

APPENDIX B

Reference URLs

This appendix includes a number of reference URLs associated with Configuration Manager 2007. These links are also available “live” from the Pearson website, at <http://www.informit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0672330237>, under the Downloads tab. URLs do change—although the authors have made every effort to verify the references here as working links, they cannot guarantee those links will remain current.

The Visio template used for the graphics in this book is also at the same location.

General Resources

A number of websites, including Microsoft's, provide excellent resources for System Center Configuration Manager 2007 (ConfigMgr). This section lists some of the more general resources available:

- ▶ **myITforum.com**—<http://www.myITforum.com> is a community of worldwide Information Technology (IT) professionals and a website established in 1999 by Rod Trent. First known as swynk.com, myITforum has concentrated on Systems Management Server (SMS) and now Configuration Manager (ConfigMgr). It also includes topics on other aspects of System Center and IT.

The list of blogs and other ConfigMgr-related articles at myITforum.com is enormous. This appendix includes some specific links to pertinent information, but it does not include everything.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- ▶ General Resources
- ▶ More Specific Information
- ▶ Blogs
- ▶ The System Center Family
- ▶ Public Forums
- ▶ Free Utilities
- ▶ Other Utilities

- ▶ **FAQShop.com**—<http://www.faqshop.com/configmgr2007/> is the home page for the System Center Configuration Manager 2007 section of the site.
FAQShop.com provides hints, tips, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) relating to Microsoft's various systems management technologies.
- ▶ **SystemCenterCentral.com**—Launched at the Microsoft Management Summit (MMS) in April 2009, <http://systemcentercentral.com> focuses exclusively on the technologies included in the System Center suite of products. This new site touts itself as the site to visit for “Everything System Center.” Webmaster is *System Centre Configuration Manager 2007 Unleashed* contributor Pete Zerger.
- ▶ **SystemCenterForum.org**—<http://www.systemcenterforum.org> was also established by contributor Pete Zerger. SystemCenterForum offers news, articles, solutions, and learning resources for Operations Manager, Essentials 2007, and the System Center product suite. System Center Forum was first established as momresources.org in 2006 and renamed to SystemCenterForum.org in 2007. New postings are now at SystemCenterCentral.com.
- ▶ **<http://www.techlog.nl>**—All about everything Microsoft, maintained by Maarten Goet, Kenneth van Surksun, Steven van Loef, and Aad Noman.
- ▶ **System Center Virtual User Group**—A user group dedicated to providing educational resources and collaboration between users of System Center technologies worldwide. Microsoft Live Meeting is used for regular meetings. You can join the user group at <http://www.systemcentercentral.com/>.
- ▶ If you are not already receiving email notifications of new articles in the Microsoft Knowledge Base from [kbalertz](http://kbalertz.com/), you can sign up at <http://kbalertz.com/> for them! You just need to create an account and select those technologies you want to be alerted about.
- ▶ **TechNet Manageability Center**—Links to resources and *TechNet* magazine articles can be found at <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=7280963>.
- ▶ Microsoft has published white papers on performance-tuning guidelines for Windows Server:
 - ▶ The Windows Server 2008 version can be downloaded from http://www.microsoft.com/whdc/system/sysperf/Perf_tun_srv.mspx.
 - ▶ The Windows Server 2003 version is available at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2003/evaluation/performance/tuning.mspx>.
- ▶ The Windows Server 2003 Tech Center is located at <http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver/en/library/>.
- ▶ To configure SQL Server site database replication, check out <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb693697.aspx>. <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb693954.aspx> discusses disabling database replication.

- ▶ Michael Pearson has an excellent article discussing SRS recovery planning, available online from the SQL Server Central community (SQLServerCentral.com) at <http://www.sqlservercentral.com/articles/Administration/recoveryplanningforsqlreportingservices/1655/>. You must register with SQLServerCentral to view the full article.
- ▶ For information on SQL Server best practices, see <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sqlserver/bb671430.aspx>.

The SQL Server 2005 Best Practice Analyzer is available for download at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=da0531e4-e94c-4991-82fa-f0e3fbd05e63> (or at www.microsoft.com/downloads, search for **SQL Server 2005 Best Practices Analyzer**).

- ▶ To virtualize or not to virtualize? *CIO* magazine presents a discussion of potential cost savings from virtualization and consolidation at http://www.cio.com/article/471408/The_Tricky_Math_of_Server_Virtualization_ROI.
- ▶ An article by Microsoft on using SQL Server 2005 in a virtual environment can be found at <http://download.microsoft.com/download/a/c/d/acd8e043-d69b-4f09-bc9e-4168b65aaa71/SQLVirtualization.doc>
- ▶ Trying to set up a virtual server cluster? An excellent two-part write-up that provides step-by-step processes is available at <http://www.roudybob.net/?p=118> and <http://www.roudybob.net/?p=119>.

The information is also available in PDF format at <http://www.roudybob.net/downloads/Setting-Up-A-Windows-Server-2003-Cluster-in-VS2005-Part1.pdf> and <http://www.roudybob.net/downloads/Setting-Up-A-Windows-Server-2003-Cluster-in-VS2005-Part2.pdf>.

- ▶ Did you know you could back up a running virtual server VM (virtual machine)? See <http://redmondmag.com/columns/print.asp?EditorialsID=2324> for information.
- ▶ The Virtual Machine Manager (VMM) 2007 scripting guide is available for download at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=104290>. (At the time of writing this appendix, a similar guide for VMM 2008 is not yet available.)
- ▶ For information on the Microsoft Solution Framework (MSF), refer to <http://www.microsoft.com/msf>.
- ▶ The MSF Process Model is documented at <http://download.microsoft.com/download/7/7/7/777104c9-506e-47c9-9da4-9e23138be493/MSF%20Process%20Model%20v.%203.1.pdf>.
- ▶ Microsoft's white paper on MSF Risk Management is available at <http://www.brightwork.com/file/PDF/MSF%20Risk%20Management%20Discipline%20v.1.1.pdf>.

This paper is also downloadable from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=6C2F2C7E-DDBD-448C-A218-074D88240942&displaylang=en>.

- ▶ An IDC white paper sponsored by Microsoft that quantifies how businesses can reduce costs by managing the Windows desktop is available for download at http://download.microsoft.com/download/a/4/4/a4474b0c-57d8-41a2-afe6-32037fa93ea6/IDC_windesktop_IO_whitepaper.pdf.
- ▶ Read about proactive desktop management in Greg Shield's article in *Redmond* magazine on best practices for desktop management at <http://redmondmag.com/columns/article.asp?editorialsid=2635>.
- ▶ For information regarding the Active Directory schema, see [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms675085\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms675085(VS.85).aspx).
- ▶ Information on LDIFDE is located at <http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver2008/en/library/8fe5b815-f89d-48c0-8b2c-a9cd1d6986521033.mspx?mfr=true>.
- ▶ <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/555636> describes the process of exporting and importing objects using LDIFDE.
- ▶ To troubleshoot port status issues, you can use the Portqry command-line utility (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/network/bb545423.aspx>) or its graphical equivalent, PortQryUI at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=8355E537-1EA6-4569-AABB-F248F4BD91D0&displaylang=en>.
- ▶ Interested in learning more about the Microsoft Operations Framework? Check out the MOF at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=50015>.
- ▶ Information on the IO (Infrastructure Optimization) model is available at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/infrastructure>.
- ▶ Details about the Microsoft Solutions Framework (MSF) is located at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/solutionaccelerators/msf>.
- ▶ You may want to implement the Windows Server 2003 Resource Kit tools if you have not already done so. You can download them from <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=4544>.

The individual utilities are available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsserver/bb405955.aspx>.

- ▶ An excellent resource on group policy management is available online at the Windows Server 2003 Tech Center: <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc706993.aspx>.

The section on WMI filtering is found at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc779036.aspx>.

Security group filtering is discussed in <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/ConfigMgr/cc462788.aspx>.

- ▶ For information on using PowerShell with ConfigMgr, check out <http://www.windows7th.com/?p=22028>.
- ▶ Microsoft's System Center website is located at <http://www.microsoft.com/system-center/>.
- ▶ The System Center catalog, Microsoft's multiple pages for all things ConfigMgr and OpsMgr, incorporates the following section for Configuration Manager 2007—<https://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/scp/configmgr07.aspx>.

This is the Configuration Pack Catalog, also accessible at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=71837>. Approximately 70 configuration packs were in the catalog at the time of writing this appendix.

- ▶ Virtual labs for the System Center family can be found at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/configmgr/bb539977.aspx>.

More Specific Information

This section provides a list of more specific ConfigMgr-related resources.

- ▶ Want a concise list of the site system roles? Check out <http://faqshop.com/configmgr2007/desplan/dsitesystems/what%20are%20configmgr%20site%20system%20roles.htm>, contributed by Cliff Hobbs, a ConfigMgr MVP.
- ▶ Garth Jones, a ConfigMgr MVP, provides updates us on System Center Configuration Manager in his interview at <http://www.runasradio.com/default.aspx?showNum=54>.
- ▶ Thinking about hardware configurations for your site servers? <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=28617> provides a description of the most widely used RAID configurations and part of the Windows Server 2003 Deployment Kit.
- ▶ Microsoft has published a white paper on ConfigMgr 2007 sample configurations and performance-related questions, available at <http://download.microsoft.com/download/4/b/9/4b97e9b7-7056-41ae-8fc8-dd87bc477b54/Sample%20Configurations%20and%20Common%20Performance%20Related%20Questions.pdf>.
- ▶ You may also want to view Microsoft's best practices for central and primary site hardware and software configuration, available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb932180.aspx>.
- ▶ For information on configuring Windows Server 2008 for site system roles, check the article at [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc431377\(TechNet.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc431377(TechNet.10).aspx).
- ▶ Information regarding configuring site systems to use NLB clustering is found at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb633031.aspx>.

- ▶ <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb680733.aspx> lists the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificate requirements for native mode, and <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb632727.aspx> provides a detailed check list for migrating a site to native mode.
- ▶ Configuring Out of Band Management is discussed at [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc161822\(TechNet.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc161822(TechNet.10).aspx).
- ▶ If you want to check your knowledge of ConfigMgr dependencies and requirements for key ConfigMgr 2007 components, Microsoft has compiled a number of quizzes to help raise your level of awareness of some of the “nuances” of the product. Download the quizzes at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=b9fb478a-ec98-47f2-b31e-57443a8ae88f&DisplayLang=en> (or go to <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads> and search for **configuration manager quiz**).
- ▶ After taking the ConfigMgr quiz, are you looking for training?

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb694263.aspx> contains links to documents to help you get started with ConfigMgr.

The syllabus for the Microsoft-developed course “Planning, Deploying and Managing Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager 2007” (course 6451A) is located at <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/syllabi/6451a.aspx>.

A great ConfigMgr trainer who teaches 6451A is Michael Head. His current course schedule is located at <http://www.HeadSmartGroup.com/>.

Infront Consulting Group offers a 5-day course on Operating System Deployment (OSD); check the syllabus at <http://www.infrontconsulting.com/docs/SCCM2007OSD.pdf>. Infront is also developing a 3-day course on Desired Configuration Management (DCM); check <http://www.infrontconsulting.com/training.php> for status. <http://www.infrontconsulting.com/training.php> also lists the current training schedule.

- ▶ As the world moves towards 64 bit, the ConfigMgr client remains a 32-bit client. Cliff Hobbs has a nice write-up of the issues this creates when trying to monitor with OpsMgr at http://wmug.co.uk/blogs/cliffs_blog/archive/2009/02/14/configmgr-monitoring-configmgr-2007-with-operations-manager-2007-in-a-64-bit-environment.aspx. A Service Pack (SP) 1 hotfix is planned to address this, along with an updated ConfigMgr management pack for Operations Manager 2007 R2. In addition, ConfigMgr 2007 SP 2 will come with native 64-bit performance counters.
- ▶ Garth Jones, a ConfigMgr MVP, posts articles at <http://www.myitforum.com/contrib/default.asp?cid=116>. He also is affiliated with the SMS User Group in Canada—those blogs are at <http://smsug.ca/blogs/>.
- ▶ Configuring a software update point with NLB is nicely documented at <http://blogs.msdn.com/shitanshu/archive/2008/05/13/how-to-setup-wsus-sup-role-in-nlb-in-sccm.aspx>.

- ▶ <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc779036.aspx> discusses Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) filtering using GPMC.
- ▶ WMI documentation is available at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa394582.aspx>.
- ▶ [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa394564\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa394564(VS.85).aspx) discusses WMI logging.
- ▶ See [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa826699\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa826699(VS.85).aspx) for a discussion of User Account Control and WMI.
- ▶ Command-line tools to manage WMI can be downloaded at [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa827351\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa827351(VS.85).aspx).
- ▶ The WMI Diagnosis utility (WMIDiag) is available at the Microsoft download site, <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=d7ba3cd6-18d1-4d05-b11e-4c64192ae97d&displaylang=en>.
- ▶ The WMI Administrative Tools are downloadable at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=6430f853-1120-48db-8cc5-f2abdc3ed314&DisplayLang=en>.
- ▶ CIM is the Component Information Model that WMI is based on. To learn more about CIM, use the tutorial located at <http://www.wbemsolutions.com/tutorials/CIM/index.html>. The full CIM specification can be found at http://www.dmtf.org/standards/cim/cim_spec_v22.
- ▶ Trying to understand licensing? Microsoft discusses current ConfigMgr licensing at <http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/configurationmanager/en/us/pricing-licensing.aspx>.

Operating System Environment (OSE) licensing information is located at <http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/configurationmanager/en/us/pricing-licensing.aspx>.

General licensing information is at <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/default.aspx>.

- ▶ To update your ConfigMgr help files to the latest version, download the Configuration Manager 2007 Help File Update Wizard from <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=71816b0f-de06-40e0-bce7-ad4b1e4377bb&displaylang=en>. Information on this is also available at <http://blogs.technet.com/configmgrteam/archive/2009/02/03/need-the-latest-configuration-manager-2007-help-file.aspx>.
- ▶ Microsoft's TechNet reference on security best practices and privacy information for ConfigMgr features is located at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb632704.aspx>.
- ▶ To download the ConfigMgr SDK, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=064A995F-EF13-4200-81AD-E3AF6218EDCC&displaylang=en>.

- ▶ Create custom reports using ConfigMgr 2007 SQL Views. Microsoft documentation is downloadable at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=87BBE64E-5439-4FC8-BECC-DEB372A40F4A&displaylang=en>.
- ▶ For information regarding WMI Query Language (WQL), see [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa394606\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa394606(VS.85).aspx).
- ▶ For a discussion of User Account Control and WMI, see [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa826699\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa826699(VS.85).aspx).
- ▶ Command-line tools for managing WMI are available for download at [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa827351\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa827351(VS.85).aspx).
- ▶ A nice tool provided by Microsoft to search TechNet, the Knowledge Base, and TechNet Blogs for troubleshooting information related to Configuration Manager is available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-gb/configmgr/bb625748.aspx>.
- ▶ Microsoft provides preplanning worksheets for Configuration Manager to help you gather information about your environment, available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb694080.aspx>.
- ▶ Microsoft also provides planning worksheets, which you can download at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb694186.aspx>.
- ▶ A useful flowchart describing the major activities for a side-by-side migration to ConfigMgr 2007 is available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb681052.aspx>.
- ▶ Microsoft documents prerequisites for installing Configuration Manager 2007 at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb694113.aspx>, and <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb680951.aspx> discusses the specific checks made by the prerequisite checker.
- ▶ For starting the prerequisite checker from the command line, <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb681060.aspx> documents the specific arguments you can use.
- ▶ <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb693561.aspx> provides an overview of running a ConfigMgr 2007 unattended setup.
- ▶ <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb680980.aspx> discusses client installation properties, including the different switches you can specify.
- ▶ Information on the Transfer Site Settings Wizard is located at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb632809.aspx>.
- ▶ Information regarding extending hardware inventory is available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb680609.aspx>.
- ▶ For information about package definition files, Microsoft provides documentation at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb693959.aspx>.

- ▶ A great article by Raymond Chou, an Operations Manager (OpsMgr) MVP, on integrating App-V with the R2 release of ConfigMgr 2007 is located at <http://mymomexperience.blogspot.com/2008/05/marrying-sccm-r2-and-softgrid-45.html>.
- ▶ For information on converting WQL to SQL, Brian Leary has a nice article at <http://www.myitforum.com/articles/8/view.asp?id=9908>.
- ▶ Here are several links for information on Asset Intelligence:
 - ▶ **Microsoft's Asset Intelligence data sheet**—<http://download.microsoft.com/download/5/9/8/598662ce-61db-474f-80a5-7b1dafc31843/Configuration%20Manager%20Asset%20Intelligence%20Datasheet.pdf>.
 - ▶ **Comparison between Asset Intelligence in ConfigMgr 2007 and the SMS 2003 version (in particular more control over assets and licensing)**—http://searchwindowserver.techtarget.com/tip/0,289483,sid68_gci1301339,00.html.
 - ▶ **ConfigMgr 2007 Asset Intelligence white paper**—<http://download.microsoft.com/download/d/0/f/d0f027ac-501c-415a-ba28-85c051d57da4/ConfigMgr%20Asset%20Intelligence%20Whitepaper%20FINAL%20v4.pdf>.
- ▶ Deployment scenarios for IBCM (Internet-based client management) are discussed at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb693824.aspx>.
- ▶ Prerequisites for IBCM are located at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb633122.aspx>.
- ▶ The communication protocols and ports used by Configuration Manager 2007 are described at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb632618.aspx>.
- ▶ Information online regarding ports for Network Access Protection in Configuration Manager 2007 is located at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb694170.aspx>.
- ▶ Microsoft's white paper on using Configuration Manager with mobile devices is located at <http://download.microsoft.com/download/5/5/6/556544f5-b09e-4818-953d-087e08a8303a/Mobile%20Device%20Whitepaper.pdf>.
- ▶ See <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb632442.aspx> for the full list of task sequence action and built-in variables.

Blogs

This section lists some of the more interesting blogs available related to Configuration Manager. It is not intended to be a complete list; blogs come and go, and new blogs seem to spring up overnight!

- ▶ The Configuration Manager Team blog is located at <http://blogs.technet.com/configmgrteam/>.
- ▶ Carlos Santiago, a Premier Field Engineer at Microsoft, has a blog at <http://blogs.technet.com/carlossantiago>.
- ▶ Garth Jones, ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/gjones/>.
- ▶ Don Hite's blog is at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/dhite/>.
- ▶ See <http://configmgr.com/> by Anthony Clendenen, a ConfigMgr MVP. He also has a myITforum blog at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/socal/default.aspx>.
- ▶ Sherry Kissinger, ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/skissinger/>.
- ▶ The Microsoft IT (MSIT) blog on ConfigMgr 2007 is located at <http://blogs.technet.com/configmgr/>.
- ▶ Paul Thomsen, senior SMS/ConfigMgr engineer at Microsoft, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/pthomsen/>.
- ▶ Rick Jones blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/rjones/>.
- ▶ You can find Ronni Pedersen's blog at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/rpedersen/>. Ronni is a ConfigMgr MVP.
- ▶ Scott Moss's blog is at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/smoss/>.
- ▶ Chris Mosby, ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/cmossby/>.
- ▶ Andrius Kozeniauskas maintains a blog on ConfigMgr and SMS 2003 at <http://andrius.kozeniauskas.com/blog/category/microsoft/scmsms2003/>.
- ▶ Kerrie Meyler, lead author for *System Center Configuration 2007 Manager Unleashed*, maintains a blog at www.networkworld.com/community/meyler.
- ▶ Greg Ramsey, one of our coauthors and a ConfigMgr MVP, has a blog at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/gramsey/>.
- ▶ Contributor Cameron Fuller blogs at <http://cameronfuller.spaces.live.com>.
- ▶ A blog by contributor Jason Sandys can be found at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/jsandys/>.
- ▶ Contributor Jannes Alink has his blog at www.jannesalink.com.
- ▶ Steve Rachui is a CSS guru on ConfigMgr and our technical reviewer. Check out his blog at <http://blogs.msdn.com/steverac/>.
- ▶ This book's blog is located at <http://configmgr.spaces.live.com/>.
- ▶ <http://blogs.msdn.com/shitanshu/> is a blog by Shitanshu Verma, ConfigMgr Production Manager at Microsoft.
- ▶ <http://www.msfaq.se/> is Stefan Schörling's blog on Microsoft System Management.

- ▶ <http://www.feedghost.com/UserArea/LinkBlog/Htm.aspx?id=63> provides links to articles on Configuration Manager.
- ▶ Kim Oppalfens, MVP, blogs about Configuration Manager at http://blogcastrepository.com/blogs/kim_oppalfenss_systems_management_ideas/.
- ▶ <http://desktopcontrol.blogspot.com/> is a blog by Ment van der Plas on desktop control.
- ▶ <http://www.blogcatalog.com/blogs/don-hite/posts/tag/configmgr%202007/> is a collection of postings by Don Hite.
- ▶ Jeff Gilbert's ConfigMgr blog is located at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/jgilbert/>.
- ▶ Cliff Hobbs, ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/chobbs/> and http://wmug.co.uk/blogs/cliffs_blog/default.aspx.
- ▶ <http://blogs.technet.com/configurationmgr/> is the Configuration Manager Support Team blog.
- ▶ Kevin Sullivan's Management blog is located at https://blogs.technet.com/kevinsul_blog/. Kevin is a Technology Specialist at Microsoft focusing on management products.
- ▶ <http://www.mcalynn.com> is a blog by Duncan McAlynn that includes articles on Configuration Manager, SMS, and OpsMgr.
Duncan now concentrates his blogging activity at systemcenterguide.com. He has transferred the articles from [mcalynn.com](http://www.mcalynn.com) to www.systemcenterguide.com.
- ▶ <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/jnelson/> is maintained by John Nelson, a ConfigMgr MVP.
- ▶ Rob Marshall, another ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at wmug.co.uk. His blog is located at <http://wmug.co.uk/blogs/r0b/default.aspx>.
- ▶ John Marcum, ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/jmarcum/>.
- ▶ <http://blogcastrepository.com/level5/sccm/default.aspx> is maintained by Brian S. Tucker, a ConfigMgr trainer.
- ▶ Steve Thompson, ConfigMgr MVP, blogs at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/sthompson/>.
- ▶ Always interesting to look at is the PSS Manageability Official Blog at <http://blogs.technet.com/pssmanageability/default.aspx>.

The System Center Family

Here are some references and articles regarding other components of Microsoft's System Center family:

- ▶ System Center Essentials combines the functionality of ConfigMgr and OpsMgr in a product designed for use by smaller organizations. For information on deployment planning and installation, see <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=94444>.
 - ▶ Here are some blogs on System Center Essentials (Essentials):
 - Simplifying IT Management**—<http://blogs.technet.com/caseymck/>
 - Managed Services blog**—<http://blogs.technet.com/dustinj/>
 - The System Center Essentials Team Blog (by the product group)**—<http://blogs.technet.com/systemcenteressentials/>
 - SCE Setup, Policy, and Reporting**—<http://blogs.technet.com/rtammanna/>
 - ▶ System Center Essentials Techcenter is located at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sce/bb677155.aspx>.
 - ▶ Can't talk about Essentials (or ConfigMgr 2007 for that matter) without thinking about WSUS? See the WSUS 3.0 blog at <http://msmvps.com/blogs/athif/>.
 - ▶ Introducing System Center's Service Manager at <http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/en/us/service-manager.aspx> (in beta when this appendix was written). Service Manager is envisioned as an integration point for service management workflows across ConfigMgr and OpsMgr.
- Earlier articles (the product was initially code-named "Service Desk") include the following:
- http://searchwinit.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid1_gci1184995,00.html
 - <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1954020,00.asp?kc=EWRSS03119TX1K000594>
- ▶ You can find Microsoft's information on Operations Manager at <http://www.microsoft.com/opsmgr>, with the TechCenter located at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/opsmgr/default.aspx>.

Public Forums

If you need an answer to a question, the first place to check is the Microsoft public forums. It is best to see if the question has already been posted before you ask it yourself!

A list of available TechNet forums is maintained at <http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums>. The ConfigMgr forums (in English) are listed here:

- ▶ Configuration Manager – General (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrgeneral/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Announcements (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrannouncements/threads/>)

- ▶ Configuration Manager – Admin Console (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgradminconsole/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Asset Intelligence (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrai/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Backup and Recovery (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrbackup/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Desired Configuration Management (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrdcm/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Documentation (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrdocs/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Internet Clients and Native Mode (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrbcm/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Inventory (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrisd/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Operating System Deployment (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrisd/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – SDK (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrsdk/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Setup/Deployment (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrsetup/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Software Distribution (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrswdist/threads/>)
- ▶ Configuration Manager – Software Updates Management (<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/forums/en-US/configmgrsum/threads/>)
- ▶ myITforum also has a discussion list for Configuration Manager at [http://www.myitforum.com/lists/#Microsoft_Systems_Management_Server_\(SMS\)_List](http://www.myitforum.com/lists/#Microsoft_Systems_Management_Server_(SMS)_List). myITforum has a number of other discussion lists as well.

Free Utilities

Everyone likes “free stuff.” Here’s where you can find some:

- ▶ Right Click tools for the ConfigMgr console can be found at <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/rhouchins/archive/2008/04/09/sccm-right-click-tools.aspx>.
- ▶ Matthew Hudson, a ConfigMgr MVP, posts ConfigMgr tools at <http://www.sccm-tools.com/>.

- ▶ The Sysinternal PsTools allow you to perform tasks easily on remote systems. They are available for download at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896649.aspx> and are discussed in the March 2007 issue of *TechNet* magazine, available online at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/cc162490.aspx>.
- ▶ A number of other tools are available at the Sysinternals area of Microsoft.com (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/default.aspx>). This includes utilities such as Registry Monitor (RegMon) and Process Monitor (ProcMon). (An in-depth, on-demand TechNet webcast discussing advanced Windows troubleshooting with Process Monitor is available at <http://www.microsoft.com/emea/spotlight/sessionh.aspx?videoid=346>.)
- ▶ Another link providing information on Process Monitor and a link to download the tool can be found at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896645.aspx>.
- ▶ Microsoft provides an extensive array of tools and add-ins for Visio through the Visio Toolbox site, <http://visiotoolbox.com>. This includes a System Center add-in at <http://visiotoolbox.com/en-us/articles1.aspx?ArticleId=6&aid=104>.
- ▶ Ron Crumbaker's Web Remote Console 3.21 can be found at <http://www.myitforum.com/articles/19/view.asp?id=8662> for SMS 2003.
For updates for ConfigMgr 2007, see <http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/rcrumbaker/archive/2007/10/12/web-remote-tools-and-system-center-configuration-manager.aspx>.
- ▶ Roger Zander's stuff, specifically SMS Client Center, can be found at these locations:
<http://www.myitforum.com/articles/8/view.asp?id=11268>
<http://sourceforge.net/users/rzander/>
<http://myitforum.com/cs2/blogs/rzander/>
- ▶ Don't forget to take advantage of SMSMap, which will help you generate drawings of your sites and site servers. You can download SMSMap at <http://www.tondtware.com/downloads.html>.
Further information about the utility is available at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/cc137998.aspx> and <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/technetmag/issues/2007/07/>.
- ▶ The System Center Content Search Gadget allows you to easily search for System Center information. The gadget uses Live Search macros to search specific sites instead of the entire Internet. You can download this utility at <http://gallery.live.com/LiveItemDetail.aspx?li=49e26ad0-113d-4f3d-a711-57f6530c75d9>.
- ▶ <http://www.instantapp.net/> provides a number of applications that are prepackaged and available as App-V-enabled applications.

Other Utilities

A number of third-party utilities address specific issues in ConfigMgr. Here is a partial list:

- ▶ www.1e.com
- ▶ www.dudeworks.com
- ▶ www.enhansoft.com
- ▶ www.sccmexpert.com
- ▶ www.systemcentertools.com
- ▶ www.silect.com