Using Dell™ Repository Manager with Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials

A Dell Technical White Paper

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Using Dell Repository Manager with Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials & Dell Management Plug-in for VMware

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Introduction

Dell™ Repository Manager is an application that helps manage system updates easily and effectively. The Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials is a Systems Management console that provides simple, basic Dell hardware management and replaces OpenManage™ IT Assistant (ITA). This white paper looks at how Dell Repository Manager integrates with OpenManage Essentials to build local customized repositories available only in Server mode.

With Dell Repository Manager, you can build a custom repository based on the managed system configurations that are obtained from Dell OpenManage Essentials.

The benefits of Dell Repository Manager and System Management console integration are:

- A quick and easy way to build a custom repository for managed systems that you own. There is no need to remember the system models and configuration of each individual system to build a custom repository from Dell Online Repository, which is at ftp.dell.com. Dell Repository Manager leverages the system inventory data from Dell OpenManage directly.
- Fully customized repository that only includes the update packages for a user system configuration. All redundant updates are filtered out. This significantly reduces the size of a custom repository, saves the resources and efforts on managing the repository.
• You can build a repository that only contains the updates for out-of-date devices; or build a baseline repository that contains all the latest updates for all devices in the system.

• Fulfills the repository management functionality for Dell OpenManage Essentials.

# Building repositories using inventory from Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials

Follow these steps to build a repository using the inventory available from Dell OpenManage Essentials:

1. Install Dell Repository Manager and Dell OpenManage Essentials on the same system.
   The Dell Repository Manager install is packaged with Dell OpenManage Essentials for convenience, but it is strongly recommended to update Dell Repository Manager to the latest version, which is found on [www.delltechcenter.com/repositorymanager](http://www.delltechcenter.com/repositorymanager). Dell Repository Manager checks for the latest version and assists you in the downloading process.

2. Run the system discovery and inventory in Dell OpenManage Essentials.
   From Dell OpenManage Essentials, discover Dell servers in the network and then inventory these servers. Figure: 1 shows the Discovery portal under Dell OpenManage Essentials with servers that have completed discovery and inventory.
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Figure 1. Servers under Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials with discovery and inventory complete

The discovered servers under Dell OpenManage Essentials show Software Inventory information under the Device information screen, as shown Figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Software inventory information of Servers in Dell OpenManage Essentials

3. To create a new Dell OpenManage Essentials repository in Dell Repository Manager, from the Create menu, click Dell OpenManage Essentials repository and provide a name and description for the repository (shown in Figure 3).
4. Select a source repository that contains the updates from which the new repository needs to be built. This is either the online Dell FTP repository or a local repository stored on the disk or network location. The wizard tries to automatically locate the Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials installation on the system and then tries to gather the list of servers discovered by Dell OpenManage Essentials (Figure 4).
5. Select the new repository options to build the repository.

Dell Repository Manager provides two options to select the matching updates in the repository. One option is for choosing updates that match the device regardless of its version and the next option is for choosing updates for only out-of-date devices.

6. Select an option to load or save the new repository.

After making the selections, either save or load the final repository for editing in the last Summary step (Figure 5). The time it takes to create the repository varies based on the number of servers and the size of the source repository.
After a successful operation, a repository is created as shown in Figure 6. The repository contains bundles for each server discovered under Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials. Updates for the same server models are grouped under the same bundle.
Figure 6. Repository created from Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials inventory

Viewing and refreshing repositories created from inventory

After creating a repository from inventory available in Dell™ OpenManage™ there can be changes to inventory data. Dell Repository Manager provides an easy method to refresh an existing repository based on the new inventory.

Loading the repository and selecting the Refresh function

1. After loading the repository created using inventory, select the Inventory menu and click Refresh. This performs a refresh operation that triggers an inventory collection from Dell OpenManage Essentials. The repository is updated with new bundles and components based on the new device updates.

2. The previous selections made during repository creation are saved, thereby reducing the effort to go through the wizard again.

Viewing inventory information

Dell Repository Manager also provides a feature to view the inventory information collected from these servers that are grouped under each server model (Figure 7).

1. Select the Inventory menu in Dell Repository Manager and click Information to bring up a window showing device inventory information.
Summary

Dell Repository Manager integrates with Dell system management consoles like Dell™ OpenManage™ Essentials to provide an easy method for creating and maintaining repositories based on the inventory available in these consoles.