

Guide for System Center Monitoring Pack   
for Windows Server 2012 Essentials

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Windows Server 2012 Essentials is a flexible, affordable, and easy-to-use server solution designed and priced for small businesses with up to 25 users and 50 devices. It can also be used as the primary server in a multiserver environment for small businesses. The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials helps you monitor features that are specific to Windows Server 2012 Essentials.

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Guide for System Center Monitoring Pack   
for Windows Server 2012 Essentials

Windows Server 2012 Essentials is a flexible, affordable, and easy-to-use server solution designed and priced for small businesses with up to 25 users and 50 devices. Windows Server 2012 Essentials is an ideal first server. It can also be used as the primary server in a multiserver environment for small businesses, and it is preconfigured to be a domain controller.

The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials helps you monitor features that are specific to Windows Server 2012 Essentials. It does not monitor features in the Windows Server 2012 operating system. To monitor features in Windows Server 2012 Essentials, you should import the following monitoring packs:

* System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials
* System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Standard

**Note**   The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials provides monitoring functions for the health alert system in Windows Server 2012 Essentials to help manage large numbers of servers running Windows Server 2012 Essentials that are dedicated to different small business companies. The monitoring functions in this version only include critical alerts in the system.

Supported Configurations

The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials requires System Center Operations Manager 2012. A dedicated Operations Manager management group is not required.

The following table details the supported configurations for the System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Configuration** | **Support** |
| Windows Server 2012 Essentials | Windows Server 2012 Essentials  Windows Server 2012 Standard  (upgraded from Windows Server 2012 Essentials) |
| Clustered servers | Not supported |
| Agentless monitoring | Not Supported |
| Virtual environment | Supported |

Prerequisites

The following steps need to be taken before you can use the monitoring pack:

1. **Install System Center Operations Manager**.Download [System Center 2012 Operations Manager](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=260975) from the Microsoft TechNet Evaluation Center.
2. **Configure trust**. Windows Server 2012 Essentials is preconfigured as a domain controller, so it cannot trust other domains or forests. Configure trust with the management server by using certificates.   
   For more information about using certificates, see [Agent and Agentless Monitoring](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=260976).
3. **Import the System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials**.
4. **Download a language pack (optional).** If you’re using a localized version of the monitoring pack, you need to import the main monitoring pack file and download the language pack.

The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials includes the following files:

* Microsoft.Windows.Server.2012.Essentials.mp
* Microsoft.Windows.Server.2012.Essentials.<locale>.mp

For details about the discoveries, rules, monitors, views, and reports that are included in System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials, see [Monitoring Pack Contents](#zf475f3cc57b84a049d89cda7b1f37ba8) later in this document.

Monitoring Scenarios

This section includes information about the monitoring information that is provided by the System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials. It also included information about rules and monitors that are associated with a given monitoring scenario. This information can help you customize scenarios for your unique business needs.

**Note**   If one of the monitoring rules fails, the system will be in an error state.

| **Monitoring scenario** | **Description** | **Associated rules and monitors** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Server infrastructure | Checks critical health alerts on the server | * Renew the server certificate * Change Administrator password * The network user account was not created during Setup * The firewall is not configured correctly * Windows Firewall is not configured correctly. * The Network Firewall is turned off * Virus protection is turned off, not installed, or not up-to-date * Spyware and unwanted software protection is turned off, not installed, or not up * Windows Update is turned off |
| Backup |  | * The backup hard drive does not have enough free space for the server backup * Server backup was not successful because a snapshot of the hard drive could not be taken * A scheduled backup did not finish successfully * Backup is paused for the server * One or more hard drives in the server backup are not connected |
| Storage |  | * One or more predefined server folders are missing * One or more server hard drives must be checked for errors * Free space is low on hard drives |
| Remote access |  | * Web domain name that is configuration did not succeed * VPN configuration did not succeed * The server is not connected to the Internet * A certificate is not available for Anywhere Access * The certificate for Anywhere Access has expired * The Web Server is not configured correctly * Remote Desktop Services is not configured correctly |
| Licensing |  | * Local user limit exceeded * Domain user limit exceeded * Forest trust check * The server is not a domain controller * The server needs to have all FSMO roles * Enforcement FSMO policies are violated * Enforcement load policies are violated |
| Key services | Checks a list of key services to ensure they’re in the running status | * Active Directory Domain Services error * The VSS Writer for the storage service is not running * One or more services are not running |

Custom Monitoring Packs

By default, Operations Manager saves all customizations, such as overrides, to the Default Management Pack. If customizations for all monitoring packs are saved in the Default Management Pack and you need to delete a single monitoring pack, you must first delete the Default Management Pack, which also deletes customizations to other monitoring packs.

As a best practice, you should instead create a separate monitoring pack for each sealed monitoring pack that you want to customize.

Creating a new monitoring pack to store customizations of each sealed monitoring pack makes it easier to export the customizations from a test environment to a production environment. It also makes it easier to delete a monitoring pack because you must delete any dependencies before you can delete a monitoring pack.

When you create a monitoring pack for the purpose of storing customized settings for a sealed monitoring pack, it is helpful to base the name of the new monitoring pack on the name of the monitoring pack that it is customizing, such as “System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials Customizations.”

**Notes**

* The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials uses a local system account for security purposes.
* Tuning Performance Threshold Rules are not applicable for the System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials.

Monitoring Pack Contents

The System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials discovers the object types that are described in the following tables.

**Note**   Not all of the objects are automatically discovered. You can create overrides to discover those objects that are not discovered automatically.

Discovery Information

| **Interval** | **Enabled** | **When to Enable** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4 hours | True | Should always be enabled |

Related Monitors

For monitors where the data source is an event in the System Center Monitoring Pack for Windows Server 2012 Essentials, the monitoring pack uses event ID 1280 to raise an alert and 1283 to clear an alert.

It uses *AlertDefinitionName* from the event data to distinguish different monitors due to the implementation of the health alert system in Windows Server 2012 Essentials. Therefore, Data source in the following table refers to the *AlertDefinitionName.*

These rules apply to the monitor and data source in the following table:

* **Interval**: Default
* **Alert**: True:P1/S1
* **Reset behavior**: Automatic
* **Corresponding rule**: N/A
* **Enabled**: True
* **When to enable**: Upon recommendation

| **Monitor** | **Data source** |
| --- | --- |
| Renew the server certificate | RenewServerCertificate |
| Local user limit exceeded | CheckSBSBeforeUpgradeLocalUsersLimit |
| Domain user limit exceeded | CheckRemoteUsersLimit |
| Free space is low on hard drives | CriticalLowDiskSpace |
| Change administrator password | ChangeBuiltInAdminPwdFailed |
| The network user account was not created during setup | CreateNewUserFailed |
| Web domain name configuration did not succeed | ConfigureWebDomainNameFailed |
| VPN configuration did not succeed | EnableVPNFailed |
| The server is not connected to the Internet | InternetConnectivity |
| A certificate is not available for Anywhere Access | CertificateMissing |
| The certificate for Anywhere Access has expired | CertificateExpiredManualFlow |
| The Web Server is not configured correctly | IisConfiguration |
| Remote Desktop Services is not configured correctly | TsGatewayConfiguration |
| The firewall is not configured correctly | FirewallConfiguration |
| Windows Firewall is not configured correctly | FirewallService |
| Forest trust check | FTCheckPassFailed |
| The server is not a domain controller | DCCompliance |
| The server needs to have all FSMO roles | FSMOCompliance |
| Enforcement FSMO policies are violated | FSMOFailedCorrection |
| Enforcement load policies are violated | LoadPolicyFailed |
| Active Directory Domain Services error | ADError |
| The network firewall is turned off | FirewallDisabled |
| Virus protection is turned off, not installed, or not up-to-date | AntivirusDisabled |
| Spyware and unwanted software protection is turned off, not installed, or not up | AntispywareDisabled |
| Windows Update is turned off | WindowsUpdateDisabled |
| One or more hard drives in Server Backup are not connected | BackupTargetNotFound |
| The backup hard drive does not have enough free space for the server backup | BackupTargetMediaFull |
| Server backup was not successful because a drive snapshot could not be taken | VSSOutOfMemoryError |
| A scheduled backup did not finish successfully | ScheduledBackupFailed |
| Backup is paused for the server | TaskPausingOverdue |
| One or more predefined server folders are missing | DefaultShareFolderMissing |
| One or more server hard drives must be checked for errors | DirtyBitSet |
| The VSS Writer for Storage Service is not running | VssWriterError |
| One or more services are not running | AutoStartServicesServerOS |
| Windows Server Health Service is not running | HealthAlertsSvc |
| Windows Server Client Computer Backup service is not running | WSS\_ComputerBackupSvc |
| Windows Server Client Computer Backup Provider service is not running | WSS\_ComputerBackupProviderSvc |
| Windows Server Storage Service is not running | storageservice |

Note

If you are using connectors, you can disable the monitor and enable its corresponding rule to enable alerts without changing health status.

Related Rules

There are no rules associated with this discovery.

Related Views

There are no views associated with this discovery.

Related Reports

There are no reports associated with this discovery.

Additional References

For information about common tasks that are associated with System Center monitoring packs, see [Using Management Packs](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh212709).

For questions about Operations Manager and monitoring packs, refer to the [System Center Operations Manager community forum](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=179635).

A useful resource is the [System Center Operations Manager Unleashed blog](http://opsmgrunleashed.wordpress.com/), which contains “By Example” posts for specific monitoring packs.

For additional information about Operations Manager, see the following blogs:

 [Operations Manager Team Blog](http://blogs.technet.com/momteam/default.aspx)

 [Kevin Holman's OpsMgr Blog](http://blogs.technet.com/kevinholman/default.aspx)

 [Thoughts on OpsMgr](http://thoughtsonopsmgr.blogspot.com/)

 [Raphael Burri’s blog](http://rburri.wordpress.com/)

 [BWren's Management Space](http://blogs.technet.com/brianwren/default.aspx)

 [The System Center Operations Manager Support Team Blog](http://blogs.technet.com/operationsmgr/)

 [Ops Mgr ++](http://blogs.msdn.com/boris_yanushpolsky/default.aspx)

 [Notes on System Center Operations Manager](http://blogs.msdn.com/mariussutara/default.aspx)