HEXAPOLE
IntoAccess BV
The Integrators



Net2Reporter

Manual 1.1

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Hexapole IntoAccess BV- The Integrators
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Principle

Net2Reporter is a tool designed to automatically generate scheduled reports from the Net2 database. The service executes predefined SQL queries at configured times.

At scheduled intervals, the service checks whether any reports are due to run. When a report is triggered, Net2Reporter executes the configured SELECT query against the Net2 database, exports the results to a CSV file, and optionally sends the file as an email attachment to designated recipients.



Installation

The Net2Reporter application will be installed using a single Windows installation file;

Net2Reporter.msi (Image 1), which will install two applications:

• Net2ReporterMgr application (to configure the service application);

• Net2Reporter; the actual service application, that will be installed as a Windows background application..

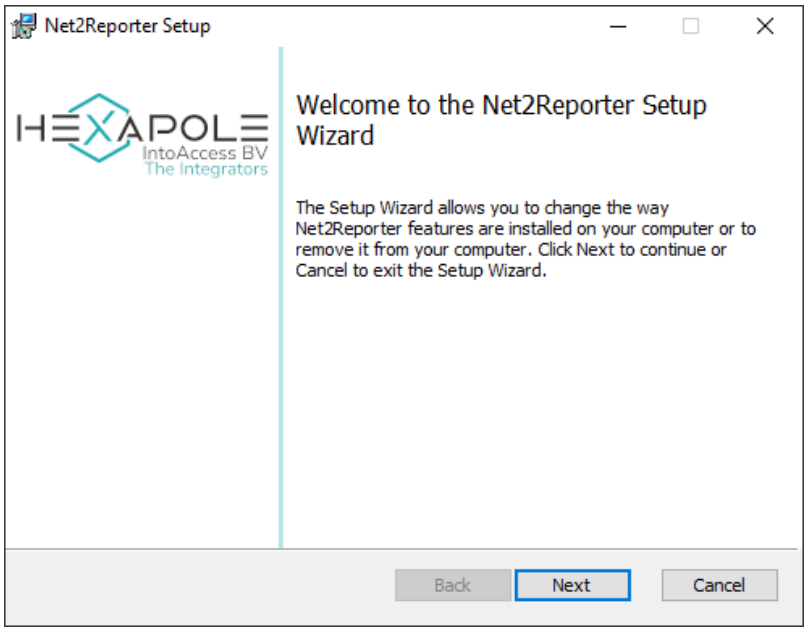

Image 1

It is not mandatory to install the software on the Net2 server, but we do advise that as the most robust configuration. In any case, the application must be installed on a PC with network access to the Paxton Net2 server.

This application is compatible with the **Net2 API interface** and not with the SDK interface that was dropped in Net2 v7. In order to activate the Net2 API, you can use the following manual, which also explains how to obtain a trial or regular product licence:

Manual for setting up API compatible products

Configuration

Configuring the Net2Reporter, needs to be done using the also supplied ‘Manager application’ (Net2ReporterMgr.exe). When started, this application will display an information screen for a few seconds and then minimize to a tray icon in the right hand bottom corner of the screen/taskbar.

By right clicking on the tray (Image 2), a pop-up menu will be presented.

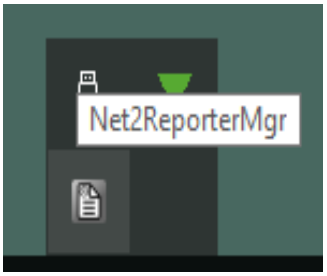

Image 2

It’s possible that the application will render the menu in a wrong language for you, which you can alter by clicking on the top menu item and select the language of choice. By default, English and Dutch are supported.

While the application is not yet configured, the menu options for starting and stopping the service will not be enabled. In that case select the option ‘Configure first!’ (Image 3).

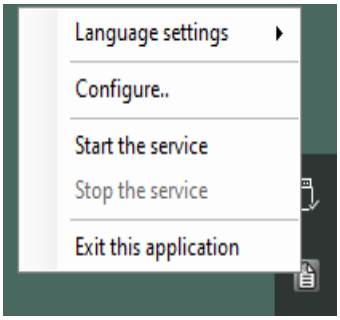

Image 3

Net2 connection

Before you can connect to the Net2API, you must run IntoAccessNet2APILicence.msi.
This installer provides an API key, which grants you access to use the Net2 connection.

When enabling the API, you can choose to generate a self-signed server certificate or install an official certificate.

If a self-signed certificate is selected, the corresponding option under the Net2 Host field will be checked. On this first configuration page, the Net2 connection can be configured. (Image 4).

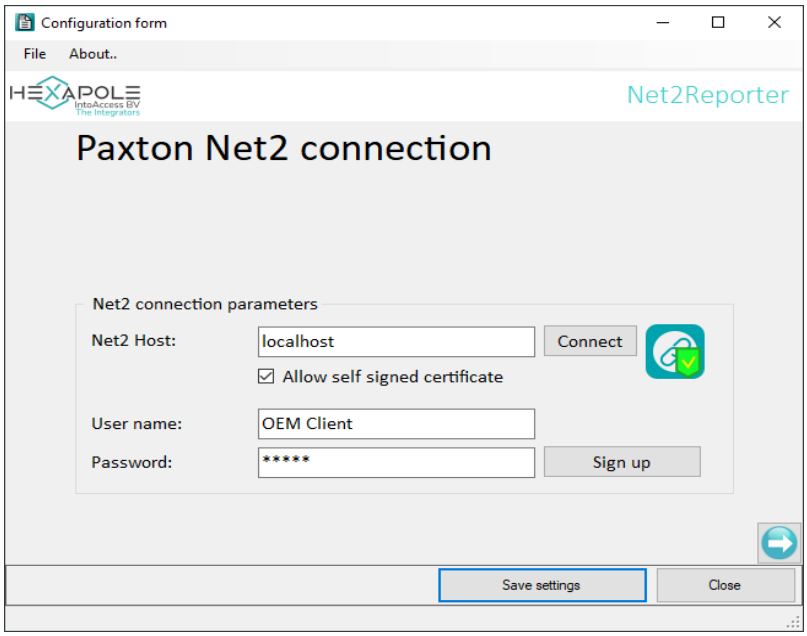

Image 4

- The first field should contain the (IP) address of the PC on which the Paxton Net2 software installed. This can be the IP address or network name of the PC, if that can be ‘resolved’ to an IP address. When installing the Net2CSVSyncServer on the same as machine as Net2, using the default 'localhost' (without the quotes) is typically enough.

  After the address value was entered, click on the 'Connect' button. The application will attempt to connect to the Net2 server and on success present a list of possible 'Operator' names in a drop-down list.
- Enter the required operator and enter that password that was configured in Net2 for it. This 'Operator' must have System Engineer rights, which is checked by the application.

  If MFA is enabled in Net2 v7, the use of the "OEM Client" is mandatory,
  An exclamation mark will appear if you are not using the OEM Client.
- After that, click on 'Sign on'. When this is successful, the next page 'arrow button' in the right hand bottom corner will be enabled (coloured instead of grey).

- If the sign on fails, the application will attempt to display a useful error message, that should point you in the right direction for finding a solution.
- Clicking on the right had error will take you to the next configuration page.

It is not necessary and actually undesired, to save the entered data each time you finish a part of the configuration. Since relations exist between the presented configuration pages, data entered on one page may effect settings on another page and even make those invalid. To make the user aware of intermediate saving of setting, a warning window will be presented . (Image 5)

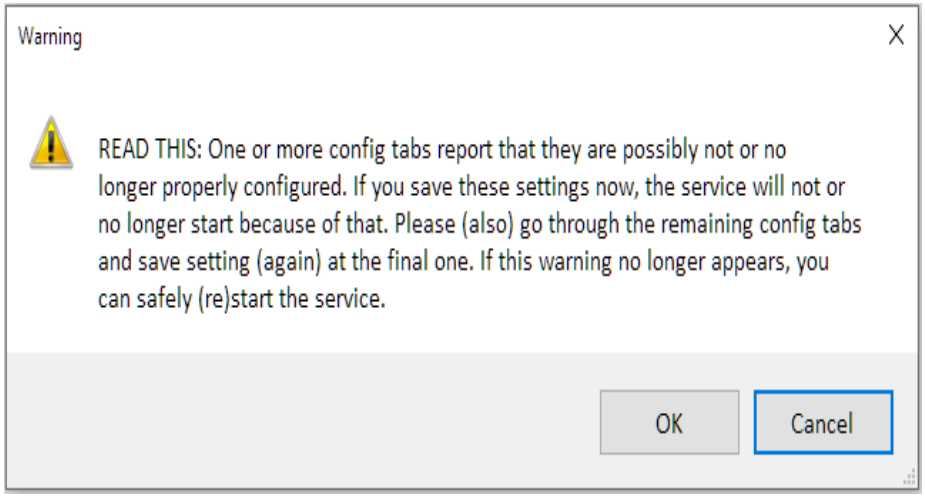

Image 5

Email settings

The email configuration is optional and offers the possibility to send reports to recipients. If this mail option is activated, the 'send mail' functions in the reporter settings is enabled.

Standard SMTP

The application can utilize a SMTP server or a web mail account for sending mail. In case of a web mail provider, it is recommended to create a separate account with minimal safety rules applied, otherwise the web mail provider won't accept SMTP messages sent by the application (if they do at all).

Some notes:

- There is no real difference in the settings between using web mail and a SMTP server using the STARTTLS protocol over port 587.
- Mail providers using SMTPS (port 465) are not supported.

Input fields:

- Select the desired port number, and hence the applied security;
- Enter the senders address;
- Enter the address of the mail provider;
- The fields for entering the user name and password are only relevant if a secure connection over port 587 is selected;
- Enter the recipient address(es). Multiple addresses can be entered here separated by a semicolon. This is only used to test your mail settings. Report recipients are set in the query definition.

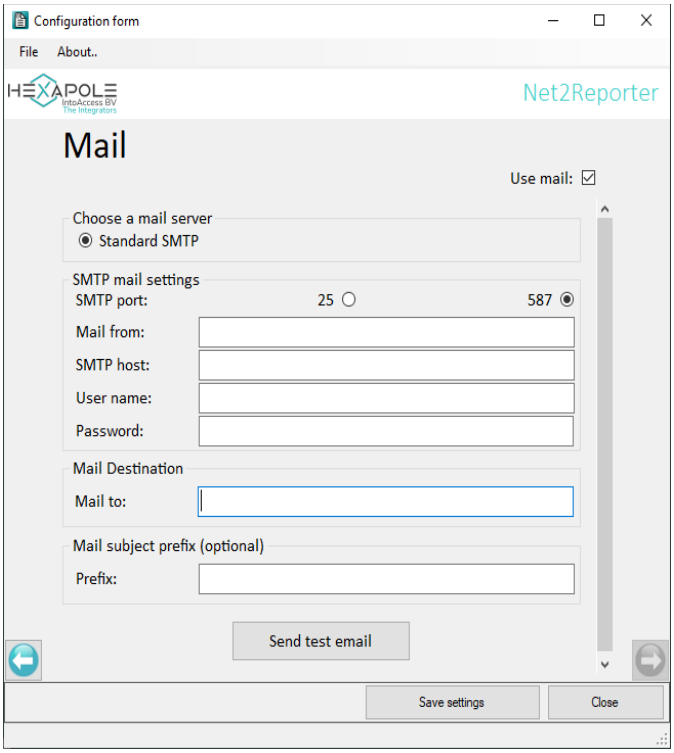

Image 6

Entra/Azure SMTP OAuth2

It is possible to use SMTP with OAuth2. You need to create an App Registration.

Full user manual can be found at:
https://downloads.intoaccess.nl/Handleiding_SMTP_OAuth2_Entra.pdf

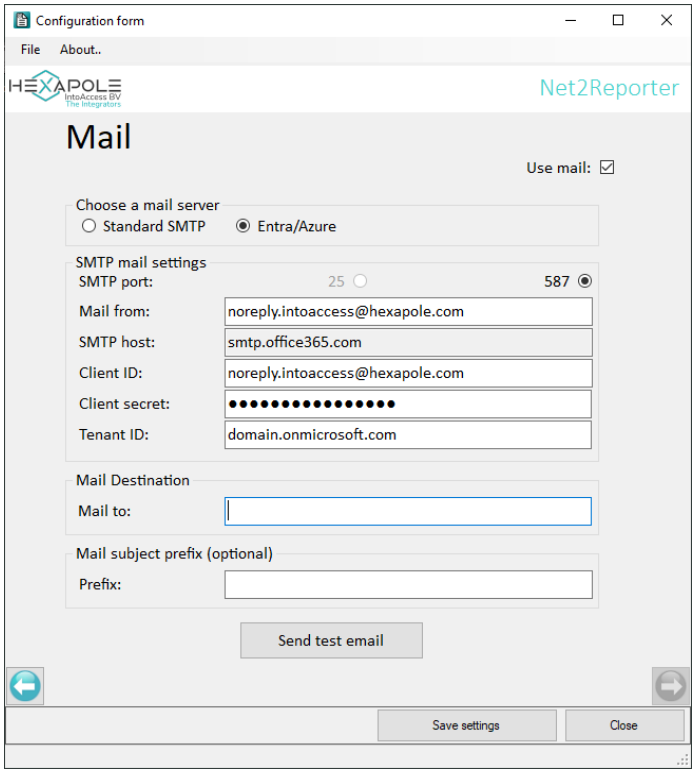

Image 7

Reporter Settings

Allows you to define and manage automated reports called queries. Each query specifies:

- Which data to retrieve
- When to run
- Where to save the results
- Whether the results should be emailed

Query Settings

The main screen shows all configured queries with these columns:

- Query ID – unique name for the report
- Schedule – summary of when the query runs
- Enabled – whether the query is active
- Edit – modify the query
- Delete – remove the query

Click Add Query to create a new report.

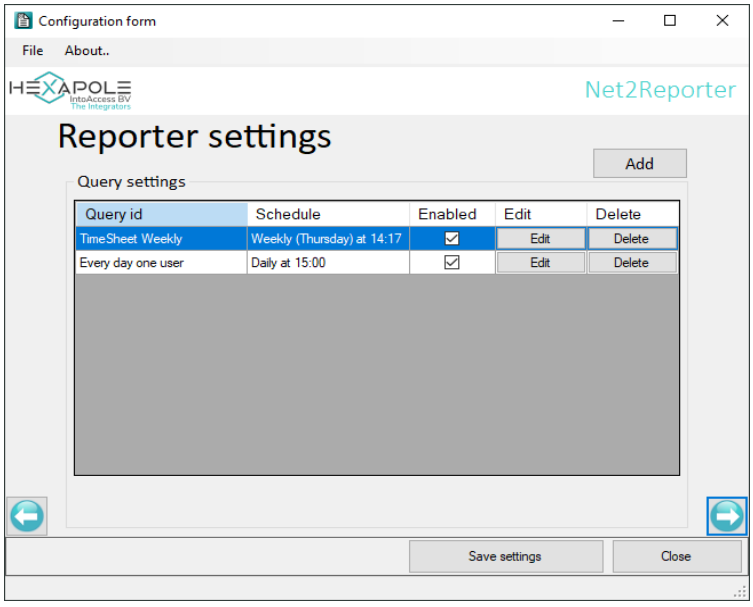

Image 8

Add or Edit Query

When creating or editing a query, you can configure:

- Query ID – must be unique and valid (used as CSV filename)
- SQL Query – the SELECT statement defining the report
- Data Period – optional period filter (e.g., daily, weekly)
- Schedule – choose Daily, Weekly, or Monthly and the execution time
- Output Path – folder where the CSV will be saved. There is no cleanup process; please note that this folder must be managed manually.
- Enabled – toggle to activate or deactivate the query
- Mail report – toggle to activate email the CSV
- Sent to – multiple addresses can be entered here separated by a semicolon.

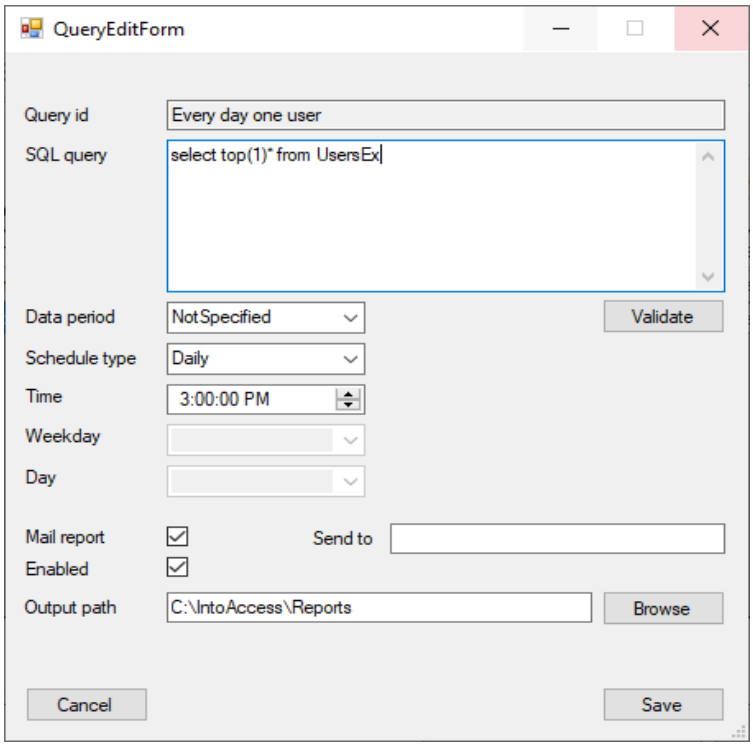

Image 9

- Validate the query using the Validate button before saving
- Weekly queries require selecting a day of the week
- Monthly queries require selecting a day of the month (1–28)
- Output folders will be created automatically if they don't exist

Schedule

Net2Reporter uses the schedule settings to determine when to run each query.

- The service checks every 30 seconds whether a query is due.
- A query will run only if it is enabled and hasn't already run in the same period.

Daily:

- Runs once per day at the selected time

Weekly:

- Runs once per week on the selected day and time

Monthly:

- Runs once per month on the selected day (1–28) and time

Note:

Failed queries are automatically disabled; check logs for details.

Application licence

A licence can be obtained directly from IntoAccess.

You can export the “System identifier” file (click on the ID icon), email it to IntoAccess (intoaccess@hexapole.com) and receive your license file.

This licence.bin needs to be imported using the import licence button.

After the licence is imported, the current licence status will be updated.

With your license, you will receive an invitation to the IntoAccess Licence Portal: https://portal.intoaccess.com/ Here, you can manage your licences.

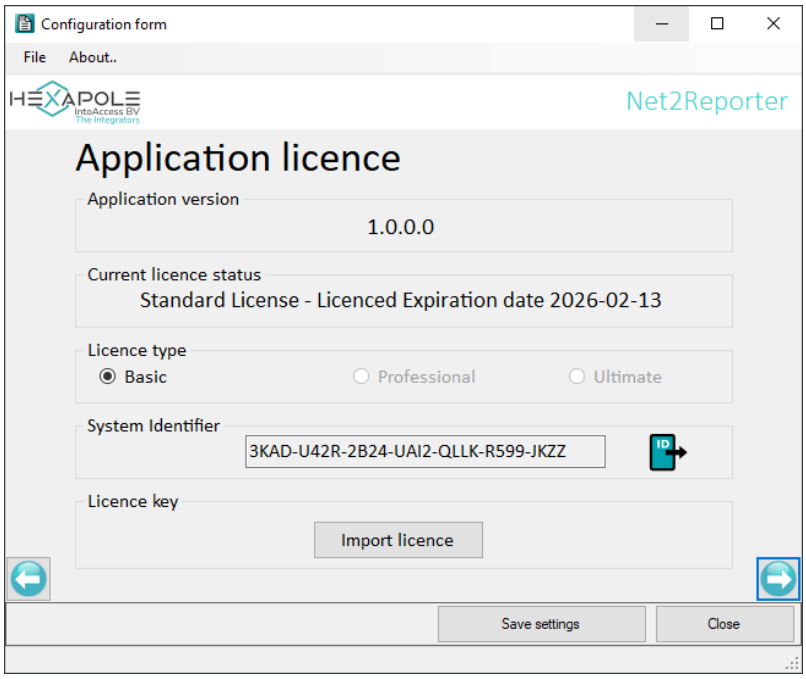

Image 10

Note: the System identifier differs per PC and therefore also the required licence file.

Service Control

The service control window offers a way to stop and start the background service.

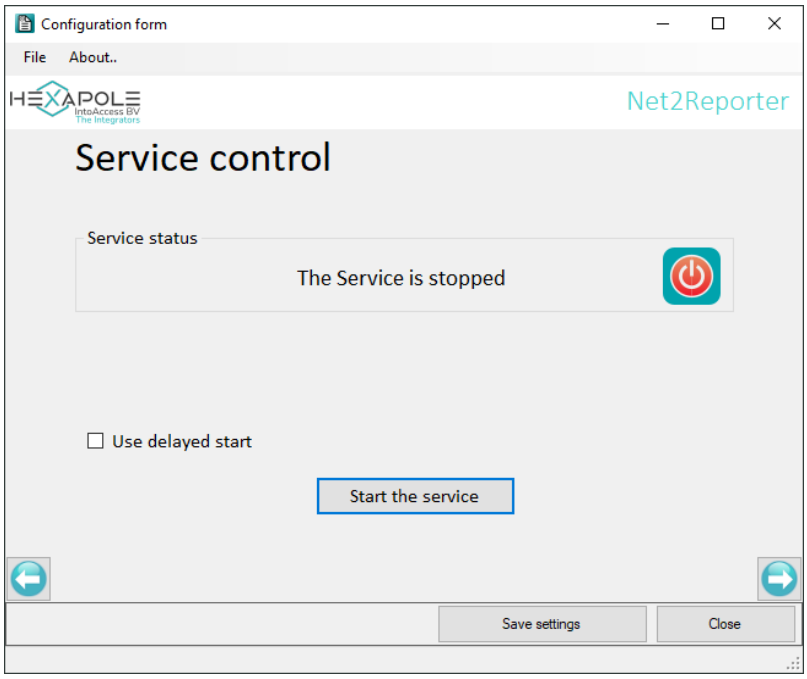

Image 11

Other ways to start and stop the service are:

- Using the tray icon pop-up menu;
- Using the Windows service manager (look for “Net2Reporter”);

In rare cases the Service may refuse to start. If this happens to you please have a look at the end of the log-file to find out what might caused it. In case the reason is not obvious, please send all log files to info@intoaccess.com with a short description of what went wrong. The development team will investigate your problem with the highest priority.

By default, the background service will receive a dependency on the Net2 services, so it will start only after Net2 has started. This dependency can however sometimes get in the way when you you try to make a Net2 database backup, but the Net2 service refuses to shutdown because the application depends on it. The simplest solution for that is to manually stop the service first and then perform the backup.

If that is not an option for some reason, you can also opt to check the “Use delayed start” box. This will remove the service dependencies (only visible after restarting the OS by the way) and delay the startup of the sync service until all other (non delayed) services have been started.

Log settings

This page, see (Image 12), offers the possibility to review the last (max. 500) lines of the log file. The application will log its activity with a high level of detail. Especially when the application encounters an unexpected problem this log file might contain invaluable information, even for you as an end user.

Please have a look at the last lines of this file if the application refuses to start or otherwise behaves unexpectedly.

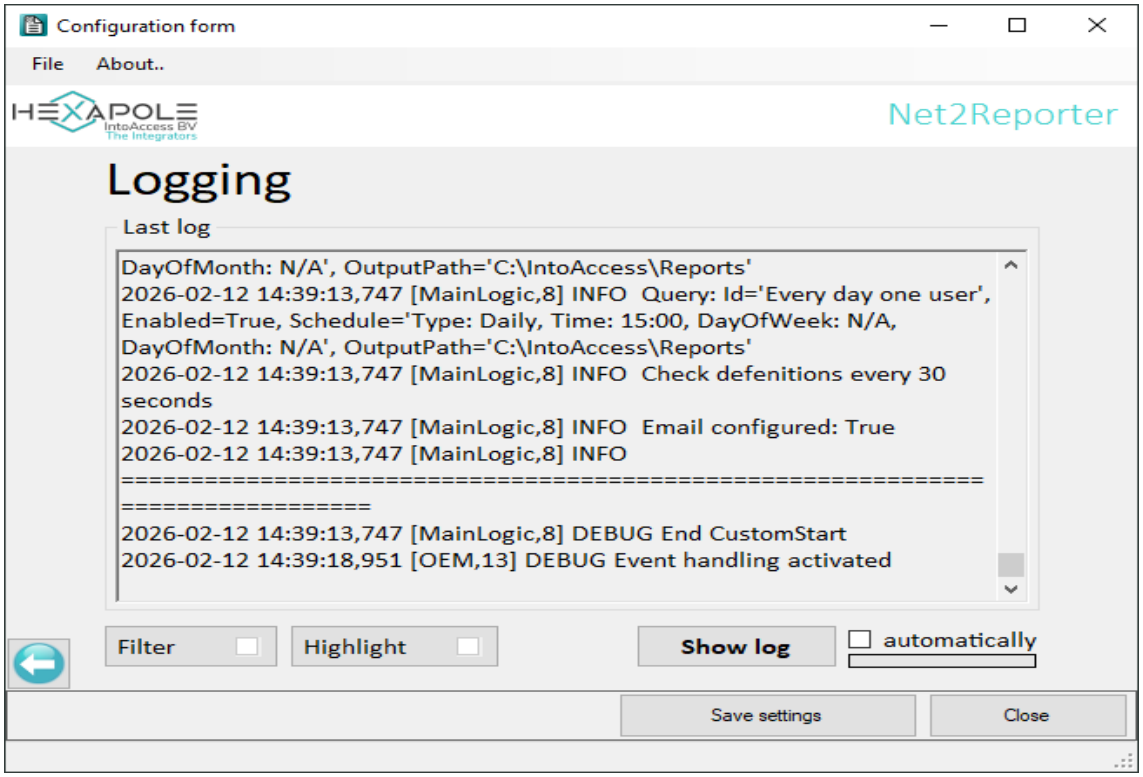

Image 12

You can resize the window in order to get a better overview of the content.
This page also offers the possibility to filter the log file on certain terms (1) and/or to mark certain terms (2). An obvious 'filter term' could be the word 'ERROR' or 'WARN'. If the application works properly, both terms should not appear in the log file.
Option (4) offers the possibility to automatically reload the log file at a fixed interval.

The log files are located in the folder:
c:\IntoAccess\Logging\Net2Reporter



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