How SysKit Insights can help system admins in monitoring SharePoint farms

Use Case Examples

by Stacy Simpkins, SharePoint Engineer III at Rackspace

SysKIt Insigts Use Cases

About the Author

Stacy Simpkins is a SharePoint Engineer III at Rackspace. He provides support for SharePoint 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016.
Rackspace is an IT as a service company that focuses on digital transformation and cloud solutions.

Working in a company that has a multiple-farm SharePoint environment, I am well aware of the difficulties that it brings for SharePoint and system admins both.

When an error occurs, an admin needs to find the log that has valuable information about the error. The problem is that those logs can be stored in any of the servers you monitor. Having a big environment, it takes a lot of time to go through all of them.

Time is crucial: The sooner you find the log with the information about an error, the sooner you'll begin troubleshooting and minimize the chance of problems like system shutdowns.
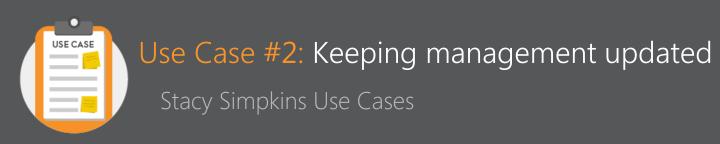
I have stumbled upon SysKit Insights and loved the simplicity and functionality of it.

SysKit Insights centralizes all the logs across multiple farms to one single console. You can view, search, and filter:

- ULS logs
- Windows Event logs
- SQL logs

Usually, as a SharePoint farm admin, you are not allowed to log into SQL database, but with SysKit Insights you get the SQL logs, without logging in anywhere.

You can just copy the errors' correlation ID to the interface, and you'll get the exact server or servers where the error occurred and the log itself.

Another big challenge that you face in a big corporation is finding a smart way of presenting logs to business and project managers.

Those end-users don't usually have access to servers, but they do have an interest in knowing the general state and health of the farm.

In order to see the logs and create reports on the health of the farm, they have to ask you for permission. They can find it very frustrating and time-consuming.

Your business end-users are able to access the logs through Insights interface, without having to ask for permissions to access your production systems, you can even allow them to use SysKit Insights as a web app in their browsers.

They can access the centralized dashboard from their own workstation and have an insight in the farm health in real-time. They can:

- View logs in real-time
- Filter logs
- Generate reports

"SysKit Insights compares to a lot of much more expensive products and goes toe to toe with them as far as what it can provide."

— Stacy Simpkins, SharePoint Engineer III at Rackspace

Most of you are using SCOM to monitor your performance counters. But, let's face it – you don't care about the million performance counters that happen on the system.

You only care about the SharePoint, and you don't want to spend a week exploring what counters are important to you, what are the thresholds and what exactly every counter means. Having said that, SCOM doesn't really help you.

SysKit Insights allows you to plug application into the SharePoint farm and the app will auto-discover all the different roles of the servers, and it will apply templates that are important for each role.

You will get all SharePoint performance metrics that you need from each server role, e.g.:

- SQL server: transactions per sec
- Web Front End: current connections
- Search servers: Crawls in progress

SysKit Insights is an innovative tool for monitoring SharePoint performance and troubleshooting your servers via ULS , SQL, and Windows Event logs. Monitor performance across all servers and farms from a single centralized location.

Benefits of SysKit Insights

✔ No more logging into each server individually to find the right log

✔ Find out about errors ASAP and eliminate them before they affect end users

✔ Make sure that you are compliant with Microsoft's requirements

✔ Minimize SharePoint downtime by receiving warning alerts

✔ Have an overview of all your farms in a centralized location

START FREE TRIAL NOW

Easily identify any problem and find the right ULS log in seconds

Always know the state of your servers by monitoring the most relevant counters.

Prevent damage to your system by receiving real-time email alerts