

Server Automation With VERITAS™ OpForce™

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS
AUTOMATION- ENHANCING
WORKFLOW,
ADMINISTRATION, AND
MANAGEMENT

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BACKGROUND

Existing approaches to managed servers, networks, storage and software cannot satisfy the business demands placed on IT for the future. Enterprises need IT automation solutions to streamline and integrate business process with systems administration tasks and activities.

Server Automation Benefits:

- Reduce costs by automating complex, mundane, and repetitive tasks
- Retain knowledge by capturing the IT expertise of your most skilled personnel
- Raise service levels by reducing system deployment or recovery time by hours
- Increase IT equipment utilization by cost-effectively sharing IT resources

INTRODUCTION

The Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) for a server is up to 8-15 times more than the cost of buying the physical equipment. The additional costs are incurred over time, as people spend long hours (and sometimes days) setting up, upgrading, changing, managing, and configuring the equipment. Existing approaches to manually provisioning servers, networks, storage and software do not satisfy business demands for flexibility, speed, and costs.

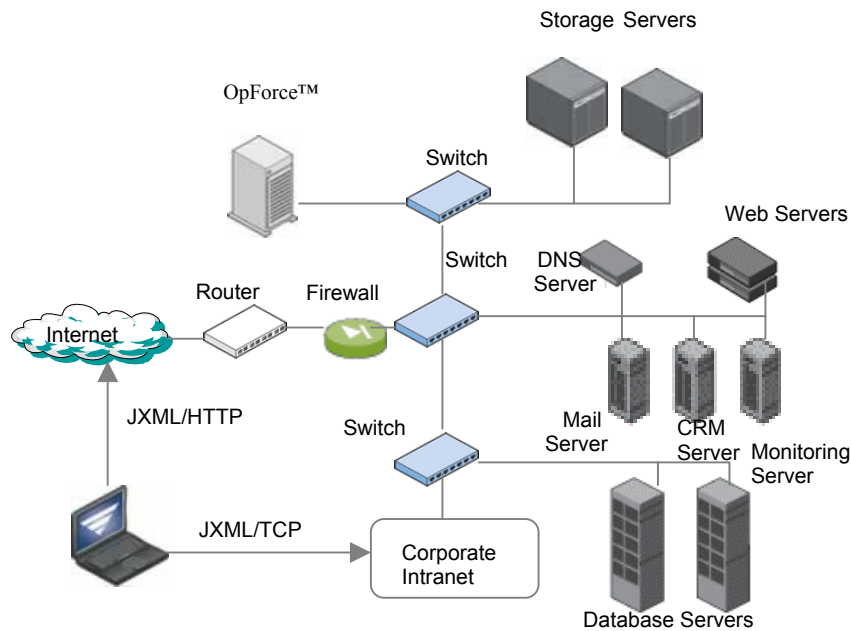
PROBLEM

IT administration in the data center involves manual, complex, inflexible and time-consuming tasks that can become a drain on company resources. Companies have developed well-known measures for estimating the cost of managing an IT infrastructure. In one metric, IT efficiency is represented as the ratio of the number of servers managed by each IT administrator. For corporations the administrator-to-server ratio is typically 1:25, and for Internet Data Centers that ratio is typically 1:50. The TCO and Administrator-to-Server metrics haven't changed much in the last ten-years. However, the business requirements driving complex networking topologies have increased, as has the overall heterogeneity of the elements in the infrastructure.

Other metrics regarding the control, provisioning, and updating of Network Devices and Storage are equally unsatisfactory. This is troublesome for IT managers who are faced with reduced resources, and who have to do more than ever to keep the enterprise IT infrastructure available and responsive to the requirements of the business and the demands of customers. This is often resolved by throwing more, extremely expensive, manpower at the problem. VERITAS OpForce directly addresses these critical business issues.

VERITAS™ OPFORCE™ KEY BENEFITS

1. Significant cost savings in the deployment and manageability of computing infrastructure through automation of manpower intensive tasks.
2. Just in time provisioning and customization of computing infrastructure, thus reducing the need for high fixed cost IT investments.



VERITAS OpForce offers breakthrough features for IT administration, which are not available as an integrated whole elsewhere. Furthermore, all these features are accessible using a browser.

Features

System Provisioning- Enables automatic provisioning servers of specified hardware and operating system combinations

Subnet Provisioning- Enables automatic provisioning servers of public and private subnets using VLAN management

Multi-site Provisioning- Links resources across geographic boundaries

Master Configuration- Enables the creation of a master configuration for later provisioning

Visual Infrastructure Configurator- Constructs a complex network of computers using an intuitive web interface that enables that enables a user to visualize as well as access any live computer remotely

Administration Viewport- Enables the administrator to perform full life-cycle management of servers over the web

Server Status Monitoring- Enables administration and real-time monitoring of managers servers remotely across the intranet

Rich Remote Access- Provides the administrator with rich desktop access and power unit control of heterogeneous servers

Portable Computing Environments- Moves complete computing environments consisting of operating systems, application and network settings across the Internet and activates them in minutes

Custom Configuration- Allows save and restore of custom configurations on managed servers enabling full disaster recovery and rollback

Asset Management- Enables management of system and network assets by providing real-time inventory status reports

Power Management- Enables remote power cycling through a browser

License Tracking- Enables tracking and reporting of license utilization

Usage Reporting- Creates resource usage reports for auditing and billing purposes

Timesharing- Enables automatic and rapid swapping of different software environments in and out of a specific server thereby allowing multiple customers to use a single server during different time slots

CONCLUSION

The VERITAS™ OpForce™ product enables breakthrough for IT administration in Enterprise data center automation. Enterprise IT departments and IT service providers can significantly improve their efficiency, reduce costs and gain flexibility by using VERITAS technologies.

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