Process Automation That Simplifies Data Center Management

Like many companies today, yours may be looking to move your data center environments to a private cloud model so you can realize the associated agility and economic benefits. At the same time, you want to continue to deliver reliable data center services while still maintaining tight control of corporate resources.

Process automation is essential to meeting these objectives, and the flexible automation platform of Orchestrator can help. It can help simplify and standardize your data center processes, thereby increasing potential returns when you adopt a private cloud computing model. Additionally, it integrates your heterogeneous environments so you can carry forward your existing investments as your data center evolves.

Optimize and extend existing investments through integration

Optimize heterogeneous environments with integrated management

Orchestrator helps you unlock a greater return on your existing investments through:

- Integration packs that provide pre-built, reusable activities to help you effectively integrate existing management toolsets and such System Center 2012 capabilities as monitoring, provisioning, and service management. These integration packs also furnish out-of-the-box interoperability with major vendors including HP, IBM, EMC, BMC, CA, and VMware, plugging seamlessly into Orchestrator.

- Interoperability and integration between System Center 2012 and third-party solutions through the standardized ODATA REST–based web service interfaces and extended PowerShell support.
Easy-to-extend platform for building custom integration packs

Use the easily extensible platform of Orchestrator to develop custom integration packs that implement data center workflows and processes specific to your business. The Quick Integration Kit offers a simple wizard-driven environment that allows you to repurpose existing scripts and commands into your own integration packs. You can then deploy these with change control over what previously have been unmanaged actions.

Deliver flexible and reliable data center services through orchestrated workflows

Accelerate your time to value with flexible process workflows

To help you quickly realize the value from process automation, Orchestrator provides a number of built-in workflow objects. These enable you to build out rich and complex runbooks using a visual easy-to-use authoring and testing interface. These built-in workflows can be used conditionally with intelligent rule-based branching so they’re easy to adapt to your unique private cloud requirements. They can be used as is or easily modified without the need for extensive scripting.

Improve service reliability across multiple tools, systems, and department silos

Your IT organization may use systems and tools from a variety of vendors under different IT department silos. For private cloud environments, you will need core capabilities (such as provisioning) and processes (such as incident and change management) that cross organizational boundaries. Orchestrator can integrate and automate workflows across such disconnected silos and multidisciplinary processes to help you deliver reliable data center services and meet your SLA commitments.

Lower costs and improve predictability through automation

Enable IT resources to focus on work that adds business value

Orchestrator triggers automated runbook execution using a sophisticated data bus capability for bidirectional information exchange between runbook activities. By automating repetitive high-volume tasks, Orchestrator saves your staff valuable time, freeing them for higher impact tasks while lowering your operational costs.

Improve process predictability by reducing error-prone manual activities

Orchestrator enhances your readiness to transition to a private cloud computing model by simplifying and standardizing processes through its automation capabilities. This organizes processes for more predictable automated execution and reduces the latency and errors that manual approaches introduce.

Through the Microsoft Silverlight console built into Orchestrator, operators can start and stop runbooks, monitor their progress, and troubleshoot inaccurate execution.

For more information about System Center 2012 and the Orchestrator component, visit: www.microsoft.com/systemcenter.