Overview of Symantec Server Management Suite

Symantec™ Server Management Suite provides IT administrators with a comprehensive solution for managing physical and virtual servers across a broad array of platforms. The suite provides solutions to provision, control, automate, and monitor servers from a central console. With these tools, organizations gain and maintain control of their servers, reduce service interruptions, and increase uptime.

Understand what you have and where it is

The foundation to secure and successful server management is an accurate picture of what you have. Many organizations take a manual approach to gathering inventory and building out a hardware and software inventory spreadsheet. This method leads to information that is quickly stale, requires considerable human effort to maintain, and may miss hidden servers on the network. Server Management Suite gets you started on the right foot with network discovery and inventory tools that automatically collect this information for you.

With the release of version 8.5, Server Management Suite can now also perform inventory actions on-demand and in real-time – a new feature called “Time Critical Management”. This provides 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 servers are running a specific OS and are missing a certain patch (or any other discoverable inventory item), you can now get this information within seconds rather than what may have been 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 Server Management Suite provides greater flexibility and visibility for managing your servers.

Decrease Server Provisioning to hours, not weeks

The fastest route to eliminating unplanned downtime is by implementing a standardized provisioning process. Server Management Suite deployment capabilities ensure consistent configurations across large numbers of servers in an organization.

• Automate new server deployments and technology refresh cycles with zero-touch imaging, scripting, or a combination of the two for bare-metal provisioning or re-imaging.
• Configure basic input/output system (BIOS), redundant array of independent disks (RAID), user/network settings, drives, services, location, and more during the provisioning process.

With the release of version 8.5, the imaging process is even faster due to the introduction of iPXE which is used during the pre-boot process. iPXE shortens the downtime a machine goes through while being imaged and therefore speeds up the overall process.
Robust patch management for today’s threats

Patching servers often requires longer implementation cycles due to the necessary demands of pre-testing to minimize potential service disruptions. Both IT operations and security are forced into a dilemma of leaving servers exposed or installing potentially disruptive patches. Server Management Suite improves overall security by providing automated, robust patch management for multiple server operating systems.

- Support for all Microsoft® and Linux® updates.
- Support for security and non-security related updates.
- Support for commonly used third-party applications.

A new patch management capability introduced with version 8.5 is the ability to automate the remediation of vulnerabilities using Symantec Control Compliance Suite Vulnerability Manager (CCSVM) and Server Management Suite together. CCSVM scans for vulnerabilities in your environment and the results are imported into Server 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.

Minimize duplicate tools with integrated virtual machine management

Organizations effectively leverage virtual infrastructures to provide rapid delivery of services and to maximize use of server hardware. The consequence is that IT now must manage numerous management tools to effectively support physical and often different virtual technologies. Server Management Suite provides a consistent management framework across VMware® and Microsoft® Hyper-V™ to ease these management burdens.

- View a consolidated mapping of the virtualization infrastructure.
- Understand host-virtual machine relationships with specific drill-downs into host and virtual machine properties.
- Perform tasks such as creating virtual machines, modifying settings, and changing power states.

Simplify compliance with streamlined software management

Organizations typically manage numerous server applications that require dependent applications, routine updates, and tracking for software audit preparation. For many administrators this means making sense of thousands of moving parts to ensure compatibility and compliance. Server Management Suite’s software management capabilities enable organizations to be more intelligent when it comes to software delivery, software license management, and compliance with software management policies.

- Track all aspects of software in one place, including inventory, installations, and dependencies.
- Hands-free remediation in case software has been removed or is not properly installed.

Reduce service disruptions with integrated monitoring

Every minute a server is down your business is impacted. The ability to quickly identify an issue and remediate the root cause is critical to maintaining uptime. Server Management Suite provides lightweight server health monitoring and integrated remediation tasks to streamline server troubleshooting.

- Identify infrastructure health by collecting and alerting against detailed data from servers and applications in a centralized event console.
- Analyze trends and isolate recurring issues by collecting comprehensive real-time and historical performance data.
- Context specific flipbooks quickly identify servers that need attention with dynamic, drillable compliance views.
Centralize management for greater control

Every server operations organization is unique; the roles may be segmented by platform or specific administrative functions. The ability to segment responsibilities and aggregate changes is necessary to ensure security and operational efficiency. Server Management Suite provides a global view of IT combined with the ability to model organizational responsibilities.

- Ensure the right people have access to the correct server resources with role and scope-based security, and securely store common credentials required for server management.
- Quickly visualize existing change events to minimize the frequency of service disruptions with enterprise calendar and maintenance windows views.
- Centralize inventory across Windows®, Linux®, UNIX, VMware® and Hyper-V™ in a single management database.
- Access hardware and software configuration details to help plan for technology upgrades and software license audits.
- Utilize custom inventory to augment existing data for homegrown applications or custom environments.

More automation, less headaches

Why spend time on routine tasks that require valuable IT resources or dead-end in an inbox queue? Organizations can improve end-user satisfaction and reduce resource drains by implementing automated, repeatable processes. Server Management Suite helps you define, design, and deliver automated IT processes and workflows that drive business.

- End to end automation with operational, productivity, and event-based decision rules.
- Visual drag-and-drop design interface that does not require coding.
- Manage and report on running processes and their current status.

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/server-management-suite

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.

Measure and improve IT performance

When new questions arise or more information is required, organizations often require technical expertise to properly mine and analyze the information. Server Management Suite contains advanced analytics and reporting that allow IT organizations to easily explore data and answer their own questions.

- Create professional reports using familiar pivot tables without advanced knowledge of databases or third-party reporting tools.
- Measure critical success factors and quickly assess trends of how these measures are changing over time.
- View reports that provide a representative view of all IT assets including the ability to aggregate data from multiple databases.

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.