



Technical Articles

Consolidated Tracing Facility (CTF)

This article discusses the Consolidated Tracing Facility (CTF), which is now part of the functionality offered in the latest versions of Net Express and Server Express.

Overview

CTF provides reliable, fast, and configurable tracing capabilities. Eventually it will interleave trace events output from all the components involved in running applications. At present the runtime system (RTS) is the only enabled component: all components are expected to convert to use CTF as their tracing mechanism in future releases of Micro Focus products. CTF is therefore a 'work in progress'.

CTF is enabled by using an environment variable to point to a 'side file' (configuration file) which contains one or more entries. CTF will then run a module, known as an 'emitter' (at present the only emitter is one that produces a plain text file) giving details of the application(s) being run. The exact contents of this text file will depend upon the values of the entries in the side file.

CTF differs from the previously available FaultFinder utility. FaultFinder is designed to be called only when a runtime error occurs, whereas CTF will always run when (a) a side file exists, containing valid entries, and (b) the environment variable is set.

A detailed description of all the features of CTF is beyond the scope of this article; the product documentation will give all the information required.

Setting up CTF: the side file

As described, a side file must exist. This is a plain text file, referenced by the environment variable MFTRACE_CONFIG.

The side file can contain the following entries:

```
mftrace.application  
mftrace.level  
mftrace.level.component-name  
mftrace.comp.component-name#property  
mftrace.emitter.emitter-name#property
```

Blank lines, and lines beginning with '#', are treated as comments

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