7: Scheduling Scans and Running Reports

Scheduling Scans and Running Reports

Scheduling Scans for Future Reporting

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Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

➢ Schedule scans.

➢ View pending jobs.

➢ View and export reports.

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Slide 3

CONCEPT

Scheduling Scans

You can schedule scans to run at a later time.

Running a scheduled compliance scan on your infrastructure, say every night, could give you up-to-date compliance information on a daily basis.

In this way, any changes to your infrastructure that may have put some nodes out of compliance can be routinely identified.

           7-3   CHEF

Slide 4

This time distinction is important when scheduling scans or if viewing the compliance logs.

Instructor Note: As of this writing this slide is correct but it could be subject to change. Also, here is the `tail` command in case you want to demonstrate the logs as you set a scheduled scan: `sudo tail -f /var/log/chef-compliance/core/current`/
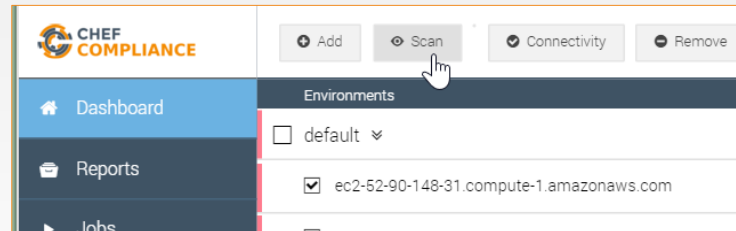
Slide 5

EXERCISE

GE: Scheduling Scans

Objective:

❑ Schedule a scan.
❑ View the scan output.

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Slide 6
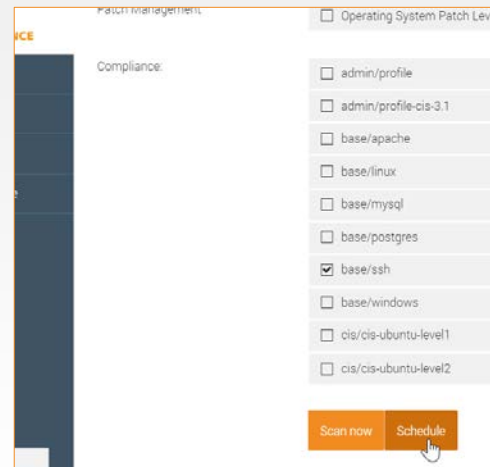
GE: Scheduling Scans

1. Open the Compliance web UI's Dashboard page.

2. Select one of your target nodes.

3. Click **Scan**.

Slide 7

GE: Scheduling Scans

4. Deselect all profiles.

5. Select the **base/ssh** profile for a Linux node or the **base/windows** profile for a Windows node

6. Click the **Schedule** button.

Slide 8

GE: Scheduling Scans

7. Type a name for this scan in the **Name the job** field.

8. Click the up arrow and set the scheduled time to 5 minutes from now and then click **Schedule**.
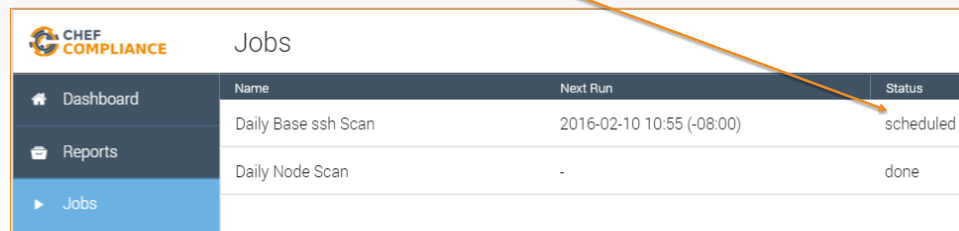
Note: The up/down arrows are also used to set the AM and PM value.

Slide 9

GE: Scheduling Scans

Click the **Jobs** tab and you
should see your scheduled
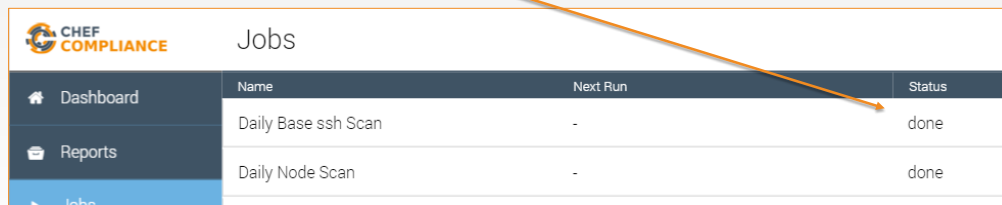scan's details such as its Next
Run time and its "scheduled"
status.

CHEF COMPLIANCE	Jobs		
	Name	Next Run	Status
Dashboard	Daily Base ssh Scan	2016-02-10 10:55 (-08:00)	scheduled
Reports	Daily Node Scan	-	done
▶ Jobs			

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Slide 10

GE: Scheduling Scans

When 5 minutes have elapsed, refresh your browser and you should see that your Job's status is now "done".

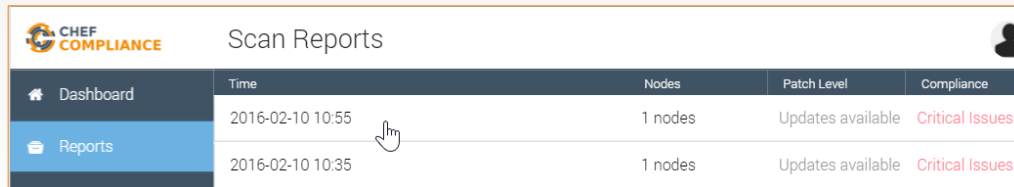**Note**: If you like you could click that job to see its original details that you set when you scheduled it.

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Slide 11

GE: Scheduling Scans

Click the **Reports** tab and then click the report from your scheduled scan.

CHEF COMPLIANCE	Scan Reports			
	Time	Nodes	Patch Level	Compliance
⌂ Dashboard	2016-02-10 10:55	1 nodes	Updates available	Critical Issues
🗑 Reports	2016-02-10 10:35	1 nodes	Updates available	Critical Issues

It may take a minute or two after the scan is run for the report to display.

Slide 12

GE: Scheduling Scans

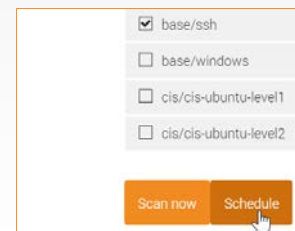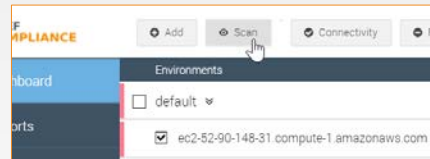At this point you should be able to view the report from your scheduled scan.
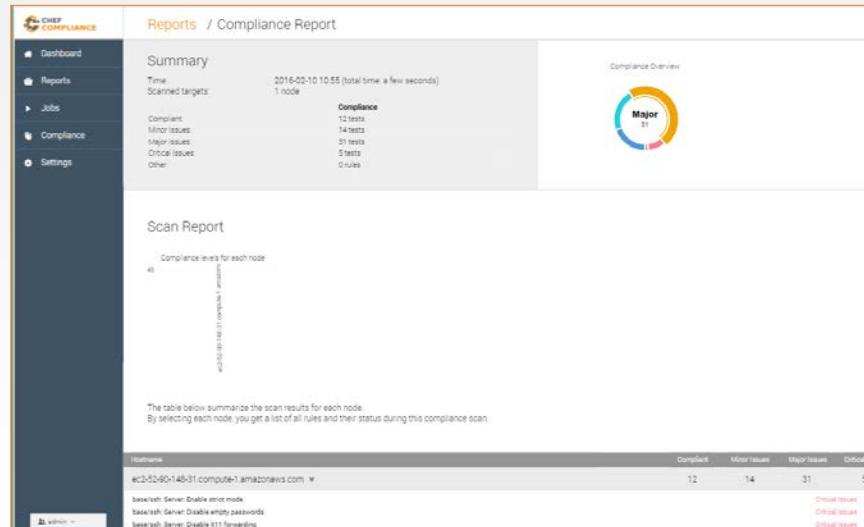
Slide 13

Demonstration: Recurring Scans

You can schedule recurring scans as well.

To do so, set up a scheduled scan like you just did...

Slide 14

Demonstration: Recurring Scans

...but when you get to the page with the calendar (Scan nodes page), click the **Recurring** link and you'll be able to set the recurrence.

In this example the user is scheduling a scan to run every day at 23:48 UTC.

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Slide 15

Instructor Note: As this slide indicates, tailing the log files is not required but can be of interest to some users. In one scenario where it came in handy, a browser session to the Compliance Server got stale and would not schedule a scan. After tailing the log files and realizing the scan was not even being scheduled, the user refreshed the Compliance Server web UI, logged in again, and the scan would properly schedule and run.

Instructor Note: If you find yourself ahead of schedule, you can spend some time demonstration the output of this log file as you perform a number of procedures via the Web UI.

Slide 16

The image on the left shows the user setting the next scheduled scan for 1:45 P.M. local browser time.

The image on the right shows the output of `sudo tail -f /var/log/chef-compliance/core/current` taken at the very same time that the scan was scheduled. Notice the log file timestamps are in UTC and the next schedule scan is set for UTC: **2016-01-12 21:45:00** +0000 UTC instead of the local browser time.
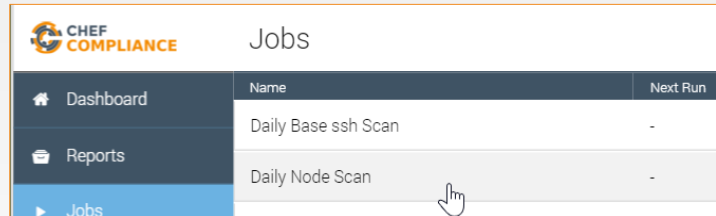
Slide 17

CONCEPT

Deleting Old Jobs

The list of old scheduled jobs can grow so you can delete them if you no longer need them.
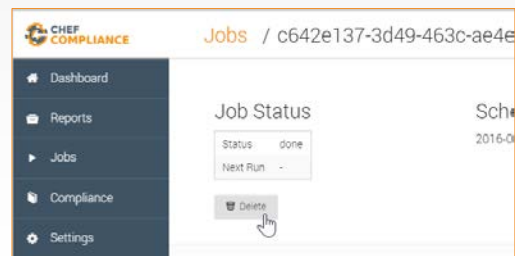
Slide 18

Demonstration: Deleting Jobs

To delete an old job, from the Jobs tab, click a job...

...and from the resulting page, click the **Delete** button.

Slide 19

CONCEPT

Compliance Reports

The results of all of your scans are available via the Reports tab.

As of this writing, JSON-based exporting of reports is supported.

CHEF COMPLIANCE	Scan Reports			
	Time	Nodes	Patch Level	Compliance
Dashboard	2015-12-30 09:15	1 nodes	Updates available	Critical Issues
Reports	2015-12-30 08:55	1 nodes	Updates available	Critical Issues
Jobs	2015-12-30 08:18	1 nodes	Updates available	Critical Issues
Compliance	2015-12-29 11:19	1 nodes	Updates available	Critical Issues

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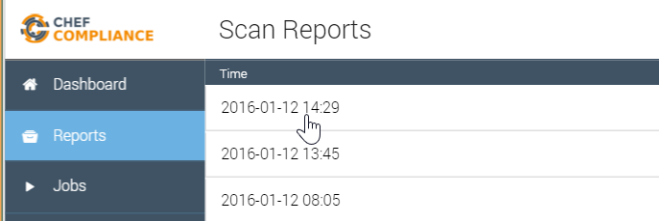
Slide 20

Instructor Note: This section is more of a placeholder for exporting Compliance reports after the email and Excel methods are ready for release.

Slide 21

GE: Exporting Reports

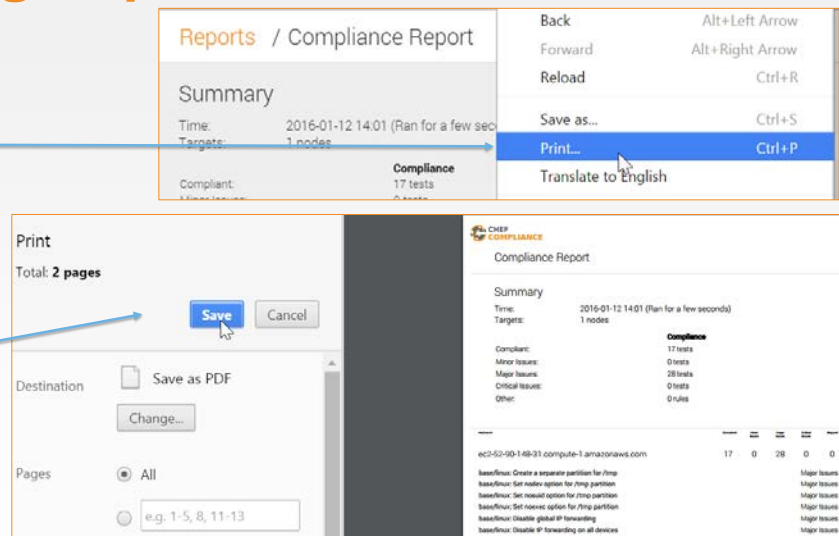1. From the left column of the web UI, click **Reports** and then click any report that may exist.

Slide 22

This example is from a Windows user. The exporting reports procedure is similar on a Mac.

Slide 23

Additional methods for exporting reports will be available in the near future.

Slide 24

Review Questions

1. When scheduling one time scans, which time zone does the web UI use?

2. When scheduling recurring scans, which time zone does the web UI use?
   answer

3. In Chef Compliance, what are "Jobs"?

           7-24

Instructor Note Answers:
1. Your local workstation's browser time zone.
2. The time zone for "Recurring" scheduling in the Compliance web UI is based on UTC.
(Coordinated Universal Time, which equals GMT.)
3. They are a list of scheduled scans, past or present.

Slide 25

Review Questions

4. Where can you view the results of a scheduled scan?

   a. On the Jobs page.

   b. On the Reports page.

   c. On the Dashboard.

   d. On the Compliance page.

5. What methods are available for exporting reports?

7-25

Instructor Note Answers:
4. b. On the Reports page.
5. Print/Save to PDF...(more to come)

Slide 26