

The number of data center applications, servers, and services continues to grow, increasing the scale and scope of compliance requirements that data center managers must deal with. These requirements are both internal and external – for example, password policy enforcement, data-access controls, Sarbanes-Oxley, or country-specific data-protection legislation.

Additionally, the number and range of servers, images, services, and applications deployed in the data center continue to grow. This growth is often driven by virtualization, and forces IT professionals to adapt and find cost-effective ways to scale their compliance processes.

The Microsoft System Center server compliance solution is designed to support data center managers as they deal with these issues.

### Solutions-Based Approach

The System Center data center management solutions provide integrated end-to-end management of departmental or enterprise data center environments and offer these benefits:

- Integrated management system for the physical and virtual data center infrastructure, thus removing duplicate tools for the different environments
- Extensible and interoperable platform that provides cross-platform monitoring capabilities to improve service levels
- Deep, embedded knowledge from Microsoft for best practices that

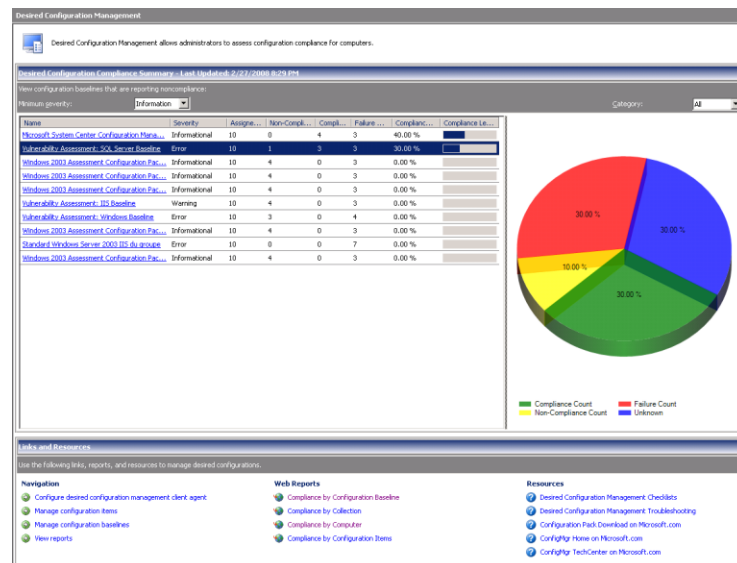


Figure 1 – Summary Report for Desired Configuration Management

reduce deployment time and support ongoing process improvements

comprehensive identity access management

### The Microsoft System Center Compliance Management Solution

Microsoft has taken a holistic approach to supporting server compliance in the data center, bringing together key capabilities that provide a cost-effective solution to managing the challenges of growth, security, and costs to ensure compliance. This solution is designed to support data center managers as they:

- Deploy, manage, and monitor configuration controls
- Audit and report on server security events
- Secure the data center server environment through

### Configuration Controls and Reporting

Using System Center configuration controls and reporting capabilities, data center managers can achieve the desired configuration that helps ensure server compliance throughout the data center. These capabilities also enable managers to create, deploy, and monitor both physical and virtual server configuration baselines throughout their data centers.

Configuration Packs (pre-packaged configuration items and settings) for specific applications or workloads further reduce the cost of maintaining server compliance. These packs also support compliance for specific regulations or standards.

Detailed configuration auditing and reporting enhance an automated configuration management process.

Dashboards allow data center managers to get an integrated view of the configuration status of their servers, while drill-down reports provide detailed, location-specific views of problems. The precise, actionable guidance and automated update capabilities support quick and accurate resolution of those problems.

Explicit asset intelligence reporting is available to support license compliance efforts. In addition, security vulnerability assessments provide insight for security audits and help reduce the risk of unauthorized access that incorrectly configured or installed software poses to the data center. These reports include information regarding:

- Detecting unnecessary services
- Detecting enabled but unsecured guest accounts
- Checking permissions on shared folders

### **Centralized Security Auditing and Reporting**

The centralized auditing and reporting capability enables all security-related events throughout the data center to be consolidated for reporting purposes. By collecting information such as changes in password policies or user permissions directly from the Windows security logs in near real-time, reports can be generated more quickly and accurately to meet compliance assessments. Managers

can use these reports to meet the security event reporting needs of external auditors or internal security officers.

### **Comprehensive Security Identity and Access Management**

Microsoft's identity and access management capabilities further enhance server compliance by ensuring that the lifecycle of user identities, passwords, and appropriate privileges is managed across all data center systems.

With the integration of System Center and Microsoft Forefront™ security capabilities, data center managers can protect information and control access to data center servers – key server compliance requirements.

The integration with System Center also delivers the global deployment of Forefront security updates to servers and users. Forefront management packs for server products such as Exchange Server 2007 and Office SharePoint Server 2007 work with System Center to protect and monitor IT systems 24/7.

### **Microsoft Data Center Management Solutions**

System Center data center management solutions address greater interoperability, openness, and choice within data centers while improving overall efficiency. These solutions are:

### **Configuration Management**

Automated provisioning and updating, with server consolidation through virtualization.

### **End-to-End Monitoring**

Application and service-level monitoring, with proactive platform monitoring.

### **Server Compliance**

Configuration controls and reporting plus centralized audit of system security.

### **Data Protection and Recovery**

Backup and restore in addition to business continuity through server virtualization.

### **Microsoft System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise**

The Microsoft System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise offers the System Center products that together enable IT organizations to proactively manage their physical and virtual environments. The Server Management Suite Enterprise is a cost-effective way to acquire the core components of the System Center data center management solutions.

These System Center solutions lower costs, improve efficiency, and ensure the data center remains available for critical business needs

For more information about System Center Data Center Solutions, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter>.

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