

# Notifications and Alerts in XNAT

XNAT can be configured to send automated notifications on system events to a series of email address of your choice. It also provides multiple mechanisms for allowing you to alert XNAT users.



## Developer Note

This functionality has been overhauled in XNAT 1.7 and now uses the XAPI notifications api. You can find additional documentation and working examples of this in the Swagger XAPI browser embedded in your XNAT application by going to **Administer > Site Administration > Miscellaneous > View Swagger**

## Notifications Prerequisite: Configure the XNAT Email Server

In order to send any automated or manual notifications, SMTP must be enabled in your XNAT and the XNAT Email Server must be properly configured. These settings can be updated at **Administer > Site Administration > Email Server**. Contact your local network administrator if you are not sure which settings to use here.

## Managing Automated Notifications

When you go through your initial site setup, you are asked to provide an administrative contact email. This email is then used as the default contact method for all XNAT notifications. However, you can easily split this up into multiple emails for various system events if you prefer, using the Admin UI. Go to **Administer > Site Administration > Notifications** to begin.



You can also edit your Admin contact email at **Administer > Site Administration > Site Setup**.

## System Event Contacts



By default, XNAT will allow you to specify any email address as recipients of notifications, including non-users. You can limit these email address to those of registered users by setting "Allow Non-user Subscribers" to FALSE on the Notifications Admin page.

Event	Description
<b>Help Contact Info</b>	The email address provided will be the recipient of any user query sent through the contact form located in the <b>Help &gt; Report An Issue</b> page. It will also be listed as a contact in emails sent to users on various error conditions. It is recommended that this email address be monitored by a real person, and not an auto-response agent.
<b>Error Messages</b>	This is not currently used by default in XNAT, but data processing scripts and pipelines could be configured to send error messages to the listed email address.
<b>Issue Reports</b>	This is not currently used by default in XNAT, but new plugins, scripts or pipelines could be configured to send issue reports to the listed email address.
<b>New User Alert</b>	This is not currently used by default in XNAT, but a future release will send new user registration notifications to this email address. Currently, these notifications are sent to the primary site admin email address.
<b>Updates</b>	This is not currently used by default in XNAT, but new plugins, scripts or pipelines could be configured to send update reports to the listed email address.

## Editing Default Email Messages

The Notifications Admin page allows you to edit the default email messages sent to users on new user registration events, or on user "forgot username" or "forgot password" events. Please note that these system emails are configured to use a series of shortcodes, or strings that will be replaced with system values.

### Shortcode Reference

Shortcode	Replacement Value
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SITE_NAME	Your XNAT's site name, which is set in <b>Administer &gt; Site Administration &gt; Site Setup</b>
SITE_URL	Your XNAT's URL, which is set in <b>Administer &gt; Site Administration &gt; Site Setup</b>
USER_USERNAME	The username or login of the registered user, which is unique and set by the user
USER_FIRSTNAME	The first name provided by the registered user. This can be edited by the user in their profile, or by the site administrator in <b>Administer &gt; Users</b>
USER_LASTNAME	The last name provided by the registered user. This can be edited by the user in their profile, or by the site administrator in <b>Administer &gt; Users</b>
ADMIN_EMAIL	The primary XNAT administration contact email, which is set in <b>Site Administration &gt; Site Setup</b>
HELP_EMAIL	The Help Contact Info email specified above

## Editing Password Reset Emails

The email that is sent to users who request a password reset has a unique shortcode in it that must be included: **RESET\_URL**. This shortcode will be replaced with the URL the user should go to in order to reset their password. The link includes a newly created token that is only good for one use. This token will expire after the amount of time specified in [XNAT Security Settings > User Logins/Session Controls > Alias Token Timeout](#).

## Sending Custom Notifications to Users via Email



This UI will be updated in a future release of XNAT 1.7, and these documents will be updated accordingly.

Logged in as: [admin](#) | Auto-logout in: 0:14:48 - [renew](#) | [Logout](#)

[Browse](#) [New](#) [Upload](#) [Administer](#) [Tools](#) [Help](#)

Stored Searches

### Send Email

	To	CC	BCC	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Admin Admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	XNAT Guest

**Subject:**

**Message Body:**

XNAT provides a bare-bones interface for sending email alerts to one or more registered users. This can be accessed at **Administer > Send Email**. Please note that SMTP must be activated and the XNAT Email server must be configured for this interface to work. See above for info.

## Creating Site-wide Alerts

Email alerts are not always effective at immediately notifying users of system conditions or upcoming events such as an IT maintenance window, as it relies on users to (A) check their email, and (B) remember what that email said in the wake of a dozen other daily priorities that can come up. If you have a high-priority message that all users of your XNAT should see, we recommend creating a site-wide notification. Go to **Administer > Site Administration > Site Setup** and scroll down to **Site-wide Alerts**.

## Site-wide Alerts

**Enable Alert Message**

**Alert Message**

Warning! This **XNAT** will be inaccessible for maintenance this weekend from 9pm to 6am. |

Enter your message text here. You can use HTML to enter links or add emphasis as needed.

**Alert Type**

Default: Alert

### Settings

Setting	Property Name	Description
<b>Enable Alert Message</b>	siteWideAlertStatus	Toggles between three possible settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"0": Off</li> <li>"1": On, displaying only on the login page</li> <li>"2": On, displaying on login page and site header</li> </ul>
<b>Alert Message</b>	siteWideAlertMessage	Message text. Can be plaintext or HTML.
<b>Alert Type</b>	siteWideAlertType	Toggles between three alert types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Message": Used for non-urgent informational alerts, such as to notify users of a new feature</li> <li>"Alert": Used for urgent informational alerts, such as to notify users of a scheduled outage</li> <li>"Error": Used to notify users of unexpected errors, such as unscheduled downtime or an outage of a related service, such as pipeline processing</li> </ul>

Only one site-wide alert can be set up at one time, and it can be positioned in two different places: On the Login Page, and/or in the top navigation section of each page in the site.

The alert message area can accept simple HTML tags such as <a> or <strong> to allow you to add links or emphasis tags. You can also specify an alert type, which will affect the display of the message and its apparent urgency.

If you use HTML, please close your tags properly or you can introduce some unexpected and ugly behavior in the UI.

### Viewing Site-wide Alerts on the Login Page



**Warning!** This XNAT will be inaccessible for maintenance this weekend from 9pm to 6am. [Learn more.](#)

## Welcome to XNAT

This is an example XNAT that has been set up for documentation purposes.

USER

PASSWORD

[Register](#) [Forgot login or password?](#)

## Viewing Site-wide Alerts in the Site Header

Last login: 12/02/2016 19:21:00 Logged in as: [admin](#) | [? Auto-logout in: 0:14:39 - renew](#) | [Logout](#)

 [Browse](#) [New](#) [Upload](#) [Administer](#) [Tools](#) [Help](#)

**Warning!** This XNAT will be inaccessible for maintenance this weekend from 9pm to 6am. [Learn more.](#)



XNAT currently contains 2 projects, 1 subjects, and 1 imaging sessions.

**Projects** | [Subjects](#) | [MR](#) | [PET](#) | [CT](#)

ID:  Name:  Description:

Keywords:  Investigator: