

Chapter 1

Introduction to the HTML-based Report Generation Feature

1.1 Foreword

Servers Alive is a versatile tool that enables you to monitor from one central place diverse servers and services that may be dispersed geographically, and report to you their status on demand.

One way to obtain this report is to use the HTML-based output-generation feature available in the software. This feature may be set up at any stage: immediately after installing the software or after months or years of successful use. You may create as many templates as required, and map individual entries or an entire group of entries to specific templates depending on what parameter(s) you wish to report.

There are three steps involved:

- I. Preparing an HTML template file with a .htm extension.
- II. Introducing this template file to Servers Alive.
- III. Mapping entries to the template file introduced in step II.

This chapter discusses these three steps.

1.2 Step I: Preparing an HTML template file with a .htm extension

This file may be created using a text editor, like Notepad, or a web editor like DreamWeaver, and should be given an .htm extension. This template file should follow this pattern:

```
<HTML>
```

```
<HEAD>
```

```
</HEAD>
```

```
<BODY>
```

```
{Core Reporting, enclosed between <sa_report> and </sa_report>}
```

```
</BODY>
```

```
</HTML>
```

Every entry that you want to be shown in this template HTML file will appear in the {Core Reporting} section. The two tags that bracket this core reporting are <sa_report> and </sa_report>, and allow Servers Alive to determine where you want to have your entry status details placed.

You may wish to create one template file for each corresponding entry in the Servers Alive software whose performance you wish to monitor, or for groups of entries that will show unique sets of information detail. Subsequent chapters describe the special HTML tags provided by Servers Alive that can be deployed for report generation, and their functionality and usage.

1.3 Step II: Introducing this template file to Servers Alive

After the template file is ready, it may be introduced to Servers Alive as follows:

1. Click on File -> Setup -> Output -> HTML Page -> Default Page.

☒ Publish this webpage (Default page) Add to ... Add Delete

Page name: ... Generate

☒ Template base Clear Cache

Template file: ...

Header file: ...

Footer file: ...

Look: ☒ Technical ☐ Manager

Exclude time info: ☐ Yes ☒ No

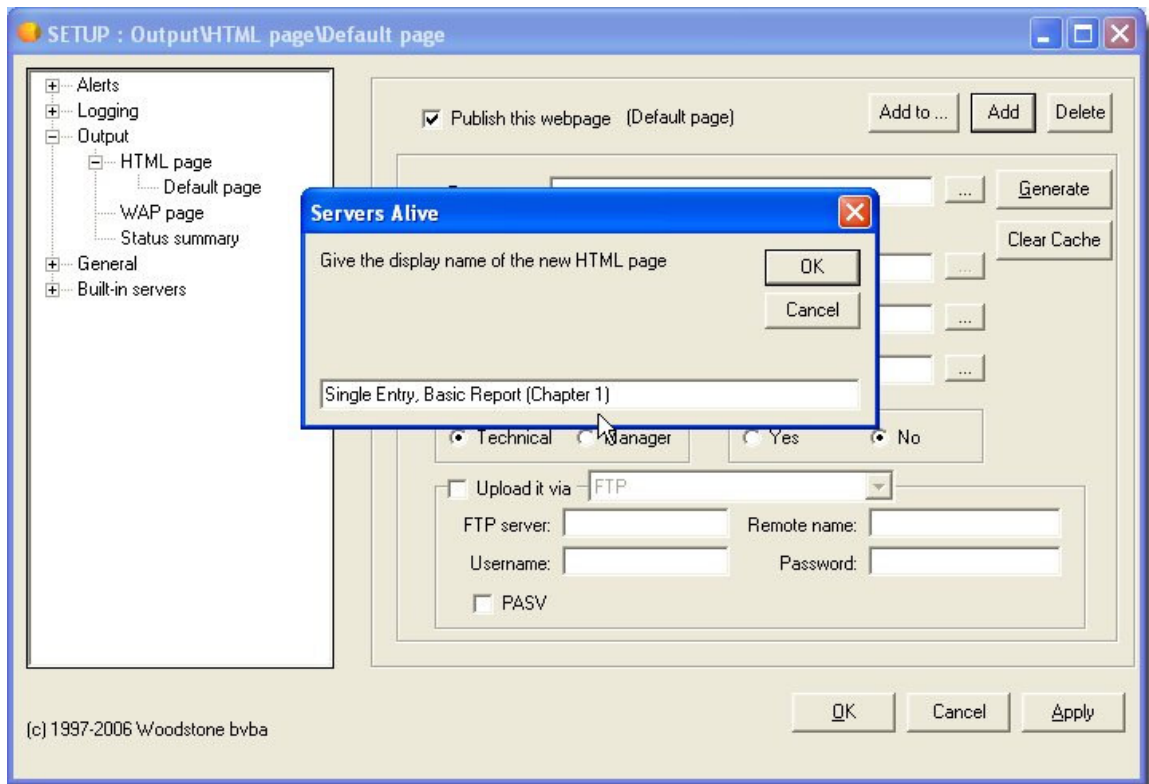
☒ Upload it via FTP

FTP server: Remote name:

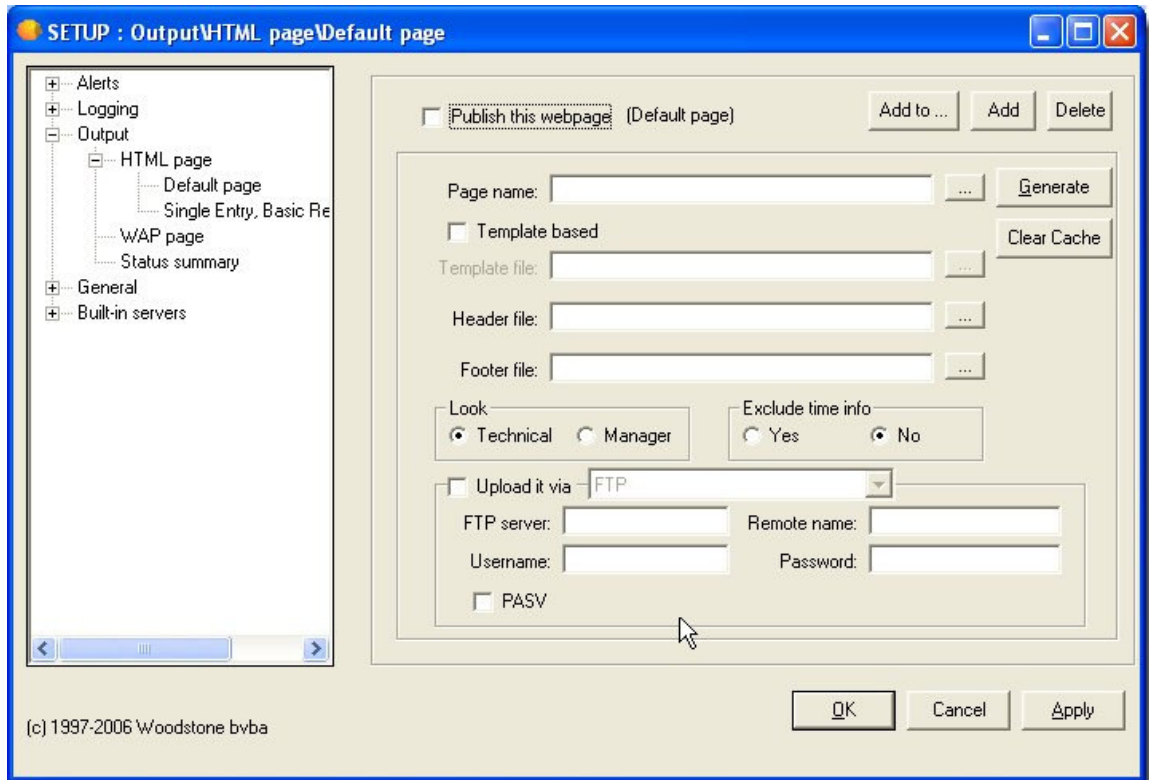
Username: Password:

☐ PASV

2. Click on the "Add" button on top; this button lies between "Add to ..." and "Delete" buttons. We are creating a fresh HTML report page here.
3. Enter an appropriate name for the HTML page as it will appear in Servers Alive records. Click on OK when done.

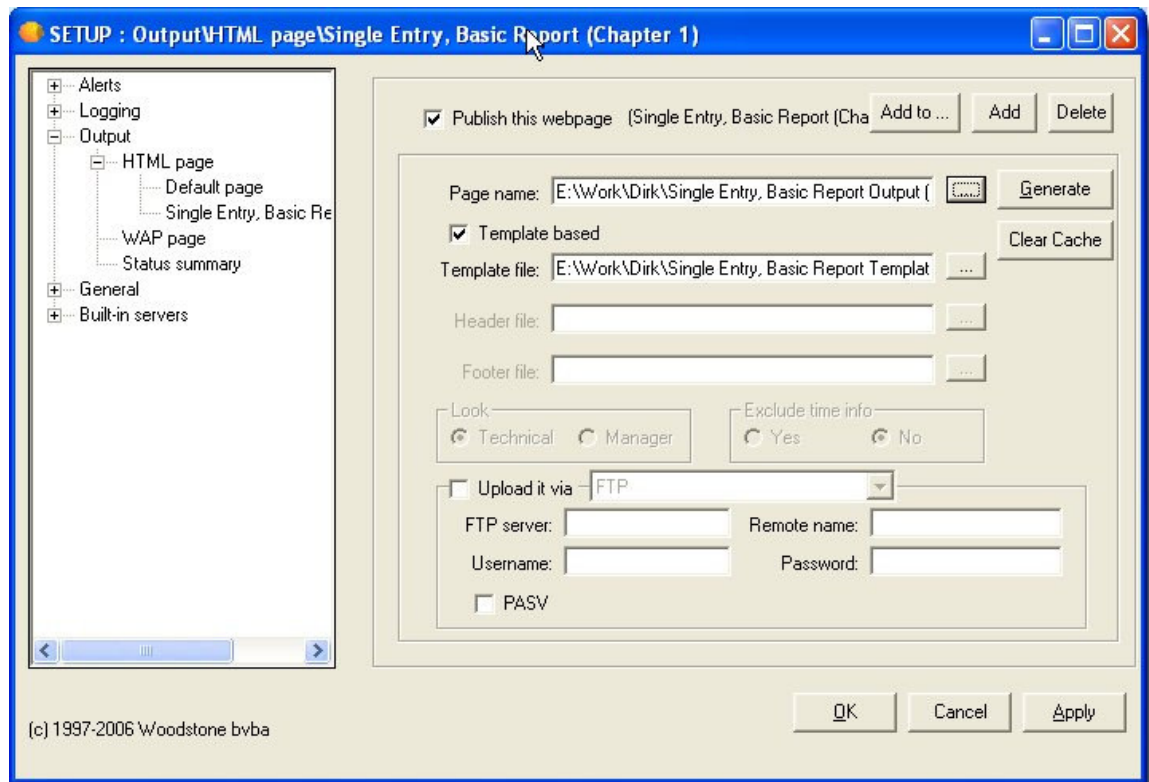


4. The new HTML page name entered by you appears in the left panel, below the entry - "Default Page". Click on this new entry, and the properties of this new HTML page name appear on the right.



5. Check the box against - "Publish this webpage". It may be noted that any entry within the box below the "Publish this webpage" title will be editable only when the "Publish this webpage" is activated by checking it.
6. Check the box labeled "Template based", the objective of this tutorial.
7. Click on the ellipses button [...] –beside the "Template File" text box. The standard Windows open dialog box will appear, which you can use to navigate to reach the folder where the template file created by you in step 1 above is stored. After selecting the desired file and the "Open" button clicked, the entire path appears in the "Template File" field box.
8. Click on the ellipses button [...] beside the "Page Name" text box. The standard Windows open dialog box will appear, which you use to can navigate to reach the folder where you want the HTML report - the desired output of this tutorial - to be stored. After reaching the folder, you may enter an appropriate name that you wish the report file to have. Clicking on the "Open" button causes the entire path of the output report file to appear in the "Page Name" field box.

At the end of step 5 above, the screen looks similar to the one below:



9. Click on "Apply" at the bottom of the screen, and then click "OK". This will cause this particular box to close.

10. Repeat steps 2 through 9 for every entry + HTML file combination that you have planned in step I above.

It is quite possible for you to have one single HTML template file created in step I, but have the output directed to a separate output-file corresponding to each entry or group.

Servers Alive gives the option to join different entries into one group, and monitor their performance in one single report. In such a case, in step I, you may use the Servers Alive-special tags that are appropriate for such group monitoring (discussed later) to create the HTML file, and follow through with step II exactly as outlined.

1.4 Step III: Mapping Entries To The Template File Introduced In Step II

The procedure to map entries to the template file introduced in step II may depend on the following possible situations:

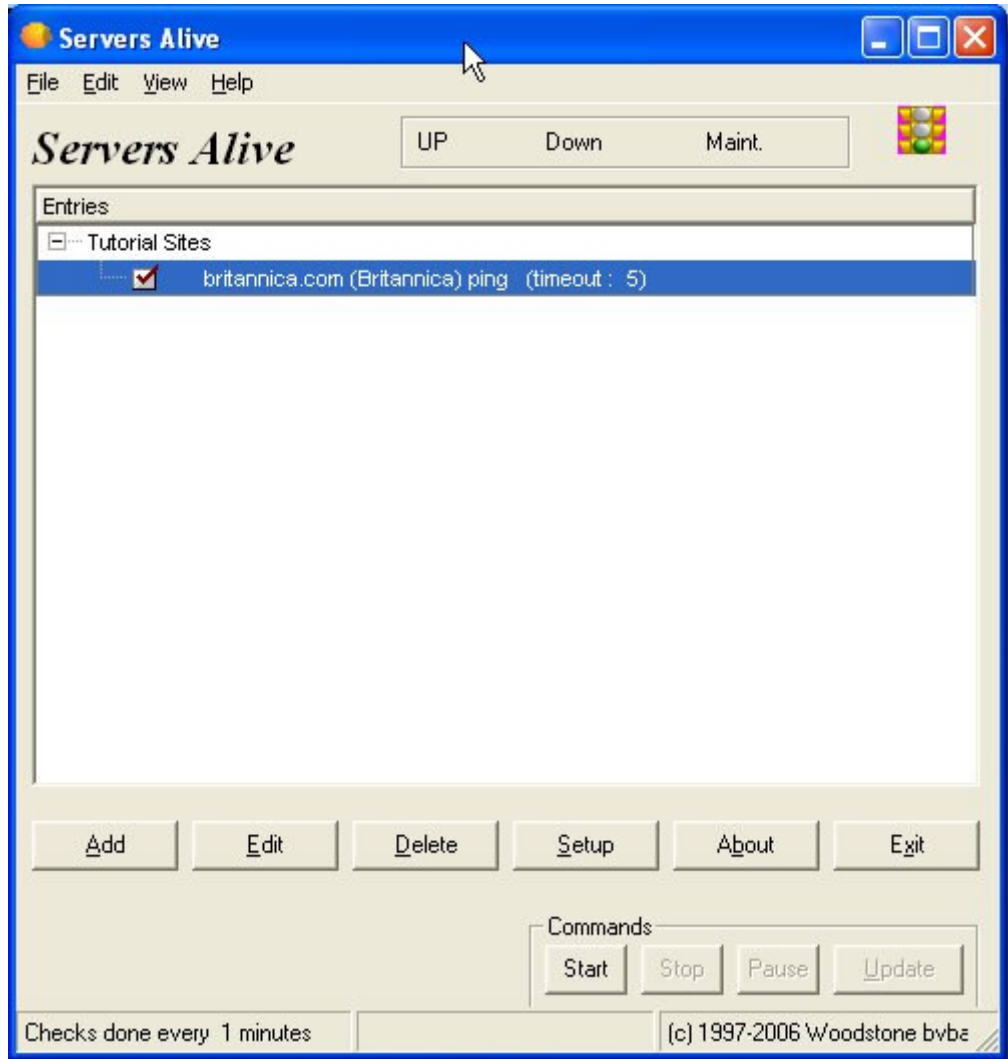
Situation 1: You have a single entry in Servers Alive, or a bunch of disparate entries not joined together into any group.

Situation 2: You have a bunch of entries joined together under a single group.

We discuss each of these situations separately.

1.4.1 Situation 1. You have a single entry in Servers Alive, or a bunch of disparate entries not joined together into any group

For a single entry, after you have clicked on "Apply" and "OK" in the screen presented in Step II above, the software returns you to the main screen.



1. In the screen above, one single entry - www.britannica.com - has been created. It is presumed that when you clicked on "Add", you have already filled in relevant details of the "General" and "Check" tabs of the properties box that had popped up then. For more information on adding entries please refer to the standard Servers Alive documentation.

This time, you may click on the entry name to select it, and then click on "Edit" below. The properties box appears.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Entries : britannica.com" with a blue header bar and a red close button. Below the header is a tabbed interface with tabs for "General", "Check", "Alert", "Output", "Logging", "Schedule", "Custom", and "Network". The "General" tab is selected. The form contains the following fields:

- Server name or IP(X) address: britannica.com
- Pretty name: Britannica
- Host ID: 1
- Depends on: <none> (dropdown), being (dropdown), up (dropdown)
- Group membership: Tutorial Sites (dropdown)
- Remark: (text area)
- Active/Maintenance: Active (dropdown)

At the bottom left, it says "29/12/2006 11:18:16 AM by Sanjay". At the bottom right are "Cancel" and "Update" buttons.

2. Click on the "Output" tab to reach the following screen.

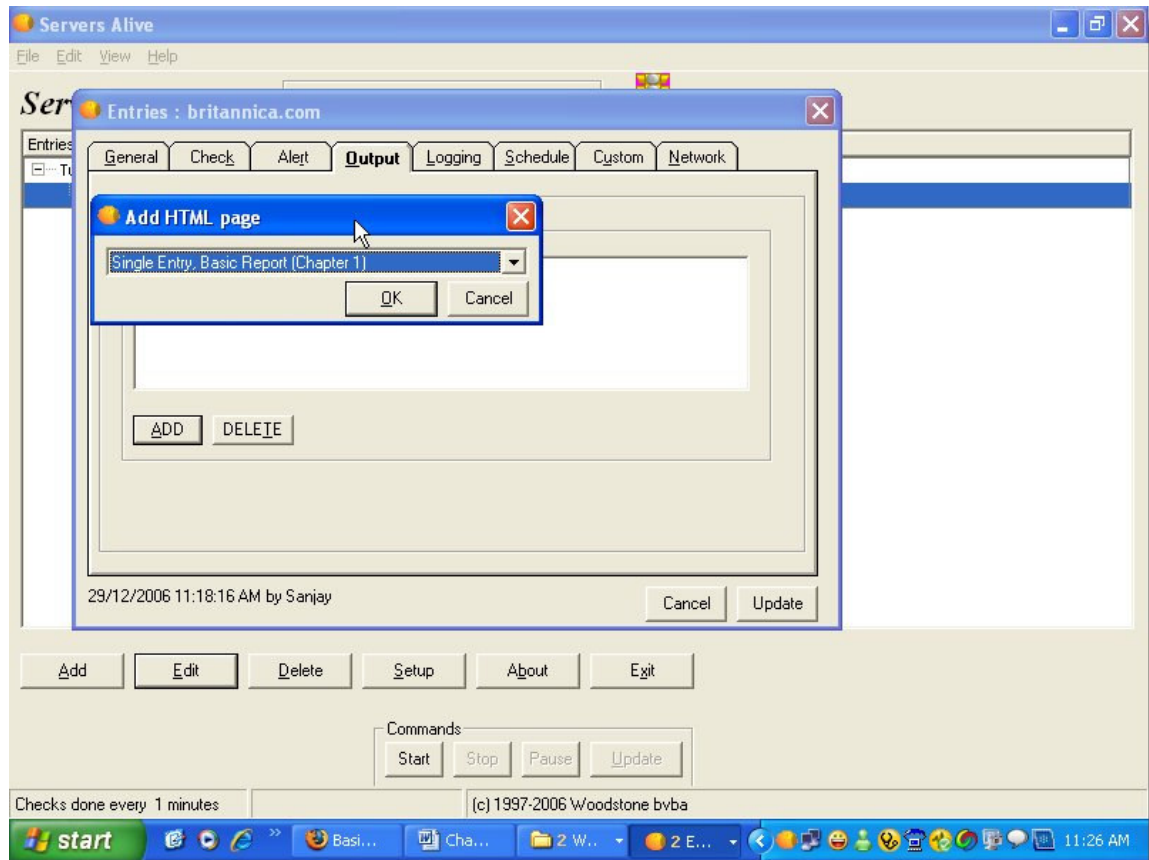
The screenshot shows the same window "Entries : britannica.com" but with the "Output" tab selected. The form contains the following elements:

- Include on the following HTML pages: (text area)
- ADD (button)
- DELETE (button)

At the bottom left, it says "29/12/2006 11:18:16 AM by Sanjay". At the bottom right are "Cancel" and "Update" buttons.

3. You might perhaps notice the phrase 'Default Page' already entered in the "Include on the following HTML pages" box. In case it is present, click on its entry in the box, and click on the "DELETE" button, and confirm its deletion. Now click the "ADD" button to add the HTML template file created and introduced to the software in steps I and II.

In this tutorial example, we have created the template - "Single Entry, Basic Report (Chapter 1)" HTML template file, and the same has been selected after clicking on "ADD".



Clicking on the "OK" yields the following screen:



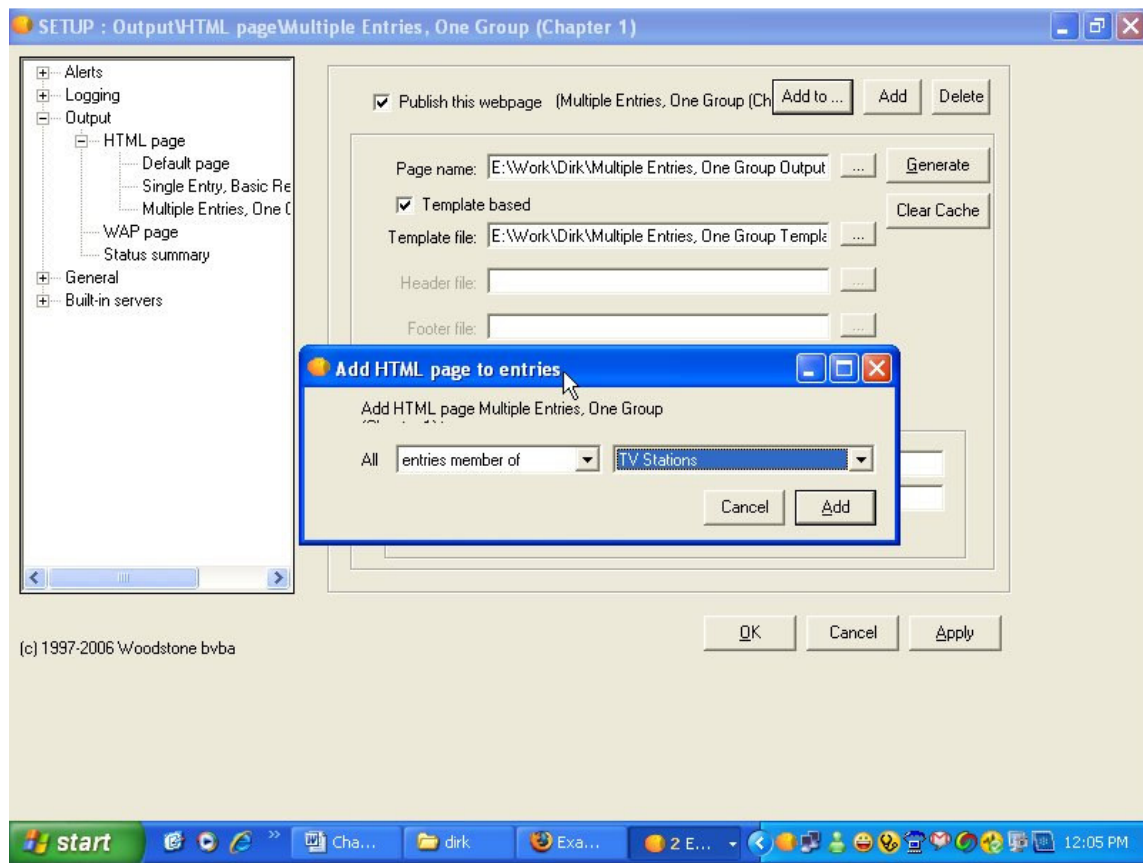
4. Now click on "Update" at the bottom of the properties box to complete the process.

This procedure may be followed for all the disparate entries that are not joined together.

1.4.2 Situation 2. You have a bunch of entries joined together under a single group

Entries that are joined together under a single group usually enjoy common properties. Perhaps you plan to monitor the performance of the group as a whole, in one screen. For this purpose, you may have created a single template file using special HTML tags that provide information about each entry in columnar fashion. In the screenshot below another template called "Multiple Entries, One Group" has been created to represent a group that will display in a single page, as opposed to a single entry.

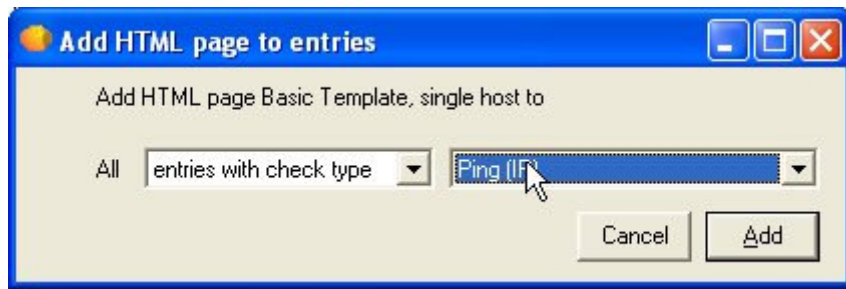
Mapping the individual entries in the group may be done exactly as discussed for [Situation 1](#) above. Alternatively, the mapping may be done for the entire group as a whole within Step II above. After completing the procedure from 1 through 8 in step II, click on the "Add to ..." button on the top, to the left of "Add" and "Delete".



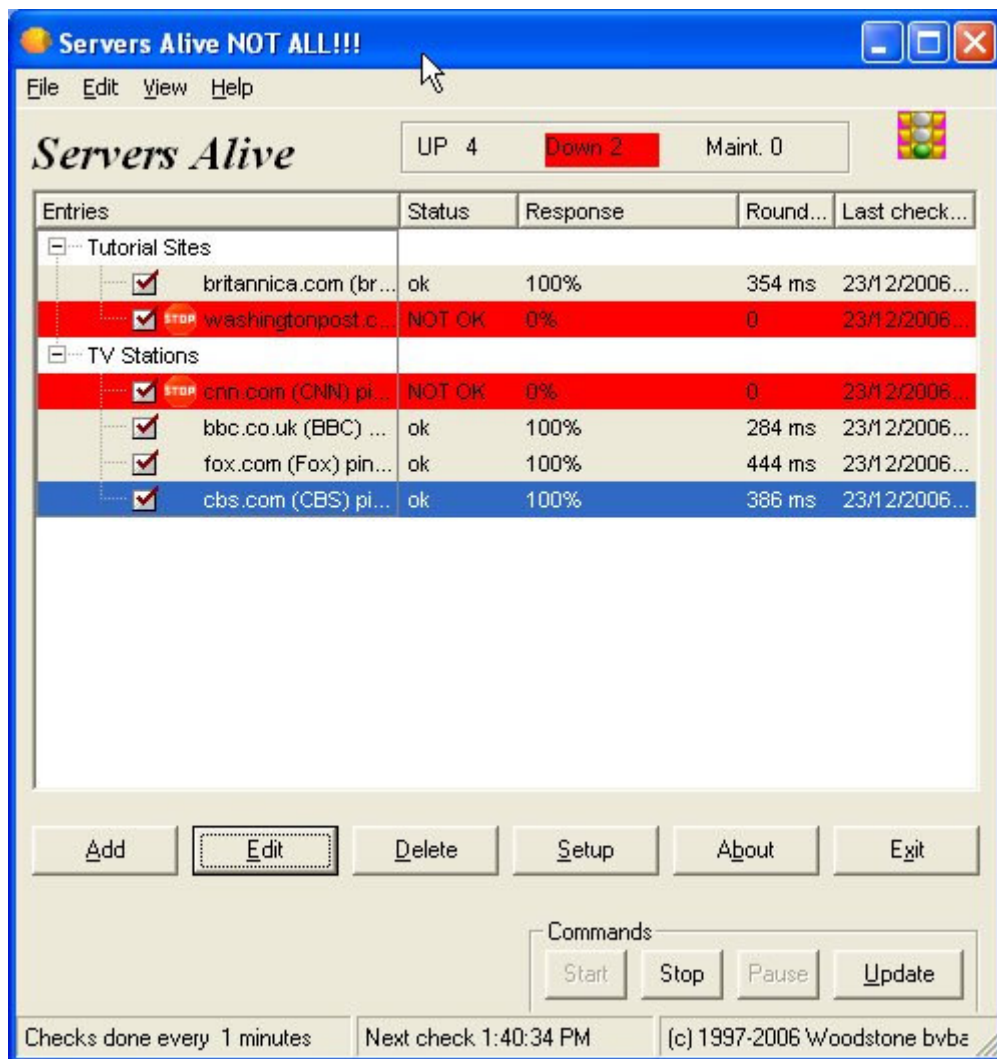
In the new box that appears, select "entries member of", and to its right, select the appropriate group name (in the example above, "TV Stations"). Click on "Add" button, and then click on "Apply" and "OK".

In case there are several groups, and all of them are mapped to the same HTML template file, then in the popup box for "Add To ..." button, the option "entries with Check type" may be selected, followed by clicking on the "PING (IP)" entry from the

set of options presented. This maps all the entries that have the "Check Type" as "PING (IP)" in their properties list to the specified HTML template file.



The "Output" tab of every entry is set to the specified HTML template file.



1.5 End Word

In this chapter, we have looked at a skeletal HTML template file to generate reports on entries that you make in Servers Alive. We also saw how this template file is introduced to the software, and how entries can be mapped to different template files, whether individually or as a group.

In succeeding chapters, we will take actual examples of the entire process, beginning from the very basic, to the more sophisticated.
