Reference URLs

This appendix includes many reference URLs associated with System Center 2012 Orchestrator. URLs do change—although the authors have made every effort to verify that the references here are working links, there is no guarantee that they will remain current.

General Resources

A number of websites provide excellent resources for Orchestrator:

▶ Installing this System Center component is covered in Chapter 5, "Installing System Center 2012 Orchestrator." John Savill discusses how the upgrade from Orchestrator 2012 to Service Pack (SP) 1 works at http://windowsitpro.com/system-center-2012/q-how-do-i-upgrade-system-center-orchestrator-2012-system-center-orchestrator-201. Kevin Greene also goes through the steps at http://kevingreeneitblog.blogspot.com/2013/01/system-center-2012-orchestrator-scorch.html.

▶ CodePlex offers community software for Orchestrator, including sample workflows, objects, and code, at http://orchestrator.codeplex.com/.

▶ To see a complete listing of community-developed Orchestrator IPs, visit www.codeplex.com/site/search?query=orchestrator&ac=8.

▶ The Orchestrator Health Checker is available at https://scorch.codeplex.com/releases/view/99063. This enables you to monitor the Orchestrator environment as a whole.

▶ See the "Orchestrator Survival Guide" at Microsoft's TechNet Wiki, http://social. technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/11414.system-center-2012-orchestrator-survival-guide.aspx.

▶ https://scorch.codeplex.com/ is the home of the community project for Orchestrator integration packs (IPs) and utilities.

▶ The System Center Central Orchestrator forum is at www.systemcentercentral.com/ forums-archive/forums/orchestrator/.

▶ System Center Central also maintains an integration pack catalog, available at www.systemcentercentral.com/pack-catalog-categories/orchestrator-ip-catalog-pack-catalog/.

▶ To Bing for Orchestrator-related information, try www.bing.com/search?q= Orchestrator.

Microsoft's Orchestrator Resources

The following list includes some general Microsoft resources available for System Center 2012 Orchestrator:

▶ A general guide to Orchestrator-related resources is available at http://blogs.technet. com/b/scorch/p/orchestrator_resources.aspx.

▶ What's new in Service Pack 1? See http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ jj614522.aspx.

▶ To learn what's new for Orchestrator in System Center 2012 R2, see http://technet. microsoft.com/library/dn251064.aspx.

▶ Download the System Center 2012 R2 Orchestrator add-ons and extensions at http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=39622.

▶ The TechNet Gallery includes the latest community content for Orchestrator— see http://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/site/search?f%5B0%5D.Type= RootCategory&f%5B0%5D.Value=SystemCenter&f%5B0%5D.Text= System%20Center&f%5B1%5D.Type=SubCategory&f%5B1%5D.Value= OpalisIntegrationPacks&f%5B1%5D.Text=Orchestrator&sortBy=Date.

System Center content is at http://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/site/ search?f% 5B0%5D.Type=RootCategory&f%5B0%5D.Value= SystemCenter&f%5B0%5D.Text=System%20Center&sortBy=Date.

▶ For an overview of Orchestrator 2012, see the Channel 9 recording from TechEd 2011 at http://channel9.msdn.com/Events/TechEd/NorthAmerica/2011/SIM207.

▶ Learn Orchestrator best practices from an MMS 2013 presentation at http://channel9.msdn.com/Events/MMS/2013/SD-B318.

▶ The System Center Orchestrator Engineering blog is at http://blogs.technet.com/b/ orchestrator/.

▶ The System Center Team blog is located at http://blogs.technet.com/b/systemcenter/.

▶ Documentation on Orchestrator 2012 is available at http://technet.microsoft.com/
en-us/library/hh237242.aspx. A downloadable version is at www.microsoft.com/
en-us/download/details.aspx?id=29258.

▶ Orchestrator 2012 release notes are at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
jj899860.aspx.

▶ Microsoft's TechNet jumping-off page for deploying Orchestrator is http://technet.
microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh420337.aspx.

▶ A guide to Orchestrator resources is at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
hh420360.aspx.

▶ Learn about Orchestrator's capabilities at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
hh420338.aspx.

▶ Orchestrator architecture is discussed at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
hh420377.aspx.

▶ Information regarding runbook server deployments is available at http://technet.
microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh420386.aspx.

▶ Information about runbook designer deployments is located at http://technet.
microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh420343.aspx.

▶ Download the Orchestrator Integration Toolkit from www.microsoft.com/en-us/
download/details.aspx?id=34611.

▶ Read about Orchestrator security roles at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
hh912320.aspx.

▶ Orchestrator service accounts are discussed at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/
library/hh912319.aspx.

▶ Microsoft's list of integration packs is at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
hh295851.aspx.

▶ Microsoft provides documentation for the System Center 2012 IPs at TechNet.
http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh830706.aspx contains links to docu-
mentation for the various IPs:

 ▶ **Configuration Manager:** http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
 hh967537.aspx

 ▶ **Data Protection Manager:** http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
 hh830726.aspx

 ▶ **Operations Manager:** http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh830690.
 aspx

 ▶ **Service Manager:** http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh832008.aspx

 ▶ **Virtual Machine Manager:** http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/
 hh830700.aspx

▶ Download the System Center 2012 IPs from www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=34611.

▶ Read about best practices surrounding Orchestrator architecture and runbook deployment at http://blogs.technet.com/b/privatecloud/archive/2013/05/16/automation-orchestrator-architecture-and-runbook-deployment-process.aspx.

   You might also want to check http://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Orchestrator-Architecture-aead2e5b.

▶ Charles Joy's YouTube videos are at www.youtube.com/user/charlesjoyMS.

▶ Information regarding the ASPT tool is available at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh420378.aspx.

▶ To change the Orchestrator Users group after installation, use the PermissionsConfig tool. For information regarding this tool and examples, see http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh463588.aspx.

▶ XML Notepad 2007 is an intuitive tool for browsing and editing XML documents. Read about it at http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa905339.aspx, and download the tool from www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=72d6aa49-787d-4118-ba5f-4f30fe913628&displaylang=en.

▶ Interested in learning more about the Microsoft Operations Framework? Check out version 4.0 of the MOF at http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=50015 and www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=17647.

Additional Resources

▶ The Orchestrator TechNet community forum is at http://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/category/systemcenterorchestrator.

▶ The Building Clouds blog is at http://blogs.technet.com/b/privatecloud/.

▶ For an overview of System Center Orchestrator 2012, see http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/video/system-center-orchestrator-2012-an-overview.aspx.

▶ *Windows IT Pro* discusses how Orchestrator can help you automate day-to-day-tasks. See the article by Orin Thomas at http://windowsitpro.com/system-center-2012/understanding-system-center-orchestrator-2012.

▶ Watch a video by Andrew Fryer on getting started with Orchestrator 2012 to manage virtual machines at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlQGzN-unQI.

▶ Kevin Holman provides a quickstart deployment guide for Orchestrator at http://blogs.technet.com/b/kevinholman/archive/2011/11/14/orchestrator-2012-quickstart-deployment-guide.aspx.

▶ Common activity properties are documented at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh228165.aspx.

▶ For a list of tasks you can accomplish when using monitoring activities, see http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh225052.aspx.

▶ Read about using the Windows Firewall with Orchestrator at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh912321.aspx.

▶ Information on the Orchestrator web service can be found at http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh921667.aspx.

▶ Read how to configure the Orchestrator web service to use HTTPS at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh529160.aspx. Guidance on requesting and installing a certificate is at http://support.microsoft.com/kb/299875.

▶ See http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh921685.aspx for information on starting a runbook using the Orchestrator web service. Stopping a job is documented at http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh921668.aspx.

▶ Read about auditing at http://contoso.se/blog/?p=2980.

▶ You can modify migrated Opalis policies to run in Orchestrator. http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh420340.aspx explains how.

▶ Joe Levy provides an example of a runbook that can patch runbook servers while maintaining high availability at http://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Patch-Orchestrator-Runbook-8f5beba7.

▶ Marcus Klein discusses Exchange automation using Orchestrator 2012 at http://www.msexchange.org/articles-tutorials/exchange-server-2010/management-administration/exchange-automation-using-orchestrator-2012.html.

▶ Download the PowerShell Script Execution 1.1 integration pack from CodePlex at http://orchestrator.codeplex.com/releases/view/76101.

▶ Coauthor Anders Bengtsson of Microsoft has written a runbook validator package discussed in Chapter 10, "Runbook and Configuration Best Practices." You can download this package from http://contoso.se/blog/?p=3573.

▶ Download runbook examples for each of the System Center 2012 components at http://orchestrator.codeplex.com/releases/view/86195 (at the time of writing, these examples have not been updated for SP 1).

▶ Download Orchestrator web service PowerShell cmdlets at https://scorch.codeplex.com/releases/view/107858. These support invoking runbooks with input parameters that include special characters and have built-in help. Thanks to Ryan Andorfer for making these available.

▶ Read how to deploy a service from a template with VMM and Orchestrator at www.systemcentercentral.com/orchestrator-by-example-deploying-a-service-from-template-with-vmm-and-orchestrator.

▶ To scale out a machine tier with VMM and Orchestrator, see www.systemcentercentral.com/orchestrator-by-example-scaling-out-a-machine-tier-in-a-service-and-orchestrator/.

▶ To scale in a machine tier with VMM and Orchestrator, see http://www.
systemcentercentral.com/orchestrator-by-example-scaling-in-a-machine-tier-in-a-
vmm-service-with-orchestrator/.

▶ For information on performing in-place updates for services in VMM and
Orchestrator, see www.systemcentercentral.com/orchestrator-by-example-
performing-in-place-updates-for-services-in-system-center-2012-vmm-sp1-and-
orchestrator/.

▶ For information on building a Wait activity, see http://contoso.se/blog/?p=2802.

▶ Download the SCOM Extensibility Kit 2.0 from CodePlex at http://opalis.codeplex.
com/releases/view/50751.

At the time of completing this book, the release available on CodePlex will not func-
tion in Orchestrator without first updating the source code using the PowerShell
script referenced in "Migrating QIK API Custom Activities" at http://orchestrator.
codeplex.com/wikipage?title=Migrating%20QIK%20API%20Custom%20Activities.

▶ A Microsoft Virtual Academy course discussing how to use Orchestrator with Service
Manager to deploy, automate, update, and manage service offerings within your
private cloud is available at www.microsoftvirtualacademy.com/training-courses/
system-center-2012-orchestrator-service-manager.

▶ Want a jumpstart on Orchestrator? See Pete Zerger's posting at www.systemcenter-
central.com/orchestrator-2012-jumpstart-day-1-runbook-concepts-components-and-
databus-rules/.

▶ Orchestrator Mobile is a Windows Phone app that enables you to connect to
and control your Orchestrator 2012 system, with the functional capability of the
Orchestration console. For information, see http://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/
Orchestrator-Mobile-System-81ed45d9.

▶ Oskar Landman, System Center Cloud and Data Center Management MVP, has
written an IP that extends the capabilities of the existing Service Manager 2012 and
Operations Manager 2012 IPs. Download the IP from http://gallery.technet.
microsoft.com/Orchestrator-System-Center-0371cf45.

Blogs

This section lists some blogs the authors have used. Some are more active than others are,
and new blogs seem to spring up overnight:

▶ A great source of information is System Center Central (www.systemcentercentral.
com), managed by MVPs Pete Zerger, Rory McCaw, and Maarten Goet.

▶ If you're interested in keeping up with VMM, the VMM team has a blog at
http://blogs.technet.com/scvmm/.

▶ Anders Bengtsson, former System Center MVP and now a Microsoft PFE, blogs on Orchestrator at http://contoso.se/blog/.

▶ The SCORCH Dev blog is at http://opalis.wordpress.com/

▶ http://systemscentre.blogspot.com/ is a blog by Steve Beaumont.

▶ http://itservicemngmt.blogspot.com/ is a blog that discusses basic ITSM knowledge points for people new to in ITIL.

▶ Kevin Sullivan's management blog is at https://blogs.technet.com/kevinsul_blog/. (Kevin is a Technology Specialist at Microsoft who focuses on management products.)

▶ www.systemcenterguide.com is a System Center blog by Duncan McAlynn.

▶ Ian Blyth, previously a Lead Technical Specialist in Microsoft U.K., blogs at http://ianblythmanagement.wordpress.com/ on System Center technologies.

▶ www.networkworld.com/community/meyler is a blog by Kerrie Meyler with general discussion topics, concentrating on Microsoft management.

System Center 2012 Resources

This section details some references and articles regarding Microsoft's System Center 2012:

▶ For an overview of System Center, see www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/system-center/default.aspx.

▶ The System Center 2012 Cloud and Datacenter Management page is at www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/system-center/datacenter-management.aspx.

▶ Key benefits of System Center 2012 Configuration Manager are discussed at www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/system-center/configuration-manager-2012.aspx.

▶ The TechNet Library for System Center 2012 is located at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh546785.aspx.

▶ The TechNet Manageability Center contains links to resources and TechNet magazine articles at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/manageability/default.aspx.

▶ Virtual labs for System Center components, including Orchestrator, Operations Manager, Configuration Manager, Service Manager, and Virtual Machine Manager, are at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/bb539977.aspx.

▶ Read about System Center 2012 R2, announced at TechEd NA 2012, at www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/system-center/system-center-2012-r2.aspx. You might also want to look at http://cloudcomputing.info/en/news/2013/06/microsoft-announces-windows-server-2012-r2-system-center-2012-r2-and-windows-azure-pack.html.