

SIMCommander SIMCommander Express

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About SIMCommander Express

SIMCommander Express is slim, easy to use Windows Event Management software designed for company of all sized and government organizations to centrally monitor, analysis, report and archive their Windows event logs. SIMCommander Express automatically collects, correlates, visualizes and store Windows event logs from any Windows servers and workstations and transforms these collected data into meaningful and actionable information.

For more information, please visit:

www.simc-inc.com

How to Get Started

This guide describes the easiest and quickest way to install and configure SIMCommander Express. For a full description of how to install, configure, administer and use SIMCommander Express, please refer to SIMCommander Express Installation and Administration Guide.

To use this guide to get started, do the following:

- Read about the SIMCommander Express components
- Review the System Requirements
- Review the Before SIMCommander Express Installation tasks
- Review the Post-installation tasks

Before SIMCommander Express Installation

Before you install SIMCommander Express, ensure that the server which SIMCommander Express will be installed is properly prepared and you understand the logon and other information that the SIMCommander Express Installation wizard requires.

- Using Static IP Address
- Ensure the system time among the SIMCommander Express and monitored Windows system are synchronized
- Local administrator's rights are required for the server on which the installation is performed
- Windows administrator login information is required for each monitored Windows system

Installing SIMCommander Express for the First Time

The following installation flow shows the order in which you install and configure the SIMCommander Express for the first time:

- Step 1. Install Microsoft SQL Server 2005 / 2008 Express and the latest Service Pack
- Step 2. Install SIMCommander Express Manager
- Step 3. Install SIMCommander Express Management Console (Optional)
- Step 4. Login to SIMCommander Express Management Console
- Step 5. Add Windows system for monitoring, alerting and reporting
- Step 6. Verify Data Collection

System Requirements

| Component | System Requirements |
|--|--|
| SIMCommander Express Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intel Dual-Core 2.0GHz Processor • 2GB Memory • 500GB Hard Disk Space • Windows 2003 or 2008 Server with latest Service Pack • SQL 2005 or 2008 Server Express Edition |
| SIMCommander Express Management Console | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intel Pentium IV processor 600MHz or Higher • 512MB Memory or above • 300MB Hard Disk space • Windows XP / 2003 / 2008 Server with latest Service Pack |

Step 1: Installing Microsoft SQL Server 2005 / 2008 Express

The Microsoft SQL Server must be installed before the installation and operation of SIMCommander Express. You can **either** install Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition or Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express Edition

**You can skip this step if Microsoft SQL Server is already installed.*

Installing Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition

Step A: Install .Net Framework 2.0

Before install SQL Server 2005 Express Edition, Microsoft .Net Framework 2.0 is required .Net Framework 2.0 can be downloaded from Microsoft web site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=0856eacb-4362-4b0d-8edd-aab15c5e04f5&displaylang=en>

1. Double-click dotnetfx.exe
2. The setup program starts, click Next to continue
3. Check the "I accept the terms of the License Agreement" checkbox and click Install
4. Click Finish after installation

Step B: Install Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition

Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition can be downloaded from Microsoft web site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=220549b5-0b07-4448-8848-dcc397514b41&displaylang=en#filelist>

1. Start the SQL Server 2005 Express installation by double click the **SQLXPR.EXE**
2. The setup program starts, click Next to continue

3. Check the "I accept the licensing terms and conditions" checkbox and click Next
4. Click Install and SQL Server prerequisites will start installing the components to the server
5. After installed all prerequisites components, click Next to start install SQL Server 2005
6. Input your Name, Company name and click Next to continue. By default, only SQL Server Database Services will be installed
7. In authentication mode, choose **Mixed Mode** and enter a password for the default **sa** account.
Note: For security reasons, please do not leave the password blank.
8. In Error and Usage Report Settings, you can either select to send error reports to Microsoft automatically or not by check the checkbox. Click Next to continue
9. After finished installation, click Finish to complete the installation

Step C: Configuring Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition

A video tutorial for how to configure Microsoft SQL Server 2005 is available at:

<http://www.simc-inc.com/web/support/tutorial/sqlxpc.html>

By default, TCP/IP connection is disabled. You need to enable the TCP/IP connection and configure the TCP/IP port to 1433 from the SQL Server Configuration Manager.

1. Run the SQL Server Configuration Manager from the Windows Start Menu
Start → All Programs → Microsoft SQL Server 2005 → Configuration Tools → SQL Server Configuration Manager
2. On the left pane, expand the SQL Server 2005 Services. And on the right pane, right-click on SQL Server (SQLEXPRESS) service and select Properties.

3. In Log On tabs, select Built-in account: and choose **Local System** and click OK to save the setting
4. On the left pane, expand the SQL Server 2005 Network Configuration and select Protocols for SQLEXPRESS
5. On the right pane, double-click **TCP/IP** to TCP/IP Properties dialog box
6. In Protocol tab, select Yes from the Enabled box
7. Go to **IP Address** tab, under the **IP All** table, input the port number 1433 in the TCP Port field
8. Click OK to save the configuration
9. Restart the SQL Server 2005 Services by select the SQL Server 2005 Services and press Restart service icon

Installing Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express Edition

Step A: Install Windows Installer 4.5 and .Net Framework 3.5 SP1

Before install SQL Server 2008 Express Edition, Microsoft Windows Installer 4.5 and .Net Framework 3.5 SP1 is required. Windows Installer 4.5 and .Net Framework 3.5 SP1 can be downloaded from Microsoft web site:

Windows Installer 4.5 Redistributable

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=5A58B56F-60B6-4412-95B9-54D056D6F9F4&displaylang=en>

Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 Service Pack 1

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=AB99342F-5D1A-413D-8319-81DA479AB0D7&displaylang=en>

For Microsoft Windows 2008 Server, .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 can be updated automatically by Windows Update. Please make sure you have turn on the Windows Update

Step B: Install Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express Edition

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express Edition can be downloaded from Microsoft web site:

32-bit SQL Server 2008 Express Edition with Service Pack 1 (x86)

http://download.microsoft.com/download/8/E/5/8E53FAA8-1129-4621-903F-3F8DB6D066AC/SQLEXP32_x86_ENU.exe

64-bit SQL Server 2008 Express Edition with Service Pack 1 (x64)

http://download.microsoft.com/download/8/E/5/8E53FAA8-1129-4621-903F-3F8DB6D066AC/SQLEXP_x64_ENU.exe

Note: Under 64-bit Windows 2008 Server, please make sure you are also installing 64-bit SQL Server 2008 Express Edition

To install Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express Edition:

1. Start the SQL Server 2008 Express installation by double click the **SQLXPR32_xxx_ENU.exe**
2. Click **Installation** from the left menu bar and click **New SQL Server stand-alone installation or add features to an existing installation**
3. Read the License Terms carefully and check the "I accept the license terms" checkbox and click **Next** to continue
4. Install the Setup Support Files, click **Next** to continue
5. In Features Selection, click **Select All** to select all instance features and click **Next** to continue
6. Use the Named instance: SQLExpress and click **Next** to continue
7. In Server Configuration, click **Use the same account for all SQL Server services**
8. 13. In the Account Name: select **NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM** and click **OK**

9. In authentication mode, choose **Mixed Mode** and enter the password. Confirm the password again. For security reasons, please do not leave the password blank.

10. In Specify SQL Server administrators, click **Add Current User**.

Note: The current user should be Administrator, if not, please Remove the user and Add administrator manually

11. You are now ready to install SQL 2008 Express, click **Install** to start installation

12. After installation completed, click **Next** to continue and click **Close** to complete the installation

Step 2: Installing SIMCommander Express Manager

After installed Microsoft SQL Server, now you can start installing the SIMCommander Express Manager.

To install SIMCommander Express Manager:

1. Start the SIMCommander Express Installation Wizard by double-clicking the file **simc413_v420_setup.exe**

2. The setup program starts, click Next to continue

3. In the License Agreement screen, check the "I accept the agreement" checkbox and click Next

4. Select the drive and directory to install SIMCommander Express components and click Next

5. In the Select Components screen, select **"SIMCommander Express Manager"** for the first time installation.

6. Database Configuration Check screen will check your database configuration. It popup only when the SQL Server is not configured properly. Make sure you have configured the SQL Server according to *Step 1* above. Or you can click **Click to Configure Database** to configure the *NEW* installation of SQL Server Express Edition

Note: The Database Configuration Check will not popup when the SQL Server configuration is correct. The Database Configuration Check configures the TCP/IP and SQL Authentication for New installation of SQL Server 2005 Express only. After database configuration done, you need to enable the sa account for continue the SIMCommander Express installation.

To enable the sa account or change existing configuration, please refer to SIMCommander Knowledgebase: <http://www.simc-inc.com/web/support/tfaq1.html#8>

7. Input the username and password of the Database Server. Make sure the **"Build Database"** checkbox is checked for create the SIMCommander Express database

Note: By default, the User name is sa. And the password is the one you entered during SQL Server installation

8. Click **Test** to test the connection between the SIMCommander Express Manager and the Database Server

Note: If the connection test fail, or you have encountered any error, please refer to SIMCommander Knowledgebase under - Connection Fail when testing Database connection during installation: <http://www.simc-inc.com/web/support/tfaq1.html#8>

9. Select the Backup Folder where the backup data to be stored. Click Next to continue

Note: This backup folder will store all the log data and alerts data from SIMCommander Express Manager.

10. Select the Data Aggregation Backup Folder where the data aggregation backup data to be stored. Click Next to continue

11. Define the Backup Option such as backup time, number of days to store the data.

| Value | Description |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Backup Time | The time to start the backup task |
| Number of Days Event Keep | The number of days to keep the event data in the database |

| | |
|--|--|
| Number of Days Alert Keep | The number of days to keep the alert data in the database |
| Number of Days Statistics (Hourly) Keep | The number of days to keep the hourly statistics data for Daily reports generation |
| Number of Days Statistics (Daily) Keep | The number of days to keep the daily statistics data for Weekly and Monthly reports generation |

12. In Database backup scheduling, input the Windows Administrator password of the SIMCommander Express server and click Next to continue

13. If all information is correct, click Install to start SIMCommander Express installation. Otherwise click Back to change your settings

14. Click **Finish** after the installation is completed.

Step 3: Installing SIMCommander Express Management Console (Optional)

By default, SIMCommander Express Management Console is installed during SIMCommander Express Manager installation. You can also install SIMCommander Express Management Console in other computers.

To install SIMCommander Express Management Console:

1. Start the SIMCommander Express Management Console Installation Wizard by double-clicking the file **simc413_v420_console_setup.exe**

2. The setup program starts, click **Next** to continue

3. In the License Agreement screen, check the "I accept the agreement" checkbox and click **Next**

4. Select the drive and directory to install SIMCommander Express components and click **Next**

5. Select the SIMCommander Express License key from the "Select License File Location" and click **Next** to continue

6. Click **Finish** after completed the installation

Step 4: Login to SIMCommander Express Management Console

SIMCommander Express Management Console is a single console designed for administrators and operators to centrally monitor, analyze, response and report Windows event logs. SIMCommander Express Management Console provides an ease of use Graphical User Interface (GUI) to display real-time correlated events from all Windows systems efficiently and effectively.

To start the SIMCommander Express Management Console:

1. Run SIMCommander Express Management Console from the Windows Start Menu

Start -> All Programs -> SIMCommander Express -> SIMCommander Express Console

2. Input your username, password and SIMCommander Express Manager IP address. A default administrative account is setup during first time SIMCommander Express installation:

Username: administrator

Password: password

3. Click Submit to login. And the SIMCommander Express Management Console will be launched

Step 5: Add Windows system for Monitoring, Alerting and Reporting

To add a new Windows system

1. From the menu, select Settings -> Data Collection
2. In the Device Navigator pane, right-click the selected Agent and click **Add Device**
3. The Add Device pop-up window appears
4. Enter the following Device information

| Value | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| Device IP | IP address of the Windows system |
| Device ID | Unique ID for the Windows system (Max. 4 characters) |
| Device Name | The display name of the Windows system |
| Description | The details description of the Windows system |
| Device Type | In the pull down menu, select Microsoft Windows WMI |
| User | Input the administrator login name for the Windows system |
| Password | Input the administrator password for the Windows system |

5. Click on **Test Connection** to ensure that the Windows system is authenticated and connected.
6. Click **OK** to save
7. After added the Windows system, you need to Stop and Start the SIMCommander Express Collector Agent by right-click the selected SIMCommander Express Collector Agent and click **Stop**, then right-click the SIMCommander Express Collector Agent again and click **Start**.

Step 8: Verify Data Collection

You can check the collection status by right-click the Collector Agent and select **Status**.

1. Right-click the Collector Agent and click Status
2. Go to the Policy Filter tab
3. Make sure there is data shown in the # Msg Received (received by SIMCommander Express Collector Agent) and # Msg Sent (to SIMCommander Express Manager)

Getting Supports

SIMCommander is committed to bring customer a comprehensive technical support solution to meet her specific needs. SIMCommander provides different support options for all sized of customers from small-medium businesses to large enterprise and services provider. SIMCommander offers different levels of support that are designed to save customer's time and cost to keep customers' business running.

Under SIMCommander Support Services, we will provide an essential support and expert advice in helping customers to maintain and support SIMCommander products at the time under problem and recovery to minimize the impact imposed to customers' infrastructure.

Please send your questions, comments, or suggestions directly to SIMCommander. All your recommendations and suggestions will be thoroughly reviewed and considered.

For more information about SIMCommander, please visit: <http://www.simc-inc.com> or Email to: info@simc-inc.com