

What is release management?

Release management refers to the process of planning, designing, scheduling, testing, deploying, and controlling software releases. Release management is required anytime a new product or even changes to an existing product are requested.

While release management processes may vary and should be customized for each organization, there are five primary steps to release management.



Software Distribution:

Distribution (distro) is a process of delivering software from a developer to the end user. Software distribution ranges from OS server distribution to interpreter distribution.

Software is distributed in bundles containing required files, instructions, configuration settings and management settings used to deploy a system application.

There are four types of bundles, as follows:

1. Directive bundle: Performs multiple system actions.
2. File bundle: Copies or installs system files.
3. Imaging bundle: Performs actions prior to an OS boot.
4. Windows bundle: Created for distributing Microsoft Windows software patch (MSP) packages, Microsoft Windows Installer (MSI) packages or other Windows based applications to Windows systems.

A bundle is assigned to a system or users. When a bundle is assigned to a user, it is available for access by all users, regardless of user system.

When a bundle is assigned to a system, it is accessible to all users that log into the assigned system.

The distribution phase is followed by unpacking and installation, and package management tools are available for software package installation.

Backup Software:

Backup software is any application that enables the backup of files, folders, documents, software data, most data types and the computer/server as a whole. Backup software enables the creation of an exact duplicate of computer files that can be used for restoring the original files in case of file corruption, accidental/intentional deletion or a disaster. Backup software is primarily used as means to keep a backup of important data residing on computer or server hard drives. It can be used for local/individual computers or for an enterprise's computers, servers and networking devices. Backup software for individual use generally backs up selected files, folders and important operating system files on the same computer/hard drive. The advanced or enterprise-level software is typically integrated within each computer, server or node and backs up selected files and folders on a scheduled basis or as required. Backup software also has the ability to compress data to reduce the amount of backup space required, as well as versioning control for maintaining different versions of the same file.