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Feb. 1-3rd in Oslo Spektrum

What's New in Configuration Manager Current Branch

Agenda

- Discuss what has changed since System Center Configuration Manager (current branch) was released as version 1511
    - Production build 1602
    - Production build 1606
        - New baseline build status
    - Production build 1610
    - Potential updates for 1702

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 installed version (1511/1602/1606/1610)
- So be careful when talking to others about your specific version, as there are differences in each release of current branch ☺

What's New in Current Branch

- For those who are still running Configuration Manager 2007 or Configuration Manager 2012
- And maybe to remind others already running current branch of some features you may not be using

Quick Review of RTM (1511)

- Hopefully by now you know at least some of the improvements from Configuration Manager 2007 as well as Configuration Manager 2012:
  - Full Windows 10 support, including in-place upgrade in OSD and servicing plans and rings
  - Additional OSD improvements
  - Preferred management point configuration
  - More complete Microsoft Azure support
  - On premises mobile device management

Quick Review of RTM (1511) (2)

- New Updates and Servicing model for self-updating of Configuration Manager
  - Great way to keep Configuration Manager up to date
- Lots of additional greatness not mentioned here

What's New in Current Branch 1602

- For those who are still running current branch 1511
- And to remind those of you already on any current branch release of features that you may not be using

What's New in 1602

- Client online status
- Support for in-place upgrade of site server OS from Windows Server 2008 R2 to Windows Server 2012 R2
  - Must uninstall WSUS 3.x and reinstall WSUS 4.0 after upgrade
- Clustered system support
- SQL Server AlwaysOn availability group support
  - After the site has been installed
- Windows 10 Health Attestation Service integration
  - Cloud based service integration

What's New in 1602 (2)

- Windows 10 servicing improvements
  - Updates classification added, filtering on language, etc., Windows 10 upgrades only in Servicing node, and high-risk deployment support

- Office 365 update management
  - Manage O365 updates via ConfigMgr

- New antimalware policy settings
  - A few new scan/exclusion options

- Improvements with Microsoft Intune integration
  - iOS app config policies, VPP support, kiosk mode for Samsung KNOX, iOS activation lock, monitoring of T&Cs

What's New in Current Branch 1606

- For those who are still running current branch 1511 or 1602
- And to remind those of you already on any current branch release of features that you may not be using

What's New in 1606

- Software Center updates:
  - List view versus Tile view
  - Single tab to view installed software
  - Separate tabs for Applications, Operating Systems, and Updates
  - Multi-select software updates (as well as **Install All**)
  - **Sync Policy** action
- Centralized control over client cache configuration (via Client Settings)
- Remote Control support for clipboard sharing (via Client Settings)
- Removed SHV and OOB site system roles

What's New in 1606 (2)

- Clustered systems moved to pre-release due to new feature for ordering of systems

- On demand switching of software update points

- Content status link goes directly to the content, not to the top of the list

- Enhancements to Windows Store for Business integration

- Updated SQL Server AlwaysOn availability group support (during site install)

- Enterprise Data Protection → Windows Information Protection

- On-premises Health Attestation Service integration
  - Was previously only via cloud service integration

What's New in 1606 (3)

- Ability to pre-declare company owned devices
  - Via IMEI or iOS serial number via .csv or console import
- Multiple device management points for on-prem MDM
  - Only for Windows 10 Anniversary edition PCs
- Device categories for MDM enrolled devices
- Improvements to iOS volume-purchased apps
- Smart Lock for Android
- iOS Activation Lock
- Passport for Work → Windows Hello for Business

What's New in 1606 (4)

- Windows Defender Advanced Threat Protection integration

  - Only for Windows 10 Anniversary edition PCs

- Ability to customize RamDisk TFTP block size and window size for PXE-enabled DPs

  - Timeout errors were common due to size of window

- OSD can enforce a scan or use cached scan results for software updates

- Improvements to Install Software Updates task sequence step for scans

  - Can specify a timeout value (TS variable)

  - Better logging of updates processes

What's New in 1606 (5)

- OSDPreserveDriveLetter task sequence step deprecated
  - Automatic selection or can control in the TS Editor
- No collisions with servicing plans

What's New in 1606 (6)

- Updates to **Updates and Servicing** Node
  - **Monitoring** workspace status node name change
  - More detailed status – groups and steps
  - New Ribbon action in **Monitoring** to "Ignore prerequisite warnings" to restart failed attempts
  - Only see most recently installed update, and available ones
    - **History** button in Administration node displays previous build status
  - **Client Update Options** renamed to **Promote Pre-production Client**

Pre-release Features in Production

- As of 1606, 'pre-release' features are now included in production releases
  - Pre-release means 'not fully ready for production' however ready for testing in production environments
- You must consent to use of the pre-release features before they appear in the product
  - Consent is agreed to in **Hierarchy Settings**
  - After consent, the enabled features light up in the Console
- Three pre-release features included in 1606:
  - OMS Connector
  - Conditional access for Configuration Manager clients
  - Server groups (formerly referred to as clustered systems)

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What's New in Current Branch 1610

- For those who are still running current branch 1511 or 1602 or 1606
- And to remind those of you already on any current branch release of features that you may not be using

What's New in 1610

- New dashboards in the console:
  - Software updates compliance
    - Patch status in a dashboard
  - Office 365 Management
    - Client numbers, updates, app management
  - Upgrade Analytics
    - Status of environment for upgrades to Windows 10
  - Client data sources
    - Pre-release feature

What's New in 1610 (2)

- Software Center
  - Indicators for new items
  - Application approvals no longer require Application Catalog
  - Customizable branding in Software Center
    - Software Center as well as balloons and dialogs
    - If Application Catalog roles installed – color scheme and org name
    - If Microsoft Intune integrated – color scheme, org name and company logo

What's New in 1610 (3)

- Software Center
  - High risk notification reminders
    - Snooze and remind me feature
    - Ties into Client Settings for Deployment Reminders
- Grace period before implementing required applications
  - Up to 120 hours grace period configurable
- Remote Control keyboard translations
- Asset Intelligence can set and filter on parent/child software items

What's New in 1610 (4)

- Management of Office 365 client agent through Configuration Manager
  - Client Setting instead of GPO
- Support for Express Updates for Windows 10 1607
  - Need an update to the Windows Update Agent to implement it
- Improvement to Windows 10 Edition Upgrade Policy
  - Windows 10 PCs, both ConfigMgr and MDM enrolled
  - Upgrades from Windows 10 Pro to higher edition, dependent on hardware

What's New in 1610 (5)

- Client Peer Cache
  - Pre-release feature
  - Client Settings configuration
  - Extends beyond the WinPE Peer Cache previously implemented
  - Allows client to cache content it downloads with other clients on the same subnet or other subnets
  - Client essentially becomes a 'DP' for content
- ADRs allow filtering on content size

What's New in 1610 (6)

- Cloud Management Gateway for Internet-connected devices
  - Pre-release feature
  - MP, DP and SUP via Azure public cloud platform
- Ability to exclude collections from automatic client upgrade
- Bunch of new compliance settings for multiple operating systems
- Updates to mobile devices
  - Lookout integration for iOS and Android
  - Intune compliance policy charts
  - New columns in device view for IMEI and serial number
  - Policy sync from Configuration Manager Console

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What's New in 1610 (7)

- Use of same network adapter for PXE initiated deployments
  - Use same dongle for multiple installs
  - Manage duplicate hardware identifiers feature
  - Hierarchy Settings – Duplicate hardware identifiers
- Task sequence steps for BIOS to UEFI conversion
- Prepare ConfigMgr Client for Capture task sequence step removes the ConfigMgr client

What's New in 1610 (8)

- Boundary groups are changing in functionality and management

- Definitions of "fast" and "slow are gone

- No more "fallback" distribution point configuration

  - Default-Site-Boundary-Group<*sitecode*> replaces the fallback configuration

- Boundary groups now have "relationships"

  - These specify the additional distribution points that clients can use when no current boundary group DPs are available

  - You configure the time delay before client tries DPs in neighbor groups or the Default-Site-Boundary-Group

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Demonstration
System Center Configuration Manager current branch 1610 features

Potential Updates for 1702

- What's been included in recent Technical Preview releases that could possibly make the next production release

Technical Preview 1611 Updates

- Here's a look at what was included in technical preview 1611
- There is no guarantee that anything in any technical preview will make production release
  - However the assumption and goal is that technical preview is a glimpse at the future ☺
- There could also be updates from prior technical previews that have not made production yet also

Technical Preview 1611 Updates (2)

- Pre-cache available deployment content in an Upgrade Operating System package and task sequence
  - Works only with Operating System Upgrade step, with designated architecture and language
  - Select "Pre-download content for this task sequence" in the task sequence deployment process
  - Allows all package and application content referenced in the task sequence to be pre-cached for the user

Technical Preview 1612 Updates

- Here's a look at what was included in technical preview 1612
- There is no guarantee that anything in any technical preview will make production release
  - However the assumption and goal is that technical preview is a glimpse at the future ☺

Technical Preview 1612 Updates (2)

- Data Warehouse Service Point
  - New site system role to store historical data from ConfigMgr
  - Used by new reports in the Data Warehouse category
    - All other reports use the site database as the data source
  - Can be co-located or separate from ConfigMgr and SSRS
  - Administrator settings to control:
    - Replication groups to synchronize
    - Tables to synchronize (in addition to the replication groups)
    - Tables to exclude (from replication groups)
    - Schedule (days) or interval (minutes)

Technical Preview 1612 Updates (3)

- Content Library Cleanup Tool
  - Remove orphaned content from distribution point
  - Has a 'what if' mode to verify what content would be removed if used the /delete switch
- In-console search updates
  - Results show path to the object
  - Preserving search text between nodes
  - Maintaining option to search current node or all nodes

Technical Preview 1612 Updates (4)

- Prevent application installation if a specific program is running
  - Set list of blockers on the "Installer Handling" tab of the deployment type
  - If running at application deployment, the end user receives a notification of the failure due to the program running
- Deployment of available apps from the Windows Store for Business to ConfigMgr clients
- Windows Hello for Business end user notifications if additional actions are required

Technical Preview 1612 Updates (5)

- Support for Express installation updates in Windows 10 1607
  - Requires an update to Windows 10 1607
  - Will download delta from last month's updates and current updates
  - Enable via Software Update Point site component configuration
    - And Client Settings
- Odata endpoint data access
  - RESTful Odata access for Excel and Power BI
  - Enable via Site Properties

Technical Preview 1612 Updates (6)

- Previous page access in task sequence in event of a failure instead of having to re-run entire task sequence

- Azure Active Directory onboarding

  – Creates a connection between Azure Active Directory and Configuration Manager for cloud services, such as the Cloud Management Gateway

  – Enable connection via Console, allow on client via policy

- Multi-factor authentication can now only be configured via the Azure portal

  – Previously was available through ConfigMgr Console

  – Used for mobile device enrollments

Technical Preview 1701 Updates

- Here's a look at what was included in technical preview 1601
- There is no guarantee that anything in any technical preview will make production release
  - However the assumption and goal is that technical preview is a glimpse at the future ☺

Technical Preview 1701 Updates (2)

- SUP boundary group awareness ☺
  - But not for fallback yet, still two hour fallback
- Hardware inventory now collects UEFI startup status
- Can host software update packages on cloud-based distribution points
  - Normally would have clients download from MU directly
- Use management points to validate device health attestation data
- Support for OMS connector to Microsoft Azure Government cloud
- No longer target specific Android or iOS versions in hybrid
  - Simply choose the device type

Technical Preview 1701 Updates (3)

- Bunch of updates to OSD
  - Increased limit on applications from 9 to 99
  - Multi-select applications to install
  - Expiration configuration on standalone media
  - Additional content in standalone media
  - Configurable timeout in Auto Apply Driver task sequence step
  - Package ID displayed in task sequence steps
  - Windows 10 ADK versions tracked
    - Only allow editing of boot images for current version of the ADK
  - No longer can change default boot image source path

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Demonstration
System Center Configuration Manager current branch technical previews

Summary

- System Center Configuration Manager is the newest release
- Lots of compelling reasons to move to it from previous releases
  - Full Windows 10 support
  - Lots of OSD updates
- Easy to upgrade or migrate to
  - Lots of compelling reasons to keep up to date
- Will be updated 'automatically' without CUs or SPs
  - Approximately every four months