

Feature of the Month: Change Tracking and Notifications

Visit us and download a Beta version of SQL-Hero at:

<http://www.codexframework.com/SQLHero/Downloads.aspx>

Q: Do I need to use the SQL-Hero editor to take advantage of Change Tracking and Notifications?

A: Not with SQL 2005 or 2008. DDL triggers can be established that track *all* changes, no matter what tool is used to edit schema. Tracking with SQL 2000 is also possible, when using the SQL-Hero editor.

Q: How is this different than using other source control tools that work with SQL Server?

A: Most other tools do not prevent making changes in the physical database, such as by using SQL Server Management Studio. SQL-Hero tracking is at a lower level, catching schema changes in a way that lets you see a complete history for objects, as they really existed in the database.

Q: Do I need to remember to make snapshots in order for this to work?

A: No. All changes are recorded in near-real-time. A Windows service ensures the central repository is updated, and your history-by-object simply grows automatically.

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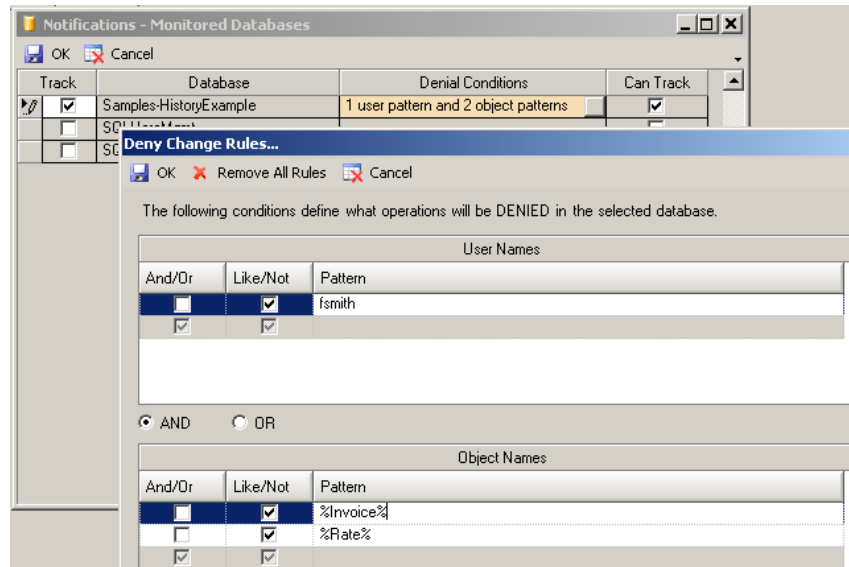
Talk to any number of experts and you'll be told that a reasonable SQL Server Best Practice is to track schema changes using DDL triggers. It's an easy thing to do - check out the following links:

<http://mssqltips.com/tip.asp?tip1006>
<http://www.simple-talk.com/sql/database-administration/database-high-availability-soup-to-nuts/>
And in terms of Sarbanes-Oxley compliance issues: http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/5100-9592_11-6072139.html

SQL-Hero allows you to graphically establish which databases are to be tracked – plus optionally impose rules around what kinds of updates should be *disallowed*.

So creating a DDL trigger is simple enough, but how can you make the captured information useful?

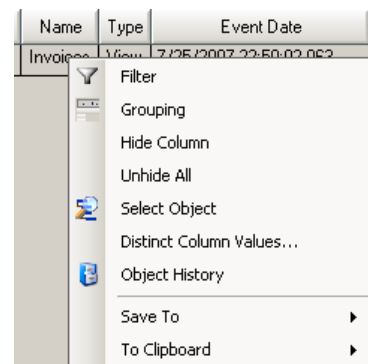
With the assistance of a Windows Service, logged changes from any number of databases are consolidated in a *central repository* for convenient reporting. You can configure multiple notifications with multiple delivery types to actively notify you of specific changes. One way to view changes is using the SQL-Hero client tool.



Notifications							
Databases	Users	For All	Others Changed	Delivery Types	Frequency	Processed	Created
Samples-HistoryExample	KIBO\Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email (plain), Warn on Application Start	Immediate	7/26/2007 15:57:05.463	11/7/2005 01:31:13.883

Objects...										
	Database	Schema	Name	Type	Event Date	Processed	User	Machine	Action	Comment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samples-HistoryExample	dbo	MyNewTable	Table	7/26/2007 15:56:33.140	7/26/2007 15:57:05.463	KIBO\Administrator	KIBO	I	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samples-HistoryExample	dbo	up_Doctor_PatientSearch	Stored Procedure	7/26/2007 15:56:35.033	7/26/2007 15:57:05.463	KIBO\Administrator	KIBO	U	Changed lower dat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samples-HistoryExample	dbo	up_MyNewProcedure	Stored Procedure	7/26/2007 15:56:13.437	7/26/2007 15:57:05.463	KIBO\Administrator	KIBO	D	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samples-HistoryExample	dbo	up_MyNewProcedureRenamed	Stored Procedure	7/26/2007 15:56:09.577	7/26/2007 15:57:05.463	KIBO\Administrator	KIBO	I	Renaming procedu

There are a number of useful options when working with object lists, including filtering, grouping, exporting, and so on. It's even possible to view the complete "life history" of tracked objects, including smart textual differencing. If you use the SQL-Hero editor, you can even see required comments that are added as objects are changed.



Notification messages are template-driven, and can be customized as you see fit.

We trust you'll agree: this feature alone is worth the price of SQL-Hero admission!

