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Feb. 1-3rd in Oslo Spektrum

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# How to Keep Up to Date with Configuration Manager Current Branch

# Agenda

- Staying up to date with Configuration Manager
  - Getting familiar with the new Updates and Servicing feature
- Production versus Lab versus Technical Previews
  - Do I need all three?
- Client piloting
  - Easy way to validate new client versions

# Let's Get the Name Correct!

- The official name of the new product is:
  - System Center Configuration Manager
    - No date, no version, just the product name
- Microsoft made it even more confusing with a new 'version' in System Center 2016
  - Most references add "Current Branch" after Configuration Manager
  - You need to know your current version (1511/1602/1606/1610)
- Be careful when talking to others about your specific version, as there are differences in each release of current branch 😊



# Demonstration

Updating System Center Configuration Manager current branch

# The Updates and Servicing Feature

- An extremely easy way to keep Configuration Manager up to date!

# Updating Configuration Manager

- The Updates and Servicing feature is designed to help you keep Configuration Manager up to date
- Much easier to discover available updates and install than Service Packs
  - This feature replaces Cumulative Updates too
- Two update pack discovery methods:
  - Online requires access to the cloud from your site infrastructure
  - Offline requires access to the cloud from any computer in your environment
- In-console monitoring will help track the update progress

# Online Mode

- New updates will be automatically downloaded that are appropriate for the build your site is currently running
  - Uses telemetry data that is uploaded to the cloud service weekly
  - The service connection point site system role is used for upload and download of updates
    - Checks daily for new updates
  - Applicable updates are then downloaded to a special download location and extracted for installation
- Available updates will then appear in the console for you to install if you desire
- If update packs have new features, you can select whether or not to install the new feature, or just the updates





# Demonstration

Folders and logs for the Updates and Servicing Feature

# Offline Mode

- Use the Service Connection Tool to discover and prepare updates
  - Only works when service connection point is in offline mode
- 1. Prepare telemetry data for upload
  - Telemetry data is required and updating the site requires upload
- 2. Connect to the web and upload the telemetry data
  - Downloads any applicable update packs for the specific site
- 3. Import into site for installation
  - Updates will then appear in the console after processing
  - Optionally can save telemetry data to CSV for offline viewing

# Telemetry Data

- Usage and configuration data for the site is collected for upload to Microsoft
- The base setting is configured when you upgrade to, or install, Configuration Manager
  - Defaults to “Enhanced” at install time
- After the site is installed, you can change the Usage Data configuration
  - Options are “Full” and “Basic”
  - Change via the Configuration Manager Console
- The Service Connection Tool will send up telemetry data in order to determine what updates are applicable to your site



# Demonstration

Telemetry and the Service Connection tool

# Production versus Lab versus Technical Preview

- What do you need, and what should you have

# Updates for Production vs. Lab vs. Tech Preview

- Updates will be available for both production as well as Technical Preview environments
  - Applicable updates are determined by the telemetry data sent to Microsoft automatically or via the Service Connection Tool
  - They will be different updates however
  - Production updates will never appear in a Tech Preview environment, and vice versa
  - So expect that if you want to test upcoming (unreleased) updates/features, you will have a lab environment that is on a different code base than your production environment
    - For the most part the same, but not exactly the same

# How Many Different Environments Should you Have?

- You *\*will\** have a production site 😊
  - Used for managing your production clients
- You *\*should\** have a lab that matches production
  - Used for testing all deployments and configuration in lab prior to deployment to production
  - And maybe even migrating validated objects to production
- You *\*may\** want to have a Technical Preview site
  - Used for testing potential future updates and providing feedback to Microsoft
  - The more feedback from customers, the better the next release of the product becomes



# Demonstration

Technical Preview environment status



# Client Piloting

- A great way to test new client versions in production, with very little effort

# Client Piloting

- New feature that allows you to test a new client version in production on a limited set of clients as part of update pack installation
  - You designate a pre-production test collection to use for new client version testing
  - The new client version is automatically deployed to the members of the pre-production collection
  - When the new build is validated, it is easy to promote the pre-production client version to full production deployment
  - In-console monitoring to track pre-production and production client deployments



# Demonstration

Client Piloting

# Summary

- System Center Configuration Manager is the newest release
  - It has tons of new features and enhancements over ConfigMgr 2012
  - And new updates and features in each update pack
- Will be updated ‘automatically’ without CUs or SPs
  - Approximately every 4 months
- Supports online (think ‘automatic’) and offline (think ‘manual’) updating
- Usage data (telemetry) is key to the update process
  - Can’t update a site without providing telemetry data
- Client piloting is really cool 😊