

System Center Configuration Manager Console Overview

Part 1

Welcome to part 1 of the System Center Configuration Manager Console Overview. In this lecture you will gain a basic understanding of the components and structure of the CM Console.

From the SCCM Server let's launch the console. I'll go ahead and Click the Search icon, and type console, Then click Configuration Manager Console

Let's start with the major components of the console

- First, we have the **Workspace**, the **Navigation Pane** and if we click **Overview** we have the **Results** Pane.
- An easy way to navigate through the Console is by clicking **Overview** in the Navigation Pane and clicking through the five selections in the Workspace.
Notice that as we click each Workspace, in the Results Pane each node has a brief description of its function.
- The **Navigation Pane** – Sometimes called the WunderBar, displays the nodes depending upon which Workspace that is selected.
- The **Workspace**, consists of Assets and Compliance, Software Library, Monitoring, Administration and Community
- If I highlight each selection in the workspace notice that there is a helpful description of the function of each component.
- If I click Assets and Compliance in the Workspace, and click Overview in the Navigation Pane Notice that everything that is in the Results Pane is reflected in the Navigation Pane.
In the Results Pane, I have Users, Devices, User Collections, Device Collection and so on.
So, if I click Users in the Results Pane, I get the same results when I click Users in the Navigation Pane.

The other sections of the console are as follows

- The **Ribbon** at the Top is the set of actions or tasks for the selected navigation pane.
- For Example - Let's say I need to Remote into one of my client computers to fix a problem. **Click Assts and Compliance, in the Workspace, Devices in the Navigation Pane – Click SAWS01**
If I click Start, in the Ribbon, I can choose remote control into SAWS01.
From the Ribbon, at the top, If I click the arrow I can minimize or maximize the Ribbon
- **The Search Bar** – This box allows you to enter text for filtering. For example, If I click Assets and Compliance in the Workspace then click users in the Navigation Pane, I can type SQL Admins in the Search Box. Displayed is the SQL Admins group

- **The List View** – This is the top portion of the Results Pane that displays items based upon the node that is selected in the Navigation Pane
- **The Details Pane** – This is the bottom portion of the results pane, and when it appears it displays additional details about the object selected in the list view
- Here are all the panes and views on one slide.



I will not be reviewing those items that have been discussed in previous lectures. In the PDF for this lecture those items are highlighted in yellow.

Asset and Compliance

This workspace is used to manage your assets like Users, Devices, User or Device collections, Software Metering, Compliance settings, Endpoint Protection Policies, and All Corporate-owned devices.

- Users – Here you manage users and groups in the hierarchy
- User and device collections – Collections are a group of users or devices. With collections you can deploy software or software updates to those collections
- User State Migration – This tool searches a system for all user data and settings and packages that data into an archive file so you can move this file onto another system.
- Software Metering – (Asset Management)
- Endpoint Protection – (Client Management Part 2)
- Asset Intelligence – (Asset Management)
- Compliance Settings – (Client Management part 2)

- All Corporate-Owned devices – This tool is used for identifying and securing corporate-owned devices. Click Predefined Devices, Rt click, in the open space, click Create Predeclared Devices, Here, you can upload a whole list of devices. You can use the IMEI (International Mobile equipment identity) or the serial number of the device as a CSV (Comma Separated Value) like an Excel file. To identify mobile devices in your organization.

Software Library

- Application Management – (Client Management)
- Operating Systems (Client Management)
- Office 365 Management - The Office 365 Management dashboard provides charts that show information such as the number of office **365 clients**, installed versions, languages and the update channel. (Which is how often Office 365 is updated)
- Software Updates – (Client Management)
- Windows 10 Servicing – In the past when upgrading Windows from let's say Window 7 to Windows 10, this was a major undertaking for many organizations. Now for upgrades you will see new functionalities and features in smaller incremental updates two times per year.

Here You can create a Servicing Plan to keep windows 10 current.

- Scripts – You can now import, create and run PowerShell scripts from within configuration manager.

Double click script (Eventviewer) – This script get's newest 10 entry's from the system event log and writes the results to a text file named log.txt. I can choose to run this script on one or all the computers in the hierarchy.

From the Workspace click Assets and Compliance, from Navigation Pane click Device Collections, from the Results Pane click Windows Laptops, From the Ribbon click Run Script, click Eventviewer, Next, the Next again.

After the script has finished running, click Script details, (name of the script - eventviewer) (Summary) Ran on 1 computer, Details, computer SAWS01 exit code of 0, which means that the script completed successfully.

Now click close. Now from the computer SAWS01 lets check C: drive for log.txt. There is our log file with the 10 entry's from the system event log.

Monitoring

Monitoring is a good place to start if you need to troubleshoot your infrastructure.

- Alerts – From monitoring, click Overview, Alerts, All Alerts. For example, you can configure alerts for Antimalware clients that are out of date (**2nd** alert in the list).

If you want to configure alerts, click **Assets and Compliance, Device Collections**, **right click** on the device collection (Windows Laptops) **Properties**, then **click alerts**, click add. From Endpoint Protection, We'll select all 4 alerts. Click ok, then ok again. These alerts show up here in Monitoring, Alerts, All Alerts. Or you can create a **subscription** and have an email sent to you displaying the configured alert.

- **System Status** – click site status (Shows status of Site System Roles, Let me show you how you can use Site Status to troubleshoot your Hierarchy Rt click on SUP, click show messages, click error, click one week ago and click Ok (m1) Move the mouse cursor over the description on the he first error, which is from the SMS_Hierarchy_Manager. The error says that Hierarchy monitoring detected that the ConfigMgr SQL server SASCCM01 ports 1433, 4022 on the firewall are not open. These ports need to be open to allow SQL replication for database consistency.

Conflicting records (Used to identify clients with identical hardware ID's) Hardware Id's are numbers given by SCCM to identify the hardware in the system. You can't have duplicate hardware ID's in your infrastructure, this node helps to resolve that issue.

Component Status (Components or threads are programs that run in the background. We will scroll down and Rt. Click on SMS_Hierarchy_Manager, click Show messages, ALL, select 1 week, then click ok. This shows on the 6th there was an issue with closed ports 1433 and 4022 and now on the 7th, I opened those ports on the firewall and that issue has been resolved.

Status Message Queries – Let's say you want to know who is using remote control from the server SASCCM01. Scroll down and Rt. Clk, on Remote Control Activity Initiated from a Specific System, Select Show Messages, All, From Specify type, Type SASCCM01, click Time, from Select date and time select, 2 days. Double clk. the first selection. The results show that the Administrator, remoted into SAWS01 and it gives the date and the time

- **Phased Deployments** – This feature allows a rollout of a task sequence across multiple collections. The idea being that you can deploy software to a test collection first then automatically continue the rollout based upon the success of the application installation.
- **Script Status** – Here you can check out the results of each script that ran on a client device and whether that script succeeded or failed.
- **Database Replication** – Displays the status of replication links between sites. To replicate the data base between sites, CM uses the Database Replication Service.

Database replication is the creation and maintenance of multiple copies of the same database.

- **Software Update Point Synchronization Status** – Allows you to see the current status of the Software Update Point, and when their last synchronization attempt was, the status of that attempt, and the catalog version.