

#####

# Dell(TM) UNIFIED SERVER CONFIGURATOR

Version 1.1

Release Date: April 2009

#####

The Dell Unified Server Configurator (USC) is an embedded configuration utility that enables systems and storage management tasks from an embedded environment throughout the server's lifecycle.

Residing on an embedded flash memory card, the USC is similar to a BIOS utility in that it can be started during the boot sequence and can function independently of the operating system.

Using the USC you can quickly identify, download, and apply system updates without needing to search the Dell support site (support.dell.com). The field replacement and recovery feature allows you to restore embedded tools and utilities in the event of data corruption or hardware failure. You can also configure BIOS and system firmware (such as NIC, power supply, and iDRAC), deploy an operating system, and run diagnostics to validate the system and attached hardware.

#####

## CONTENTS

#####

- \* Criticality
- \* Compatibility/Minimum Requirements
- \* Installation
- \* Known Issues

#####

## CRITICALITY

#####

2 = Recommended

#####

## COMPATIBILITY/MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

#####

Supported Microsoft(R) Windows(R), Red Hat(R) Enterprise Linux(R), and SUSE(R) Linux Enterprise Server operating systems. See the "Dell System Software Support Matrix" on the "Dell Systems Management Tools and Documentation" DVD or on the Dell Support site for details.

#####

## INSTALLATION

#####

To start the USC, press the <F10> key within 10 seconds of the Dell logo being displayed during the system boot process.

NOTE: If you power on or restart the system while iDRAC is initializing, the message System Services Disabled will display during the system boot process. This occurs if you power on the system immediately after AC is applied to the server, or if you restart the system immediately after resetting the iDRAC. To avoid this issue, wait about a minute to restart the server. This will allow enough time for the iDRAC to complete initialization.

The first time you boot the system, the USC starts with the User Settings wizard displayed so that you can configure your preferred language and network settings. See "Unified Server Configurator User's Guide" for more information.

#####  
KNOWN ISSUES  
#####

For PERC controllers, RAID 50 and RAID 60 virtual disks cannot be created when using the RAID Configuration wizard in USC. If you wish to create these types of virtual disks, then use the controller utilities such as Ctrl+R or System Build Update Utility to do so.

The drivers exposed by Unified Server Configurator will be present in a read-only device labeled "OEMDRV" and it will be active for 18 hours. During Windows operating system installation, the drivers will be automatically installed and no further user action is required. During Linux operating system installation, the drivers are not automatically installed and user has to install the drivers manually after the operating system installation has been completed.

For Windows 2003 (32 bit, SBS and 64 bit), in addition to "OEMDRV" a floppy drive labeled FLOPPY will also be exposed that contain drivers and will remain active for 18 hours.

Unified Server Configurator (USC) supplies necessary Microsoft Windows 2003 Server drivers on a temporary internal USB device, that may initially be assigned the drive letter C: during Windows Server 2003 Setup. Before proceeding, refer to the Dell Unified Server Configurator User's Guide or Microsoft support article KB896536 for appropriate installation steps to ensure that your operating system is properly installed to drive letter C:.

During the installation of Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating system, you will be prompted that a "Read-only filesystem was detected." Linux has detected the temporary storage area of the Unified Server Configurator that stores the updates for your system. When prompted ensure to click "OK". A following warning will indicate a "loop partition layout" was detected that needs formatting. Ensure to select "Ignore drive" option. These two warning messages may be seen several times during the operating system installation.

If the boot mode is set to UEFI in BIOS (F2) setup and if you launch System Services (F10) and deploy operating system, the installation might fail or you may not be able to boot to operating system after the installation. Always ensure boot mode is set to BIOS in F2 setup before launching Unified Server Configurator and deploying operating system.

You may see a optical device not found error, if you have a bad DVD/CD in the optical drive. This error should not be misread that there are no optical device on the system. If you remove the bad media then this error will not be displayed.

For Red Hat and SUSE operating systems you need to install kernel source before installing drivers present in OEMDRV.

For RAID Configuration and Platform Updates, PERC 6.1 Firmware or above is required.

To maintain consistency with other iDRAC configuration tools, it is recommended to use only digits (0-9), alphanumeric (a-z, A-Z) and hyphen (-) characters when entering a "Name" or "Password" string. When entering a "Domain Name", such as 'x123.com', a period (.) is allowed.

While updating a platform using an FTP server, specifying a valid proxy server but selecting an invalid proxy type will cause USC to halt for a long period (possibly over 30 minutes) before it returns to normal operation.

USC does not support the update or rollback options of PERC5/E Adapter for External Storage or SAS5iR Adapter for tape.

If a floppy drive is attached to the system when the USC is used to deploy a Windows Server 2003 operating system, error messages will be displayed, and many required device drivers such as NIC, video, and chipset drivers will not be installed, but the storage device drivers will be installed. Do not attach floppy devices before using the USC to deploy a Windows Server 2003 operating system.

If you see this error message "Unable to find a boot device on which to install the operating system. Verify boot disk availability." and if you have a USB key plugged in to the system after booting to USC, remove the USB key before deploying the operating system.

If you are updating iDRAC firmware using a tool other than USC, do not run USC during the firmware update. Doing so will result in unknown behavior. After the firmware is successfully updated, you can safely use USC.

If the iDRAC firmware update is interrupted for any reason, you may be required to wait for up to 30 minutes before you can attempt another firmware update.

When configuring the FTP server for your repository in the platform update, you may get a message that indicates that a network connection exists with your FTP server; however, it may mean that the validation process needs some extra time depending on your network setting. Click OK, and try one more time to connect to the FTP server.

Account access can be disabled only if there is more than one user enabled on the iDRAC. To enable users, access the iDRAC Web-based GUI. Navigate to the Users section under the Network/Security tab and enable users as needed. Note that at least one more user needs to be enabled

in order to disable the account access in the USC.

NOTE: In the iDRAC Configuration Wizard, the DNS Domain Name may contain a maximum of 64 ASCII characters.

NOTE: When attempting a Platform Rollback, there may be a two minute delay before Rollback tasks are displayed on the screen.

When using Hardware Configuration Advanced Configuration, if you click on any NIC or BIOS devices and then leave the page and come back, you may experience delays of up to 18 seconds on all the pages.

NOTE: In the iDRAC Configuration Wizard, there is not a selection for auto-attached on the Virtual Media Config page.

#####

Information in this document is subject to change without notice.  
(C) 2009 Dell Inc. All rights reserved.

Reproduction of these materials in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of Dell Inc. is strictly forbidden.

Trademarks used in this text: "Dell," "PowerEdge," "PowerVault," and "Dell OpenManage" are trademarks of Dell Inc.; "Windows Server," "Microsoft," and "Windows" are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation; "Intel" is a registered trademark of Intel Corporation; Red Hat and Red Hat Enterprise Linux are registered trademarks of Red Hat, Inc; SUSE is a registered trademark of Novell, Inc. in the United States and other countries.

Other trademarks and trade names may be used in this document to refer to either the entities claiming the marks and names or their products. Dell Inc. disclaims any proprietary interest in trademarks and trade names other than its own.

April 2009