IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 is now available for ordering through System x ordering systems

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At a glance

IBM SmartCloud™ Provisioning V2.1, available through the System x® ordering system, brings technologies from IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V1.2 and IBM® Workload Deployer V3.1 together and:

- Provides extensible platform as a service capabilities
- Delivers scalable and elastic cloud application and middleware deployments
- Offers production-ready infrastructure as a service capabilities

Overview

You can now order IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 through the System x ordering systems. Current ordering information and processes for IBM SmartCloud Provisioning remain unchanged.

If you purchased IBM SmartCloud Provisioning through the System x ordering systems, you can now select IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 after registration of your software subscription and support entitlement.

If you are currently a SmartCloud Provisioning customer and have valid subscription and support contracts, you can obtain IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 through Passport Advantage®.

More organizations are turning to cloud computing, an approach that can help improve IT service delivery and increase utilization of resources while helping to reduce operating expenses.

IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 is a low-touch, highly scalable cloud solution that offers rapid deployment, automated administration, fault tolerance, and advanced image lifecycle management across heterogeneous hypervisors. It can also extend the private cloud infrastructure with platform capabilities to deploy scalable and elastic cloud middleware and applications.

With this low-cost solution, IT organizations can implement the specific type of cloud environment they need and start taking immediate advantage of the increased flexibility and performance that cloud computing offers. IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 can help accelerate the delivery of computing resources and, in turn, enable companies to respond faster to market opportunities.

IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 is a cloud-based platform that allows companies to quickly become cloud enabled. It allows for the standardization of IT processes for new levels of operational efficiency, and it serves as a foundation for advanced cloud capabilities that can include end-to-end service management.
IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 can help:

- Increase time-to-value with rapid scalable deployment designed to meet business growth with fast, parallel provisioning of hundreds of virtual machines
- Improve performance with a reliable, nonstop cloud capable of automatically tolerating and recovering from software and hardware failures
- Save IT costs by automating operations and enabling self-service requests
- Reduce complexity through ease of implementation and use, as well as simplified cloud administration
- Control image sprawl, image drift, security vulnerability, and reduce business risk through rich analytics, image versioning, and federated image library features
- Transform the process of creating virtual images and virtual deployment patterns through use of a graphical tool with image construction and composition tools
- Reduce time-to-market through pattern-based design and deployment of business applications in minutes
- Gain visibility into cloud health with rapid deployment of middleware topologies
- Respond to changing business needs with dynamic, policy-based management of elastic and scalable workloads
- Extend infrastructure investments by enabling third-party software deployment and custom pattern creation to "build once" and deploy across private and public clouds
- Increase flexibility and cost savings through expanded hypervisor support for Microsoft™ HyperV, Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM), PowerVM®, VMware, and Xen

Key prerequisites

Refer to the Reference information section.

Planned availability date

- August 21, 2012: Electronic download

Description

IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1 capabilities

Virtual systems

Virtual systems, previously known as topology patterns, are customizable patterns of IBM middleware packaged as Hypervisor Edition images or third-party applications. This style of pattern is used by describing what the middleware looks like in a bottoms up approach.

IBM Workload Plugin Development Kit

IBM Workload Plugin Development Kit contains detailed documentation to create custom plugins to extend virtual application patterns or create whole new patterns. Custom plugins can provide an added layer of flexibility when using third-party software.

IBM WebSphere® Application Server Hypervisor Edition Intelligent Management Pack

The use of WebSphere Application Server Hypervisor Edition Intelligent Management Pack provides support for automated elasticity of environments. When WebSphere Application Server Hypervisor Edition is deployed with Intelligent Management Pack enabled, WebSphere Application Server Hypervisor Edition Intelligent Management Pack can call back to SmartCloud Provisioning and request additional resources to
be made available. This is done using the same dynamic workload management
technology that allows the Intelligent Management Pack to allocate additional Java™
Virtual Machines (JVMs) to an application within a dynamic cluster.

**Relocation of virtual machine workloads**

IBM SmartCloud Provisioning can actuate virtual machine mobility capability (on
hypervisor platforms where it is supported) in order to achieve a more efficient
allocation of resource to workloads.

**Image library**

The image library helps the IT administrator reduce the cost of managing virtual
images in the data center and limit unnecessary proliferation of virtual images. The
image library provides a single point of control of all virtual images in your data
center, providing a single interface where the administrator can:

- List a consolidated inventory of images from an heterogeneous set of image
  stores across multiple data centers
- Store copies of images in a reference repository for safekeeping, versioning, and
  comparison
- Inspect content of images, down to the product or file level
- Perform comparisons among images, for example, to determine drift from
  previous configurations
- Search the inventory for a specific image, based on image content and
  characteristics
- Replicate images between operational repositories using the reference repository
  (accomplished via check-out/check-in function)

**Image Construction and Composition Tool**

Image Construction and Composition Tool transforms the complex and time
consuming process of creating virtual images into a graphical composition of
base elements such as operating systems, software packages, and configuration
parameters. The Image Construction and Composition Tool allows image builders to
build images without requiring in-depth knowledge of operating system or software
installation, and provides the ability to create virtual images, as well as complex
virtual images with large software bundles.

With Image Construction and Composition Tool, the image builder can:

- Create a custom base operating system image with requisite activation
  capabilities
- Automate the installation and configuration of software onto a base image
- Generate virtual images ready to be consumed for different cloud providers and
  deployment technologies
- Deliver Open Virtualization Format (OVF) support, maintain optional OVF
  metadata, provide user interface extension to support OVF and parameter
  presentation to the end user

**Accessibility by people with disabilities**

A US Section 508 Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) containing details
on accessibility compliance can be requested at


**Reference information**

For additional information regarding IBM SmartCloud Provisioning V2.1, refer to
Order handling

To allow for ease of order submission, the offerings in this announcement can be configured in conjunction with IBM System x hardware.

Orders placed for the eligible offerings in this announcement will be routed and fulfilled through Passport Advantage Express®. Invoicing for the initial license orders will occur through the System x order management systems. Subscription and Support renewals will be managed through Passport Advantage®.

Passport Advantage allows you to have a common anniversary date for Software Subscription and Support renewals. The anniversary date, established at the order ship date for the initial product acquisition, will remain unchanged while your Passport Advantage Agreement remains in effect. New software purchases initially include 12 or 36 full months of Subscription and Support coverage. Subscription and Support in the first year of renewal can be prorated to be coterminous with your common anniversary date but managed and invoiced through Passport Advantage®. Thereafter, all Software Subscription and Support will renew at the common anniversary date and include 12 full months of Subscription and Support.

Announcement countries

All European, Middle Eastern, and African countries except:

- Iran
- Sudan
- Syria

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