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Contents

Guide for System Center Management Pack for BranchCache™	4
Management Pack Purpose	5
Monitoring Scenarios	6
How Health Rolls Up	12
Configuring the BranchCache Management Pack	13
Before you import the management pack	13
Best Practice: Create a Management Pack for Customizations	13
Security Configuration	13
Appendix: Management Pack Contents	14
Objects that the management pack discovers	15
Classes	16
Reports	17
Scripts	19
Links	20

Guide for System Center Management Pack for BranchCache™

This guide was written based on version 7.1.10100.0 of the BranchCache Management Pack.

Guide History

Release Date	Changes
April 2010	Original release of this guide
October 2013	Updated to describe Management Pack version 7.1.10100.0

Changes in Version 7.1.10100.0

Version 7.1.10100.0 of the Management Pack for BranchCache includes the following changes:

- Support for BranchCache clients, hosted cache servers, and content servers running Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 operating systems.
- Support for BranchCache clients configured to query multiple hosted cache servers in parallel.

Supported Configurations

This monitoring pack is designed for System Center 2012 - Operations Manager or later. A dedicated Operations Manager management group is required.

The following table details the supported configurations for the BranchCache Management Pack:

Configuration	Support
Windows Server 2008 R2	Yes, all editions
Windows Server 2012	Yes, all editions
Windows Server 2012 R2	Yes, all editions

Configuration	Support
Windows 7	Yes, Ultimate and Enterprise editions, 32-bit and 64-bit
Windows 8	Yes, Enterprise edition, 32-bit and 64-bit
Windows 8.1	Yes, Enterprise edition, 32-bit and 64-bit
Agentless monitoring	Not supported
Virtual environment	Supported
Non-domain-joined systems	Supported

Management Pack Scope

The number of BranchCache management devices supported is based on the supported limit for the number of agents in a management group.

Prerequisites

The following requirements must be met to run this monitoring pack:

- The BranchCache Management Pack requires the Windows Server Operating System Management Pack (version 6.0.6278.0 or above). Import this management pack first before importing the BranchCache Management Pack

Mandatory Configuration

See Before you import the management pack, below.

Files in this Management Pack

The BranchCache Management Pack includes the following files:

- Microsoft.Windows.BranchCache.MP (version 7.1.10100.0)
- Microsoft.Windows.BranchCache.Reports.MP (version 7.1.10100.0)
- OM2012_MP_BranchCache.doc (this document)
- EULA.RTF

Management Pack Purpose

The BranchCache Management Pack provides an overall manageability solution for health monitoring and performance reporting for the BranchCache feature available in Windows® and Windows Server®.

BranchCache is a content caching and retrieval framework designed to reduce branch office WAN link utilization. To optimize WAN bandwidth, BranchCache copies content from your main office content servers and caches the content at branch office locations, allowing client computers at branch offices to access the content locally rather than over the WAN.

BranchCache has two modes of operation: distributed cache mode and hosted cache mode. When the content cache at a branch office is distributed among client computers, BranchCache is running in distributed cache mode. When the content cache at a branch office is hosted on a server computer, BranchCache is running in hosted cache mode.

See BranchCache on Microsoft TechNet for detailed technical information about BranchCache operation and architecture.

The BranchCache Management Pack, used within System Center Operations Manager, provides monitoring and reporting solutions to IT professionals and administrators at both the branch office level and the system level. Health monitoring provides administrators a central view of the overall BranchCache system health, covering the entire branch office and each client or hosted cache server. Performance reporting collects and aggregates the bandwidth utilization information recorded by each peer, including the bytes retrieved from the peer caches or hosted caches (bandwidth saved) and bytes retrieved from the content server at the main office (bandwidth not saved) to provide a view of the benefit and cost savings achieved by BranchCache.

- Monitoring Scenarios
- How Health Rolls Up

For details on the discoveries, rules, monitors, views, and reports contained in this monitoring pack, see Appendix: Management Pack Contents.

Monitoring Scenarios

Management of branch offices in hosted cache mode

A branch office that uses BranchCache in hosted cache mode consists of one or more hosted cache servers and one or more hosted cache clients that are configured to use the hosted cache server(s). This scenario is targeted at enterprises with branch offices that use hosted cache mode. Content servers do not roll up to this management scenario.

The management view is intended to monitor the overall health of BranchCache in the branch office as a single entity, with the capability to drill down into each node within the branch office, and also to offer an aggregated report on the overall branch bandwidth saving, for example, bytes retrieved from the hosted cache server and bytes retrieved from the content servers at the central office.

Hosted cache branch view

Enterprise system administrators or operators can monitor each branch office that uses hosted cache mode as a single entity in the System Center Operations Manager Console (a *hosted*

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