WRCheck

WRCheck will send an email to configured email addresses, or a text file to a folder, if a heartbeat file is more than a certain age old. Once WRCheck is trained on the heartbeat file, it can email you a warning if the program fails, and it can also be configured to start a program. WRCheck can also close running programs that have failed, including closing Windows' Dr Watson messages.

WRCheck will use Postiex, which will allow users to send email alerts without having to run Outlook or other email programs. Each workstation that will be running WRCheck and sending email warnings will need to register Postiex and be configured with email settings.

Current WireReady NSI programs that generate a heartbeat file are DBCapture, PCapture, WinCap, and WireReady32.

Files needed:
    WRCheck.exe (version 7.005 or higher)
    Postiex.dll (version 1.001, dated 7/4/2005)

WRCheck can be run from any folder, either locally or on a network. When WRCheck runs, it will create wrcheck.ini, (the file that holds the configuration settings) if the file does not exist in the folder the program is run from.

WRCheck can be run as multiple instances, if more than one program's heartbeat file is to be checked. Each instance of WRCheck can only monitor one heartbeat file.

If you are configuring WRCheck to end a failed program, it will need to be running on the same machine as the program it is monitoring.

Configuring WRCheck
If you have used the Setup for WRCheck program, this section that describes manually editing the wrcheck.ini file can be skipped. The WRCheck Setup program allows users to follow a GUI to configure WRCheck. The program generating the heartbeat file is configured separately from WRCheck. See the sections at the end of this document for enabling the heartbeat files for the DBCapture, Pcapture WinCap and WireReady32 programs.

Following are the wrcheck.ini settings for the WRCheck program (there is no set order of the key lines within each group; they may not display in the same order as listed):

  [General]
    Check-Path-FileName=   the path and name of the heartbeat file to be checked.
    Check-interval=   number of seconds between checks. Default = 60 seconds
    Age-Allowed=   how old the file may be (in seconds) before an email is issued.
                Default is 180 seconds
    Message-file=   the text file that contains the body of the email message to be
                sent in the case of a failure.
    To=   email addresses, separated by a semi-colon that will receive the alert. It
          sends to single or multiple email addresses. If this line is left blank, the
          warning message will be sent to the file specified in the SendEmailtoFile= line.
    From= email address that is sending the file.
    Subject=   Subject of the alert email
    Window-Title=   Alternate window title (optional). Default is "WRCheck -
                Heartbeat Utility [Version]". The window is limited to displaying 40
                characters in the title bar.
    Execute-On-Failure=   Program to launch if the heartbeat check fails. Must include
                the path and extension. Default is "_NONE_" (will not try to
                execute an external program).
    Include HeartBeat Text= whether to include the text of the heartbeat file in the
                email message being sent out. If set to Yes (default), the text
                of the heartbeat file will be put at the top of the email
                message.
    Restart Time Minutes= The number of minutes (as a whole number) to wait after
                the heartbeat check fails before restarting WRCheck. Default
                is 60.
    Exe Process to Kill= The name of the process to end when the heartbeat check
                fails. The name must be entered exactly as it would display in
                Task Manger (including the extension), for the program to be
                able to end it.
    SendEmailtoFile= The path and filename to create when the program is not sending
                email warnings on failure of the heartbeat file to update.

  [Postiex]
    SMTP Server=   The SMTP server used for the email account.
    User ID=   The username for the email account. This may be different than
                the email account name.
    Password=   The password for the email account. This is case-sensitive.

  [DBCapture]
    Minimize To System Tray=   No=WRCheck will be minimized to the task bar.
                    Yes (default)=WRCheck will be minimized to the System
                    Tray and will not be visible in the task bar.

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To Install Postiex

All that is needed for Postiex to run to send the emails is the Postiex.dll file. The
  following will need to be done on any computer that will be running WRCheck.
Put Postiex.dll in the c:\windows\system32 (or c:\winnt\system32) folder.
Open a command prompt (DOS prompt) and change to the c:\windows\system32 (or
  c:\winnt\system32) folder.
At the prompt, type "regsvr32 postiex.dll" (without the quotes) and strike the Enter key.
    A window should pop up saying that the file was registered. You should not have to
      reboot the computer after registering the file.

Running WRCheck

When the program first starts, it will
check the file configured in the Check-
Path-FileName line. The **Filename**
field will display the path and filename
being checked.

The date and time that the file is first
checked will be displayed in the
Checking Since box. (The Window-
Title line in the ini file has been
changed for the screen-shot examples
below).

The **Countdown** box shows a counter
  with the number of seconds until the next Check.

The **Check Interval** and **Max Age**
  boxes will display the times
  configured in the Check-interval and
  Age-Allowed lines.

The **Status** box shows "Waiting.."
  until the file is checked.

While running, the program may be
  paused via the **Pause** button.

When the program checks the file and
  finds it has not been updated in the
  interval set in the Check-interval=
  line, it then checks the Age-Allowed
  of the file. The Countdown counter

will then count the seconds to the Max Age of the file.

If the file is found to be older than the number of seconds configured in the Age-Allowed= line, it will send an email to the address(es) configured in the To= line, and create the text file specified in the SendEmailtoFile= line. The email will be sent out using Postiex. If the To= line is left blank, no email will be sent.

A Status window will pop up to show that the email is being sent. This same window appears when not sending email to show that the text file is being created.

If a valid path and executable program are set in the Execute-On-Failure= line, that program will be launched at the time of the failure.

After it sends a file, the Countdown window shows "Timer Frozen!" and the **Checking Since** box does not update.

The **Status** box shows "Heartbeat FAILURE!" with the date and time that the failure was found by WRCheck.
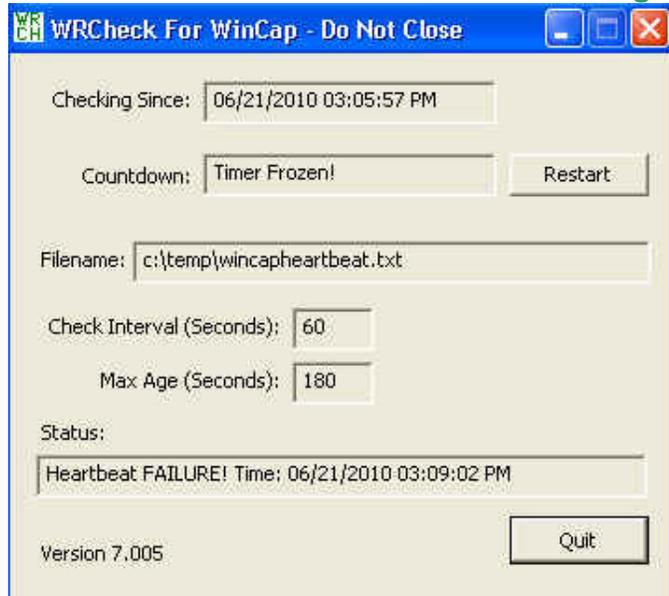
The **Pause** button changes to **Restart**. The program stays in this paused/frozen state until it is restarted. The program may be restarted by pressing the **Restart** button, and it then updates the **Checking Since** box with the current date and time and begins checking the heartbeat file again. WRCheck will begin checking the heartbeat file after the time set in the Restart Time Minutes= line has passed.

Note that pressing the Pause/Restart buttons will reset the 'checking since' information displayed on-screen.

To close the program, click the **Quit** button or the **X** in the upper right corner.

Configuring the Programs to Generate a HeartBeat File

Enabling Heartbeat file generation for DBCapture
DBCapture version 5.000 or higher will generate a heartbeat file. To enable the heartbeat file to be generated and updated, the user must edit the \wire\dbcapture\dbcapture.ini file found on the drive that DBCapture.exe is running from. The path and filename of the file that DBCapture will update is configurable. The following lines control the heartbeat file for DBCapture:
[HeartBeat]
Enable=No   Turns the feature that updates the heartbeat file on or off.
Filename=C:\Temp\DBCaptureHeartBeat.txt   The path and file name of the heartbeat
                                file that DBCapture will update.
MaxFileSizeInBytes=5000   The maximum number of bytes of data that will be written
                    to the heartbeat file

Enabling Heartbeat file generation for PCapture
PCapture version 3.009 or higher will generate a heartbeat file. To enable the heartbeat file to be generated and updated, the user must edit the \wire\sts\sts.ini file found on the drive that PCapture.exe is running from. The name of the heartbeat file is not configurable with PCapture. It will always create the file "heartbeat.txt" in the \wire\sts\ folder.
The following lines control the heartbeat file for PCapture:
[sts]
HeartBeatTimer=   Number of seconds between writing to the heartbeat file. **99999**
                Is the default value which will cause Pcapture to never write a
                heartbeat file.

Enabling Heartbeat file generation for WinCap
WinCap version 5.001 or higher will generate a heartbeat file. To enable the heartbeat file to be generated and updated, the user must edit the \wire\wcapture\wcapture.ini file found on the drive that WinCap.exe is running from. The path and filename of the file that WinCap will update is configurable.
The following lines control the heartbeat file for WinCap:

[HeartBeat]
Enable=No   Turns the feature that updates the heartbeat file on or off.
Filename=C:\Temp\WinCapHeartBeat.txt   The path and file name of the heartbeat file
                                that WinCap will update.
MaxFileSizeInBytes=5000   The maximum number of bytes of data that will be written
                    to the heartbeat file

Enabling Heartbeat file generation for WireReady32

WireReady32 version 6.002 or higher will generate a heartbeat file. To enable the heartbeat file to be generated and updated, the user must edit the \wire\users\[username]\[username].ini file found on the drive that WireReady32 is running from (where [username] is the user name used to log into WireReady32). The path and filename of the file that WireReady32 will update is configurable.

The following lines control the heartbeat file for WireReady32:

[HeartBeat]
Enable=No   Turns the feature that updates the heartbeat file on or off.
Filename=C:\Temp\WRHeartBeat.txt   The path and file name of the heartbeat file that
                                WireReady32 will update.
MaxFileSizeInBytes=5000   The maximum number of bytes of data that will be written
                            to the heartbeat file