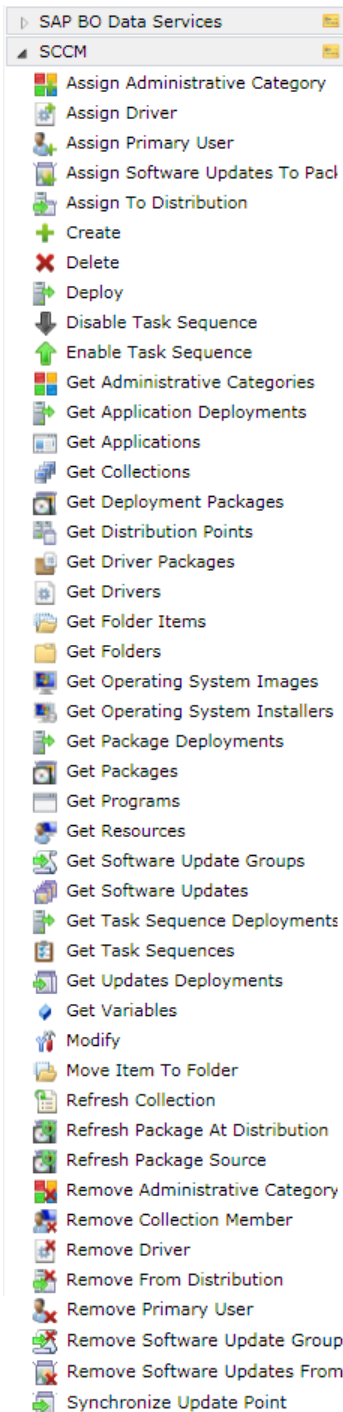




Automate System Center Configuration Manager Processes with ActiveBatch's Production-Ready Job Steps

ActiveBatch: Version 9 SP3 and above



Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager: IT Boundaries Identified

As IT organizations are being forced to manage an expanding array of hybrid platforms, operating systems, mobile devices, servers and more, client management tools such as Microsoft's System Center Configuration Manager supports an array of various client platforms and application delivery models. To improve efficiency, reduce administrative effort and lower PC total cost of ownership, IT organizations are looking to automate client management processes and workflows, such as OS deployment, patch distribution and other administrative functions, without the need to rely on scripting.

To automate System Center Configuration Manager processes, system administrators typically rely on VB or PowerShell scripts. Moreover they rely on these scripts to integrate System Center Configuration Manager processes with other System Center solutions and IT administrative systems for the automation of client/desktop management workflows, such as relying on PowerShell to open a ticket within System Center Service Manager based on an System Center Configuration Manager process that finds unauthorized software or low HDD on desktops. These scripts require system administrators to spend significant time building, testing and maintaining these workflows and are unreliable, thereby proving a point of failure to the business and negatively impacting IT service levels.

Create Automated Workflows Consisting of System Center Configuration Manager Processes

The ActiveBatch® Extension for System Center Configuration Manager provides administrators with a series of production-ready Job Steps for System Center Configuration Manager allow administrators to automate System Center Configuration Manager processes. The production-ready Job Steps cover a host of common System Center Configuration Manager objects and functions, including a *Create Job Step* for the creation of Packages, Deployments, Programs, Folders, an *Assign Package to Distribution Job Step*, *Delete* and *Modify Job Steps* and many more.

The ActiveBatch Integrated Jobs Library allows users to drag and drop these Job Steps into workflows that manage the dependencies between System Center Configuration Manager functions and/or other systems that System Center Configuration Manager is dependent on. Users can use auto-populating dropdown menus to select and assign System Center Configuration Manager Objects, Job variables and properties so users don't have to hard-code these within a script. For example, a system administrator could use the *Create Job Step* to specify the creation of a Package and then deploy that Package to a Distribution Point using the *Assign Package to Distribution Job Step*.

These workflows are executed leveraging ActiveBatch's date/time scheduling and/or event automation framework, which allows ActiveBatch to recognize a business or IT event to trigger a workflow in real-time. This includes file triggers, Email, WMI, Web Service Triggers, Database Triggers, JMS/JMX and more.

Direct Integration with Other Microsoft Solutions

The Integrated Jobs Library also provides direct integration with a host of other IT operational, administrative, software development and platform solutions, including the System Center suite of products, Microsoft Active Directory, Team Foundation Server and virtual/cloud platforms such as Microsoft Azure, Amazon EC2, VMware, Hyper-V and more. These integrations allow Admins to use ActiveBatch for the end-to-end automation of IT operational and administrative processes that involve System Center Configuration Manager and other dependent systems and process types.

Microsoft® System Center Configuration Manager

ActiveBatch® Extension for Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager

As displayed in the ActiveBatch Integrated Jobs Library

Search Job Steps

- Cognos BI
- DataStage
- Dynamics AX
- Informatica
- Netezza
- Oracle E-Business Suite
- PeopleSoft
- SAP
- SAP BO Data Services
- SCCM
 - Assign Administrative Category
 - Assign Driver
 - Assign Primary User
 - Assign Software Updates To Pac
 - Assign To Distribution
 - Create
 - Delete
 - Deploy
 - Disable Task Sequence
 - Enable Task Sequence
 - Get Administrative Categories
 - Get Application Deployments
 - Get Applications
 - Get Collections
 - Get Deployment Packages
 - Get Distribution Points

Deploy_7Zip

Queue: /Sales Demonstration/TargettedCapabilities/SCCM/Objects/localhost
 UserAccount: /Sales Demonstration/TargettedCapabilities/SCCM/Objects/testuser2

Create (SCCM)

SCCM Server	SCCM.domain.net
User Account	<Missing>
Item	Package
Package Name	Adobe
Package Source	No Source
Manufacturer	Adobe
Version	CS6
Refresh Schedule	<empty>
Description	

AssignToDistribution (SCCM)

SCCM Server	SCCM.domain.net
User Account	<Missing>
Item	Package
Package Name	Adobe
Distribution	Distribution Point Group
Group Name	Marketing

Use Case

ActiveBatch is used to dynamically trigger a System Center Configuration Manager process and integrate it with directory services such as Active Directory. For example, use ActiveBatch's production ready Job Steps for System Center Configuration Manager, SQL Server and Active Directory to build a workflow that creates a System Center Configuration Manager Collection, creates a Deployment/Advertisement and updates an Active Directory group based on a SQL Server query or file being uploaded to a network.

ActiveBatch can be used to automate an employee "onboarding" process whereby a new employee is provisioned a virtual machine, and based on its successful completion, System Center Configuration Manager creates a new software package of application(s) the end user requires, assigns it to a distribution point and then creates a deployment to notify the end user that the install is available for download.

The *Create* Job Step Supports the creation of a wide array of System Center Configuration Manager Object types

Create (SCCM)

SCCM Server	SCCM.domain.net
User Account	<Missing>
Item	Collection
Collection Name	
Collection Type	
Limiting Collection	
Collection Rules	
Refresh Schedule	
Use Incremental Update	
Comment	

Item dropdown options:

- Collection
- Deployment Package
- Operating System Image
- Operating System Installer
- Driver Package
- Administrative Category
- Software Update Group
- Collection Variable
- Computer Variable
- Driver
- Folder
- Package
- Program
- System

Benefits

- Reduce your reliance on scripting for the automation of desktop client and desktop management processes.
- A single point of control for the automation and management of IT operational and administrative processes that include System Center Configuration Manager and dependent systems.
- Dynamically trigger System Center Configuration Manager processes based on an IT operational or administrative event, such as a file being uploaded, a database update or a WMI event.