

TEKLYNX®

SENTINEL™

S/5



A D M I N I S T R A T O R ' S G U I D E



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About this manual

Documents supplied

Complete documentation is provided to help you make optimum use of the full range of resources offered by your software.

The *online help* provides instant access to context-sensitive help.

The *Administrator's Guide* covers the basic concepts to ensure you to get the very most from the software. It is designed to provide effective help for administrators, both first-time and experienced users.

The *User's Guide* provides an introduction to using the application. It is designed to get you off to a quick start with the software by familiarizing you with the basic concepts before looking at some of the more advanced functions.

The documentation is designed for use in conjunction with the integrated online help.

Administrator's guide

The purpose of this guide is to get you off to a quick start with the software by familiarizing you with the basic concepts before looking at some of the more advanced functions performed by the application administrator.

The *Administrator's Guide* contains four sections covering:

- Installation procedures
- Basic principles and description of modules
- Overview of the **User Manager**
- Overview of the **Web Manager**
- Overview of **Sentinel Manager**
- Overview of **Sentinel Controller**

The guide describes the most straightforward way of

carrying out specific tasks. For more detail on the different functions, step-by-step procedures and reference information, refer to the online help.

Typographical conventions

This manual distinguishes between different types of information using the following conventions:

- Terms taken from the interface itself, such as commands, appear in **bold**.
- Keys appear in small caps, for example: "Press the SHIFT key".
- Numbered lists mean there is a procedure to follow.
- When the conjunction -or- appears next to a paragraph, it means there is the choice of another procedure for carrying out a given task.
- When a menu command contains submenus, the menu name followed by the command to select appear in bold. Thus, "Go to **File > Open**" means choose the **File** menu then the **Open** command.



This symbol highlights warnings and other important information on how a particular command or procedure works.



Following this symbol you will find hints and tips for optimizing tasks, speeding up commands, and so on.

CHAPTER 1

Installation

This chapter covers the following topics:

- System Requirements
 - Server Requirements
 - Workstation Requirements
- Software Protection Key
- Server Installation
- Design/Workstation Installation
 - Design/Workstation Installation
- Running the Label Print Manager Service
 - Setting up a User Account
 - Installing/Uninstalling the service

System Requirements

When installing SENTINEL, you will install two separate components of the program - the **Server** component and the **Design/Workstation** component.

Server Requirements

The Server installation allows you to install on your server the following components: the kernel, Sentinel Manager, Sentinel Controller and User Manager modules. If you would like to use the label printing features of your software, you will need to install a label designer on your server.

The following minimum requirements must be met to ensure successful installation and operation of the SENTINEL components:

- Pentium III or IV 500 MHz (1GHz recommended)
- **Microsoft Windows NT Server, Windows 2000 Server or Windows 2003 Server**
- Multi-processor capable
- A SVGA monitor or better
- A hard drive with 200Mb free space
- A CD-ROM drive
- A Sentinel protection key either electronic (software) or a dongle (hardware).

Workstation Requirements

The **Design/Workstation** installation allows you to install the **Mapper** module and the **Query Manager** on a workstation. The workstation components must be installed on a computer other than the server. (File mapping and label design tasks should not be carried out on the server.)



If you wish to create labels on the workstation, you will have to install the label designing software separately.

The following minimum requirements must be met to ensure the successful installation and operation of the SENTINEL

components

- A **PC** or IBM compatible computer supporting
- **Windows® NT** or **2000** with 64 MB RAM (128 MB recommended)
- **Windows® XP** or **Windows® 2003 Server** with 256 MB RAM (512 MB recommended)
- A VGA monitor or better
- A hard drive with at least 150MB free disk space
- A CD-ROM drive
- A label designer protection key (software or dongle) if you intend on creating labels on this workstation. Software protection key

The software comes with either a dongle or electronic protection key that allows it to run correctly and define the number of available printers.

Software Protection Key

The **dongle** is a small electronic device that you simply plug into your PC's parallel port or USB port before launching the software.

The **software key** is an authorization code that you input when installing the software.

Parallel port/DB25 female connection

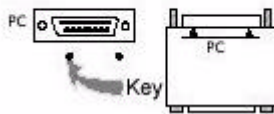


Figure 1 Connecting the dongle to the parallel port of your PC



If you need to use a printer on the same parallel port, simply plug it into the software protection key. In this case, it may be necessary to switch the printer on in order for the software protection key to be recognized.

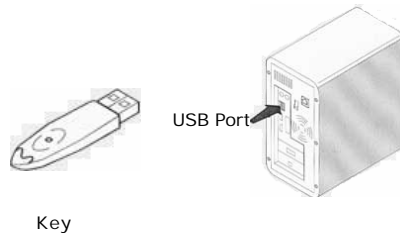


Figure 2 Connecting the dongle to the USB port of your PC



Without the dongle protection key, the program will run in 'evaluation' mode. You will be able to create only two sentinels and the program will be limited to 30 minutes of use. If you are using a demo software key, you will be given 100 sentinel runs or 30 days to try the new software.

Server Installation

Server installation allows you to install on your server the various modules used to build an automatic data exchange solution between your application devices and our products. The server installation lets you, for example, put in an automatic label printing system that will be highly integrated with your legacy systems.

Step 1 Plug the Sentinel software protection key into your server.

Step 2 Place the CD-ROM in your server's CD-ROM drive.

Step 3 The installation program should launch automatically.

If it does not:

On the taskbar, choose **Start Run** then enter the letter corresponding to your CD-ROM drive followed by CDSETUP.EXE (e.g. D:\cdsetup.exe).

Step 4 In the tree structure containing the various installation options, select the server option of the product you've purchased.

Step 5 Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation process.

Step 6 If you want to make use of the label printing services of the sentinel server, you will have to install the runtime version of the dabel designer.

Design/Workstation Installation

Design/workstation installation installs the Mapper module, which is used for defining how data exchange will be done between your application and the SENTINEL server. In the Design/Workstation installation of the product you have purchased, the Query Manager application will also be available for installation to set up queries over a database system that can be executed by the sentinel server during a data exchange between your datafiles and the labelling software you are using.

Step 1 Place the CD-ROM in your workstation's CD-ROM drive.

Step 2 The installation program should launch automatically.

If it does not :

On the taskbar, choose Start Run then enter the letter corresponding to your CD-ROM drive followed by CDSETUP.EXE (e.g. D:\cdsetup.exe).

Step 3 In the tree structure containing the various installation options, select Design/workstation and then the required components.

Step 4 Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation process.



If you want to design a label and to use the label design option available with the Mapper, you will have to install the label designer.

Running the Label Print Manager Service

The application runs as a service on the host workstation. This means it will launch automatically when the workstation is started.

Step 1 To define the startup options for the SENTINEL Service, select **Start \Settings \Control panel Services** and select **Label Print Manager 5**.

Select a start method

Choose either:

- Automatic: the service launches when the workstation is started.
- Manual: the service must be activated manually. You will therefore need to open a Windows worksession and then launch the service in Control panel Services. Select **Label Print Manager 5** from the list of services and then click on **Start**.



You must have a protection key installed or have activated the product in order to have access to the label creation function.

You must have a protection key installed or have activated the product in order to have access to the label creation function.



The above start methods launch the service and the sentinels at the same time. All available sentinels are thus launched when the service is started.

Whatever the start method is, you can control the service activity by launching the Kernel from the application programs group.

If the service is stopped, a start request is sent to the system. When the service is started, the application manage-

ment icon displays in the system tray. Using this icon you can start or stop the service and the different application modules as well



Unlike the start method using the Windows Control panel services, the start method from the Kernel does not launch sentinels (which would instead be launched from the Controller).

Setting up a user account

The application must be able to access shared network folders and print on network printers. You must therefore select a user account to which these rights have been assigned.

Step 1 Select a user account then enter the password.



The selected account must be declared in the local administrator group of the workstation.



To view sentinel status while the service is running, simply open a worksession and then launch the application via the program group defined during installation. The default name of the group is the same as that of the application

Installing/ Uninstalling the service

Once the application is installed, you can always uninstall the Label Print Manager service and reinstall it later.

Step 1 To install the Label Print Manager service, select **Start > Run [name of application installation-folder] \ TKXKernel50.exe -i**.

Step 2 To uninstall the **Label Print Manager** service, select **Start > Run [name of application installation folder] \ TKXKernel50.exe -u**.

CHAPTER 2

Introduction

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Definition of Terms
- Basic Concepts
- How it works

SENTINEL is a server application dedicated to the data exchange between your application and our products. It allows you to, for example, automatically print barcode labels created with our labelling software by simply exchanging information between your ERP/WMS system and the sentinel server and choosing one of the various communication channels that the application offers (File transfer, Print transfer, TCP/IP, Web Service, HTTP transfer).

Definition of terms

The application involves a number of specific concepts which are explained in the glossary below.

SENTINEL server: PC running Windows™ 2000, Windows™ NT or XP on which the application is installed.

Input data: data generated by your system. They are received by Sentinel via a communication channel.

Bearer channel: once launched each sentinel «listens» to a specific bearer channel.

Sentinel printer: printer created by the application on the print server which users can then designate as the output printer in their applications.

Sentinel: procedure used for analyzing and processing data generated by your application.

Mapfile: describes the method the sentinel will use for analyzing datafiles.

Plug-in: process module executing a specific task during a sentinel process.

There are four types of plug-ins:

- The **Input plug-in:** listens to a data bearer channel supplying a sentinel.
- The **Process plug-in:** processes information retrieved from input data.
- The **Report plug-in:** informs users and updates a report about sentinel process.
- The **Output plug-in:** back ups or transmits input data to a file

Basic concepts

The application monitors data communication channels connected with your system. As soon as a channel receives data, the application analyzes the incoming data and processes them through one or more process plug-ins. The communication channel has to be chosen according to your application and the input plug-in you have at your disposal.

How it works

The application runs as a Windows™ background task. This application is considered a service by the system and can thus be launched with the system. Sentinels are used to define analysis and printing tasks. Once launched each sentinel monitors the bearer channel for which it has been configured. When data coming from your system are received on the bearer channel, the analysis and process activity begin.

Input data are filtered by the map file of the sentinel. As for each printing request, input data information is sent to the different Process plug-ins configured for the sentinel. At the end of the process, input data are sent to the output plug-in in order to be transferred or saved. During each step of the process and after sentinel validation, information concerning the sentinel process is sent to the report plug-in

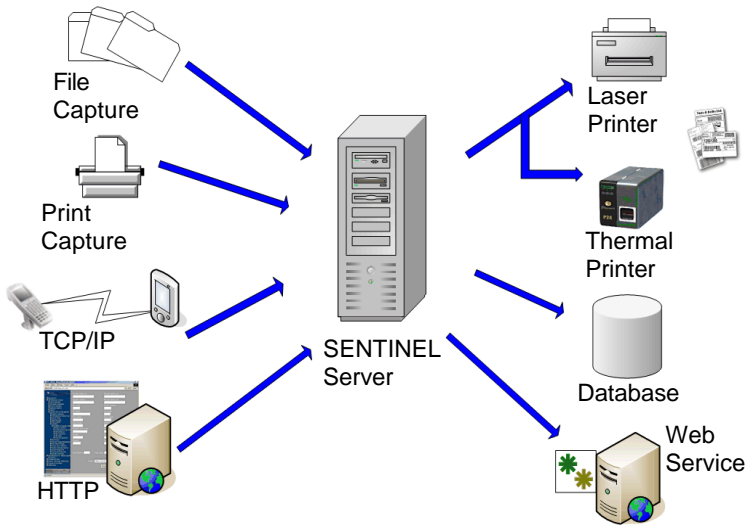


Figure 3 Input and Process Plug-in flow

CHAPTER 3

The application modules

This chapter covers the following topics:

- The application Modules
 - Web Manager
 - User Manager
 - The Kernel
 - Sentinel Manager
 - Sentinel Controller
 - Mapper
 - Query Manager
 - Plug-ins
- Brief overview: from mapfile creation to label printing
 - On your workstation
 - On the server

The application modules can be assigned into 3 categories depending on their usage in the software.

The first category comprises of the kernel module, the controller, Sentinel Manager, the user manager and the Web Manager application. All of them are used to create, configure and run SENTINEL processes. They all come with SENTINEL's server installation.

The second category comes included with the workstation installation. It comprises of two applications: The Mapper and the Query Manager. Both are used to preset the configuration files for the defined sentinels by the server.

The third category is the Plug-in modules. Plug-ins are thin application modules dedicated to accomplish one unique task. They perform all the actions a sentinel is configured to do. They are installed by the both the server and designer installations.

The application modules

Web Manager

The Web Manager acts as an interface to the SENTINEL Server over the internet/intranet. It allows the user to interact with any SENTINEL Server, regardless of its location, via their internet browser by typing in the web application's address in the browser's address line.


User Manager

The User Manager secures the internet connections to the SENTINEL server, by allowing an administrator to set permissions for application users.

Kernel

Kernel is the core application that manages all other tasks, including launching sentinels and monitoring sentinel activity. If Kernel is closed, all sentinels will be disabled. Kernel operates as a background task and can be configured to launch automatically when your workstation is started up. It is therefore not necessary to open a Windows work session for the application to run. Once launched from the application program group, the Kernel module appears as an icon on the Windows taskbar.

You can access Sentinel Manager and Sentinel Controller via the Kernel menu.

Step 1 Right-click on the Kernel icon .

Step 2 Choose the required module in the menu.

Sentinel Manager

Sentinel Manager is launched via the Kernel menu and allows you to create, configure and manage the sentinels that will analyze your datafiles.

Sentinel Controller

Sentinel Controller is launched via the Kernel menu or Sentinel Manager. It allows you to view sentinel status, enable or disable individual sentinels and display the error logfiles.

Mapper

Mapper allows you to create and configure the mapfiles which will analyze your datafiles. A mapfile describes the structure of the datafiles for analysis and assigns the mapped data to the corresponding variables in the initial document. Mapper is accessed via the application program group or **Sentinel Manager**.

Mapper features an integrated wizard to guide you through the process of creating and configuring mapfiles. See the *User's Guide* for a full description of the module and examples of how to create mapfiles.

Query Manager

This application module lets you define queries over different database systems and lets you group them into tasks that can later be invoked by a sentinel through the use of the database process plug-in.

Brief overview: from mapfile creation to label printing

Here is a general overview of the main steps to take in order to configure a sentinel that will receive text files into a specific folder and will print the corresponding barcode label.

On your workstation

Step 1 use the Mapper module to:

- Define the structure of the files that will be used for label printing (known as "mapfiles").
- Design the labels directly in the labelling software.
- Test the map



The **Create a document** feature is not available with all labelling software programs. Therefore, you may need to manually open your labelling software and create your label directly in the labelling software.

On the server

Step 1 use Sentinel Manager to:

- Create sentinels that will analyse your data files
- Define their properties and the properties of the plugins associated with them
- Enable sentinels for starting

Step 2 use Sentinel Controller to:

- Enable individual sentinels
- Launch printing
- Monitor printing

-or-

Use the Web Manager, via the web, to create, define, enable and launch sentinels. The Web Manager acts as an

online Sentinel Manager and Sentinel Controller all rolled into one. However, monitoring via a real-time logging cannot be done online.

CHAPTER 4

User Manager

This chapter covers the following topics:

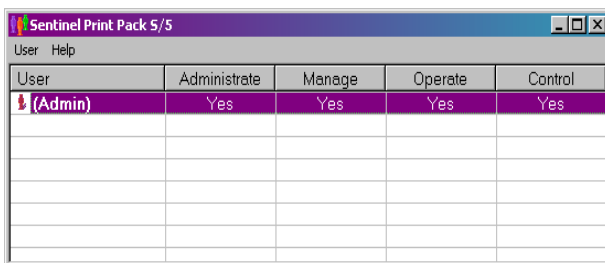
- Launching the User Manager
- Adding New Users
- Defining or Changing User Rights
- Changing a password

In order to secure the SENTINEL server's internet connections, the User Manager will allow an administrator to set permissions for application users. The different types of permissions include:

- **Administrate**: allows the user to launch the Security Management Module and change the rights of other users.
- **Manage**: allows the user to add, remove or configure sentinels as well as enable/disable sentinels.
- **Operate**: allows users to start/stop sentinels.
- **Control**: allows the user to view sentinel activity via the Web Manager without any right to alter the settings or activity of the sentinels in any way.

Launching the User Manager

You can launch the User Manager by going to **Start > Programs > Sentinel 5 > User Manager**.



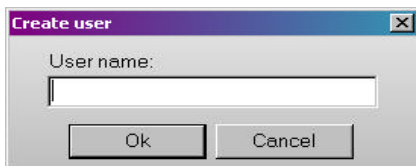
User	Administrate	Manage	Operate	Control
(Admin)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Adding new users

Once you've launched the User Manager:

Step 1 go to **User** and select **Add...**

A box will pop-up prompting you to enter a user name.



Step 2 Click **OK**.

You will see that the user has been added to the list however, no permissions will have been defined.

Defining or changing user rights

Select the user who's rights you want to set or change.

Step 1 Go to **User**

Step 2 Select the highest level of rights you want to assign the user.

If you would like to give a user the ability to start/stop sentinels, you would select **Operate** from the list of available permissions. You will notice that “**Yes**” appears for each right given to the user. In this case, you would see “**Yes**” under **Operate** and **Control**, but not under **Manage** and **Administrative**

Changing a password

The User Manager also allows you to change the password assigned to users.

Step 1 Go to **User**

Step 2 Select **Change password**

Step 3 Enter the old password

Step 4 Enter a new password

CHAPTER 5

Web Manager

This chapter covers the following topics:

- User Interface
- Permissions
- Using the Web Manager
 - Creating or Modifying an existing sentinel
 - Sending out the sentinels

The Web Manager is the user interface with the SENTINEL Server. It can be accessed by any user, from any browser, anywhere in the world, as long as that user has been given permission, a username and a password by the administrator.

The Web manager can be installed on a different server from the one SENTINEL Server runs on. Installing them on separate servers ensures that:

- The deployment and maintenance of the Web Manager application is easier and runs smoother since a single web server can administrate multiple SENTINEL servers on the network.
- They are each running at full power by giving the Web Manager and the SENTINEL Server their own server. Depending on the number of opened sessions, the Web Manager can consume a lot of processor time which may hinder the power of SENTINEL Server.
- The Web Manager can run on an already existing web server.

User Interface

Typing in the Web Manager's URL in the browser will display the Data Exchange Server's login page.



Figure 4 Web Manager's login screen

This page is the gateway to the Sentinel Control and Configuration page.

Step 1 Enter a valid Username and Password (these have been configured and given to you by an administrator)

Step 2 Select the name of the SENTINEL Server you want to work with

Step 3 Click Connect

The selection of the server is done from a combo box. This combo box is linked to a file, that the administrator has configured, which lists the available SENTINEL Server names and the associated TCP/IP port to be used (if no port is specified, a default port will be used instead). If your connection is successful, a page listing all the sentinels defined on the SENTINEL Server will be displayed. If not, please try again, or contact your administrator to verify that your username and password are correct.

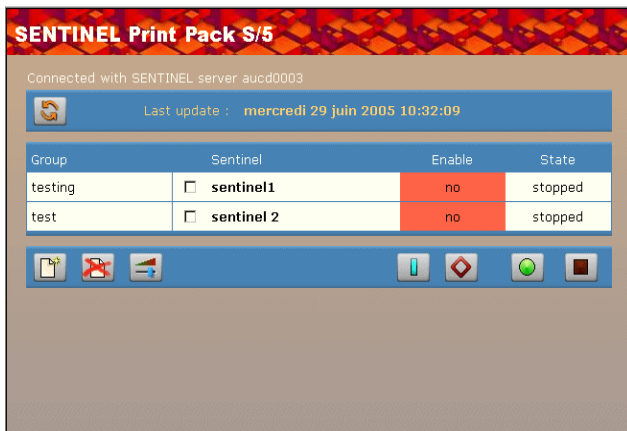


Figure 5 Sentinel list screen

Permissions

The administrator can set up your account to give you some or all of the possible permissions.

Depending on the permissions you have been given, your account may allow you to:

- Create a new sentinel
- Delete one or more sentinels
- Edit or modify the settings of a particular sentinel
- Enable one or more sentinels
- Disable one or more sentinels
- Start one or more sentinels
- Stop one or more sentinels
- Refresh the Web Manager

The following icons are to be used for the above mentioned functions:



Create a new sentinel



Delete one or more sentinels



Edit or modify the settings of a particular sentinel



Enable one or more sentinels



Disable one or more sentinels



Start one or more sentinels



Stop one or more sentinels



Refresh the Web Manager



The Web Manager's refresh button must be used to refresh the screen and to show up-to-date sentinel information and status. It is advisable NOT to use the browser's refresh button as it will only re-perform your last command/request: it may not refresh the data. A time and date stamp is available at the top of the screen to inform the user when the last update took place.




Using the Web Manager

Once the user has successfully logged in, a list of available sentinels will be displayed. Just like in the Sentinel Manager, the group name, the sentinel name, its state and whether or not the sentinel has been enabled will be displayed on the screen.

One or multiple sentinels can be selected by clicking in the check box - a check mark will appear to show that it has been selected and the selected sentinel(s) will change to the color orange. Clicking in a group box will automatically select all the sentinels belonging to that group. Disabling a sentinel will change the 'enable' box color to red. Starting the sentinel will change the 'state' box to green. In an unselected, enabled and stopped state, the sentinel remains in the default color - white.

The icons below the list can be used to perform a number of tasks as long as the user's account has the permission to do so.

Creating or Modifying an existing sentinel

Clicking on the "Create new sentinel"  or selecting a sentinel and clicking the "Edit/Modify sentinel"  icons will bring up the sentinel configuration screen. Here, the user can select the sentinel's input/output/process/report plug-ins. Clicking on the oil can icon  will take you to the plug-in settings' screen.

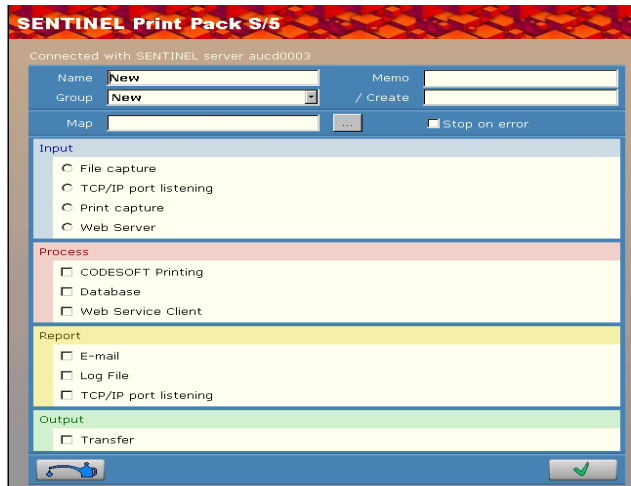


Figure 6 Plug-in settings screen

Only one input plug-in can be selected for each sentinel, however, you can select as many output, process or report plug-ins as you would like.



For more information on the different plug-ins and their settings, please see 'Appendix A - plug-ins' in your Administrator's Guide.

Once the configuration has been completed, click on the




to return to your list of sentinels.




Sending out the sentinels

To send out the sentinels, you must :

Step 1 Select the sentinel(s) you wish to activate by clicking in the appropriate check box.

Step 2 Click on  to enable the selected sentinel.

Step 3 Click on  to start the selected sentinel(s). The screen should automatically refresh to show the state of the sentinel(s) as "running".

Clicking on  will disable the selected sentinel(s), making it impossible to run. Clicking on  will stop the selected sentinel(s). To verify that the sentinel has indeed stopped, click on  to refresh the screen and see the latest update.



Stopping sentinels may take a few seconds. The more sentinels you stop at one time, the longer it may take. If you have clicked on the refresh button and do not see the correct state of the sentinels displayed, please wait a few moments and refresh again.

CHAPTER 6

Sentinels

This chapter covers the following topics:

- What are Sentinels and how do they work?
- How it works

What are sentinels and how do they work?

A sentinel is simply a group of settings the application uses to intercept and process the information coming from your application and devices.

Once activated, each sentinel acts on your system as an analyzing and processing service giving you the ability to exchange data between your application and the Teklynx product in order to build a complete automatic ID solution.

Each sentinel must specify:

- A bearer channel on which your printing requests will be received
- A method for data analysis given by the mapfile selection associated with a sentinel
- One or several types of processes to be implemented for each information block identified in the input data according to the sentinel mapfile
- One or several types of logs to be generated when a specific event is detected during analysis or during input data process
- One or several types of backup input data once they have been treated

A sentinel must belong to a group. Each group can contain as many sentinels as your organization requires. The organization of sentinels within a given group is just performed for organizational purposes.



The choice of possibilities for communication channels, type of process, type of log generated, and type of backup will vary depending on the labelling software version you are using and the plug-ins available for that product launch.

How it works

You have selected, for your sentinel, an input plug-in and one or several process, log or output plug-ins.

When the sentinel is activated, the input plug-in is also activated and it monitors its bearer channel. When information

is received on its channel, the plug-in sends input data to the core application. Data are then analyzed according to the mapfile associated to the sentinel.

For each information block detected, the core application sends data to the different plug-ins associated with the sentinel. Data are treated according to the order sets up in the sentinel. Once data are treated, the analysis goes on towards the next blocks. The same process is repeated until all the data have been processed.

The core application sends data received by the input plug-in to the different output plug-ins. These plug-ins are configured to implement the different backup processes.

For each step of the process, the core application gives to the log plug-ins selected by the sentinel, the activity parameters of the sentinel.

The diagram below shows how this works.



CHAPTER 7

Sentinel Manager

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Launching the Program
- Description of the main window
 - Menu Bar
 - Workspace
 - The Toolbar
 - To select a tool
- Interface settings
 - Changing Display Option
 - Changing the Interface Language
 - Adjusting column width
 - Adding a sentinel
 - Defining the properties of a sentinel
- Managing Sentinels
 - Duplicating a Sentinel
 - Deleting a Sentinel
 - Activating a Sentinel

Launching the program

Once launched from the application program group, the Kernel module appears as an icon on the Windows taskbar.

To access **Sentinel Manager**:

Step 1 Right-click on the Kernel application icon .

Step 2 Choose **Sentinel Manager** in the menu.

The main **Sentinel Manager** window appears.

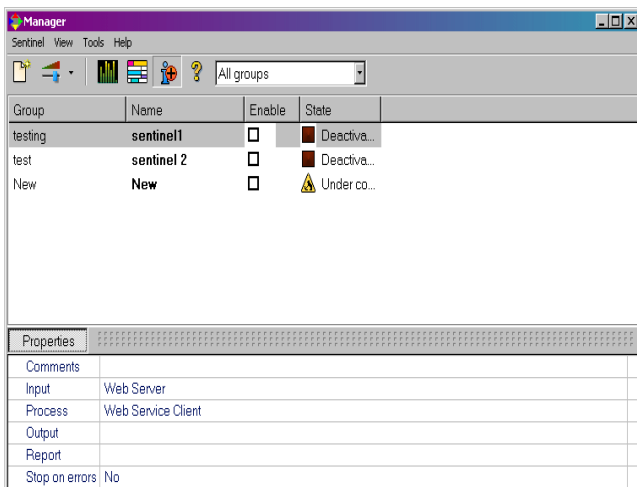


Figure 7 Sentinel Manager

Description of the main window

This section presents a general overview of the main elements that make up the interface, as they appear in the main window at the beginning of a work session.

Menu bar

The menu bar comprises four drop-down menus: **Sentinel**, **View**, **Tools** and **Help**.



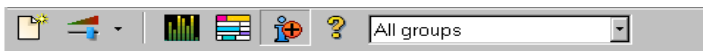
To access commands using the keyboard, use the keyboard shortcuts. Press **ALT** plus the key corresponding to the letter underlined in the menu name, then the key corresponding to the letter underlined in the command name.

Workspace

The workspace occupies the central part of the main window. The list of sentinels is displayed in this area as a table.

The toolbar

These tools allow you to execute routine tasks more quickly than using the menus.



- **To select a tool** Click on the button corresponding to the tool.

Interface settings

Changing display options

You can display the interface in English or French. You can also modify column widths and select a display filter.

Changing the interface language

Step 1 Choose **Tools > Options**.

Step 2 Select the required language in the language zone.

A checkmark shows which language is selected.

Adjusting column width

Place the cursor over the column's right-hand border in the table header and drag it to the left or right to obtain the required width.

Adding a sentinel

Choose **Sentinel > New**.

The new sentinel appears in the table. Its status is defined as "under construction".

Defining the properties of a sentinel

The **General** tab allows you to assign a name to the new sentinel, add any comments and associate it with a group and a map file.

Step 1 Enter a name in the zone **Name**.

Step 2 In the zone **Group**, select a group or type a group name. If needed, type comments.

Step 3 Select the map file defining the structure of your data file.

Step 4 Check the **Stop on errors** box if you want a sentinel process to be stopped when an error occurs.

The others tabs allow you to define which plug-in you want to run for the Input, the Output, the Process and the Report.

If you want more information about the plug-ins, please refer to *Appendix A:plug-ins* at the end of this manual. You will also find information about the plug-in selected in each tab of the sentinel properties dialog box.

Managing sentinels

Sentinel Manager allows you to carry out a number of operations, including duplicating an existing sentinel.

Duplicating a sentinel

Select the sentinel.

Step 1 Right-click on it.

Step 2 Choose **Duplicate** in the context menu.

The duplicated sentinel appears in the list with the same name followed by *copy no. x*.

Deleting a sentinel

Sentinel Manager also allows you to delete sentinels.

Step 1 Select the sentinel.

Step 2 Right-click on it.

Step 3 Choose **Delete** in the context menu.

Activating a sentinel

In order to activate a sentinel (from the service or from the Sentinel Controller), you must first enable it in the **Sentinel Manager**.

If you want that a sentinel be processed in the **Sentinel Controller**, it should first be activated in the **Manager**.

Step 1 Select the sentinel.

Step 2 Check or uncheck the box in the **Enable** column. If you check this box, the activated sentinel will appear in the **Controller**.

Step 3 You can launch the **Sentinel Controller** from the **Tools** menu of the **Manager** or click on



For more information, please see the chapter *Sentinel Controller*.

CHAPTER 8

Sentinel Controller

This chapter covers the following topics:

- How Sentinel Controller Works
- Launching the program
- Description of the Main Window
 - Menu Bar
 - The Sentinel List
 - The Toolbar
 - Selecting a Tool
 - Information Panel
 - The Status Bar
- Interface Settings
 - Changing Display Options
 - Adjusting Column Width
 - Displaying a Specific Group
 - Modifying the Display Order
 - Displaying Sentinel Properties
 - Activating one or more Sentinels
 - Deactivating one or more Sentinels
- Sentinel Status

- Task Management
 - Viewing Current Tasks
 - Cancelling a Task
- Error Management
 - Structure of the Error Logfile
 - Error Messages
 - Deleting an error logfile

How Sentinel Controller works

Sentinel Controller allows you to view sentinel status, enable/disable individual sentinels and display the printing and error logfiles.

Sentinels are created and set up using **Sentinel Manager**.


When you modify the properties of a sentinel, the changes are automatically updated in **Sentinel Controller**.

Once enabled in **Sentinel Controller**, the sentinel is assigned Activated status in **Sentinel Manager** and cannot be modified while running.

Launching the program

You can launch **Sentinel Controller** via the Kernel menu or **Sentinel Manager**.

To access **Sentinel Controller**:

Step 1 Right-click on the Kernel icon .

Step 2 Choose **Sentinel Controller** in the context menu.

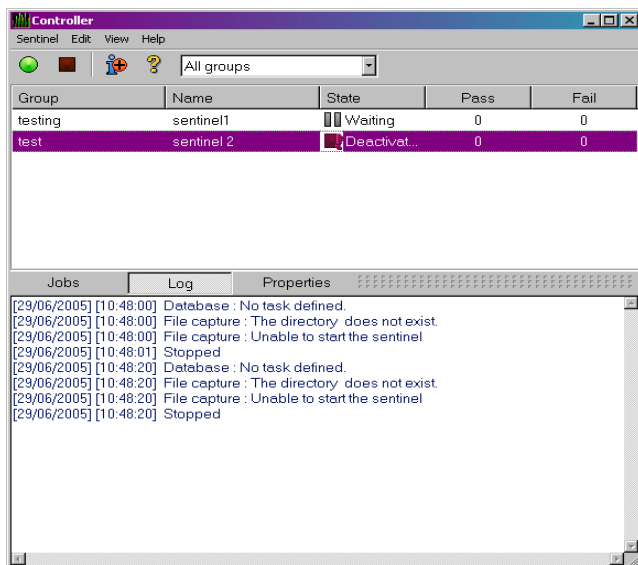


Figure 8 Sentinel Controller

Description of the main window

This section presents a general overview of the main elements that make up the **Sentinel Controller** interface, as they appear in the main window at the beginning of a work session. The main window is divided into two areas:

- The sentinel list
- The information panel

Menu bar

The menu bar comprises four drop-down menus: **Sentinel**, **Edit**, **View** and **Help**



To access commands using the keyboard, use the keyboard shortcuts. Press **ALT** plus the key corresponding to the letter underlined in the menu name, then the key corresponding to the letter underlined in the command name.

The Sentinel list

The sentinel list occupies the central part of the main window and is displayed as a table.

Group	Name	State	Pass	Fail
s1	sent1	Deactivat..	0	0

The toolbar


These tools allow you to execute routine tasks more quickly than using the menus.

Selecting a tool

Click on the button corresponding to the tool.



Information panel

The information panel, located in the lower part of the window, comprises of three tabs which display information on pending tasks and the printing/error logfiles respectively. You can show or hide the information panel using the command **View Information** or the **Information tool** .



You can move the border separating the sentinel list and the information panel by dragging it with the cursor.

The status bar

Located along the lower edge of the window, the status bar displays the number of pending tasks plus the date and time.

Interface settings

Changing display options

You can modify column widths and/or select a display filter.

Adjusting column width

Place the cursor over the column's right-hand border in the table header and drag it to the left or right to obtain the required width.

- or -

Double-click on the column

Displaying a specific group

You can display sentinels belonging to a particular group. Choose **View Group/All groups** and then the required group of sentinels.

- or -

Select the option directly on the toolbar.

Modifying the display order

Click on the header of the column by which you wish to sort the sentinels.

Displaying sentinel properties

You can display the properties of a sentinel.

Step 1 Select the sentinel.


Step 2 Choose **View Information**

Step 3 Click on the **Properties** tab

Jobs	Log	Properties	Properties
Comments			
Map	S2.map		
Input	File capture		
Process	Database		
Output			
Report			
Stop on errors	No		


Activating one or more sentinels

Step 1 Select the required sentinel(s) using the mouse or the Select all and Invert selection commands.

Step 2 Click on the tool  to activate the selection
- or -
Choose **Sentinel Activate**.

Deactivating one or more sentinels

Step 1 Select the required sentinel(s) using the mouse or the **Select all** and **Invert selection** commands.

Step 2 Click on the tool  to deactivate the selection
- or -
Choose **Sentinel Deactivate**.



Unlike sentinels activated by the service, all sentinels launched manually will stop processing when the application is closed.

Sentinel status

Task management

The Information panel allows you to monitor the progress of current tasks.

Jobs	Log	Properties	Properties
File (4)		Size	Created
Expe.Lab		140 Kb	09:19:58
ExpeSub.Lab		110 Kb	09:39:54
Expedition.txt		4 Kb	17:18:20
Expedition.map		2 Kb	17:21:18

A symbol appears next to each sentinel in the list to indicate its status.



This symbol indicates the sentinel is deactivated.



This symbol indicates the sentinel is about to begin analysis.



This symbol indicates the sentinel is under construction.



Define the missing settings in **Sentinel Manager**.



This symbol indicates the sentinel is activated.



This symbol indicates the sentinel is processing a datafile.

Viewing current tasks

Activate the Information panel and click on the **Jobs** tab.

Cancelling a task

You can cancel a task using the information panel. Select the task you wish to cancel then press the DEL key.



Cancelling a task will permanently delete the datafile currently being processed.

Error Management

When **Sentinel Controller** detects an error during datafile analysis, it updates the relevant error logfile located in the application LOGFILES folder. The filename of the logfile will be that of the sentinel. The logfile describes the nature of the error so you can rectify it if necessary.

To view the error logfile for the selected sentinel, display the Information panel, and then click on the **Log** tab.

The Error column and the sentinel symbols indicate any errors encountered during datafile analysis. To reset the error counter, right-click on the sentinel and then choose Reset error counter in the context menu.

Structure of the error logfile

This file allows you to monitor file processing status.

Error messages

Error messages inform you of the nature and source of any errors so you can rectify them. Error messages include the error number, the date and the time, the name of the file concerned, and the error message.

Jobs	Log	Properties
[29/06/2005] [10:48:00]	Database : No task defined.	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:00]	File capture : The directory does not exist.	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:00]	File capture : Unable to start the sentinel	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:01]	Stopped	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:20]	Database : No task defined.	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:20]	File capture : The directory does not exist.	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:20]	File capture : Unable to start the sentinel	
[29/06/2005] [10:48:20]	Stopped	

Deleting an error logfile

You can delete error logfiles using the Information panel.

Step 1 Select the sentinel to which the error logfile is associated.

Step 2 Click on the Information panel Log tab then press CTRL + SUPPR.



Deleting an error logfile will permanently remove the .log file.

APPENDIX I

Plug-ins

This appendix covers:

Information about the configuration and selection of the different plug-ins;

- Input
 - File capture
 - TCP/IP port listening
 - Print capture
 - Web Server

- Process
 - Label printing
 - Database
 - Web service client

- Output
 - Transfer plug-in

- Report
 - Log file
 - E-mail
 - TCP/IP port listening

Input plug-ins

You have three input plug-ins at your disposal:

- File capture
- TCP/IP port listening
- Print capture
- Web Server

File capture

This plug-in collects files in a specific folder.

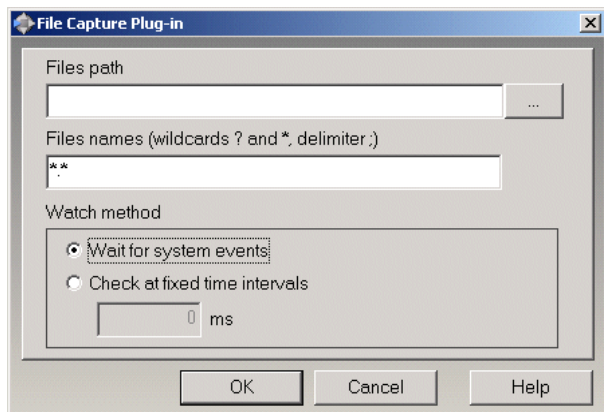
Files are processed in chronological order - the first file to appear in the folder is the first file processed.



To be analyzed by the sentinel, the file must be accessible in read/write mode. In addition, the sentinel must have full control over the data file before it will proceed with processing (i.e., the program that is creating the data file for sentinel must be finished writing the file).

From the Input tab of the sentinel properties dialog box, select the input plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears:



Step 1 Type or select the file path of the folder to be watched.

Step 2 Type file name or file extension of the files to be captured.

You can type several files names separated by a semi-colon or use wildcard characters. Asterisk (*) is used to replace zero or several characters. Question mark (?) is used to replace one and only one character in a file name

Examples

a*.txt	All files with extension txt starting with a (or A), like AF104.txt or a.txt.
item_n?.*	All files named item_n + one character, whatever the extension, like item_n3.dat or ITEM_NZ.txt, but not item_n24.doc
.txt;.dat	All files with extension txt and dat

Step 3 Choose your watch method:

- wait for file system events: in this mode the application is suspended until the system «awakes» when a file is in the directory. At that time, the file processing starts.



This method is a good way to limit the resources needed by the application. However, this method cannot always be used. Some file systems, such as shared folders on AS400, are not compatible with the Windows notification system.

- check on time interval: the folder is watched at regular intervals.

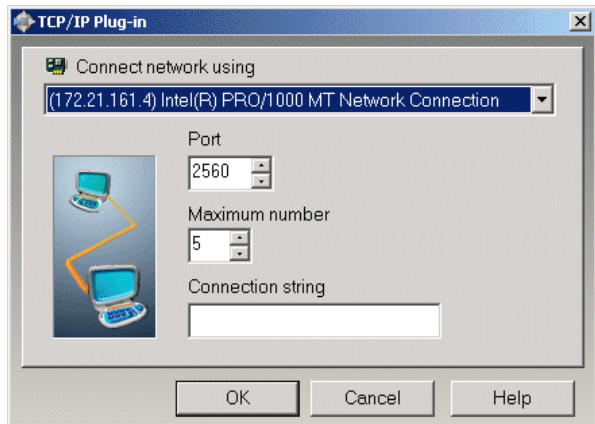
TCP/IP port listening

This plug-in is viewed as a Socket server and receives data from a client in a pre-defined format. For more information about this format, please refer to the example available in your installation directory. This plug-in can be considered

as an input and/or report plug-in. It allows client application to retrieve printing status. This plug-in can support any kind of platforms.

From the **Input** tab of the sentinel properties dialog box, select the input plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears:



- **How does this plug-in work?**

Step 1 The client tries to connect

Step 2 The server validates the connection

Step 3 The client sends a data process request

Step 4 The server sends the events linked to the file process

Step 5 The server sends the end of process

Step 6 The client disconnects or continues sending information to the sentinel

If this plug-in is considered as both an input and report plug-ins, events reported by the server to the client will concern only this client.

- **General message format**

A message is sent to exchange information between the client and Socket Server. The structure of this message is

defined below.

Message size (including those four characters)	4 characters (long)
Command number	4 characters (long)
Parameter 1	4 characters (long)
Parameter 2	4 characters (long)
Job name	260 characters (char [260])
Data	varying length

- **Data format description**

Data sent will have the following format:

variable name = CRLF value

The variable name is the name of a variable on your label or that of a control variable:

@LABEL_NAME: used to indicate the label name to be printed.

@PRINTER_NAME: used to indicate the target printer.

@LABEL_QUANTITY: used to indicate the number of labels to be printed.

If you want to send several process demands during the same information exchange, data blocks must be separated by a CRLF (ASCII characters 10 and 13).

If there are several blocks of data, blocks are separated by CRLF:

```
variable name 1 = value CRLF
variable name 2 = value CRLF
variable name 3 = value CRLF
CRLF
variable name 1 = value CRLF
variable name 2 = value CRLF
variable name 3 = value CRLF
variable name 4 = value CRLF
```

- **Messages list**

Connection demand

The connection string indicated in the plug-in configuration is aimed at allowing the client to connect to the server.

Command number	0
Parameter 1	0 (message with Ansi characters)
	1 (message with Unicode characters)
Parameter 2	Client ID. Optional parameter used to check information sent from the server to the client.
Name	not used
Data	connection string

Job demand

Command number	2
Parameter 1	0 (message with Ansi characters)
	1 (message with UNICODE characters)
Parameter 2	not used.
Name	Job name
Data	data to process

Answer to connection demand

Once the connection demand has been made, the client must wait for an answer from the server in order to continue.

Job name	Client ID
Command number	1

Parameter 1	0 (OK)
	1 (false connection string)
	2 (maximum number of clients reached)
Parameter 2	Not used
Name	Not used
Data	Not used

Answer to job demand

Command number	3
Parameter 1	0 (OK)
	1 (cancelled)
	2 (message)
	3 (error)
	4 (end of process)
Parameter 2	See table below
Name	IP address or client's PC name + client ID (value set during connection)
Data	Text message linked to the receiving of an error or a message. The module name or the name of the plug-in is defined before this message.

Details about parameter 2

On message reception and according to what has been selected in the Report plug-in.	0 (sentinel stopped: client disconnected)
	1 (data received)
	2 (data to be processed)
	3 (data are sent to the output plug-in)
	4 (free message)
On error reception	3 (format not supported)
	4 (process error)
On end of process	Equal to the NewData return value
	0 (OK)
	1 Process canceled
	6 Process error
	7 Output plug-in error

Communication between the client and the server can either be done in UNICODE or in Ansi. If client data are sent in UNICODE, the server will answer in UNICODE. It is the same process for ANSI

• Server disconnection

The client will be disconnected:

- For the input, if the client tries to send a new process without having received the end of process of the previous demand.

- For the report plug-in only, if the client tries to send data.

Print capture

This plug-in captures spooled tasks on a printer. This printer is set up during your plug-in configuration. All printed tasks printed from your system to the printer will be analyzed by the sentinel once activated.

Printing your document from a Windows application on a "SENTINEL" printer may modify the original document. For instance empty lines can be removed and tabulation characters can be replaced by a carriage return line feed sequence. In order for the map to read the "reformatted" data correctly, do the following:

Step 1 Start by making the "SENTINEL" printer available for printing, as it is by default suspended for the capture.

Step 2 Select the FILE port for the output.

Step 3 Print your document on this printer from your application.

At print time a dialog box is displayed that lets you specify the output file name.

Step 4 Use the file that is printed as the WorkFile to define the Map file.

This method allows for the modifications that could occur during the printing process.

Step 5 When the map file is done, don't forget to set the printer back to suspended mode and to select the COM1: as the output port.

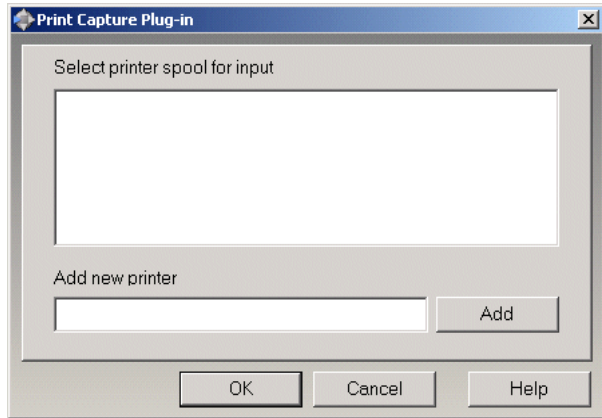


When printing through the TCP/IP protocol, the original document is not modified through the use of the driver. In that case it is possible to create the map file with the original document.

From the **Input** tab of the sentinel properties dialog box, select the input plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears:

Select printer spool for input.



Step 1 Select printer spool for input.

Step 2 If you want to add another printer, enter its name and click on **Add**. The new printer appears in the printer spool for input list.

Step 3 Click on **OK** to validate.

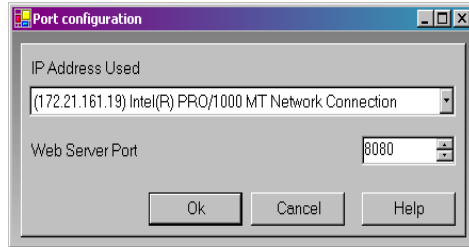
Web Server

Note

Depending on the product version you have purchased, this plug-in may not be available

This plug-in allows the SENTINEL Server to receive information from a webpage, previously created and configured for data collection. It allows the SENTINEL Server to be connected to any Web Application with a minimum of integration work on the Web Application itself. All it would take is for a "Submit" button on a webpage to be connected to the server's URL. This would send all the information entered in the webpage to be collected and, for example, inserted into a database or transmitted to a webservice available on the ERP system to perform a particular transaction. Since this plug-in acts as an HTTP server, it will answer an HTTP POST message and will call the assigned process plug-in to act according to the information. The web form will, however need to be customized to link the

data collected on the web page with the information requested by the process plug-ins used by the sentinel.



In order to customize a web form, three things must be done:

1. Create standard input fields, giving them the name of the variables you want to address from the fields.

Example:

```
<input type= "edit" name= "variable_name" value=
"variable_value">
```

For more details, please see the html sample web form in the sample program directory.

2. Create three input fields named Group, Sentinel and Job Name that are used to identify the sentinel which will receive the data and to provide a name for the job.

Example:

```
<INPUT type= "edit" name= "Group" value= "Production">
```

```
<INPUT type= "edit" name= "Sentinel" value="S01">
```

```
<INPUT type=" "edit" name "JobName" value="Job2545">
```

Data will be processed by the sentinel "S01" of the "Production group". The Job will be referred to as being "Job2545".

3. Customize the method and action parameters for the form so that it could be linked to the SENTINEL Server.

Example:

```
<form          method=          "post"          action=
"http://sentinel_server:port_number/des">
```

...

...

...

```
</form>
```

Each input field name and value will be sent to the sentinel. Then, the sentinel will tell the caller (usually the web browser) to call back to the web server's normal address. It allows the data to pass through the sentinel, first, and then again through the web application as it has been designed on a web server such as IIS or Apache.

Another way to exchange information between your application and the SENTINEL server through the web server plug-in is to directly use the SENTINEL web service that is published. From a development platform that supports web service calls, like .NET or J2EE, you can directly invoke the function exposed by the SENTINEL web service. To do that, you simply need to provide the URL address of the SENTINEL web service: `http://sentinel_server:portnumber/service?wsdl`. Your development tool should create a wrapper containing two methods and an enumeration (function result):

Process1 (

```
Group as string      : name of the sentinel group
Sentinel as string   : name of the sentinel
JobName as string    : job name to be displayed
Values as ArrayOfString : array of strings
) as FunctionResult
```

array of string example: array("Name", "McCarthy", "Surname", "Doris")

Process2(

Group as string : name of the sentinel group
Sentinel as string : name of the sentinel
JobName as string : job name to be displayed
Values as string : string representation of values
) as FunctionResult

Values: "Name=McCarthy\r\nSurname=Doris\r\n" where "\r\n" represents CrLf (Carriage return, Line feed).

FunctionResult enumeration:

OK : process has been done successfully
Canceled : process has been cancelled
Err_Process : process raised an error

Process plug-ins

Three process plug-ins are available:

- Label printing
- Database
- Web service client

Process plug-ins are used to determine the way in which your information will be processed. Process plug-ins manage variable collections to perform the work they have been designed for. Variables are of two types:

Standard:

- the Label printing plug-in , for example, manages variables defined in a label created with the label designer.
- The database plug-in manages variables associated with a task that is defined with the Query Manager.
- The Web service plug-in manages variables associated with the parameters of a web service function.

Control: These are the variables that can influence the processing work of the plug-ins.

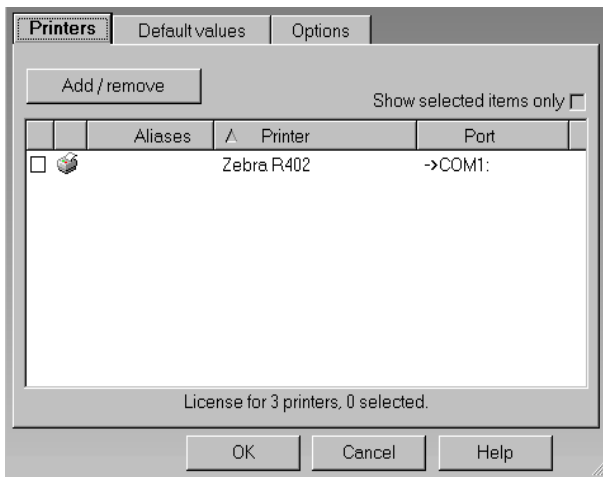
- Label printing plug-in uses, for example, the @LABEL_NAME variable to define the label to print. @PRINTER_NAME to select the target printer...
- Database plug-in uses the @TASK control variable to select the task to execute.
- Web Service plug-in uses the @WEBMETHOD control variable to select the web service method to execute.

Label printing

This plug-in prints barcode label with data found by the mapping.

From the **Process** tab of the sentinel properties dialog box, select the process plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears:



Step 1 From the **Printers** tab, select the printer(s) you want to use.

You can define there one or more aliases for a printer. For example if you define "Production1" as an alias for the printer "Plasmatronic TH640, \\ServerProduction1", SENTINEL will select this printer if the data analysis found the data Production1 as the printer name to use for printing.

If later the printer is changed for a different model, you will just have to assign the alias to the new printer in the plug-in configuration. No modification will need to be done on the data.



The alias is used prior to the real name of the printer. For example, if you want to redirect the printing demands from the "Plasmatronic TH640" to the "Matrix Code IV", you simply need to assign the alias "Plasmatronic TH640" to the "Matrix Code IV" printer.

Step 2 In the **Default values** tab, type or select, if needed, a file to be printed.



Remember that first priority is given to the control variables found in the file, then to the default value such as this one.

Step 3 Select a default printer on which documents will be printed if no printer is specified in your data file.

Step 4 Fill in, if needed, the number of labels to be printed, the number of copies, etc.

Step 5 Click on the **Options** tab and activate the **When opening a document, clear its variables** option if you want to erase the variable values saved in the document when it is opened. If not, the values saved in the document will remain until new values are provided by the file analysis.

The data used from one document is opened only once and is not used again. (The variable data are not propagated between multiple jobs.) Therefore, if you want data from one document to be included in the next job, you will need to include it in both documents.

Step 6 Click on **OK** to validate.

Database

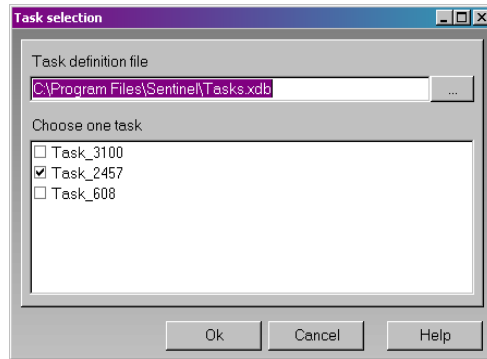
Note

To use this plug-in, you require an additional license. Please contact your reseller to activate this functionality and ensure your database system is supported.

The Database process plug-in allows a sentinel to execute queries and call stored procedures over different database systems with the information received from the input plug-ins. Queries are defined at design time on the workstation using the Query Manager application.

Once the queries have been created they can be associated with stored procedured and called into a task. Task

and query definitions are saved into two configuration files (task.xdb, database.xdb). These files must be used from the SENTINEL Server when defining sentinel tasks with the information captured from the incoming data stream. It is then possible to execute a set of queries combined with stored procedure calls over different database systems for each block of data found by the sentinel.



If you want to dynamically select the task which would be called by the data stream received by a sentinel, you must assign a value to the @TASK control variable.

Step 1 Select **Database**

Step 2 Click on **Settings**

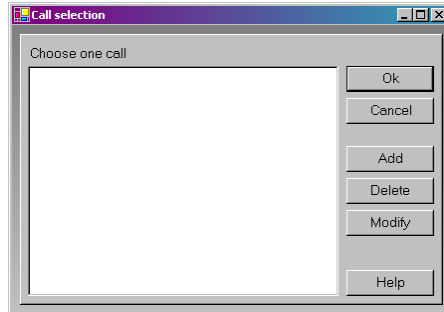
Step 3 Enter a Task Definition File or click on Browse to search for an existing file

Step 4 Select **ONE** task from the list of configured tasks and click **OK**.

This task will be called up by default by the sentinel if the @TASK control variable is not set in the data stream.

Web Service Client

Its goal is to send data through Webservice calls over the internet or intranet network.



- **Configuration**

To use web calls, you must first ask for the web service description file (WSDL file).

Step 1 Open the Webservice plug-in dialog box.

Step 2 Click on the 'Add' button.

The Webservice Resolution dialog box opens.

Step 3 Type the WSDL address (URL) in the edit box and click on the green arrow.

The plug-in will look for the service description. If a user login and password is required, a dialog box will be opened to enter required values.

Methods are listed in the table. Method name followed by its parameters. Parameters are indented. If you click on a line, corresponding documentation will be shown on the bottom panel.

To add a method to the plug-in's usable method list, just enter an alias beside the method name. You can also give an alias name to the parameter name. When running sentinel, if parameters have an alias name, this one will be used as the variable resolution. The sentinel's variable value will be sent to the corresponding parameter. If the parameter alias is omitted, its name will be used.

When methods are selected, you can close the Service Resolution dialog box. Then in the configuration box, select the method to call from the plug-in as long as the @WEBMETHOD control variable of the plug-in is not set in the sentinel's incoming data stream.

- **Web Service Test:** You can test a method through the Web Service Resolution Dialog Box. Open this dialog box, then click on the 'test' button. A combo box allows you to select the method. Enter the parameter values and click on call. If a result is sent back, it will be displayed in the result panel.
- **Limitation:** During the sentinel process, the result from a web call cannot be used nor interpreted.

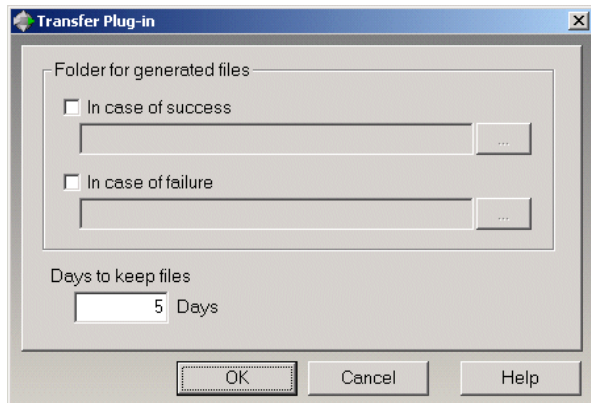
Output plug-ins

Transfer plug-in

As for an output plug-in you can use the **Transfer** one. This plug-in transfers input data to a specific directory according to the process result.

From the **Output** tab of the sentinel properties dialog box, select the output plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears:



In the **Folder for generated files** zone, select where you want to save your file in case of failure or in case of success.

In the **Days to keep file** zone, enter the number of days that the files will be kept.



The file name created by the output plug-in is identical to the name of the data set that is received by the input plug-in. If the same name is used for two different data sets, the old transferred file will be overwritten by the new one.



The **Days to keep file** option is only activated when a sentinel sends a file to the Transfer plug-in. If the plug-in is not used, files remain in the transfer folder whatever the time specified in the Days to keep files option is.

Report plug-ins

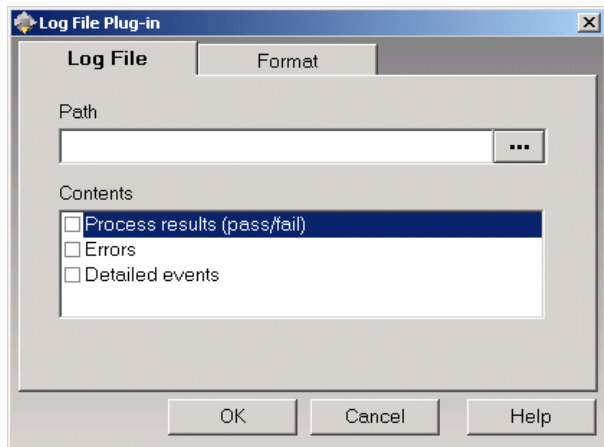
You have three **Report** plug-ins at your disposal:

- Log file
- E-mail
- TCP/IP port listening

Log file

This plug-in logs sentinel events in a text file. From the **Report** tab of the **Sentinel properties** dialog box, select the report plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears:



Step 1 In the **Log File** tab, enter the file path. The generated log file name is made as follows: **REPORT (<sentinel name>).txt**

Step 2 Check one or several options of the **Contents** zone.

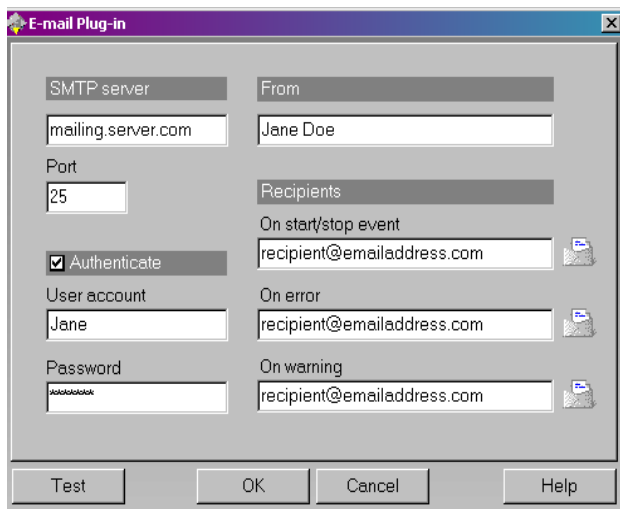
Step 3 Click on the **Format** tab to change the syntax of the file.

E-mail

This plug-in sends an e-mail containing all the events chosen.

From the **Report** tab of the sentinel properties dialog box, select the input plug-in and click on **Settings**.

The following dialog box appears



Step 1 In the **SMTP Server** zone, enter your SMTP Server address and select your port.

The SMTP port number is commonly set to 25.

Step 2 Check the **authentication** box if your server requires authentication. A **username** and **password** will have to be inserted.

Step 3 In the **Recipients** zone, enter the e-mail address of the person you want to contact when starting or stopping, in case of error, or on warning.

Step 4 If you want to add several addresses for the same events, you have to separate them by a semicolon (;).

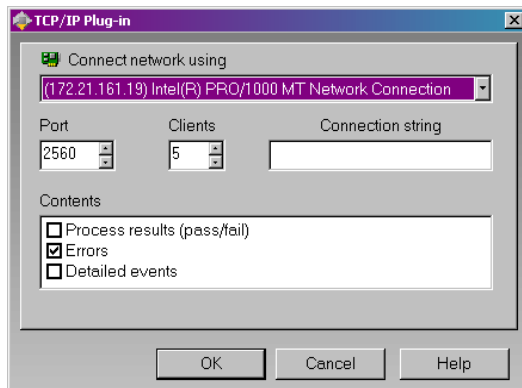
Step 5 In the **From** field, enter the sender's address. When you enter an address, the following icon displays . You can click this icon  to access to the **Message format** dialog box.

Once you have entered your parameters, you can click on **Cancel**, or on **Test** if you want to check the parameters you entered. Then the plug-in tries to send an e-mail to all the

recipients that are specified. The e-mail sent uses the same format as the one specified in the settings of the plug-in so that you can check it.

TCP/IP port listening

This plug-in is viewed as a Socket server and receives data from client in a pre-defined format. For more information about this format, please refer to the example available on the CD-ROM. This plug-in can be considered as an input and/or report plug-in. This plug-in can support any kind of platforms. For more information about this plug-in configuration, please refer to the **Input plug-in** section of this chapter.



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United States
1-414-837-4800

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33-562-601-080

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49-6103-30026-0

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