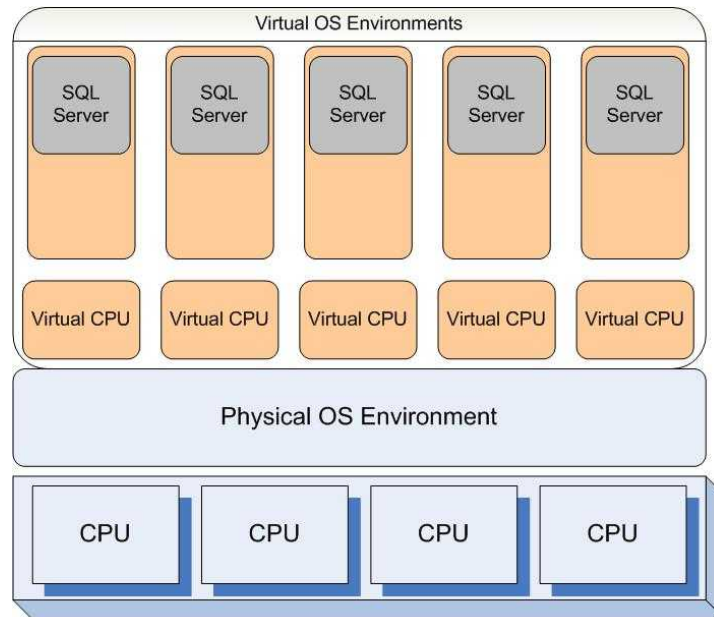


## Management of SQL Server Virtualization

Virtualization is becoming the popular practice in many environments, allowing organizations of all sizes to utilize resources more efficiently. SQL Sentry Event Manager allows DBA's to more effectively manage these dynamic environments to ensure optimal performance.

Virtualization can dramatically reduce the cost of hardware and other resources needed to expand your SQL Server enterprise. It allows you to maximize your existing hardware, which often goes underutilized throughout the day, while saving physical space and maintenance overhead at the same time.



Server 1

Unfortunately for a DBA, this can mean a rapidly growing virtual environment that can quickly become too large to effectively manage with current time available. Additionally, since you now have multiple virtual servers utilizing the same physical hardware, the opportunities for performance bottlenecks multiply with each new server.

This dramatically increases the importance of ensuring that automated processes that require the same physical resources do not conflict with each other. Having your backup run at 3 a.m. each night on separate physical servers may not be a problem, but having your backup run at 3 a.m. each night on several virtual servers that reside on the same physical machine can bring it to its knees.

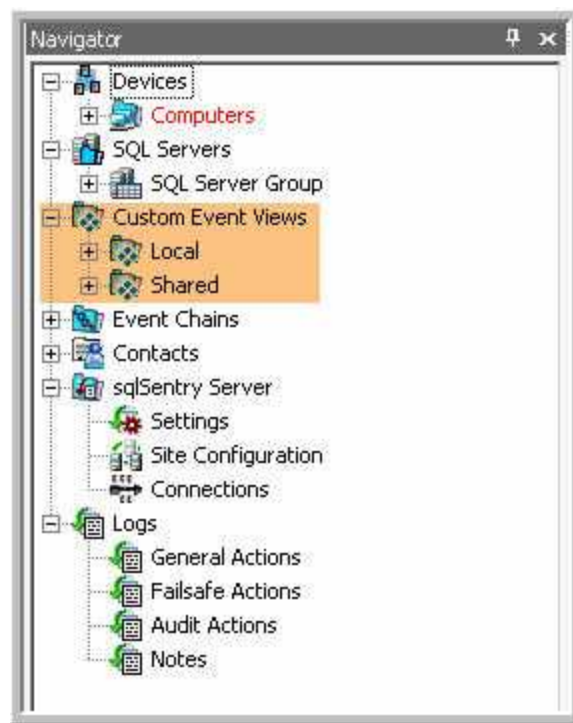
In order to ensure these virtual servers utilize shared resources effectively, DBA's must pay close attention to scheduled events across all servers. Native tools provide list views to review conditions such as job status and schedule, but make it difficult to visualize scheduling conflicts or poor resource utilization. If you are only dealing with a couple servers with few jobs, graphing out the schedules on paper may be sufficient to identify conflicts. Job history may be retrieved from MSDB so that average runtimes can be computed and accounted for. There is obviously a large amount of work up front, but if your environment is fairly static, it may be worthwhile.

An even better method would be to create a spreadsheet to track events and optimize schedules. This allows you to better keep up with ongoing changes. Being able to visualize

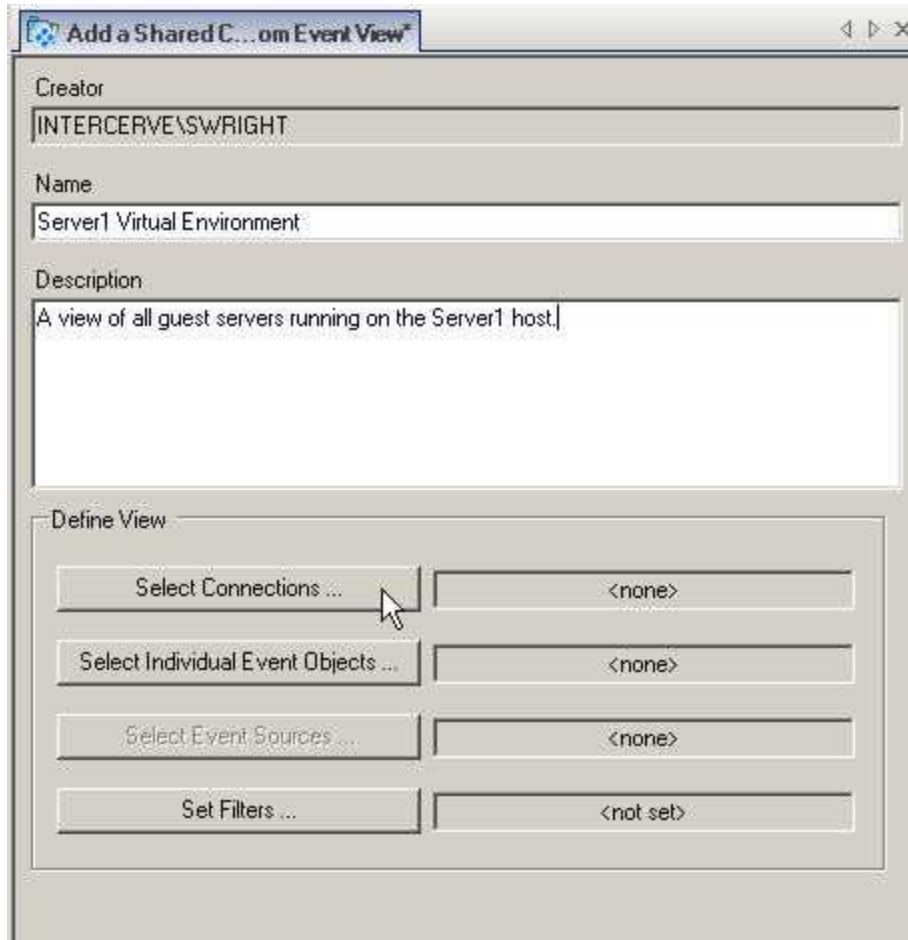
events on paper, or by spreadsheet, can go a long way towards reducing the time it takes to identify scheduling conflicts, as well as free times where you may add new jobs to the schedule. Unfortunately, these methods may also become cumbersome as your environment grows, eventually becoming impossible to maintain.

Fortunately, SQL Sentry Event Manager allows you to create a consolidated Outlook-style calendar view of all the activity across your virtual servers sharing the same physical resources with Custom Event Views.

From the Navigator pane, expand the Custom Event Views node. This will expose the Local and Shared sub-nodes. Local views are only available to the user that created them. Shared views are available to any user on any Event Manager Console. The setup of a view is the same for either option.

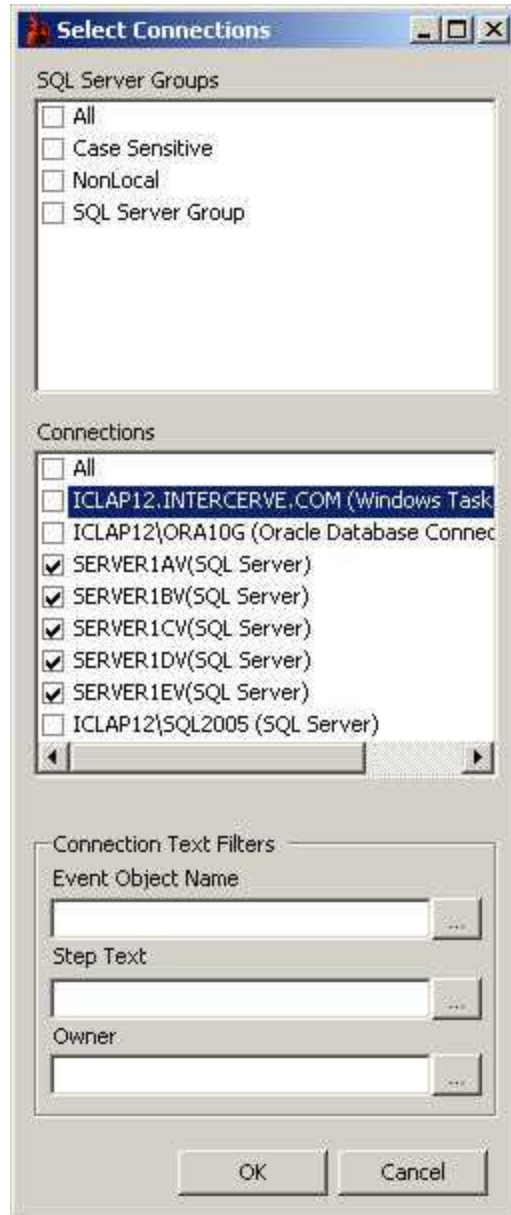


Double – click the Local or Shared node and the **Add a Shared/Local Custom Event View** screen appears. Give your view a name and optional description, and click on the **Select Connections...** button to select the virtual SQL Servers you wish to include in the view.

A screenshot of a Windows dialog box titled "Add a Shared Connection Event View". The dialog has a standard Windows window title bar with minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The main area contains several text input fields and a "Define View" section. The "Creator" field contains "INTERCERVE\SWRIGHT". The "Name" field contains "Server1 Virtual Environment". The "Description" field contains "A view of all guest servers running on the Server1 host.". Below these fields is a section titled "Define View" which contains four rows of buttons and text boxes. The first row has a "Select Connections ..." button and a text box containing "<none>". The second row has a "Select Individual Event Objects ..." button and a text box containing "<none>". The third row has a "Select Event Sources ..." button and a text box containing "<none>". The fourth row has a "Set Filters ..." button and a text box containing "<not set>". A mouse cursor is pointing at the "Select Connections ..." button.

Creator	INTERCERVE\SWRIGHT
Name	Server1 Virtual Environment
Description	A view of all guest servers running on the Server1 host.
Define View	
Select Connections ...	<none>
Select Individual Event Objects ...	<none>
Select Event Sources ...	<none>
Set Filters ...	<not set>

You may also want to include any Windows Task Schedulers that are running on the same virtual servers.

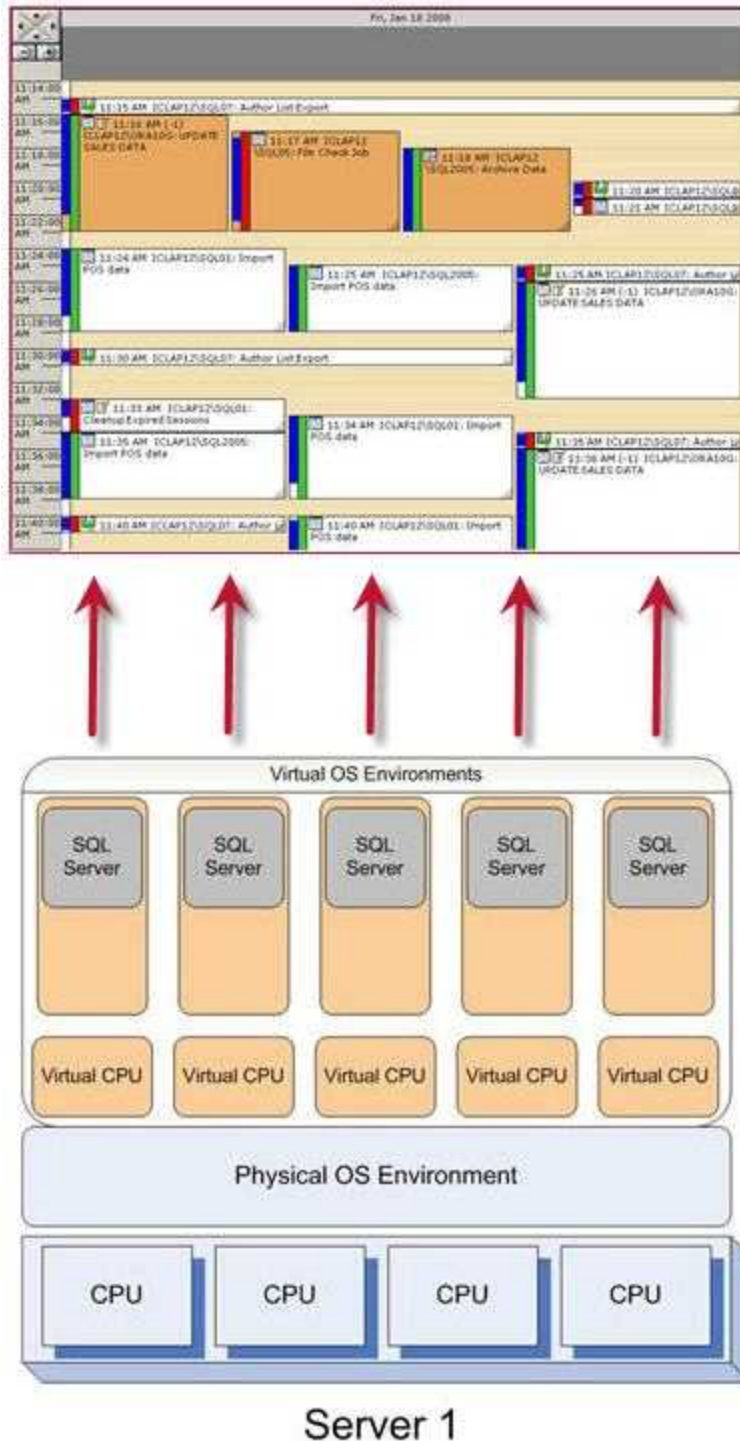


Once you click **OK**, don't forget to save your new view.



You have now created a Custom Event View of all guest servers on a common host machine. From here you can easily spot any conflicts between events on any of the virtual SQL Servers that may be competing for the same physical resources. Also, with Event

Manager, as new events are created on the server, they are automatically monitored and shown in the calendar view with no additional effort by the DBA.



Drag and drop to level your schedules across all servers from one place. Additional filtering is available as with all Custom Event Views. For more details, review the Custom Event Views section of the SQL Sentry User Guide.



As virtualization leads to more SQL Servers with increased dependencies on shared physical resources, SQL Sentry Event Manager gives DBA's unprecedented visibility and control over even the most complex environment.

Download a free trial at [www.sqlsentry.net](http://www.sqlsentry.net) and contact [sales@sqlsentry.net](mailto:sales@sqlsentry.net) to find out how SQL Sentry Event Manager can optimize your server schedule performance.