

Implementing a Desired Configuration Management (DCM) baseline and automatic remediation

DCM baselines are used in Configuration Manager to ensure compliance for a variety of configuration settings. This section focuses primarily on the exam objective of implementing DCM. DCM provides assessment of managed computers against desired or known-good configurations, for example, whether an update has been applied. This section looks at both the implementing DCM subobjective as well as the automatic remediation subobjective contained within the overall “Implement Automated Remediation” exam objective.

MORE INFO UNDERSTANDING DCM See <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb680553.aspx> for an overview of DCM.

DCM baselines are configured within the Assets and Compliance workspace within Compliance Settings, Configuration Baselines. Clicking Create Configuration Baseline opens the Create Configuration Baseline dialog box. Within the Create Configuration Baseline dialog box, you enter details of the baseline to be created, as shown in Figure 1-11.

Specify general information about this configuration baseline

Name: Adventure Works DCM Baseline

Description:

Select the configuration data (configuration items, configuration baselines, and software updates) to be evaluated for compliance by this configuration baseline. This configuration baseline will be assessed as compliant if all the items specified are compliant. Optional items are evaluated only if the relevant application is present on the client devices.

Configuration data:

Name	Type	Purpose	Revision
Adventure Works Internet Explorer Configuration	Application	Required	Latest

Add Change Purpose Change Revision Remove

Assigned categories to improve searching and filtering:

OK Cancel

FIGURE 1-11 Creating a desired configuration baseline

A configuration baseline applies one or more configuration items, other configuration baselines, or software updates. The example shown in Figure 1-11 uses a previously defined configuration item, which was added through the Configuration Items page of the Compliance Settings area in Configuration Manager.

Once a configuration baseline is created, it needs to be deployed. This is accomplished by selecting Deploy within the Configuration Baselines area. Clicking Deploy opens the Deploy Configuration Baselines dialog box shown in Figure 1-12. You can select the Remediate Noncompliant Rules When Supported option, select the Generate An Alert option, and specify a schedule for the baseline to be deployed. The deployment will apply to the collection that you select within this dialog box.

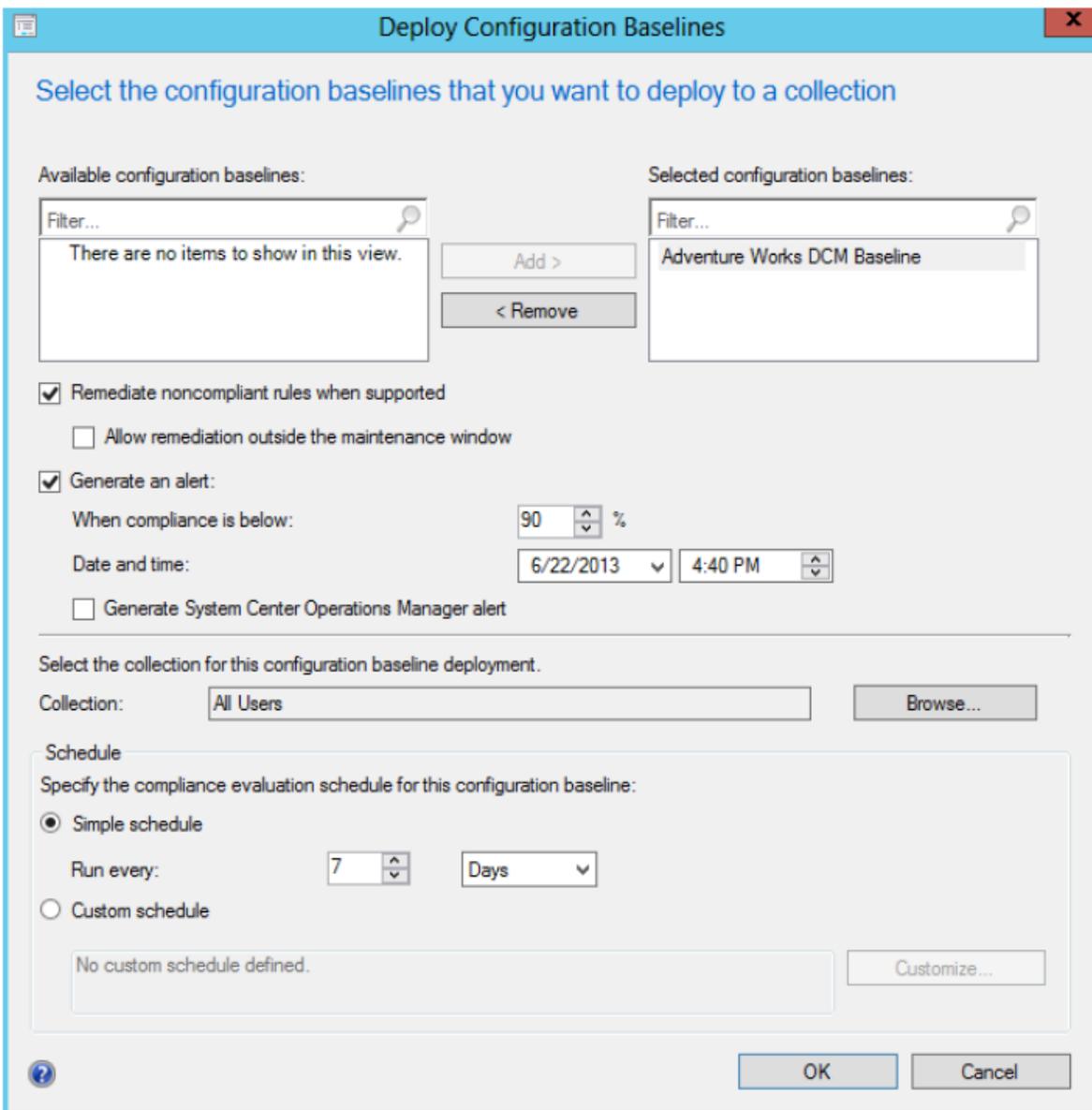


FIGURE 1-12 Preparing to deploy a configuration baseline

In addition to configuring automatic remediation through host groups, you can also configure automatic remediation within a configuration item or within the deployment of a configuration baseline. For example, Figure 1-13 shows the Edit Rule dialog box for a configuration item on the Compliance Rules tab. Note the Remediate Noncompliant Rules When Supported option is selected.

Edit Rule ✕

Specify rules to define compliance conditions for this setting

Name:

Description:

Selected setting:

Rule type:

The setting must comply with the following rule:

the following values:

Remediate noncompliant rules when supported

Report noncompliance if this setting instance is not found

Noncompliance severity for reports:

FIGURE 1-13 Editing a compliance rule of a configuration item