

# Onboard Dell Server Configuration Profile Policies from Windows Admin Center to Azure Arc for PowerEdge Servers

## Abstract

This white paper provides comprehensive guidance on onboarding Dell Server Configuration Profile (SCP) policies from Windows Admin Center to Azure Arc for PowerEdge server so that administrators can leverage those policies and monitor server compliance in Azure.

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## Acknowledgments

This paper was produced by the following:

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## Acronyms

Acronyms	Expansion
iDRAC	Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller
OMIMSWAC	OpenManage Integration with Microsoft Windows Admin Center
MS API	Microsoft Application Programming Interface
SCP	Server Configuration Profile
XXg (ex.14g,15g)	XXth Generation of Dell PowerEdge Server Platforms
WS19	Windows Server 2019
WAC	Windows Admin Center
SCP	Server Configuration Profile

## Executive Summary

This white paper walks you through the process of onboarding Server Configuration Profile (SCP) policies to Azure Arc using the OpenManage Integration extension. By doing so, you can effectively monitor server compliance using these policies in Azure.

## Intended Audience

The intended audiences of this document are IT administrators who use OMIMSWAC to onboard SCP policies to Azure Arc to monitor PowerEdge servers.

# 1 Introduction

Azure Arc is the one of the primary management tools for resource management at cloud and hybrid platform. By using Azure Integration feature in OpenManage Integration extension, you can use Azure portal in addition to the on-premises management with Windows Admin Center for server monitoring.

Maintaining compliance with Dell SCP policies is crucial for administrators throughout the life cycle of PowerEdge servers. The Azure Integration feature is designed to assist administrators in this endeavor. With the help of OpenManage Integration extension, you can easily onboard Dell SCP policies to Azure Arc. This enables you leverage these policies and monitor server compliance in Azure.

Before getting started, make sure to review the prerequisites for this process. See [Prerequisites](#).

To begin onboarding policies into Azure, see [Onboarding policies into Azure](#).

If you want to export a report on the onboarded policies, see [Export the Onboarded Policies Report](#).

In case you want to update your SCP policies, see [Update SCP Policies](#).

Lastly, if you encounter any non-compliant SCP policies, see [Remediate SCP Policies](#).

## 2 Prerequisites

Ensure your PowerEdge server meets the following prerequisites before you onboard SCP policies to Azure Arc:

- You have an Azure subscription.
- WAC gateway is registered into Azure. For more information, see [Register Windows Admin Center gateway with Azure](#).
- Server is registered and connected to Azure Arc. For more information, see [Microsoft document](#).
- Server is of PowerEdge server 14G and above models.
- Server has Windows Server 2016 or later versions of operating system.
- Server has a valid “OMIWAC Premium License” installed. For more information, see [Verify License Details](#).
- Server should not be part of any cluster.

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**Note:** If any of the prerequisite checks fail, OMIMSWAC blocks the onboarding policies to the Azure Arc. For more information, see [Troubleshooting](#) section 7.1.

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### 2.1 Register Windows Admin Center gateway with Azure

For information about registering Windows Admin Center with Azure, see [Microsoft documents](#).

### 2.2 Verify license details

In OMIMSWAC, you can view node details and their licenses from the iDRAC inventory. The iDRAC inventory attributes are optimized to improve usability.

Perform the following steps to check license details:

1. In the Windows Admin Center, connect to a server or cluster.
2. In the left pane of the Windows Admin Center, under **EXTENSIONS**, click **Dell OpenManage Integration**.
3. In the **View** drop-down, select **Overview**, and then click the **iDRAC Details** link on the right-side corner of **System Details** section to view more about the license details.
4. To view the license details, click on a license attribute name. For example, iDRAC9 Enterprise License, OME Server Configuration Management, OMIWAC Premium License for PowerEdge, and more.

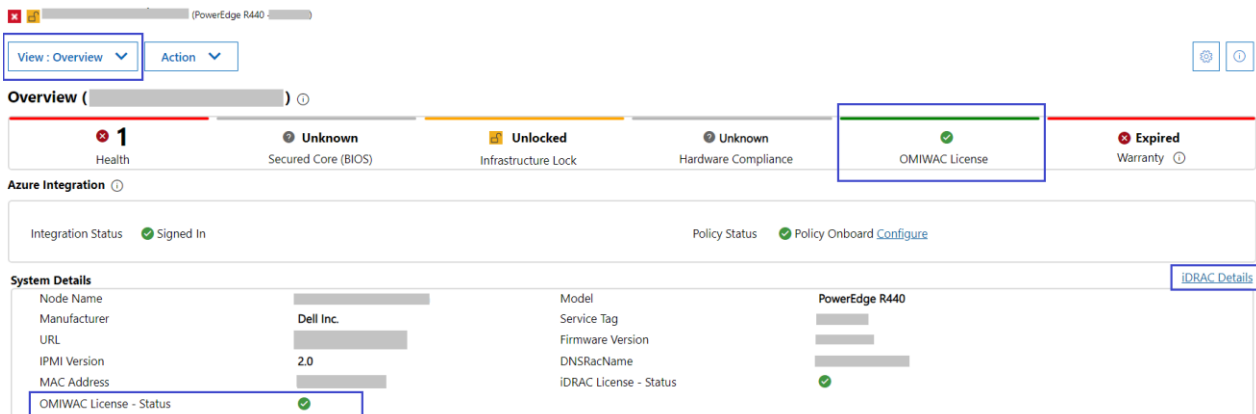


Figure 1: Verify license details from Overview page

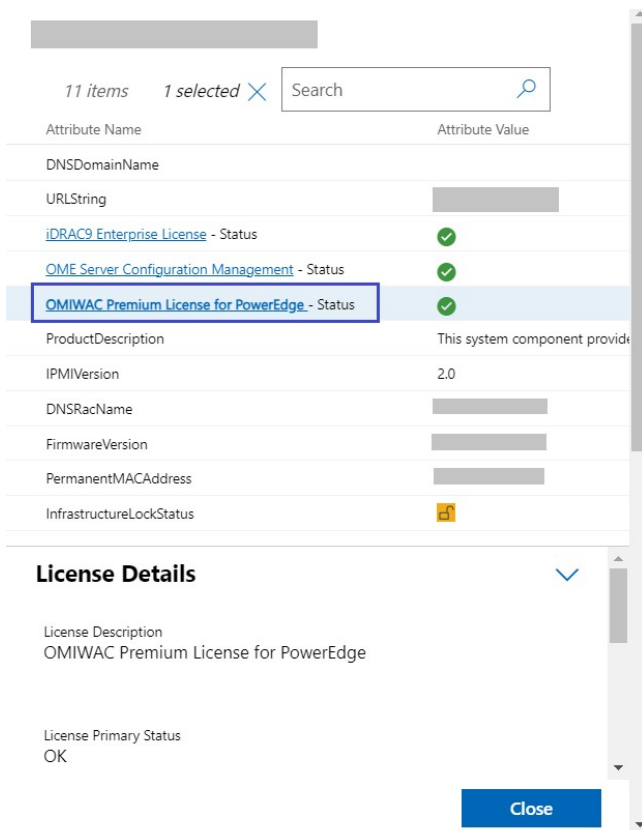


Figure 2: iDRAC details pop-up page

**Note:** Ensure that OMIWAC premium licenses are installed on all cluster nodes to use the Azure feature. For more information about OMIWAC premium licensing, see [OMIMSWAC user's guide](#).

### 3 Onboard policies into Azure

In OMIMSWAC, when you click **Azure Integration** in the **View** drop-down menu, the extension checks if your server meets all the prerequisites that are mentioned in the previous section. If the prerequisites are satisfied, you can proceed with onboarding the policies.

To onboard policies into Azure, perform the following steps:

- Step 1:** [Sign-In to Azure](#)
- Step 2:** [Onboarding Checklist](#)
- Step 3:** [Onboard Policies](#)

#### 3.1 Sign-In to Azure

Perform the following steps to sign-in to Azure:

1. In the **View** drop-down, click **Azure Integration**.
2. Click **Sign In**. A Sign in pop-up window appears. For more information, see [Microsoft document](#).
  - Once the signing is done, the status changes to **Signed In**.
  - If the user had already signed-in to azure, then also status is shown as **Signed In**.

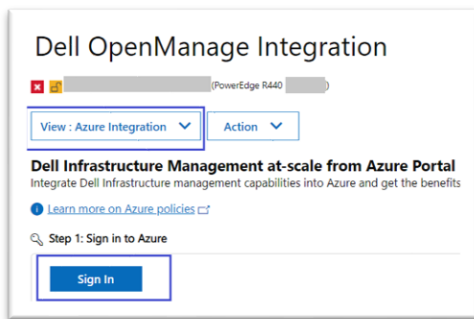


Figure 3: Sign-in

**Note:** Alternatively, you can also sign in to Azure from the **Overview** page. In **Azure Integration** section, click **Sign-in** to go to the Azure integration page. Sign-in pop-up window appears for you to sign in to the Azure.

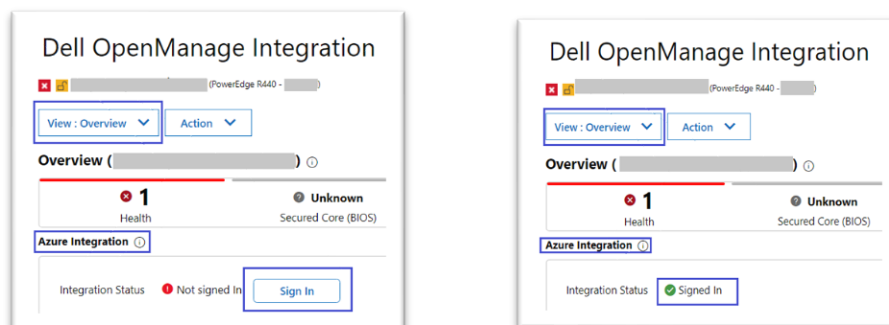


Figure 4: Sign-In from Overview page (before and after Sign-In status)



Once you have signed-In, **step 2: Onboarding Checklist** section is enabled.

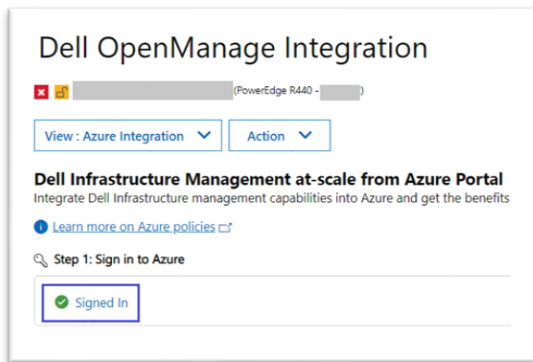


Figure 5: Sign-in status

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**Note:** Sign-in to Azure is handled by Microsoft Windows Admin Center APIs and Dell extension does not have any control over it.

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## 3.2 Onboarding checklist

After the **step 2: Onboarding Checklist** is enabled, OMIMSWAC verifies the following requirements to ensure that both the user and the cluster are ready for onboarding policies:

User must have the following permissions to successfully onboard the SCP policies into Azure. These permissions include the ability to:

- create and manage policy assignments
- create and manage policy definitions
- create and manage policy exemptions
- create and manage policy sets

For more information about roles, see [Microsoft document](#).

Ensure server is assigned to the registered resource group and the same resource group is not deleted in the Azure.

After all the onboarding checklists are met, the next **step 3: Onboard Policies** is enabled.

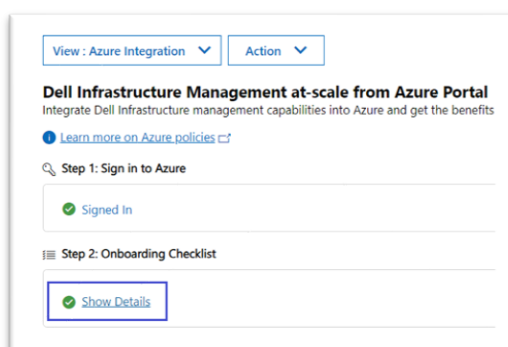


Figure 6: Onboarding check list show details

Click **Show Details** to see the list of checklists and their status.

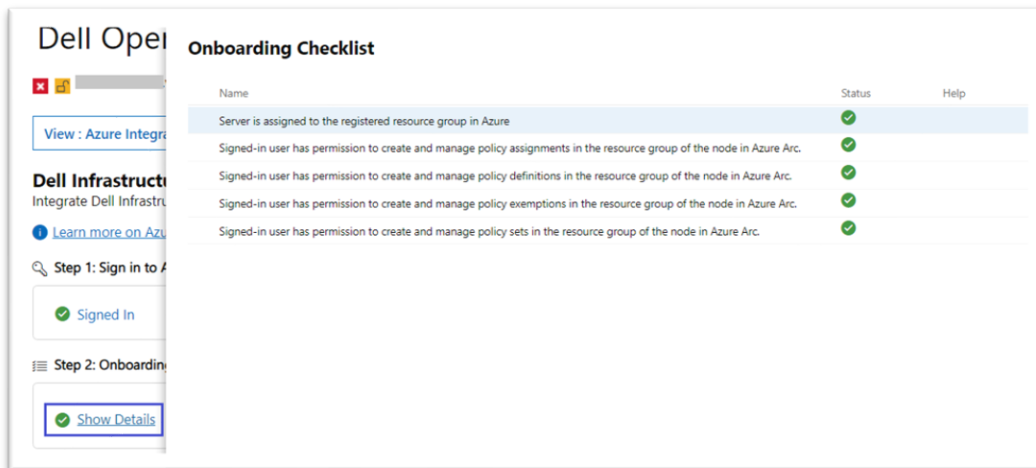


Figure 7: Onboarding checklist pop-up page

### 3.3 Onboard policies

After the **Step 3: Onboard Policies** is enabled, click **View Subscription Details** to view the subscription and resource group info.

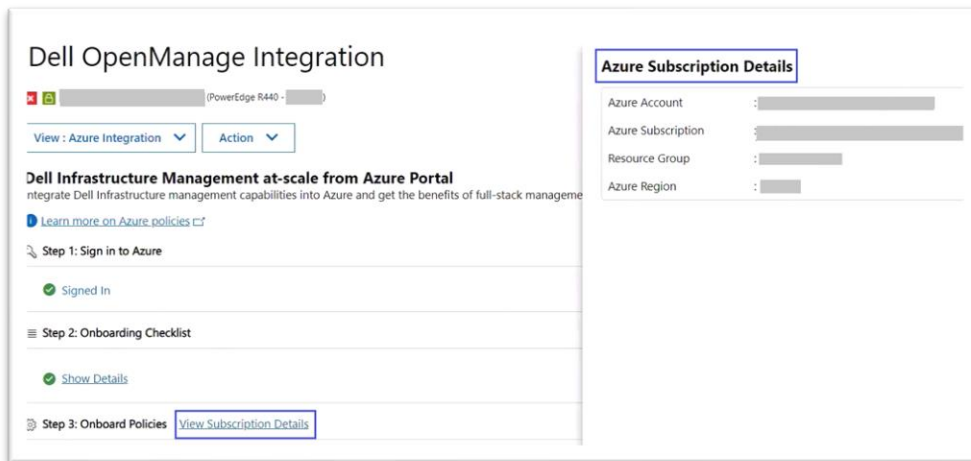


Figure 8: View subscription details

After the policies are fetched, **Onboard Policies** button is enabled.

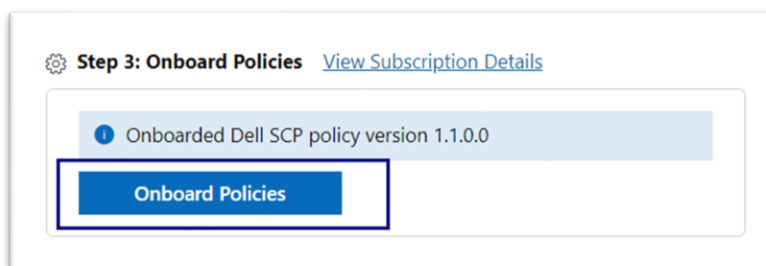


Figure 9: Onboard Policies

Click **Onboard Policies** to view the applicable policies for upload.

**Onboard Dell Server Configuration Profile Policies for Azure Arc** pane appears on the right. In this pane, the following policy category is shown:

- Dell Server Hardware configuration policy: This policy checks whether the server has Dell Technologies recommended BIOS, and iDRAC configurations.

Checks are sub-categorized into:

1. BIOS policy
  - ProcVirtualization\_Enabled
  - ProcX2Apic\_Enabled
  - SrvioGlobalEnable\_Enabled
  - AcPwrRcvry\_On
  - AcPwrRcvryDelay\_Random
2. iDRAC policy
  - OS-BMC.1.AdminState\_Enabled

All policies are shown as selected, and you can choose the policies based on your requirements.

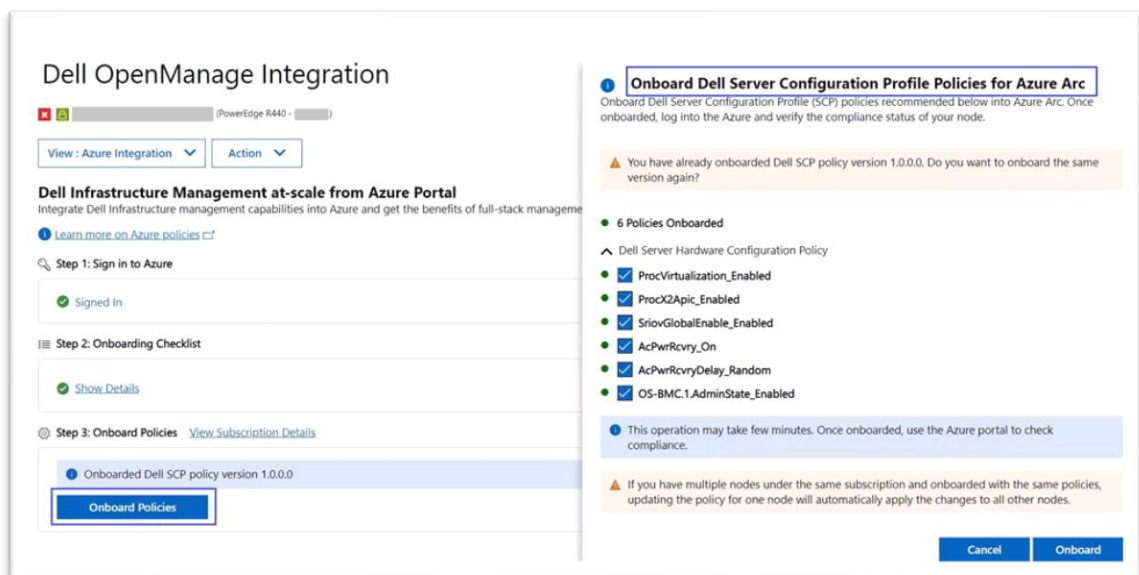


Figure 10: Onboard policies

If you clear the selected policy for the first time, an alert popup will appear, as shown below.

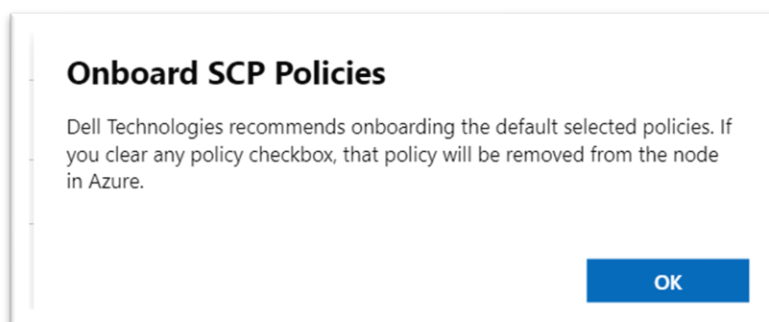


Figure 11: Policy uncheck alert pop-up

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**Note:** Alternatively, you can also click the **Configure** link from the **Overview** page which will redirect to “**Onboard Dell Server Configuration Profile Policies for Azure Arc**” popup window in Azure page.

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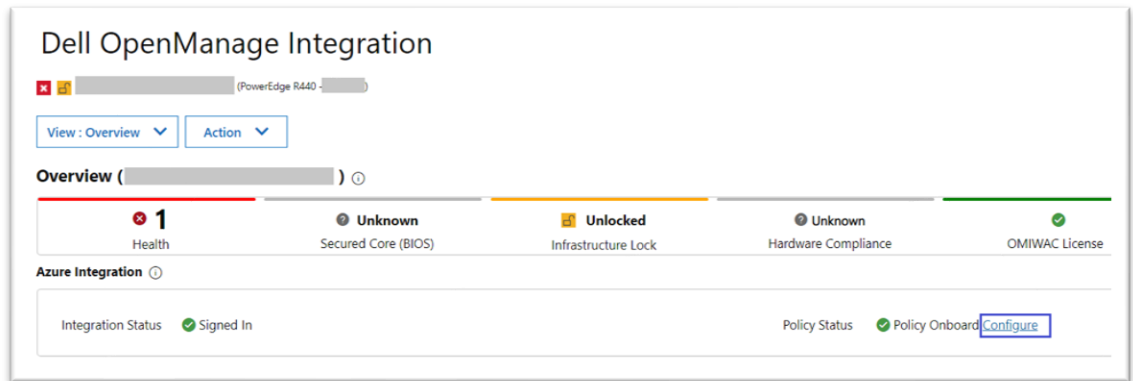


Figure 12: Configure link from Overview page

1. Click **Onboard** to onboard the policies into Azure.

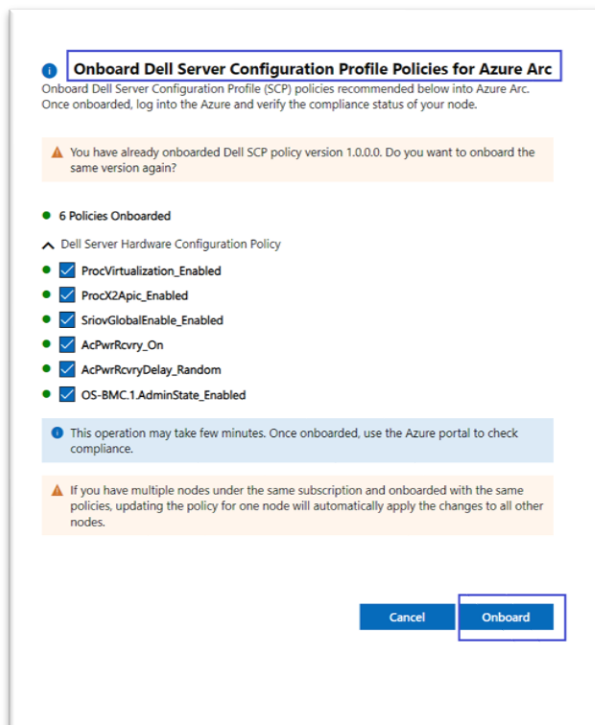


Figure 13: Onboard Dell Server Configuration Profile Policies to Azure Arc

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**Note:** If you have multiple nodes under the same subscription and onboarded with the same policies, updating the policy for one node will automatically apply the changes to all other nodes.

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After you click **Onboard**, the popup closes and the onboarding of the policies to Azure begins. Policies are created in Azure, along with their corresponding policy definitions and assignments.

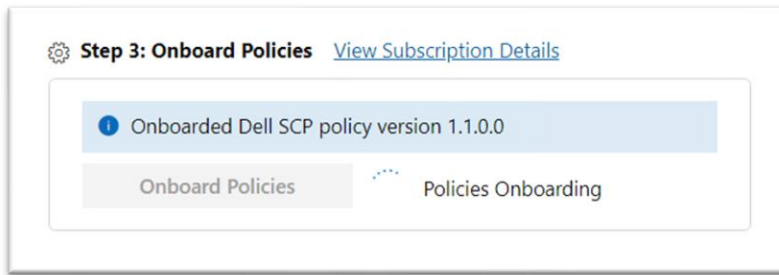


Figure 14: Onboarding Policies

2. After the onboarding is complete, **View Details** and **Export Details** links appear. If success or failure, you receive notifications along with additional context to understand the status better.

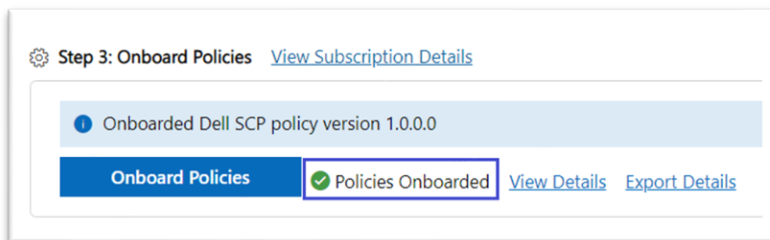


Figure 15: Policies Onboarded- status

3. Click **View Details** to view the details of each policy creation and assignments status.

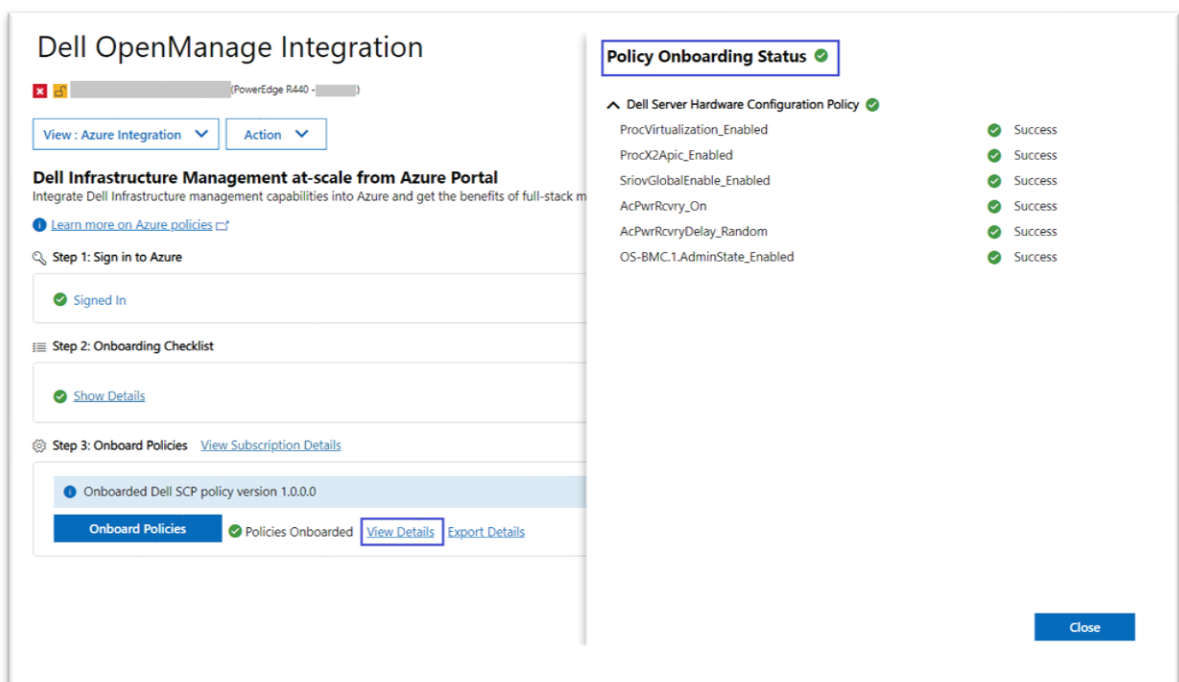


Figure 16: Policies Onboarded- View Details

Once the policies are successfully onboarded to Azure, you can view the onboarded policies in the Azure portal. For more information, see [Microsoft document](#).

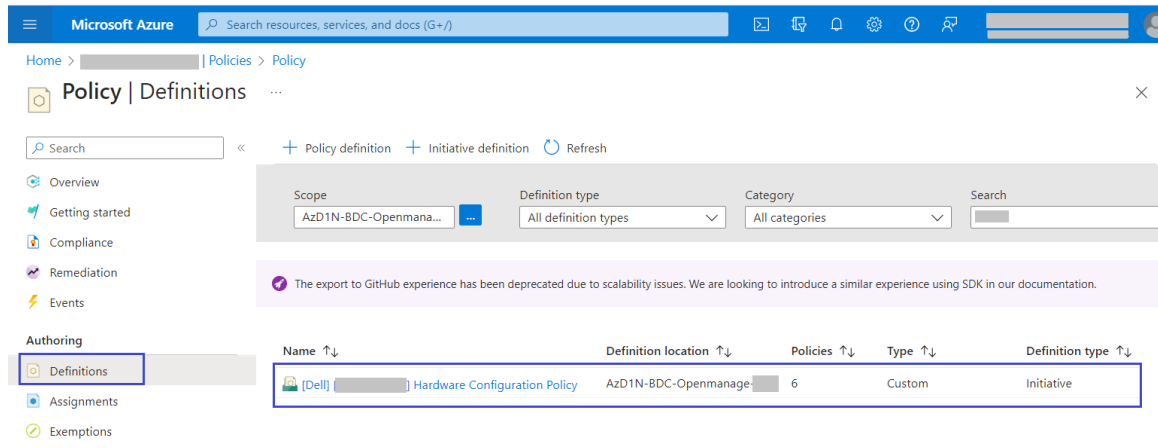


Figure 17: Policy definition in Azure portal

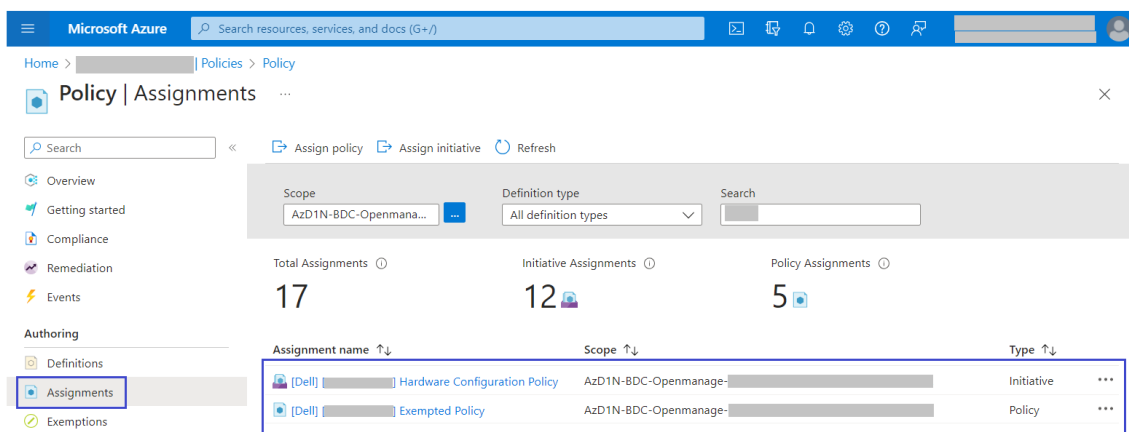


Figure 18: Policy assignment in Azure Portal

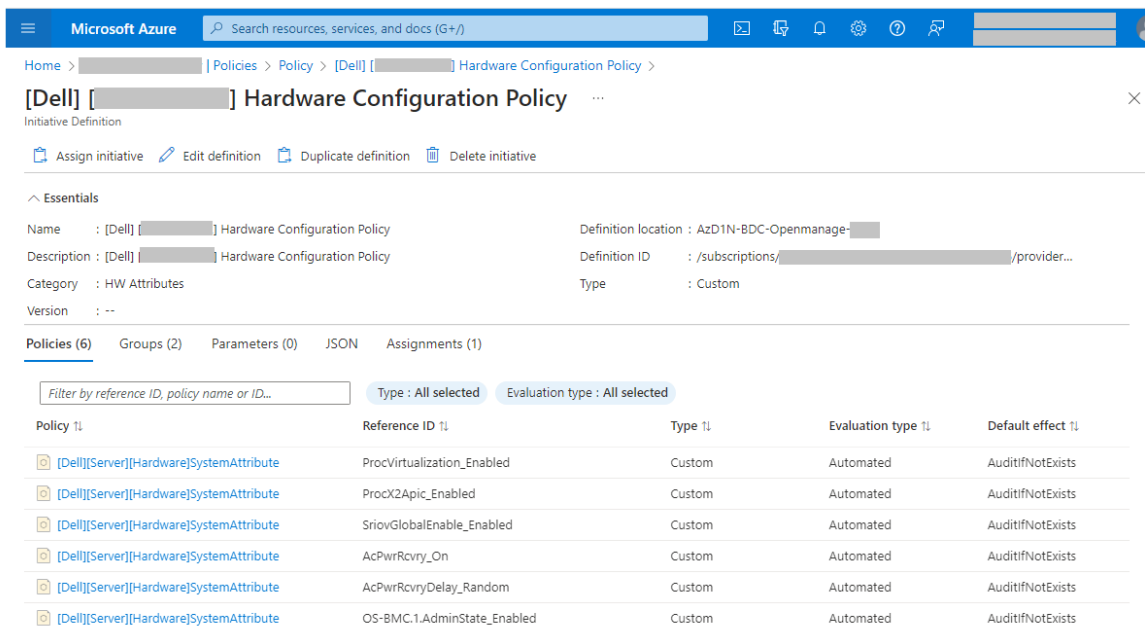


Figure 19: SCP policy details in Azure portal

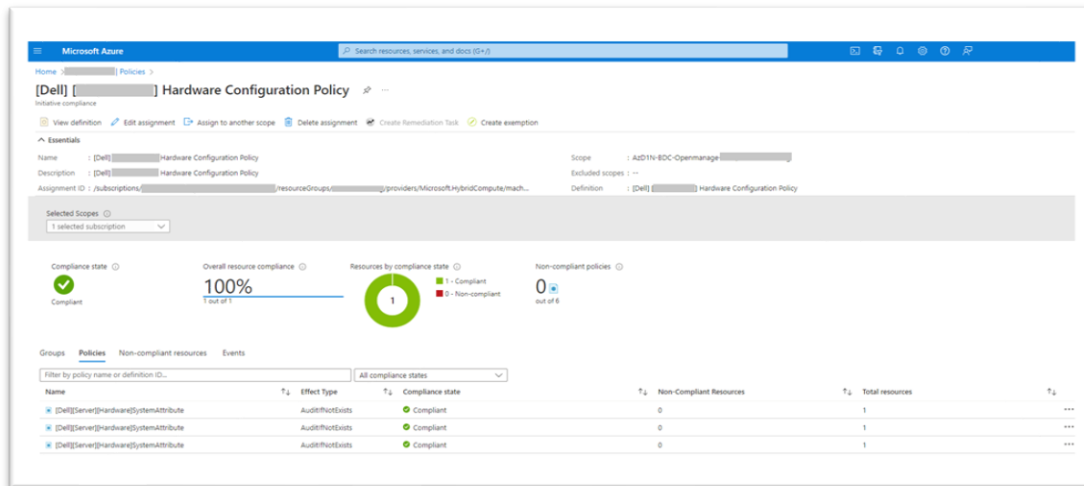


Figure 20: Policy compliance in Azure portal

**Note:** The policy compliance report is available on Azure Arc as well as in the OMIMSWAC Configuration Recommendation page, providing a consistent management experience.

## 4 Export the onboarded policies report

Once the policies are successfully onboarded to Azure Arc (As mentioned in section 3.1 to 3.3), you can export the details of the onboarded policies in an Excel (.xls) file.

Click **Export Details** to download the details.

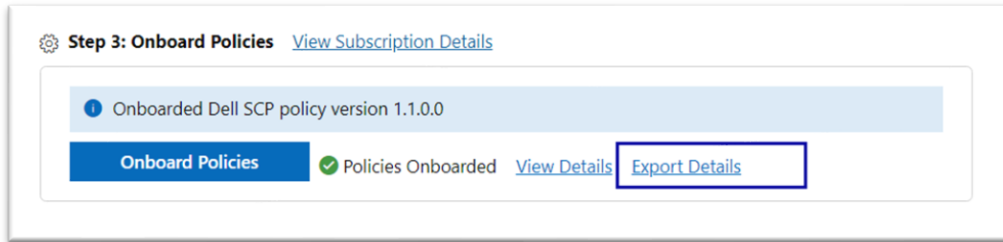


Figure 21: Export details

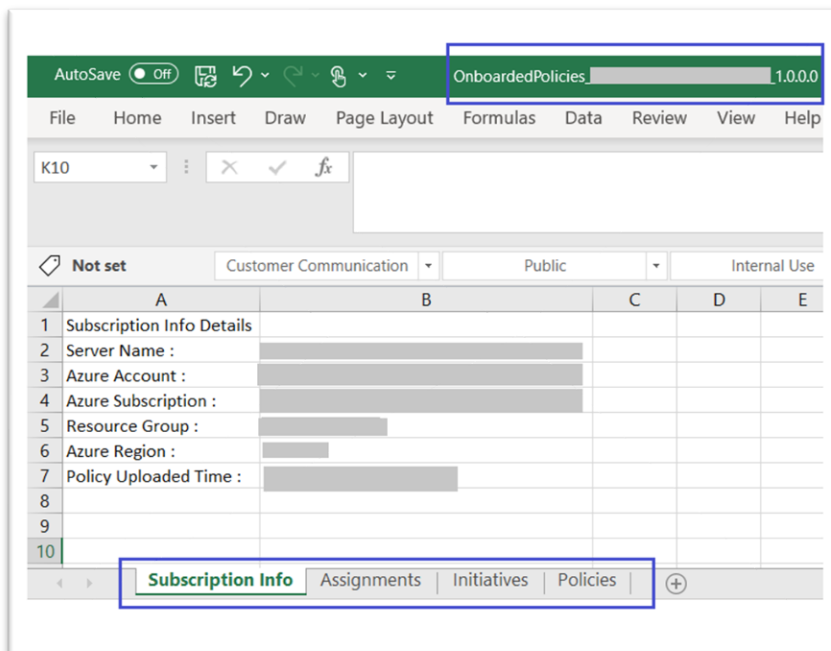


Figure 22: Export details – Excel file



## 5 Onboard updated SCP policies

After policies are onboarded in Azure Arc, it's essential to keep the policies up to date. In OMIMSWAC, you receive a notification whenever a new version of the policy is available. To update the policy, click **"Onboard Policies"**.

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**Note:** If a new version of Dell SCP policy is available, you receive a notification with a message stating "A new version of Dell SCP policy <version number> is available for update. Go to Azure Integration from View menu or Overview page and onboard the policies into Azure Arc."

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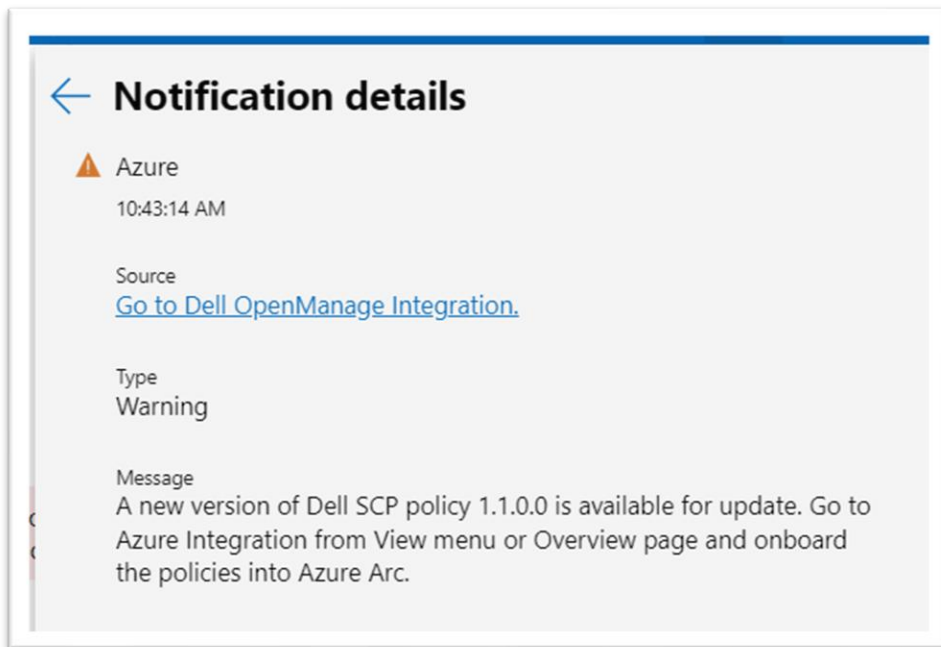


Figure 23: Notification for new SCP policy version

When a new version of the onboarded policy is available, a notification appears. Follow the steps mentioned in section 3 and click **Onboard Policies**. The version of the policy, which is currently present in Azure, is displayed in **Step 3: Onboarded Policies** section.

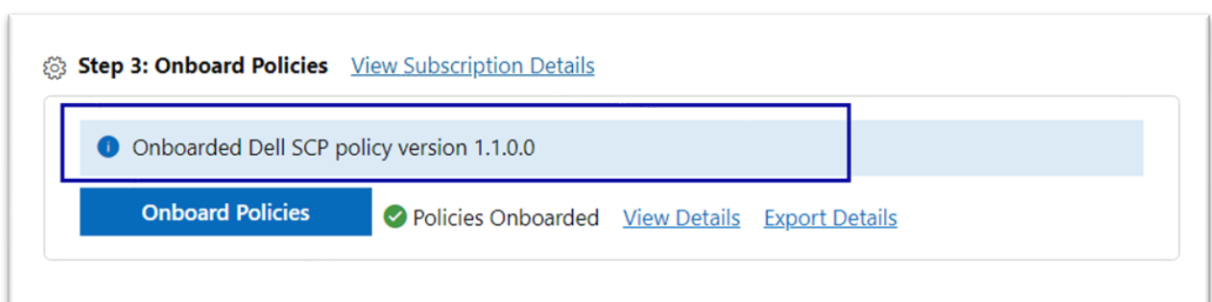


Figure 24: SCP Policy Version

**Onboard Dell Server Configuration Profile Policies for Azure Arc** pane appears on the right. View the version details of the policy being uploaded.

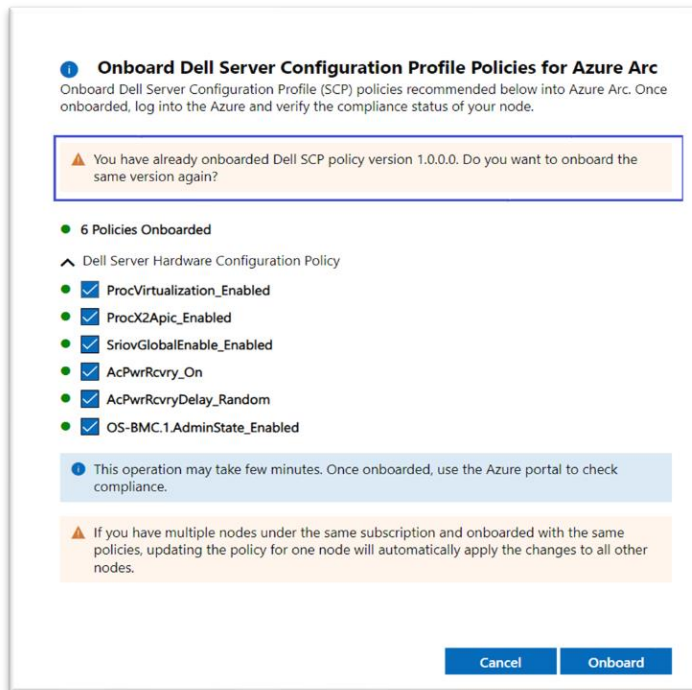


Figure 25: SCP policy version pane

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**Note:** If Dell SCP policies have already been onboarded in Azure, you will see a "green" circular icon displayed next to the checkbox in the "Onboard Dell Server Configuration Profile Policies for Azure Arc" pane.

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## 6 Remediate SCP policies

After you onboard the policies into Azure Arc (see [Onboard policies into Azure](#)), you can use OpenManage Integration with Windows Admin Center to manage Dell SCP policy compliance. This includes remediating Dell SCP policy to fix any non-compliant policies.

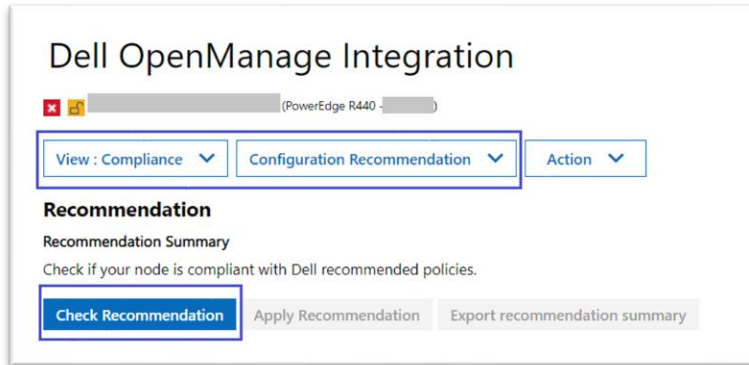


Figure 26: Check Recommendation using Configure Recommendation

From the **View** drop-down, click **Compliance** and then from the next drop-down menu, click **Configuration Recommendation**. Next, click **Check Recommendation** to automatically compare the recommended rules packaged together in the Dell SCP policy definitions with the server configurations. These rules include configurations addressing the hardware, high-level compatibility, and security configurations.

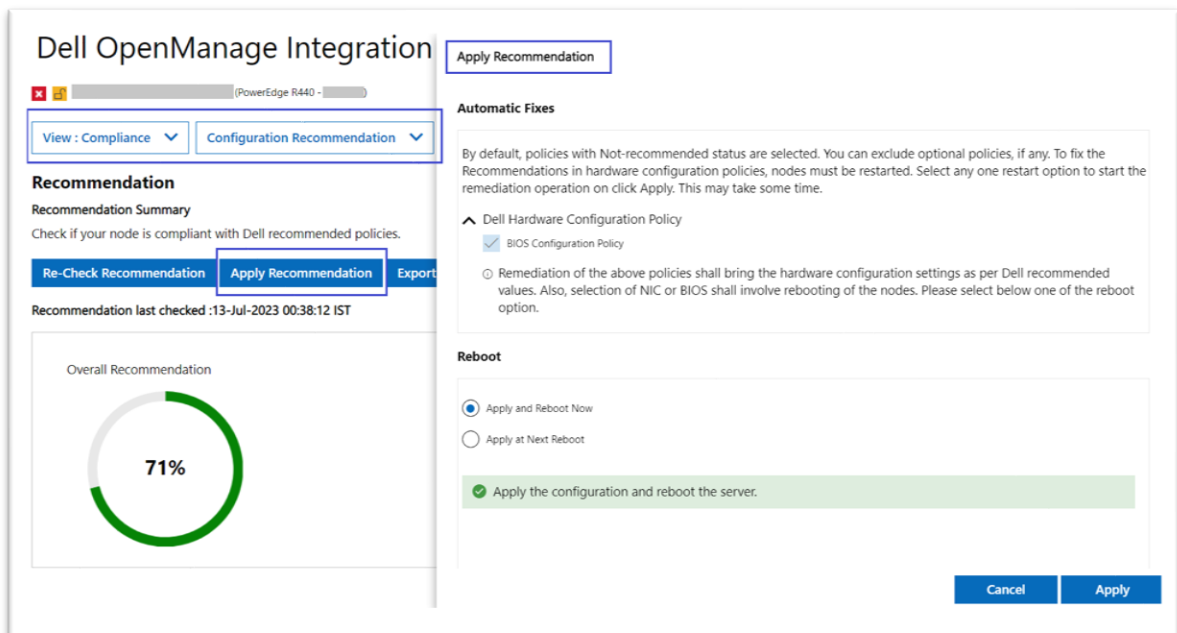


Figure 27: Apply Recommendation

You can view the compliance report that is generated. If any server configurations are found to be non-compliant by Dell SCP Policies, you can then proceed to fix them using **Apply Recommendation**. On the **Apply Recommendation** pane, follow the recommendations to fix the compliance issues. Click **Apply** to resolve issues listed below **Automatic Fixes** for Dell Hardware Configuration Policy.

## 7 Troubleshooting

### 7.1 Prerequisite check failure

When you click **Azure Integration**, the extension checks if your server meets all the prerequisites that are mentioned in the “Prerequisite” section.

If any prerequisite checks fail, you are redirected to the **Prerequisite** page instead of the Azure Integration main page. You see an error banner message that displays showing the status and recommendations for the prerequisite checks. Follow the recommendations to resolve the prerequisite issues.

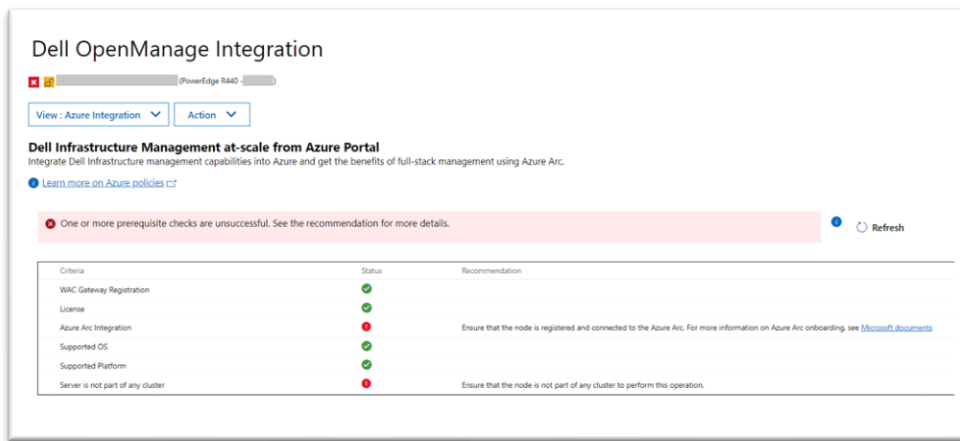


Figure 28: Prerequisite check failure

### 7.2 Onboarding checklist failure

If any of the checklist requirements fail, see the recommendations on the **Onboarding Checklist** section for a fix. After the issue is fixed, click **Refresh** to get the latest status.

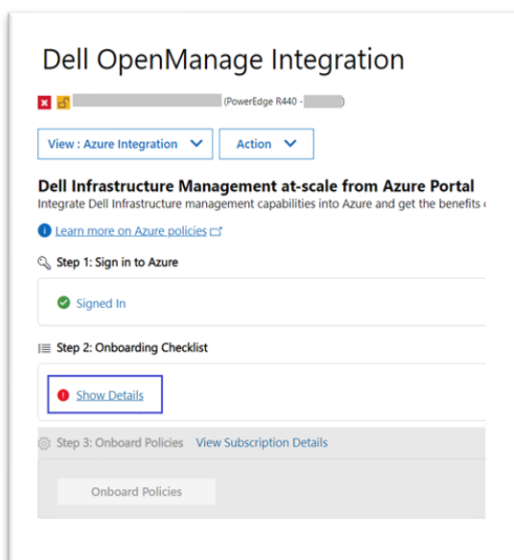


Figure 29: Onboarding checklist failure status

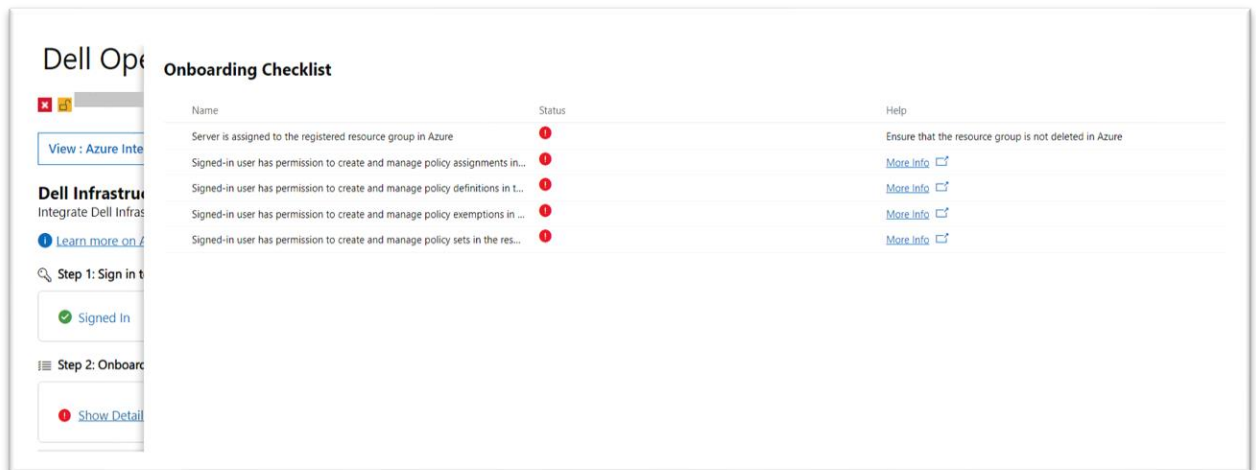


Figure 30: Onboarding checklist pop-up page – Failure Status

In case you encounter an onboarding checklist failure that is related to resource groups, refer to the Microsoft links provided in the Help column. For the first onboarding checklist item, follow these steps to address the issue:

- Verify that the resource group has not been deleted in the Azure. If it is deleted, create a resource group and assign the server to it. Then retry this operation from the beginning by navigating to the **Azure Integration** from the **View** menu.
- If the resource group is not deleted, rerun the **Step-2 Onboarding Checklist** step after a reasonable interval. Sometimes, the failure may be due to internal issues while fetching resource group information from Microsoft.

## 8 Conclusion

Using this white paper, one can easily use OMIMSWAC to onboard Dell SCP policies on Azure Arc for monitoring PowerEdge servers using Azure.

### A. Technical Support and Resources

For more information about the user documentation, see the OpenManage Integration with Microsoft Windows Admin Center product support page at <https://www.dell.com/support>.

#### A.1 Related Resources

- OMIMSWAC's User's Guide, Release Notes, and Security Configuration Guide, see [link](#).
- Microsoft Windows Admin Center Overview, see [link](#).
- Connect hybrid machines to Azure from Windows Admin Center, see [link](#).
- Connect hybrid machines to Azure using a deployment script, see [link](#).
- Azure built-in roles, see [link](#).
- Create and manage policies to enforce compliance, see [link](#).
- Register Windows Admin Center with Azure, see [link](#).