Windows for your Business

Improving your organization's security and performance with the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack

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Today, we are excited to announce that Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP) 2014 is now available for downlo those of you who aren't familiar with MDOP, it's a suite of virtualization, management and security technologies availab subscription for Software Assurance customers that helps maximize the benefits offered by Windows.

MDOP 2014 includes Microsoft BitLocker Administration and Monitoring tool (MBAM) 2.5, which represents a substanti update to our BitLocker management solution. MBAM is leveraged by organizations to simplify BitLocker deployment, I recovery, and compliance reporting. With this version, MBAM offers a series of improvements that will give businesses control and help them achieve the highest level of compliance. It includes:

- **Enhanced support for FIPS 140-2.** For the very first time, MBAM now includes support for organizations that must a to Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS). MBAM 2.5 takes advantage of Windows 8.1's new FIPS-compliant recovery key password or the Data Recovery Agent (DRA) protector, a capability also supported for Windows 7 dev
- **Improved compliance and enforcement policies.** MBAM 2.5 gives IT greater control with the ability to better enfor compliance with company policies. While the previous version gave IT the ability to drive devices into a complaint sta lacked the ability control or enforce the encryption process as users had the ability to postpone the process. MBAM now includes automatic encryption enforcement, provides grace periods for encryption postponement, and it can no enforce the use of strong PINs (i.e. prevents the use of 1234 or 1111).
- **Support for enterprise scenarios and topologies.** MBAM can now be deployed on Windows Server in a high availa configuration. MBAM supports load balancing of its web components, and its databases can be deployed to SQL Se failover clusters.

In coordination with the MDOP 2014 release, we are also delighted to announce a significant spring update for Micros Application Virtualization (App-V) 5.0 SP2. This update is available for download here and includes a number of signific product innovations focusing on virtualized desktop scenarios. We have also published new guidance on tuning and si your virtualized application infrastructure along with detailed descriptions of the App-V client internals.

- **Innovations to application publishing and launch.** App-V now has a number of enhancements to application publishing/refresh and launch performance. These include new capabilities that leverage existing user profile manag

technology (like MDOP's UE-V) during application publish and launch.

- **Support of parallel deployment and execution of application upgrades.** Improvements to App-V, allowing you to simplify the test and execution of your upgraded virtualized applications while retaining user access to the original virtualized application running on the same device.

- **Improvements to existing capabilities.** Based on your feedback, we have also made a number of other updates to including: enhancements to the package conversion engine and sequencer, improving package conversion rates; and support for a VFS write mode sequencer setting – which simplifies the virtualization of applications that require this capability

- **More deployment guidance and how-to guides.** To help you learn, test, deploy and optimize App-V in your enviro there are now a number of how-to guides available <u>here</u>. These include a new App-V performance guide, a publishi guide and updates to our administration and sequencing guides.

MDOP 2014 includes some great new capabilities for one of its headlining products and represents another instance o MDOP delivers new and easily deployable capabilities at a faster and more predictable cadence. To learn more about latest updates to MBAM and App-V – along with details on other Windows products – including helpful guidance on h can deploy these tools in your organization – please visit the <u>Springboard blog</u>.

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