CA Configuration Automation

CA Configuration Automation automates configuration management across the enterprise. It allows you to reduce downtime and accelerate troubleshooting by discovering unplanned or unapproved configuration changes before they impact performance and availability.

Business value

Managing application and infrastructure configurations across physical and virtual systems is one of the toughest challenges facing IT today. Configuration management is error-prone, labor-intensive and time consuming. Effective configuration management requires a solution that addresses all of these challenges.

With CA Configuration Automation, you can help:

- Increase operational efficiency by automating configuration management

- Enforce compliance policies and reduce overall risk

- Correct unwanted configuration drift before it causes downtime.

"State-of-the-art change and configuration management tools will be needed to keep up with increasing operational complexity, particularly in organizations that cannot add head count to keep up with requirements."

Source: IDC, Worldwide Change and Configuration Management Software 2010–2014 Forecast, #222330, March 2010

Product overview

CA Configuration Automation automates the entire configuration management lifecycle:

Discovery
- Automatically discover the servers and software applications running in the datacenter.

- Inventory all the configuration settings for each server and application discovered.

- Understand the dependencies and relationships between IT services and the underlying IT infrastructure.

Change management

- Capture configuration data and dependency information into snapshots.

- Accelerate problem isolation by searching snapshots to find configuration changes.

- Track and compare configurations to approved baselines and "gold standards."

- Detect configuration drift and quickly remediate configuration errors.

Policy compliance

- Use compliance rules to check server and application configurations adhere to compliance policies.

- Use built-in rules to facilitate compliance with industry standards such as PCI and DISA.

- Enforce security policies by validating configurations adhere to industry best practices.

Figure A

ca technologies

Features

Agentless and agent-based software discovery

Use either an agentless approach or agents for software discovery. Agentless discovery enables you to conduct a comprehensive inventory without having to install software. Agents provide more security and more detailed discovery.

Profile-based discovery

Use profiles to schedule discovery and management operations to run on a recurring basis. With Server Management Profiles, you specify when and what configuration management operations to perform. For example, using Server Management Profiles you could schedule when configuration snapshots are taken or how often configuration compliance should be verified.

Configuration snapshot-based management

Configuration snapshot management enables you to detect file and parameter level changes in software component configurations. Simply take a snapshot of your configuration settings at any point and compare it to previous or future snapshots to detect change. You can also create a baseline snapshot or "gold standard" to detect servers that are out of compliance.

Blueprint-based management

Several hundred blueprints are included in the built-in knowledge base supporting major Web servers, application servers, databases, messaging systems, network devices and operating systems (Windows, Linux, Solaris, AIX and HP/UX). Using standard blueprints enables you to quickly discover instances of a component, locate its configuration files, extract configuration settings and determine dependencies and relationships. With the built-in Blueprint Editor, you can create blueprints to support your custom applications.

Best practices database

Over 1,000 built-in industry configuration best practices policies are included out-of-the-box. Your IT staff can customize best practices for your IT environment by adding new polices as needed.

Rules-based compliance

This unique feature enables you to assign rules and policies at the file and parameter levels. Changes are automatically tracked and you are notified when there is a violation.

Reporting	Service management	Custom attributes	Import and export	Security
Provides pre-defined dashboard reports with view, print, export and scheduled e-mail delivery	Groups servers and specific software components as an application service that you can snapshot and search for changes or rules compliance	Enables you to define and add your own attributes to individual servers	Imports a known list of servers to accelerate server discovery, or business attributes from an asset management application	Provides comprehensive, customizable role-based administration and controls access to the target server

> "Managing change and ensuring that configuration changes do not create security breaches and violate service levels, availability, acceptable use, communications, and information management policies are high-priority objectives for companies looking to enhance their IT compliance and risk management posture."
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> **IDC, Worldwide Governance, Risk, and Compliance Infrastructure Taxonomy, 2010 #222182, March 2010**

Benefits

CA Configuration Automation helps you create a more dynamic and agile data center by helping to:

- Increase operational efficiency while lowering costs

  - Increase utilization of IT Staff – automate routine configuration tasks and redeploy IT staff to more strategic projects.

  - Improve delivery of IT Services – reduce the time it takes to configure a server for deployment.

- Enforce compliance policies and reduce overall risk

  - Demonstrate Control to IT Auditors – use compliance rules to automatically perform audit scans. Quickly identify and remediate policy violations.

- Improve availability and proactively prevent data center outages

  - Reduce downtime – proactively detect configuration drift before it causes a data center outage. Automatically restore configurations to approved "gold standards."

Related Products

- CA Automation Suite for Data Centers

- CA Process Automation

- CA Server Automation

- CA Virtual Automation

- CA Virtual Configuration

- CA Workload Automation

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