FactotumNOW
Web Checking Engine

Manual

Version 3.41

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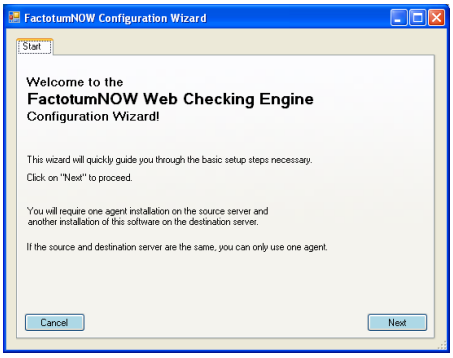

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I Introduction

A brief summary of the functions this software covers:

- allocate a staging area on your network and replicate the web files from there onto your web servers
- allows for operation with several web servers by replicating one content source to several servers
- only one open port required between staging area and web servers (TCP 5432)
- detects duplicate files and only transmits them once (for web servers at remote locations, saves bandwidth)
- compresses files prior to transmission
- retains a full copy of your web site in the PostgreSQL repository which allows for fast rebuilds
- will replicate complete directory structures and files
- file manipulation is detected securely through changes in file sizes and through calculation of two hash codes
- staging area can be on the web server itself
- staging area can be at another site
- full utilization of available bandwidth to achieve a fast replication
- optional email notifications upon changes of the source site
- optional email notifications when changes to the destination site have been committed
- installation takes 10 minutes
- PostgreSQL database server is included in the installation package
- checking interval can be set dynamically from every minute to 180 minutes
- initial synchronization will not replace all files on the web servers if they are not different in content

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II Installation

Installation is quite simple, depending on your experience, you should be able to run through it within only a few minutes although there are several steps involved.

For the first installation of **FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine** on your network, you will need to decide where your PostgreSQL database will reside prior to installation.

- If you are replicating one set of content to multiple servers, it should be close to the source server.
- If you are replicating via FTP to remote servers, then it should be close to the source server.
- If you are replicating one set of content to multiple servers that are close to each other (for load-balancing purposes), then the PostgreSQL server should be close to the destination servers.
- If the source and destination servers and not far apart (in the same LAN), it does not matter where the PostgreSQL server resides as long as it remains within the same LAN.

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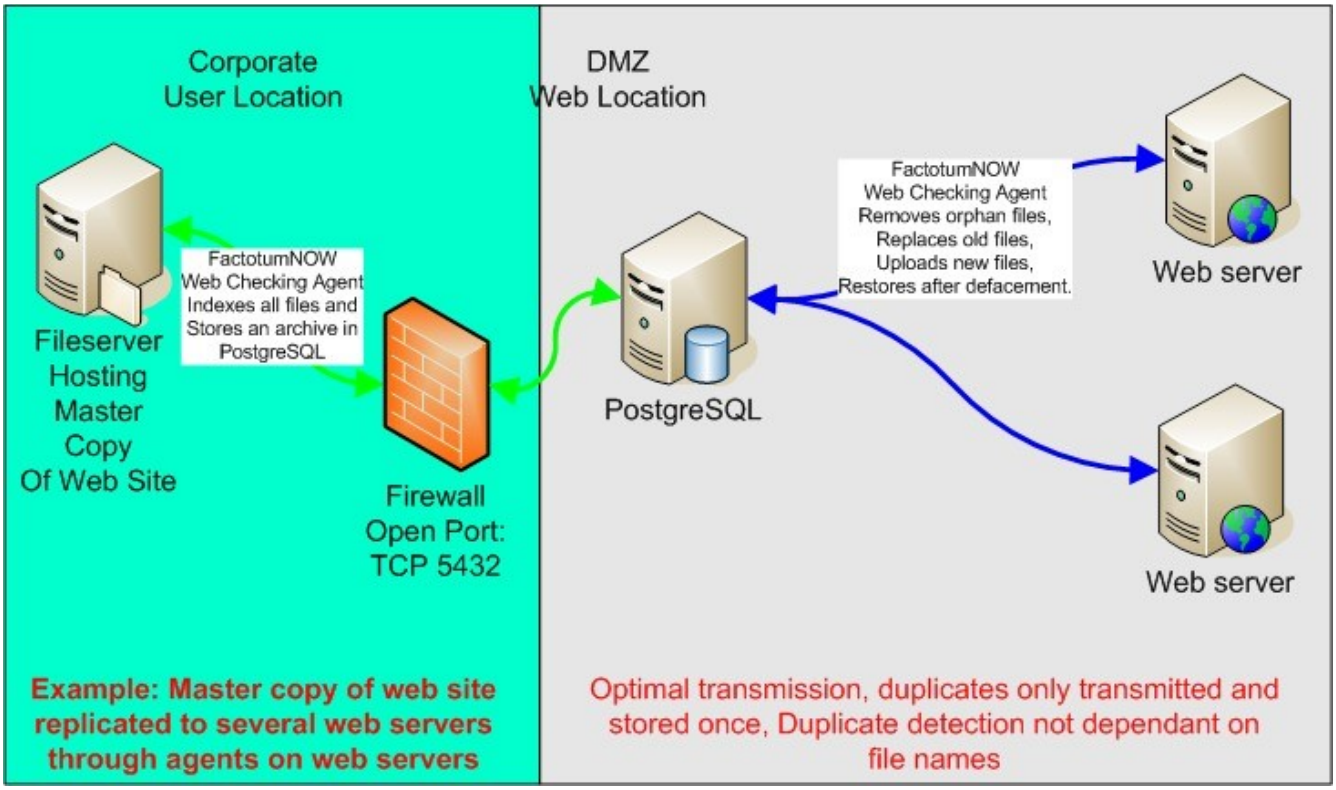
i Installation Scenarios

a Corporate Network, Load-Balanced DMZ



The above example displays a situation where:

- staging area is located in the corporate network
- destination web servers are in a DMZ at a remote location or at least protected through a firewall
- the PostgreSQL database server will be located close to the destination servers since it allows for faster rebuilds of the web content in the case of defacement and content will only be replicated into the DMZ once, not once for every web server
- FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine will be installed onto:
  - staging server
  - each web server

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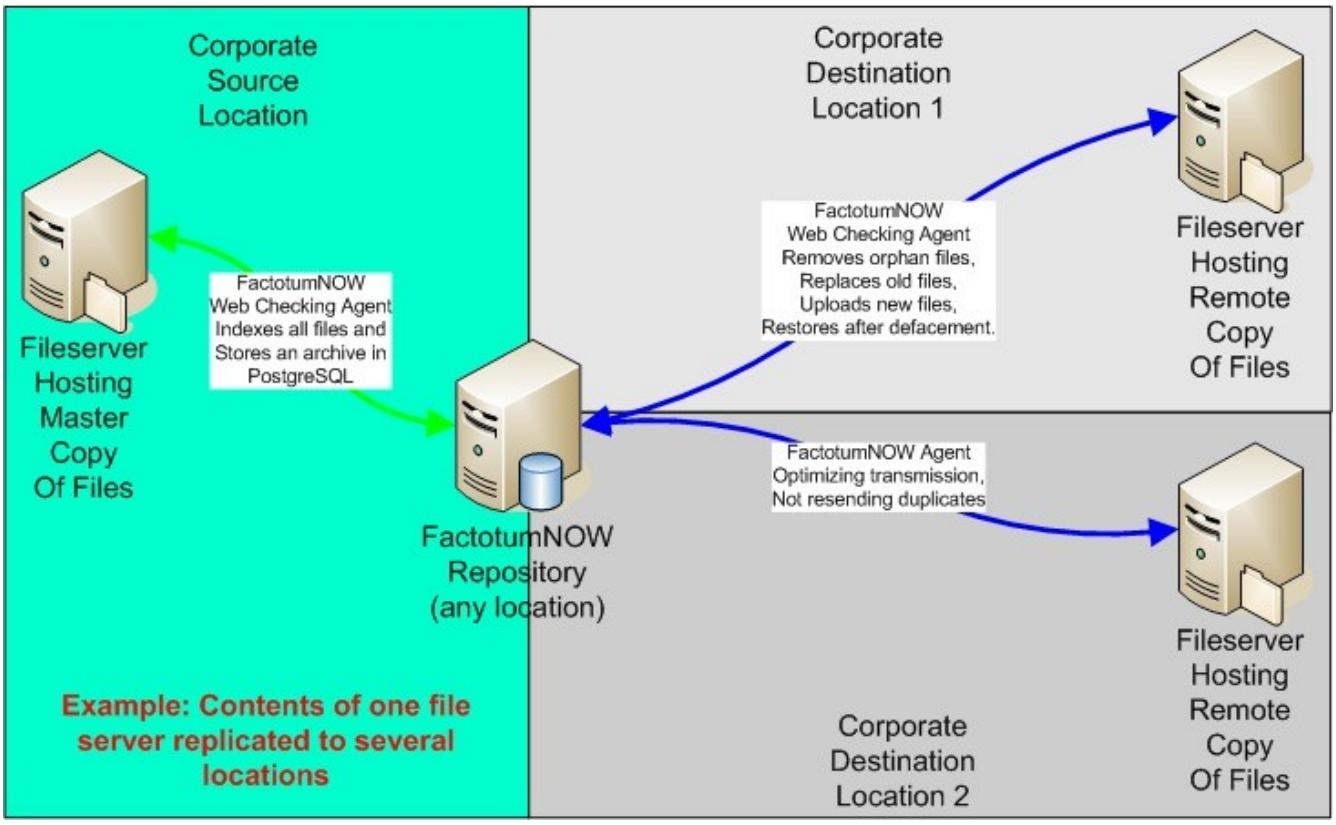
b Corporate Network, Remote Locations



The above example displays a situation where:

- staging area is located in the corporate network
- destination web servers are in different DMZs at remote locations or at least connected through WAN links
- the PostgreSQL database server will be located close to the staging server since it allows for faster uploads of new web content and content will be distributed from there to the remote sites
- FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine will be installed onto:
  - staging server
  - each web server

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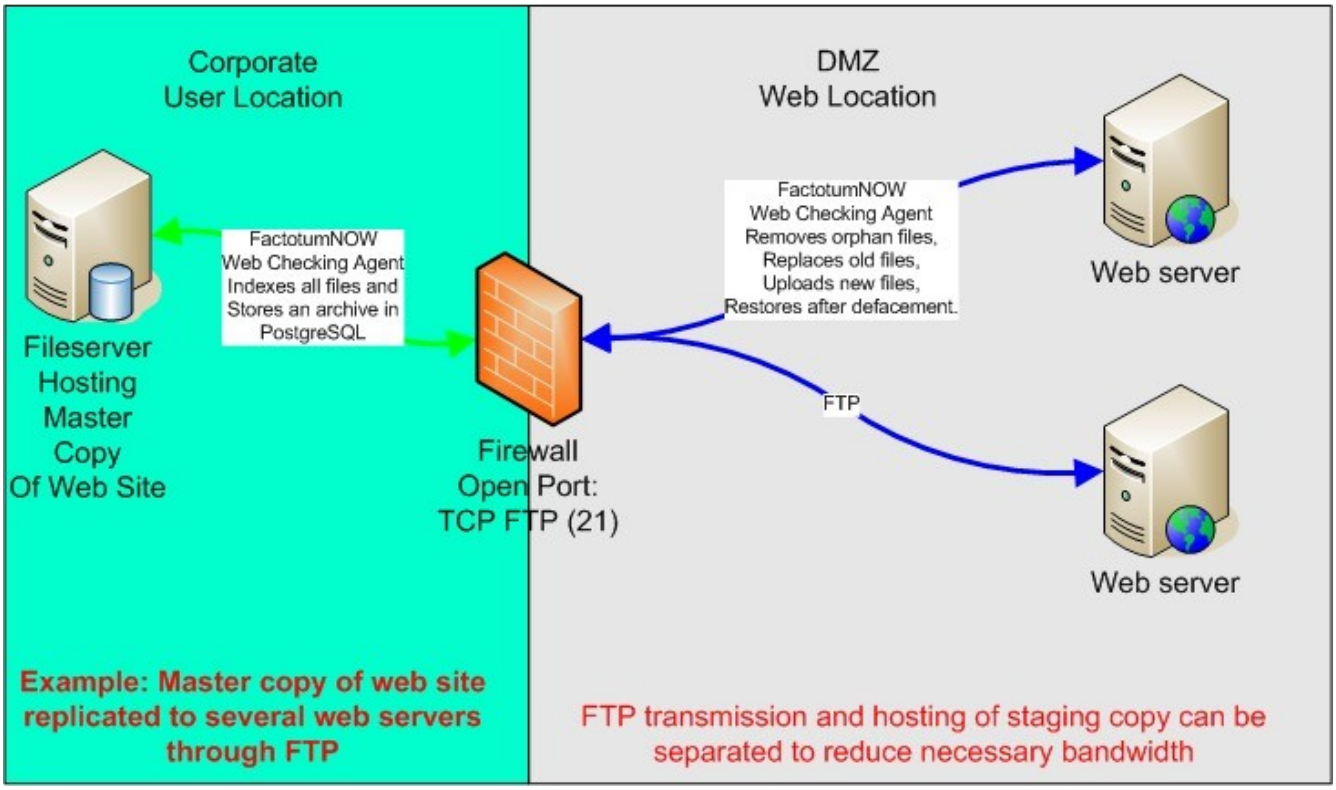
c Corporate Network, Remote FTP Servers



The above example displays a situation where:

- staging area is located in the corporate network
- destination web servers are at remote locations and only accessible through FTP
- the PostgreSQL database server will be located close to the staging server since it allows for faster uploads of new web content and content will be distributed from there to the remote sites
- FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine will be installed onto:
  - staging server only

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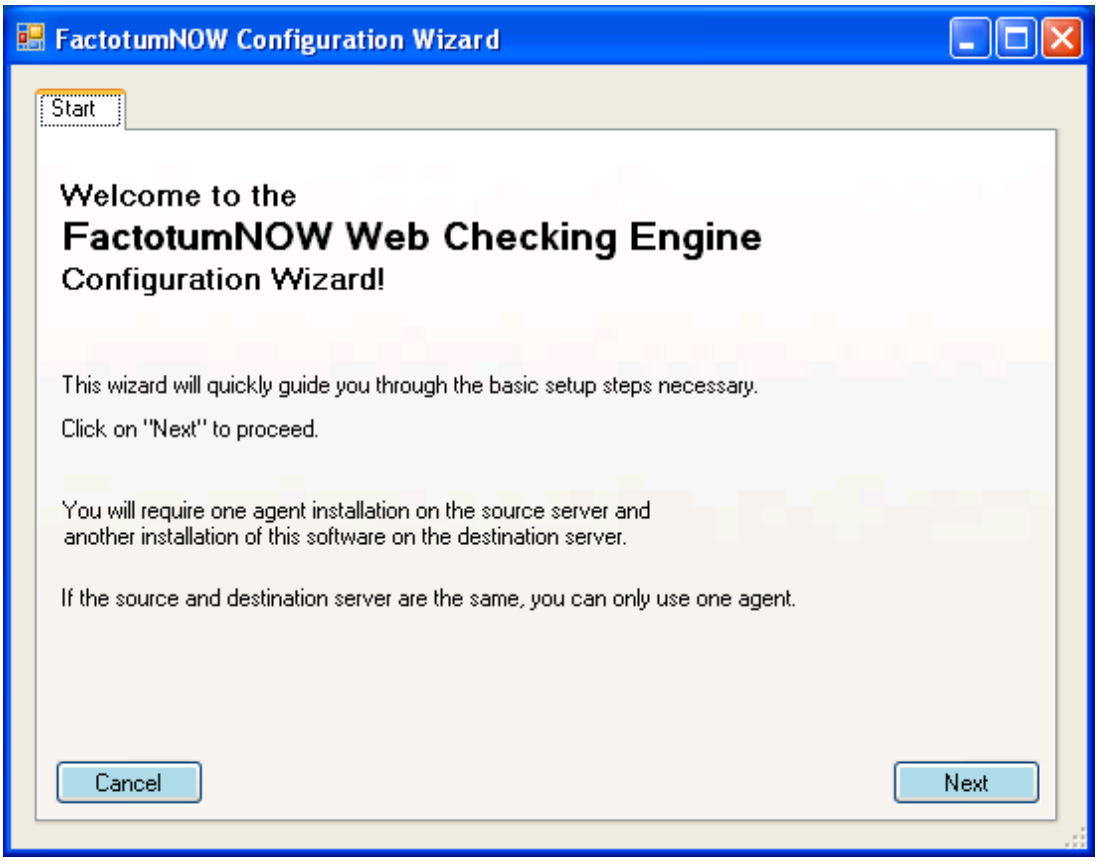
ii Installing the Database Server

Install the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine onto the server that will hold your PostgreSQL installation. The PostgreSQL retains a copy of all files for consistency reasons and to speed up the replication process. If this server does not host source or destination files, simply install the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine, configure PostgreSQL through its installation wizard and then let the trial expire or uninstall it.

After the installation of the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine onto the destination server for the PostgreSQL database, you will find an icon on your desktop labeled “FactotumNOW Configure Web Checking”. Double-click this icon to bring up the configuration wizard.



Click on “Next” to begin with the configuration.

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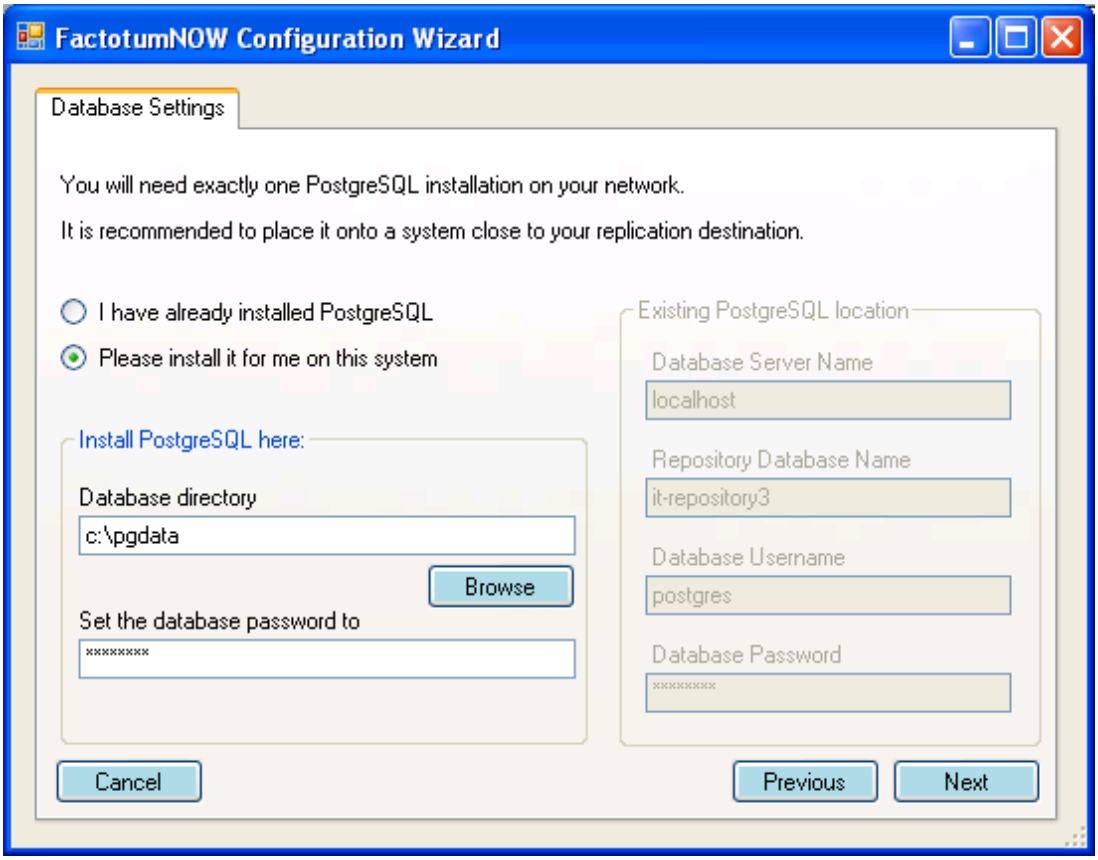
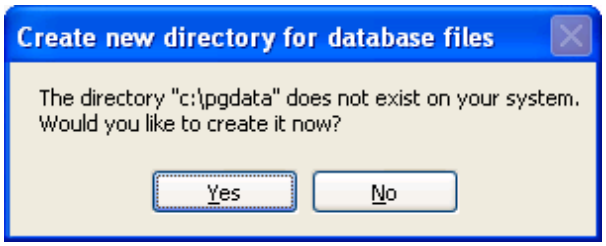


To install PostgreSQL, click on the radio button “Please install it for me on this system”, specify a directory for the database files (it will need to be on a drive with sufficient disk space to hold a complete copy of your web site, supply a password for the new database installation (the default is “postgres”) and click on “Next”.

Make sure the destination directory for the database files is empty!

If the destination directory for the database files does not exist, you will see the below prompt.



Then, the PostgreSQL installation process will start. Depending on your system configuration, it may take a few minutes.

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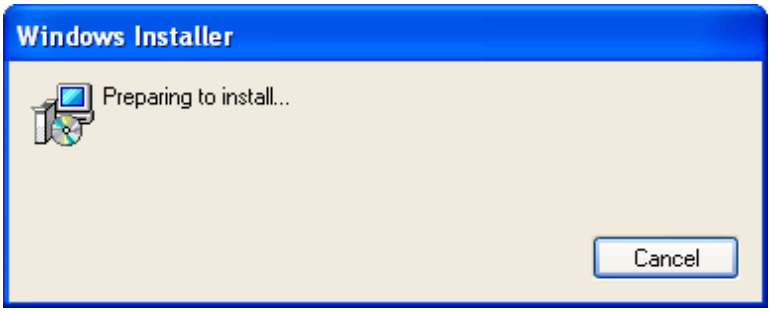

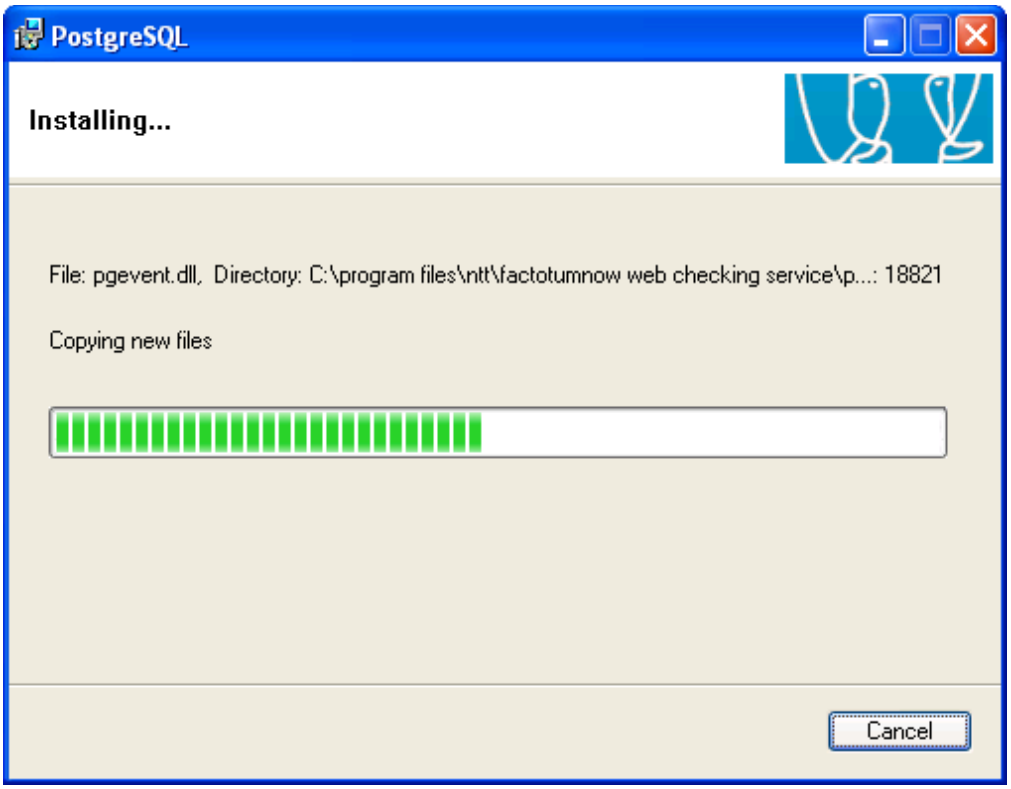

If this server will not be either source or destination server, click on “Cancel” once you reach the below screen.

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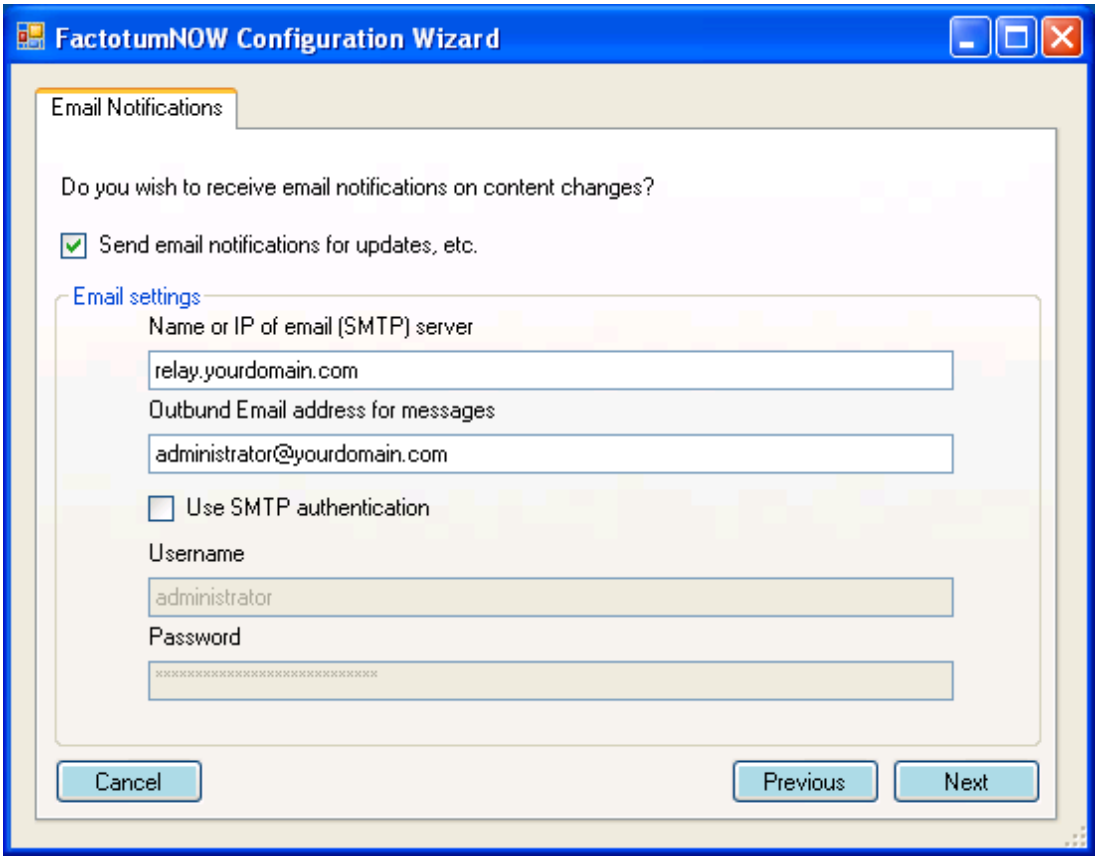

Your database server is now configured and ready to be used. You can click on “Exit” from the configuration console and even uninstall FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine from this system if you are not planning to use it either as a source or destination server. You can remove the engine by going into the “Control Panel” and locating “FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine” in the “Add/Remove Programs” dialog and clicking on “Remove”.

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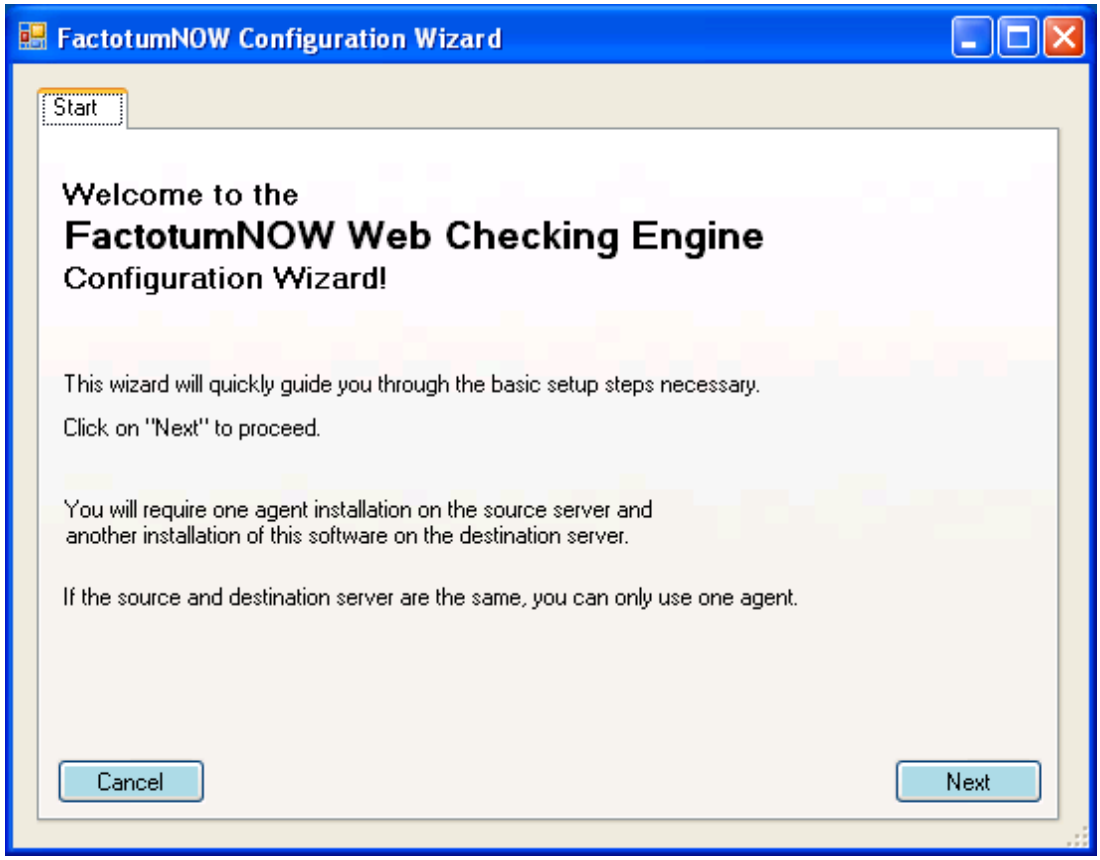
iii Installing the Source Server

On the system that holds the source or staging area for your web site, install the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine. After the installation of the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine onto the source server for the web content, you will find an icon on your desktop labeled “FactotumNOW Configure Web Checking”. Double-click this icon to bring up the configuration wizard.



Click on “Next”.

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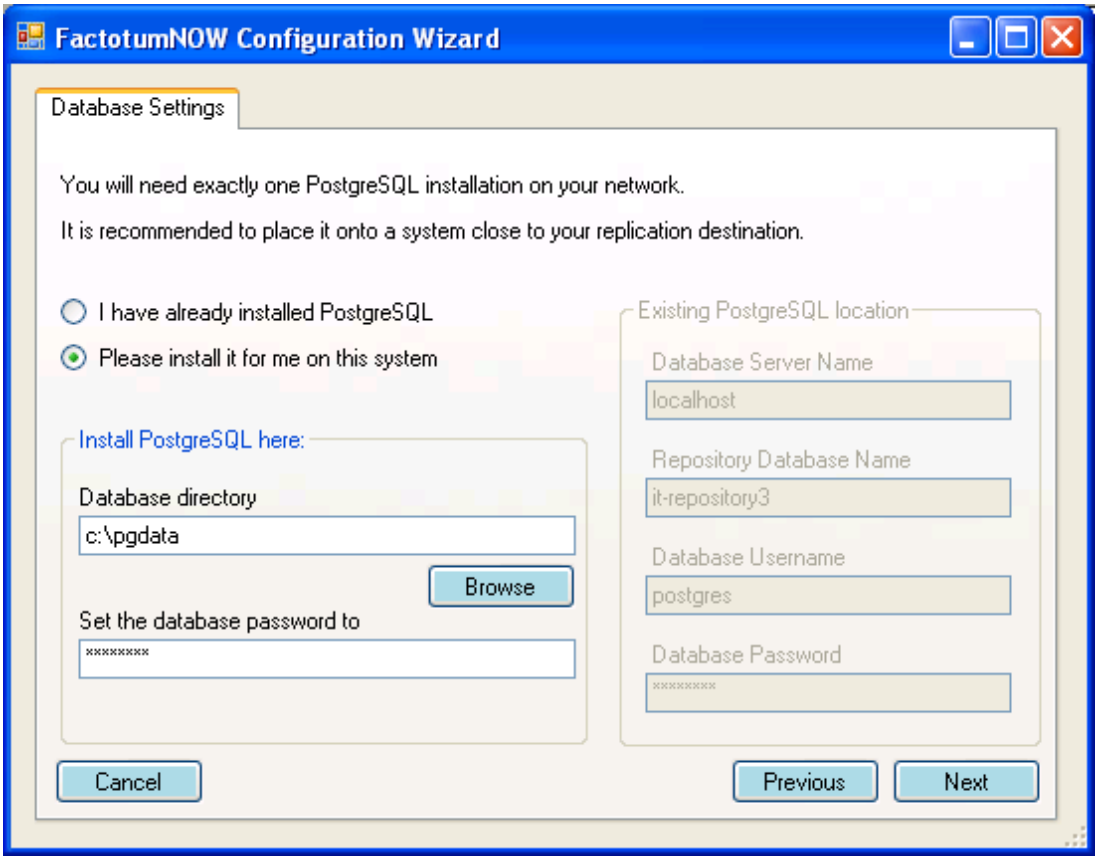

Since you have already installed PostgreSQL, highlight the radio button “I have already installed PostgreSQL” and supply the database information on the right side of the window. You will need to supply the host name of the database server, leave the database name and database username at their defaults. You may need to change the database password if you modified it during the installation of PostgreSQL. The default password is “postgres”.

If you click on “Next”, the settings you have supplied will be verified and you will be notified if the wizard could not connect to PostgreSQL using the supplied settings.

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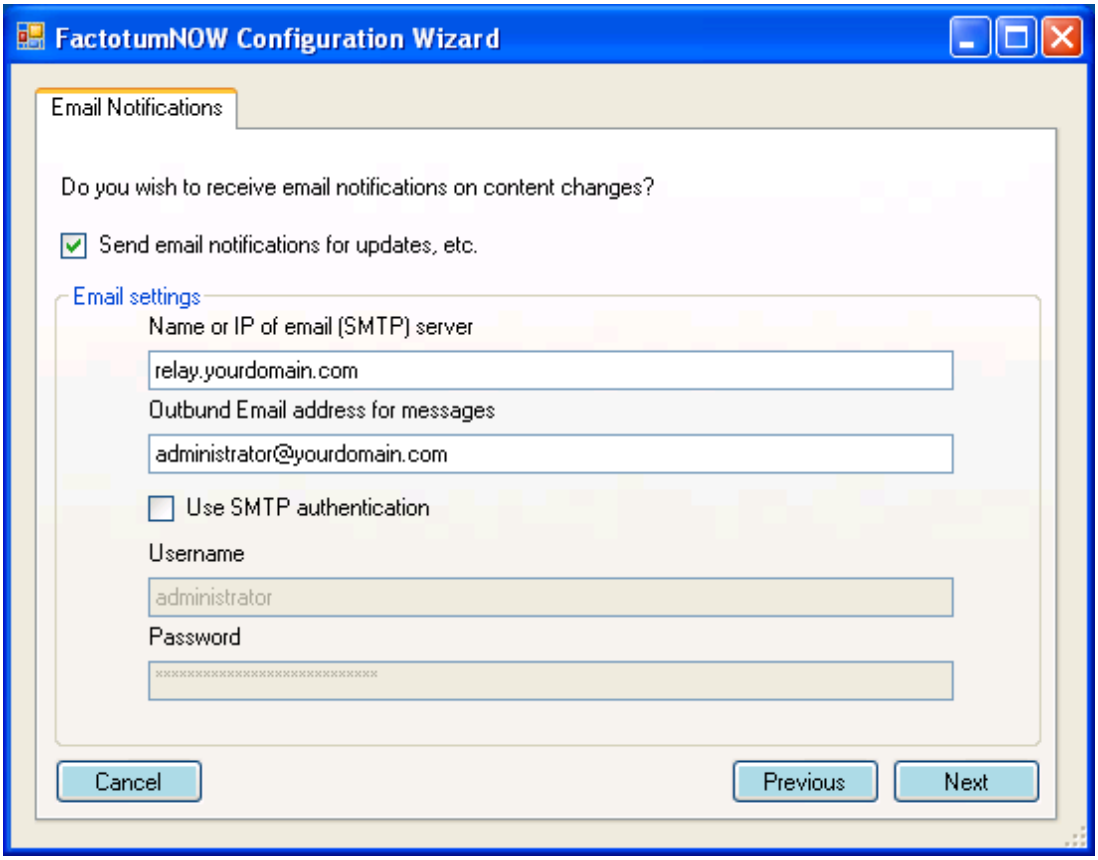
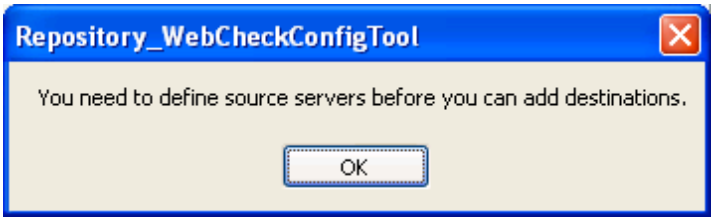


These settings are important if you need to receive notifications from this system upon content changes and transmissions. Specify the name of your relay SMTP server, the originator address (that the notifications will appear to come from) and credentials (if your SMTP relay requires credentials). Then, click on “Next”.

If you have not yet defined any content sources, you will see the below notification:



Making a system a pure destination system is only possible after you have specified a web content source. You can, however, have the source and the destination on the same system, so the option “Both” is selectable in this window.

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The options are:

- Source Server: This system will host the original source files for the web servers
- Distribution Server: This system will only act as a final destination that will be published to
- Both: This system will have a staging area and publish into a live area on itself in a different directory.

Click on “Next” when you have made your choice.

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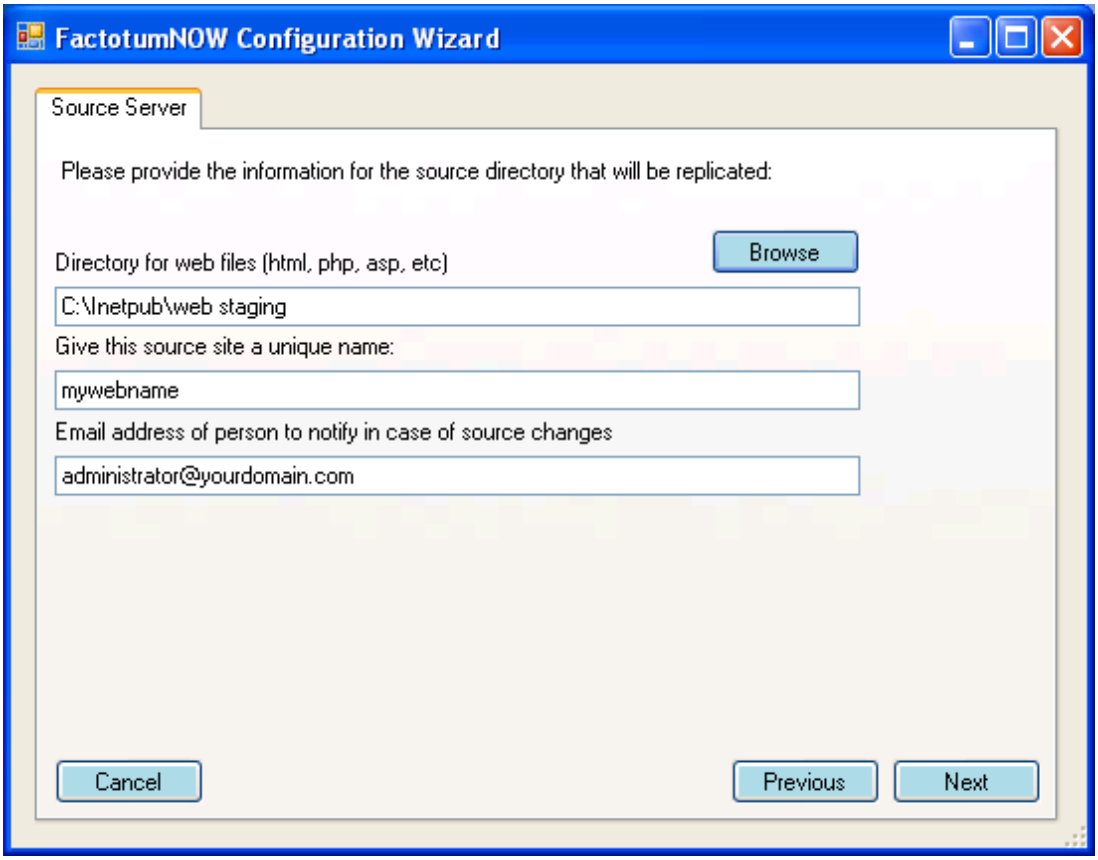
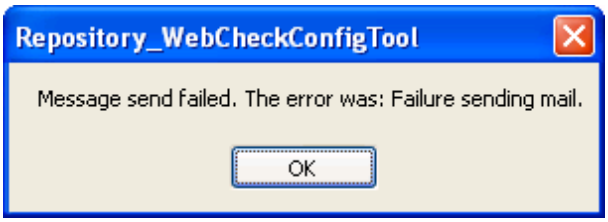


If you have selected “Source Server” or “Both”, you will see the above screen. Specify where your original web content is located, allocated a unique name for this web and specify the administrator email address. When you click on “Next”, your settings will be verified and a test email will be sent to the email address specified here.



Should you receive an error message regarding the mail configuration, you can click on “Previous” until you see the email configuration settings and adjust them. If you have decided to make this server either “Distribution Server” or “Both”, you will see the below window:

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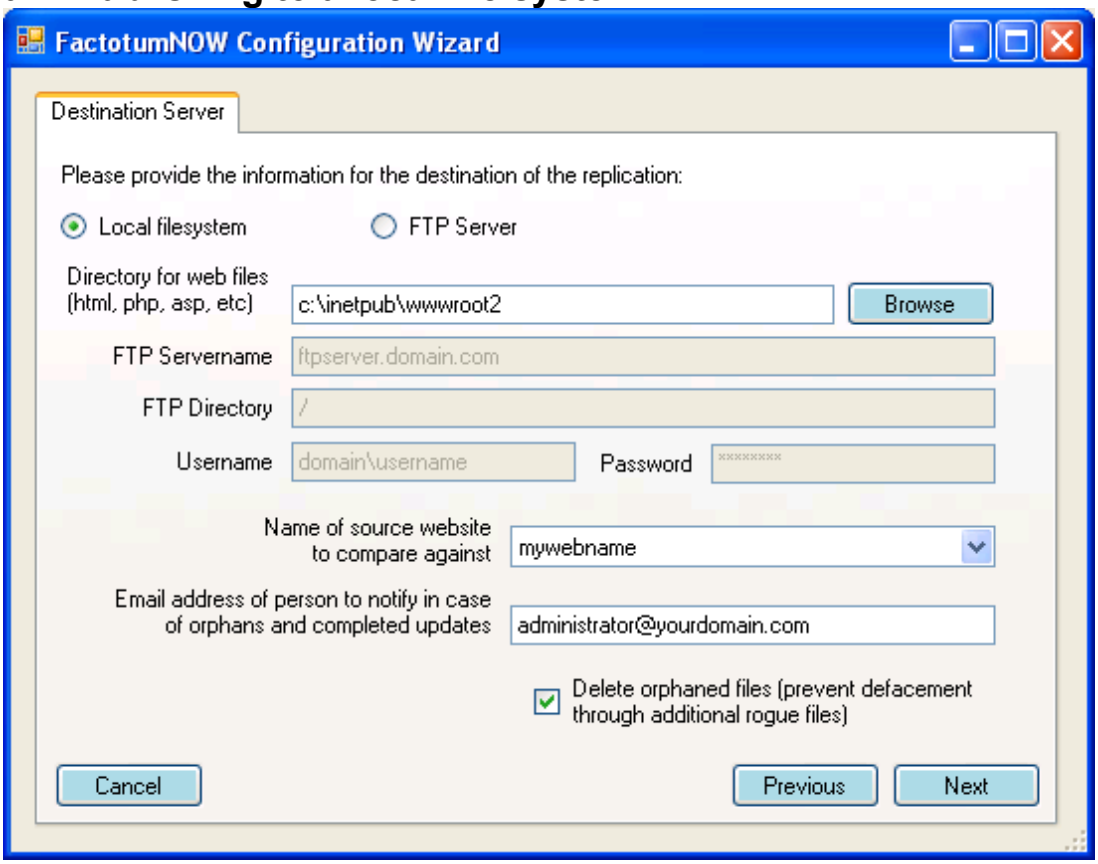
a Publishing to a local file system



If the content is to be published to the local file system (preferred method), then supply the destination directory for the live web content, pick the content from the source webs list (if you have different sources) and supply the email address for the administrator of the destination site.

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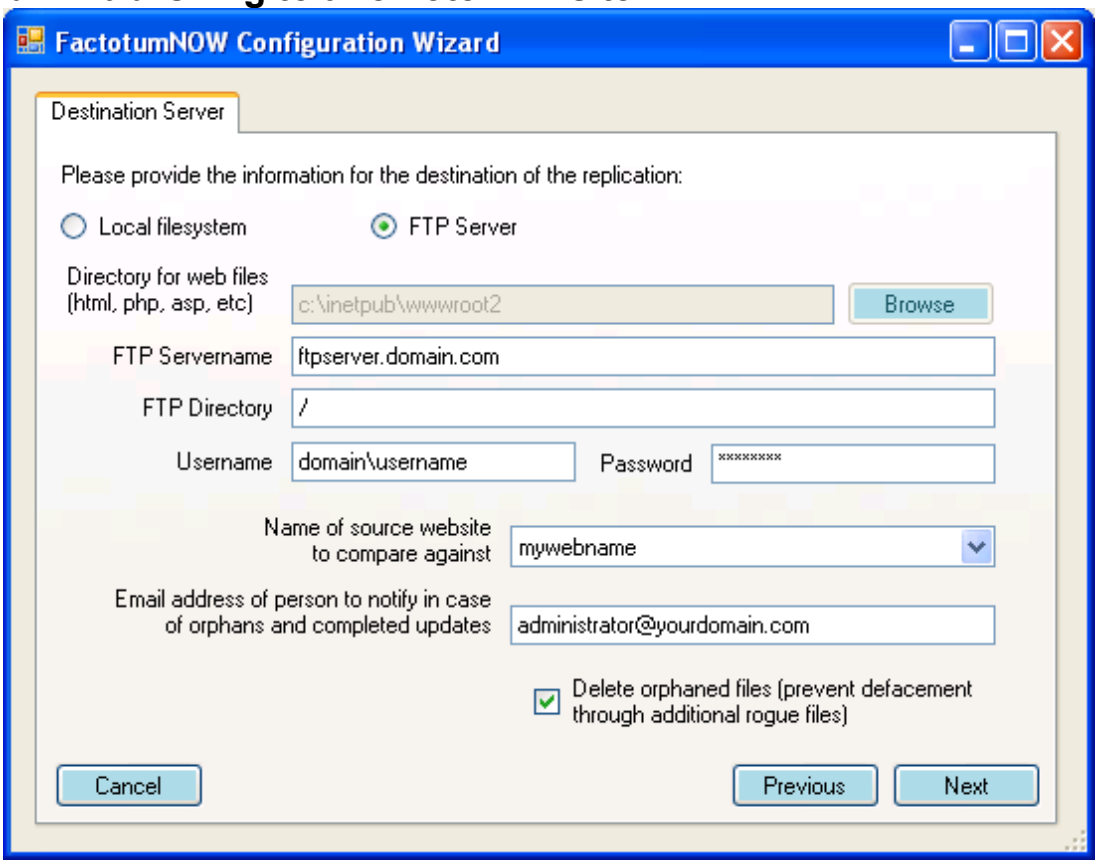
b Publishing to a remote FTP site



If the content is to be published to a remote server through FTP, supply the FTP servername, the directory in the FTP site (the root is always "/"), and username/password credentials to allow for uploads to this FTP server. Also, specify an email address that will be notified whenever actions are taken on this destination FTP server.

Clicking on "Next" will bring you to the final screen of the wizard:

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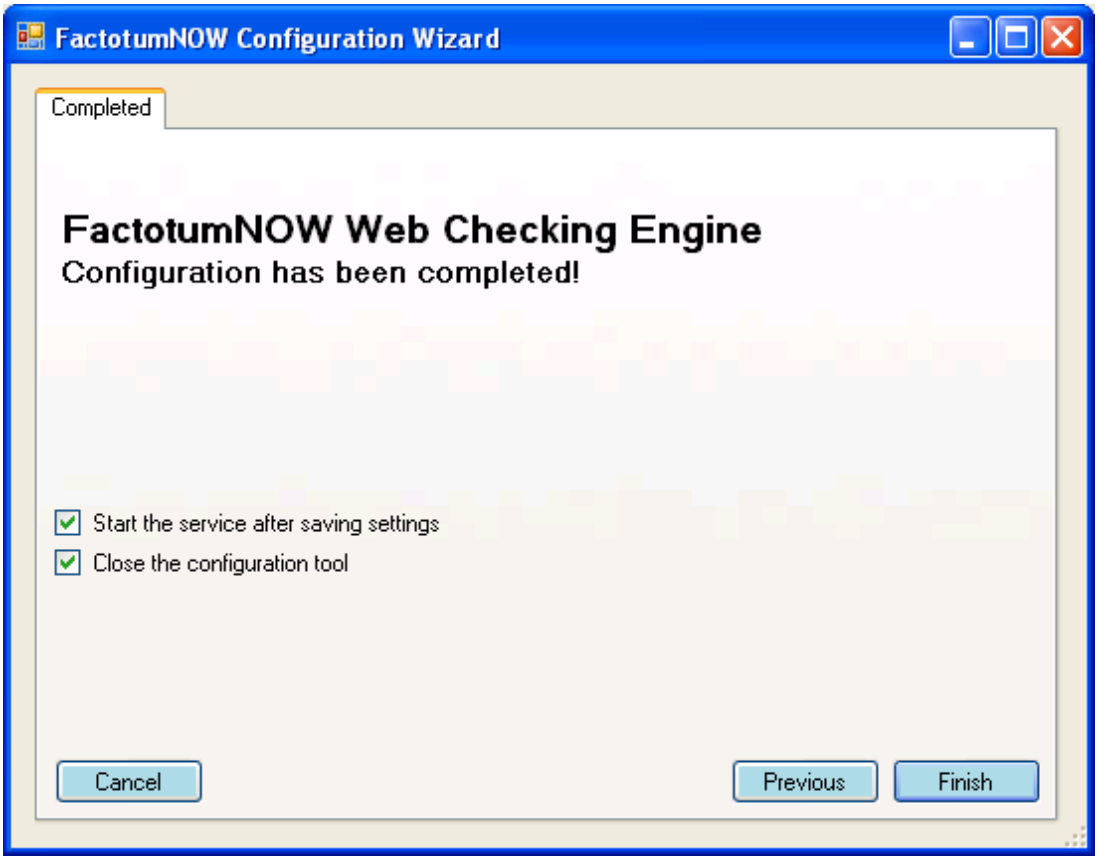

The options here are:

- "Start the service..:": Automatically start the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine and being replication after the settings have been stored.
- "Close the configuration tool": Close the tool after storing the settings.

Click on "Finish" to store the settings and complete the configuration.

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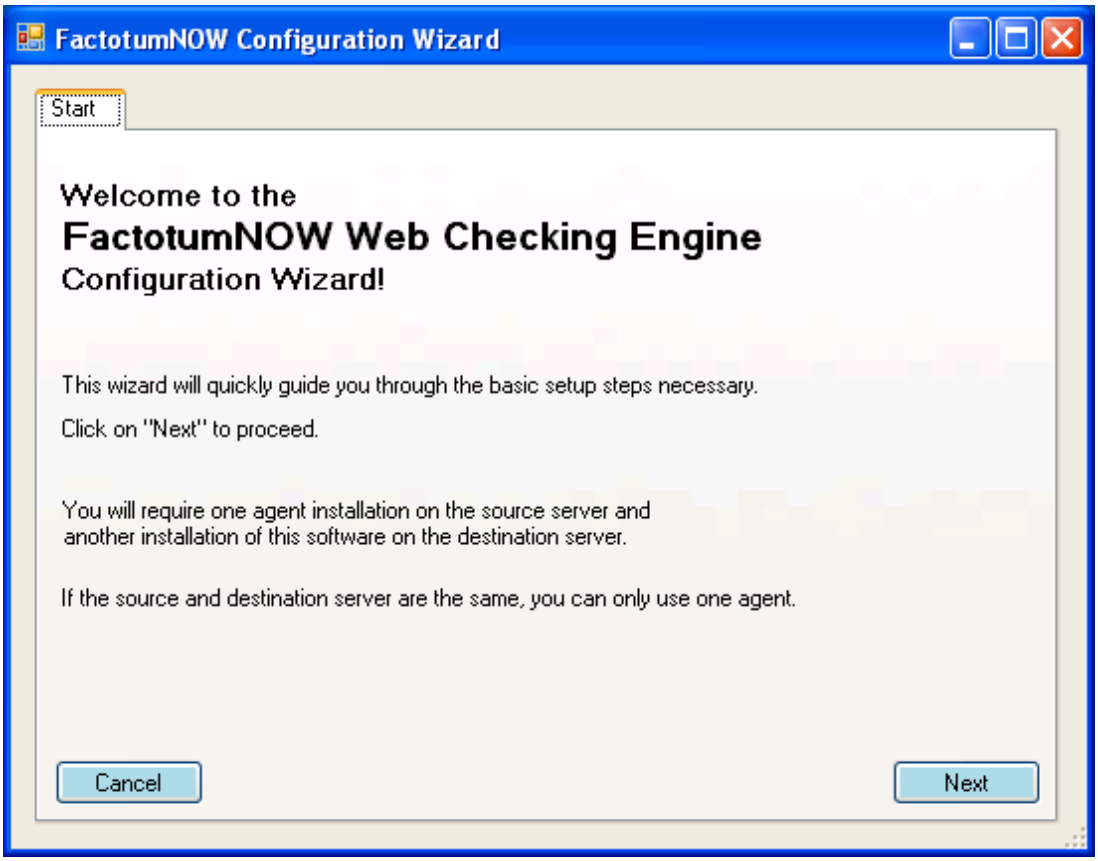
iv Installing the Distribution Server

On the system that will hold the destination area for your web site, or the server that will be responsible for publishing the content via FTP to remote FTP sites, install the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine. After the installation of the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine onto the distribution server, you will find an icon on your desktop labeled “FactotumNOW Configure Web Checking”. Double-click this icon to bring up the configuration wizard.



Click on “Next”.

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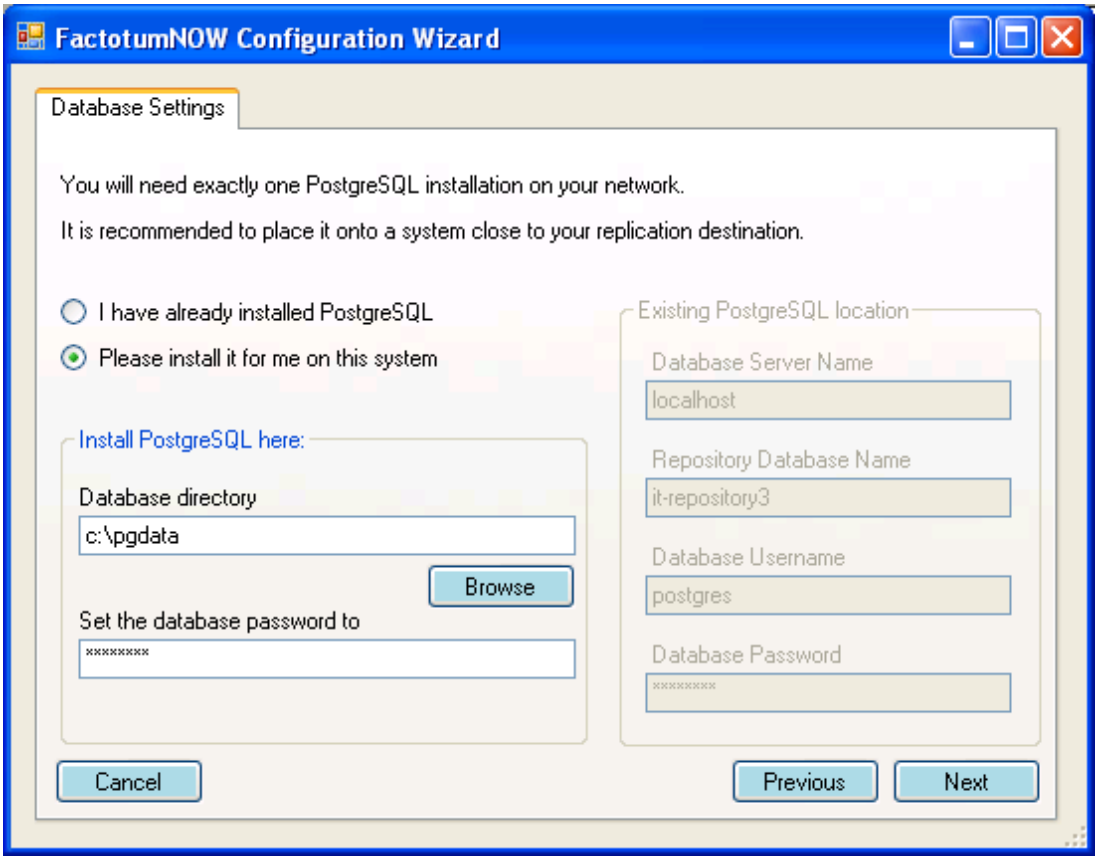

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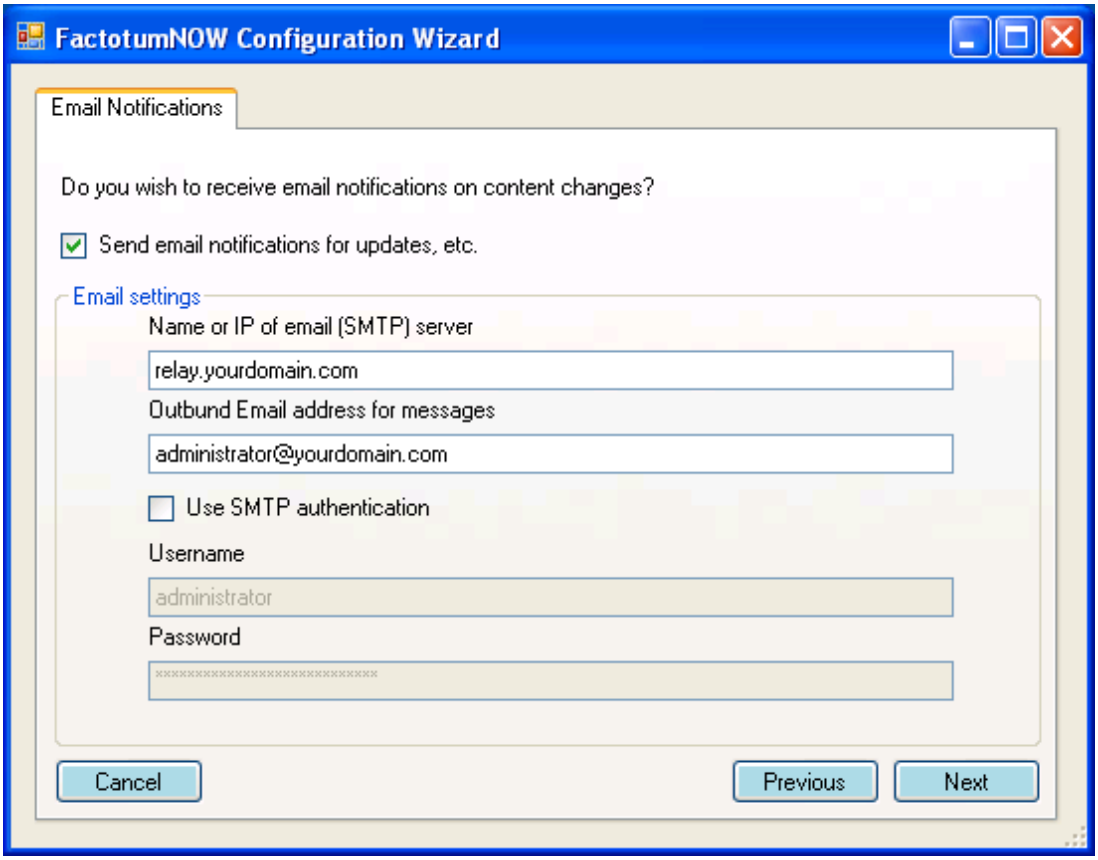

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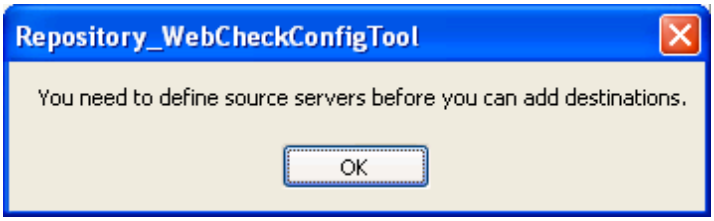

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- Both: This system will have a staging area and publish into a live area on itself in a different directory.

Click on “Next” when you have made your choice.

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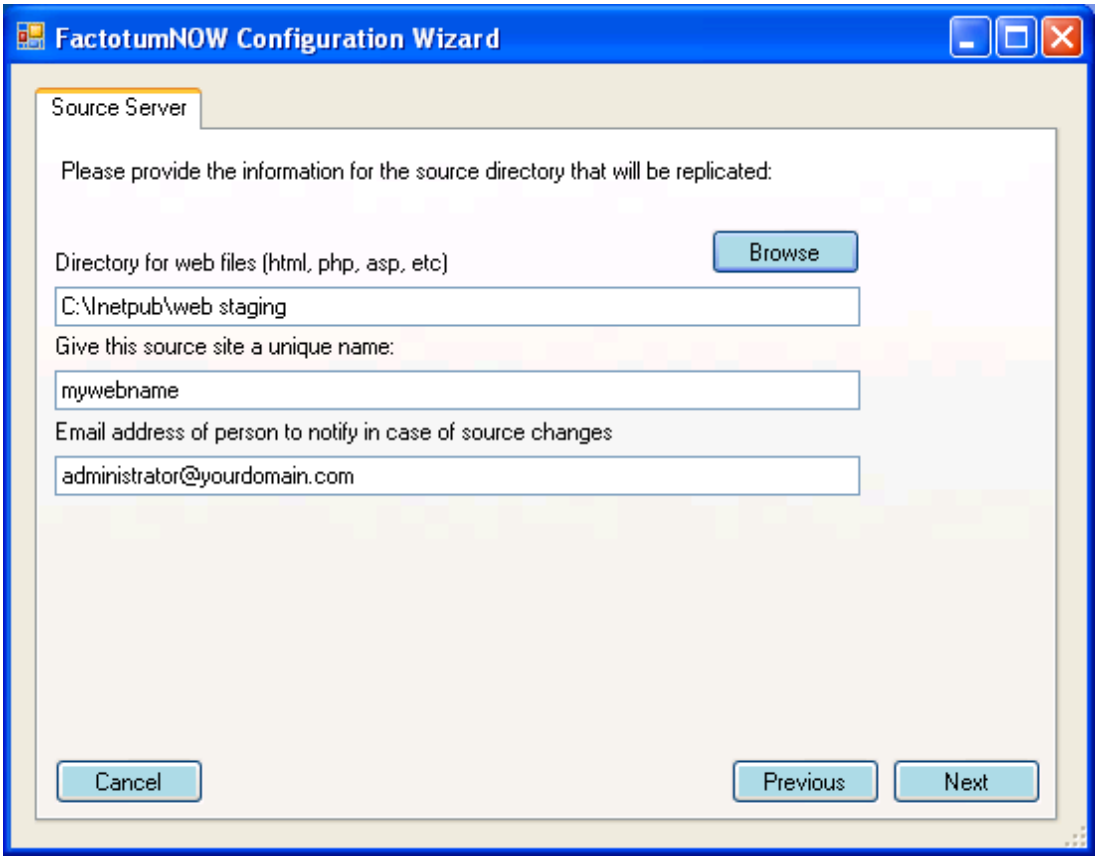
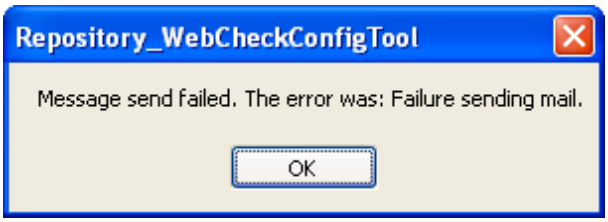


If you have selected “Source Server” or “Both”, you will see the above screen. Specify where your original web content is located, allocated a unique name for this web and specify the administrator email address. When you click on “Next”, your settings will be verified and a test email will be sent to the email address specified here.



Should you receive an error message regarding the mail configuration, you can click on “Previous” until you see the email configuration settings and adjust them. If you have decided to make this server either “Distribution Server” or “Both”, you will see the below window:

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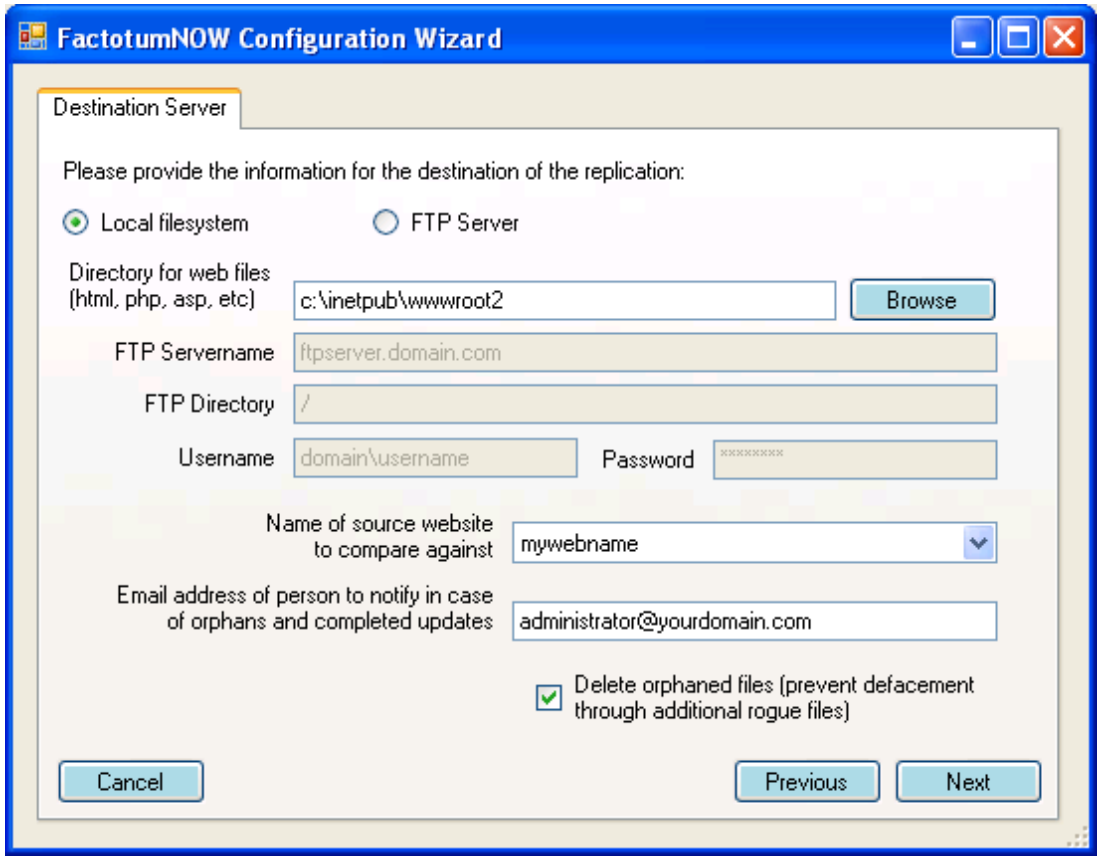
a Publishing to a local file system



If the content is to be published to the local file system (preferred method), then supply the destination directory for the live web content, pick the content from the source webs list (if you have different sources) and supply the email address for the administrator of the destination site.

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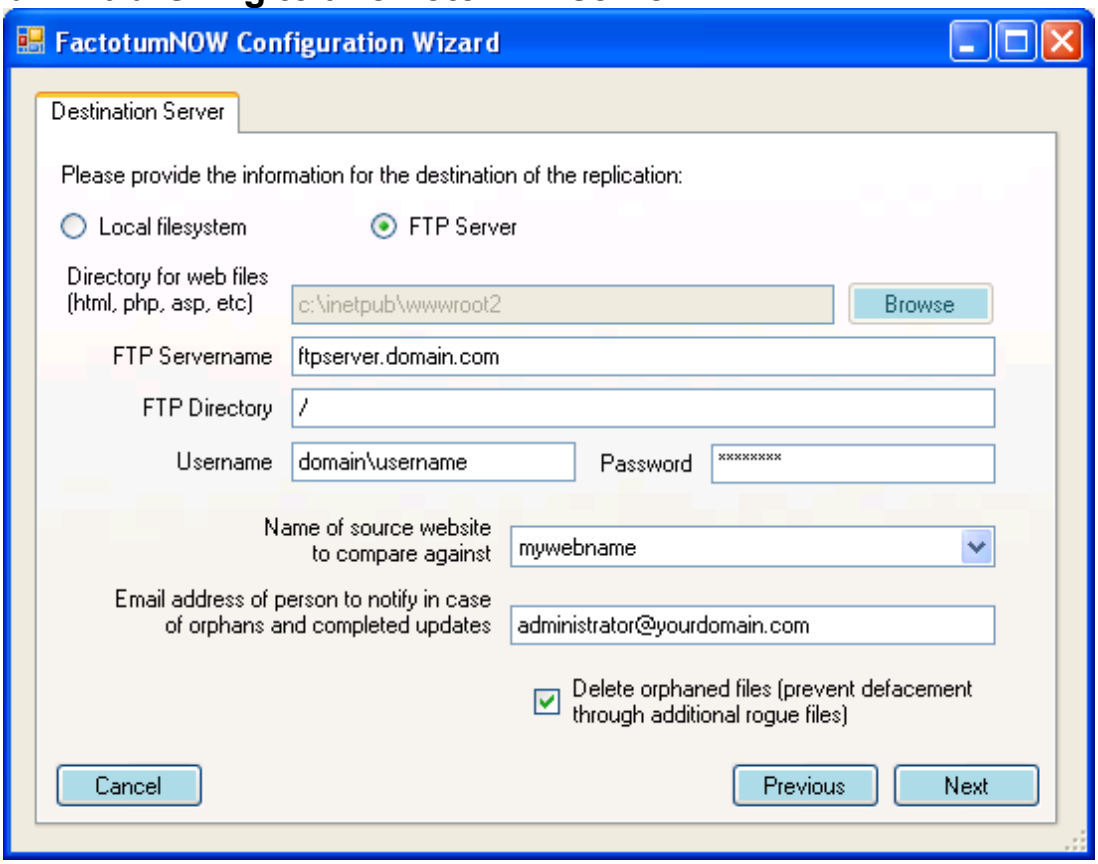
b Publishing to a remote FTP server



If the content is to be published to a remote server through FTP, supply the FTP servername, the directory in the FTP site (the root is always "/"), and username/password credentials to allow for uploads to this FTP server. Also, specify an email address that will be notified whenever actions are taken on this destination FTP server.

Clicking on "Next" will bring you to the final screen of the wizard:

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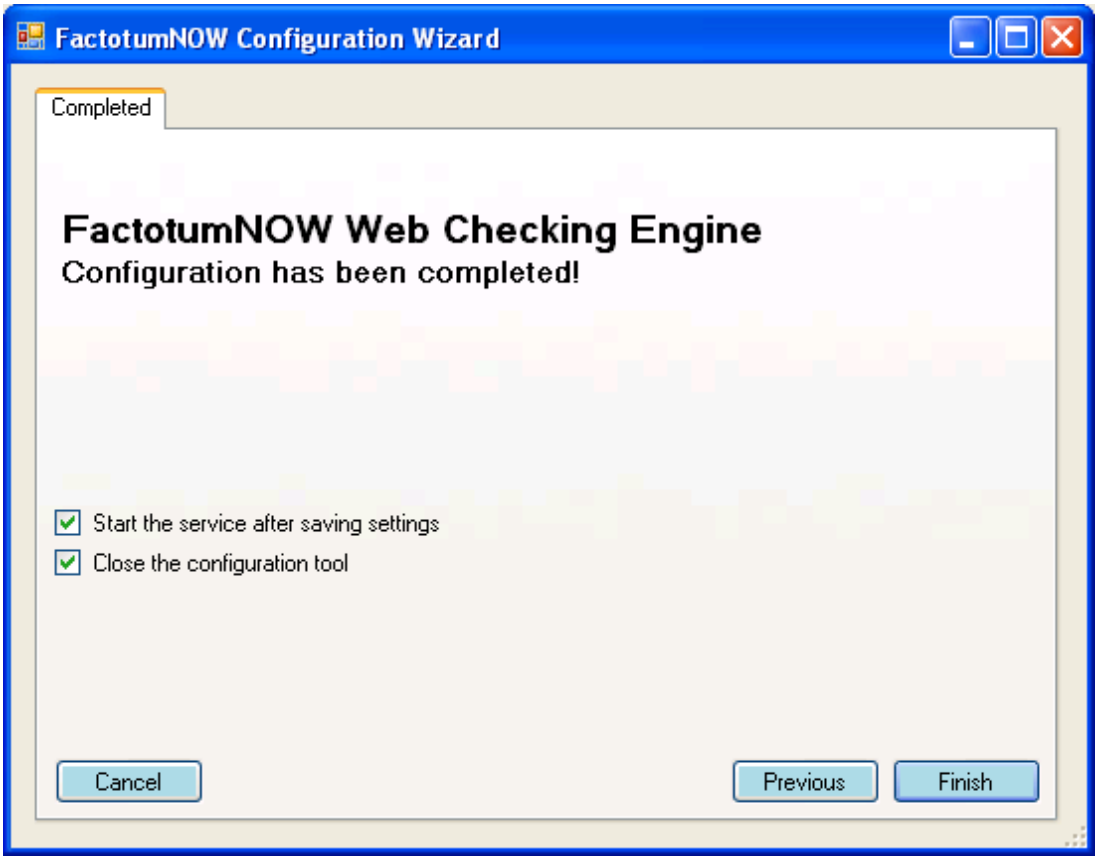

The options here are:

- "Start the service..:": Automatically start the FactotumNOW Web Checking Engine and being replication after the settings have been stored.
- "Close the configuration tool": Close the tool after storing the settings.

Click on "Finish" to store the settings and complete the configuration.

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III Troubleshooting

Should you encounter problems while operating this software, please do not hesitate to contact us either through the support forums on our web site (http://www.factotumnow.com) or via email support@factotumnow.com.

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