

Understanding Global Service Monitor

Global Service Monitor is provided as a management pack for Operations Manager and as part of an online offering such as a cloud-based service. Global Service Monitor provides an external view of websites for an organization. Global Service Monitor has two primary components: an online component managed by Microsoft and an Operations Manager component, which is handled as a management pack.

It's important to understand how Global Service Monitor fits within an enterprise scenario. Global Service Monitor is used for monitoring externally facing websites, such as those hosted through Microsoft Azure; as such, it fits within but isn't intended to be a replacement for Operations Manager but rather an enhancement to an Operations Manager installation. Global Service Monitor facilitates and makes easy the process of setting up multiple, globally dispersed monitoring locations for web applications.

The next section describes importing management packs as well as additional monitoring scenarios discussed in the objective domain for the 70-414 exam. Once a management pack is imported and a subscription started, you can configure monitoring through Operations Manager. Tests run with Global Service Monitor can be executed from multiple locations around the world so that you can have a complete view into your web application.

The simplest of tests is the Web Application Availability Monitoring test, which performs a basic HTTP request from an external location. If you need a more complex test, such as when you need to view multistep transactions or provide authentication details, then the Visual Studio Web Test Monitoring scenario is the correct choice. Finally, Web Application Transaction Monitoring provides monitoring for internal web applications that aren't available from external locations.

When configuring a test, you can set several parameters, such as the length of time that a request can take, the interval between requests, whether to look for specific text on the resulting page, and many additional settings, as shown in Figure 1-4.

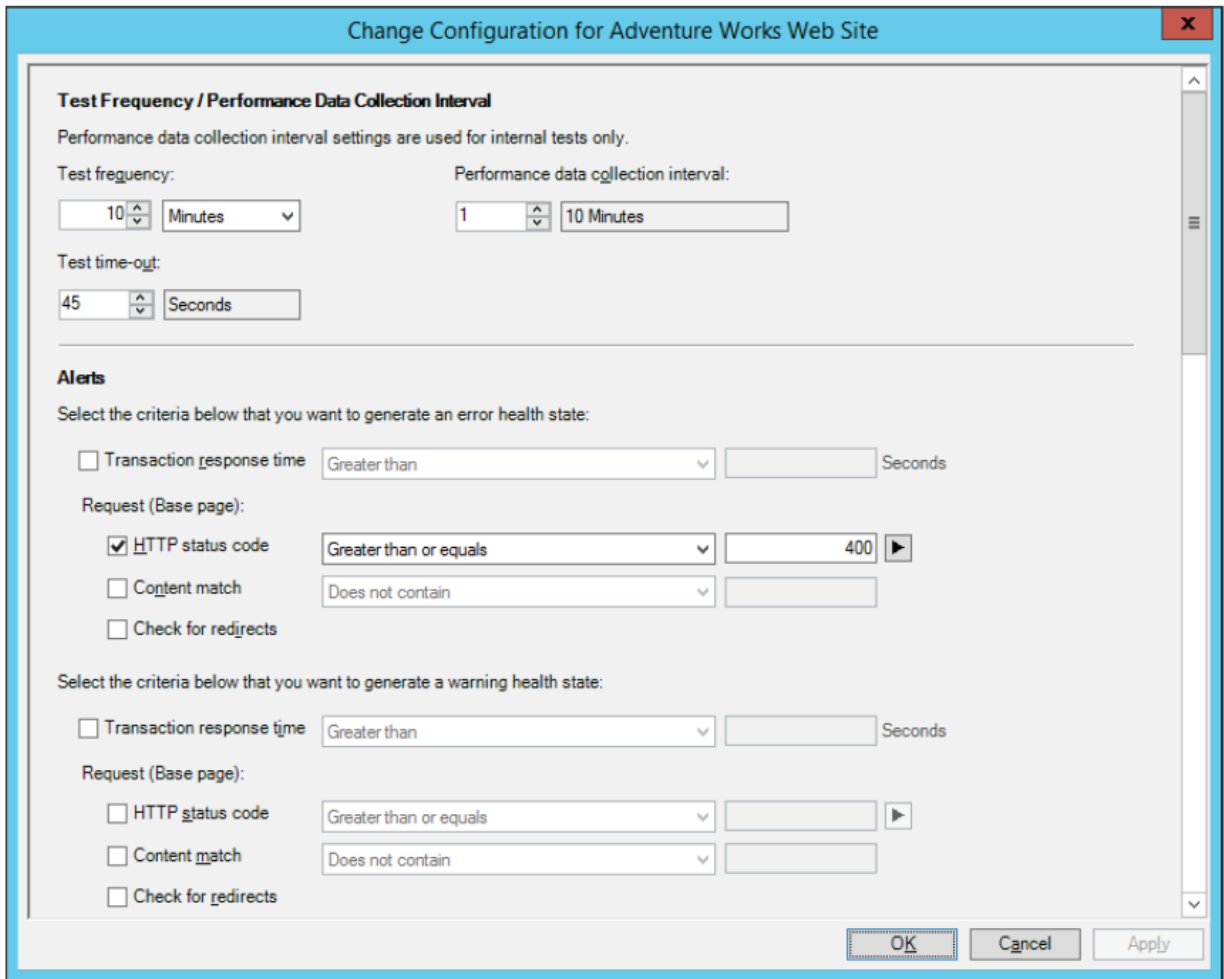


FIGURE 1-4 Configuring parameters related to a web availability test in Global Service Monitor

These settings are useful when you need to ensure specific behavior of a webpage or ensure that the page is served in less than a certain number of seconds. You can even check portions of the request, such as the time it takes to receive the first byte, the time it takes for DNS resolution, and so on.

When integrating Global Service Monitor into a monitoring design, consider the areas from which your customers will most likely access your website. Choose external monitoring locations close to your customer base.