Using Dell Repository Manager to Update Your Local Repository

A Dell Technical White Paper

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Using Dell Repository Manager to Update Your Local Repository

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Introduction

Keeping managed systems up-to-date is a critical task for system administrators. Identifying and locating the latest updates can be a difficult job.

Dell™ Repository Manager (DRM) is an application that helps to manage system updates easily and effectively. In the latest release of Dell Repository Manager, Dell introduced a new feature to help customers update their local repository, which makes the job of tracking and obtaining the latest updates easier. This paper provides the best practices on how to leverage this new functionality.

Updating Local Repository

This paper walks you through the process of updating the custom repository by comparing it with the Dell Online Repository using a redesigned “Update Repository” feature. The Dell Online Repository offers a catalog that is maintained on the Dell FTP site and contains all the updates released by Dell.

The Dell Online Repository is updated periodically as new components are released. A local repository is a repository that is created by a Dell Repository Manager user and targets specific systems and devices that an IT administrator maintains. In Dell Repository Manager terminology, the local repository is the destination repository for the update process where the Dell Online Repository is the source. The most common scenario is to use the Dell Online Catalog as the source, but the user can use any other local repository.

These are the steps involved in updating the local repository with the latest from Dell Online Repository:

- Step 1: Open an existing local repository
- Step 2: Start the Update function
- Step 3: Compare with Dell Online Repository
- Step 4: Update the local repository
- Step 5: View the update results
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1. Open the local repository you want to update.

**Figure 1.** Open Repository and invoke Update

By default, this opens an existing repository and shows the bundles contained within.
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2. To start the update function, in the menu bar, click **Update** (refer to Figure 1).

   The update function brings up a screen similar to one shown in Figure 2.

   **Figure 2.** Compare Local Repository with Dell Online Catalog

   ![Update Repository Screen](image)

   The local repository appears as the Destination repository while the Dell Online Catalog shows as the Source repository. You are free to change to any other Source repository.
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3. To find out the differences between the two repositories, click **Compare**. The comparison might take some time depending upon the size of the destination repository. Once completed, a comparison report is displayed, as shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3.** Compare the repositories result
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4. This is a summary view. The actual results are shown in each of the four tabs.

- **Newer Versions Tab**: These are the components in the destination repository for which new replacement components are available. On the left, select the systems, and then click the components you want to update.

  **Figure 4. Newer Versions tab**
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- **Changed Files Tab**: These are the components for which the Dell Update Package files now have a different update package signature. However, the versions on these are unchanged.

  ![Figure 5. Changed Files tab](image)

- **Obsolete Files Tab**: These are the components that are no longer available in the source repository and can be removed from the destination. The components appearing under this category would have newer versions in the source repository and would also appear under the “Newer Versions” category above.

  ![Figure 6. Obsolete Files tab](image)
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*Other Files in Source Tab:* These are components that are present in the source but not in the local repository. Select the ones that you want to include in the local repository.

**Figure 7.** Other Files in Source tab

All four tabs of update differences let you select the components to update using the system or device filters. After selecting all the applicable updates you can begin the update process by clicking the Update button.

The repository update can take some time based on the number of components selected for update. Dell Repository Manager shows you the progress as it processes each component.
Once the update completes, the progress bar disappears and the tabs show the status for each of the components, as shown in Figure 9.

The update process generates a report that lists any failures that occurred along with a brief error message.
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**Figure 10.** Update report

![Repository Update Report](image)

**Summary**

Dell Repository Manager provides an easy-to-use interface to keep the local repository current and to save the user time in finding the right updates for his Dell systems.