Dell™ OEM Solution - Microsoft® System Center Essentials 2010

Technical Information Sheet

Notes

NOTE: A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your computer.

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Dell OEM Solution - Microsoft System Center Essentials 2010 Overview

Dell™ has partnered with Microsoft® to provide the OEM version of Microsoft System Center Essentials (Essentials) 2010. System Center Essentials 2010 is a management solution designed for the IT generalists in medium-sized organizations that host up to 50 servers and 500 client systems. The Essentials 2010 solution has enhanced features to manage your IT ecosystem, comprising of both physical and virtual environments, from the same management console.

The Dell OEM solution enables server consolidation, business continuity, and dynamic provisioning thus simplifying complex management tasks. Dell management packs facilitate manageability of Dell hardware from the Essentials console by simplifying IT efficiency. The unified Essentials solution and the Dell Performance and Resource Optimization (PRO)-enabled management pack provide workload and application aware resource optimization for the virtualized environment. This minimizes the downtime and accelerates the time for resolving issues pertaining to the virtualized environment.

Using the Essentials 2010 single console design, IT system administrators can easily secure, update, monitor, and track their entire IT environment. Additionally, Essentials 2010 includes many predefined reports that display various types of information and preloaded management packs to help monitor common operating system components, services, and applications.

Essentials 2010 enables you to centrally manage Microsoft Windows®–based servers and other computers and network devices in your organization. You can perform the following tasks using Essentials 2010:

- Manage physical computers, virtual machines and devices in your environment and examine computer hardware and software inventory.
- Monitor the health of managed computers and devices.
- Centrally manage updates, track installation progress and troubleshoot problems by using the **Update Management** feature.
- Centrally deploy software, track progress, and troubleshoot problems by using the **Software Deployment** feature.

The Essentials 2010 OEM Solution combined with corresponding Dell management packs enables management of Dell hardware, such as:

- Dell PowerEdge™/PowerVault™ systems
- Dell Business Client systems such as Dell Latitude™, Dell Optiplex™ , and Dell Precision™ systems, and Dell Vostro™ systems that are grouped under the Unmanaged group on the Essentials console.

  NOTE: For Dell Vostro™ systems, Dell Client MP only supports classification of Dell hardware and not monitoring.

- Dell Network Printers
- Dell PowerVault Modular Disk (MD) storage arrays that includes MD 3000, MD 3000i storage arrays and daisy-chained MD 1000 storage arrays.
- Dell Remote Access Controllers (DRAC) that includes DRAC4, DRAC5, Integrated DRAC (iDRAC) 6 Modular, iDRAC 6 Monolithic, DRAC/Modular Chassis, and Chassis Management Controller (CMC)
- Dell EqualLogic™ Peer Storage (PS) Series Arrays

Essentials 2010 High Level Features

- **Essentials 2010 Console:** Essentials 2010 introduces a unified management console for managing your IT environment. The console runs on the Essentials management server and provides access to all Essentials 2010 features. You can also install the Essentials 2010 console in a distributed environment where the Essentials management server and the Essentials console are deployed on different systems. You can also install additional Essentials consoles for the same management server on different systems.

- **Virtualization of your Server Environment in Essentials:** Virtualization management has been introduced in System Center Essentials 2010 to help small and mid-sized businesses maximize their technology resources. A virtual machine emulates a complete hardware system and enables the simultaneous operation of otherwise incompatible operating systems. Using Essentials 2010 to monitor your virtual environment helps maximize limited IT resources by consolidating under-utilized physical servers and rapidly provisioning new virtual machines, which can be used as application servers or to perform other similar tasks.

- **Update Management in Essentials:** System Center Essentials 2010 allows administrators to view, download, and deploy software updates required by operating systems and other software on managed computers. Dell has partnered with Microsoft to distribute updates for Dell hardware through the same update management experience.

- **Essentials 2010 OEM Experience:** As part of partnership between Dell and Microsoft, Essentials 2010 provides OEM experience in the Essentials console which includes information about the OEM solution and helps users in hardware management. The Dell logo, Dell WIKI link, Dell Management Pack Manuals link, link for manuals for Dell OEM Essentials solution, and Dell eSupport link are available as part of the OEM experience.

Installing Essentials 2010

System Requirements

For information on system requirements and supported platforms for System Center Essentials, see **http://technet.microsoft.com/hi-in/systemcenter/essentials/bb422876(en-us).aspx**

> **NOTE:** For Dell Supported Platforms, see the "Supported Dell Hardware" on page 34.

> **NOTE:** For post installation configurations, see the "Configure System Center Essentials 2010" section of *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide*.

Installing Essentials 2010 OEM Solution on Dell Hardware

You can install the Essentials 2010 OEM solution with the following topologies:

- All components of Essentials 2010 OEM Solution installed on a Dell system.
- Essentials 2010 OEM Solution with Essentials Console installed on a remote Dell system.
- Essentials 2010 OEM Solution with Essentials Database installed on remote Dell system.

For more information on deploying, configuring, troubleshooting, and uninstalling System Center Essentials 2010, see the *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff603599.aspx.**

You can deploy Essentials 2010 using the Command Line Interface. For more information on unattended and automated methods of installing Essentials using command lines, see *How to Use a Command Prompt to Install System Center Essentials 2010* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff603580.aspx.**

For more information on the recommendations for installing Essentials 2010, see "Microsoft Scalability Guidelines for Essentials 2010" on page 33.

Installing Essentials 2010 on a Single Dell System

In this setup, you install all the components of Essentials 2010 on a single Dell system. This installation option provides a better alternative to mid-size businesses for managing and monitoring the Dell hardware as all components of the solution are available on a single host.

Dell PowerEdge System

Installing Essentials on a Dell PowerEdge System

To install Essentials 2010:

1 Designate a Dell PowerEdge system as the Essentials management server. The designated server must meet all software and hardware requirements. For detailed information about these requirements, see the "Planning to Deploy System Center Essentials 2010" section of the *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb437287.aspx**

> **NOTE:** You can install Essentials on virtual machines running on Dell PowerEdge systems that are hosted on supported Windows Server 2008 Hyper-v systems, which match the hardware requirements of Essentials 2010.

2 Insert the Essentials installation media into the optical drive.

3 Browse to the media directory and run the **SetupSCE.exe** file.

4 When the **System Center Essentials 2010 Setup Wizard** launches, click **Release Notes** to read important information that might be needed during deployment.

5 Click **Install** to begin installing Essentials.

> **NOTE:** Select the **Get the latest updates to System Center Essentials 2010** option if you want to check for product updates.

6 On the **Product Registration** page, enter your product key, if needed, and click **Next**.

7 On the **License Agreement** page, read the license agreement, select the check box to accept the agreement, and click **Next**.

8 If the server on which you are installing Essentials 2010 meets the appropriate hardware and software requirements, the installation program makes additional components available for installation. Select the Essentials components that you want to install, and click **Next**.

9 The Essentials 2010 installation program checks your environment for the hardware and software prerequisites required for installing Essentials and selected components and prompts you to review those prerequisites that do not meet the minimum requirements. After resolving the potential system requirement issues, click **Next**.

10 Essentials 2010 uses a database server instance to host the database that stores the data used by Essentials. Select the option to use a local database instance that Essentials 2010 can use for this purpose, and click **Next**.

11 If you selected the Reporting component in step 7, you are required to specify a **Microsoft SQL Server**® **2008 Reporting Services** instance for Essentials reporting. Only local instances of **SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services** that are supported by Essentials 2010 are available for selection. Select an instance and select a URL to the reporting server, if the instance is configured with more than one URL, and click **Next**.

12 Specify a path where Essentials 2010 should store program files. In the **Software Files and Update Files** section, enter a path to store software and update files locally, or download updates individually to each managed computer from Microsoft Update. Click **Next**.

13 Enter the file location for storing the Virtualization Management component files, and click **Next**.

14 Type the user name, password, and domain of a user with administrative credentials on the managed computers and on the designated Essentials management server to perform management tasks, such as deploying software or updates, and click **Next**.

15 Select whether to participate in the Customer Experience Improvement Program, Error Reporting, and Operational Data Reporting or not, and click **Next**.

16 Review the **Installation Summary** page. Click **Previous** to go back and make changes, or click **Install** to begin installing Essentials 2010.

NOTE: For post installation configurations, see the "Configure System Center Essentials 2010" section of the *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff603585.aspx**.

NOTE: For more information on installing Essentials on a single system, see "How to Install System Center Essentials 2010 on a Single Server" section of the *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb422968.aspx**.

Installing Essentials 2010 on Distributed Systems

You can install the Essentials console and the Essentials database on remote systems and connect to the management server.
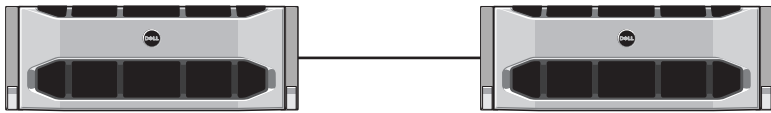
Essentials Console Installed on Remote System

Installing Essentials User Console and Connecting to the Management Server

To install Essentials using this option:

1 Install Essentials on the management station as defined in "Installing Essentials 2010 on a Single Dell System" on page 11.

2 Log on to the remote computer with a user account that is a member of the **Administrators** group on the local computer.

3 Insert the System Center Essentials 2010 installation media in the optical drive.

4 Browse to the media directory and run the **SetupSCE.exe** file.

5 When the **System Center Essentials 2010 Setup Wizard** launches, click **Install Essentials Console**.

6 On the **Product Registration** page, enter your product key, if needed, and then click **Next**.

7 On the **License Agreement** page, read the license agreement, select the check box to accept the agreement, and click **Next**.

8 Essentials 2010 Setup checks your environment for the hardware and software prerequisites and prompts you to review the prerequisites that do not meet the minimum requirements. If necessary, exit the wizard, make the required changes, and start the installation process again. After resolving potential system requirement issues, click **Next**.

9 Specify where Essentials 2010 should store program files, and click **Next**.

10 Review the **Installation Summary** page. Click **Previous** to go back and make changes, or click Install to begin installing the **Essentials** console.

11 When the **Setup Results** page appears, select the check box if you want to start the **Essentials** console after the Setup wizard closes, and click **Close**.

12 When you start the console, the **Connect To Server** dialog box is displayed. In the **Server name** box, type the computer name of the **Essentials** management server to which you want the **Essentials** console to connect, and click **Connect**.

> **NOTE:** For more information about configuring Essentials with Remote Reporting Server see the "How to Install System Center Essentials 2010 Console on a Remote Computer" section of *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb437322.aspx**.

Installing Essentials 2010 OEM Solution with Essentials Database on a Remote System

In this installation, the Essentials database is installed on a remote system with a newly installed or an existing SQL Server database instance, which is already available as part of the domain.
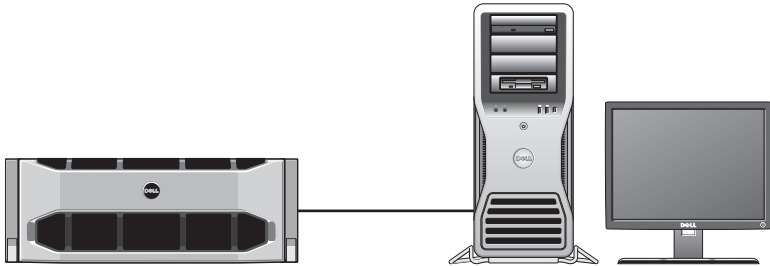
Essentials database on a Remote system where you have installed SQL Server 2008 SP1

You can use this setup, if your organization has a centralized database server that you want to re-use for Essentials 2010.

1   Begin the installation of Essentials 2010 on the management station as defined in "Installing Essentials 2010 on a Single Dell System" on page 11, and follow step 1 to step 8.

2   During installation of Essentials 2010 select the option to find remote database servers in your environment that Essentials 2010 can use for this purpose, and then click **Next**.

3   Proceed from step 11 defined in the "Installing Essentials 2010 on a Single Dell System" on page 11, and complete installation of Essentials 2010.

After the installation of Essentials on the management server is complete, install the Essentials Reporting component on the remote SQL server.

Installing and Configuring the Reporting Server

To install the Reporting Server:

1 Insert the Essentials installation media into the optical drive of the computer that contains the remote database server you chose during installation.

2 Log in to the system as an administrator and run the **SetupSCE.exe** file from the installation media.

3 After the System Center Essentials 2010 Setup Wizard launches, click **Install Essentials Reporting**.

4 On the **Essentials server location** page, ensure that the server displayed is the Essentials 2010 management server. If the server displayed is not the Essentials 2010 management server, click **Select a Server** to search for and select the Essentials 2010 management server, and click **Next**.

5 On the **Product Registration** page enter your product key, if needed, and click **Next**.

6 On the **License Agreement** page, read the license agreement, select the check box to accept the agreement, and click **Next**.

7 Essentials 2010 Setup checks your environment for the hardware and software prerequisites and prompts you to review those prerequisites that do not meet minimum requirements. After resolving potential system requirement issues, click **Next**.

8 Essentials 2010 Setup uses a database server instance to host the databases that store data that Essentials uses. The SQL Server Database Services instance that Essentials uses is displayed in the **Database Server Instance** list view. Click **Next**.

9 The local Reporting Services instances are displayed. Specify a URL for the Reporting server if the instance is configured to use more than one URL, and click **Next**.

10 Specify the location for Essentials to store program files. Click **Next**.

11 Type the password of the Essentials Administration account, and click **Next**.

12 Select whether to participate in Operational Data Reporting or not, and click **Next**.

13 Review the **Installation Summary** page. Click **Previous** to go back and make changes, or click **Install** to install **Essentials Reporting**.

Essentials 2010 Setup displays the progress during installation, and Essentials Reporting is ready to use after the wizard closes.

NOTE: For more information about configuring Essentials with Remote Reporting Server, see "How to Install System Center Essentials 2010 Reporting on a Remote Database Server" section of *System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide* at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff603577.aspx.**

NOTE: For Information on configuring the SQL2008 Database for remote connection, see **http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd857537(VS.85).aspx?ppud=4**.

Upgrading to Essentials 2010

You can upgrade your existing Essentials 2007 SP1 and Systems Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM) 2008 OEM bundle to the Essentials 2010 OEM Solution. The upgrade process upgrades Essentials 2007 SP1 and installs the VMM component of Essentials 2010. It does not upgrade SCVMM 2008. You must add the SCVMM library share to Essentials 2010 by using Windows PowerShell. After you add the library share, uninstall SCVMM 2008. For details about complete Essentials 2010 upgrade steps, see **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc339466.aspx**

Dell Management Packs for Physical Hardware Management

Dell Management Pack Version 4.0

The Dell Management Pack Suite version 4.0 consists of five standalone management packs that enable you to manage your respective Dell Hardware. The components of the Dell Management Pack Suite version 4.0 are as follows:

- **Dell Base Management pack:** This is the base management pack for 4.0. This is common to all the management packs and it creates the **Dell Hardware Group** on the Essentials Management Server. All Dell Hardware are grouped under the **Dell Hardware Group**.

- **Dell Server Management Pack Suite** is used to discover and manage Dell Power Edge/ Power Vault Server systems. The Dell servers are discovered through Microsoft Windows Active Directory®- based discovery while, a DRAC or a CMC device are discovered out-of-band using SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol).

- **Dell Client Management Pack** is used to discover and manage Dell client systems, such as Dell Precision, Dell Latitude, and Dell Optiplex systems. Dell client systems are discovered through Windows Active Directory-based discovery.

  NOTE: Dell Vostro systems are not classified as **Dell Managed Client Devices** if you discover them with **Dell Client Management Pack**.

- **Dell PowerVault MD Storage Array Management Pack Suite** is used to discover and manage Dell Power Vault MD storage devices such as MD 3000, MD 3000i, and daisy-chained MD 1000 storage arrays.

- **Dell Printer Management Pack** is used to discover and manage your Dell Network Printers.

- **Dell EqualLogic Storage Management Pack Suite** is used to discover and manage Dell EqualLogic PS Series arrays that are part of your network segment.

Features of the Dell Management Packs 4.0

1 **Dell Server Management Pack Suite v4.0:**

   This management pack suite consists of the following components:

   a **Dell Base MP:** This is the base management pack and is common to all the management packs under the Dell Management Pack version 4.0 suite. It is used for creating **Dell Hardware Group** in the Essentials Management Server.

   > **NOTE:** You must import the Dell Base MP before importing any other MP. However, this is not required for Dell PRO Management Pack.

   b **Scalable Server Management Pack:** This management pack models the server components at a high level (up to the group level). For example, the memory component is modeled up to the memory group level. The memory unit instances are not modeled by this management pack. The Scalable Server management pack:

   - Provides support for discovery and monitoring of DRAC 4, & DRAC5.
   - Provides enhanced attribute support for storage controllers, their components, and health roll-up status for servers.
   - Displays hardware instrumentation alerts for events received from Dell OpenManage™ Server Administrator (OMSA) and OpenManage Storage Systems (OMSS) running on Dell PowerEdge/PowerVault systems.

   The management pack also provides options for:

   - Launching Server Administrator Console
   - Launching DRAC, iDRAC 6 consoles
   - Advance power control tasks for Dell systems with baseboard management controller (BMC)
   - Provides reports for OpenManage Windows's event log
   - Allows you to customize and configure Dell devices for discovery and monitoring
   - Allows Performance and Power Monitoring of Dell Servers with supported PM Bus

c **Detailed Server Management Pack:** The Detailed Server MP is an extension of the Scalable Server management pack. This management pack models the details of components modeled in Scalable Server MP. For example, the memory units are modeled with this management pack and this model is attached to the memory group modeled in Scalable Server Management Pack.

> **NOTE:** For Small and Medium Business customers it is recommended that you use the Detailed Server MP with Essentials. The Detailed Server MP shows extra hardware attributes, system inventory data, and reports when compared to the Scalable Server MP It is recommended that you use the Scalable Server MP when the number of Managed Systems exceeds 300 units.

For more information on Dell Server Scalable MP and Dell Server Detailed MP, see the user guide available with Dell Server MP Suite.

d **Informational-alerts-On Override Utility:** By default, informational alerts are disabled in the Essentials console with the Dell Server Scalable and Detailed MPs. This override utility enables all the informational alerts defined as part of the Scalable Server MP, using overrides. Hence, ensure you import the Scalable Server MP before importing this utility.

e **Dell Remote Access Controller Management Pack:** This management pack discovers and monitors DRAC 4, DRAC 5, and iDRAC 6 (Modular and Monolithic) devices on the network running supported firmware version. The DRAC 4, DRAC 5, iDRAC 6 Modular, and iDRAC 6 Monolithic instances are grouped under the Dell Remote Access 4 Group, Dell Remote Access 5 Group, iDRAC 6 Modular Group, and iDRAC 6 Monolithic Group respectively, thus enabling grouping of related Remote Access Controllers by providing a better representation.

f **Dell Chassis Management Controller Management Pack:** This management pack discovers and monitors CMC, DRAC/MC instances on the network running supported firmware versions. CMC and DRAC/MC instances are grouped under Dell Modular Chassis Group.

2 **Dell Client Management Pack v4.0.**

This management pack supports:

- Discovery and management of Dell client computers (Dell Latitude, Optiplex, and Precision systems) with supported versions of OpenManage Client Instrumentation (OMCI) installed on them.

- Displays alerts for events received from OMCI as part of the alert view

- Provides tasks for client system shutdown and reboot

- Allows you to customize and configure the Dell client system for discovery and monitoring

3 Dell PowerVault MD Storage Array Management Pack Suite v4.0:

This management pack:

- Discovers and monitors the health of components and displays alerts for Dell PowerVault MD 3000 and MD 3000i storage arrays. This includes support of both out-of-band and in-band monitoring of the Dell MD storage arrays.

- Manages and monitors Dell PowerVault MD 1000 storage arrays that are daisy-chained to Dell PowerVault MD 3000/MD 3000i storage arrays.

- Includes the Dell Discovery utility that discovers the PowerVault MD3000/MD3000i devices in your network and creates an IP listing file with the IP addresses of the storage arrays. Essentials uses this IP listing file to discover and manage the storage arrays. The Dell discovery utility supports both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses.

  NOTE: For more information about the Dell Discovery utility, see the online help provided with the utility.

- Provides Recovery Guru Information as a point of reference for troubleshooting the MD Storage Array events.

  NOTE: For more information see, "Accessing Recovery Guru Information" in the *Dell PowerVault MD Storage Arrays Management Pack Suite Version 4.0. User's Guide* available on the Dell Support web site at **support.dell.com/manuals**.

- Displays realistic icons for various components, modeled by the MD Storage Array Management Pack.

4 **Dell Printer Management Pack v4.0:**

This management pack provides performance improvements over the previous releases by providing a stand-alone management pack for managing Dell Network printers. The Dell Printer MP supports Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) v1 and SNMP v2 printers.

5 **Dell EqualLogic Storage Management Pack Suite v4.0:**

This management pack:

- Discovers and manages EqualLogic PS Series arrays (devices) with supported firmware versions.
- Performs inventory of the supported EqualLogic devices, health monitoring, and roll up of member components.
- Provides the EqualLogic Web console launch task for EqualLogic groups and EqualLogic member arrays.
- Displays the SNMP based hardware alerts generated by the EqualLogic devices as part of the **Alerts** view.
- Displays realistic icons for the various components modeled by the EqualLogic management pack in the **Diagram** view.

📝 **NOTE:** For a list of supported Dell devices and supported instrumentation by Dell management packs, see the readme of the respective Dell management pack.

For more information, see the following User's Guides for the management packs available on the Dell support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**:

- Dell Server Management Pack Suite v4.0 UG
- Dell PowerVault MD Storage Array Management Pack Suite v4.0 UG
- Dell Client Management Pack v4.0 UG
- Dell Printer Management Pack v4.0 UG
- Dell EqualLogic Storage Management Pack Suite v4.0 UG
- Dell PRO Management Pack for Virtualized Dell Servers UG

Features of Dell Performance and Resource Optimization Management Pack 2.0 (PROPack)

The Dell OEM Essentials 2010 solution enables administrators to use a single console to help centralized management of physical resources and virtualized business services.

Essentials 2010 Server integrates with the Dell OpenManage suite to simplify the management of Microsoft Hyper-V virtualized environments based on Dell servers. This integration is based on Dell PRO Pack capabilities that allow Dell OpenManage health alerts passed to Essentials as PRO Tips and recovery actions to be driven from Essentials 2010. Dell PRO Pack recovery actions minimize downtime of critical services hosted on virtualized Dell server infrastructures. PRO Pack recommends remedial actions, such as migration of virtual machines to a healthy host or placing the host in maintenance mode, depending on the health state of the server host.

Dell Server PRO Pack version 2.0 supports systems running Windows Server 2008 x64 based hypervisors by continuously monitoring the health of the virtual environment. Dell Server PRO Pack version 2.0 provides option for live migration of virtual machines (VMs) on Windows 2008 R2 based hosts. For non R2 hosts, the Quick Migration option is available.

With the unified console of Essentials 2010, the following PRO features are not directly available.

- If user disables PRO Tips for a host in SCE console, the host status will change from "monitored" to "not monitored".

- No option to exclude VMs from host level PRO actions, in case of a host having multiple VMs and the user decides to ignore PRO Tips for selective Virtual Machines.

- No option for bulk implementation/dismissal of PRO Tips.

- Dell logo may not be displayed as part of the individual events in the PRO Tips Window.

NOTE: For more information, see the *PRO Pack 2.0 User Guide* available on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**.

Importing the Dell Management Packs and Dell PRO Management Pack

To import Dell management packs and Dell PRO Pack, use the Essentials Import Management Pack wizard:

1 Download the management packs from the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com**.

   • Download Dell Management Packs version 4.0 for managing respective Dell Devices.

   • Download Dell PRO Management Pack Version 2.0 for Dell Servers.

   🖉 **NOTE:** Use links from "Useful Dell Links and other Resources" on page 31 to download Dell Management Packs and Dell PRO Management Pack.

   🖉 **NOTE:** The management packs are self-extracting .exe and or .msi files.

2 Copy the downloaded files to a destination directory on the hard drive of your local system.

3 Open the self-extracting .exe or .msi files to extract all of the management packs.

4 Click **Start → Programs → System Center Essentials 2010** and select **System Center Essentials Console**.

5 In the **Operations Console**, click **Administration** on the navigation pane.

6 Expand the **Administration** tree, right-click **Management Packs**, and select **Import Management Packs**.

7 Type or browse to the location of the management pack files, which is usually the same location to which you downloaded and extracted the contents of the self-extracting **.exe** file.

8 Select the management pack/utility you want to import and click **Open**.

9 The **Import Management Packs** screen is displayed with the selected management packs/utilities in the **Import List**.

10 Click **Install** to complete the task.

   🖉 **NOTE:** Before importing a Dell Management Pack (except Dell PRO Management Pack) or any utility, ensure that you import the Base Management Pack utility. In the case of the Dell Server MP, import the Scalable Server MP before importing the Detailed Server MP or Informational-alerts-On override utility.

Dell Update Packages and Dell Catalogs for Servers, Business Client Computers

Dell OEM System Center Essentials 2010 allows administrators to view, download, and deploy Dell Update Packages (DUPs) required by managed computers.

Dell Updates using Essentials 2010 can be performed using the Dell Catalog file as well as standalone DUP.

- DUP contains feature enhancements or changes that will help keep your system software current and compatible for the corresponding system modules (firmware, BIOS, drivers, and software).

  To execute a software deploy task on Dell hardware you should have the corresponding DUP. DUPs are available on the Support for Small Businesses → Drivers & Downloads page on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com**.

  NOTE: Download and install any prerequisites identified in the dialog window before proceeding.

- Dell Server Update Catalog is a **.cab** file containing DUPs applicable for all supported Dell systems, which contain feature enhancements or changes that help keep your system and software current and compatible for the corresponding system modules (firmware, BIOS, drivers and software).

  To execute and update tasks on Dell hardware you should have Dell Server Update catalog. These catalogs are available at **http://ftp.dell.com/catalog** or **ftp://ftp.dell.com/catalog**

  NOTE: Download and install any prerequisites identified in the dialog window before proceeding.

Updating Managed Systems with Dell Catalog Files

To manage updates in Essentials 2010, access the **Updates Overview** pane by clicking the **Updates** button in the **Essentials** console. The overview pane allows you to easily view updates, determine which updates are needed by managed computers, centrally deploy updates to those computers, and view deployment and other related reports.

In Essentials 2010, you can import catalogs and distribute software and updates from Dell to your IT environment. Essentials 2010 can detect available pre-verified partner catalogs based on scans of your environment, or you can import a catalog from a specified URL. The catalog content provided by hardware and software vendors is compressed into a **.cab** file, and usually signed by a certificate corresponding to that vendor. Use the following procedures to acquire content from a catalog.

Perform the following steps to import updates from partner catalogs (Dell Catalogs):

1 In the **Essentials** console, click **Updates** and then click **Import updates** from partner catalogs in the **Updates Overview** pane.

2 When the **Update Catalog Import Wizard** is displayed, click **Next**.

> **NOTE:** A dialog box is displayed that warns you that files downloaded from the Internet can potentially harm your computer and you must confirm if you want to continue. Click **Yes** to proceed.

3 On the **Select Product Catalog** page, click **Yes**. Import the specified catalog to import a partner updates catalog, select the Dell catalog from the drop-down list, and click **Next**.

> **NOTE:** If you choose to import a catalog from a specific URL or file location, click **No**. Type the Dell ftp URL (**ftp://ftp.dell.com or http://ftp.dell.com**) into the text box provided - and click **Next**.

4 On the **Review the Catalog** page, a progress bar is displayed while Essentials locates the catalog. A dialog box is displayed with details about the update source, warning you that content from catalogs can potentially harm computers. If you trust the source, click **Yes** otherwise, click **No**.

5 When the catalog has loaded, you can review the list of all importable and non-importable packages and see details about what each package contains. When you have finished reviewing the update details, click **Import**.

6 On the **Import the Catalog** page, a progress bar is displayed while Essentials imports the updates. When all the updates are imported, click **Finish**.

The new view you created in the wizard is displayed. The view you create for software and updates from third-party catalogs provides the same level of detail as displayed for Microsoft updates, including deployment status reports.

✎ **NOTE:** For more information about Update Management with Essentials 2010, see the "Update Management in Essentials" section in *System Center Essentials 2010 Operation Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff603598.aspx.**

Software Deployment from Software Console of Essentials 2010

Essentials 2010 allows you to centrally deploy software to your managed computers. Using Essentials 2010, you package the software for deployment, use computer groups to specify on which computers you want to install the software, and then run reports to monitor the deployment status. You can download Software packages from the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com**.

Essentials 2010 supports software deployment with .msi and .exe file extensions.

To deploy software, you need to open Software pane by clicking the Software button in the Essentials console.

Deploying software to managed computers consists of the following phases:

1 **Create a software deployment package**: You must specify the software source files that are needed for the deployment, the command line that installs the software, and other general information required for the software deployment.

In case you choose not to store updates locally, Essentials 2010 stores the source files and other package-related files in the default directories which are **%SYSTEMDRIVE%\SCE\UpdateServicesPackages\<package>** directory, or **%PROGRAMFILES%\Update Services\UpdateServicesPackages** directory.

2 Select an existing computer group or create a new group that contains the computers that you want to deploy the software on.

3 Approve the deployment for the appropriate computer group.

4 View reports and alerts to monitor the progress of the deployment and to identify and understand problems that caused the software installation to fail on certain computers.

> **NOTE:** For more information about Software Deployment with Essentials 2010, see the "Software Deployment in Essentials" section in the *System Center Essentials 2010 Operations Guide* available at **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb422945.aspx.**

Useful Links and Resources

Important Essentials 2010 Documentation

- For *Release Notes* for System Center Essentials 2010, see
  http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=180737

- For Essentials supported configuration, see

  http://technet.microsoft.com/sce

  http://www.microsoft.com/sce

- For *System Center Essentials 2010 Operations Guide*, see

  http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=180739

  This guide contains a description of the different operations available in Essentials 2010. It includes the following:

  - Getting Started with Essentials

  - Understanding the Essentials Console

  - Managing computers and devices in Essentials

  - Virtualizing your server environment

  - Monitoring in Essentials

  - Update managed systems in Essentials

  - Software deployment in Essentials

  - Reporting in Essentials

  - Administration in Essentials

  - Authoring in Essentials

  - Backup and restore of System Center Essentials

  - About Logo Certification for Windows Server 2008 R2

- For System Center Essentials 2010 Deployment Guide, navigate to the following link: **http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=180738**

  This guide describes the deployment process for System Center Essentials 2010. It provides step by step instructions for the following:

  - System requirements and supported platforms
  - Environmental prerequisites and considerations
  - Supported deployment topologies
  - Troubleshooting your initial Essentials setup and configuration
  - Step-by-step instructions for installing Essentials
  - Step-by-step instructions for configuring Essentials
  - Troubleshooting Issues After Deployment
  - Log File Locations for Troubleshooting Essentials 2010
  - Step-by-step instructions for uninstalling Essentials

Microsoft Essentials 2010 Online Resources

- TechNet: **http://technet.microsoft.com/sce**
- TechNet Blog: **http://blogs.technet.com/systemcenteressentials/**
- TechNet Forums: **http://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/en-US/systemcenteressentials/threads**

Essentials 2010 Knowledge Base Articles

To resolve the non-availability of check box for "Download the latest updates to System Center Essentials 2010" in the installation screen, use **http://support.microsoft.com/kb/981950**

Host servers running Windows Server 2008 with the Hyper-V role enabled must have the following updates installed:

- Microsoft KB update 950050 **http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=160367**
- Microsoft KB update 956589 **http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=160370**
- Microsoft KB update 956774 **http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=160372**

Useful Dell Links and other Resources

Dell Management Pack Download Links

- Dell Server Management Pack Suite 4.0:

  http://support.us.dell.com/support/downloads/format.aspx?releaseid=R237719

- Dell Client Management Pack 4.0:

  http://support.us.dell.com/support/downloads/format.aspx?releaseid=R245492

- Dell Printer Management Pack 4.0:

  http://support.us.dell.com/support/downloads/format.aspx?releaseid=R247998

- Dell PowerVault MD Storage Array Management Pack Suite 4.0:

  http://support.us.dell.com/support/downloads/format.aspx?releaseid=R255600

- Dell EqualLogic Management Pack Suite 4.0:
  http://support.us.dell.com/support/downloads/format.aspx?releaseid=R266477

- Dell Performance and Resource Optimization (PRO) Management Pack Version 2.0 from

  http://support.us.dell.com/support/downloads/format.aspx?releaseid=R252410

- Dell Management Pack documentation containing the User guide and readme can be found at:

  http://support.dell.com/support/edocs/software/smconect/msscom/index.htm

Dell Updates for Dell Server and Dell Client Computers

Dell Update Packages (DUP) are available at http://support.dell.com

Dell Server and Client catalogs are available at

http://ftp.dell.com/catalog   (or) ftp://ftp.dell.com/catalog

Essentials 2010 Best Practices

- To configure Execution Policy implementation on remote cluster environment, run **Set-ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned** in the PowerShell command window on all VM hosts on which you run the PRO scripts.

- In the **Windows Computer Tasks in Essentials** console, run **Detect Software and Updates Now**. This will detect the software and updates available for that particular system.

- If imported updates are declined, then those will be removed from the current view. Also you will not be able to import these updates again from catalog file. To see declined updates:

  a Right-click **Updates**. The **Create New Updates View** wizard is displayed.

  b Select **With Specific Updates** and click **Any**.

  c On the dialog box, select **Declined Updates**. This creates a **New View** displaying all declined updates.

- If you have installed the Operating System using the **Essentials Create New Guest Machine** wizard, store the **.iso** image of Operating System in the Essentials Library Server.

  > **NOTE:** For more information about the best practice for SCE 2010 OEM Solution, see the *System Center Essentials 2010 Operations Guide* at **http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=180739**

Microsoft Scalability Guidelines for Essentials 2010

- Single Server Management Station with minimum recommended hardware configuration can manage up to 150 computers with SQL Express database.
- Single Server Management Station with minimum recommended hardware configuration can manage up to 300 computers with SQL Standard database.
- Distributed Management Station with minimum recommended hardware configuration can manage up to 550 computers with SQL Standard database.

NOTE: For information on minimum hardware requirements for System Center Essentials, see **http://technet.microsoft.com/hi-in/systemcenter/essentials/bb422876(en-us).aspx**

Configuring PRO Tips to Filter them based on Severity

You can set the severity level of the PRO Tips that you want to monitor and implement to:

- Warning and Critical or
- Critical only

For more information about filtering PRO tips, see **http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff678231.aspx**

Configure Performance and Resource Optimization (PRO) Tips

To use Essentials 2010 for PRO Manageability features, you must configure Performance Resource Optimization (PRO) Tips using Windows Power Shell. You can configure PRO to allow monitoring and automatic or manual implementation for critical and warning PRO Tips. Also, you can turn off monitoring and implementation of PRO tips. For instructions on how to enable this functionality of PRO Tips, see
http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=190539

Enable or Disable a Host for VM Placement

In Essentials 2010, you can enable or disable a computer for placement as a virtual machine host by using Windows Power Shell scripts.

Supported Dell Hardware

- All x8xx to xx1x PowerEdge and PowerVault systems as managed devices
- All x9xx to xx1x PowerEdge systems as management station
- Dell Remote Access Controllers—DRAC 4, DRAC 5, DRAC/MC, iDRAC 6 Modular, iDRAC 6 Monolithic and Chassis Management Controllers (CMC)—part of the Dell PowerEdge/PowerVault Server systems
- All currently shipping client systems—Latitude, Optiplex, and Precision systems
- Dell Network Printers mentioned as supported in the Dell Printer Management Pack Readme
- Dell PowerVault Modular Storage Devices, such as MD 3000, MD 3000i and daisy-chained MD 1000
- All currently shipping Dell EqualLogic PS Series Arrays mentioned as supported in the Dell EqualLogic Management Pack Suite Readme

NOTE: For the list of Supported Dell Systems and Devices, Dell OpenManage versions and device firmware related information, see the Readme of the respective Dell Management Pack available on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals.**