

# Overview of System Center 2012 R2

System Center 2012 R2 provides the tools to deploy, manage, operate, automate, and monitor data centers.

The following is a list of the System Center 2012 R2 components:

## **Configuration Manager**

Configuration Manager provides software management, operating system deployment, and mobile device management. You can use Configuration Manager for advanced update and third-party update management. In addition, it includes System Center 2012 R2

## **Endpoint Protection**

Endpoint Protection is the enterprise anti-malware solution for client devices. It gives administrators the ability to manage client security from a single console.

## **Virtual Machine Manager (VMM).**

VMM provides administrators with a single administrative tool for deploying and managing a virtualization infrastructure, including components such as hosts, storage, networks, libraries, and update servers. This infrastructure provides the foundation for managing the configuration and deployment of virtual machines.

## **App Controller.**

App Controller provides a self-service portal for administrators who are deploying and managing applications and services across one or more sites. App Controller enables you to access and manage resources from one or more VMM management servers and from multiple Windows Azure subscriptions.

## **Service Manager**

Service Manager offers service management, process automation, asset tracking, and a self-service portal to access resources defined in a service catalog. Service Manager offers an easy-to-build configuration management database, which pulls data from AD DS and System Center components. This allows companies to establish and use controls and operations based on the guidelines of the Information Technology Infrastructure Library or the Microsoft Operations Framework.

## **Orchestrator.**

Orchestrator is a runbook automation component that allows administrators to integrate and automate their data centers. Orchestrator utilizes integration packs, including many out-of-box authored packs that allow administrators to connect different systems.

## **Operations Manager.**

Operations Manager is the management component for application and performance monitoring. You can integrate Operations Manager with VMM, Service Manager, Orchestrator, and Data Protection Manager. Operations Manager utilizes vendor-authored management packs that provide deep application insight and health state monitoring.

- Data Protection Manager (DPM).** DPM is an enterprise backup component that performs application-aware block-level backups. It utilizes Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) writers
- to help protect and recover applications such as SQL Server, Exchange Server, Microsoft SharePoint® Server 2012, and AD DS. Additionally, it provides specific VSS writers for System Center 2012 R2 components.

# **Virtual Machine Manager**

VMM provides administrators with a single administrative tool for deploying and managing a virtualization infrastructure, including components such as hosts, storage, networks, libraries, and update servers. This infrastructure provides the foundation for managing the configuration and deployment of virtual machines. You can use VMM for managing a single virtual machine host computer, or as many as 400 hosts and 8,000 guests.

VMM consists of a VMM management server, VMM database, and Virtual Machine Manager console. A deployment requires these core components. You can deploy them to a single server or to multiple servers.

The following are some of the key VMM features:

**Bare-metal deployment of hosts.** You can automate deployment of Windows Server host machines that have the Hyper-V server role installed on physical servers with an installed baseboard management controller (BMC) and that meet discovery and deployment prerequisites. System Center 2012 R2 enables administrators to discover more information about a target host's resources and configure more networking settings, such as logical switches.

**Host and cluster creation.** You can create Hyper-V hosts and clusters easily by using the Virtual Machine Manager console, which simplifies manual deployment and reduces the possibility of configuration errors.

**Host groups.** You can group hosts for logical separation, such as business use, performance, and geographical location, and you can apply changes to multiple hosts.

**Cross-platform management.** VMM supports the management of Citrix XenServer hosts and pools and supports VMware ESX hosts through integration with VMware vSphere.