TCP/IP Status Monitor
PingMsg
Setup and Operation

Part 1: System Overview

This program sends ICMP Ping packets to a list of TCP/IP addresses. Messages are sent to iSeries Message Queues, or Data Queues based on whether the configured address answers the ping .

Required to use PingMsg:

A Windows PC running Win98 SE or higher
IBM Client Access software installed on the PC

Part 2: System Setup

The following must be installed on the PC that you plan to use for the PingMsg software:

A Windows operating system
IBM Client Access base functions (Emulation is NOT required, but is acceptable)

Run the PingMsg_Installer program that you downloaded from the website.
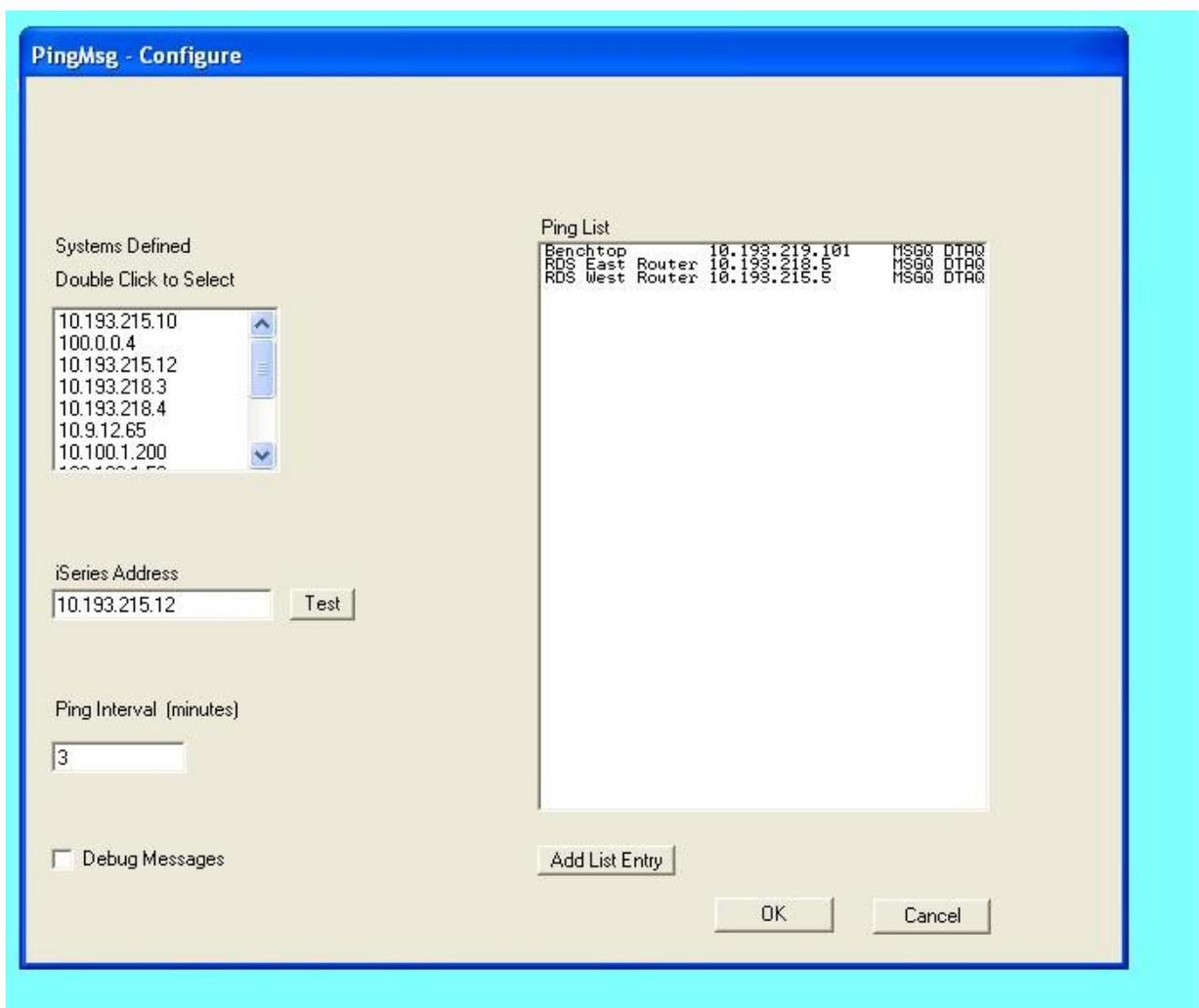Use the defaults on the Installer program to install the software.

Configure a connection to your iSeries, using the Operations Navigator or other utilities.
A configured connection is required to proceed.

If you plan to use the data queue functions, create a data queue in a library on your
iSeries. It may be the queue that you use finally or one created just for this test.
It should be an unindexed FIFO queue, at least 4 characters long.
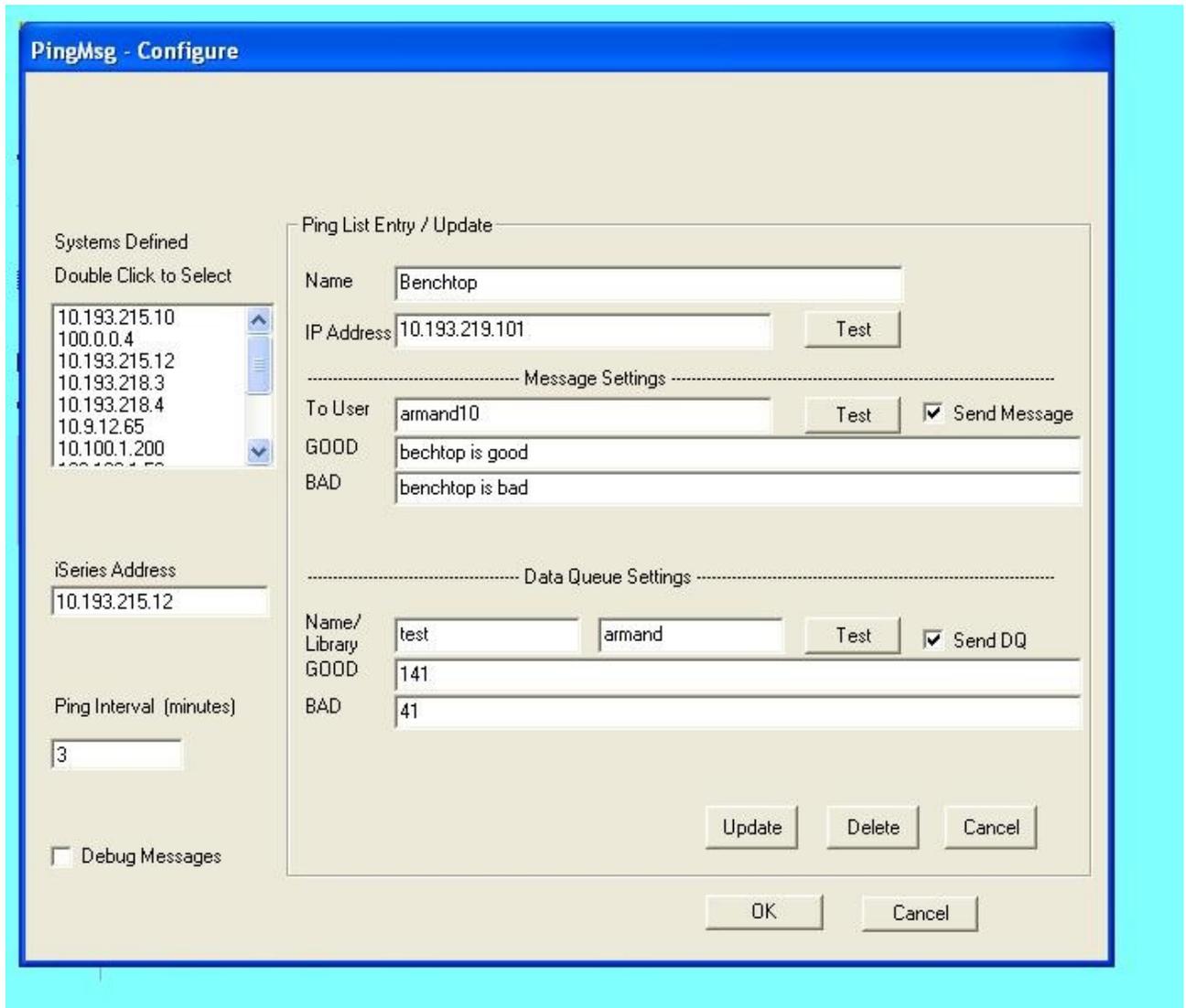
Start the PingMsg program.

The first time PingMsg runs, it automatically enters the PingMsg - Configure screen.

The PingMsg - Configure screen contains:

Systems Defined window	Lists all of the iSeries systems configured on this computer. Double-click on any of the listed systems to copy that entry to the iSeries Address box.
iSeries Address	The iSeries that PingMsg will connect to for message or data queue functions.
Test button	Sends a test message to the QSYSOPR MSGQ. Test results appear at the top of the panel.
Ping Interval (minutes)	This value sets how often PingMsg will check the list of addresses in the PingList. Any number 1 or above is valid.
Debug Messages	When selected, display detailed progress messages , to assist in diagnosing problems.
Ping List window	A window that displays the list of devices and their addresses that PingMsg will attempt to contact. The name and Address data is shown here, along with indicators showing which queue will be updated when a device's status changes. Double click on a particular entry to display the Ping List Entry / Update panel.
Add List Entry button	Used to display a blank Ping List Entry / Update panel.
OK button	Used to exit this screen, applying all changes.
Cancel button	Used to exit this screen, without applying changes.

When the Add List Entry button is pressed, or an existing entry is double clicked, The Ping List Entry / Update panel will be displayed.

The Ping List Entry / Update panel contains:

Name	An optional variable used to identify the device associated with the IP Address below.
IP Address	The TCP/IP address used for status tests. This field is required.
Test button	Sends an immediate ping to the IP address. Test results appear at the top of the panel.

Message Settings

To User	This is the iSeries Userid that messages are sent to.
Test button	Sends an immediate message to the Userid selected in To User. Test results appear at the top of the panel.

Send Message	A check box that indicates that the data entered below (or default data) is to be sent during a ping cycle. When selected, this causes MSGQ to appear next to this device's Ping List entry.
GOOD	A text box that specifies fixed data that is sent in a message if the ping status of this device changes to GOOD. If this box is left blank, a default message is sent.
BAD	A text box that specifies fixed data that is sent in a message if the ping status of this device changes to BAD. If this box is left blank, a default message is sent.

Data Queue Settings

Name/Library	Text boxes for both the name of the data queue, and the library where is can be found.
Test button	Sends a test entry to the queue in the library specified. Results appear at the top of the panel.
Send DQ	A check box that indicates that the data below, (or default data) is to be sent during a ping cycle. When selected, this causes DTAQ to appear next to this device's Ping List entry.
GOOD	A text box that specifies fixed data that is sent to the data queue if the ping status of this device changes to GOOD. If this box is left blank, a default entry is sent.
BAD	A text box that specifies fixed data that is sent to the data queue if the ping status changes to BAD. If this box is left blank, a default entry is sent.
Update button	This button applies all of the fields to the Ping List. This function may also be triggered by pressing Enter.
Delete button	In update mode, this button allows the deletion of a device entry from the Ping List.
Cancel button	This button exits the Page List Entry / Update panel without updating anything.

The first step on initial setup is to select the iSeries server that you want the PingMsg program to connect to, from the list in the Systems Defined window. A double-click will copy your selection to the iSeries Address field.

Press the Test button next to the iSeries Address box.   Client Access will ask for a userid and password. The result of the test will appear at the top of the panel.

Key into the Ping Interval the number of minutes that you wish the PingMsg program to wait between attempts to update status.

Press the Add List Entry button to begin entering the list of devices that will be tested for status.

The Send Message and Send DQ check boxes selects whether the PingMsg program will send messages and data queue entries when any device changes status.
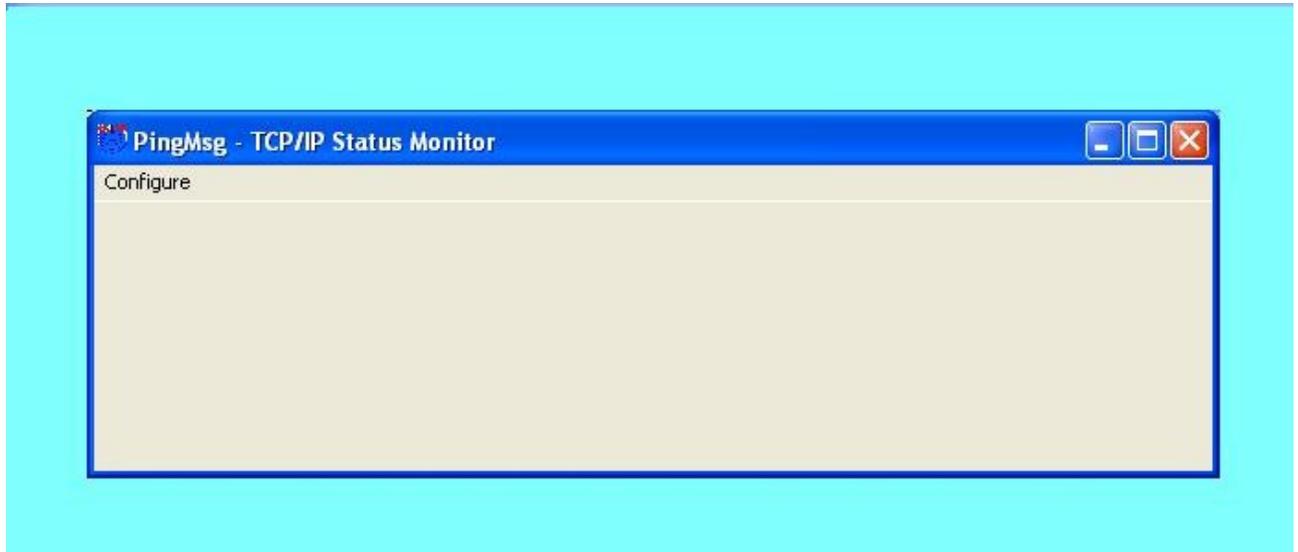
When finished adding, press the OK button to return to the PingMsg Status Monitor panel.

The Default Good message, if the text box is blank, is "*NAME* at IP-*IP Address* now online"
The Default Bad message is "*NAME* at IP-*IP Address* now offline"

NAME is the device name
IP Address is the TCP/IP address.

Part 3: Operation

PingMsg Status Monitor

The PingMsg Status Monitor panel is the main display.
It shows the current status of the program.

The only menu item is Configure, (display the PingMsg - Configure panel)

The top area of the panel displays, (if selected), the diagnostic data from the Ping routine.

At startup, PingMsg immediately pings it's device list, and sends messages or data queue entries indicating initial status of the devices on the list.

At the selected interval, PingMsg pings the devices on the device list, and updates their status. If a device changes it's status, the appropriate message or data queue entry is sent to the defined destination.

PingMsg normally loads minimized.

For problem reports and assistance, email support@atticdesignlab.com

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