

# SQL Sentry Onboarding

Last Modified on 19 August 2022

## In this article:

- [Launching the SQL Sentry Client](#)
  - [Onboarding Wizard: Initial Screen](#)
  - [Onboarding Wizard: License Configuration](#)
    - [Option 1. Continue with trial](#)
    - [Option 2. Activate a license online](#)
    - [Option 3. Activate a license offline](#)
  - [Onboarding Wizard: Tell Us More About Yourself](#)
  - [Onboarding Wizard: Enabling Email Alerts](#)
    - [Configure my own SMTP Server now](#)
  - [Onboarding Wizard: Let's Go!](#)
- [Adding Targets and Instances to Watch](#)
- [Maintenance](#)

## Launching the SQL Sentry Client

[🔗](#) **Additional Information:** If you are using the SQL Sentry Virtual Machine on Azure, see this [onboarding video](#).

When you launch the [SQL Sentry client](#) for the first time, you interact with the Onboarding wizard. The Onboarding wizard helps you understand and configure features in SQL Sentry. Once the onboarding process is complete, add your first monitored [target](#), and jump right in to tuning your environment! During onboarding, you're introduced to:

- Applying your license
- Setting up a user for alerting purposes
- Enabling your email alerts

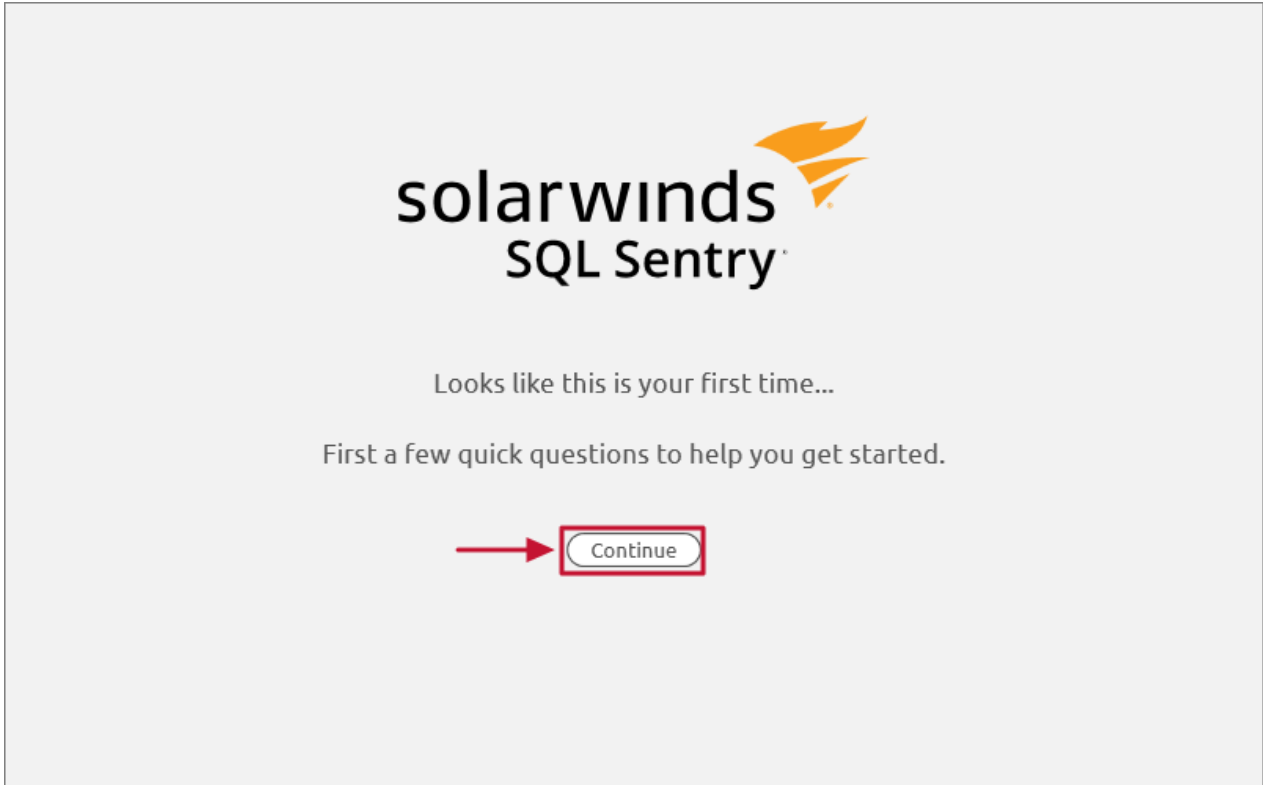
**📘 Note:** During the onboarding process you can skip steps that may not be applicable to you, and you can always change any options at a later time with the SQL Sentry client.

## Onboarding Wizard: Initial Screen

Launch the [SQL Sentry client](#).



Select **Continue**.



**Note:** If you have other SQL Sentry connections from previous installations, opening the SQL Sentry client will display the **SQL Sentry Database Connection Management** screen. If this happens, select **Connect** for the connection you want to onboard.

## Onboarding Wizard: License Configuration

On the License Configuration screen you have three options:

1. **Continue with trial** - Select this option if you do not have a license and you are just getting started with a SQL Sentry trial evaluation. You typically have 30 days from your installation to evaluate the SQL Sentry software. See the [product trial website](#) for more information or contact [sales@solarwinds.com](mailto:sales@solarwinds.com) for more information.
2. **Activate a license online** - Select this option if you are an existing SQL Sentry customer and have your license available to copy/paste into the Onboarding wizard.
3. **Activate a license offline** - Select this option if you are an existing SQL Sentry customer and need to activate your license offline by using the SolarWinds Customer Portal to generate a key.

## License Configuration

Please use one of the options below to continue with a trial or activate your license. You may activate a license in the SolarWinds SQL Sentry client at any time. See the [License Management](#) documentation for more information.

1

Continue with trial

A valid license is required to continue for non-trial software use. If you have any trouble applying your license or starting your trial, please [Contact Us](#) for assistance.

Activate a license online

2

Activate a license offline

3

### Option 1. **Continue with trial**

If you downloaded the trial from the SolarWinds website, there are no additional screens, and you'll continue directly to the **Tell Us More About Yourself** screen.

If you obtained your trial from an AWS or Azure Marketplace image, you will get a **Trial Information** screen. Complete all enabled fields on the **Trial Information** screen, then select **Continue with trial**. The next screen will be the **Tell Us More About Yourself** screen.

## Trial Information

Please complete the form below and select **Continue with trial**. (All enabled fields are required.)

First name	<input type="text" value="Melissa"/>
Last name	<input type="text" value="Connors"/>
Email address	<input type="text" value="mconnors@sentryone.com"/>
Company	<input type="text" value="SentryOne"/>
Phone	<input type="text" value="18557757733"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
State/Territory	<input type="text" value="North Carolina"/>

Trial Information screen for trials from the AWS or Azure Marketplace

### Option 2. **Activate a license online**

Paste your license from the [SolarWinds Customer Portal](#) into the **License Key** field and complete the form with your **Name**, **Email**, and **Phone** information. Select **Activate** to continue.

## Activate a License Online

You can find your license key in the [SolarWinds Customer Portal](#)

* License Key	<input type="text"/>
* Name	<input type="text"/>
* Email	<input type="text"/>
* Phone	<input type="text"/>





## Tell Us More About Yourself


We create users in SolarWinds SQL Sentry so that you can do things like assign issues to people and configure alerts. Please add a user below.

See the [Add Users and Groups](#) article for additional information.

Email address

First name   
(Optional)

Last name   
(Optional)





## Onboarding Wizard: Enabling Email Alerts

During the onboarding process, you have the ability to enable email alerts. On the first screen, you'll be asked if you would like to **Enable Email Alerts**. You can configure this now or later. See the [SMTP Settings](#) article for more information on doing this later or making changes.

### Enable Email Alerts


When things go wrong you want to know about them.

SolarWinds SQL Sentry can send email alerts to you, but first we need to know a little information about the email server you want to use. If you don't know the answer, don't worry, you can always set it up later.

Configure my own SMTP Server now.

Not Now

I'll take care of this later



Configure my own SMTP Server now

If you choose to **Configure my own SMTP Server now**, you'll see the second **Enable Email Alerts** screen shown below:

**Enable Email Alerts**

Please provide the address of your SMTP server and the "from address" you'd like to use for the alert emails.

You can always set this up at a later time, but skipping this step means that no alerts will be emailed.

SMTP Server address

Email from address

Enable SSL

Custom port number   
(Optional)

Security (Optional)

User name

Password

If your SMTP Server is security enabled we'll need some credentials. (Optional)

[I'll take care of this later](#)

1. Enter the domain name or IP address of the SMTP server that you want to be used for routing SQL Sentry email notifications in the **SMTP Server address** field. **Note:** If using *localhost*, keep in mind this will be the local SMTP server on the machine where the SQL Sentry monitoring service is installed, since it's responsible for sending all notifications. The SQL Sentry client doesn't send any notifications.
2. Enter the **Email from Address**. This is the address that appears on the from line of all email notifications sent by SQL Sentry.
3. Enter a **Custom port number** if needed.
4. Enter **Security** credentials if needed.
5. Select **Test** to generate a test email for a specific address.
6. Select **Save** to save your information.

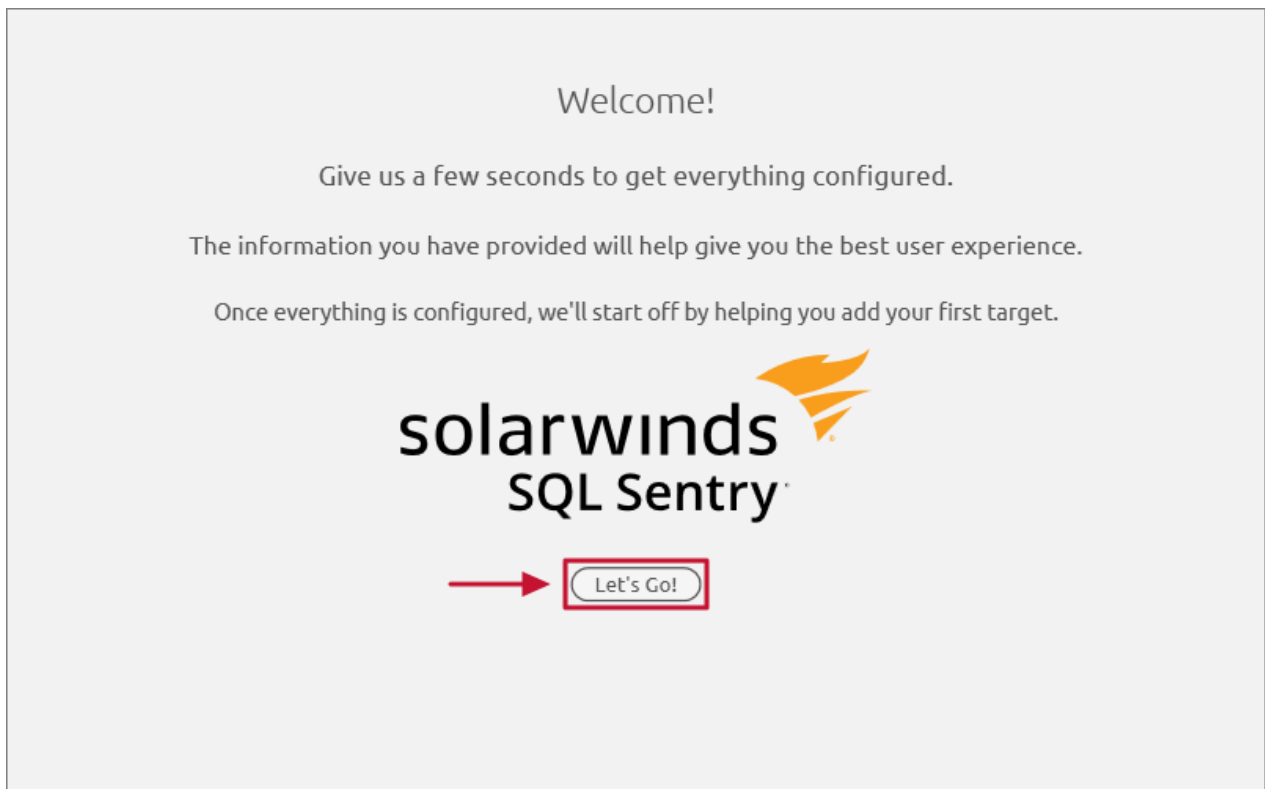
**Note:**

- The **Security (Optional)** section is not required in most environments. If your environment requires this authentication for your SMTP server, specify a **User Name** and **Password**.
- **Note:** You may need to contact your network administrator first to ensure that the IP address of the monitoring service computer has been granted both connect and relay permissions for the specified SMTP server.

**⚠ Important:** For the most accurate SMTP test, use the client installed on the SQL Sentry monitoring service computer to send the test message. If you use a client on a different computer, such as your local workstation, the results may be different. For example, your SMTP server may allow relay from your workstation but not from the SQL Sentry monitoring service computer, in which case the test from your workstation would succeed, but the SQL Sentry monitoring service would be unable to deliver notifications.

## Onboarding Wizard: Let's Go!

Select **Let's Go!** to launch the client.



**🎉 Success:** You've configured SQL Sentry for your environment! Once the onboarding process is complete, you'll want to add your first monitored target as described below.

## Adding Targets and Instances to Watch

On the **Add Target** screen, select the type of target from the target type drop-down box. Enter the name of the target you'd like to monitor in the box below.



**Add Target**

Please select the type of target

Please enter the name of the target

Instance Name (leave blank for default instance)

Port

Use Integrated Authentication

Credentials  
 User Name   
 Password

» Advanced Options

**Feature Availability**

Feature	Results	Details
<b>Monitoring Service: Default Site: LHP75-1118-4A5A</b>		
Monitoring Service Available	●	OK
Windows Dashboard	?	Unknown
Windows Processes	?	Unknown
Disk Activity	?	Unknown
Disk Space	?	Unknown
Windows Performance Counters	?	Unknown
VMware Site Compliance	?	Unknown

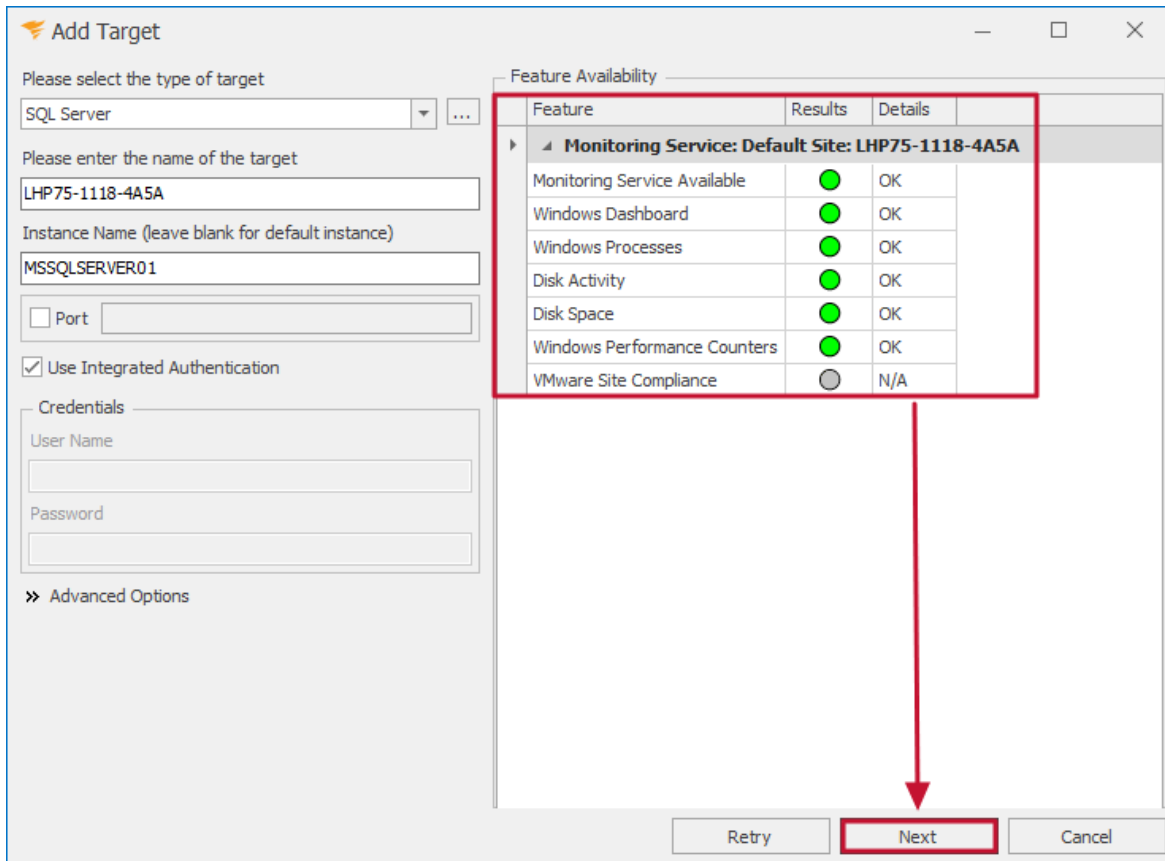
**⚠ Important:** For Azure SQL Database and Azure SQL Data Warehouse, provide the database or data warehouse name in addition to the Target name (which is the full URL to the endpoint). Both Azure features require credentials to be provided. These credentials are the SQL logins defined for the database server or data warehouse; they are not Azure account credentials. In addition, the firewall rules must allow access to the monitoring service, either directly over the internet; or through a [configured VNet](#). Azure SQL Database and Azure SQL Data Warehouse only support access through port 1433.

**⚠ Important:** For FCI cluster nodes, provide the client access name in the **please enter the name of the target** field. For SQL Sentry Versions 2021.12 and newer, when watching a new FCI instance, you will be prompted to add and watch all possible owners of the instance. Select **Yes** to add and watch all possible owners of the FCI. For more information about the Enhanced FCI feature with SQL Sentry, see [Enhanced FCI](#).

**⚠ Important:** For AG Availability Group Clusters, add the individual servers that are a part of the Availability Group. It's highly recommended to monitor all Availability Group replicas for optimal Availability Group specific alerts and functionality. Monitoring all Availability Group replicas isn't required, but will result in the loss of Availability Group alerts and functionality.

Select **Connect** to test the target for feature availability. If the connection is successful, the categories listed

show green lights next to them.



Otherwise, if there's limited access, you may be unable to collect data for some or all of the given categories:

- Disk Activity
- Disk Space
- Performance Counters
- Windows Dashboard
- Windows Processes

It's recommended that you try to fix these limited access issues, though in some cases limited access is your only option (such as using a cloud-hosted SQL Server instance). Because you won't have access to the operating system, this would fall under Limited Access. After reviewing the feature availability chart, run this check again with **Retry**, or select **Next** to continue.

Once the initialization process has completed, select **Open** to monitor the target. You may see the **Start Page** populate with information about your target as soon as the initialization completes.

The screenshot displays the SQL Sentry Start Page. At the top, there is a 'Start Page' tab and a '24 hours' filter. A large green box shows a 'Health Score' of 85. To the right, two circular gauges are shown. Below them, 'Events by Severity' shows: Critical (1), High (1), Medium (0), Low (0), and Info (1). 'Events by Tag' shows: Network (0), CPU (0), Memory (0), Disk (0), and Other (3). A table lists events:

Name	Type	Condition	Count	Severity	Tags	Action	Last Occurrence
LHP75-1118-4A5A/M...	SQL Server	SQL Server Agent: O...	1	High	SQL Agent,Offline,Se...	[Icons]	5/7/2021 4:06:25 PM
Global	Global	Windows Computer:...	1	Critical	OS,Offline	[Icon]	5/7/2021 4:06:23 PM
Global	Global	Audit: Watched Flag...	1	Info	Auditing	[Icon]	5/7/2021 4:06:19 PM

An inset window titled 'Watch Status for 2 Instances' is shown, containing a table of tasks:

Task	Description	Duration	% Complete	State	Message	Last Result	Last Success Time
LHP75-1118-4A5A	1 Running, 0 Errors, 0 Cancelled						
LHP75-1118-4A5A/MS...	1 Running, 0 Errors, 0 Cancelled						
Event Calendar W...	Tracks phases for newly watche...	00:01:10.357		Running	The SQL Server Agent servi...		
Performance Anal...	Tracks phases for newly watche...	00:00:54.287		Idle		Completed	2021-05-07 16:07:...
Performance Analysis ...	Tracks phases for newly watche...	00:00:49.233		Idle		Completed	2021-05-07 16:07:...

At the bottom of the inset window, there are 'Export', 'Open', and 'OK' buttons. A red arrow points to the 'Open' button.

**Note:** If errors occur while adding targets or instances, it may be due to problems with security, network connectivity, and/or name resolution. For more information, see the [Security and the SQL Sentry Server](#) topic.

For more information about configuration options, see the [Getting Started Cheat Sheet](#).

**Success:** Congratulations, you have successfully installed SQL Sentry, configured global notification settings, and you are now ready to start using the SQL Sentry client for managing events across your enterprise.

## Maintenance

Just as with any other SQL Server database, it is important that regular maintenance activities be performed on the SQL Sentry database to ensure optimal performance. For more information, see the [SQL Sentry Database Maintenance](#) topic.