



Microsoft SQL Server 2008 and System Center

Managing, deploying, and protecting SQL Server 2008 with System Center

What Is System Center?

System Center is Microsoft's family of systems management solutions designed to make IT more productive and efficient by allowing the IT department to apply best practices to systems management, deployment, and data protection.

System Center solutions can work together to provide an integrated, end-to-end management solution. They are designed to simplify IT operations and to capture and analyze information about your infrastructure and business processes. They also give IT the ability to offer comprehensive management of physical and virtual infrastructures in an efficient and effective manner.

Benefits of Using System Center with SQL Server 2008

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 delivers a safe, secure, and reliable platform for running your most mission critical, line-of-business applications. It is the platform for building scalable business intelligence, data warehousing, and transaction processing that allows your business to grow and expand.

Using SQL Server 2008 with System Center also delivers these improved services for your business IT customers:

- **Managing and Monitoring**

Complex SQL Server infrastructures require tools for management and monitoring. Keeping SQL Server running in top health keeps business processes functioning smoothly.

- **Deploying Standardized Configurations**

Keeping individual SQL Servers updated and patched to a consistent

level can be a time-consuming task. Configuration Manager limits the chance that an erroneously configured installation can corrupt or negatively impact the data infrastructure.

- **Data protection for SQL Server**

Data Protection Manager provides a key component for running and maintaining a successful SQL database infrastructure.

Better Together: System Center and SQL Server 2008

There are three members of the System Center family that are most applicable to IT administrators responsible for SQL Server 2008 installations:

- **System Center Operations Manager 2007**

System Center Operations Manager provides an end-to-end service management and monitoring solution for an entire Windows IT environment. The hierarchical structure of the Operations Manager model allows for monitoring of not only the Windows Servers but applications running on those servers and the interoperation of servers and software.

The SQL Server 2008 Management Pack will give Operations Manager the ability to provide in-depth health reports with an included knowledgebase that provides detailed information about health status issues and alerts. The SQL administrator can then get an enterprise-wide view of the health, performance, and stability of all of their managed servers from a single console.

- **System Center Configuration Manager 2007**

System Center Configuration Manager is the best choice for a centralized deployment and configuration of SQL Server 2008. It builds on the deployment technologies that have been developed for the Windows platform and leverages existing Windows deployment tools such as the Windows Pre-installation Environment (Windows PE).

SQL administrators can be assured that the core underlying operating system has been configured and deployed in an appropriate fashion for their SQL Servers. By using the Desired Configuration Management feature (DCM), the SQL administrator can build a dynamic baseline configuration for the SQL servers and monitor compliance with that baseline. They will also be alerted to take action should the baseline configuration change.

The Configuration Management pack for SQL Server gives the SQL administrator a good starting point for using DCM.

- **System Center Data Protection Manager 2007**

Data Protection Manager 2007 (DPM) was designed from the ground up to protect the Microsoft SQL Server workload. With DPM 2007, continuous data protection is accomplished by taking a snapshot of the changed data every 15 minutes and using the transaction logs to recreate any data changed or created since the last snapshot.



System Center Product	Benefits for SQL Server 2008
System Center Operations Manager 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory discovery and management• Events and alerts display• Multiple views ready to use out-of-the-box
System Center Configuration Manager 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deploy consistent instances of SQL Server throughout the enterprise• Keeping servers up-to-date with the latest patches and software updates• Customization with the SQL Server Configuration Management Pack
System Center Data Protection Manager 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lossless protection and flexible restore points for backups of SQL Server 2008• Continuous data protection is achieved by capturing a snapshot of data changes as they occur in real-time; lossless protection uses most recent snapshot and transaction records to restore to the point where the failure occurred

For Further Information

SQL Server 2008 Home
<http://www.microsoft.com/sql/>

System Center Operations Manager 2007
<http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/opsmgr/>

System Center Home
<http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/>

System Center Data Protection Manager 2007
<http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/dpm/>

System Center Configuration Manager 2007
<http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/configmgr/>

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