7: Scheduling Scans and Running Reports

Scheduling Scans and Running Reports

Scheduling Scans for Future Reporting

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Slide 2

Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

➢ Schedule scans.

➢ View pending jobs.

➢ View and export reports.

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

Slide 4

CONCEPT

Scheduling Scans

The time zone for "Date" scheduling in the Compliance web UI is based on your local workstation's browser time zone.

The time zone for "Recurring" scheduling in the Compliance web UI is based on UTC. (Coordinated Universal Time, which equals GMT.)

The Compliance logs, should you view them, are also based on UTC.

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

Slide 5

EXERCISE

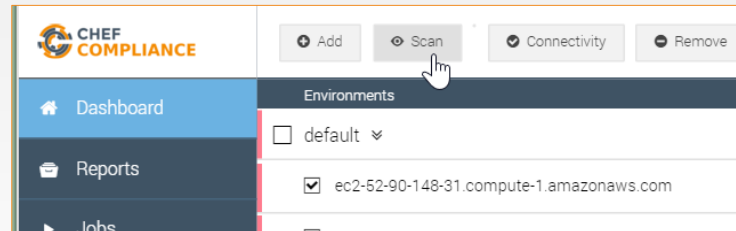## GE: Scheduling Scans

Objective:

❑ Schedule a scan.
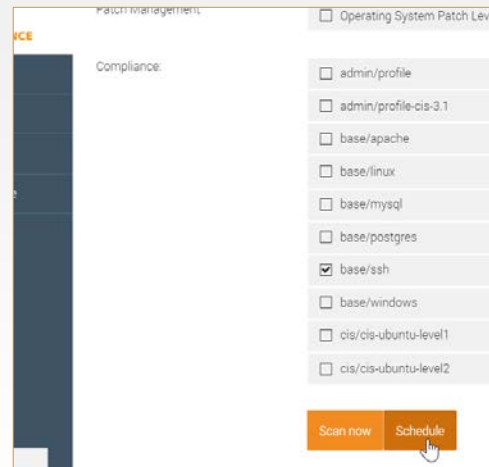❑ View the scan output.

Slide 6

GE: Scheduling Scans

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

2. Select one of your target nodes.

3. Click **Scan**.

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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.

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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**.
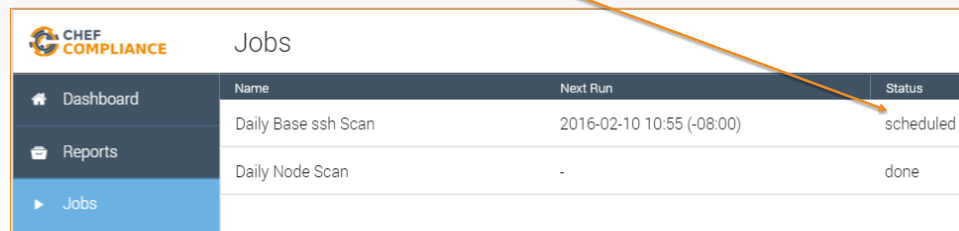
Note: The up/down arrows are also used to set the AM and PM value.

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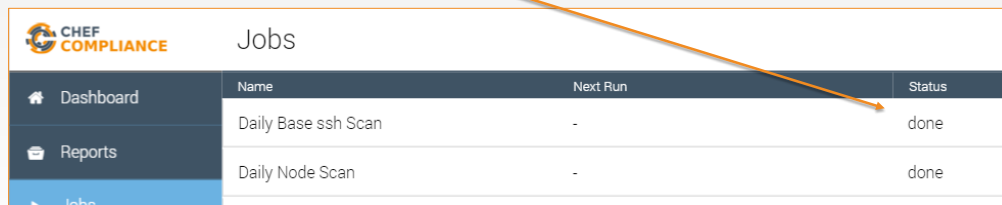
CHEF COMPLIANCE	Jobs		
# Dashboard	**Name**	**Next Run**	**Status**
	Daily Base ssh Scan	2016-02-10 10:55 (-08:00)	scheduled
🗄 Reports	Daily Node Scan	-	done
▶ Jobs			

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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".

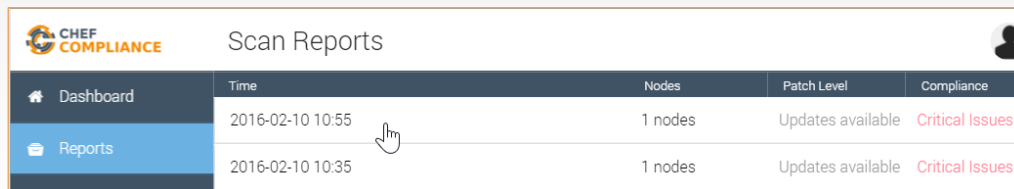**Note**: If you like you could click that job to see its original details that you set when you scheduled it.

Slide 11

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

Slide 12

GE: Scheduling Scans

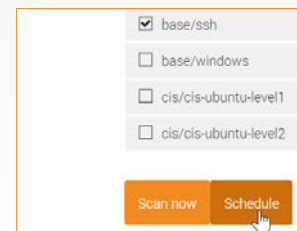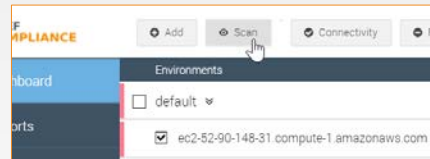At this point you should be able to view the report from your scheduled scan.
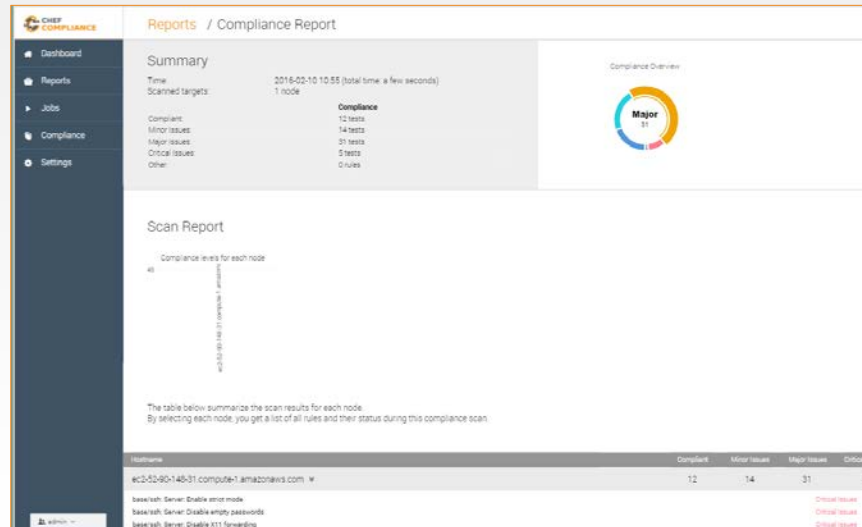
Slide 13

Demonstration: Recurring Scans

You can schedule recurring scans as well.

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

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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.

Slide 15

Demonstration: Scheduled Scan Logs

While not necessary, if you ever want to view the Compliance log files while you are scheduling or running a scan, keep in mind that log files use UTC time instead of your local browser time.

To tail those logs, from your Compliance Server you can run:

`sudo tail -f /var/log/chef-compliance/core/current`

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.
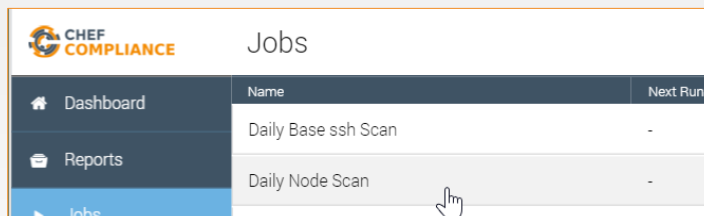
Slide 17

CONCEPT

Deleting Old Jobs

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

CHEF

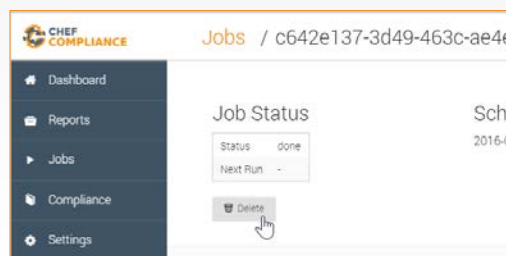Slide 18

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

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

Compliance Reports

You can also export a compliance report as a PDF.

In the near future, Chef Compliance will also support exporting reports to Excel and sending to an email recipient.
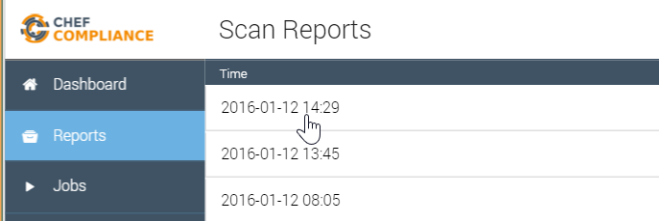
Slide 21

GE: Exporting Reports

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

Slide 22
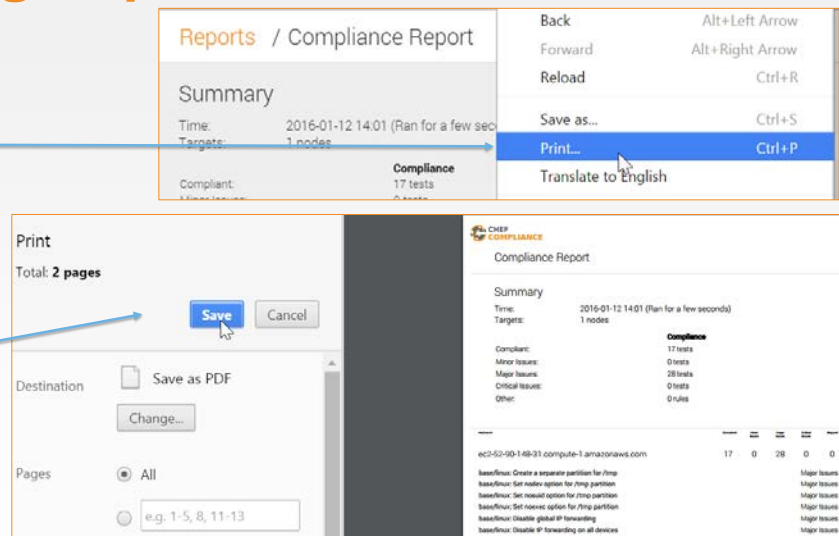

This example is from a Windows user. The exporting reports procedure is similar on a Mac.

Slide 23

GE: Exporting Reports

Your saved report should look similar to this example with the text properly aligned and formatted.

CHEF COMPLIANCE

Compliance Report

Summary

Time:	2016-01-12 14:01 (Ran for a few seconds)
Targets:	1 nodes

Compliance

Compliant:	17 tests
Minor Issues:	0 tests
Major Issues:	28 tests
Critical Issues:	0 tests
Other:	0 rules

Hostname	Compliant	Minor Issues	Major Issues	Critical Issues	Skipped
ec2-52-90-148-31.compute-1.amazonaws.com	17	0	28	0	0
base/linux: Create a separate partition for /tmp					Major Issues
base/linux: Set nodev option for /tmp partition					Major Issues
base/linux: Set nosuid option for /tmp partition					Major Issues
base/linux: Set noexec option for /tmp partition					Major Issues
base/linux: Disable global IP forwarding					Major Issues
base/linux: Disable IP forwarding on all devices					Major Issues

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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"?

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?

Slide 26