Using the Tail utility on log files

Introduction

The Tail utility is useful for watching real time activity on log files from a Windows PC. Applications include watching who is visiting which web sites and highlighting if sites are being blocked – e.g. users are attempting to get to porn sites etc. The example here shows Tail being used in conjunction with the 'Filter' log file, but can be used with other logfiles. User authentication and N2H2 has been enabled on this unit.

The Tail utility can be used on log files can be created on NetPilot, CachePilot and SentryPilot. The terminology "NetPilot" is used below. The examples are actually shown on a CachePilot - concepts and commands are common across the range for this functionality.

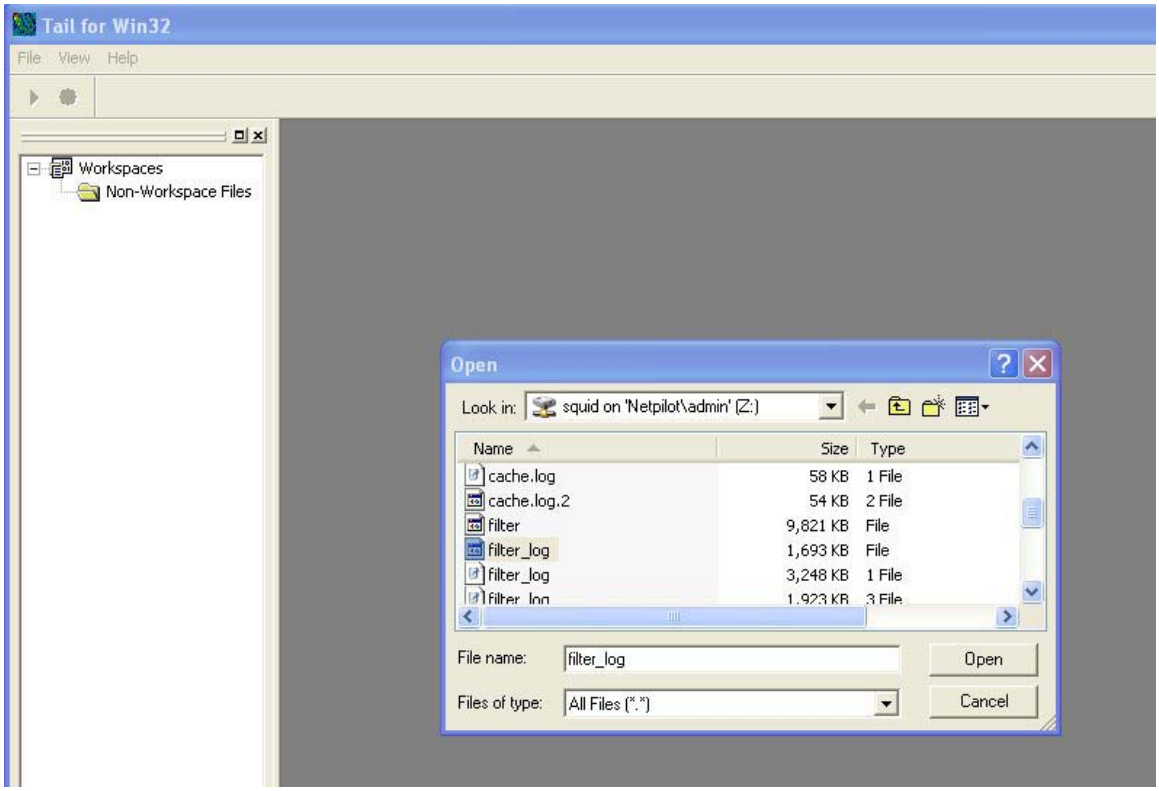
Where to download Tail

From : http://www.netpilot.com/support/SupportTools/default.asp

Detail

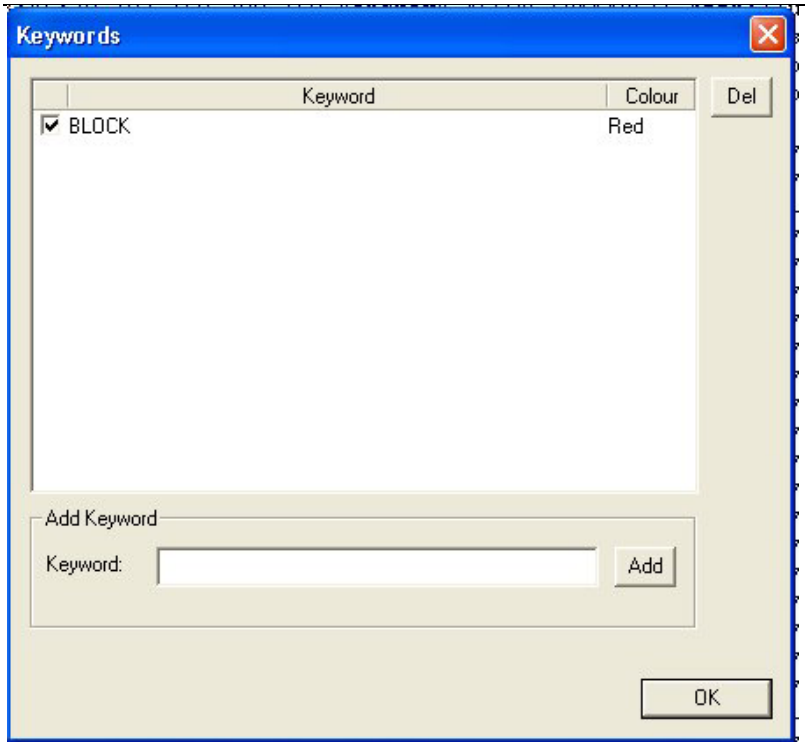
Start by mapping the admin account on your NetPilot/CachePilot/SentryPilot to a Drive letter

Enter Tail and Open the current Filter_log file

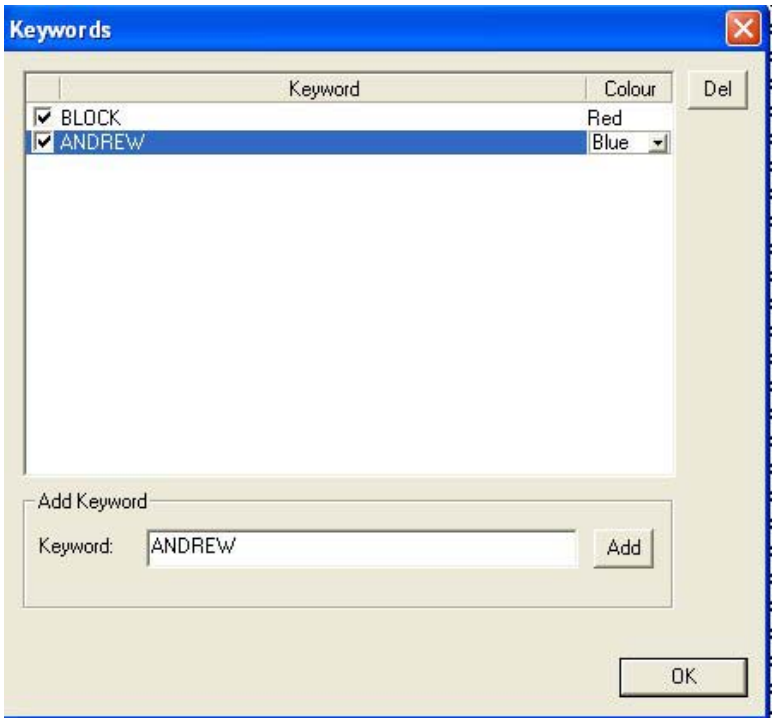


In order to highlight blocked sites select menu item **Settings** then **Keywords**.

Enter the keyword **BLOCK** and click on **Add** button



Multiple Keywords with differing colours can be set up as shown below



The screen below shows a Block message being highlighted in Red – some is accessing a prohibited site.

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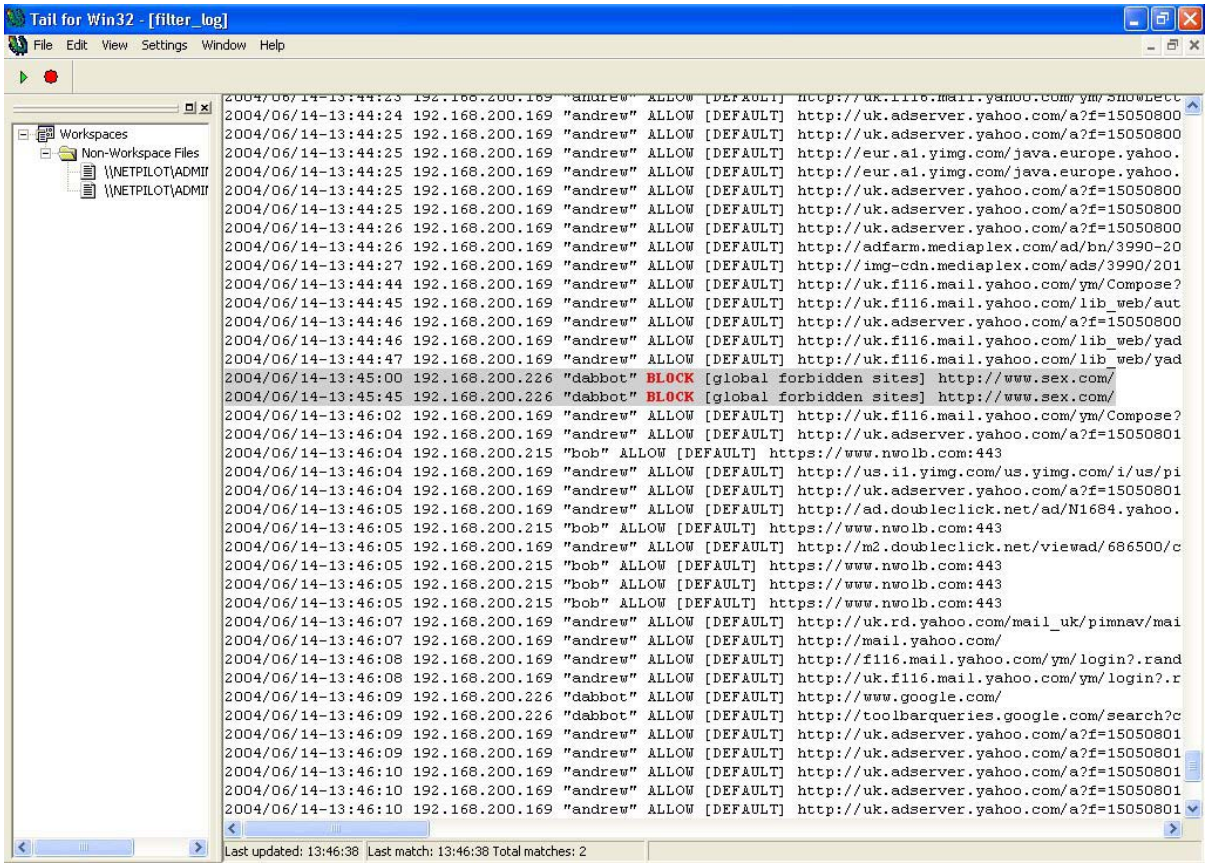

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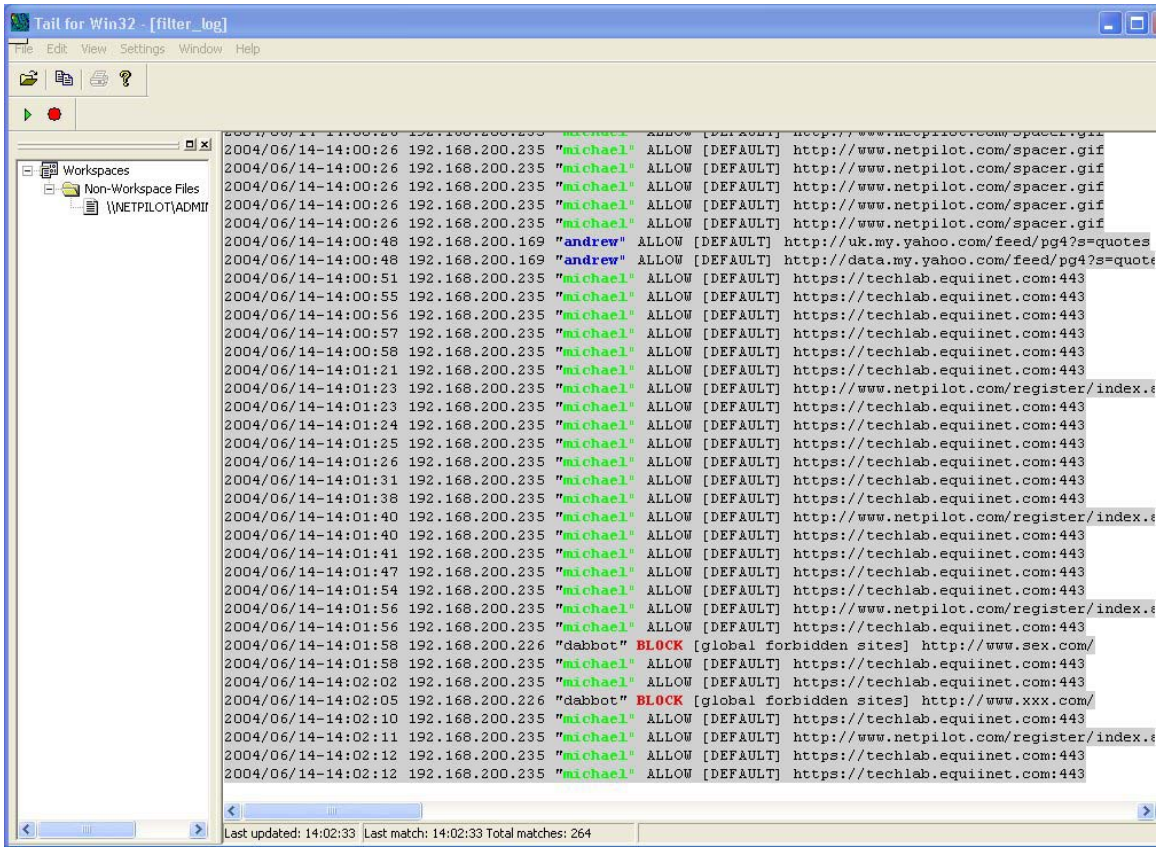
The example below shows user ‘Andrew’ being highlighted in Blue, while any Block messages being generated by any user will be in Red. User ‘Michael’ is in Green.



Tail can also be configured to only display the log messages you trap with Keywords by selecting **Settings** and **Show only Hot Items**, and in addition to give an audible alarm each time a trap occurs.