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Dell OpenManage(TM) Baseboard Management Controller Management
Utility Version 2.0 Readme

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NOTE: This readme provides information about the Dell OpenManage
Baseboard Management Controller (BMC) Management Utility
version 2.0.

NOTE: See the Dell OpenManage Server Administrator readme
("readme.txt") on the "Installation and Server Management" CD
for the latest information and issues specifically related to
Server Administrator.

NOTE: See the Dell OpenManage 5.0 installation readme
("readme_ins.txt") on the "Installation and Server Management"
or "Systems Management Consoles" CD for the latest
installation information and issues specifically related to
Server Administrator.

This file contains the following sections:

- * Criticality
- * Release Highlights
- * User Notes
- * Known Issues

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Criticality

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3 - Optional

Optional = It is recommended that you review the specifics about the
update to determine if it applies to your system. The update contains
changes that impact only certain configurations, or provides new
features that may or may not apply to your environment.

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Release Highlights

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- * Interactive modes for Intelligent Platform Management Interface
Shell (IPMISH) and Serial Over Lan (SOL) Proxy.
- * SOL Proxy can be configured for up to twenty telnet sessions, each
accessing a separate server.
- * System Event Log (SEL) output consistent with other Dell products.
- * Sensor listing
- * Command mode for SOL proxy provides proxy access for all IPMISH
commands within the telnet session.

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User Notes

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This section provides information to help enhance your experience with your systems management software in particular implementations and environments.

Notes For The BMC Management Utilities

- * Web browsers allow connecting to alternate ports including the Serial Over LAN (SOL) Proxy on IP port 623. If you connect from a Web browser, the data received from SOL Proxy will be jumbled, as the IP port implements the telnet protocol rather than the HTTP or FTP. For correct results, close the Web session and connect to SOL Proxy using a telnet program.
- * On initiating a console redirection session using SOL Proxy while loading the Microsoft(R) Windows(R) operating system, you may not be able to send data to the serial port. As Windows can block the writing of data to the serial port, you may receive the following message on attempting to send data using keyboard input:

"SOL not able to write to the system serial port."

The SOL session closes after displaying this message. The main SOL menu displays to reconnect (or reconfigure settings).
- * You can manage a system by accessing multiple IPMI instances at the same time as long as your system's BMC supports more than one concurrent connection. However, multiple sessions can lead to session failures under high network traffic.
- * When attempting to gracefully shutdown a system running Novell(R) NetWare(R) or Red Hat(R) Linux through SOL Proxy, you may receive a message stating that the system is unable to power off the server because the "power_off_timeout" was reached. The "power_off_timeout" value specifies the time in seconds that SOL Proxy polls for the managed system's power status and is set to a default value of 60 seconds. If your managed system is running a supported NetWare or Red Hat Linux operating system, it may take more than 60 seconds for the operating system to complete the graceful shutdown. To avoid this, change the "power_off_timeout" parameter in the "solproxy.cfg" file to a higher value, such as 90 seconds.
- * To configure the BIOS settings for SOL Proxy for the Dell PowerEdge(TM) 1855, there is no option to set the "Serial Port 1" field under "Integrated Devices." Instead, navigate to the "Console Redirection" field and set it to "BMC SOL." You can then configure the "Failsafe Baud Rate" and "Remote Terminal Type" settings, if applicable.
- * Using a direct connect cable with some 3COM 3C905-TX based network interface controller (NIC) adapters (including the 3C920), you may experience problems keeping the SOL connection active when

performing a "reboot and activate" operation. Some drivers for the 3C9xx series of adapters include an intentional cable detect delay that can exceed 10 seconds by default. You can correct it by editing the advanced properties of the NIC adapter and decreasing the values for "Cable Hold Off Timer" and "Cable To Detect Timer."

* If your network switch has the "Spanning Tree" feature enabled, and if you experience out of sequence packets or connection timeout errors, it is often due to the long delays experienced when the "Spanning Tree" feature is analyzing the network. Turn off the "Spanning Tree" feature to avoid long reconnection times. Alternately, you can edit "solproxy.cfg" and increase the retry_interval to 10. The exact value depends on the specific network and how long the spanning tree requires to complete its job. Restart the SOL Proxy service for the changes to take effect.

* The SOL Proxy server is unable to start a console redirection session from the Windows command prompt (you can access the Windows command prompt by clicking "Start" and selecting "Run," and typing "cmd.exe" in the "Run" dialog box). The following message is displayed on the management station:

"SOL not able to write to the system serial port."

Cause: Console redirection is not enabled in the BIOS setup.

Known Issues
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This section provides information concerning open issues with systems management software.

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Issues For Dell PowerEdge(TM) 1855 System
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The following apply only for the Dell PowerEdge 1855 system:

* Any host application that communicates with port 623 cannot be executed from LOM_1 (the first one) of a server module. If you attempt this, the network packets will be sent to the BMC instead of the host. So use LOM_2, and ensure that the IP address, IP subnet mask, and the gateway settings for the LOM_1 and the BMC match to prevent possible network disruptions.

* The following subsection explains how to identify and resolve a possible IP address conflict.

Problem: An "IP address conflict" message is displayed after assigning identical IP addresses to Local Area Connection and the BMC as instructed.

Cause: When the operating system first detects hardware devices such as the onboard network adapters, the order in which the devices are enumerated is not guaranteed. Therefore, LOM_1 (the first one) may be assigned Local Area Connection #2 and LOM_2

may be assigned Local Area Connection #1. Due to this switch, when you assigned identical addresses to the BMC and Local Area Connection, in reality, identical addresses are being assigned to the BMC and LOM_2. This creates the IP address conflict.

NOTE: The lower-number MAC address will be LOM_1.

Workaround: Go to "Start" and select "Network Connections." Click "View" and select "Details." This will display the Local Area Connections information. Right-click "Local Area Connection" and rename it as "Local Area Connection #2." Rename the already existing "Local Area Connection #2" to "Local Area Connection." This ensures that the Local Area Connection names match the correct onboard NICs. Then assign identical IP addresses to Local Area Connection and the BMC.

Issues For The BMC Management Utilities

- * After IPMISH is installed, if you open a command prompt and type "ipmish" without being in the "C:\Program Files\Dell\SysMgt\bmc" directory, you will receive an error stating that the command could not be found. This is because, by default, the IPMISH directory is not added to the system path. You must either manually add the system path to the command line, or go to the specified directory before running the IPMISH application.
- * Microsoft SAC does not implement hardware control flow. Therefore, when console redirection is enabled with EMS SAC, you will see corrupted data. As SAC does not implement hardware flow control use lower baud rates to effectively use SOL Proxy under redirection to EMS SAC.
- * While performing console redirection through SOL Proxy, you may see a few garbled characters. This can occur while the SOL Proxy server refreshes the screen.
- * You can verify your redirected output by using the same telnet client over the serial port to ensure that your telnet client supports console redirection features. If you see the same garbled text through the serial port, you may use another telnet client for better performance.
- * If you issue the graceful shutdown command using SOL Proxy option 4 (Reboot and Activate Console Redirection) on a system running Microsoft Windows 2000 with an ACPI-compliant BIOS, Windows performs an emergency shutdown instead of a graceful shutdown. Windows does not send WM_QUERYENDSESSION and WM_ENDSESSION messages to the running programs; therefore, the programs cannot notify the user to save data and quit gracefully. This could result in data corruption or data loss.
- * Storage controllers from PERC 4 and earlier use <ctrl>+M to enter configuration during BIOS POST. This is the same ASCII value normally set by the <enter> key so <ctrl>+M will not react as

expected when in a SOL session during boot. Use <esc><ctrl><M> to enter PERC 4 setup.

Alternate key strokes are provided as BIOS starts up for a number of special keys. See the "Dell OpenManage Baseboard Management Controller Utilities User's Guide" for the complete list.

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Server Administrator uses the OverLIB JavaScript library. This library can be obtained from "<http://www.bosrup.com/web/overlib/>."

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