In today’s IT infrastructures, with global data centers and multi-tiered architectures, controlling the impact of change is increasingly difficult. Leading analysts point at manual changes to the infrastructure as a leading cause of downtime as IT organizations struggle to drive consistency and standardization in their environments. Deviations from standard server builds, inconsistent application deployments, and unauthorized or ad hoc changes are major obstacles to smooth IT operations and higher service levels. They add variability and risk, and IT’s service availability and responsiveness suffer as a result.

Veritas Configuration Manager, part of the Veritas Server Foundation suite, helps IT staff drive consistency across the IT environment and control the adverse impact of change. When change-related outages do occur, Veritas Configuration Manager provides real-time change identification to assist with root cause analysis and reduce mean time to repair.

Veritas Configuration Manager, the industry’s only fully automated, real-time discovery and change tracking solution, gives IT visibility to understand how infrastructure components work together to deliver IT services to the business. Without any prior knowledge, Veritas Configuration Manager automatically discovers server OSes and applications, dynamically maps their relationships, and tracks configuration changes in real time to ensure configuration integrity.

The resulting consistency and change control that Veritas Configuration Manager offers establish operational baselines for comprehensive change management processes. Veritas Configuration Manager can run regularly scheduled comparisons between test/development staging beds, production, and disaster recovery sites to ensure that system synchronicity carries throughout the entire enterprise. This functionality can also be extended to high availability environments to help eliminate manual changes as a disruptive element for mission-critical applications.

Figure 1. Veritas Configuration Manager provides an accurate inventory of server and software configurations.

Highlights

- **Automated discovery**—Without the need for manual input or prior knowledge, automatically builds a comprehensive hardware and software configuration inventory, including enterprise and custom-developed software

- **Real-time change tracking**—Tracks changes to hardware and software configurations in real time to reduce change-related downtime and maintain availability

- **Server comparison**—Maintains server consistency and controls configuration drift across Q/A, production, and clustered servers
• **Dynamic dependency mapping**—Improves service delivery with dynamic dependency maps that identify how the infrastructure supports the business.

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**Automated discovery**

Veritas Configuration Manager automatically creates an account of all installed servers and software in the managed environment. Discovery, which does not require manual input or prior knowledge, includes both commercial and custom-developed applications running on a wide variety of heterogeneous server platforms. Fully automated, real-time discovery of key infrastructure software elements includes custom and packaged applications, Web applications, running processes, and UNIX or Linux® packaged applications. Software discovery includes version, installation directory, application components, key parameters, and server location.

Automatic discovery of server configurations collects over 30 attributes, including installed applications, operating system, patches, CPUs (type, number, speed), memory, file systems, IP addresses, BIOS, network devices, serial number, and DNS data.

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**Real-time change tracking**

With Veritas Configuration Manager, users can reduce change-related downtime by isolating the source of a problem more quickly.

To speed problem resolution, Veritas Configuration Manager isolates any change that has taken place within the infrastructure that supports the application. Details include who made the change, where and when it was made, and exactly what changed. Changes are tracked by server, application, entire business service, and time.

Users can apply context-aware searches to quickly isolate changes that cause failure. Color-coded maps of related business services and IT infrastructure isolate changes across systems during a specific time interval. Veritas Configuration Manager builds a real-time log of software changes, including configurations, files, directories, registry keys, IIS metabase properties, and permissions such as who made the changes and when. By automatically detecting and logging changes to files, directories, registry keys, and configuration settings of applications in real time, administrators have an accurate representation of the infrastructure at their fingertips.

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**Server comparison**

Maintain server consistency and control configuration drift across hundreds of servers by comparing against user-defined gold standards. In an effort to lower the cost associated with managing the infrastructure and to increase the value of the service IT is providing to the business application end user, organizations are looking to standardize on the technology in their environment. Increasingly complex infrastructures, shared resources, and multi-tiered architectures make it a challenge to ensure consistent server and software configurations and control drift. Veritas Configuration Manager analytics, dependency mapping, and robust reporting help ensure consistency and compliance, as well as validate disaster recovery sites and development and production server and software configurations.

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**Dynamic dependency mapping**

With Veritas Configuration Manager dependency maps, users can improve service delivery and implement IT service management best practices. Veritas Configuration
Manager observes how servers and software function and dynamically builds a dependency map depicting how components interoperate.

Veritas Configuration Manager detects and tracks relationships between applications, files, and servers—within and across network-connected servers. In addition, the maps reflect new or altered dependencies in real time. Dependency characterization provides details such as when the dependency was established, its current state, and frequency of communication. Users can also understand the impact of a server change to dependent servers in the IT environment.

The customizable browser-based console tailors the view to each user. Data can be organized by server, software, application, location, department, or business service. Out-of-the-box reports and a built-in reporting engine provide information in the context of an IT service for faster problem resolution and improved business decisions.

![Figure 2. Veritas Configuration Manager includes powerful out-of-the-box reports.](image)

**Additional product highlights**

**Enterprise scalability and integration**

- Manage up to 15,000 server environments with Global Mapping technology.

![Figure 3. The Veritas Configuration Manager Global Mapping capability allows for operational visibility.](image)

- A Launch-in-Context API integrates with enterprise system management tools to provide valuable context and allows for automatic launch and login from third-party systems management tools to the relevant information within Veritas Configuration Manager.

- A Notification API makes it possible to send change events to external systems; a Change Window API allows customers to feed change window information into Veritas Configuration Manager.

- Database views provide an abstraction layer to easily access information from the Veritas Configuration Manager data repository.

- Optional off-the-shelf adapters are available for integration to HP OpenView® and Peregrine, IBM® Tivoli®, and others.

**Powerful analytics and reporting**

- Validate server and application configuration consistency
- Conduct technical and business impact analysis
- Build custom reports with a built-in reporting engine or an interface to enterprise reporting tools
User and system security

- A pluggable user authentication mechanism supports password-based access, LDAP, RADIUS-based authentication environments, and optionally, token-based Secure ID environments such as RSA Authentication Manager.

- Mutually authenticate agent and server relationships using X.509 certificates with SSL communication.

Figure 4. The Veritas Configuration Manager real-time change tracking identifies changes to the application infrastructure.

More information

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About Symantec

Symantec is a global leader in infrastructure software, enabling businesses and consumers to have confidence in a connected world. The company helps customers protect their infrastructure, information, and interactions by delivering software and services that address risks to security, availability, compliance, and performance. Headquartered in Cupertino, Calif., Symantec has operations in 40 countries. More information is available at www.symantec.com.

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