

Planet Technologies

Microsoft Management QuickStarts

Solutions for Windows Based Server & User Management

OVERVIEW

The Planet Difference

Planet understands the driving issues and concerns that organizations face today. To each engagement we bring a proven track record, extensive planning and implementation experience, and the passion to help your organization succeed. Our combination of state-of-art methodologies, flexible solutions, and expertise in Microsoft best practices enables our professionals to help your organization meet your critical challenges rapidly, keep you in the forefront of technology, and maintain the operational excellence that is the hallmark of top performing organizations.

Microsoft Subject Matter Expertise

- > SMS
- > BDD
- > MIIS
- > ADS
- > Sharepoint
- > Project Server
- > .NET Development
- > Exchange 2003
- > SQL
- > MOM
- > APF
- > Windows 2003
- > Active Directory
- > Biz Talk Server
- > Content Management Server
- > Commerce Server
- > Host Integration Server



Evaluate Microsoft solutions in your environment with Planet Technologies' Quick Start programs

Planet's Quick Starts provide your organization with a hands-on preview of Microsoft prescriptive tools, utilities and architecture and allows you the opportunity to evaluate the technology to determine if it meets your business requirements – all prior to purchase.

Quick Starts are two to five day lab engagements which provide technical knowledge transfer, lab deployment, and access to high level Planet consultants who design and deploy Microsoft solutions on a consistent basis for enterprise customers worldwide.

Benefits include:

- Cost-effective way to evaluate the technology's benefits
- Hands on experience with the technology in your environment – at your location
- One-to-one knowledge transfer with high level expert
- Opportunity to discuss your unique business needs
- Ability to evaluate your staffs ability to support the technology

At the conclusion of your Quick Start, your technical team and business executives will have the opportunity to see a detailed walkthrough of the technologies' key capabilities and the business benefits to be gained by implementing.

Planet Management Quick Starts available:

- Centralizing Administration
- Server Purposing
- Software Distribution and Patch Management
- System Monitoring
- Server and User Management



CENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION QUICKSTART

Managing users through multiple directories and interfaces increases work redundancy and maintenance costs.

Active Directory allows companies to centrally manage and share information on network resources and users while acting as the central authority for network security. In addition to providing comprehensive directory services to a Windows environment, Active Directory is designed to be a consolidation point for isolating, migrating, centrally managing, and reducing the number of directories that companies require.

Centralized Administration Quick Start Overview

Deploy two lab Active Directory domain controllers and discuss Prescriptive domain design and organizational unit configuration. The actual steps your team will experience are the building of domain controllers, an overview of Active Directory features, a host planning and design session, and discussions on web hosting specific configurations.

Success Criteria – Estimated Deployment Days: 2

- Demonstrate the efficiency of Group Policies
- Demonstrate reseller support
- Demonstrate Prescribed OU Design

Requirements

- Hardware — Two servers – minimum 800 MHz Processor, 512mb RAM, 20GB Hard Drive Space
- Software — Copy of Windows 2003 Standard/Enterprise Server

SERVER PURPOSING QUICKSTART

Building or rebuilding servers manually can be time consuming and is easily susceptible to human error. Even when some form of automation is used there is often no process to manage every aspect of the build.

Microsoft's Automated Deployment Services (ADS) offers complete management of the repurposing process. This is accomplished by utilizing existing technologies and adding a management layer to execute the various stages of a build including pre-OS hardware configuration, operating system installation and post-OS layered product installation and configuration. By removing the management of the various components and utilizing existing automation, you can greatly reduce the time and effort required to repurpose a server.

Automated Deployment Services Overview

In this Quick Start, we will deploy an ADS server and a target box. The actual steps your team will experience are to first build ADS Server and test client. Review ADS features. Create an image and then create and execute image deployment sequence. The Quick Start will wrap up with a key knowledge transfer of the imaging, sequencing and deployment processes, as well as the business benefits to be gained by implementing ADS.

Success Criteria – Estimated Deployment Days: 3

- Demonstrate a bare-metal to fully-configured system deployment
- Demonstrate image management
- Demonstrate sequence editing

Requirements

Hardware

- Two servers (1- Server and 1- Target) – minimum 800mhz Processor, 512mb RAM, 20GB Hard Drive Space, PXE-capable network adapter

Software

- Copy of Windows 2003 Enterprise Edition
- Copy of Windows 2000 or 2003 Server (Standard or Advanced) for target image
- Copy of Automated Deployment Services



SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION AND PATCH MANAGEMENT QUICKSTART

With today's security concerns and evolving applications, it has become increasingly important to have a method of quickly deploying new applications and security patches while maintaining strict change control. It is also important to have software and hardware inventory to aid in the decision process when deploying new applications and patches.

Microsoft's System Management Server (SMS) combined with the Software Updates Scan tool solve all of these problems by offering a scalable inventory and software distribution platform. In addition, the SMS 2003 adds a security update inventory tool, Microsoft Office inventory tool for updates, update distribution wizard and web reporting tool.

Software Distribution & Patch Management Deployment Overview

In this Quick Start, we will deploy a SMS server with the Security Update Scan tool to demonstrate basic software distribution and patch management including patch deployment and web reporting. The actual steps your team will experience are to first build a SMS Server, and then review SMS functionality by seeing the software and software updates distribution capabilities.

Success Criteria –

Estimated Deployment Days: 3

- Demonstrate Patch Advertisement
- Demonstrate Security Scan
- Demonstrate Hardware/Software Inventory
- Demonstrate distribution of a software package.
- Demonstrate distribution of a hot fix.

Requirements

Active Directory

Hardware

- Two servers (1- Server 1- Target) – minimum 800 MHz Processor, 1GB RAM, 20GB Hard Drive Space
- One of these will be used as a target machine and should be an un-patched Windows 2000/2003 Server

Software

- Copy of Windows 2003 Standard/Enterprise Edition
- Copy of Systems Management Server 2003
- Copy of SQL Server 2000 Enterprise Edition

SYSTEM MONITORING QUICKSTART

Many companies today are not aware of problems with a server until someone calls to report a service outage. Even those companies that have invested in a monitoring tool often only have a limited view of the problem and are burdened with having to manually configure event collections, performance thresholds and custom scripts.

Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) offers a scalable management solution that features distributed event collection, integrated rules and alerts, performance monitoring and graphical reporting tools. It also introduces the concept of management packs that consist of preconfigured rule-sets and knowledge base articles that offer an out-of-the-box solution for various applications and services. Management packs provide a solid foundation for services such as Active Directory, Internet Information Services, Exchange and SQL Server, but are also extensible to conform to any environment.

Microsoft Operations Manager Overview

In this Quick Start, we will deploy two to three MOM servers to demonstrate management pack installation, monitoring procedures and basic customization. The actual steps your team will experience are to build MOM Servers, review MOM features, and get an overview of monitoring procedures as well demonstrations of customization procedures.



Success Criteria – Estimated Deployment Days: 5

- Demonstrate installation of management pack.
- Provide overview of script library
- Demonstrate event and performance collection.
- Demonstrate Network Monitor
- Demonstrate report generation
- Demonstrate alerts and script execution.

Requirements

Active Directory

Hardware

- Two to three servers – minimum 1GB MHz Processor, 1GB RAM, 40GB Hard Drive Space

Software

- Copy of Windows 2003 Standard/Enterprise Edition
- Copy of Microsoft Operations Manager 2005
- Copy of SQL Server 2000 Enterprise Edition
- Copy of SQL Reporting Services

MICROSOFT SERVER & USER MANAGEMENT 5 DAY QUICK START

Solutions For Managing Windows Based Environments

To take advantage of all the tools, utilities and architecture materials of a Microsoft Management Solution, we offer a full 5 day Quick Start that encompasses the majority of the components in the offering. The goals of this 5 day session are to provide you with an introduction to information and best practices that will enable you to plan and practice successful deployments using these many Microsoft technologies.

Microsoft Management Solution Overview

In this Quick Start, we'll look at the following solution components focusing on the key functions and capabilities: Server Purposing, Software Distribution, Monitoring and Reporting, and Centralized Management. The focus of the Quick Start will be reviewing Microsoft Operations Management, Backup, Restore, and Recovery processes and Health Monitoring.

Prerequisites

- None

Requirements

Hardware

- Three servers – minimum 800 MHz Processor, 1GB RAM, 40GB Hard Drive Space
- PXE-capable network adapter

Software

- Windows 2000 Advances Server
- Windows Server 2003 (Standard or Advanced)
- Microsoft Operations Manager 2005
- SQL Server 2000 Enterprise Edition
- SQL Reporting Services
- Systems Management Server 2003
- Automated Deployment Services

Contact Us

With headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland and facilities in Kansas City, Redmond (on Microsoft's campus), Chicago, and Switzerland, Planet Technologies provides the consulting, network, and security expertise to help your organization achieve the highest levels of performance in its mission-critical operations.

To schedule an appointment with a Planet consultant or for more information about our capabilities and Quick Start programs, call us at 301.721.0100 or email us at info@go-planet.com.

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