IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2 allows you to effectively manage System x resources on both physical and virtual systems in a heterogeneous environment

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At a glance

IBM® Systems Director V6.2 has been designed around making a virtualized environment easier to manage. It unifies platform management for IBM Systems, providing a consistent look-and-feel with common and familiar management tasks, which allows many systems to be easily managed together. This addresses the administration and management challenges being introduced by server scale-out. It also integrates IBM's best-of-breed virtualization capabilities to provide new and radically improved ways to simplify the management of physical and virtual platform resources.

IBM Systems Director was developed as a modular and extensible solution to advance the core systems management capabilities with additional plug-ins. This also enables integration of IBM Systems Director into data center management tools from Tivoli® and other third parties. IBM Systems Director V6.2 is designed to improve performance, usability, simplification, data center integration, and scalability.

New features in IBM Systems Director V6.2:

- Improves the performance and scalability of IBM Systems Director in managing large environments
- Extends platform support to discover and manage IPv6-capable devices
- Simplifies the end-to-end installation and update processes
- Improves the usability of the Discovery Manager
- Enables hierarchical management of multiple IBM Systems Director Servers from a single IBM Systems Director Server
- Provides Representational State Transfer (REST) interfaces to help integrate IBM Systems Director functions with other data center management solutions

Overview

IBM Systems Director V6.2 and its plug-ins provide a unified family of platform management offerings with a common toolset for managing physical and virtual resources together -- servers, storage, and networks. IBM Systems Director is designed around a modular, industry standards-based approach that leverages...
existing client investments in IBM platform management offerings and provides seamless integration with IBM Integrated Service Management offerings from Tivoli.

IBM Systems Director, with advanced managers, is designed to help IT personnel be more effective by easily finding and identifying systems on the network, determining if those systems are working properly, and even configuring and deploying new systems.

The family of IBM Systems Director products helps to manage multiple IBM systems as a single entity, which aids in reducing virtualization complexity. This platform management family can help IT personnel address important IT challenges, such as keeping system firmware and drivers current, managing IT energy usage, or improving system availability.

New in IBM Systems Director V6.2:

- Allows more server, storage, and network resources to be managed by a 64-bit IBM Systems Director Server
- Discovers and manages IPv6-capable devices to participate in larger networks
- Enhances the IBM Systems Director installer for IBM Systems Director Server, Common Agent, and Platform Agent to reduce many manual steps that were previously required
- Simplifies the update process for IBM Systems Director components
- Improves usability of Discovery Manager
- Enables hierarchical management of multiple IBM Systems Director Servers and their associated resources from a single IBM Systems Director Server (acting as the global server)
- Provides Representational State Transfer (REST) interfaces to help integrate IBM Systems Director functions with other data center management solutions and Tivoli service management solutions
- Provides the capability to launch some other product from the IBM Systems Director Web Interface

IBM Systems Director helps bring it all together -- designed to manage the physical and virtual infrastructures, improve deployment of resources, and take on many of the more redundant time-consuming management tasks in the data center. IBM Systems Director can help you focus more on how IT can support your business rather than how you support the IT Infrastructure.

**Key prerequisites**

IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2 and updates required for IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2

**Planned availability date**

June 25, 2010

**Description**

IBM Systems Director V6.2 is a platform-management foundation that streamlines the way you manage physical and virtual systems across a heterogeneous environment. By using industry standards, IBM Systems Director supports multiple operating systems and virtualization technologies across all IBM platforms and non-IBM x86 platforms. IBM Systems Director V6.2 is the single-point-of-control for managing data centers. It integrates IBM's best-of-breed virtualization capabilities to provide new and radically improved ways to simplify the management of physical and virtual platform resources.
A key feature of Systems Director is a consistent user interface focused on driving common tasks. IBM Systems Director provides a unified view of the total IT environment, including servers, storage, and network. This allows end-user tasks to be driven with a single tool. IBM Systems Director performs life cycle administration of physical, virtual, storage, and network-based resources in a data center from a single converged Web-based user interface, from a command-line interface, or remotely via the REST interface.

IBM Systems Director V6.2 can reduce the total cost of ownership and decrease management costs by eliminating the need to maintain multiple tools and improving the utilization of existing IT resources. With IBM Systems Director V6.2, you can optimize the utilization of the heterogeneous hardware and systems software in your data center. This includes systems from IBM System x®, IBM Power Systems™, IBM System z®, IBM BladeCenter®, IBM Storage Systems, and select non-IBM servers (x86) -- as well as VMware, PowerVM™, and z/VM® -- and operating systems from Microsoft® Windows® and Linux® on x86 platforms to AIX®, IBM i, Linux on POWER®, and Linux on System z.

The IBM Systems Director V6.2 features deliver a suite of management tasks for end-to-end platform management, including discovery, inventory, configuration, system health/status, resource monitoring, updates, event notification, and automation. IBM Systems Director V6.2 supports new hardware and operating system platforms for discovery, inventory, status, configuration, and updates. This includes adding support for new devices and endpoint types plus enhancements to existing infrastructure support for endpoints.

IBM Systems Director V6.2 offers the following new features and enhancements:

- **Simplifies the overall usability, including discovery, installation, and the update process:**
  - Addition of "Authorize User Group" and "Remove User Group" buttons to the user interface.
  - Simplified discovery through a single interface to more easily discover target systems, exclude systems, and use predefined and user-created discovery profiles.
  - Ability to see the summary status view at all times while managing systems via the Web console, to indicate the number of systems that are having problems and/or out of compliance.
  - Simplification of the update process by providing a single-button updates capability.
  - Full Installer Refresh/Migration from Version 6.1 and new installation images for platform agent, common agent, and management server across the different platforms.
  - Streamlined initial Version 6.2 management server installation with future Version 6.2 patches and updates.
  - Streamlined legacy Launch in Context (LiC) task to the Web browser -- removes all IBM Director 5.x legacy UIs / dependence on "mini-console" infrastructure, and redesigns legacy UIs to match rest of IBM Systems Director Web console.
  - Security improvements -- firewall friendliness and auditing compliance.
  - Ability to put endpoint (MEP) resource in maintenance mode.

- **Enhances the data center integration with Tivoli and other third-party management solutions:**
  - Increased IT and business agility by reducing complexity and increasing robustness and reliability of infrastructure management and seamless linkage into enterprise management solutions via seamless integration of Systems Director into Tivoli.
  - IBM Systems Director Software Development Kit (SDK) update documenting and externalizing the REST interface based on JAX-RS specifications and asynchronous notification framework based on JMS specification.
  - Enhanced integration with Tivoli to better manage and troubleshoot by launching Systems Director product tasks from Tivoli consoles, eliminating the need to switch consoles.
- Enhanced auditing / security components to verify and set up LDAP configuration from the Web interface

- Supports new platform and operating system updates:
  - IBM Systems Director V6.2 components (Management Server, Common Agent, and Platform Agent) can be installed and run on IPv6 platforms and can discover and unlock endpoints using IPv6.
  - Currency and operating system updates are included.

- Provides availability, performance, and scalability enhancements:
  - Improved performance and scalability by leveraging Java™ Persistence Query Language (JPQL) and a Java Persistence API (JPA)-based database infrastructure
  - Increased the performance and scalability for managing large environments with new 64-bit support for the Systems Director management server
  - Ability to change the IP address on the system running the Management Server
  - Remote management of multiple servers via a single global management server using the hierarchical management interface
  - Alert delivery by Common Agent

Previously announced part numbers for IBM Systems Director for x86

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Accessibility by people with disabilities

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


Product positioning

Virtualization has transformed enterprise-class IT. Virtualized solutions unlock technological resources such as processing power and storage from specific hardware, and redelivers them so that you can allocate them in real time to achieve business goals.

New virtualized infrastructures, however, require new management tools. Older tools generally lack the modern feature set and focus required to achieve the highest performance and most flexible response from virtualized solutions. As a result, the overall business value these outdated tools generate is also suboptimal. Furthermore, when different tools are used to manage different virtual technologies, management complexity increases. A superior solution would empower administrators to manage both virtual servers and virtual storage from a single source.

With IBM Systems Director V6.2, the underlying technical differences across different hardware and software virtual solutions can be viewed, allowing administrators to manage the overall virtualized infrastructure as one. Furthermore, through its next-generation feature set, extensible via a plug-in architecture, Systems Director V6.2 can help you accomplish more than ever before.
IBM Systems Director V6.2 helps you achieve the full potential of virtualization: simplified management; faster time-to-solution in the event of a problem; higher return on investment; a tailored fit between features, functions, and the specific needs of your organization; and an accelerated, more flexible response to changing business goals and strategies.

The cost of managing the IT infrastructure has become the largest and fastest-growing component of overall IT spending for many organizations. Virtualization helps address this cost through the consolidation of physical resources. However, it also adds complexity by creating a sharp increase in the number of managed virtual resources. IT professionals are seeking more advanced capabilities and tools for managing both their physical and virtual systems across multiple architectures and environments. IBM Systems Director V6.2 is a significant new release for platform management. It gives IT professionals the tools they need to better coordinate and manage all of their virtual and physical resources in the new enterprise data center.

Systems Director also complements and integrates with higher-level enterprise management software such as Tivoli. Systems Director, a hardware platform management solution, and Tivoli software are complementary and can be used either individually or together to deliver superior end-to-end IT management.

Systems Director's focus is on hardware platform management, health, and configuration to help deliver maximum system availability. It consists of a set of tools that delivers granular hardware management information that can be passed up and integrated into Tivoli products, putting it into an enterprise and business services context. The IBM Tivoli portfolio of products enables a broader set of management capabilities than Systems Director and is more scalable for enterprise-wide operations. Tivoli products also go beyond hardware management and deliver advanced, automated tools for managing software applications, networks, and storage. They demonstrate how IT resources, performance, and usage fit with overall business policies and goals as part of the IBM Service Management initiatives.

**Statement of general direction**

IBM intends to update IBM Systems Director Express® Edition for x86 with updated releases of IBM Systems Director and some of the IBM Systems Director plug-ins.

All statements regarding IBM's future direction and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice, and represent goals and objectives only. Any reliance on these Statements of Direction is at the relying party's sole risk and will not create liability or obligation for IBM.

The information on the new product is intended to outline our general product direction and it should not be relied on in making a purchasing decision. The information on the new product is for informational purposes only and may not be incorporated into any contract. The information on the new product is not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described for our products remains at our sole discretion.

All statements regarding IBM's plans, directions, and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice. Any reliance on these statements of general direction is at the relying party’s sole risk and will not create liability or obligation for IBM.

**Product number**

All features and part numbers have been previously announced and priced.
IBM Systems Director V6.2 Information Center availability

The IBM Systems Director V6.2 Information Center Web site is planned to be updated with information pertinent to IBM Systems Director V6.2 and its associated plug-ins on or before June 25, 2010. The site is located at

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/director/v6r2x/index.jsp

Publications

No licensed hardcopy publications are shipped with this program.

Publications are available in U.S. English versions from the IBM Systems Director Information Center.

The IBM Systems Director Information Center provides you with a single information center where you can access product documentation for IBM systems hardware, operating systems, and server software. Through a consistent framework, you can efficiently find information and personalize your access. The IBM Systems Director Information Center is at

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/director/v6r2x/index.jsp

To find information, you can search, browse the contents, follow links from one topic to related topics, and print the topics you want to read offline.

Services

Global Technology Services

IBM services include business consulting, outsourcing, hosting services, applications, and other technology management.

These services help you learn about, plan, install, manage, or optimize your IT infrastructure to be an On Demand Business. They can help you integrate your high-speed networks, storage systems, application servers, wireless protocols, and an array of platforms, middleware, and communications software for IBM and many non-IBM offerings. IBM is your one-stop shop for IT support needs.

For details on available services, contact your IBM representative or visit

http://www.ibm.com/services/

For details on available IBM Business Continuity and Recovery Services, contact your IBM representative or visit

http://www.ibm.com/services/continuity

For details on education offerings related to specific products, visit


Select your country, and then select the product as the category.
Technical information

Specified operating environment

**Hardware requirements**

For the latest list of systems supported, visit

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/director/v6r2x/topic/com.ibm.director.plan.helps.doc/fqm0_r_hardware_requirements.html

**Software requirements**

**Operating systems supported by IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2**

IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2 provides support for many operating systems. Support varies depending on the selected hardware and IBM Systems Director component. Starting in Version 6.1, IBM Systems Director provides a Web interface for use with IBM Systems Director Server. IBM Director Console is no longer required. However, some tasks in the Web interface require the IBM Systems Director Launched Tasks program. When preparing to install IBM Systems Director, consider the following information.

Unless stated otherwise, IBM Systems Director provides Agentless support for all operating systems listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating system</th>
<th>IBM Systems Director</th>
<th>Common Agent</th>
<th>Platform Agent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windows Server 2003, Enterprise and Standard Editions, Release 2</td>
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<td>Windows Vista, Business, Enterprise and Ultimate Editions</td>
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<thead>
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<th>Operating system</th>
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<tr>
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**Note:** Supported guest operating systems are those that are supported by both IBM Systems Director and the specified version of VMware. See the VMware product documentation for a list of supported operating systems.

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<tr>
<td>Red Hat Enterprise Linux AP, version 5.0 for AMD64 and EM64T (supports updates 1, 2, 3, and 4)</td>
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<td>Red Hat Enterprise Linux, version 5.0 for AMD64 and EM64T (supports updates 1, 2, 3, and 4)</td>
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<td>Red Hat Enterprise Linux Desktop with Workstation version 5.0, for AMD64 and EM64T (supports updates 1, 2, 3, and 4)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Hat Enterprise Linux (all three editions) version 5.0, for AMD64 and EM64T with Xen Kernel (supports updates 1, 2, 3, and 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Compatibility

For detailed information about IBM and non-IBM devices, adapters, software, and network operating systems supported with xSeries® servers, visit

http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/eserver/serverproven/compat/us/

Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or refer to the IBM Sales Manual for information on the compatibility of hardware and software for xSeries servers. The Sales Manual is updated periodically as new features and options are announced that support these servers.

Limitations

Refer to the Software requirements section for operating system limitations.

Planning information

Cable orders

Not applicable.

Packaging

The IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2 package contains one DVD that includes product installation documentation and files.

Your Proof of Entitlement for this program is a copy of a paid sales receipt, purchase order, invoice, or other sales record from IBM or its authorized reseller from whom you acquired the program, provided that it states the license charge unit (the characteristics of intended use of the program; for example, number of processors, number of users) and quantity acquired.

Information about how you may obtain program services will be provided by the party (either IBM or its authorized reseller) from whom you acquired the program.

Systems Director will be available on or before June 25, 2010, for electronic download from


This program, when downloaded from a Web site, contains the applicable IBM license agreement and License Information, if appropriate, which will be presented for acceptance at the time of installation of the program. For future reference, the license and License Information will be stored in a directory such as LICENSE.TXT.

IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2 will be available in the following languages:

- Brazilian Portuguese
- English
- French
- German
Security, auditability, and control

This product uses the security and auditability features of the system in which it is installed.

The customer is responsible for evaluation, selection, and implementation of security features, administrative procedures, and appropriate controls in application systems and communications facilities.

Global Technology Services

Contact your IBM representative for the list of selected services available in your country, either as standard or customized offerings, for the efficient installation, implementation, and/or integration of this product.

IBM Electronic Services

IBM has transformed its delivery of hardware and software support services to help you achieve higher system availability. Electronic Services is a Web-enabled solution that offers an exclusive, no-additional-charge enhancement to the service and support available for IBM servers. These services are designed to provide the opportunity for greater system availability with faster problem resolution and preemptive monitoring. Electronic Services comprises two separate, but complementary, elements: Electronic Services news page and Electronic Services Agent.

The Electronic Services news page is a single Internet entry point that replaces the multiple entry points traditionally used to access IBM Internet services and support. The news page enables you to gain easier access to IBM resources for assistance in resolving technical problems.

The Electronic Service Agent™ is no-additional-charge software that resides on your server. It monitors events and transmits system inventory information to IBM on a periodic, client-defined timetable. The Electronic Service Agent automatically reports hardware problems to IBM. Early knowledge about potential problems enables IBM to deliver proactive service that may result in higher system availability and performance. In addition, information collected through the Service Agent is made available to IBM service support representatives when they help answer your questions or diagnose problems. Installation and use of IBM Electronic Service Agent for problem reporting enables IBM to provide better support and service for your IBM server.

To learn how Electronic Services can work for you, visit

http://www.ibm.com/support/electronic
Terms and conditions

IBM Systems Director for x86, V6.2

This product is available under the terms and conditions of the IBM International Program License Agreement (IPLA). Registration is required in Passport Advantage® Express in order to acquire the product and register for subscription and support entitlement. Proofs of Entitlement (PoE) are required for all authorized use.

IBM Global Financing: Yes

Field-installable features: Yes

Customer setup: Yes

Model conversions: No

Product availability status: New

Licensed programs: Yes

IBM warrants that the program will conform at the date of shipment to the current specifications, provided that the program is properly used in the specified operating environment.

If you believe there is a defect in a program such that it does not meet its specifications, you must notify IBM while program services are available for the program.

Note: IBM programs are licensed under the terms and conditions of the IBM International Program License Agreement. Proofs of Entitlement (PoE) are required for all authorized use.

Features and options only

Field installable: Yes.

Customer setup: Yes.

Support period: Program Services will be available for a minimum of three years. A formal withdrawal will be issued one year prior to end of Program Services.

Optional upgrade: Yes.

Licensed programs: Yes.

Pricing

For all local charges, contact your IBM representative.

All features and part numbers have been previously announced and priced.

Announcement countries

All European, Middle Eastern, and African countries.

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http://www.ibm.com/planetwide/

Corrections

(Corrected on April 26, 2010)
The Description section was revised.