

CA Server Automation

At a Glance

CA Server Automation is an integrated data center management solution that automates provisioning, patching and configuration of operating system, storage, network and application components across physical, virtual and public cloud systems. It greatly simplifies server operations and system management tasks and increases the speed and accuracy of delivering IT services.

Key benefits/results

- Streamline business service provisioning
- Accelerate application deployment
- Improve server and storage utilization
- Build elasticity to accommodate changing business needs
- Improve operational efficiency

Key features

Multi-tier business service provisioning.

Provides a unique way to package and provision services across various platforms.

Multiple provisioning methods. Includes unattended installation, template-based provisioning and unique rapid server imaging.

Virtual Machine (VM) lifecycle management.

Includes self-service VM request, provisioning, utilization reporting and chargeback/showback.

Dynamic storage provisioning. Works in conjunction with a storage vendor's native provisioning manager.

Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) support.

Provides a single interface for performing common management tasks on Cisco UCS blade instances.

CA AppLogic® integration. Provides the ability to automate provisioning and deployment of cloud services within a CA AppLogic grid.

CA Network Automation integration. Provides the ability to create, configure and deploy VMware VLANs as part of the VM provisioning process.

Business challenges

As complex virtualized data centers become the norm for enterprise organizations, IT teams that are already struggling to maximize physical server utilization and efficiency are now facing new and unique challenges introduced by virtualization and cloud computing.

To meet these challenges and avoid negating the benefits of virtualization and cloud with new complexity, many IT organizations are seeking a holistic management approach to physical and virtual server provisioning. They need a comprehensive solution that integrates and automates provisioning processes, standardizes configurations and simplifies workflows to successfully manage the complexity of continuously changing data-center environments.

Solution overview

CA Server Automation enables IT to build out business services in an automated, repeatable and reliable manner. The solution supports the provisioning of multi-system business services and provides a unique way to define and package services so that they can be shared and provisioned across different platforms and locations with just a few clicks.

CA Server Automation unifies service provisioning across Windows®, UNIX® and Linux® platforms and provides a single-pane-of-glass management point for physical, virtual and public cloud infrastructure. It offers a comprehensive array of automated provisioning methods and techniques and includes out-of-the box capabilities for bare-metal provisioning, application deployment and system configuration.

The solution evaluates rules and thresholds for the servers and server groups within the data center and uses this information to dynamically provision, patch and deploy applications and services based on key performance metrics and standard templates. Software packaging and OS installation management features help IT teams standardize service deployment tasks, increase consistency and reduce provisioning cycle time. In addition, the solution provides self-service VM provisioning, management of resource pools and individual VM tracking with chargeback/showback accounting and reporting.

Critical differentiators

CA Server Automation offers a single, integrated solution for provisioning and managing disparate physical, virtual and cloud-based resources as well as new converged infrastructure offerings such as Cisco UCS, NetApp Flexpod™ and VCE Vblock Infrastructure Platforms. The solution supports the provisioning of multi-tier business services and provides a unique way to define and package these services so that they can be shared and provisioned across different platforms and locations with just a few clicks.

In addition, CA Server Automation provides a choice in provisioning methods in order to suit each organization's unique needs, including unattended installation, template-based provisioning and rapid server-imaging capabilities.

With the unique Rapid Server Imaging add-on, it can quickly capture, convert and migrate system images (including OS, applications, storage and network configurations) between dissimilar physical or virtual systems. It supports any-to-any migrations (P2P, V2P, P2V, V2V) as well as most major platforms (operating systems, hypervisors and cloud computing environments). In addition, it provides the vast ability to scale and can execute hundreds of simultaneous migrations.

CA Server Automation offers a self-service reservation manager that enables requestors to rapidly provision new business services and VMs from a predefined list, helping reduce IT intervention, provisioning delays and staff costs.

Related products/solutions

CA Server Automation is also part of **CA Automation Suite for Data Centers** and **CA Automation Suite for Clouds**, which offer a modular approach to automation that also includes products such as **CA Process Automation**, **CA Configuration Automation**, **CA Service Catalog**, **CA Network Automation** and **CA AppLogic**.

Supportive environment

CA Server Automation supports major data center operating systems and hypervisor platforms with a centralized management layer that enables you to quickly and accurately build systems across traditional, virtual and cloud platforms. Support includes Linux, Microsoft Windows®, IBM AIX®, Oracle Solaris (SPARC and x86), VMware vSphere and vCloud Director, Citrix XenServer®, Microsoft Hyper-V®, EMC Clariion, NetApp® and VCE Vblock Infrastructure Platforms. Additionally, Rapid Server Imaging allows you to provision images across a wide range of hardware from key vendors, including Dell, Sun, HP, IBM and Cisco UCS blades.

For more information, please visit ca.com/server-automation

About CA Technologies

CA Technologies (NASDAQ: CA) provides IT management solutions that help customers manage and secure complex IT environments to support agile business services. Organizations leverage CA Technologies software and SaaS solutions to accelerate innovation, transform infrastructure and secure data and identities, from the data center to the cloud. Learn more about CA Technologies at www.ca.com.