Improvements and enhancements to System update and OMSA deploy feature

This Dell Technical White Paper provides information about all the new features and improvements made in system update.
Introduction

OpenManage Essentials (OME) is a hardware management application that provides a comprehensive view of Dell systems, devices, and components in the enterprise’s network. OpenManage Essentials is a web-based and one-to-many systems management application. Using OME, you can discover and inventory Dell systems and other devices and components, monitor system health, and perform system updates.

A Management station can be any computer where OpenManage Essentials is installed to monitor and discover a managed system.

Performing system update and deploying OMSA on managed nodes is one of the important and critical features of OME.

This whitepaper lists all the new features and issues addressed in OME 1.1 with respect to system update and OMSA deployment feature.
New features added to system update

Here is the list of new system update features added in OME 1.1

1. User can deploy Firmware and BIOS updates via iDRAC (Agent free) on 11G/12G servers. For more information refer to the system update whitepaper: [www.delltechcenter.com/iome](http://www.delltechcenter.com/iome).

Figure: Non-Compliant tab for iDRACs discovered using WS-Man protocol
2. Non-compliance tab in Device Tree: In “Manage->Devices” select RAC, Servers or Custom group to view non-compliant page which shows the list of devices that are not compliant w.r.t. Dell catalog imported.

Figure: Non-compliance tab in Device tree for RAC group
Figure: Non-compliance tab in Device tree for Servers group
3. Compliance report and System updates filtered by device groups: Users can view compliance report and deploy system updates based on the device groups.

- Navigate to System update
- Click on “Filtered by: All Update Devices”
- “Select System Update Target Devices and Device Groups” window is displayed. This window displays all the device groups/devices that can be updated.
- Select the device group or devices in a particular group to update and click Apply. Non-compliant tab/compliant tab will only show devices/device groups that were selected.

Figure: System update Target Devices and Device groups
4. Enhanced Compliance report: The compliance report (pie-chart) in System Updates portal also includes a new section "Issues and Resolutions". This section shows devices that are currently not available for deploying system updates with specific reason and recommendations.

Figure: Enhanced System Update pie-chart
Figure: Issues and resolutions tab in system update
5. Multiple modes to deploy system updates: If both OMSA (SNMP/WMI) and iDRAC (WSMAN) are discovered and inventoried for an 11G/12G server, users have an option to deploy updates thru' OMSA or iDRAC depending on the type of updates to be deployed. Users can select this option in “Advanced Settings”.

Figure: Advanced Settings window
6. **Skip digital signature and hash check:** Option to skip digital signature and hash check before downloading the updates. Some DUPs may not be digitally signed or signed using different CA, as a result OME 1.0.1 would completely block users from downloading and deploying these updates. In 1.1, users can still download and deploy these updates by selecting "Skip signature and hash check" (not supported on older iDRAC 6 firmware versions: iDRAC 6 on Rack/Tower servers require minimum 1.85 firmware version and iDRAC 6 on Modular servers require minimum 3.35 firmware version).

![Figure: System Update Task with Signature and hash check](image-url)
System update and OMSA deploy issues addressed in OME 1.1

Here is the list of issues address in OME 1.1 with respect to system update feature

1. The percent completion status for a system update task shows 0% instead of 100% even after the task is completed - In OME 1.1 system update task status is update correctly depending on the progress of the system update task. Once the task is complete the status shows 100%.

2. When OMSA deployment or System Updates task is run on multiple targets, if a task is blocked on one of the target, it will not deploy OMSA/DUPs on the remaining targets. OME does NOT skip the blocked task, to deploy OMSA/DUPs on the remaining targets - In OME 1.1, OMSA deployment or system update task will continue to deploy updates/OMSA, even if the task is blocked on one of the targets.

3. When OMSA or DUPs is deployed on multiple targets, on few targets the required packages are copied on the target MN, but task failed with error message: "Task Cancelled". Enhanced error message to indicate the actual reason for failure.

4. When OMSA deployment task is run on 20 or more targets simultaneously, the tasks will never complete. This issue is addressed in OME 1.1.

5. System Update tasks does Not timeout when online catalog (ftp) become unavailable due to network issue or user intervention. Better error
handling and message presented to the end users in OME 1.1 to indicate the actual reason for failure.

6. OMSA deployment task stuck on 0% with running state when tried to push on targets with no disk space available. Enhanced error messaging in OME 1.1 to address this issue.

7. OMSA deployment task stuck on 84% with running state on 25 Linux systems. Issue addressed in OME 1.1.

8. First OMSA deployment task is not starting, when two OMSA deployment tasks are created with two diff. targets and scheduled them to run at same time.

9. OME is not checking for correct OMSA exe package while applying for windows target. Package validation added in OME 1.1.

10. OME is not showing any error message under execution details when OMSA deployment failed on target MN. Enhanced error messages.

11. Error message for command line tasks is incorrect when target is not reachable. Enhanced error messages.

12. Run OMSA command line task on 20+ discovered servers. Task got stuck at about 40% and never completed even after 15 hours. Command line tasks can be now run against 30+ targets simultaneously.

Summary

This white paper lists all the issues addressed with respect system update and OMSA deploy feature. For detailed information about system update and OMSA deploy features, refer to whitepapers on Dell Tech center (www.delltechcenter.com/ome).

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Learn more

Visit DellTechcenter.com/OME for more information on Dell OpenManage Essentials.

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