AlarmWorX32 Viewer - Alarm Viewer Optimization

APPLICATIONS NOTE

April 2010

Description: Guide to optimizing and troubleshooting your alarm viewer.
OS Requirement: Win XP Pro, Server 2003, Vista, Windows7
General Requirement: This application note requires some knowledge of the Alarm Viewer.

Introduction

The AlarmWorX32 Viewer ActiveX sets a limit to how many alarms and events that it will display. If you find that you need to display more or less alarms and events than the limit, you can edit this limit in the ICONICS Configuration Settings file.

Limit and EventLimit

There are two lines that you may need to add in the ICONICS Configuration Settings file. You can find this file in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\ICONICS\IcoSetup.ini. Open the file and find the line [AWXVIEW32] and add the following lines:

```
Limit=5
EventLimit=5
```

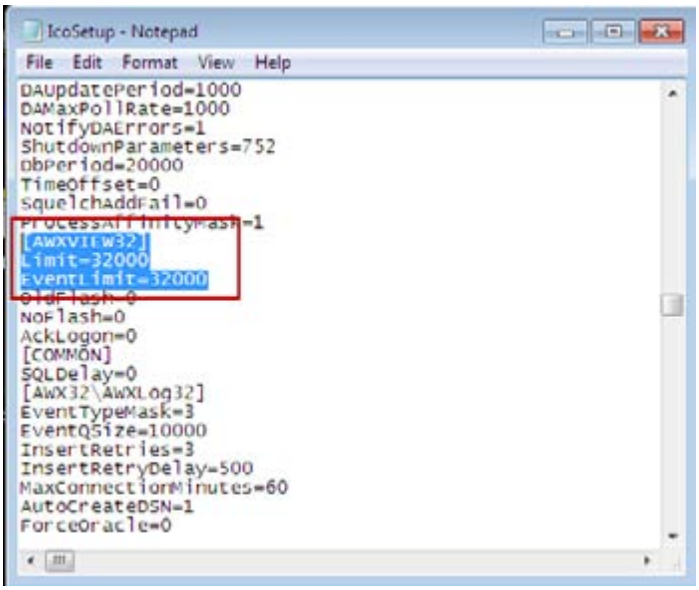

Figure 1 - Alarm Viewer Registry Settings

NOTE: Make sure that there are no spaces before the equal sign.

The **Limit** is the maximum number of alarms or events that the Alarm Viewer will display at any time. If this limit is reached, you will see an error message indicating that you must either acknowledge some alarms to make space, or increase the Limit value. Alarm messages will not be automatically removed to make room for new alarm messages.

The **EventLimit** represents the maximum number of events that the Alarm Viewer will display at any given time. If the number of event messages exceeds this limit, the old event messages will be discarded to make room for the new ones. The **EventLimit** should be set less than the **Limit** to save space for alarm messages.

Optimization and Troubleshooting

Here are some useful tips for configuring the Alarm Viewer to run faster and more reliable:

1. Try not to use AlarmWorX32 Viewer filters. It is much better to edit the Alarm Server subscription to eliminate alarm messages that you are not interested in seeing. The AlarmWorX32 Viewer filter does not prevent alarms and event messages from being processed; they are just not displayed. AlarmWorX32 Viewer operations are much faster if fewer alarms are received from the OPC Alarms & Events server. Also, all messages (filtered or not) count against the Limit and EventLimit.
2. Delete or modify your GenEvent subscription if you are seeing many events in your AlarmWorX32 Viewer that you do not need to see. You can change the Severity range in the Types tab, or change the Categories to which you are subscribed to, or just delete the GenEvent subscription altogether.
3. Decrease the EventLimit so that fewer event messages are retained in the AlarmWorX32 Viewer. This creates more space for alarm messages, and decreases the chance that you will hit the Limit value.
4. Increase the Limit value if you run into the limit and get an error message indicating that the AlarmWorX32 Viewer Message Limit was exceeded. This will allow your AlarmWorX32 Viewer to hold more messages and decrease the chance that you will see the Limit exceeded message.
5. Use server-side filtering by editing your AlarmWorX32 Viewer's subscription. The subscription tab in the AlarmWorX32 Viewer allows you to configure Types, Categories, Areas, Sources, and Attributes. To use up less memory and to stop processing messages that are not of interest, you should use these settings to fine-tune your subscription. Eliminate any unwanted messages and attributes if possible, but be sure not to leave out information that you need to see in the Alarm Viewer.