

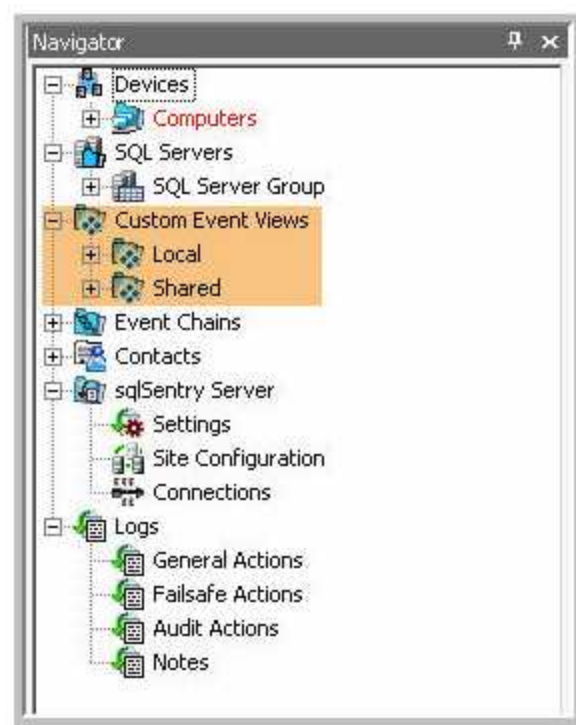
Eliminating Backup Contention

Are your nightly backup jobs contending for SAN and network resources, causing I/O performance problems or errors? Would you like to see a calendar with all backup jobs across your enterprise that write to a SAN in one view, and eliminate any contention with just a few clicks? Event Manager provides a revolutionary new feature which lets you do just that -- Custom Event Views.

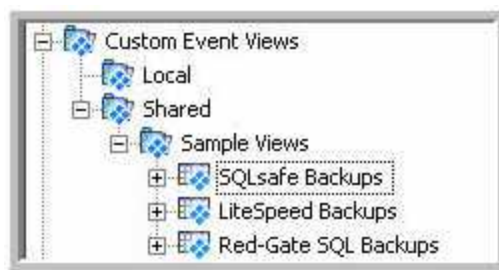
To get you up and running quickly, Event Manager ships with some pre-configured sample views for various compressed backup systems. The focus of this article will be to show you how to easily configure and use a sample view to "level" your job schedules across a SAN.

Sample views can be easily modified to further restrict event instances shown to only those utilizing the same "shared resource", such as a NAS (Network Attached Storage) or SAN (Storage Area Network) device, or even a network segment. In this example, we'll demonstrate the simple steps required to modify an existing sample view to create a "shared resource view" for all Idera SQLsafe backups writing to a SAN, for the purpose of leveling the backup activity across the SAN to eliminate any bottlenecks, thus reducing contention and maximizing performance of the SAN and network.

From the Navigator pane expand "Custom Event Views". This will expose the "Local" and "Shared" sub-nodes. Local views are only available to the user that created them. Shared views are available to any user on any Event Manager Console. The setup of a view is the same for either option.



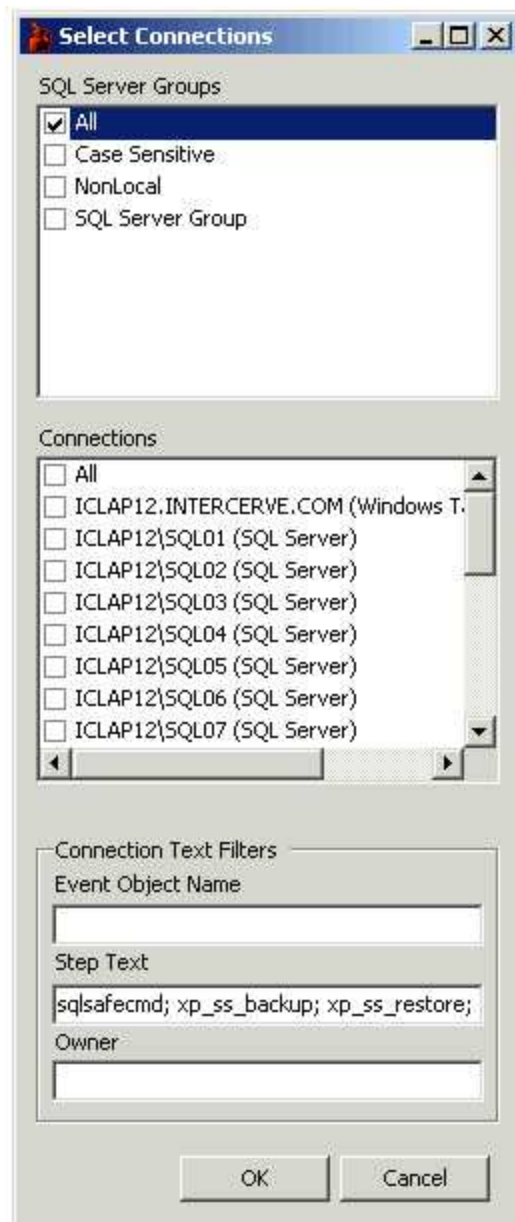
If you expand the "Shared" node, you'll notice the pre-existing "Sample Views" sub-node. Click the sample view for the backup system you use. (In this example we'll use the sample view for Idera SQLsafe backups.)



The first time you click on a sample view, the following message box will appear...



Clicking "Yes" will bring up the "Select Connections" box.



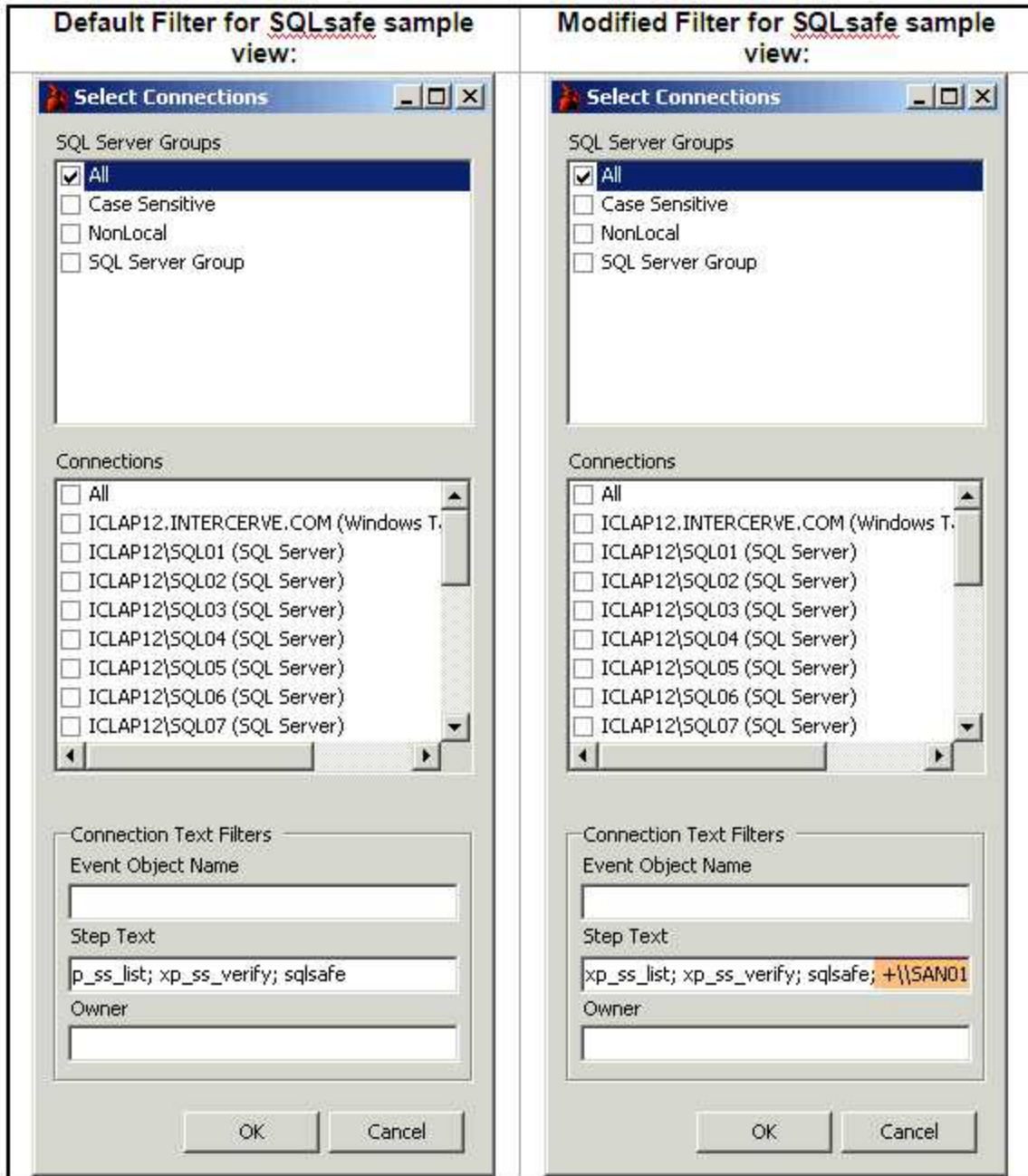
Note that the box has three sections, "SQL Server Groups", "Connections", and "Connection Text Filters". This allows you to select individual connections (SQL Server or Task Scheduler), all SQL Servers in a group, or a combination of both. Since we want to see all SQLsafe backup jobs across all SQL Servers in the enterprise, we'll select "All" under SQL Server Groups.

The key to each sample view is the "Connection Text Filter". With it you can easily restrict the jobs placed in the view by the actual TSQL or CmdExec text used in a job's steps. Multiple keywords are separated with a semicolon, and a plus sign (+) is used in front of any keyword(s) that you want to apply using an "and"...otherwise the keyword will be applied with an "or".

Note the default "Step Text" filter for the SQLsafe sample view: "sqlsafecmd; xp_ss_backup; xp_ss_restore; xp_ss_list; xp_ss_verify; sqlsafe". This filter will return only

jobs which contain any of those strings somewhere in the step command text. It will return all matching backup jobs, not just those writing to a particular SAN.

To restrict to only those jobs writing to a SAN, we'll need to make one minor adjustment to the filter -- we'll add an "and" filter using the base SAN name or IP address. In this example we've used "+\\SAN01". This will cause the view to return any jobs which contain "sqlsafecmd", " xp_ss_backup", " xp_ss_restore", "xp_ss_list", "xp_ss_verify", OR "sqlsafe" AND contain "\\SAN01".

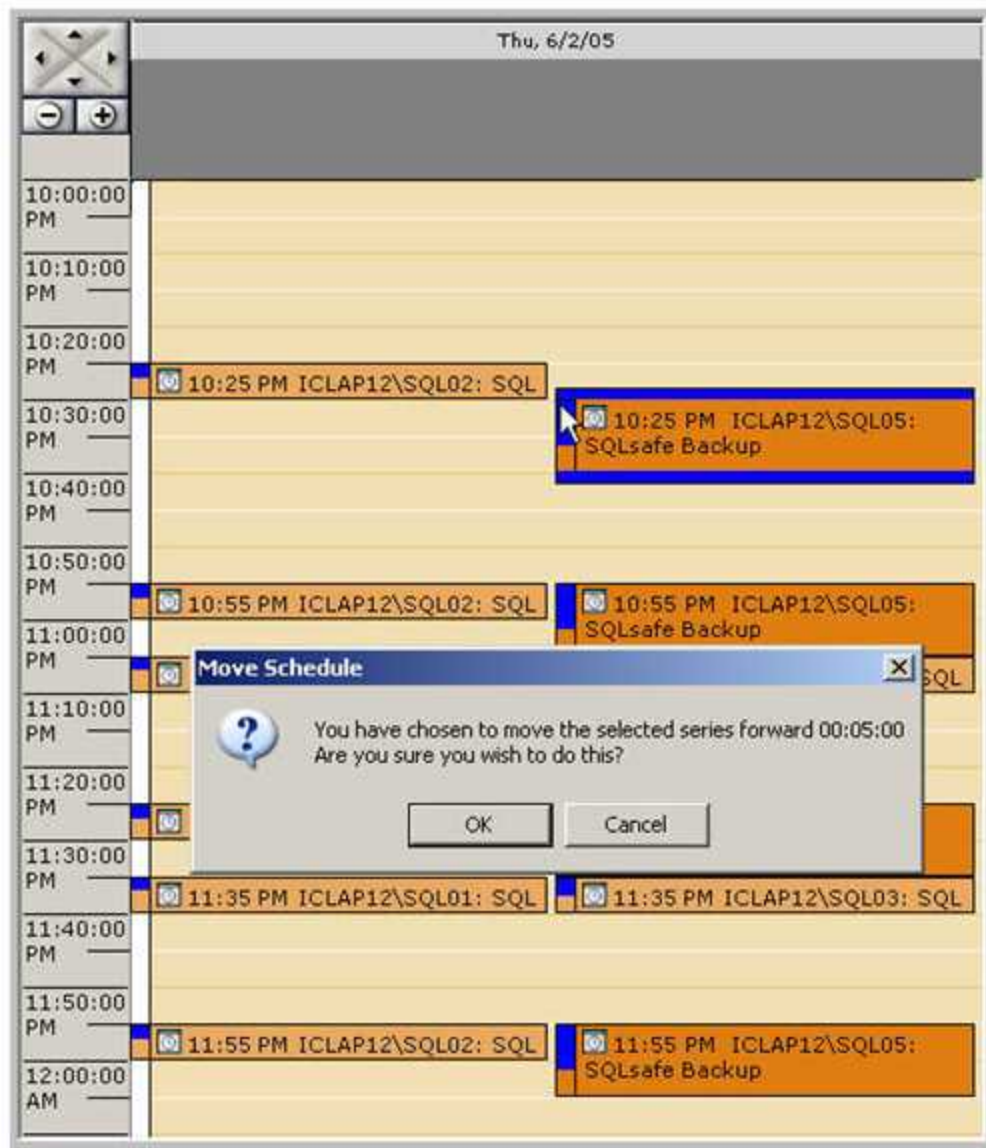


Default Filter for SQLsafe sample view: Modified Filter for SQLsafe sample view:

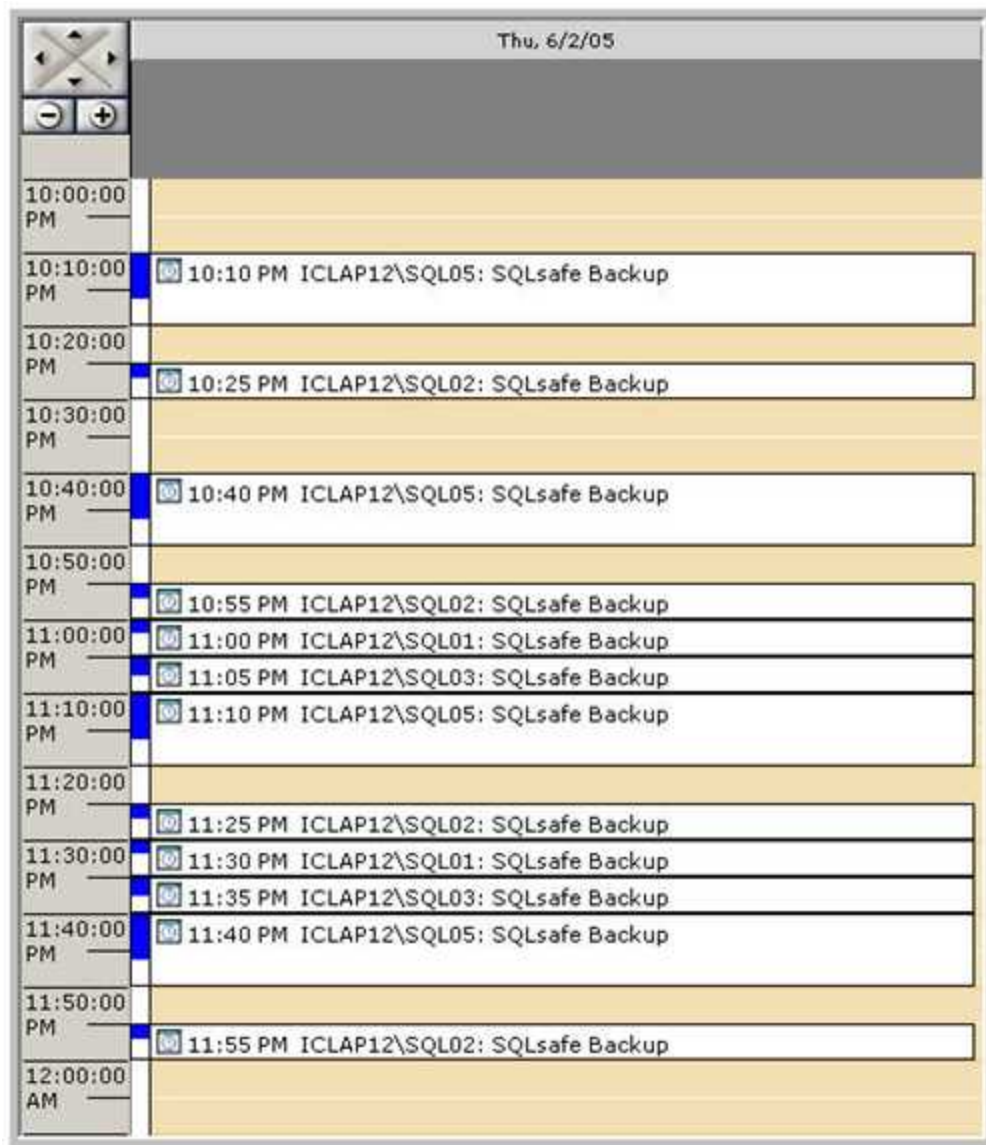
After clicking "OK", we have a Custom Event View ready to use.



The jobs with an orange background indicate scheduling conflicts -- note we have several cases where backups coming from different servers are hitting the SAN at the same time. From here we can easily drag-and-drop future job instances on the calendar to eliminate the scheduling conflicts and reduce associated contention on the SAN or network.



When all jobs have a white background, you know you have a "leveled" schedule. A leveled schedule ensures that any bottlenecks and associated IO errors on the SAN's disk subsystem and network are minimized, and that backup jobs run at optimal speed!



About SQL Sentry Event Manager

SQL Sentry Event Manager is the ultimate scheduling, alerting and response system for optimizing schedule performance of database servers and related IT resources. Event Manager provides DBAs with "Outlook-style" visibility and functionality for managing SQL Agent jobs, Windows Tasks, and Oracle jobs in increasingly complex cross-platform environments.

Download a free trial at www.sqlsentry.net and contact our team at sales@sqlsentry.net to find out how SQL Sentry Event Manager can optimize your server schedule performance.