superlance Documentation

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Superlance is a package of plugin utilities for monitoring and controlling processes that run under Supervisor. It provides these plugins:

- httpok This plugin is meant to be used as a supervisor event listener, subscribed to TICK_* events. It tests that a given child process which must in the RUNNING state, is viable via an HTTP GET request to a configured URL. If the request fails or times out, httpok will restart the "hung" child process.
- **crashmail** This plugin is meant to be used as a supervisor event listener, subscribed to PROCESS_STATE_EXITED events. It email a user when a process enters the EXITED state unexpectedly.
- **memmon** This plugin is meant to be used as a supervisor event listener, subscribed to TICK_* events. It monitors memory usage for configured child processes, and restarts them when they exceed a configured maximum size.
- **crashmailbatch** Similar to **crashmail**, **crashmailbatch** sends email alerts when processes die unexpectedly. The difference is that all alerts generated within the configured time interval are batched together to avoid sending too many emails.
- **fatalmailbatch** This plugin sends email alerts when processes fail to start too many times such that supervisord gives up retrying. All of the fatal start events generated within the configured time interval are batched together to avoid sending too many emails.
- **crashsms** Similar to **crashmailbatch** except it sends SMS alerts through an email gateway. Messages are formatted to fit in SMS.

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CHAPTER 1

httpok Documentation

httpok is a supervisor "event listener" which may be subscribed to a concrete TICK_5, TICK_60 or TICK_3600 event. When httpok receives a TICK_x event (TICK_60 is recommended, indicating activity every 60 seconds), httpok makes an HTTP GET request to a configured URL. If the request fails or times out, httpok will restart the "hung" child process(es). httpok can be configured to send an email notification when it restarts a process.

httpok can only monitor the process status of processes which are supervisord child processes.

httpok is a "console script" installed when you install superlance. Although **httpok** is an executable program, it isn't useful as a general-purpose script: it must be run as a **supervisor** event listener to do anything useful.

1.1 Command-Line Syntax

-p process_name>, --program=process_name>

Restart the **supervisord** child process named process_name if it is in the RUNNING state when the URL returns an unexpected result or times out.

This option can be provided more than once to have **httpok** monitor more than one process.

To monitor a process which is part of a **supervisord** group, specify its name as group_name:process_name.

-a, --any

Restart any child of **supervisord** in the RUNNING state if the URL returns an unexpected result or times out.

Overrides any -p parameters passed in the same **httpok** process invocation.

-g <gcore_program>, --gcore=<gcore_program>

Use the specifed program to goore the **supervisord** child process. The program should accept two arguments on the command line: a filename and a pid. Defaults to /usr/bin/goore -o.

-d <core_directory>, --coredir=<core_directory>

If a core directory is specified, **httpok** will try to use the goore program (see -g) to write a core file into this directory for each hung process before restarting it. It will then append any goore stdout output to the email message, if mail is configured (see the -m option below).

-t <timeout>, --timeout=<timeout>

The number of seconds that **httpok** should wait for a response to the HTTP request before timing out.

If this timeout is exceeded, **httpok** will attempt to restart child processes which are in the RUNNING state, and specified by $\neg p$ or $\neg a$.

Defaults to 10 seconds.

-c <http_status_code>, --code=<http_status_code>

Specify the expected HTTP status code for the configured URL.

If this status code is not the status code provided by the response, **httpok** will attempt to restart child processes which are in the RUNNING state, and specified by -p or -a.

Defaults to 200.

-b <body_string>, --body=<body_string>

Specify a string which should be present in the body resulting from the GET request.

If this string is not present in the response, **httpok** will attempt to restart child processes which are in the RUNNING state, and specified by $\neg p$ or $\neg a$.

The default is to ignore the body.

-s <sendmail_command>, --sendmail_program=<sendmail_command>

Specify the sendmail command to use to send email.

Must be a command which accepts header and message data on stdin and sends mail. Default is /usr/sbin/sendmail -t -i.

-m <email_address>, --email=<email_address>

Specify an email address to which notification messages are sent. If no email address is specified, email will not be sent.

-e, --eager

Enable "eager" monitoring: check the URL and emit mail even if no monitored child process is in the RUNNING state

Enabled by default.

-E, --not-eager

Disable "eager" monitoring: do not check the URL or emit mail if no monitored process is in the RUNNING state.

URL

The URL to which to issue a GET request.

-n <httpok name>, --name=<httpok name>

An optional name that identifies this httpok process. If given, the email subject will start with httpok [<httpok name>]: instead of httpok: In case you run multiple supervisors on a single host that control different processes with the same name (eg *zopeinstance1*) you can use this option to indicate which project the restarted instance belongs to.

1.2 Configuring httpok Into the Supervisor Config

An [eventlistener:x] section must be placed in supervisord.conf in order for httpok to do its work. See the "Events" chapter in the Supervisor manual for more information about event listeners.

The following example assumes that **httpok** is on your system PATH.

```
[eventlistener:httpok]
command=httpok -p program1 -p group1:program2 http://localhost:8080/tasty
events=TICK_60
```

crashmail Documentation

crashmail is a supervisor "event listener", intended to be subscribed to PROCESS_STATE_EXITED events. When **crashmail** receives that event, and the transition is "unexpected", **crashmail** sends an email notification to a configured address.

crashmail is incapable of monitoring the process status of processes which are not **supervisord** child processes.

crashmail is a "console script" installed when you install superlance. Although **crashmail** is an executable program, it isn't useful as a general-purpose script: it must be run as a **supervisor** event listener to do anything useful.

2.1 Command-Line Syntax

```
$ crashmail [-p processname] [-a] [-o string] [-m mail_address] \
    [-s sendmail]
```

-p process_name>, --program=process_name>

Send mail when the specified $\verb"supervisord"$ child process transitions unexpectedly to the EXITED state.

This option can be provided more than once to have crashmail monitor more than one program.

To monitor a process which is part of a **supervisord** group, specify its name as group_name:process_name.

-a, --any

Send mail when any $\verb"supervisord"$ child process transitions unexpectedly to the EXITED state.

Overrides any -p parameters passed in the same **crashmail** process invocation.

- -o prefix>, --optionalheader=<prefix>
 Specify a parameter used as a prefix in the mail Subject header.

Must be a command which accepts header and message data on stdin and sends mail. Default is /usr/sbin/sendmail -t -i.

-m <email_address>, --email=<email_address>

Specify an email address to which crash notification messages are sent. If no email address is specified, email will not be sent.

2.2 Configuring crashmail Into the Supervisor Config

An [eventlistener:x] section must be placed in supervisord.conf in order for crashmail to do its work. See the "Events" chapter in the Supervisor manual for more information about event listeners.

The following example assumes that crashmail is on your system PATH.

[eventlistener:crashmail]
command=crashmail -p program1 -p group1:program2 -m dev@example.com
events=PROCESS_STATE_EXITED

CHAPTER 3

memmon Overview

memmon is a supervisor "event listener" which may be subscribed to a concrete TICK_x event. When **memmon** receives a TICK_x event (TICK_60 is recommended, indicating activity every 60 seconds), **memmon** checks that a configurable list of programs (or all programs running under supervisor) are not exceeding a configurable amount of memory (resident segment size, or RSS). If one or more of these processes is consuming more than the amount of memory that **memmon** believes it should, **memmon** will restart the process. **memmon** can be configured to send an email notification when it restarts a process.

memmon is known to work on Linux and Mac OS X, but has not been tested on other operating systems (it relies on **ps** output and command-line switches).

memmon is incapable of monitoring the process status of processes which are not **supervisord** child processes. Without the *-cumulative* option, only the RSS of immediate children of the **supervisord** process will be considered.

memmon is a "console script" installed when you install superlance. Although **memmon** is an executable program, it isn't useful as a general-purpose script: it must be run as a **supervisor** event listener to do anything useful.

memmon uses Supervisor's XML-RPC interface. Your supervisord.conf file must have a valid [unix_http_server] or [inet_http_server] section, and must have an [rpcinterface:supervisor] section. If you are able to control your supervisord instance with supervisorctl, you have already met these requirements.

3.1 Command-Line Syntax

-h, --help

Show program help.

-c, --cumulative

Check against cumulative RSS. When calculating a process' RSS, also consider its child processes. With this option *memmon* will sum up the RSS of the process to be monitored and all its children.

-p <name/size pair>, --program=<name/size pair>

A name/size pair, e.g. "foo=1MB". The name represents the supervisor program name that you would like **memmon** to monitor; the size represents the number of bytes (suffix-multiplied using "KB", "MB" or "GB") that should be considered "too much".

This option can be provided more than once to have **memmon** monitor more than one program.

Programs can be specified using a "namespec", to disambiguate same-named programs in different groups, e.g. foo:bar represents the program bar in the foo group.

-g <name/size pair>, --groupname=<name/size pair>

A groupname/size pair, e.g. "group=1MB". The name represents the supervisor group name that you would like **memmon** to monitor; the size represents the number of bytes (suffix-multiplied using "KB", "MB" or "GB") that should be considered "too much".

Multiple –g options can be provided to have **memmon** monitor more than one group. If any process in this group exceeds the maximum, it will be restarted.

-a <size>, --any=<size>

A size (suffix-multiplied using "KB", "MB" or "GB") that should be considered "too much". If any program running as a child of supervisor exceeds this maximum, it will be restarted. E.g. 100MB.

-s <command>, --sendmail=<command>

A command that will send mail if passed the email body (including the headers). Defaults to /usr/sbin/sendmail -t -i.

Note: Specifying this option doesn't cause memmon to send mail by itself: see the -m / --email option.

-m <email address>, --email =<email address>

An email address to which to send email when a process is restarted. By default, memmon will not send any mail unless an email address is specified.

-u <email uptime limit>, --uptime=<email uptime limit>

Only send an email in case the restarted process' uptime (in seconds) is below this limit. (Useful to only get notified if a processes gets restarted too frequently)

Uptime is given in seconds (suffix-multiplied using "m" for minutes, "h" for hours or "d" for days)

-n <memmon name>, --name=<memmon name>

An optional name that identifies this memmon process. If given, the email subject will start with memmon [<memmon name>]: instead of memmon: In case you run multiple supervisors on a single host that control different processes with the same name (eg zopeinstance1) you can use this option to indicate which project the restarted instance belongs to.

3.2 Configuring memmon Into the Supervisor Config

An [eventlistener:x] section must be placed in supervisord.conf in order for memmon to do its work. See the "Events" chapter in the Supervisor manual for more information about event listeners.

If the [unix_http_server] or [inet_http_server] has been configured to use authentication, add the environment variables SUPERVISOR_USERNAME and SUPERVISOR_PASSWORD in the [eventlistener:x] section as shown in Example Configuration 5.

The following examples assume that **memmon** is on your system PATH.

3.2.1 Example Configuration 1

This configuration causes **memmon** to restart any process which is a child of **supervisord** consuming more than 200MB of RSS, and will send mail to bob@example.com when it restarts a process using the default **sendmail** command.

```
[eventlistener:memmon]
command=memmon -a 200MB -m bob@example.com
events=TICK_60
```

3.2.2 Example Configuration 2

This configuration causes **memmon** to restart any process with the supervisor program name foo consuming more than 200MB of RSS, and will send mail to bob@example.com when it restarts a process using the default sendmail command.

```
[eventlistener:memmon]
command=memmon -p foo=200MB -m bob@example.com
events=TICK_60
```

3.2.3 Example Configuration 3

This configuration causes **memmon** to restart any process in the process group "bar" consuming more than 200MB of RSS, and will send mail to bob@example.com when it restarts a process using the default **sendmail** command.

```
[eventlistener:memmon]
command=memmon -g bar=200MB -m bob@example.com
events=TICK_60
```

3.2.4 Example Configuration 4

This configuration causes **memmon** to restart any process meeting the same requirements as in *Example Configuration* 2 with one difference:

The email will only be sent if the process' uptime is less or equal than 2 days (172800 seconds)

```
[eventlistener:memmon]
command=memmon -p foo=200MB -m bob@example.com -u 2d
events=TICK_60
```

3.2.5 Example Configuration 5 (Authentication)

This configuration is the same as the one in *Example Configuration 1* with the only difference being that the [unix_http_server] or [inet_http_server] has been configured to use authentication.

```
[eventlistener:memmon]
command=memmon -a 200MB -m bob@example.com
environment=SUPERVISOR_USERNAME="<username>",SUPERVISOR_PASSWORD="<password>"
events=TICK_60
```

crashmailbatch Documentation

crashmailbatch is a supervisor "event listener", intended to be subscribed to PROCESS_STATE and TICK_60 events. It monitors all processes running under a given supervisord instance.

Similar to **crashmail**, **crashmailbatch** sends email alerts when processes die unexpectedly. The difference is that all alerts generated within the configured time interval are batched together to avoid sending too many emails.

crashmailbatch is a "console script" installed when you install superlance. Although **crashmailbatch** is an executable program, it isn't useful as a general-purpose script: it must be run as a **supervisor** event listener to do anything useful.

4.1 Command-Line Syntax

- -i <interval>, --interval=<interval>
 Specify the time interval in minutes to use for batching notifications. Defaults to 1.0 minute.
- -s <email subject>, --subject=<email subject>
 Override the email subject line. Defaults to "Crash alert from supervisord"
- -e <event name>, --tickEvent=<event name>
 Override the TICK event name. Defaults to "TICK_60"

4.2 Configuring crashmailbatch Into the Supervisor Config

An [eventlistener:x] section must be placed in supervisord.conf in order for crashmailbatch to do its work. See the "Events" chapter in the Supervisor manual for more information about event listeners.

The following example assumes that **crashmailbatch** is on your system PATH.

fatalmailbatch Documentation

fatalmailbatch is a supervisor "event listener", intended to be subscribed to PROCESS_STATE and TICK_60 events. It monitors all processes running under a given supervisord instance.

fatalmailbatch sends email alerts when processes fail to start too many times such that supervisord gives up retrying. All of the fatal start events generated within the configured time interval are batched together to avoid sending too many emails.

fatalmailbatch is a "console script" installed when you install superlance. Although **fatalmailbatch** is an executable program, it isn't useful as a general-purpose script: it must be run as a **supervisor** event listener to do anything useful.

5.1 Command-Line Syntax

- -s <email subject>, --subject=<email subject>
 Override the email subject line. Defaults to "Fatal start alert from supervisord"

5.2 Configuring fatalmailbatch Into the Supervisor Config

An [eventlistener:x] section must be placed in supervisord.conf in order for **fatalmailbatch** to do its work. See the "Events" chapter in the Supervisor manual for more information about event listeners.

The following example assumes that **fatalmailbatch** is on your system PATH.

crashsms Documentation

crashsms is a supervisor "event listener", intended to be subscribed to PROCESS_STATE events and TICK events such as TICK_60. It monitors all processes running under a given supervisord instance.

Similar to **crashmailbatch**, **crashsms** sends SMS alerts through an email gateway. Messages are formatted to fit in SMS

crashsms is a "console script" installed when you install superlance. Although **crashsms** is an executable program, it isn't useful as a general-purpose script: it must be run as a **supervisor** event listener to do anything useful.

6.1 Command-Line Syntax

- -f <source email>, --fromEmail=<source email>
 Specify an email address from which crash notification messages are sent.
- -i <interval>, --interval=<interval>
 Specify the time interval in minutes to use for batching notifications. Defaults to 1.0 minute.
- -s <email subject>, --subject=<email subject>
 Set the email subject line. Default is None
- -e <event name>, --tickEvent=<event name>
 Override the TICK event name. Defaults to "TICK_60"

6.2 Configuring crashsms Into the Supervisor Config

An [eventlistener:x] section must be placed in supervisord.conf in order for **crashsms** to do its work. See the "Events" chapter in the Supervisor manual for more information about event listeners.

The following example assumes that **crashsms** is on your system PATH.

```
[eventlistener:crashsms]
command=crashsms --toEmail="<mobile number>@<sms email gateway>" --fromEmail=
→"supervisord@fubar.com"
events=PROCESS_STATE,TICK_60
```

Resources and Development

7.1 Bug Tracker

Superlance has a bug tracker where you may report any bugs or other errors you find. Please report bugs to the GitHub issues page.

7.2 Version Control Repository

You can also view the Superlance version control repository.

7.3 Contributing

Pull requests can be submitted to the Superlance repository on GitHub.

In the time since Superlance was created, there are now many third party plugins for Supervisor. Most new plugins should be in their own package rather than added to Superlance.

7.4 Author Information

The following people are responsible for creating Superlance.

7.4.1 Original Author

Chris McDonough is the original author of Superlance.

7.4.2 Contributors

Contributors are tracked on the GitHub contributions page.

The list below is included for historical reasons. It records contributors who signed a legal agreement. The legal agreement was introduced in January 2014 but later withdrawn in April 2014. This list is being preserved in case it is useful later (e.g. if at some point there was a desire to donate the project to a foundation that required such agreements).

- Chris McDonough, 2008-09-18
- Tres Seaver, 2009-02-11
- Roger Hoover, 2010-07-30
- Joaquín Cuenca Abela, 2011-06-23
- Harald Friessnegger, 2012-11-01
- Mikhail Lukyanchenko, 2013-12-23
- Patrick Gerken, 2014-01-27

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