Overview of Symantec Client Management Suite

Symantec Client Management Suite (CMS) helps manage, patch, and remediate application and OS configurations for desktops, laptops, and servers throughout their lifecycle to strengthen endpoint security and maximize user productivity. CMS supports all major operating systems, provides both real-time and persistent management of endpoints inside and outside the perimeter, and has extensive deployment and patch management capabilities.

What’s New in Client Management Suite 8.5?

Client Management Suite 8.5 introduces several new compelling features and enhancements including:

- **Time Critical Management**
- **Endpoint Compliance and Quarantine**
- **Automated Vulnerability-based Scanning and Remediation**
- **Modern UI Workspaces**
- **Updated Self-service Software Portal**

Let’s look at each of these in more detail.

**Time Critical Management**

One of the many strengths of Client Management Suite is its ability to perform actions on a pre-defined schedule such as gathering inventory, updating software, and sending out patches. With the release of version 8.5, Client Management Suite can now also perform actions on-demand and in real-time – a new feature called “Time Critical Management”.

In today’s world of increasing threats, there is a greater need to reduce the latency in data collection and act quickly based on that data. With time critical management, you can collect immediate intelligence about what is happening in your environment to help make the right decisions and do it faster than ever. For example, if you wanted to find out which machines in your environment are running Windows 10 and are missing a specific patch (or any other discoverable inventory item), you can now get this information within seconds rather than what may have used to take hours or even days.

Time critical management is “built-in” to version 8.5 and doesn’t require any additional set-up. It has a new modern UI that is easy to use and provides a view into the CMDB and real-time data. The combination of real-time management with the persistent capabilities of Client Management Suite provides greater flexibility and visibility for managing an IT environment.
Endpoint Compliance and Quarantine

Another exciting new feature in Client Management Suite 8.5 is made possible through integration with Symantec Endpoint Protection (SEP). During an outbreak of a critical vulnerability (i.e. WannaCry), there may be a delay between when a patch is available or when it is possible for all machines to be patched. This gap in time can be mitigated through using CMS and SEP together to block network access to any endpoint that fails a compliance scan.

This is done by setting quarantine policies targeting specific CVE-IDs and then performing a patch management scan to evaluate compliance. These scans can also be configured to run automatically. Based on the results of the scan, SEP using its host integrity functionality only allows endpoints that are compliant with patch policies to connect to the corporate network. The patch compliance scans support Microsoft and commonly used third-party applications. If desired, a grace period can also be set-up to allow time for remediation before an endpoint is automatically blocked from the network. Using SEP and CMS together is powerful way to strengthen an organization’s overall endpoint security posture.

Automated Vulnerability-based Scanning and Remediation

Another integration introduced in version 8.5 is the ability to automate the remediation of vulnerabilities using Symantec Control Compliance Suite Vulnerability Manager (CCSVM) and Client Management Suite together. CCSVM scans for vulnerabilities in your environment and the results are imported into Client Management Suite, which then kicks off the delivery of patches to the endpoints that need to be remediated. You can automate the delivery of these patches if desired such as those considered critical or high risk.
Modern UI Workspaces

CMS 8.5 also introduces a modern UI for doing common daily tasks. These “workspaces” use a web-based console based on HTML 5 that is browser agnostic and can be accessed from any device including Mac OS. The workspaces are simple to use and specifically designed for technicians with little or no experience and without the need for special training. Technicians using the modern UI workspaces will only see what they need to do their job with an optimized user experience that has been designed to reduce the number of screens and clicks to perform tasks by as much as 50%. Depending on the permissions granted, the following tasks can be performed:

- Search and view inventory details for a selected endpoint
- Run tasks on one or more endpoints
- Deliver and install software on one or more endpoints

Updated Self-service Software Portal

CMS 8.5 features a revamped software portal providing an “app store like” user experience for requesting and installing software with little or no administrator involvement. The software portal can be customized with your logo and brand and is accessible across all browsers. The software portal helps reduce help desk calls related to software requests by simplifying the process of delivering and installing software in a way that most users have grown accustomed to on their mobile devices. Access to the software portal is automatically installed on your client computers for convenient access with the Symantec management agent.

Client Management Suite core capabilities

In addition to these and many other exciting new features in version 8.5, Client Management Suite remains strong in its core capabilities in deployment and patch management.
Deployment

Symantec Client Management Suite helps reduce the cost of deploying and managing desktops, and laptops from a centralized location in your environment. The solution offers OS deployment, configuration, PC “personality” migration, and software deployment across hardware platforms and OS types to reduce end-user downtime and increase IT efficiency through automated, repeatable deployment processes.

For example, you can build a reference system with your standard OS and applications and then mass-deploy a hardware-independent image of the reference system to your new and existing systems. Because every system is unique, you can assign security IDs (SIDs) and configure user names, IP addresses, and other network settings. In addition to supporting a wide variety of hardware types, Client Management Suite also supports multiple operating systems, including Windows®, Mac OS X®, and Linux®. Deploying desktops, thin clients and laptops has never been easier.

Key Deployment features include:

- Scalable, enterprise deployment for desktops, laptops, and thin clients across Windows, Mac, and Linux
- Web console, well suited for distributed access and detailed security models
- Supports PXE and iPXE environments
- Support for Windows PE and Linux pre-boot images
- Support for hardware independent image deployments
- Hands-free migration
- Ability to configure new systems using imaging, scripting, or a combination of both

Patch Management

An effective patch management strategy is critical for distributing software updates and, more importantly, for detecting and remediating security vulnerabilities. Many successful attacks are perpetrated against previously known vulnerabilities in which a patch or secure configuration standard was already available from the software vendor. Patches are only effective if they have been deployed.

Symantec Client Management Suite centralizes and simplifies patch management. With this solution you can detect and repair security vulnerabilities for Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems as well as Microsoft and commonly used third-party applications. Patch automation can further streamline the process to ensure patches are applied as quickly as possible. Real-time compliance and detailed reports help ensure smart, fast decisions can be made to keep endpoints protected and maximize productivity.

In addition, the Cloud-enabled management functionality in Client Management Suite ensures secure management of Windows and Mac users even when they are disconnected from the corporate network to ensure inventory, patches, software (including Symantec Endpoint Protection), and updates stay current on these machines. Cloud-enabled management utilizes an Internet gateway in the DMZ to provide certificate-based trusted communication over the Internet between remote clients distributed outside the firewall and the Symantec management server inside the corporate firewall. As a result, Client Management Suite ensures management is “always on” even when remote users are not connected through VPN.

Key Patch Management features include:

- Support for Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems
- Support for commonly used third-party applications
- Peer-to-peer downloading for remote or bandwidth challenged sites
- Support for Office 365 and Windows 10 updates
- Integration with Microsoft Express updates
- Support for remote and disconnected users
- Complete audit trail and reporting

Summary

Managing an IT environment in today’s world continues to become more complex. We have a wider range of devices and operating systems, more vulnerabilities and threats, and users who need to be able to work from any location using any device. This requires IT to have immediate intelligence on what’s happening in their environment and the ability to take instant action to ensure users are productive and protected. The new capabilities in Symantec Client Management Suite 8.5 combined with its core functionality helps strengthen endpoint security and maximize user productivity.
Try it now for FREE

Try Client Management Suite by downloading a free 30-day trial today: http://www.symantec.com/client-management-suite

System Requirements

For complete details on platform and OS support, please review the Platform Support Matrix.

More Information

Visit our website

https://www.symantec.com/products/endpoint-management

To speak with a Product Specialist in the U.S.

Call toll-free 1 (800) 745 6054

To speak with a Product Specialist outside the U.S.

For specific country offices and contact numbers, please visit our website.

About Symantec

Symantec Corporation (NASDAQ: SYMC), the world’s leading cyber security company, helps organizations, governments and people secure their most important data wherever it lives. Organizations across the world look to Symantec for strategic, integrated solutions to defend against sophisticated attacks across endpoints, cloud and infrastructure. Likewise, a global community of more than 50 million people and families rely on Symantec’s Norton and LifeLock product suites to protect their digital lives at home and across their devices. Symantec operates one of the world’s largest civilian cyber intelligence networks, allowing it to see and protect against the most advanced threats. For additional information, please visit www.symantec.com or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.