



The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop

eG Innovations Product Documentation

www.eginnovations.com



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Chapter 1: An Overview of the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop

This document provides an overview of the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop (popularly known as the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix), its capabilities, and how it works, and also discusses the broad steps to be followed to install and configure it.

1.1 Challenges in Troubleshooting User Logon Performance Issues in Citrix Environments

For years, slow Citrix logons have been the most common complaint in Citrix infrastructures. For a Citrix user, slow logons can lead to frustration, lower productivity and efficiency. For a Citrix administrator, Citrix logon slowness is a complex problem that takes a long time to resolve. Here are the reasons why:

- **N-tier logon process makes root-cause isolation difficult:** There are dozens of steps involved in the Citrix logon process and they involve multiple components – Citrix StoreFront, Citrix Delivery Controller, Active Directory, Profile server, Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop, the Citrix data store and so on. Identifying exactly what is causing the slowdown is often time consuming and laborious.
- **Collection of logon metrics challenging:** To ensure great Citrix user experience, administrators need to monitor their infrastructure proactively and be alerted to issues in advance, before users notice and complain. In order to do so, administrators need a consistent measure of Citrix logon performance – one that is available 24x7, even when there are no users accessing the farm. Collecting logon metrics of real user activity is challenging. Metrics have to be collected from the different tiers involved. Even then, it is difficult to get a consistent assessment of Citrix logon performance because different users have different profiles and policies associated with them. Furthermore, there will be times when no one is logging in to the Citrix farm, and at those times, it is important to know if Citrix logon is working and whether users can launch their applications and desktops successfully.

1.2 The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix

The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix, is a free cloud-based, on-demand service that delivers proactive visibility into the logon performance in Citrix infrastructures. This simulator

emulates the exact same process that users go through when they logon to Citrix XenApp or XenDesktop, and measures user experience during Citrix logon.

Using the metrics reported by this free simulator, Citrix users and administrators can:

- Receive a consistent, true picture of Citrix logon performance, whether or not users are logged into the Citrix farm;
- Proactively capture potential logon slowness;
- Monitor the logon process end-to-end, across the different tiers involved in the process, and accurately isolate where the process is bottlenecked;

If users to your Citrix delivery infrastructure are frequently complaining of slowness or failures when accessing their applications/desktops, and such complaints are impacting your bottomline, affecting productivity, and are a troubleshooting nightmare, you no longer have to wait for days to procure and setup a monitoring system that can ease your troubleshooting pains. With the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix, you can have your monitoring system up, running, reporting metrics, and pinpointing delivery bottlenecks in no time, without investing even a dime on the hardware and resources required for configuring a full-fledged monitoring infrastructure.

1.3 How does the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix Work?

A light-weight eG Logon Simulator Agent drives the logon simulation. You only have to register with a web-based Logon Simulator portal, download and install this agent on any Windows host in your environment, and configure it to simulate accesses to an application/desktop. The agent then periodically emulates the entire process of a user logging into a Citrix farm and launching an application / desktop. Since the agent is what performs the simulation, let's call it the **simulator**. To perform this simulation, the simulator has to be configured with the following:

- The URL of the StoreFront/NetScaler that it needs to access
- The credentials using which it needs to log into the farm;
- The applications and/or desktops that it needs to launch
- The two-factor authentication code, if StoreFront is enabled with two-factor authentication

Once the simulator is configured, it runs at a pre-configured frequency. Every time it runs, it simulates the logon process as depicted by Figure 1.1 below.

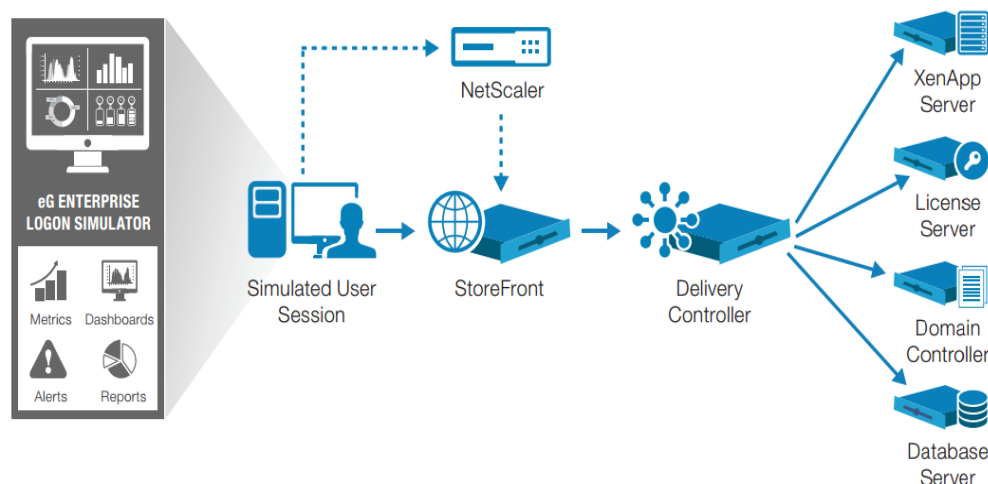


Figure 1.1: How the free eG Enterprise Logon Simulator for Citrix works

The process depicted by Figure 1.1 is described below:

1. The simulator first opens the Chrome browser and connects to the configured StoreFront/NetScaler URL
2. It then logs in through the web browser and captures the time taken to login. The success/failure of the login is also determined.
3. The simulator next waits for the applications/desktops to be enumerated and records the time it took for the enumeration to complete. The success/failure of this step is also ascertained.
4. The configured application/desktop is then launched and the duration of the launch is recorded. In the process, the simulator also figures out whether/not the launch was successful.
5. Finally, the simulator closes the application and logs out of the Citrix session. The log out status and duration is also captured.
6. Steps 1 to 5 are then repeated for every application/desktop that has been configured for launching.

The simulator then automatically reports the metrics to a cloud-hosted eG management server, which publishes the metrics on the Logon Simulator portal. The communication between the simulator (i.e., the Logon Simulator Agent) and the eG management server is over the secure, web-based HTTP/S protocol. The other key features of this communication are as follows:

- **One-way communication:** The Logon Simulator Agent does not listen on any TCP port and initiates all communication to the eG management server; this minimizes the security risk to the systems hosting the agent.

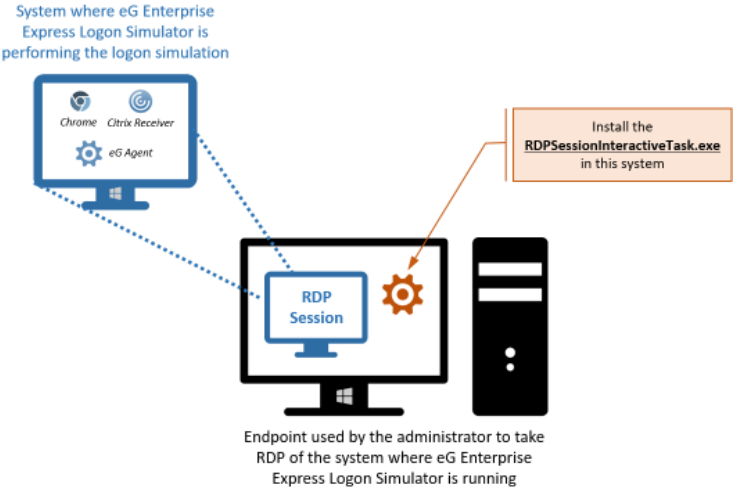
- **Firewall-friendly architecture:** Since all the communication is web-based, and since the agent initiates all communications to the manager, as long as users within your network can browse the web from the systems on which the agents are deployed, the agents will be able to communicate with the management server without needing any additional firewall configuration.
- **Monitoring support for multiple private networks:** Since the Logon Simulator Agent initiates all the communications, it can even be installed on systems that are assigned private IP addresses, and on networks that are behind network address translation (NAT) devices. That is, you do not have to have your agents on the Internet to use this service - the agents can be in your Intranet.
- **Multi-tenancy support:** Support for multi-tenancy is built in. Users receive personalized logins and they can monitor the logon performance of only their Citrix delivery infrastructure.
- **Does not carry business-sensitive information:** This free simulator does not monitor business-related information (credit card information, etc.), and the information transmitted between the agent and the manager can be audited by the IT administrators at any time, using packet sniffers.
- **Secure, authenticated access:** Your data is securely maintained and all accesses to the service are authenticated. You only have access to metrics, alerts, and reports from your infrastructure.

1.4 Pre-requisites for the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix

Before attempting to use this simulator, make sure that the following pre-requisites are fulfilled:

Category	Pre-requisites
Logon Simulator Agent / Simulation Endpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Logon Simulator Agent should be installed on a dedicated endpoint. The dedicated endpoint should only run on an English version of Windows operating system. • No other eG agent should exist on the same host on which the Logon Simulator Agent has been installed. • .Net 3.5 (or above) should pre-exist on the system hosting the Logon Simulator Agent. • Citrix Receiver version 2.x (also referred to as v12.x) or above should be installed on the system hosting the Logon Simulator Agent. Take care to install the Receiver in the default location only. <p>Note:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that you install the Standard or full version of the Citrix Receiver. Citrix Receiver installed as a plugin is not supported. • The simulator requires a dedicated Citrix test account with rights to launch applications/desktops. • In order for the simulator to interact with the ICA object, the following registry entries are needed on the simulator endpoint's registry with DWORD type and value 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "HKEY_ LOCAL_ MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Citrix\ICA Client\CCM, AllowLiveMonitoring" ◦ "HKEY_ LOCAL_ MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Citrix\ICA Client\CCM, AllowSimulationAPI" • The simulator also requires a user account with local administrator rights on the simulation endpoint - i.e., on the system hosting the Logon Simulator Agent / Citrix Receiver. This user should be logged in at all times for the simulator to run continuously. Also, make sure that this session window is not minimized because this may cause problems in the logon simulation. <p>If the logon simulation is performed via an RDP session, then, you can make sure that the simulation is not impacted even if the RDP session window is minimized. For this, execute the RDPSessionInteractiveTask.exe on the system from which the user has launched the RDP session. This executable is bundled into the logon simulator agent package. Once you download and extract the package into any location, you will find the RDPSessionInteractiveTask.exe within.</p>
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	 <p>System where eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator is performing the logon simulation</p> <p>Install the RDPSessionInteractiveTask.exe in this system</p> <p>RDP Session</p> <p>Endpoint used by the administrator to take RDP of the system where eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator is running</p> <p>Figure 1.2: Logon Simulation performed via an RDP session</p> <p>To execute the RDPSessionInteractiveTask.exe, do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open the command prompt of the system from which the RDP session was launched as an administrator. • Execute the RPSessionInteractiveTask.exe file. Upon successful execution, a message to that effect will appear. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The logon simulation will not work if the session is closed. • The logon simulation will not work if the screen is locked on the logon simulation endpoint. • The logon simulator will not work if the screensaver appears on the logon simulation endpoint. • No other ICA session should be connected/running on the simulation endpoint before running the script. Any Receiver processes will be killed, so existing sessions will be disconnected. • If the Citrix Receiver has created a system tray icon on the simulation endpoint, then make sure it is removed.
<p>Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The simulator will only work with Citrix XenApp / XenDesktop 6.x and 7.x environments. • For Citrix XenApp / XenDesktop 7.x environments, make sure that StoreFront 2.0 or higher or NetScaler Gateway version 9.3 or higher is

	<p>available in your environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Citrix AppController cannot be used for the simulation. • The eG Enterprise Logon Simulator for Citrix can be used to simulate logons to both on-premise Citrix installations and those on the Citrix Cloud or Citrix Workspace. Typically, the simulator simulates a user logging into a Citrix StoreFront or NetScaler gateway through a browser, reviewing the list of applications/desktops accessible, clicking on a selected application or desktop, launching it in Citrix Receiver by initiating a session, and then logging off. Sometimes, the simulator may not be able to cleanly logoff the application/desktop sessions it created. Such sessions may continue to linger on the server in a disconnected state. In simulations that are performed on-premise, where you have control over the target Citrix infrastructure, you can avoid such disconnected sessions and ensure clean application/desktop logoffs by deploying the light-weight eG Logoff Helper software . Install the helper software on Citrix ZDC, if a Citrix XenApp Server v6.5 is used for the simulation, or the Citrix Delivery Controller, if Citrix XenDesktop v7.x is used. <p>In simulations performed on the Citrix Workspace or on the Citrix Cloud on the other hand, the eG Logoff Helper is not required. In this case, the eG agent itself automatically logs off the simulated application/desktop sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When using Citrix XenApp / XenDesktop 7, the desktop or application that the simulator should launch should be included as "Favorites" in the StoreFront or NetScaler web console. You can auto subscribe users to applications by setting "KEYWORDS:Auto" in the published application's description in the Citrix XenDesktop Broker. When using Citrix XenApp6.x on the other hand, the desktop/application that the simulator should launch should be displayed in the Main page of the Citrix Web Interface Management console. • Additionally, for launching desktops published on Citrix XenApp / XenDesktop v6.x or v7.x, set the autoLaunchDesktop flag to false in the web.config file under C:\inetpub\wwwroot\Citrix\<storename>Web folder on the StoreFront server.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a firewall separates the simulation endpoint from StoreFront / NetScaler, then make sure you configure the firewall to allow two-way communication between the endpoint and StoreFront / NetScaler.
Browser	<p>The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix mandates the presence of the Chrome browser v74 (and above). No other browser supports this simulation.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Chrome is capable of automatically applying updates and upgrading itself to higher versions. Sometimes, when Chrome auto-upgrades, some drivers that the eG Logon Simulator Agent uses may suddenly be rendered incompatible with Chrome. This can cause problems in simulation. To avoid this, the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix, by default, prevents Chrome upgrades/updates (both automatic and manual) from being applied at the simulation endpoint.</p> <p>However, whenever a new version of the eG agent with updated drivers is released, you will have to manually upgrade Chrome to ensure continued compatibility. In this case therefore, you will have to make sure that the simulation endpoint allows Chrome upgrades. To achieve this, before manually upgrading Chrome, follow the steps below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Login to the eG agent host. • Open the Windows command prompt as Administrator. • Switch to the <EG_AGENT_INSTALL_DIR>\lib directory, and issue the following command: <p>ChromeUpgradeHandler.exe enable</p>

1.5 Installing and Configuring the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix

To install and configure the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix, follow the broad steps below:

1. [Subscribe to the Simulation Service](#)
2. [Configure the Simulation](#)
3. [Download and install the Logon Simulator Agent](#)

4. If your simulation is performed on-premise, then [deploy the light-weight eG Logoff Helper](#) software to enable proper application/desktop logoffs.

The sections that follow will discuss each of these steps elaborately.

1.6 Subscribe to the Simulation Service

For this, first connect to <https://logonsimulator.eginnovations.com>. Figure 1.3 will appear.

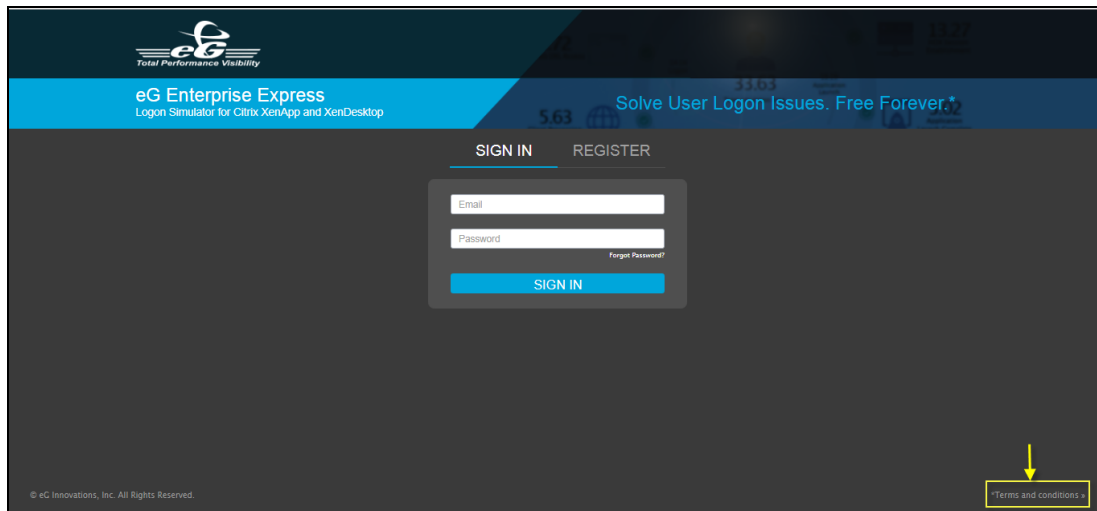


Figure 1.3: Connecting to the URL: logonsimulator.eginnovations.com

If you are an existing subscriber to the service, you can sign in using the **Email ID** and **Password** you provided at the time of registering. If you are a first time user and want to subscribe to the service, first take a look at the terms and conditions of the service by clicking the **Terms and conditions** link at the bottom right corner of the **SIGN IN** page (as indicated by Figure 1.3). Figure 1.4 will then appear.

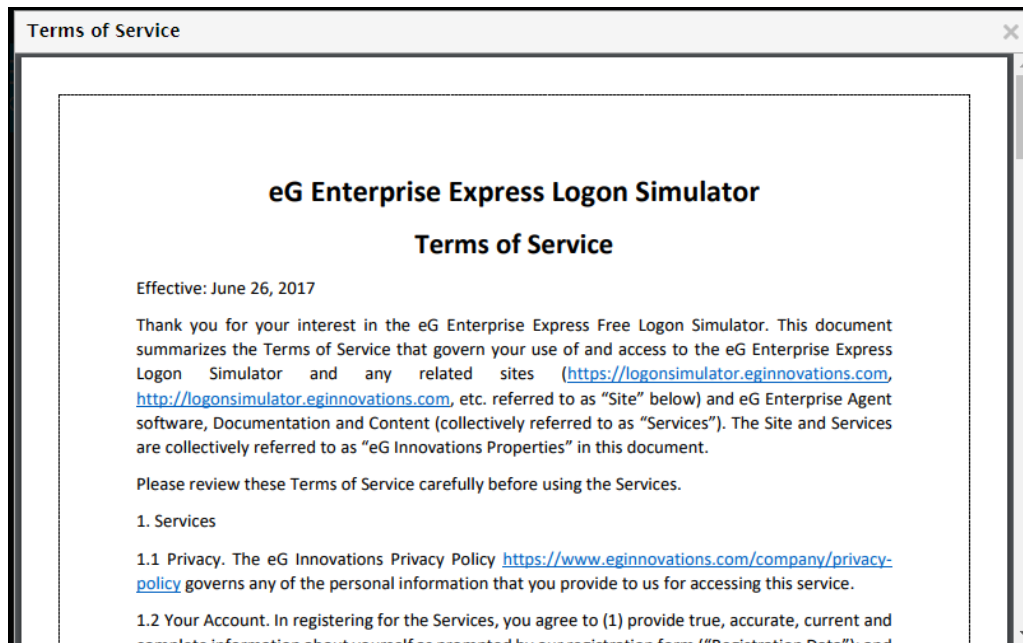


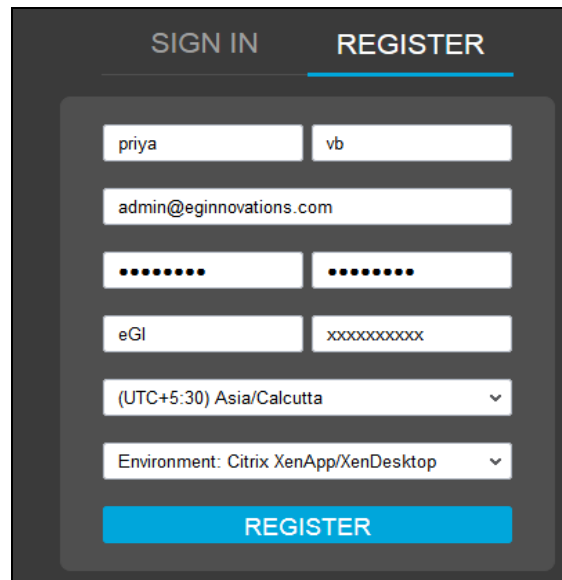
Figure 1.4: Terms and conditions of service

After reading the terms and conditions of service, close the window and return to the **SIGN IN** page of Figure 1.3. Then, to register, click on the **REGISTER** link in Figure 1.3. When Figure 1.5 appears, provide your First name, Last name, your valid Email ID and a unique password for logging in.

Note:

For using eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix, a valid corporate email address should be used during registration. The free logon simulator service will accept registrations of up to three (3) unique email addresses per email domain. Not more than three (3) unique user accounts can be created per valid corporate email domain.

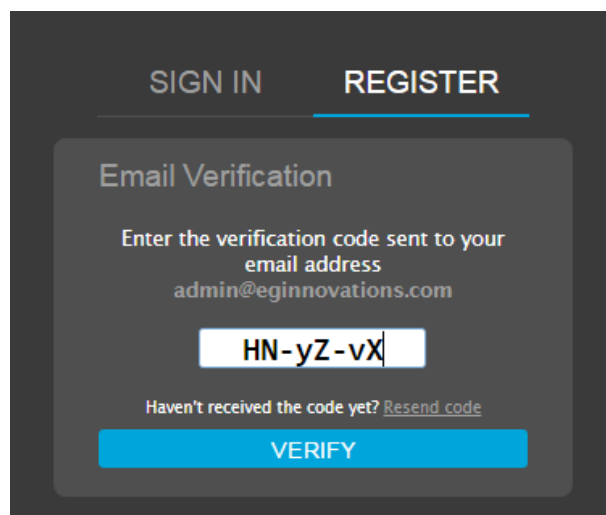
Also, specify your company name, pick a Time zone, and enter your phone number. eG Enterprise offers eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for both Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop and VMware Horizon. Select the environment for which you wish to configure the simulations from the **Environment for Logon Simulation** list. In our case you need to choose **Environment: Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop** from this list. Finally, click **REGISTER** to subscribe to the free service.



The registration form is titled "REGISTER" and is part of a larger interface with a "SIGN IN" tab. It contains several input fields: a first name field with "priya", a last name field with "vb", an email field with "admin@eginnovations.com", two password fields (one masked with dots), a field for "eGI" with "eGI", a field for a confirmation code with "xxxxxxxxxx", a time zone dropdown menu set to "(UTC+5:30) Asia/Calcutta", and an environment dropdown menu set to "Environment: Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop". A blue "REGISTER" button is at the bottom.

Figure 1.5: Signing up to use the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix

A Verification code will be sent to the email address you specified in Figure 1.5. Upon receipt of the code, copy and paste it in Figure 1.6 and click **Verify**.



The email verification form is titled "Email Verification" and is part of the same interface. It prompts the user to "Enter the verification code sent to your email address" and shows the email address "admin@eginnovations.com". A text input field contains the code "HN-yZ-vX". Below the input field, there is a link that says "Haven't received the code yet? [Resend code](#)". A blue "VERIFY" button is at the bottom.

Figure 1.6: Specifying the verification code sent by email

Once the code is successfully verified, Figure 1.7 will appear, detailing the next steps for using this simulator.



Figure 1.7: Home page of the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix portal

1.7 Configure the Simulation

For this, click **Configure** in Figure 1.7 . Figure 1.8 will then appear.


Figure 1.8: Configuring the simulation

Provide the following inputs in Figure 1.8:

1. **Site URL:** The URL of the StoreFront/NetScaler/Web interface that it needs to access

Note:

- The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix supports only up to one (1) Citrix farm URL
- Only StoreFront 2.0 (or above) and NetScaler Gateway v9.3 (or above) are supported.

2. **Is this service hosted on Cloud?:** If your Citrix environment is hosted on a Citrix Cloud (Citrix WorkSpace), then, set this flag to **Yes**. By default, this flag is set to **No**.
3. **Application/Desktop:** The names of the applications/desktops to be launched. To provide the application/desktop names, click the  icon alongside the **Application/Desktop** text box. Figure 1.9 will then appear.

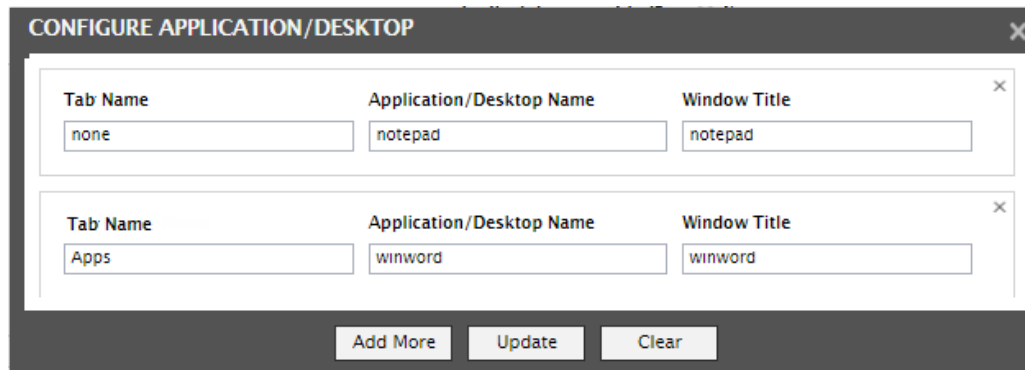


Figure 1.9: Configuring the names of applications/desktops to be launched

Specify the following in Figure 1.9:

- **Tab Name:** If the simulator is simulating accesses to Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop 7.x, and StoreFront v2.x (or below) is used for the simulation, then the main page of the console will contain two tab pages - Apps and Desktops. The application/desktop that the simulator should launch may be in any of these tab pages. If the application/desktop to be launched is in the tab page that is set as the default landing page, then set the **Tab Name** to **none**. On the other hand, if the application/desktop to be launched is not in the default landing page, then you must specify the exact **Tab Name** of the tab page in which that application/desktop is present.
- **Application/Desktop Name:** Specify the name of the Application/Desktop to be launched. When providing the application/desktop name, make sure you provide the same name using which that application/desktop is displayed in the StoreFront or NetScaler web console.

Note:

Before configuring the names of resources published on Citrix XenApp / XenDesktop 7.x, ensure the following:

- The desktop or application configured here should be included as "Favorites" in the StoreFront or NetScaler web console.
- You can auto subscribe users to applications by setting "KEYWORDS:Auto" in the published application's description in the Citrix XenDesktop Broker.
- Additionally, for launching published desktops, set the **autoLaunchDesktop** flag to **false** in the **web.config** file under C:\inetpub\wwwroot\Citrix\<storename>Web folder on the StoreFront server. You can auto subscribe users to applications by setting "KEYWORDS:Auto" in the published application's description in the Citrix XenDesktop Broker.

Before configuring the names of resources published on Citrix XenApp / XenDesktop 6.x, make sure that these applications/desktops are available in the **Main** page of the Citrix Web Interface Management console.

- **Window Title:** Typically, any application/desktop that is launched opens in a separate window. Sometimes, a different name may be displayed for the launched application/desktop in that window's title bar. If there is a mismatch between the name in the StoreFront/NetScaler console and the name in the launched window title, then the simulator may wrongly report a successful launch as a failure. To avoid this, where the application/desktop name in the StoreFront/NetScaler console is different from the application/desktop name displayed in the launch window title, use the **Window Title** text box to specify the name that will be displayed for the configured **Application/Desktop** in the session window's title bar.

Finally, click the **Add More** button in Figure 1.9 to add more applications/desktops to be launched. A maximum of three applications/desktops can only be configured for the simulation. If you do not want to add any more applications/desktops, click the **Update** button in Figure 1.9 to save the changes and exit the **CONFIGURE APPLICATION/DESKTOP** window. You will then return to Figure 1.8, where you can proceed to provide the other details required for the simulation.

4. **Domain, User, Password, and Confirm Password:** Provide the credentials of a user who is authorized to launch the configured applications/desktops.

Note:

- The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix supports a maximum of only three (3) users for logon simulation.

- If the Storefront server is enabled with two-factor authentication and you have specified the relevant **2FA code**, then, specify *none* against the **Domain** text box.
5. **Is 2FA enabled?:** Two-factor authentication (2FA), often referred to as two-step verification, is a security process in which the user provides two authentication factors to verify they are who they say they are. If StoreFront is enabled with two-factor authentication, then to authenticate the specified **User** login, StoreFront will require an additional layer of security other than the **Password** you have provided. This can be any piece of information that only the **User** knows or has immediately in hand - such as a verification code that StoreFront provides. This is why, if StoreFront is enabled with two-factor authentication, you will have to set the **Is 2FA enabled?** flag to **Yes**, and then specify the verification code in the text box that appears alongside. On the other hand, if StoreFront is not enabled with two-factor authentication, set this flag to **No**. **Note that only static 2FA is supported for user authentication.**
 6. **Is disclaimer enabled?:** Some high-security Citrix environments may have been configured to display a 'disclaimer', whenever a user attempts to login to a server/desktop in the environment. Such disclaimers typically include statements that delimit the scope of access, uphold confidentiality or protect copyright laws, and mitigate the risk of virus infections or data losses that may be caused by unauthorized access. If such a disclaimer is enabled for your environment, then set this flag to **Yes**. In this case, the simulator will accept the disclaimer and proceed with the simulation. If no such disclaimer has been configured for your environment, set this flag to **No**.

Click **Add More** if you want to configure more simulations. However, the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix supports a maximum of three (3) **Users** only for the logon simulation. Likewise, a maximum of only three applications/desktops can be launched by the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator. At any point in time, click **Update** to save the changes.

1.8 Download and Install the Logon Simulator Agent

Click on **Download Agent** tab page in Figure 1.8 in the **Configure the Simulation** topic to download and install the Logon Simulator Agent. From the list of agent packages displayed in the tab page (see Figure 1.10), click on the package that suits your environment.



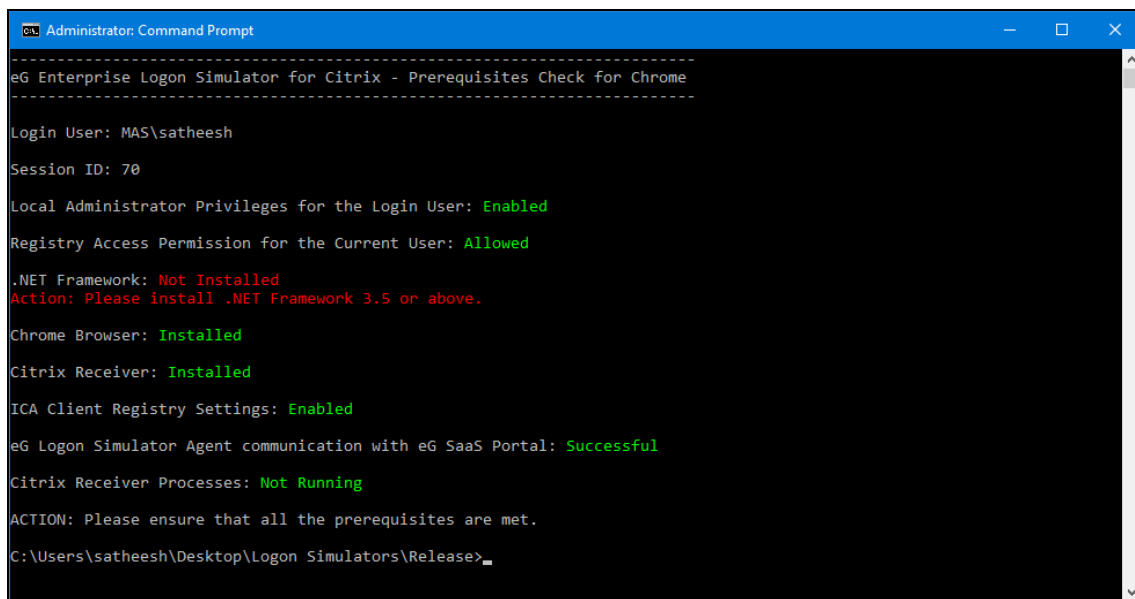
Figure 1.10: Downloading and installing the Logon Simulator Agent

A zip file will be downloaded to the location you specify. Extract the contents of the zip to any folder of your choice. Run the **setup.bat** file (in that folder) as administrator to install and configure the agent.

Note:

If the Logon Simulator Agent communicates with the Logon Simulator Portal via a Proxy server, then make sure you follow the procedure detailed in Section 1.8.1 to install and configure the Logon Simulator Agent.

Setup will first check whether the target agent host fulfills all pre-requisites for simulation. If setup finds that a pre-requisite has not been fulfilled, it will highlight the failure in Red (as shown by Figure 1.11).

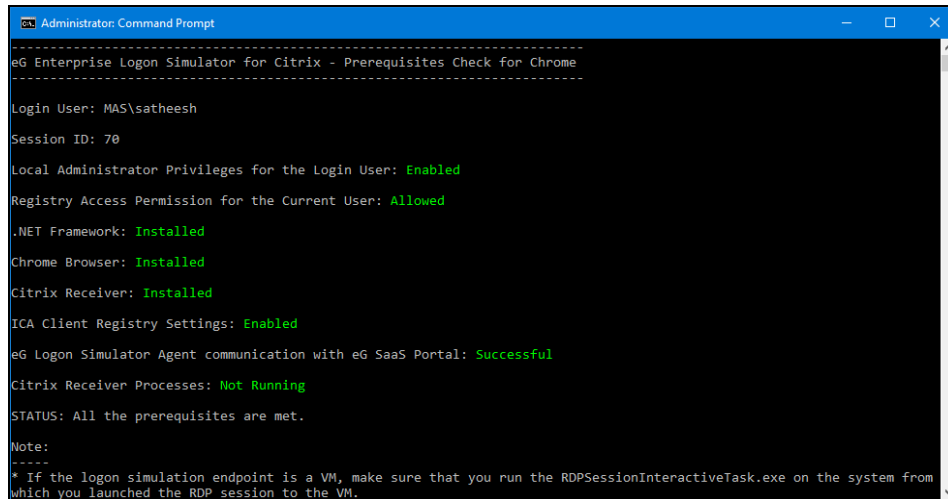


```
Administrator: Command Prompt
eG Enterprise Logon Simulator for Citrix - Prerequisites Check for Chrome
-----
Login User: MAS\satheesh
Session ID: 70
Local Administrator Privileges for the Login User: Enabled
Registry Access Permission for the Current User: Allowed
.NET Framework: Not Installed
Action: Please install .NET Framework 3.5 or above.
Chrome Browser: Installed
Citrix Receiver: Installed
ICA Client Registry Settings: Enabled
eG Logon Simulator Agent communication with eG SaaS Portal: Successful
Citrix Receiver Processes: Not Running
ACTION: Please ensure that all the prerequisites are met.
C:\Users\satheesh\Desktop\Logon Simulators\Release>
```

Figure 1.11: Setup script where a pre-requisite has failed

Use the pointers provided in Figure 1.11, just below the failed pre-requisite, to know how to fulfill that requirement. Then, rerun **setup.bat** to make sure that all pre-requisites are fulfilled, and then proceed with the installation.

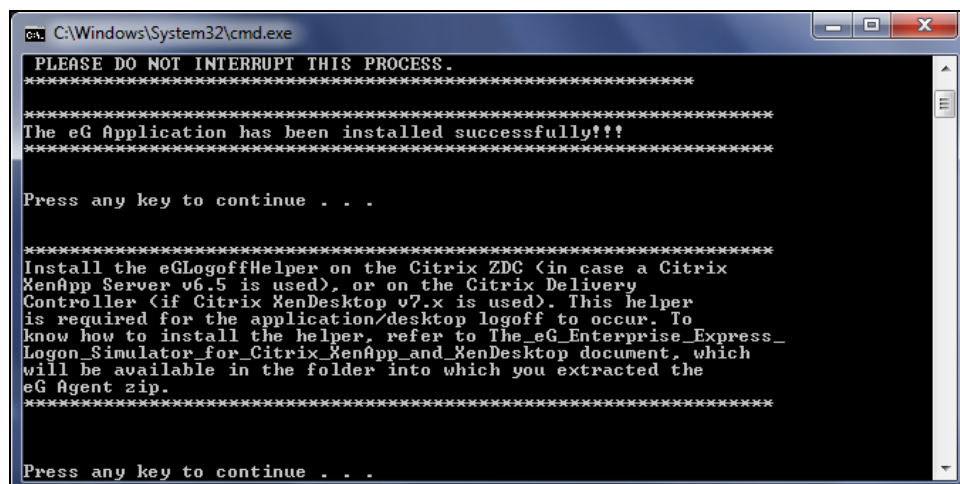
If all pre-requisites are fulfilled, then setup will prompt you to press any key on the keyboard, so that the agent installation can continue.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
eG Enterprise Logon Simulator for Citrix - Prerequisites Check for Chrome
-----
Login User: MAS\satheesh
Session ID: 70
Local Administrator Privileges for the Login User: Enabled
Registry Access Permission for the Current User: Allowed
.NET Framework: Installed
Chrome Browser: Installed
Citrix Receiver: Installed
ICA Client Registry Settings: Enabled
eG Logon Simulator Agent communication with eG SaaS Portal: Successful
Citrix Receiver Processes: Not Running
STATUS: All the prerequisites are met.
Note:
-----
* If the logon simulation endpoint is a VM, make sure that you run the RDPSessionInteractiveTask.exe on the system from
which you launched the RDP session to the VM.
```

Figure 1.12: All pre-requisites are fulfilled

If the agent installation is successful, then a message depicted by Figure 1.13 will appear.



```
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
PLEASE DO NOT INTERRUPT THIS PROCESS.
*****
The eG Application has been installed successfully!!!
*****
Press any key to continue . . .

*****
Install the eGLogoffHelper on the Citrix ZDC (in case a Citrix
XenApp Server v6.5 is used), or on the Citrix Delivery
Controller (if Citrix XenDesktop v7.x is used). This helper
is required for the application/desktop logoff to occur. To
know how to install the helper, refer to The_eG_Enterprise_Express_
Logon_Simulator_for_Citrix_XenApp_and_XenDesktop document, which
will be available in the folder into which you extracted the
eG Agent zip.
*****
Press any key to continue . . .
```

Figure 1.13: Successful installation of the Logon Simulator Agent

Then, proceed to install the eG Logoff Helper. To know what is the eG Logoff Helper and how to install it, refer to [Installing the eG Logoff Helper](#) topic in Section 1.9 of this document.

Once the agent is installed successfully, it automatically starts to perform the configured simulation.

1.8.1 Enabling the Logon Simulator Agent to communicate with the Logon Simulator Portal via a Proxy server

If the Logon Simulator Agent communicates with the Logon Simulator Portal via a proxy server, then you should ensure that the following steps are followed:

1. Download and extract the contents of the Logon Simulator agent zip file to any folder of your choice. Open the command prompt as an administrator and execute the following command:

setup.bat -proxyEnabled Yes

2. The Pre-requisites for installing the agent will then be checked as explained in Section 1.8. Once the agent is installed successfully, you will be required to configure the proxy server settings. For this do the following:

- Open the command prompt as an administrator.
- Navigate to the <eG_INSTALL_DIR>\eGurkha\lib directory and execute the changeAgentSettings.bat file.
- Once the file is executed, you will be asked to specify the IP/hostname and port of the Logon Simulator Portal. Here, specify the IP/Hostname as logonsimulator.eginnovations.com and the port as 80.

```
Please enter the IP/Hostname of the eG Manager to which this agent should report:
logonsimulator.eginnovations.com
```

```
Please enter the Port on the eG Manager to which this agent should report: 80
```

- Then, when prompted to indicate whether/not the eG manager is SSLEnabled, specify No. :

```
Please enter if the eG Manager is SSL enabled (Yes or No)? No
```

- Next, specify yes if the logon simulator agent should communicate with the logon simulator portal using a proxy server.

```
Should the Agent use a Proxy server to communicate with the eG Manager (Yes/No)? Yes
```

- Then, enter the credentials of the proxy server.

```
Please enter the proxy IP/Name:
```

```
Please enter the proxy port:
```

- Specify Yes if the proxy server requires user authentication.

```
Does the proxy require user authentication (Yes/No)? Yes
```

- Then, specify the user credentials through which the logon simulator agent will access the proxy server.

```
Please enter the proxy username:
```

```
Please enter the proxy password:
```

- Once you have specified the required credentials, you will see the following message in the

command prompt:

```
The settings have been changed successfully!
```

```
*****
```

```
Please execute the debugon.bat to run agent in debug mode or
```

```
debugoff.bat to run agent in debug off mode
```

```
and then restart the agent to effect the changes.
```

```
*****
```

```
Press any key to continue...
```

- Execute the debugon.bat or debugoff.bat.
- Once the file is executed, restart the logon simulator agent.

1.9 Installing the eG Logoff Helper

The eG Enterprise Logon Simulator for Citrix can be used to simulate logons to both on-premise Citrix installations and those on the Citrix Cloud or Citrix Workspace. Typically, the simulator simulates a user logging into a Citrix StoreFront or NetScaler gateway through a browser, reviewing the list of applications/desktops accessible, clicking on a selected application or desktop, launching it in Citrix Receiver by initiating a session, and then logging off. Sometimes, the simulator may not be able to cleanly logoff the application/desktop sessions it created. Such sessions may continue to linger on the server in a disconnected state. In simulations that are performed on-premise, where you have control over the target Citrix infrastructure, you can avoid such disconnected sessions and ensure clean application/desktop logoffs by deploying the light-weight **eG Logoff Helper** software . Install the helper software on Citrix ZDC, if a Citrix XenApp Server v6.5 is used for the simulation, or the Citrix Delivery Controller, if Citrix XenDesktop v7.x is used.

In simulations performed on the Citrix Workspace or on the Citrix Cloud on the other hand, the eG Logoff Helper is not required. In this case, the eG agent itself automatically logs off the simulated application/desktop sessions.

To install the eG Logoff Helper, follow the steps below:

1. Run the **eGLogoffHelper.exe** as an *Administrator* (see Figure 1.14).

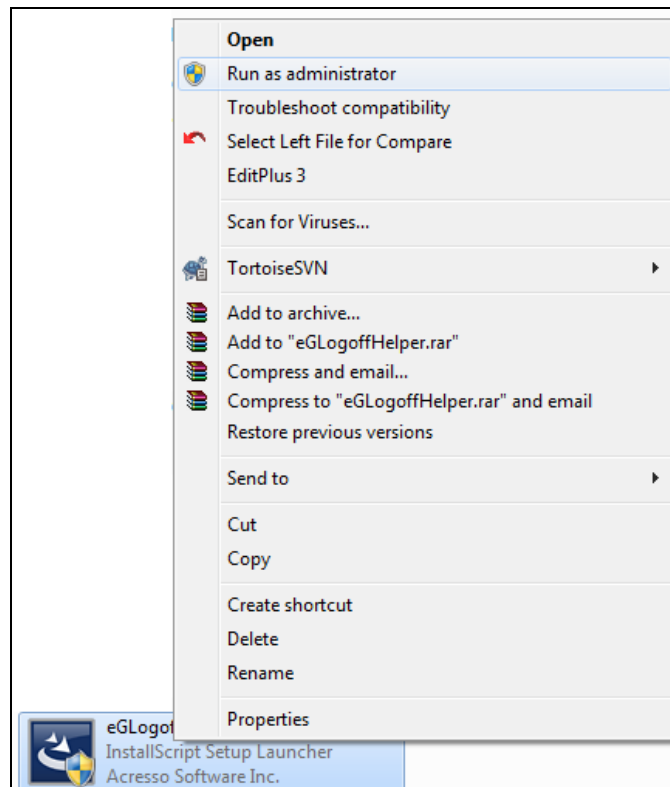


Figure 1.14: Running the eGLogoffHelper.exe as an Administrator

2. Figure 1.15 will then appear. By default, the logoff helper will installed in the C drive. You can change the location of the helper by specify a different install location. For making this change, use the **Browse** button in Figure 1.15. Then, click the **Next** button in Figure 1.15 to proceed.

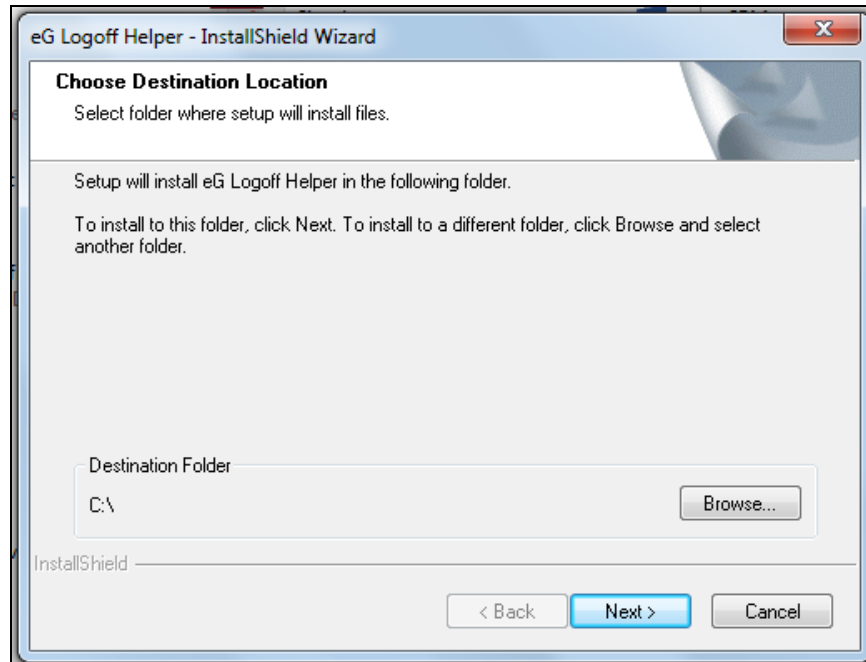


Figure 1.15: Specifying where the logoff helper is to be installed

3. When Figure 1.16 appears, select **Citrix** as the infrastructure and click **Next** to move on.

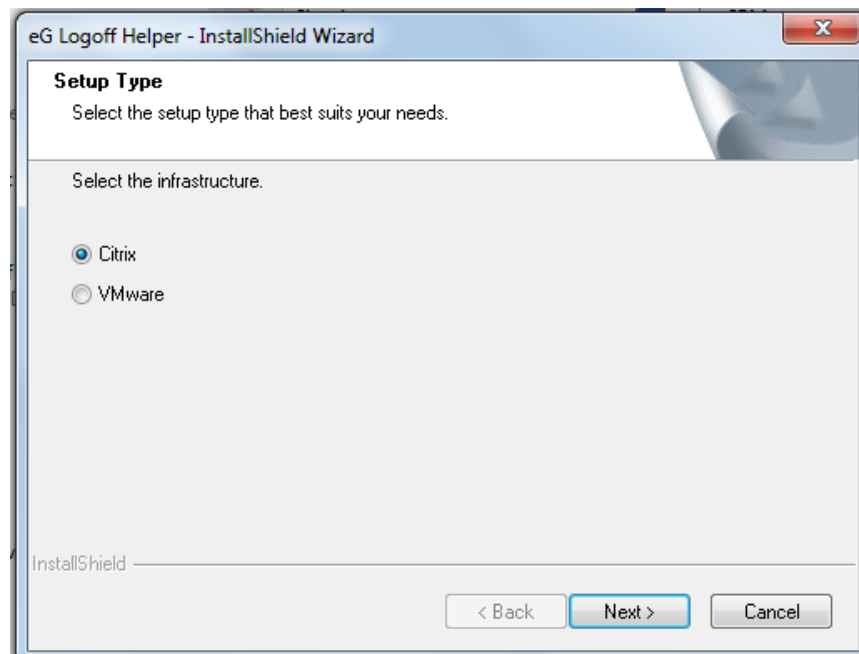


Figure 1.16: Selecting Citrix as the infrastructure

4. In Figure 1.17 that appears next, provide the Citrix Farm/Site administrator's credentials. This is essential for creating and running the eG Logoff Helper Windows service on Citrix ZDC or Citrix Delivery Controller (as the case may be). **Note that the User Name of the Citrix Farm/Site administrator should be provided in the format, <DomainName>\<UserName>.**

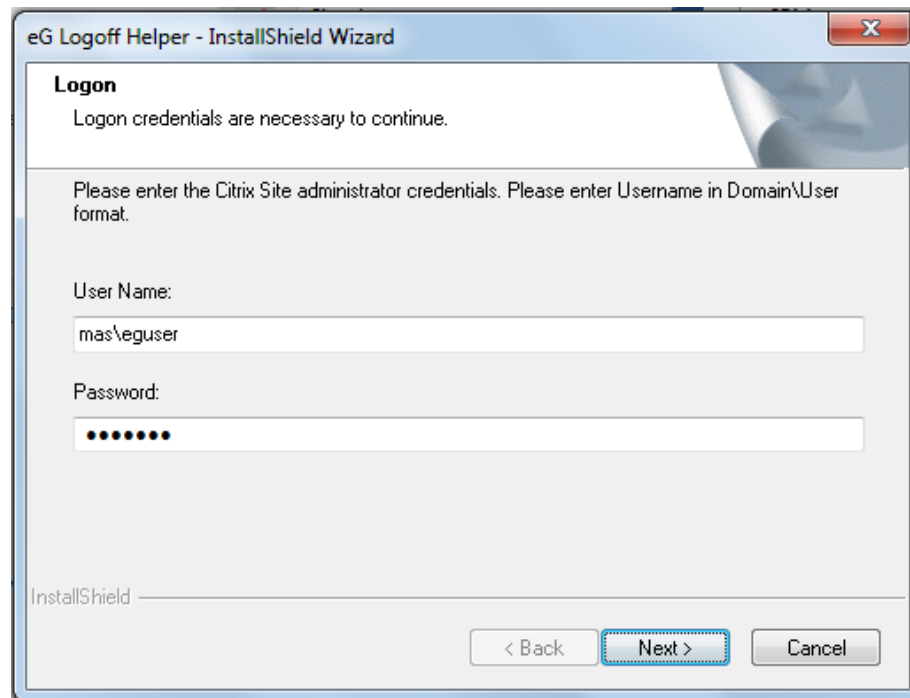


Figure 1.17: Providing the credentials of a Citrix Farm/Site administrator

5. Next, provide a comma-separated list of application/desktop users to be logged off. This user list should be the whole or a part of the list of users who you have configured for your simulation. Each user name in this comma-separated list should be specified in the format, <DomainName>\<UserName>. Then, click the **Next** button.

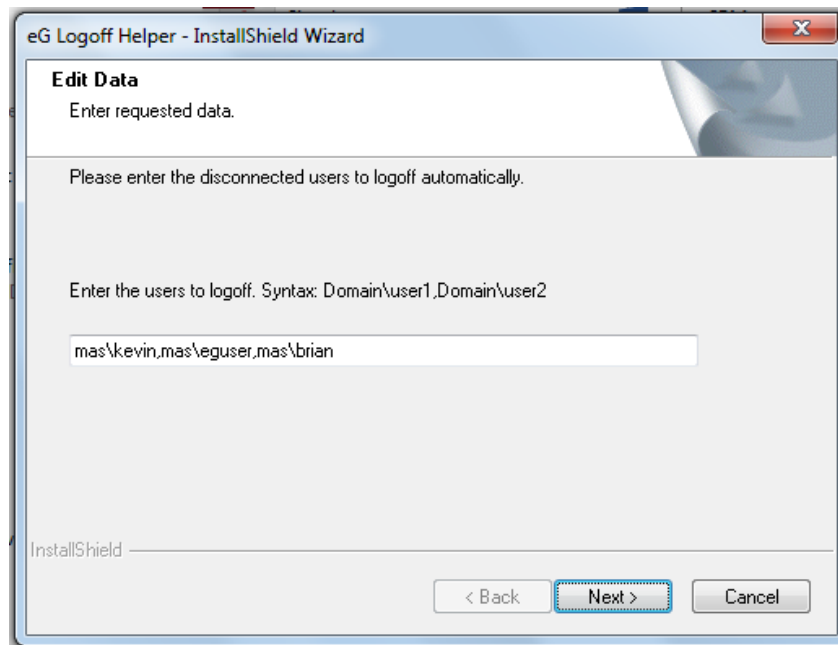


Figure 1.18: Providing a comma-separated list of application/desktop users to logoff

6. Upon successful installation of the helper, a message depicted by Figure 1.19 will appear.

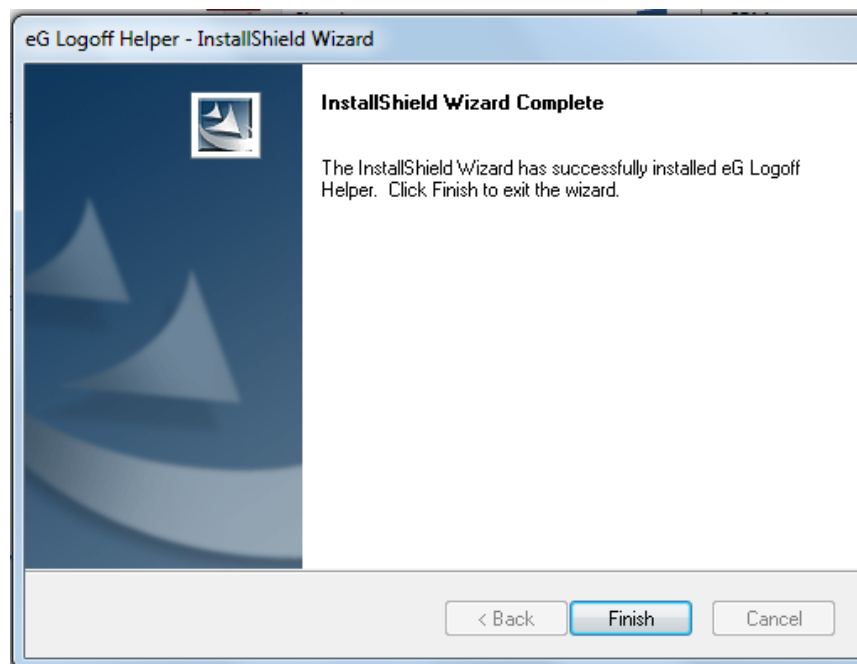


Figure 1.19: Successful installation of the logoff helper

7. Click the **Finish** button in Figure 1.19 to exit the installation wizard.

You can confirm the successful installation of the eG Logoff Helper by verifying the following:

- A folder named **eGLogoffHelper** will be created in the install location specified at step 2 above.
- You will find a new Windows service named **eG Logoff Helper** running with Citrix farm/site administrator privileges.

1.10 Fine-tuning the Simulation

One of the key pre-requisites for the simulation is a user account with local administrator rights on the simulation endpoint. This user should also be logged in at all times for the simulator to run continuously. Sometimes however, this user session may get disconnected. For instance, if the simulation endpoint is rebooted due to automatic updates, scheduled reboots, power failure etc., the user session on the simulation endpoint may get disconnected.

Every time a session disconnect occurs owing to reasons cited above, the administrator will have to login to the endpoint by manually providing the user credentials at the login prompt, while the system boots. If this is not done, then the user session will not get up and running; consequently, the simulation will not occur.

To save the time and effort involved in manually typing the login credentials everytime the endpoint reboots, and to make sure that a user is always logged into the endpoint (even when it reboots) for the purpose of the simulation, you can automate a user login at the time of a reboot. To achieve this, you can either run *Autologon.exe* or manually *edit the windows registry*.

1.10.1 Fine-tuning the simulation using Autologon.exe

If you wish to automate the user logon by executing Autologon.exe, follow the steps below:

1. Download the **Autologon.zip** file from the **Download Autologon** link from the following location:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/autologon>

2. Extract the contents of the **Autologon.zip** file.
3. Once extracted, run the **Autologon.exe** file.

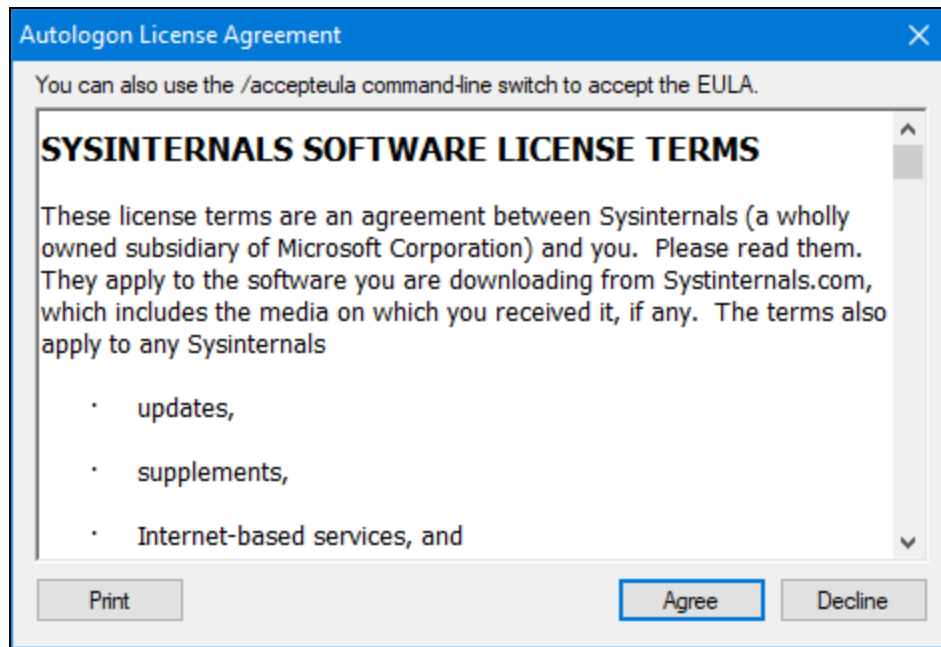


Figure 1.20: Agreeing to the Software License Terms

4. Figure 1.20 then appears. Click **Agree** to accept the Sysinternals Software License Terms.

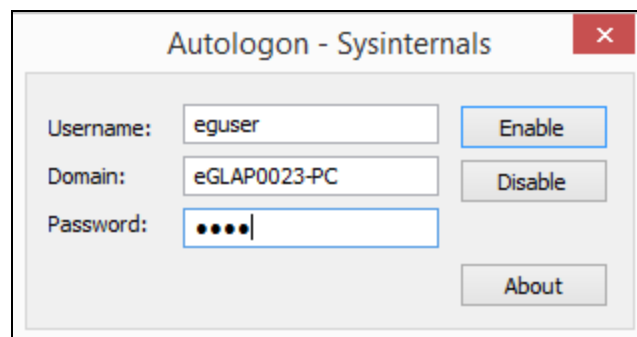


Figure 1.21: Provide the password in this form

5. In Figure 1.21 that appears next, the name of the user and the domain to which the user belongs will be automatically populated against the **Username** and **Domain** fields. Specify the password that should be used for automatic user logon against the **Password** text box.
6. Click the **Enable** button.
7. Ensure that the **eGurkhaAgentServices** are delayed for a period of 5 minutes (using Automatic (Delayed Start) Service properties) before restarting the simulation endpoint.
8. Finally, restart the simulation endpoint.

1.10.2 Fine-tuning the simulation by editing the windows registry

If you wish to automate the user login by editing the windows registry, follow the steps below:

1. Open the Windows Registry Editor.
2. Locate the following registry entry:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\Current Version\Winlogon

3. In this registry entry, add the following REG_SZ string values:
 - **AutoAdminLogon:** To enable automatic user logon on the simulation endpoint, set this string value to 1.
 - **DefaultUserName:** Specify the name of the user who is authorized to login into the simulation endpoint.
 - **DefaultPassword:** Specify the password for the user mentioned in the DefaultUserName. **Note that the password should be entered in plain text.**
 - **DefaultDomainName:** Specify the domain to which the user belongs to.
4. Ensure that the **eGurkhaAgentServices** are delayed for a period of 5 minutes (using Automatic (Delayed Start) Service properties) before restarting the simulation endpoint.
5. Finally, restart the simulation endpoint.

1.11 Browser launch hindered due to disabled chrome extensions

In highly secure environments, administrators may not want to load the chrome extensions on the Chrome browser for all users. In such cases, a group policy may be applied to disable these chrome extensions from loading on the Chrome browser. If simulation happens in such environments, the Chrome browser may not be launched and an error message as shown in Figure 1.22 appears.

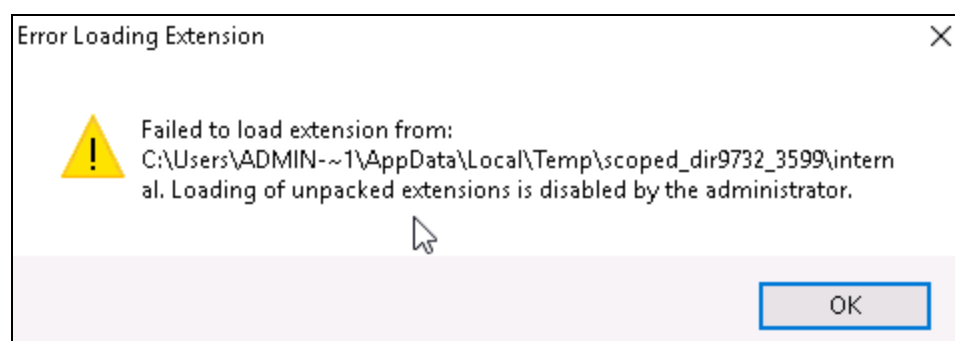


Figure 1.22: Error message that appears when chrome extensions failed to load

For the Citrix Logon Simulator to launch the Chrome browser by overriding the group policy settings that disabled the extensions, do the following:

1. Open the Windows Registry Editor.
2. Locate the following registry entry:

HKLM\Software\Policies\Google\Chrome\ExtensionInstallBlacklist

In this registry entry, delete all keys and values.

3. Locate the following registry entry:

HKCU\Software\Policies\Google\Chrome\ExtensionInstallBlacklist

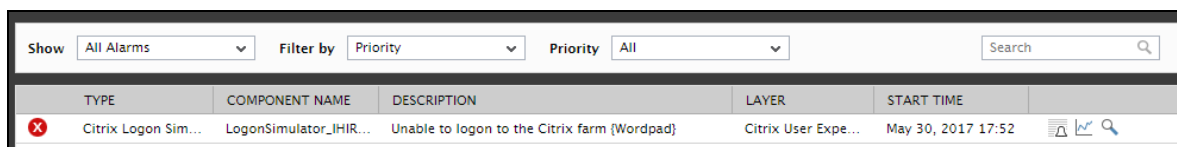
In this registry entry, delete all keys and values.

4. Finally, restart the eG agent.

Ensure that the group policy is disabled on the simulation endpoint so that the Chrome browser can be launched by the Citrix Logon Simulator at periodic intervals.

1.12 Viewing and Interpreting the Simulation Results

Every time the Logon Simulator Agent performs a simulation, metrics on logon performance are captured and sent to the eG manager. Metrics reported per simulation are then displayed in the eG monitoring console. To view the metrics, simply click on the **Monitor** tab page in the eG user interface. A **Current Alarms** window will first appear. If any of the simulations you have configured has captured logon performance issues, then the **Current Alarms** window will report these issues.




TYPE	COMPONENT NAME	DESCRIPTION	LAYER	START TIME
 Citrix Logon Sim...	LogonSimulator_IHIR...	Unable to logon to the Citrix farm {Wordpad}	Citrix User Expe...	May 30, 2017 17:52

Figure 1.23: The Current Alarms window reporting logon performance issues

Closing the **Current Alarms** window will reveal the Citrix Simulator Dashboard (see Figure 1.24).

CITRIX LOGON SIMULATIONS									
Simulator Agent: aws1		Simulations							
APPLICATION/DESKTOP	SIMULATION	WEB URL	USER	SESSION HOST	LOGON		ENUMERATION AVAILABILITY	APPLICATION	
					Availability	Duration (secs)		Launch	Duration (secs)
Paint	Prodsite-Simul...	https://xendesksg.eginnovations.com	citrix\egclouduser1	—	✓	20.222	✓	✗	—
Wordpad	Prodsite-Simul...	https://xendesksg.eginnovations.com	citrix\egclouduser2	2K12-XDAPP7V7	✓	3.4483	✓	✓	26.531
outlook	DRsite-Simulat...	https://xencbx7v6.eginnovations.com	citrix\egclouduser3	XENAPP7V6	✓	30.393	✓	✓	7.915
EXCEL	Prodsite-Simul...	https://xendesksg.eginnovations.com	citrix\egclouduser2	2K12-XDAPP7V7	✓	21.198	✓	✓	25.9872

Figure 1.24: Metrics reported per simulation

The dashboard displays the applications/desktops accessed and metrics captured during each simulation. This way, the simulations that failed and the precise failure points -whether login, enumeration, application/desktop launch, or logoff - of each simulation can be instantly and accurately isolated. You can even click on the 'magnifying glass' icon corresponding to a simulation for a graphical view of the logon process. Figure 1.25 will then appear.

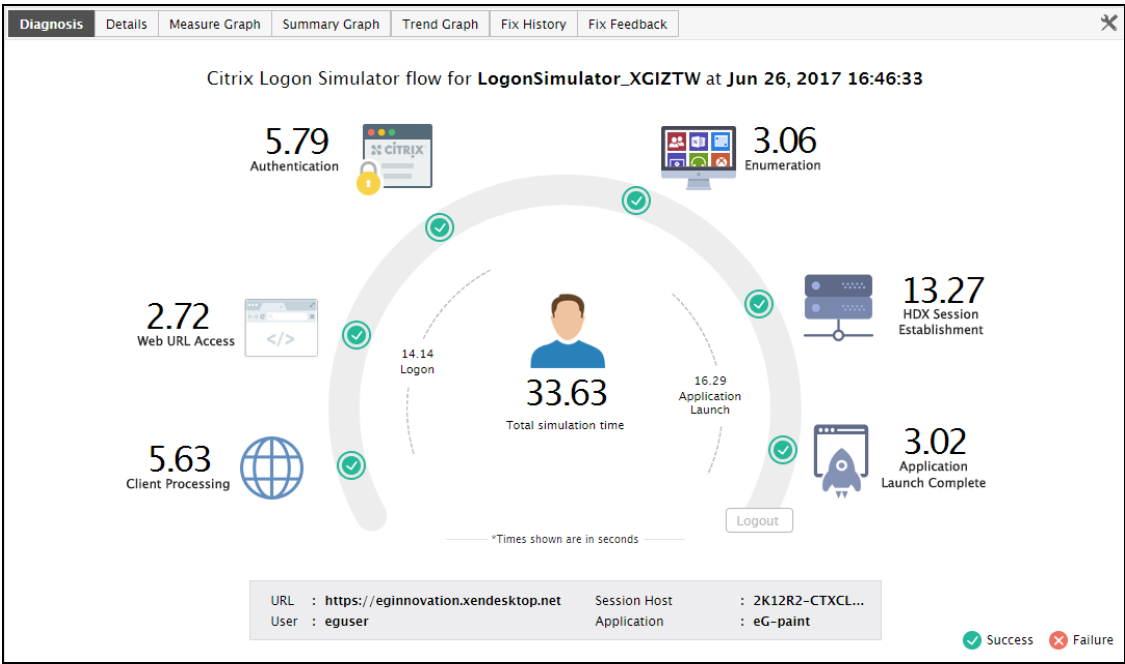


Figure 1.25: The Simulator Dashboard in the eG monitoring console revealing at first glance, the root-cause of logon slowness

A quick look at Figure 1.25 will reveal the total simulation time and the time taken at every step of the logon process. Without engaging in any detailed analysis, administrators can rapidly and accurately infer from Figure 1.25, which step of the logon process has caused the slowness.

For historical analysis of the simulated results, the eG Reporter provides a **Logon Simulator Report**. This report can be generated for one/all applications (or desktops), or for one/all Logon Simulation agents.

Use the **Logon Simulator - By Application** report to identify the problem-prone application/desktop in your Citrix farm, zoom into its logon performance, and diagnose its root-cause. For instance, if you generate this report for all applications/desktops that were launched by the simulator during a specified timeline, then Figure 1.26 will appear. A single glance at this report will reveal the following:

- Which application/desktops the simulator attempted to launch during the said timeline?
- In which simulation were logon performance issues detected time and again?
- At which step of the logon process were issues often detected?
- What was causing the issues - was it because a particular operation failed frequently? or was it because a particular operation was consistently taking longer than a configured (acceptable) duration?
- Which operation (login, enumeration, or launch) is problem-prone?

LOGON SIMULATOR - BY APPLICATION

Zone: --Default-- Component Type: Citrix Logon Simulator Application: All Timeline: Jun 20, 2017 18:35 hrs to Jun 27, 2017 18:35 hrs

SIMULATIONS	APPLICATIONS	LOGON		APPLICATION ENUMERATION		APPLICATION LAUNCH	
		AVAILABILITY (%)	DURATION (SECS)	AVAILABILITY (%)	DURATION (SECS)	AVAILABILITY (%)	DURATION (SECS)
LogonSimulator_XGIZTW	outlook	100	✓ 14.8875	0	-	-	-
	Calculator	100	✓ 28.23	100	✓ 3.09	100	✗ 104.18
	Excel	100	✓ 15.86	0	-	-	-
	Notepad	42	✓ 15.7438	98	✓ 1.1704	91	✓ 31.3857
	eG-Pad	95	✓ 18.14	84	✓ 0.6306	93	✗ 107.3893
	eG-Paint	47	✓ 15.7509	93	✓ 2.8711	95	✓ 30.6672
	Win8-Desktop	36	✓ 15.6533	99	✓ 3.0589	99	✓ 22.3873
	chrome	98	✓ 14.7808	0	-	-	-
	Win2k12-Server-Apps	35	✓ 16.4317	100	✓ 3.0845	90	✓ 24.9088
	firefox	100	✓ 15.6	0	-	-	-
	Iexplorer	91	✓ 15.442	0	-	-	-
	Cmd	100	✓ 15.1083	0	-	-	-

Figure 1.26: Logon Simulator - By Application Report

This way, you can rapidly identify the 'pain points' of your Citrix delivery infrastructure. Zooming into a particular application/desktop in Figure 1.26 will open Figure 1.27. Figure 1.27 provides a quick summary of the results of all simulations performed by the simulator for the chosen application/desktop.

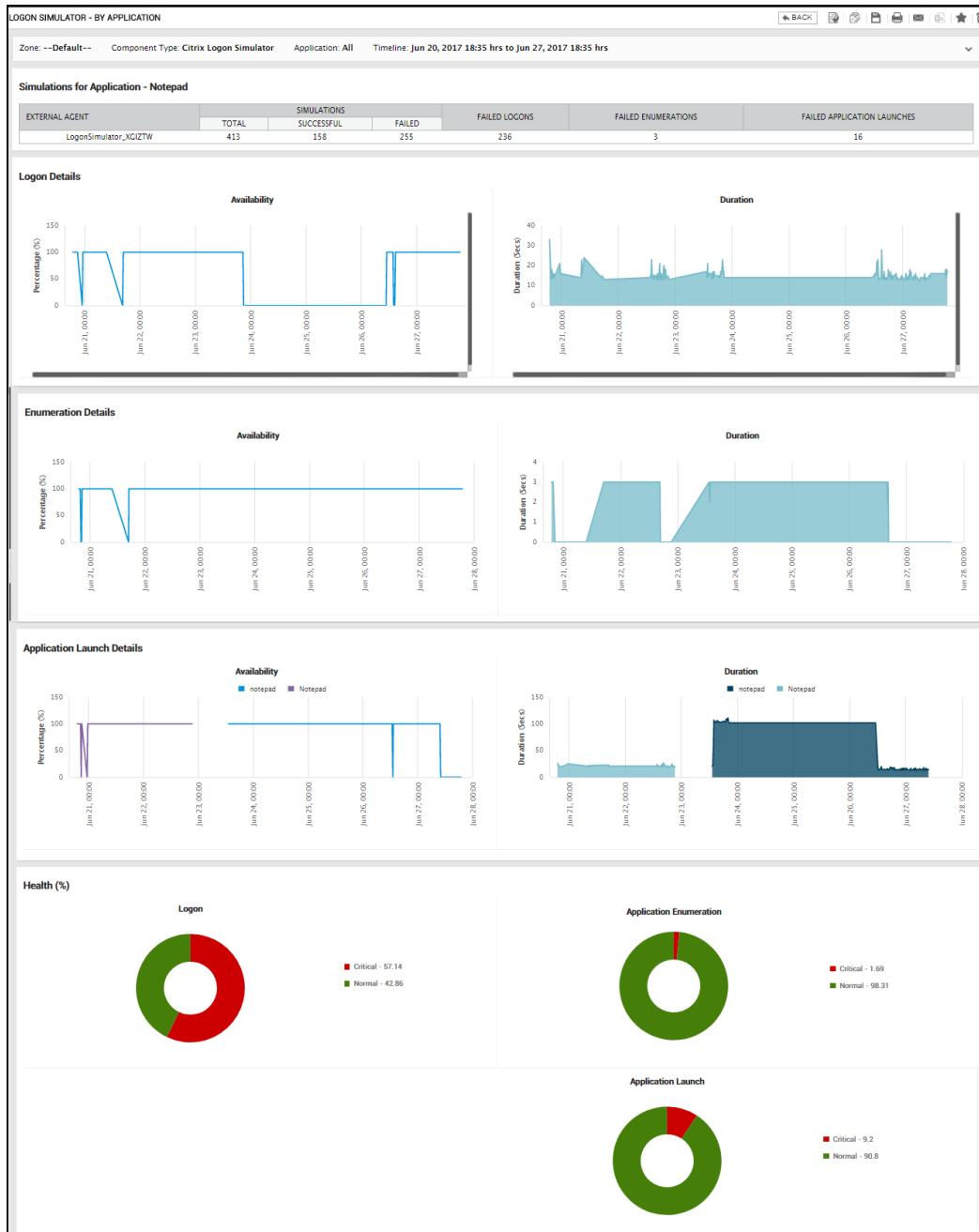


Figure 1.27: Deep dive diagnostics related to the simulations for a particular application/desktop

From Figure 1.27, you can instantly infer if simulations for the application/desktop have failed more often than they have succeeded. If so, Figure 1.27 also points you to the probable cause of these failures - login? enumeration? or application launch? You can then use the graphs in Figure 1.27 to isolate exactly when during the given timeline, simulations for that application/desktop failed or took longer than usual. Ascertain the overall application health during the specified timeline using the

Application Health doughnut in Figure 1.27. This will reveal whether the application/desktop was healthy or in an abnormal state the majority of time.

The **Logon Simulator - By Simulator Agent** report (see Figure 1.28 and Figure 1.29) is ideal if you have configured multiple Logon Simulator Agents in different locations to perform the simulations. Using this report, you can:

- Easily compare the historical simulation results of the different agents;
- Accurately identify the agent that has reported issues much frequently than the rest;
- Zoom into the simulations performed by that agent and figure out if the agent location is the reason for the frequent issues;

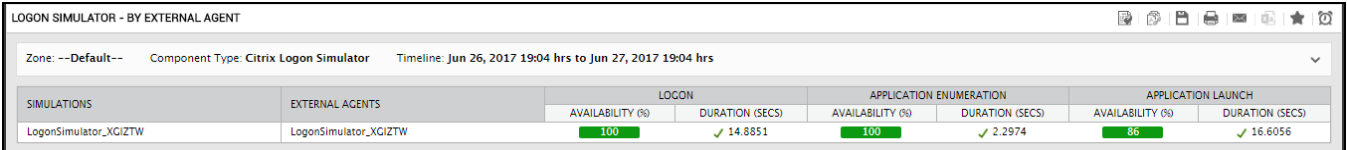


Figure 1.28: The Logon Simulator - By External Agent Report reporting logon performance metrics captured by all agents

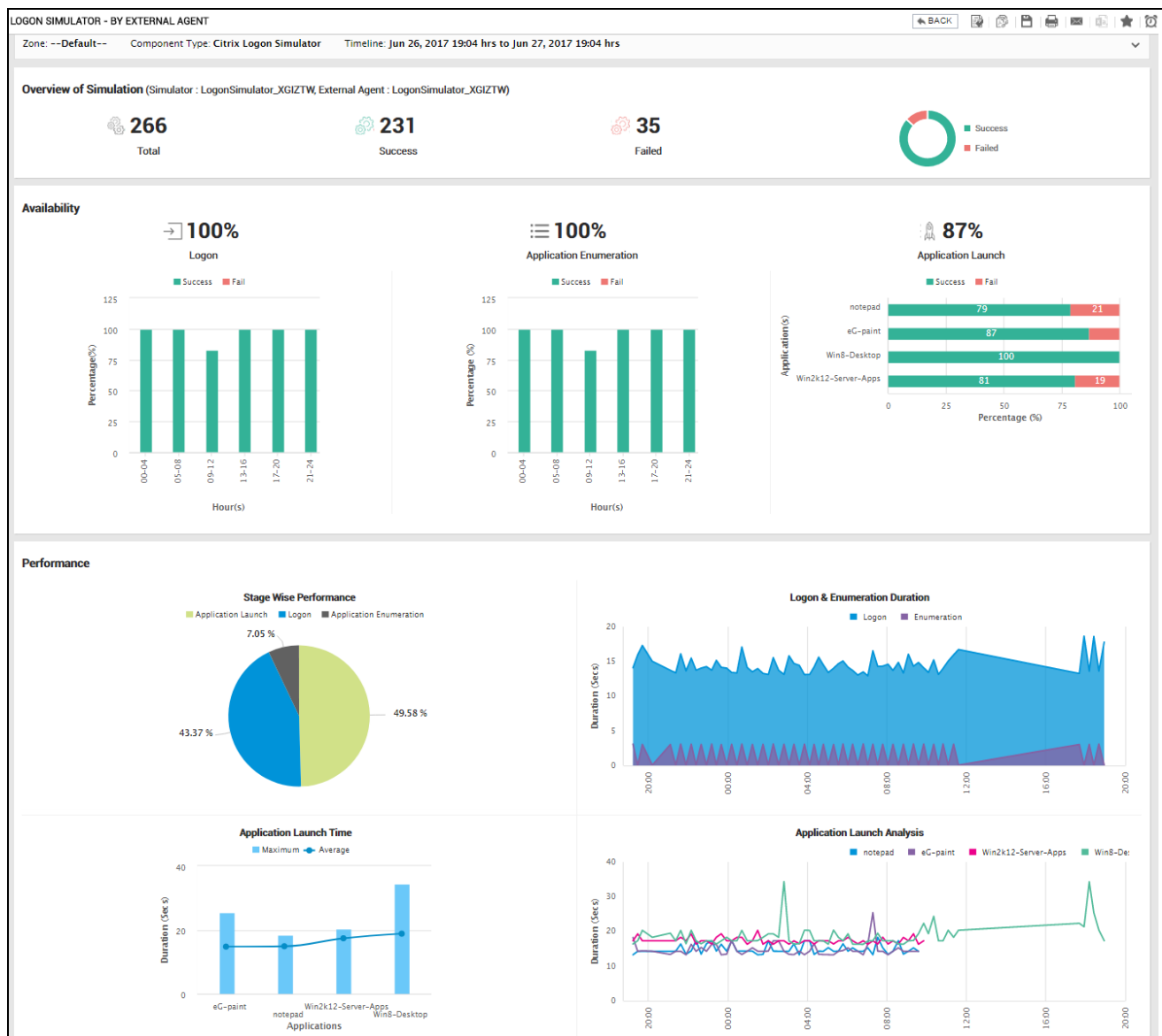


Figure 1.29: Zooming into the simulation results reported by a particular agent

Note:

The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix maintains a rolling history of seven (7) days for storing logon simulation monitoring data. The reports discussed in this topic are generated using this data only. Data for any given day (stored by the free logon simulator) will be purged after a seven (7) day period, and will not be available to you for access via the logon simulator portal or any other means.

1.13 Enabling Email Notifications for Issues


If you want the alerts raised in the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop to be sent over email, then you can do so using the **USER PROFILE** window. This window appears when you click on the  icon in the tool bar of the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop.



Figure 1.30: Clicking the User Profile icon

In Figure 1.31 that appears, simply click **Critical** or **Major** or **Minor** or a combination of criticality under the **Alarms by Mail** flag to receive email alerts on problematic conditions experienced during the simulation process. In our example below, since **Critical** is chosen, the email notifications are sent only when critical alarms are generated.



USER PROFILE

User ID
partha.pm@eginnovations.com
(login does not expire)

Alarms by Mail

☒ Critical ☐ Major ☐ Minor

Mail ID

partha.pm@eginnovations.com

CC

BCC

Submit [Edit Profile](#)

Figure 1.31: Setting the Alarms by Mail flag to Critical

1.14 Benefits of the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix

The key benefits of the express simulator are as follows:

- **Deliver great user experience for Citrix users:** Provide fast and uninterrupted Citrix services
- **Proactively detect Citrix logon issues** before end-users and business services are affected
- **Speed up mean time to resolution (MTTR):** Find and fix Citrix logon problems before users call the helpdesk
- **Benchmark and optimize your Citrix infrastructure:** Be the first to know if any changes are impacting the Citrix logon experience
- **Complete visibility into Citrix logon performance:** Monitor real user logon experience and simulation results from a single console

1.15 Going Beyond the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix

The eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix is a useful tool for Citrix administrators to simulate and proactively monitor logon simulation in their XenApp and XenDesktop environments. You can go beyond the capabilities of the free logon simulator and get comprehensive Citrix monitoring, diagnosing and troubleshooting capabilities with eG Enterprise – a Citrix Ready performance monitoring solution for any size Citrix environment. eG Enterprise includes logon simulation capabilities, as well as real user experience monitoring capabilities.

Comparison of Features of the eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix and eG Enterprise Citrix Monitoring Suite

Key Features	eG Enterprise Express Logon Simulator for Citrix	eG Enterprise (Full-Featured Citrix Monitoring Solution)
Logon Simulation		
Number of Citrix farm URLs supported	Only one	Unlimited
Number of applications and desktops supported	Up to 3 applications or desktops (1 per user)	Unlimited
Number of users supported	Up to 3 users	Unlimited
Historical data retention for trending and reporting	Rolling history of up to 7 days	Unlimited
In-Depth Citrix Performance Monitoring		
Simulate the entire Citrix session (including user access to published applications)	No	Yes
Real user experience monitoring (ICA/HDX insights)	No	Yes

Performance monitoring of XenApp, XenDesktop, StoreFront, NetScaler, PVS, XenMobile, ShareFile, etc.	No	Yes
Automatic correlation and root cause diagnosis	No	Yes
Automatic dependency mapping and monitoring of the supporting infrastructure (network, storage, virtualization, cloud, etc.)	No	Yes
Out-of-the-box reports for capacity planning, forecasting and right-sizing	No	Yes
Deployment options	Only SaaS	On-premises or SaaS

About eG Innovations

eG Innovations provides intelligent performance management solutions that automate and dramatically accelerate the discovery, diagnosis, and resolution of IT performance issues in on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments. Where traditional monitoring tools often fail to provide insight into the performance drivers of business services and user experience, eG Innovations provides total performance visibility across every layer and every tier of the IT infrastructure that supports the business service chain. From desktops to applications, from servers to network and storage, from virtualization to cloud, eG Innovations helps companies proactively discover, instantly diagnose, and rapidly resolve even the most challenging performance and user experience issues.

eG Innovations is dedicated to helping businesses across the globe transform IT service delivery into a competitive advantage and a center for productivity, growth and profit. Many of the world's largest businesses use eG Enterprise to enhance IT service performance, increase operational efficiency, ensure IT effectiveness and deliver on the ROI promise of transformational IT investments across physical, virtual and cloud environments.

To learn more visit www.eginnovations.com.

Contact Us

For support queries, email support@eginnovations.com.

To contact eG Innovations sales team, email sales@eginnovations.com.

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