LicenseWatch Connector for

Citrix Presentation Server/XenApp and Edgesight

LicenseWatch

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Executive Summary

This document is used to give a slight more technical introduction to the LW Citrix XenApp connector. This connector is used to extract information from a specific XenApp Citrix Farm, some of these data are:
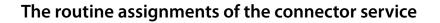
- Published applications
- Users that are given rights to use the published applications

The other functionality of the connector is to extract usage data from the Citrix Edgesight database, if such a database is available. Some of the information can be used to:

- Provide a time of when a specific published application was used
- Who used the application for a given timespan
- Which device is the application started from

LW Citrix XenApp connector

The connector is divided into two major functionalities. Namely the ability to collect user and published application data across the servers of a Citrix XenApp farm, and the other ability to connect to the Citrix Edgesight database to extract usage data.

The routine assignments of the connector service

Periodic request against LW server

Service start-up → Time to run? → Gather published applications and users → Edgesight? — yes → Extract usage data from Citrix Edgesight database → Routine completed
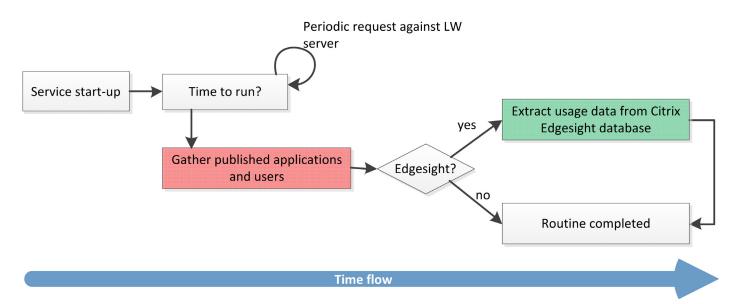Edgesight? — no → Routine completed

Time flow

Figure 1 shows an illustration of the major functionalities provided by the service. The following section will explain the different major parts of the service.
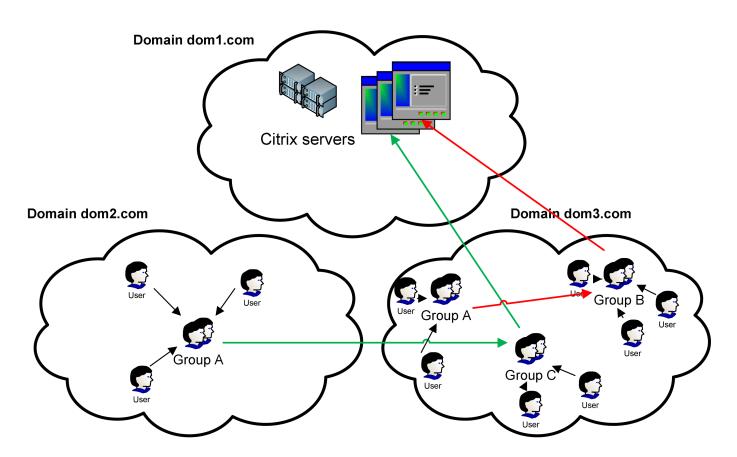
"Service start-up" and "Time to run?"

These two functionalities are used to set up all the needed parameters for the service, when the service must run and allocate the needed resources. The information of when the service must run is fetched from the LicenseWatch database.

"Gather published applications and users" (red box on figure 1)

The first major functionality of the service is to gather a list of all the published Citrix applications. Each application can have multiple of users connected, either locally or by the use of Active Directory.

The LW Citrix XenApp connector is able to extract all these users whether they are added locally or through the Active Directory. It is also possible to iterate over nested Active Directory groups across many domains for example as shown on the following illustration:

The above figure illustrates 3 domains (dom1.com, dom2.com and dom3.com) these domains are trusted. Dom1.com holds the Citrix farm servers and the three icons to the right of the server icon are the applications available to be used on the Citrix Farm. Group C from domain "dom3.com" got a reference to group A from domain "dom2.com". And group B from "dom3.com" got a reference to group A from the same domain.

"Extract usage data from Citrix Edgesight database" (green box on figure 1)

The second major functionality is optional, this functionality is enabled if the user specifies a connection string to the Citrix Edgesight database (by the use of the LW configuration tool).

The purpose of the second functionality is to extract usage data from the Citrix Edgesight database, this is information stored from Citrix on when specific published applications were run, performance data, and much more. The LW Citrix XenApp connector is fetching only the metering data of the published applications that are matching a registered application in LicenseWatch.

The information that is stored in LicenseWatch from the Citrix Edgesight database is as following:

- The user that used the published application
- The start time when the published application was ran
- The end time when the published application was ran
- From which device the application ran

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