

EMC Smarts Solution for Data Center Audits

Delivering essential and trusted audit information for a fraction of the cost of doing it yourself

Those who plan data center consolidation, migration, and disaster-recovery projects face a daunting task. They first must accurately and quickly inventory systems, networks, and applications—which is no small undertaking because data centers are constantly changing, increasingly complex, and widely distributed. Then, to document application dependencies, they need to determine how data center services relate to the underlying infrastructure—specifically, what’s installed where, and which applications use what devices. Finally, they must analyze server and application usage and demand so that they can precisely determine the right candidates for virtualization, consolidation, and migration.

The problem is the tremendous time investment required to get this audit information—on average, manual processes used to gather this data would take thousands of hours. In addition, an unacceptable level of error will creep in to any effort that relies on manual processes. Furthermore, when the planning process includes imperfect data, you can’t guarantee the availability of IT services after completion of the project. Because data center consolidation, migration, and disaster-recovery projects are inherently risky, you need help to minimize that exposure.

What you need is an audit solution that harnesses the power of automation to:

- Gather the necessary information
- Eliminate the significant cost, uncertainty, and risk associated with time-consuming manual processes
- Analyze the impact of changes in the information infrastructure—before any changes are made

With accurate information, you can complete your project with minimal risk and few, if any, unpleasant surprises.

Leveraging the strength of the technology in EMC® Smarts® Application Discovery Manager, the EMC Smarts Solution for Data Center Audits delivers the automated audit solution that you need to:

- Obtain the trusted data you want
- Eliminate error-prone and time-consuming manual processes
- Reduce costs and risk
- Demonstrate rapid return on investment (ROI)
- Plan with confidence, knowing you have the data you need to ensure IT service delivery the moment your project goes live

Addressing the need for critical data

With the EMC Smarts Solution for Data Center Audits, you receive actionable reports loaded with invaluable data detailing the assets, usage, and dependencies related to key servers and IT services in your information infrastructure. Equally important, because both the Basic Data Center Audit and Advanced Data Center Audit versions of the Solution for Data Center Audits use fully automated passive discovery technology, you know the information gathered is correct and error-free. Armed with this essential information that you can trust, you can more easily analyze the impact of changes in the information infrastructure—for example, relocating critical business applications—as well as determine optimal candidates for relocation.

The core solution

Both versions of the EMC Smarts Solution for Data Center Audits include the following core set of actionable reports:

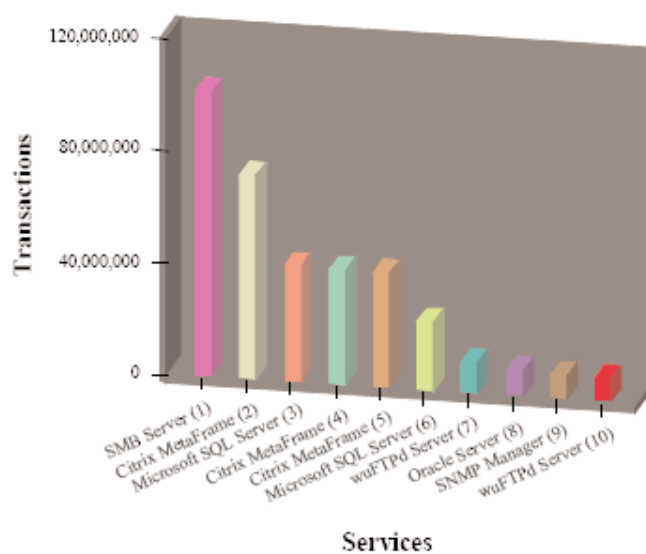
- Inventory reports:
 - Host inventory report
 - Service (application) inventory report
- Analytical reports:
 - Most-used and least-used hosts reports
 - Most-used and least-used services (applications) reports (see Figure 1)
 - Most-used and least-used connections reports

Input Parameters

Group Name	No Filter
Group Type	No Filter
Max Results	10
Service	
From IP	0.0.0.0
To IP	255.255.255.255
From Date	02/27/2005 01:07
To Date	08/05/2006 14:49

Most Active Services

Jun 5, 2006



Rank	Service	Ver	Vendor	Category	Peak Transactions	Total Transactions
1	SMB Server on 192.168.50.152 (filer.itsa1.local)		Microsoft	File System Server	3,803,372	100,911,361
2	Citrix MetaFrame on 10.103.1.234 (ctxgw2.us.nlayers.com)	1.8	Citrix	Remote Desktop Server	2,960,392	72,193,237
3	Microsoft SQL Server on 192.168.50.4 (portal-sql.itsa1.local)	6.5	Microsoft	Database Server	693,654	40,885,079
4	Citrix MetaFrame on 10.103.1.236 (ctxgw3.us.nlayers.com)	1.8	Citrix	Remote Desktop Server	903,037	40,511,591
5	Citrix MetaFrame on 10.103.1.233 (ctxgw1.us.nlayers.com)	1.8	Citrix	Remote Desktop Server	1,768,094	40,370,545
6	Microsoft SQL Server on 192.168.50.102 (websql.itsa1.local)	6.5	Microsoft	Database Server	466,665	24,106,965
7	wuFTPd Server on 192.168.50.53 (portalfr03.itsa1.local)	2.6.2		File Storage Server	1,492,667	10,606,776
8	Oracle Server on 10.103.1.145 (finora002.us.nlayers.com)	9.2.0.1	Oracle	Database Server	124,776	8,630,485
9	SNMP Manager on 192.168.80.5 (client2.nlayers.com)			Network Management	67,391	8,099,423
10	wuFTPd Server on 192.168.50.54 (portalfr04.itsa1.local)	2.6.2		File Storage Server	1,143,587	8,004,895

Figure 1. An example of most-used services report.

They also both include dependency reports:

- Basic Data Center Audit—100 server dependency reports and 100 service dependency reports
- Advanced Data Center Audit—business application dependency reports (up to 40)

In addition, the Advanced Data Center Audit also includes two configuration-related reports about your most critical business applications (including target lists):

- Host configuration breakdown report
- Business application configuration item (CI) information report

Both versions of the Solution for Data Center Audits are professional services engagements—sold on a per-data-center basis—that include use of Application Discovery Manager for the duration of the audit. In addition to the aforementioned report differences, the versions also vary in their length:

- Basic Data Center Audit—usually two weeks:
 - One week of passive discovery
 - One week of report building
- Advanced Data Center Audit—usually five weeks:
 - One week of passive discovery
 - One week of interviews to discover IPs
 - Two weeks of group building and reports
 - One week of active discovery

Significant cost savings and rapid ROI

Based on industry and analyst estimates, a manual solution that delivers the equivalent results of the Basic Data Center Audit on average would require more than 2,300 hours of labor. Similarly, a manual solution that delivers the equivalent results of the Advanced Data Center Audit on average would require more than 4,200 hours of labor (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

	Reports	Manual Processes	Basic Data Center Audit	Time Savings
Passive Discovery	Host Inventory	200		
	Service Inventory	1,500		
	Analytics	Not possible		
Total		1,700	40	1,660
Dependency Reports	100 server dependency reports	300	40	
	100 service dependency reports	300		
Total		600	40	560
Total Hours Required		2,300	80	
Total Hours Saved				2,220

Figure 2. Compared with manual processes, Basic Data Center Audit saves 2,200 hours of labor.

Reports	Manual Processes	Advanced Data Center Audit	Time Savings
Passive Discovery			
Host Inventory	200		
Service Inventory	1,500		
Analytics	Not possible		
Total	1,700	40	1,660
Interviews and Reports			
Dependency Reports	1,200	120	1,080
Active Discovery			
Configuration Reports	800	40	760
Total Hours Required	3,700	200	
Total Hours Saved			3,500

Figure 3. Compared with manual processes, Advanced Data Center Audit saves 3,500 hours of labor.

Because the Solution for Data Center Audits uses state-of-the-art automation technology, you eliminate error-prone and time-consuming manual processes related to application discovery and dependency mapping. With this solution, the thousands of labor hours saved will allow you to demonstrate immediate and significant ROI—as well as provide you with the data you need to ensure you can fully restore IT services to normal levels the moment your project goes live.

About EMC Smarts

EMC Smarts plays a crucial role in managing your information infrastructure by automating the discovery, understanding, and mapping of the complex relationships that exist among business processes, applications, and the IT infrastructure.

With EMC Smarts solutions, organizations gain the visibility needed to accelerate and increase ROI on their highest-priority IT service and cost management initiatives. Offering the easiest, most-comprehensive solution in the industry, EMC Smarts technology allows organizations to:

- Accelerate ITIL and CMDB standardization
- Reduce costs—up to 25 percent in the first year
- Maximize resource utilization
- Mitigate risks and ensure business continuity
- Enhance business agility and IT service delivery by accelerating and simplifying initiatives that support business service management and data center automation

Getting Started

To learn more about how the EMC Smarts Solution for Data Center Audits—and other EMC Smarts solutions—can positively impact your business and IT operations, contact your local EMC or EMC Smarts sales representative, or visit our websites at www.EMC.com and www.smarts.com.



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Solution Overview
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