

How to Implement and Manage Servicing Stack Updates

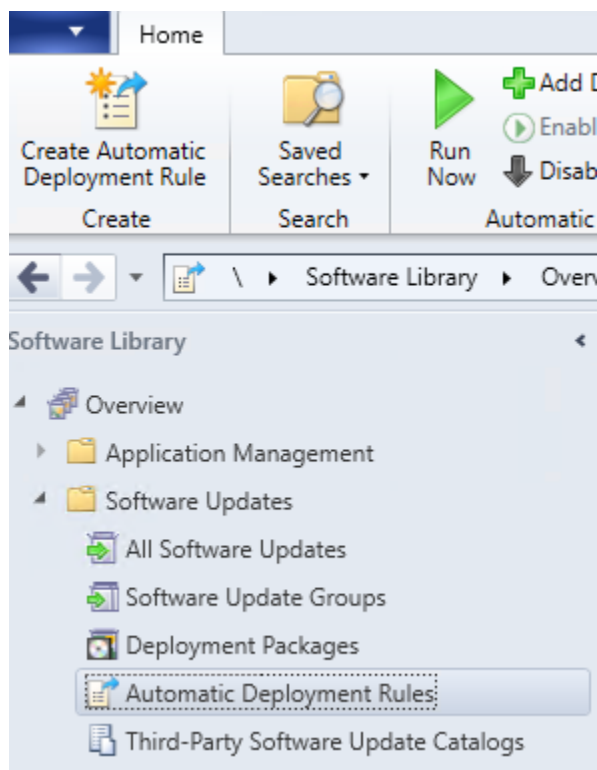
For the past few months, the monthly Windows Updates proved to be a bit more difficult to handle, thanks to Microsoft's Servicing Stack updates. Servicing Stack updates are basically updating the components that process Windows Update among other management components. This means that pretty much each time a servicing stack update is released, it must be applied prior to being able to install the various cumulative updates required. In this post, we will demonstrate how to manage servicing stack updates with SCCM using Automatic deployment rules (ADR)

Those updates are not necessarily being released each month, and if they are, it may be for only a few OS version or builds. For most environments, it will mean that some OS will require Servicing Stack updates pretty much each month as Microsoft been releasing updates each month for the past few months.

If you want to know more about SSU, please visit below link

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/deployment/update/servicing-stack-updates>

Now, I will create a new ADR for SSU targeting Windows Servers. You should create separate ADR's for Servers and Workstations.





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Specify the settings for this automatic deployment rule

Name: SSU Servers

Description:

Select a previously saved deployment template that defines configuration settings for this deployment. You can save the current configuration as a new deployment template on the Summary page of this wizard.

Template:

Manage Templates...

Specify the target collection for the software update deployment.

Collection: Server 2019

Browse...

Each time the rule runs and finds new updates.

☐ Add to an existing Software Update Group☒ Create a new Software Update Group

Choose whether to enable the deployment after this rule runs for the associated software update group. When this setting is not selected, you must manually deploy the software update group.

☒ Enable the deployment after this rule is run

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Specify the settings for this Automatic Deployment Rule

☐ Use Wake-on-LAN to wake up clients for required deployments

Choose how much state detail you want clients to report back for deployments created by this rule.

Detail level: Only error messages

Some software updates include a license agreement. Software updates that you choose to deploy automatically will not display any license agreement to you, regardless of whether those software updates include a license agreement. You can review the Microsoft Software License Terms in the All Updates list in the Software Updates node of the console.

☐ Automatically deploy only software updates found by this rule that do not include a license agreement, or for which the license agreement has already been approved☒ Automatically deploy all software updates found by this rule, and approve any license agreements

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Select the property filters and search criteria

The software updates that meet the specified criteria are added to the associated software update group.

Property filters:

- ☐ Description
- ☐ Language
- ☒ Product
- ☐ Required
- ☐ Severity
- ☐ Superseded
- ☐ Tag
- ☒ Title
- ☐ Update Classification

Search criteria:

Product ["Windows Server 2019"](#)
Title [Servicing Stack](#)

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Preview updates

Configuration Manager returned 1 updates.

| Filter... | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Title | Article ID | Bulletin ID | Product | Vendor | Update Classification |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512577 | | "Windows Server 2019" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |

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Completion

Specify the recurring schedule for this rule

Current software update point synchronization schedule:

Occurs every 7 days effective 13-Jan-2019 3:53 AM

☐ Do not run this rule automatically

☐ Run the rule after any software update point synchronization

☒ Run the rule on a schedule

Occurs the Second Tuesday of every 1 months effective 23-Sep-2019 9:40 AM

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Configure schedule details for this deployment

Schedule evaluation

Specify if the schedule for this deployment is evaluated based upon Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) or the local time of the client.

Time based on: Client local time

Software available time

Specify when software updates are available. After this rule is run, software updates are distributed to the content server. Then the software updates are available to install as soon as possible or scheduled to install at a configured period of time after the rule is run.

Note: You must enable this deployment before software updates are available to install.

☒ As soon as possible

☐ Specific time: 7 Days

Installation deadline

Specify a deadline for required software updates. The deadline is determined by adding the deadline time to the installation time. When the deadline is reached, required software updates are installed on the device and the device is restarted if necessary.

☐ As soon as possible

☒ Specific time: 7 Days

☐ Delay enforcement of this deployment according to user preferences, up to the grace period defined in client settings.

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Specify the user experience for this deployment

User visual experience

User notifications:

Display in Software Center, and only show notifications for computer restarts

Deadline behavior

When the installation deadline is reached, allow the following activities to be performed outside of any defined maintenance windows:

- ☒ Software Update Installation
☐ System restart (if necessary)

Device restart behavior

Some software updates require a system restart to complete the installation process. You can suppress this restart on servers and workstations.

Suppress the system restart on the following devices:

- ☒ Servers
☒ Workstations

Write filter handling for Windows Embedded devices

- ☐ Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts)
If this option is not selected, content will be applied on the overlay and committed later.

Software updates deployment re-evaluation behavior upon restart

- ☐ If any update in this deployment requires a system restart, run updates deployment evaluation cycle after restart

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Specify software update alert options for this deployment

Configuration Manager alerts

Specify the criteria for generating a Configuration Manager alert.

- ☒ Generate an alert when this Rule fails
☐ Generate an alert when the following conditions are met

Client compliance is below the following percent:

90

Offset from the deadline:

7

Days

Alerts are generated after the installation deadline is reached.
Deadline time:

Operations Manager alerts

System Center Operations Manager might generate alerts when a device installs a software update. To avoid receiving alerts for planned maintenance, you can disable these alerts during the duration of the software update installation process.

- ☐ Disable Operations Manager alerts while software updates run
☒ Generate Operations Manager alert when a software update installation fails

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Select deployment package for this automatic deployment rule

The deployment package contains the software update files associated with this rule that will be available to clients as part of the deployment. You can select an existing deployment package or create a new one.

☐ Select a deployment package

Browse...

☒ Create a new deployment package

Name:

Description:

Package source (Example): \\<server>\<folder path>

Browse...

Sending priority:

☒ Enable binary differential replication

To minimize the network traffic between sites, binary differential replication updates only the content that has changed in the package.

☐ No deployment package

Clients download content from peers or the Microsoft cloud.

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Specify the distribution points or distribution point groups to host the content

Distribution points or distribution point groups:

| Filter... | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| Name | Description | Associations | |
| CB.RAMLAN.CA | Distribution point | | |
| Toronto | Distribution point group | 0 | |

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Specify download location for this Automatic Deployment Rule

If your site server does not have an Internet connection, you can download the software updates from a different computer and save them to a network location accessible by the site server.

- ☒ Download software updates from the Internet
- ☐ Download software updates from a location on my network:

Example: \\<server>\<folder path>

Browse...

Note:

When the deployment package contains all required software updates, select "Download software updates from the internet". The software updates files will be validated, but will not be downloaded again.

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Specify the update languages for product

Edit...

| Product | Update languages |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Windows Update | English |
| Office 365 Client Update | English (United States) |

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Specify the software updates download behavior for clients on slow site boundaries.

Select the deployment option to use when a client uses a distribution point from a neighbor boundary group or the default site boundary group.

Deployment options:

- ☒ Do not install software updates
- ☐ Download software updates from distribution point and install

When software updates are not available on any distribution points in current or neighbor boundary group, client can download and install software updates from distribution points in site default boundary group

Deployment options:

- ☐ Do not install software updates
- ☒ Download and install software updates from the distribution points in site default boundary group

☒ If software updates are not available on distribution point in current, neighbor or site boundary groups, download content from Microsoft Updates.

☐ Allow clients on a metered Internet connection to download content after the installation deadline, which might incur additional costs

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Confirm the settings

Details:

Save As Template...

General:

- Automatic Deployment Rule: SSU Servers
- Collection: Server 2019
- Action that rule should create: Create New Update Group
- Enable Deployment on successful execution of rule: Yes

Deployment Settings:

- Send wake-up packets: No
- Verbosity Level: Only error messages
- Only deploy software updates that do not require a license agreement: No

Software Updates:

- Product: "Windows Server 2019"
- Title: Servicing Stack

Evaluation Schedule:

- Use a custom schedule to evaluate this rule: Occurs the Second Tuesday of every 1 months effective 23-Sep-2019 9:40 AM

Deployment Schedule:

- Deployment schedules will be based on: Client local time
- Time between rule run and deployment available: As soon as possible
- Time between deployment available and deadline: 7 Days
- Delayed enforcement on deployment: No

User Experience:

- User Notifications: Display in Software Center, and only show notifications for computer restarts
- Install software updates outside the maintenance window when deadline is reached: Yes
- Restart system outside the maintenance window when deadline is reached: Suppressed
- Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts): Suppressed
- If any update in this deployment requires a system restart, run updates deployment evaluation cycle after restart: No
- If a restart is required it will be: Suppressed(Workstations and Servers)

Alerts:

- Enable ADR alerts on failure: Yes
- On update installation error generate a Window Event: Yes
- Disable Window Event while updates install: No

Package

- The software updates will be placed in a new package:
- SSU Servers Monthly

To change these settings, click Previous. To apply the settings, click Next.

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The Create Automatic Deployment Rule Wizard completed successfully

Details:

- General:**
- Automatic Deployment Rule: SSU Servers
 - Collection: Server 2019
 - Action that rule should create: Create New Update Group
 - Enable Deployment on successful execution of rule: Yes
- Deployment Settings:**
- Send wake-up packets: No
 - Verbosity Level: Only error messages
 - Only deploy software updates that do not require a license agreement: No
- Software Updates:**
- Product: "Windows Server 2019"
 - Title: Servicing Stack
- Evaluation Schedule:**
- Use a custom schedule to evaluate this rule: Occurs the Second Tuesday of every 1 months effective 23-Sep-2019 9:40 AM
- Deployment Schedule:**
- Deployment schedules will be based on: Client local time
 - Time between rule run and deployment available: As soon as possible
 - Time between deployment available and deadline: 7 Days
 - Delayed enforcement on deployment: No
- User Experience:**
- User Notifications: Display in Software Center, and only show notifications for computer restarts
 - Install software updates outside the maintenance window when deadline is reached: Yes
 - Restart system outside the maintenance window when deadline is reached: Suppressed
 - Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts): Suppressed
 - If any update in this deployment requires a system restart, run updates deployment evaluation cycle after restart: No
 - If a restart is required it will be: Suppressed(Workstations and Servers)
- Alerts:**
- Enable ADR alerts on failure: Yes
 - On update installation error generate a Window Event: Yes
 - Disable Window Event while updates install: No

To exit the wizard, click Close.

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Now we have to click Run Now to start SSU Update.

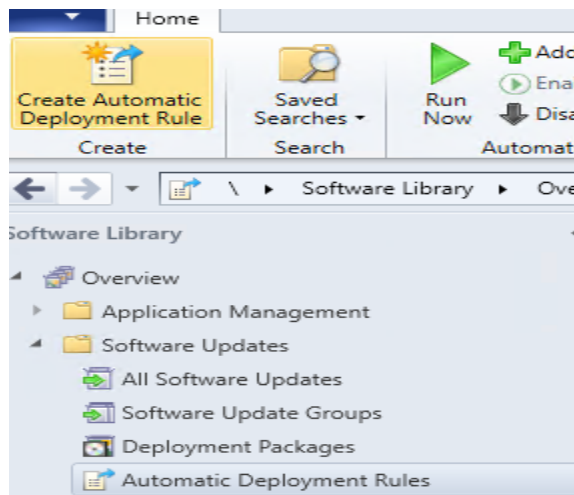
The screenshot shows the Windows Server Management console. In the top toolbar, there is a 'Run Now' button (a green play icon) which is highlighted by a red arrow. Below the toolbar, the 'Automatic Deployment Rules' list is displayed with 12 items. The list includes columns for Icon, Name, Description, Enabled, Last Error Code, Last Error Description, Last Error Time, and Last Evaluation Time. The 'SSU Servers' rule is at the bottom of the list.

| Icon | Name | Description | Enabled | Last Error Code | Last Error Description | Last Error Time | Last Evaluation Time |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Defender for Servers and Win 10 | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 22-Sep-2019 8:15 PM |
| | EndPoint for Win 7 and Win 8 | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 22-Sep-2019 6:53 PM |
| | Office 2019 | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 20-Sep-2019 1:25 PM |
| | Office 365 Monthly Channel | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 23-Sep-2019 9:07 AM |
| | Server 2019 Updates x64 | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 22-Sep-2019 4:06 AM |
| | Silverlight | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 01-Sep-2019 10:30 AM |
| | SQL 2016 Updates x64 | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 22-Sep-2019 4:06 AM |
| | SQL 2017 Updates x64 | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | 22-Sep-2019 4:06 AM |
| | SSU Servers | | Yes | 0X00000000 | Success | | |

That's it. The same can be done for workstations. Adding additional deployment to fit your need is key also. Remember, SSU must be applied and an update scan must have run before the cumulative updates deployment to succeed.

Will it always be required to applied SSU prior to the cumulative updates? So far it seems like it. Will Microsoft change the "rules" again in the future? Probably...

Now, I will repeat the same for Workstations (Win 7, Win 8 & Win 10).



Create Automatic Deployment Rule Wizard

General

Specify the settings for this automatic deployment rule

Name: SSU Workstations

Description:

Select a previously saved deployment template that defines configuration settings for this deployment. You can save the current configuration as a new deployment template on the Summary page of this wizard.

Template: Manage Templates...

Specify the target collection for the software update deployment.

Collection: Workstations Browse...

Each time the rule runs and finds new updates.

☐ Add to an existing Software Update Group

☒ Create a new Software Update Group

Choose whether to enable the deployment after this rule runs for the associated software update group. When this setting is not selected, you must manually deploy the software update group.

☒ Enable the deployment after this rule is run

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Specify the settings for this Automatic Deployment Rule

☐ Use Wake-on-LAN to wake up clients for required deployments

Choose how much state detail you want clients to report back for deployments created by this rule.

Detail level:

Some software updates include a license agreement. Software updates that you choose to deploy automatically will not display any license agreement to you, regardless of whether those software updates include a license agreement. You can review the Microsoft Software License Terms in the All Updates list in the Software Updates node of the console.

☐ Automatically deploy only software updates found by this rule that do not include a license agreement, or for which the license agreement has already been approved☒ Automatically deploy all software updates found by this rule, and approve any license agreements

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Select the property filters and search criteria

The software updates that meet the specified criteria are added to the associated software update group.

Property filters:

- ☐ Description
- ☐ Language
- ☒ Product
- ☐ Required
- ☐ Severity
- ☐ Superseded
- ☐ Tag
- ☒ Title
- ☐ Update Classification

Search criteria:

Product "Windows 10" OR "Windows 7" OR "Windows 8"

Title Servicing Stack

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Preview updates



Configuration Manager returned 16 updates.

| Filter... | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Title | Article ID | Bulletin ID | Product | Vendor | Update Classification |
| 2019-07 Servicing Stack ... | 4509093 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512576 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4511839 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4511839 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512576 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512577 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512574 | | "Windows 10 LTSB", "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512577 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512577 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4516655 | | "Windows 7" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4516655 | | "Windows 7" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512575 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512575 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512575 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512576 | | "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |
| 2019-09 Servicing Stack ... | 4512574 | | "Windows 10 LTSB", "Windows 10" | Microsoft | "Security Updates" |

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Create Automatic Deployment Rule Wizard



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Specify the recurring schedule for this rule

Current software update point synchronization schedule:

Occurs every 7 days effective 13-Jan-2019 3:53 AM

- ☐ Do not run this rule automatically
- ☐ Run the rule after any software update point synchronization
- ☒ Run the rule on a schedule

Occurs the Second Tuesday of every 1 months effective 23-Sep-2019 2:00 PM

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Configure schedule details for this deployment

Schedule evaluation

Specify if the schedule for this deployment is evaluated based upon Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) or the local time of the client.

Time based on: Client local time

Software available time

Specify when software updates are available. After this rule is run, software updates are distributed to the content server. Then the software updates are available to install as soon as possible or scheduled to install at a configured period of time after the rule is run.

Note: You must enable this deployment before software updates are available to install.

☒ As soon as possible

☐ Specific time: 7 Days

Installation deadline

Specify a deadline for required software updates. The deadline is determined by adding the deadline time to the installation time. When the deadline is reached, required software updates are installed on the device and the device is restarted if necessary.

☐ As soon as possible

☒ Specific time: 7 Days

☐ Delay enforcement of this deployment according to user preferences, up to the grace period defined in client settings.

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Specify the user experience for this deployment

User visual experience

User notifications: Display in Software Center, and only show notifications for computer restarts

Deadline behavior

When the installation deadline is reached, allow the following activities to be performed outside of any defined maintenance windows:

☒ Software Update Installation

☐ System restart (if necessary)

Device restart behavior

Some software updates require a system restart to complete the installation process. You can suppress this restart on servers and workstations.

Suppress the system restart on the following devices:

☒ Servers

☒ Workstations

Write filter handling for Windows Embedded devices

☐ Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts)

If this option is not selected, content will be applied on the overlay and committed later.

Software updates deployment re-evaluation behavior upon restart

☐ If any update in this deployment requires a system restart, run updates deployment evaluation cycle after restart

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Specify software update alert options for this deployment

Configuration Manager alerts

Specify the criteria for generating a Configuration Manager alert.

- ☒ Generate an alert when this Rule fails
- ☒ Generate an alert when the following conditions are met

Client compliance is below the following percent: 90

Offset from the deadline: 7 Days

Alerts are generated after the installation deadline is reached.
Deadline time: 30-Sep-2019 2:00:00 PM

Operations Manager alerts

System Center Operations Manager might generate alerts when a device installs a software update. To avoid receiving alerts for planned maintenance, you can disable these alerts during the duration of the software update installation process.

- ☐ Disable Operations Manager alerts while software updates run
- ☒ Generate Operations Manager alert when a software update installation fails

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Select deployment package for this automatic deployment rule

The deployment package contains the software update files associated with this rule that will be available to clients as part of the deployment. You can select an existing deployment package or create a new one.

- ☐ Select a deployment package

Browse...

- ☒ Create a new deployment package

Name:

SSU Workstations

Description:

Package source (Example): \\<server>\<folder path>

\\<cb>\Sources\Updates\SSU Workstations

Browse...

Sending priority:

High

- ☐ Enable binary differential replication

To minimize the network traffic between sites, binary differential replication updates only the content that has changed in the package.

- ☐ No deployment package

Clients download content from peers or the Microsoft cloud.

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Specify the distribution points or distribution point groups to host the content

Distribution points or distribution point groups:

| Filter... | | | | Add |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|--------|
| | | | | Remove |
| Name | Description | Associations | | |
| CB.RAMLAN.CA | Distribution point | | | |
| Toronto | Distribution point group | 0 | | |

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Specify download location for this Automatic Deployment Rule

If your site server does not have an Internet connection, you can download the software updates from a different computer and save them to a network location accessible by the site server.

☒ Download software updates from the Internet☐ Download software updates from a location on my network:

Example: \\<server>\<folder path>

Browse...

Note:

When the deployment package contains all required software updates, select "Download software updates from the internet". The software updates files will be validated, but will not be downloaded again.

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Specify the update languages for product

| Product | Update languages |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Windows Update | English |
| Office 365 Client Update | English (United States) |

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Specify the software updates download behavior for clients on slow site boundaries.

Select the deployment option to use when a client uses a distribution point from a neighbor boundary group or the default site boundary group.

Deployment options:

- ☒ Do not install software updates
☐ Download software updates from distribution point and install

When software updates are not available on any distribution points in current or neighbor boundary group, client can download and install software updates from distribution points in site default boundary group

Deployment options:

- ☐ Do not install software updates
☒ Download and install software updates from the distribution points in site default boundary group

☐ If software updates are not available on distribution point in current, neighbor or site boundary groups, download content from Microsoft Updates.

☐ Allow clients on a metered Internet connection to download content after the installation deadline, which might incur additional costs

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Confirm the settings

Details:

Save As Template...

General:

- Automatic Deployment Rule: SSU Workstations
- Collection: Workstations
- Action that rule should create: Create New Update Group
- Enable Deployment on successful execution of rule: Yes

Deployment Settings:

- Send wake-up packets: No
- Verbosity Level: Only error messages
- Only deploy software updates that do not require a license agreement: No

Software Updates:

- Product: Multiple (3)
- Title: Servicing Stack

Evaluation Schedule:

- Use a custom schedule to evaluate this rule: Occurs the Second Tuesday of every 1 months effective 23-Sep-2019 2:00 PM

Deployment Schedule:

- Deployment schedules will be based on: Client local time
- Time between rule run and deployment available: As soon as possible
- Time between deployment available and deadline: 7 Days
- Delayed enforcement on deployment: No

User Experience:

- User Notifications: Display in Software Center, and only show notifications for computer restarts
- Install software updates outside the maintenance window when deadline is reached: Yes
- Restart system outside the maintenance window when deadline is reached: Suppressed
- Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts): Suppressed
- If any update in this deployment requires a system restart, run updates deployment evaluation cycle after restart: No
- If a restart is required it will be: Suppressed(Workstations and Servers)

Alerts:

- Enable ADR alerts on failure: Yes
- On update installation error generate a Window Event: Yes
- Disable Window Event while updates install: No

Package

The software updates will be placed in a new package:

- SSU Workstations

To change these settings, click Previous. To apply the settings, click Next.

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Next >

Summary

Cancel



Completion

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The Create Automatic Deployment Rule Wizard completed successfully

Details:

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- Disable Window Event while updates install: No

To exit the wizard, click Close.

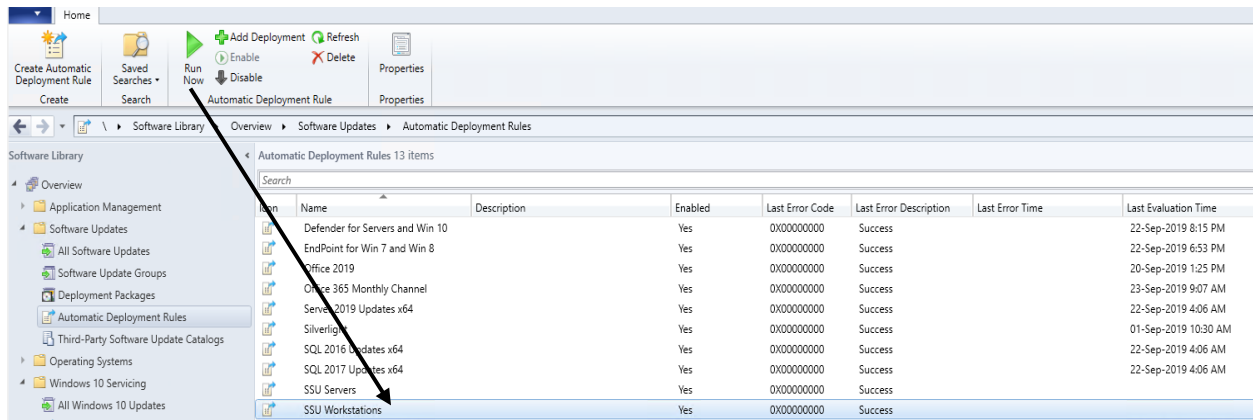
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Summary

Close

Now we have to click Run Now to start SSU Update.



Now we wait for SSU to complete the task and have all workstations ready for next cumulative updates when released.

Thanks

Ram Lan
23rd Sep 2019