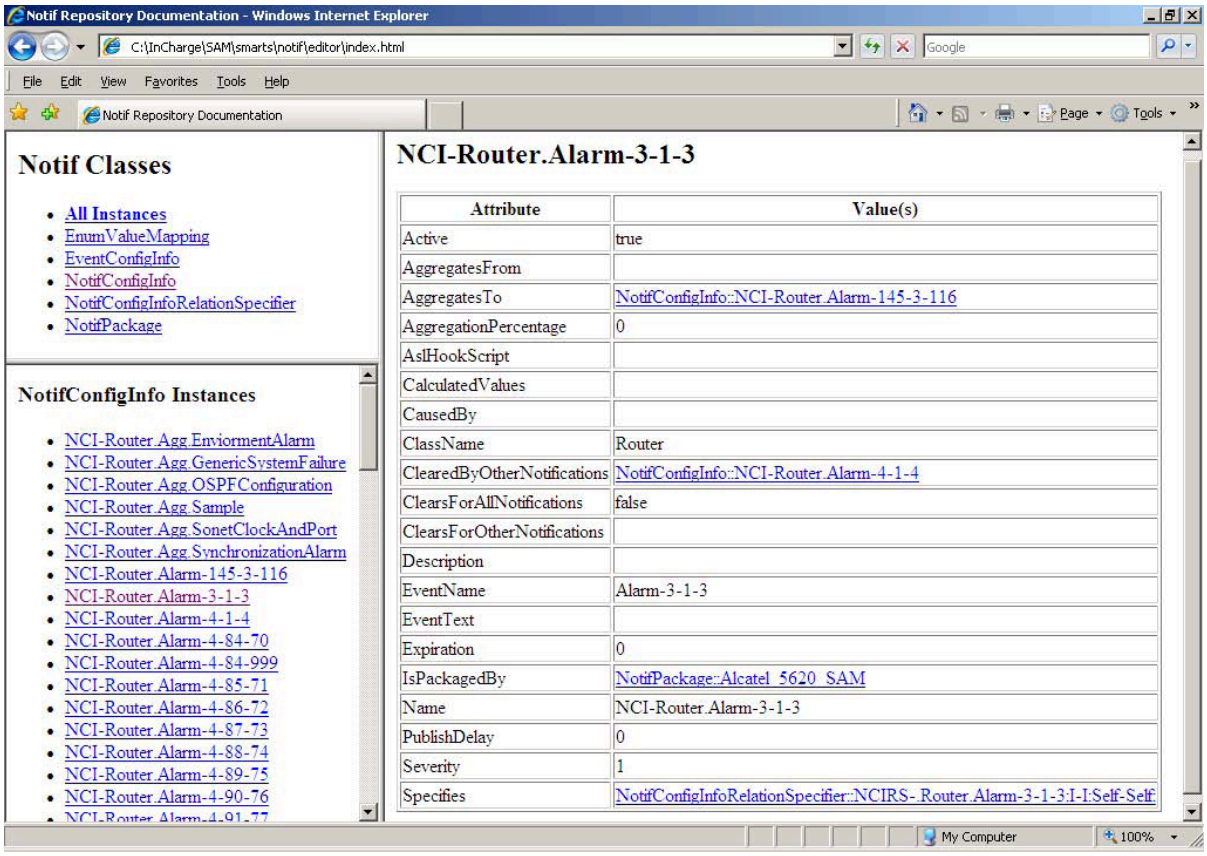


Figure 5-40. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF HTML documentation

Note Ensure you regenerate the HTML file when you modify configurations.

Disabling VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF application cannot be uninstalled separately from SAM 9.2 because the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor is included as part of the SAM 9.2 server application. However, you can disable VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF on an Adapter Platform/SAM server by performing the following steps:

1 Launch the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor by selecting **Start** > **Programs** > **InCharge** > **VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor**.

   Note You can also launch the editor by double-clicking the NotifGui.sh file (for UNIX systems) in the *BASEDIR*/smarts/notif/editor directory.

2 Use the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor to connect to the running Adapter Platform or SAM server where you want to disable VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF . Select **Remote** > **Edit a server's settings…** and choose a server in the **Connect to a Server** dialog box.

3 The **Remote Server Settings** dialog box appears showing the server's current settings. In the **Remote Server Settings** dialog box, clear the **Activate VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF** checkbox, and then click **OK**.

4 Configure the SNMP Trap Adapter to use the default trap_mgr_parse.asl script instead of the Notif-trap_mgr_parse.asl script.

   For example:

```
./sm_trapd --name=TRAP-OI --server=INCHARGE-OI --config=icoi
--port=9013 --model=sm_actions --output
--rules=icoi-trapd/trap_mgr_parse.asl --daemon
```

5 Configure the Syslog Adapter to use the default SysLog_mgr.asl script instead of the Notif-SysLog_mgr.asl script.

   For example:

```
./sm_adapter.exe --NTsErViCeNaMe=ic-syslog-adapter --name=SYSLOG-OI --server=INCHARGE-OI --
tail=/var/log/syslog --model=sm_system --model=sm_actions --output icoi-syslog/SysLog_mgr.asl
```

6 Restart the Adapter Platform/SAM server.

Substitution Scripting and Values

6

This chapter includes the following topics:

- Script parsing overview for substitution features
- Built-in operators
- Built-in functions
- Substitution values for ECI configuration parameters

Script parsing overview for substitution features

For substitution, the input is a string with embedded script. The embedded script is signalled by surrounding it with $:

- **There is no script here.**
- **There is $** *script* **$ here.** — Evaluates *script* and replaces it within the string.
- **$ "There is " +** *script* **+ " here." $** — This is equivalent. It's using + for concatenation of string literals.
- **This is a string without a $$ script** — This is an example of embedding $ in a string without starting a script block.

  Scripts have identifiers, quoted strings, and numbers:

- Identifiers must start with a letter or underscore and continue until the first non-letter, non-digit, non-underscore character:
  - Examples of identifiers are **foo**, **_bar**, and **abc123**.
  - Examples of illegal identifiers are **2b** (it starts with a digit), **foo-bar** (it has an embedded hyphen).
- Quoted strings start and end with the double quote character (“). To embed a double quote, use a backslash (\) before it. To embed a backward slash, use backward slash twice (\\):
  - "This is a typical string."
  - "This is a string with \" an embedded double quote."
  - "This is a string with \\ a backslash."

- "This is " not a legal string."

  Whitespace in the script is ignored unless it is within a quoted string.

  Scripts may have function calls. A function call is an identifier followed by a set of zero or more comma-separated arguments. The arguments may be any valid expression. For example:

- foo ()
- foo ("string 1", bar (identifier1, identifier2))

For example, **toUpper (E)** would report the event's enterprise value string in upper case.

Note Script parsing overview for substitution features lists the substitution values that can be used in ECI configuration parameters.

Built-in operators

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF includes the following operators for use in scripting:

- str1 + str2 — Returns the concatenation of str1 and str2.

  "abc" + "def" ---> "abcdef"

- number1 + number2 — Returns the sum of the two numbers.

  123 + 456 ---> "579"

  Note The script evaluation of VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF is string-based. VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF examines the two operands and, if both are legal numbers, it sums them. Otherwise, the two strings are concatenated. To ensure a concatenation regardless of string content, use the concat() function described.

- number1 * number2 — Returns the product of the two numbers.

  3 * 4 ---> "12"

Built-in functions

VMware Smart AssuranceNOTIF includes the following built-in functions for use in scripting:

- **toLower** (string) — Returns the string in lower case.
- **toUpper**(string) — Returns the string in upper case.
- **sizeOf**(string) — Returns the length of a string.
- **substr**(string, startPosition, length) — Returns a substring of the string, starting at 'startPosition', for 'length' characters. The first character in the string is start position 1 (this is different from many programming languages that use 0 for the first position). If the length requested exceeds the length available, all of the remaining characters are returned. If the start position is less than 1, an evaluation error occurs. If the start position is beyond the length of the string, an empty string is returned.

- **concat**(string1, string2, ...) — Returns the concatenation of two or more strings. **concat ("a", "b", "c") --->"abc"**
- **time**(), time (formatString) — Returns the current time, optionally formatted according to a format string. The format string is the typical Java language date format string (for more information, see http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/text/SimpleDateFormat.html. If no format string is provided, the system uses *EEE, d MMM yyyy HH:mm:ss Z*, which results in a timestamp such as: " **Thu, 23 Aug 2007 16:01:21 -0400**."
- **extract**(string, separator, field) — Splits the string using the 'separator' and returns the 'field'. The separator value is a regular expression (for information on how to format 'separator', see http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/lang/String.html#split(java.lang.String). If there are not enough resulting fields, an empty string is returned:
  - extract ("1,2,3,4,5,6", "," ,4) --->4
  - extract ("abcdef", "c", 2) --->"def"
  - extract ("abcdef", "c", 3) --->""

Substitution values for ECI configuration parameters

Substitution values for ECI configuration parameters lists the substitution values that can be used in ECI configuration parameters, such as User Defined values, Event Setup options, and Calculated values.

Table 6-1. Substitution values for ECI configuration parameters

Substitution Value	Description
A	The source text in the event.
E	The enterprise text in the event.
N	The ‘generic’ field in the event.
S	The ‘specific’ field in the event.
T	The timestamp in the event.
SYS	Given the source IP of the event, the node hosting the IP will be substituted.
$EVENTTEXT$	The current value of EventText.
$V1$ ----> $V20$	Replaced with the text value in the respective varbind.
$OID1$ ----> $OID20$	Replaced with the OID value in the respective varbind.
$UserDefined1$ ----> $UserDefined20$	Notification property that can be populated with any string.
$#$	Replaced with the number of varbinds in the event.
$*$	Replaced with text consisting of all varbind OIDs and values in the event.
$V*$	Replaced with text consisting of all varbind values in the event.

Table 6-1. Substitution values for ECI configuration parameters (Continued)

Substitution Value	Description
$V*x(n)c*$	Varbind subfield extractor. If a varbind is itself a string with subfields that can be parsed with a character token, you can extract a particular subfield by using V*x(n)c*, where: ■ *x* is the varbind number (*x* value represents a varbind 1–10). ■ *n* is the subfield desired (*n* value is a number specifying which of the subfields should be used in the substitution. Subfield numbering starts with 0). ■ *c* is the tokenizer character. The *c* value is a single character that can be used as a tokenizer to parse the varbind string. In many cases this is a comma. Example: if $V1 is Tempe,AZ,85284 then $V1(2), would give AZ. This can also be done with the extract function. The extract function takes three parameters: string, separator, and field. Example: if $V1 is Tempe,AZ,85284 then extract($V1, ",", 2) would give AZ.
$concat(string1, string2, ...)$	Will return the concatenation of two or more strings. Example: $concat(a, b, c) would return abc.
$contains(*textToSearch*, *textToLookFor*)$	Will return true if textToLookFor exists in textToSearch string.
$endsWith(*textToSearch*, *textToLookFor*)$	Will return true if textToLookFor is at the end of textToSearch.
$extract(*string, separator, field*)$	Will split the string using the *separator* and returns the *field*. Examples: extract ("1,2,3,4,5,6", "," ,4) ---> 4 extract ("abcdef", "c", 2) ---> "def"
$getAttribute(*className*, *instanceName*, *attributeName*)$	Will return the value of the given attribute from the given class and instance.
$sizeOf(text)$	Will return the number of characters in text. Text can itself be a substitution, such as $V1$. Example: $sizeOf(True) would produce 4.
$startsWith(*textToSearch*, *textToLookFor*)$	Will return true if textToLookFor is at the start of textToSearch.
$substr(*text, pos, length*)$	Will extract characters from text starting at position *pos* for the specified length. Text can itself be a substitution, such as $V1$. Example: $substr(unknown,4,2) will produce no.
$time(*format*)$	Will produce a string based on the current time. The substitutions are as follows: ■ HH — 24 hour of day ■ MM — Minute of hour ■ SS — Second of minute ■ MTH — Month of year (numeric) ■ DD — Day of month ■ YY — Year ■ DOW — Day of week (3 char alphabetic) The format characters take elements from the current time to create the text. Examples: $time(*DOW HH:MM*) could produce the text Wed 22:04. $time(*HH:MM:SS*) could produce 15:23:40.

Table 6-1. Substitution values for ECI configuration parameters (Continued)

Substitution Value	Description
$toLower(text)$	Will convert the characters in text to lower case. Text can itself be a substitution, such as $V1$. Example: $toLower(TrUe) would produce true.
$toUpper(text) $	Will convert the characters in text to upper case. Text can itself be a substitution, such as $V1$. Example: $toUpper(cat) would produce CAT.
$varbindCount$	Will return the number of varbinds.
$varbindKeyValue$	Will return a list of each varbind in "key: value" format, separated by commas.
$varbindValues$	Will return a list of varbind values, separated by commas.

ASL and Java Interfacing with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF

7

This chapter includes the following topics:

- Writing ASL for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF ECI processing
- Writing ASL for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF NCI processing
- Writing a Java class for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF event processing

Writing ASL for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF ECI processing

ASL hook scripts called from VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF ECI specifications must include the following two additional definitions in the Input/Output Variables section:

```
DISCARD_TRAP = "";
UPDATE_USERDEF_FIELDS = "";
```

Sample ECI ASL hook script

A sample ECI ASL hook script is provided below for reference:

```
/*
 * Sample-ECI.asl - Hook adapter for any ECI related customizations.
 */
debug = FALSE;
// Input/Output variables.
CLASSNAME = "";
INSTANCENAME = "";
EVENTNAME = "";
SEVERITY = "";
EVENTTEXT = "";
CATEGORY = "";
EXPIRATION = "";
STATE = "";
INMAINTENANCE = "";
CLEARONACKNOWLEDGE = "";
EVENTTYPE = "";
ELEMENTCLASSNAME = "";
EVENTDISPLAYNAME = "";
ELEMENTNAME = "";
```

```
USERDEFINED1 = "";
USERDEFINED2 = "";
USERDEFINED3 = "";
USERDEFINED4 = "";
USERDEFINED5 = "";
USERDEFINED6 = "";
USERDEFINED7 = "";
USERDEFINED8 = "";
USERDEFINED9 = "";
USERDEFINED10 = "";
USERDEFINED11 = "";
USERDEFINED12 = "";
USERDEFINED13 = "";
USERDEFINED14 = "";
USERDEFINED15 = "";
USERDEFINED16 = "";
USERDEFINED17 = "";
USERDEFINED18 = "";
USERDEFINED19 = "";
USERDEFINED20 = "";
// Input Variables
TIMESTAMP = "0";
IPADDRESS = "";
SYSNAMEORADDR = "";
ENTERPRISE = "";
GENERIC = "9999";
SPECIFIC = "9999";
// Varbind and OID values
V1 = "";
V2 = "";
V3 = "";
V4 = "";
V5 = "";
V6 = "";
V7 = "";
V8 = "";
V9 = "";
V10 = "";
V11 = "";
V12 = "";
V13 = "";
V14 = "";
V15 = "";
V16 = "";
V17 = "";
V18 = "";
V19 = "";
V20 = "";
OID1 = "";
OID2 = "";
OID3 = "";
OID4 = "";
OID5 = "";
OID6 = "";
OID7 = "";
```

```
OID8 = "";
OID9 = "";
OID10 = "";
OID11 = "";
OID12 = "";
OID13 = "";
OID14 = "";
OID15 = "";
OID16 = "";
OID17 = "";
OID18 = "";
OID19 = "";
OID20 = "";
// Flag to discard the trap, when set to TRUE.
DISCARD_TRAP = "FALSE";
NotificationName = "";
MessageType = "";
NotifIntegration = "TRUE";
// Flag to update the UserDefined[1-20] fields and EventText, upon CLEAR
// when set to TRUE.
UPDATE_USERDEF_FIELDS = "FALSE";
if (debug) { print("Running my ECI Hook.asl "); }
START {
    .. eol
} do {
    // Default output is the same as input.
    // Set attributes in ICS_Notification.  Add any more customizations here ...
    USERDEFINED3 = "Added this in custom ruleset";
    if (debug) { print("Done with my ECI Hook.asl ");}
    return;
}
/*
 * These variables describe the formatting of this file.  If you don't
  * like the template defaults, feel free to change them here (not in
  * your .emacs file).
 *
 * Local Variables:
 * mode: C++
 * End:
 */
```

Writing ASL for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF NCI processing

A sample NCI ASL hook script is provided below for reference:

```
/* sampleNciHook.asl
 */
default debug = TRUE;
default detailedDebug = TRUE;
default NotificationName = "";
default DISCARD_IN_NOTIF = "";
DISCARD_IN_NOTIF = "FALSE";
```

```
icsNotificationFactory = object();
ics_domain_name = getServerName();
user = "HOOK";
aslName = this->ReadsRulesFrom->fileName;
myThread = thread();
auditText = " ".aslName." Thread=".myThread." ";
START {
    local errorOrSkip = FALSE;
    .. eol
    errorOrSkip : VERIFY_INPUT
    (!errorOrSkip)
    errorOrSkip : PRINT_SOMETHING
    (!errorOrSkip)

}
//Grab the ICS_Notification object using the name passed in.
VERIFY_INPUT {
    local error = FALSE;
    do {
        nObj = self->object(NotificationName);
        if (NotificationName == "" || nObj->isNull()) {
            print(time().auditText." Internal Error: ".
                  " could not find the notification".
                  " object('".NotificationName."')!");
            error = TRUE;
        }
        return error;
    }
}
/* Sample activity.
*/
PRINT_SOMETHING {
    local skip = FALSE;
    do {
  print(time().auditText.nObj->InstanceName." FROM NOTIF NCI HOOK");
 }
}
```

Writing a Java class for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF event processing

In VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF, you can write Java classes which can be called during event processing to:

- Modify the various parameters that are set prior to the notification being created.

  or

- Instruct VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF to discard the event it is processing.

  To use a custom Java class in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF processor:

  a Write and compile one or more Java classes that implement the notifEventProcessor interface with the following requirements:

b Your class must have a default constructor (one that takes no arguments).

c The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF .jar file must be available to your Java compiler when building your class. The .jar file is *BASEDIR*/smarts/classes/notif.jar.

d Package your class or classes in a .jar file.

e Install your .jar file into the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/classes directory.

f Update the Notif-init.asl script to include your .jar file in the CLASSPATH:

g Locate the Notif-init.asl file in the *BASEDIR*/smarts/rules/ics directory.

h Use the **sm_edit** utility to edit the script (or manually copy it to the *BASEDIR*/smarts/local/rules/ics directory and edit it there).

Note The VMware Smart Assurance System Administration Guide provides information on how to use the **sm_edit** utility.

i Locate the lines that use add_archive to add the .jar file to the CLASSPATH.

j Duplicate one of those lines and replace the name of the .jar file with your own .jar file. Do not specify a path for the .jar file. The VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF/SAM Java class loader is designed to look in local/classes for your .jar file.

k Save the file.

l Restart the SAM/Adapter Platform server to pick up the changed CLASSPATH.

m Add your class name to an ECI in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Editor (the **Java** field in the **Event Options** tab as shown in Writing a Java class for use with VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF event processing and save and deploy the new .ncf file.

VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Java API

This section provides the sources for the two interfaces that comprise the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF Java API.

notifEventProcessor

```
          package com.vmware.smarts.notif.api;
public interface notifEventProcessor
{
void process ( notifEventDataAccessor eda );
}
package com.vmware.smarts.notif.api;
public interface notifEventDataAccessor
{
public String getClassName();
public void setClassName(String className);
public String getInstanceName();
public void setInstanceName(String val);

public String getEventName();
```

```
public void setEventName(String val);

public String getSeverity();
public void setSeverity(String val);

public String getEventText();
public void setEventText(String val);

public String getCategory();
public void setCategory(String val);
public String getExpiration();
public void setExpiration(String val);

public String getEventState();
 public void setEventState(String val);

public boolean getInMaintenance();
public void setInMaintenance(boolean val);
public boolean getClearOnAcknowledge();
public void setClearOnAcknowledge(boolean val);
public String getEventType();
public void setEventType(String val);
public String getElementClassName();
public void setElementClassName(String val);
public String getElementName();
public void setElementName(String val);
public String getUserDefined ( int i ); // 1-20
 public void setUserDefined ( int i, String val );
public boolean getDiscardTrap();
public void setDiscardTrap(boolean val);
 // trap data
public String getTimestamp();
public String getSource();
public String getSysNameOrAddr();
public String getEnterprise();
public String getGeneric();
public String getSpecific();
public String getVarbindValue(int which);
public String getVarbindOID(int which);
}
```

An example plug-in processor

A plug-in processor example is provided below for reference:

```
         package com.example.notif;
import com.vmware.smarts.notif.api.notifEventDataAccessor;
import com.vmware.smarts.notif.api.notifEventProcessor;
public class MyNotifPlugin implements notifEventProcessor
{
 // process gets called for each event matched to the ECI
public void process ( notifEventDataAccessor eda )
 {
  // if VarBind1 (aka V1) has value 'DiscardMe',
```

```
  // discard this event
final String vb1 = eda.getVarbindValue ( 1 );
if ( vb1.equals ( "DiscardMe" ) )
  {
   eda.setDiscardTrap ( true );
  }
 }
}
```

Additional notes

- Note that varbind values are referred to by their natural numbers. The index of the value of the first varbind is 1, not 0. The example code above retrieves the value of the first varbind with eda.getVarbindValue (1);
- When specifying your class in an ECI, use the full class name. For example, "com.example.notif.MyNotifPlugin". The string you specify is passed without modification to the JVM's default classloader via Class.forName ().
- Plug-in processors are intended to be lightweight and you must be careful not to deploy processors that do significant work in the constructor or during the call to *process*. Deploying a slow processor, especially if it is called from a frequently used ECI, can degrade performance of the entire SAM/Adapter Platform system.
- It is also important to remember that the processor class will be instantiated for each event it handles. Processors that need to retain information across calls to process() can use static member data to do so, but keeping references to the notifEventDataAccessor instance is strongly discouraged. Doing so can delay the JVM's garbage collection of internal VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF data structures and cause the system to use more memory than usual.
- Any exceptions (including Throwable) that occur during the execution of your class are logged as warnings in the VMware Smart Assurance NOTIF log.