BROCADE MANAGEMENT PACK FOR MICROSOFT SYSTEM CENTER

NETWORK MANAGEMENT

SAN Health Checks Help Microsoft Server Administrators Meet Service Level Agreements

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bridges operational gaps across server, network, and storage administrators, and simplifies management with end-to-end storage network visibility

- Provides visibility into the health of the Storage Area Network (SAN) infrastructure

- Integrates seamlessly with Microsoft System Center Operations Manager (SCOM) and Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM)

- Enables the management of physical and virtual assets in the data center using SCOM

- Empowers SCOM administrators with network bottleneck identification for faster problem resolution to meet Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

- Enables single-pane of glass management from the SCOM console

The Brocade One™ strategy helps simplify networking infrastructures through innovative technologies and solutions. The Brocade Management Pack for Microsoft System Center supports this strategy by extending server administrators' visibility into the health of the SAN.

Brocade® Management Pack for Microsoft System Center integrates Storage Area Network (SAN) management information into Microsoft System Center, extending the server administrator's view beyond the server and into the SAN. It monitors the health and performance of the SAN infrastructure, alerting server administrators to data access issues that can jeopardize the performance of virtualized workloads. Brocade offers the only management pack solution that leverages both Host Bus Adapter (HBA) and switch data to help server administrators manage virtual server workloads.

KEY MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

IT organizations are widely deploying server virtualization to gain the benefits of consolidation: lower costs, reduced space and power requirements, and a more flexible IT infrastructure. Meeting Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in such a dynamic environment requires seamless coordination across many elements, including data, storage, applications, and converged networks.

As Virtual Machines (VMs) and workloads move, all storage, security, and disaster recovery resources need to move with them. At the same time, individual VM profiles need to be created to move with VMs as they migrate across servers.

Performance and complexity are also concerns when managing virtual workloads. More applications can be located on a physical server, which can lead to a decline in I/O performance. Virtual storage applications automatically move data from one storage tier to another, and this dynamic movement can create unexpected bottlenecks, causing network congestion. Provisioning, configuration management, capacity planning, and fault isolation are all more complex in a virtual environment.

BROCADE MANAGEMENT PACK SOLUTIONS

Brocade management pack solutions use open standards-based interfaces to integrate with Microsoft System Center to ensure the reliability and performance levels that organizations need and to enable server administrators to address issues before they impact SLAs.

BROCADE

Brocade SAN Management Pack for SCOM

Brocade brings network expertise to organizations relying on Microsoft System Center Operations Manager (SCOM) for the management of their systems infrastructure. Brocade SAN Management Pack for SCOM is enabled within Brocade Network Advisor to provide seamless integration with SCOM.

Brocade Network Advisor is the industry's first and only unified network management solution for data, storage, application, and converged networks. It manages Brocade Fibre Channel SANs, Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) networks, IP switching and routing, wireless, and Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) networks—providing end-to-end network visibility and comprehensive lifecycle management capabilities across these different network types.

Through the Brocade SAN Management Pack for SCOM plug-in, Brocade Network Advisor populates SCOM with fabric and switch details, statistics, and call-home events. This information enables server administrators to quickly identify whether the SAN is causing poor application performance or other issues, improving coordination across administrative silos and dramatically reducing Mean Time To Resolution (MTTR).

Launched directly within SCOM, Brocade SAN Management Pack for SCOM retrieves call-home events from one or multiple Brocade Network Advisor servers. This proactive notification enables technical support organizations to respond to incidents before they affect service.

Additionally, Brocade SAN Management Pack for SCOM displays and tracks link details of important traffic flows (configured within the fabric as end-to-end monitors). With this information, Brocade Network Advisor helps Microsoft server administrators quickly identify network bottlenecks in the environment, providing a view of performance statistics or Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) errors that could be hampering application performance.

Brocade HBA Management Pack for SCOM and SCVMM

Brocade HBA Management Pack for SCOM and SCVMM monitors the link between the server's HBA and the SAN switch, reviewing HBA link parameters to maximize the performance of virtualized environments. The management pack enables real-time monitoring of Brocade HBA links through SCOM, along with proactive remediation action handled by Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM).

Using the Microsoft Performance and Resource Optimization (PRO) interface, the management pack sets policies that SCVMM can act on automatically or that server administrators can act on manually. During synchronization, SCVMM receives any "warning" or "critical" alerts sent from management pack events, and creates PRO Tips, which are implemented using SCOM. These tips typically recommend moving a VM workload to another physical server. Events that can be monitored include CRC errors, synchronization errors, link initializations, and link resets.

REQUIREMENTS

Brocade SAN Management Pack for SCOM requires Brocade Network Advisor. It is a setting within Brocade Network Advisor that can be enabled to communicate Brocade Network Advisor statistics to SCOM.

Brocade HBA Management Pack for SCOM and SCVMM requires Brocade HBAs on the servers. SCOM and SCVMM must be installed prior to the installation of Brocade HBA Management Pack for SCOM and SCVMM.

BROCADE GLOBAL SERVICES

Brocade Global Services has the expertise to help organizations build scalable, efficient cloud infrastructures. Leveraging 15 years of expertise in storage, networking, and virtualization, Brocade Global Services delivers world-class professional services, technical support, network monitoring services, and education, enabling organizations to maximize their Brocade investments, accelerate new technology deployments, and optimize the performance of networking infrastructures.

CLOUD-OPTIMIZED NETWORK ACQUISITION

Brocade helps organizations easily address their information technology requirements by offering flexible network acquisition and support alternatives to meet their financial needs. Organizations can select from purchase, lease, and Brocade Network Subscription options to align network acquisition with their unique capital requirements and risk profiles.

LEARN MORE

Brocade partners with companies of all sizes to deliver innovative solutions that help organizations maximize the value of their most critical information. To learn more about Brocade validated solutions with Microsoft technologies, visit www.brocade.com/microsoft.

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