


Introduction

This document does not repeat exam questions. Most of what test-takers for the 70-243 exam need to know is included in the video training. However, there are some specifics that might be useful to know as you study for the exam, and each topic is fair to the publicly published exam objectives from Microsoft <https://www.microsoft.com/learning/en-us/exam-70-243.aspx>

Reports

To keep historical data from reports, be sure to use snapshot options. This allows you to look at a report from a previous point in time. For example, if today is Monday, you could look at a snapshot of how a report looked on Friday. In the web page for reports, it looks like this:

Home > ConfigMgr_PHX > Asset Intelligence

 **SQL Server Reporting Services**
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Properties

Parameters

Data Sources

Subscriptions


Processing Options

Cache Refresh Options

Report History

Snapshot Options

Security

☒ Allow report history to be created manually  **The report has u**

☒ Store all report snapshots in history

☒ Use the following schedule to add snapshots to report history.

☒ Report-specific schedule

Configure

At 8:00 AM every Mon of every week, starting 4/5/2015

☐ Shared schedule

Select a shared schedule ▼

Select the number of snapshots to keep:

☐ Use default setting

☐ Keep an unlimited number of snapshots in report history

☒ Limit the copies of report history:

10

Apply

To make reports process faster, use caching found in Processing Options. The first report generated will still take time, but subsequent reports will be drawn from cache. (See screenshot below)



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| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties Parameters Data Sources Subscriptions Processing Options Cache Refresh Options Report History Snapshot Options Security | <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Always run this report with the most recent data </p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Do not cache temporary copies of this report </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Cache a temporary copy of the report. Expire copy of report after a number o </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Cache a temporary copy of the report. Expire copy of report on the following : </p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Report-specific schedule Configure At 8:00 AM every Mon of every week, starting 4/5/2015 </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Shared schedule Select a shared schedule ▼ </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Render this report from a report snapshot </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Use the following schedule to create report snapshots: </p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Report-specific schedule Configure At 8:00 AM every Mon of every week, starting 4/5/2015 </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Shared schedule Select a shared schedule ▼ </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a report snapshot when you click the Apply button on this page </p> <p> Report Timeout </p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Use the system default setting </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Do not timeout report </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Limit report processing to the following number of seconds: 1800 </p> <p> Apply </p> |
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Query Language

Be sure you know how to determine if a query will return the results you want. Especially, know common operators such as "=" (is exactly) and "!=" (is not).

For example, the query language below will search for virtual machines:

```
select SMS_R_System.NetbiosName from SMS_R_System where
SMS_R_System.IsVirtualMachine = "1"
```

The following query will NOT show virtual machines:

```
select SMS_R_System.NetbiosName from SMS_R_System where  
SMS_R_System.IsVirtualMachine != "1"
```

Also scan the query for the words “not in” as in the following example:

```
select * from SMS_R_System  
where SMS_R_System.ResourceID not in  
(select ResourceID from SMS_R_System  
where SMS_R_System.IsVirtualMachine = 1)
```

A good use of a query for collections is when you want to deploy software to computers that meet specific requirements. For example, you want an application that can only be deployed to Window 8.1 where the computer has at least 2 GB of memory and 100 GB of free disk space. For this, you would create a query-based collection and then deploy the software to that collection.

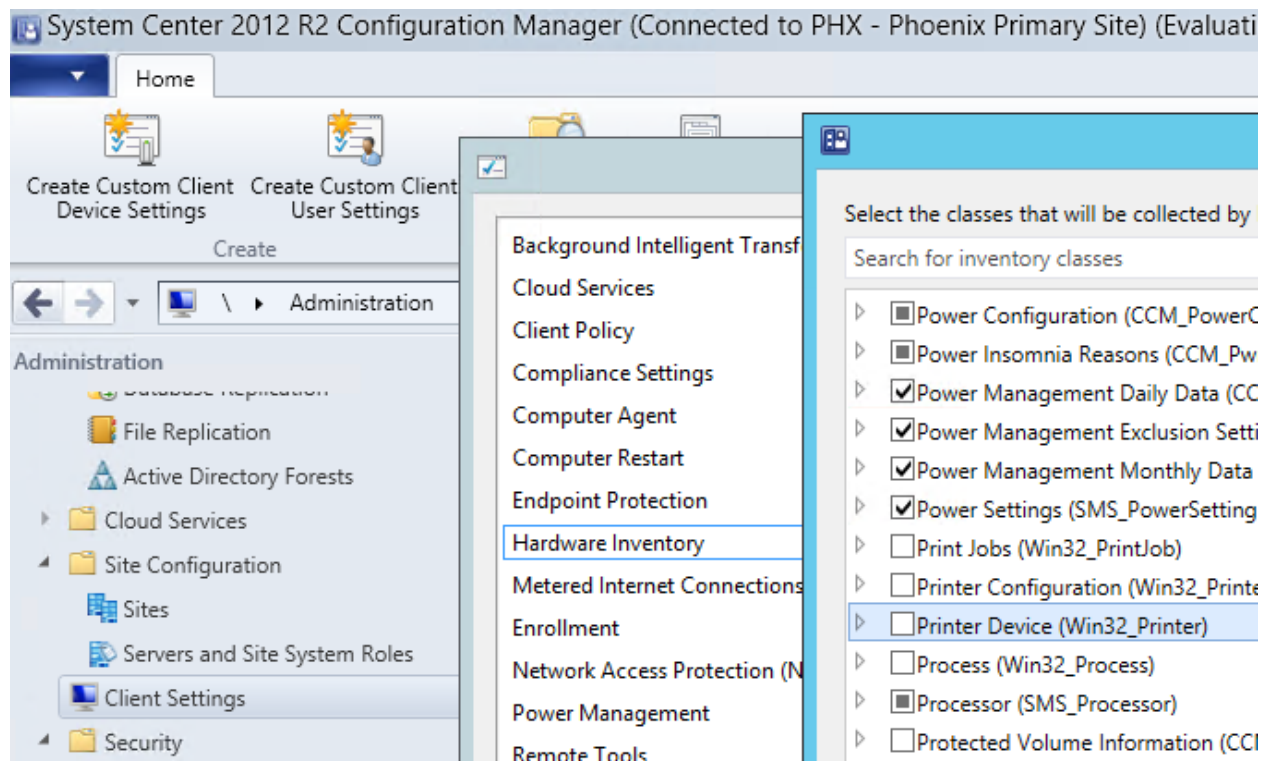
You can use the % as a wildcard in a query. This wildcard must be used with “like” not “=” or else the “%” will be seen as a real identifier. For example, if you want to search for client computers that have any version of Microsoft Office, you could use:

```
...where ARP.DisplayName like “Microsoft Office%”
```

Be aware that Microsoft SQL Server Business Intelligence Development Studio and Report Builder can create and publish custom reports to Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS).

SSRS can also create a daily email to with a report of your choosing (such as clients that are not compliant with a baseline)

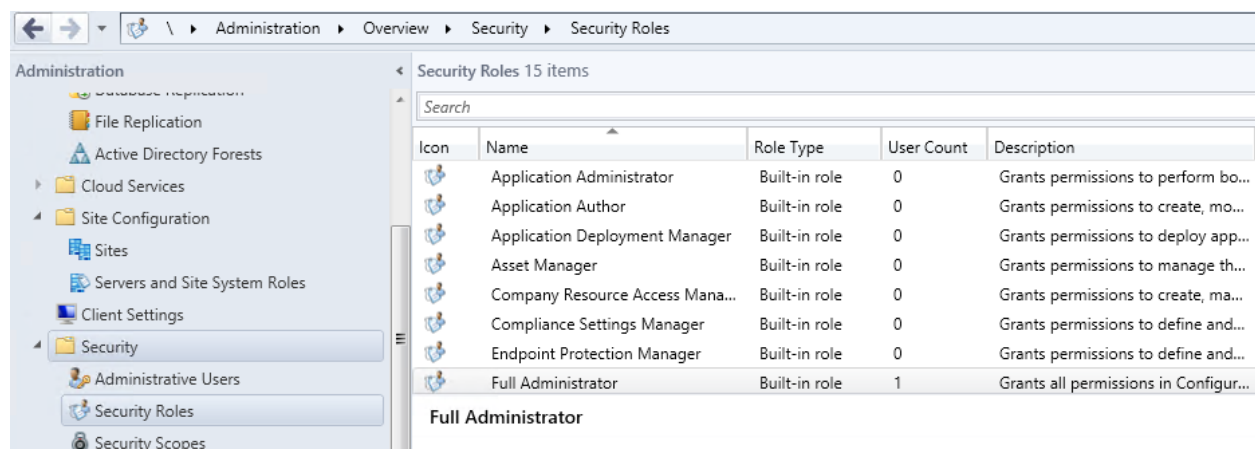
If you cannot find a hardware class in the hardware inventory, it might not have been selected in the client properties. For example, if you cannot find printers, be sure to select Printer Device as an inventory class.



If the device you want to inventory does not appear as in the inventory class list, you might have to create a custom WMI class and add it to the hardware inventory list (e.g., if you have custom hardware.)

Role-Based Security

Be aware of the various security roles that are available. These are very important when it comes to making sure to implement the good security practice of least privilege. For example, if you want a technician to be limited to deploying applications to desktop computers, you would assign the Application Deployment Manager security role to the desired user or group.



Here is an overview of how to adjust these permissions:

https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh427332.aspx#BKMK_ConfigureRBA

This is an Excel spreadsheet that delineates the roles:

<https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Matrix-of-Role-Based-d6318b96>

Log Files

Log files are critical to Configuration Manager. The logs are plaintext, but are very difficult to read in Notepad. Use %ProgramFiles%\Microsoft Configuration Manager\Tools\cmtrace.exe as the default viewer to make the logs easier to read.

Here is a list of the log files:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh427342.aspx>

Of particular interest, are the following log files:

- Dcmagent.log - Determine if a system has evaluated configuration items that are part of a configuration baseline.
- CCM.log - Determine why a client push fails on client computers.
- Wsyncmgr.log - Determine why WSUS Synchronization failed.
- Despool.log, rcmctrl.log - Identify replication issues between sites.
- dataldr.log - Identify why a site server does not contain inventory data from a client.
- filesystemfile.log, mp_sinv.log, inventoryagent.log - Identify reporting issues in software inventory.
- ciagent.log - Identify whether configuration items have downloaded to a computer.
- contenttransfermanager.log - Identify if software deployment installation files have downloaded to a destination client.

Terminology

I recommend you learn the basic SCCM terminology found here:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh524341>

Software Inventory Failure

If you attempt to inventory software and are confident that the files exist on a computer but the software inventory fails to inventory those files, check to see if there is a **Skpswi.dat** file.

Wherever this file exists, it will exclude its folder and subfolders from software inventory. If you

place the file in the root, it excludes the entire drive. You create the file yourself and make it read-only. You will have to delete that file to allow the folder to be inventoried.

Upgrading from SCCM 2007 to 2012

Be sure to assign the computer account of the CAS site server permission to the Configuration Manager 2007 site and to the SQL Server database instance.

Client Installation

If you have Windows Firewall enabled on a client but it allows File and Printer Sharing, the following client installation methods are available if the user is not a local Administrator:

- Software update-based installation
- GPO
- Client Push

If the firewall blocks File and Printer Sharing, then these are your options:

- Software update-based installation
- GPO
- Manual installation
- Note that Client Push is not possible with File and Printer Sharing ports blocked.

If you are an administrator in the forest where Config Manager is installed, but want to install the client in a separate forest, you will need to:

- Create a client push installation account with credentials in the destination forest
- Implement Active Directory System Discovery targeting the destination forest
- Enable Client Push

Additional details:

https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/gg682042#BKMK_prereqs_computers

Recovering a failed SQL Server

Perhaps you have a primary site server that's running fine, but the SQL database is on a separate computer that failed. You can recover the SQL server by:

- Installing a new SQL server
- Registering the new SQL server Service Principal Name (SPN)
- Running the Configuration Manager 2012 Setup wizard and choosing the following options (provided you have a SQL backup)

Available Setup Options

Setup has detected an existing primary site on this computer and has e

☐ Install a Configuration Manager primary site

☐ Use typical installation options for a stand-alone primary site

- Install a Configuration Manager primary site
- Use default installation path
- Configure local SQL Server with default settings
- Enable a local management point for Configuration Manager
- Enable a local distribution point for Configuration Manager

☐ Install a Configuration Manager central administration site

☐ Upgrade this Configuration Manager site


☒ Recover a site

☐ Perform site maintenance or reset this site

☐ Uninstall this Configuration Manager site

☒ Recover the site database using the backup set at the following location:

Example: \\Fileserver\Backupshare\XYZBackup or Z:\Backup\XYZBackup

Path: 

☐ Create a new database for this site

☐ Use a site database that has been manually recovered

☐ Skip database recovery (Use this option if the site database was unaffected)

Exchange Connector

The Exchange connector must be at least Exchange Server 2010 in order to manage Windows Mobile 6.5 and Windows Phone. If your existing Exchange server is older, you will need to upgrade it first.