

Altiris® Server Management Suite™

Essentials Overview

Altiris® Server Management Suite™ software provides a comprehensive set of essential tools that solves key operational challenges throughout the life of the server. With these solutions you gain control of your servers so you can focus on core business needs:

- Locate and Identify Servers
 - Prepare and Deploy a Baseline Operating System and Configuration
 - Maintain Health of Servers
 - Patch Management for Windows Servers
 - Progressive Problem Resolution
 - Monitor Critical Components
 - Flexible Alerting and Reporting
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Overview

Server Management Suite provides IT administrators with a comprehensive solution for managing business-critical servers and operations. Designed to simplify the entire server lifecycle, the suite provides solutions to deploy, manage, and measure servers from a central console. With the suite you can automate operations, improve system availability, and reduce overall cost of ownership.

Locate and Identify Servers

In a rapidly changing environment, you need a current view and comprehensive inventory of your devices. Altiris Network Discovery™ allows users to discover devices connected to any network environment and used by other Altiris products and then manage those devices and display them in a topology map. Network

Discovery provides users with the ability to create multiple discovery policies, schedule discovery to run when it best meets your needs, and update categories and class identifications so that new devices added to the network can be accurately discovered.

Multiple operating systems add complexity to the server environment. Altiris technology includes multi-platform support that makes it easy to consolidate the discovery of all your Windows, Linux, and UNIX assets within an integrated console. You can populate the configuration management database (CMDB) with your server configuration items (CIs). Inventory Pack for Servers™ gathers comprehensive server-based software and hardware data from just about any system or server running a server operating system. Inventory specific to servers includes system DSNs, SCSI controllers, DNS servers, DHCP servers, Microsoft IIS, SQL and Exchange configurations.

Prepare and Deploy a Baseline Operating System and Configuration

Server provisioning can be a time-consuming task fraught with human error. Server Management Suite provides powerful deployment features that allow you to provision and configure large numbers of servers quickly and with consistent results. Not only do Altiris software's deployment capabilities help install the operating system, they provide the flexibility to configure the network settings and install all the applications needed on your managed servers.



Sophisticated task sequencing features help lock down installation order and source locations to ensure system security and correct operations.

Server Management Suite also includes features that ensure maximum server availability. Features include replication of consistent server configurations from a central source, dynamically provisioning new or existing servers based on need, and the ability to manage multiple sites from a single console. Server Management Suite's bare-metal operating system, network, and application stack provisioning make for rapid, reliable server deployment for Windows and Linux.

Maintain Health of Servers

Your IT organization can spend a significant portion of its resources chasing configuration conflicts, verifying the accuracy of software updates, and repairing missing or changed files. By collecting baseline information and scheduling regular compliance checks, you can catch and repair conflicts before they cause a problem. Server Management Suite's patch management for Windows servers provides a simple, accurate way to detect computers with non-standard configurations. The suite's repair option returns the software settings to their original value, decreasing IT staff time spent on resolving software conflicts.

Patch Management for Windows Servers

The sheer number of patches makes it difficult for your IT staff to identify and understand which patches

need to be applied. Server Management Suite helps eliminate the manual process of gathering data by using an information repository that's specifically tailored to automate the patch management process. A centralized aggregate view of all available patches identifies open vulnerabilities ranked by severity. Once required patches are identified, distribution wizards provide automated package and policy creation for easy and secure distribution of all required patches and updates.

Altiris patch management capability also seamlessly integrates with Altiris Recovery Solution™ software for stable-state rollback when an applied patch causes system instabilities. By integrating automated patch management with recovery capabilities, Altiris Patch Management Solution™ software improves business continuity and accelerates IT systems security by reducing the need for extended patch test cycles.

If a recent patch or software application disrupts server operations, Server Management Suite's integrated recovery solution allows you to quickly restore servers to a previous state to help ensure business continuity.

Progressive Problem Resolution

Server Management Suite provides essential tools for resolving your Windows system problems efficiently and easily. The suite helps you decrease runaround time for tasks that in the past required personal visits to the data center. A standards-based browser allows you to instantly view vital statistics and operational



parameters in real time, as well as access diagnostic and security tools, such as port scan and traceroute.

Monitor Critical Components

With Server Management Suite you can keep a pulse on your server's system health and network resources by continually gathering and summarizing data to help keep your environment up and running 24 hours a day. In fact, the suite provides a variety of metrics and rules that allow you to quickly determine whether server problems are related to network, system, or application performance. By tracking the overall availability of a server and its downtime, you can effectively compare against your organization's service level objectives.

Flexible Alerting and Reporting

When critical thresholds are crossed, Server Management Suite automatically notifies network administrators through e-mail or the integrated Alert Manager™ software, which allows administrators to track each problem and maintain a history of the issue. Server Management Suite includes hundreds of Altiris' prepackaged Web reports to help you track data from any browser.

System Requirements

Server Management Suite requires that you install and configure the Altiris Notification Server™.

Supported Windows Platforms

- Windows NT Server 4.0
- Windows 2000 Server
- Windows Server 2003

Supported UNIX/Linux Platforms

- AIX
- HP-UX
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- Solaris
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server

Note: Not all Server Management Suite features are supported on all platforms.

More Information

Learn more about Server Management Suite at <http://www.altiris.com/Products/ServerInfrastructure.aspx>.

To speak with a product specialist, call toll-free (888) 252-5551 in the U.S. or visit our Web site for international numbers.

About Symantec

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