

SIMPLIFY JBOSS MANAGEMENT WITH JBOSS MANAGED SOLUTIONS

JBoss® Operations Network (JBoss ON) from Red Hat is a key component of JBoss Managed Solutions and provides a single point of control to deploy, manage, and monitor an organization's JBoss Enterprise Middleware, applications, and services. JBoss Operations Network enables organizations to simplify application release management, support IT governance objectives, and ensure application service levels for performance and availability.

CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Configuration errors are one of the leading causes of application downtime and delivery errors. Effective configuration management is critical to ensure application availability and deliver a positive end user experience. But managing middleware and application configurations requires that administrators overcome many challenges, including:

- Maintaining an up-to-date server inventory to provide a current and visible display and record of what is running across different environments
- Efficiently updating middleware and application configurations for a large number of server nodes, across multiple domains and across different versions
- Keeping an audit trail of configuration changes and being able to roll back those changes when needed
- Correlating configuration changes to application performance history and other events
- Receiving timely alerts about configuration changes and ensuring consistency across different environments (i.e., development, test, production).

THE MANAGEMENT CONSOLE DILEMMA

Application servers provide integrated administration consoles to manage middleware and application configurations. But attempting to manage an enterprise application environment using only these individual application server administration consoles is simply not practical due to their inherent limitations.

Application server administration consoles:

- Are limited in managing application servers across multiple domains or across multiple server versions
- Provide limited audit trails for viewing configuration history and have limited ability to roll back changes
- Cannot generally manage application components beyond the application server itself

As a result, many organizations rely on enterprise system and application management solutions to manage their application environments. But these solutions often lack best-of-breed capabilities for managing application middleware. Additionally, the cost and complexity of these solutions also make them prohibitive to deploy and use. While these solutions are often deployed for managing production application environments, they typically do not provide complete life cycle management, including support for managing development and test environments, nor are they typically accessible to developers or QA staff. They simply do not provide a complete solution.

JBOSS OPERATIONS NETWORK FOR CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT

JBoss Operations Network directly addresses these challenges. It provides a best-of-breed solution to automate and manage the essential tasks necessary to fully administer a JBoss enterprise environment. JBoss Operations Network can help make the task of configuration management relatively simple, easily repeatable, and error-free.

JBoss Operations Network allows administrators to create and store an aggregated inventory of all platforms, servers, and services, providing a unified view of the full application infrastructure. It can automatically discover new application components as soon as they are deployed and add them to the managed inventory, keeping the inventory up-to-date. Unlike application server administration consoles, JBoss Operations Network allows administrators to manage servers across the enterprise, spanning multiple domains, and running different application server versions. It also lets administrators manage components outside the application server itself, such as web servers and databases. JBoss Operations Network provides a comprehensive view of the application environment.

Once the managed resource inventory is in place, administrators can then group like platforms, servers, or application services together, allowing configurations to be updated to all like systems simultaneously. Resource groups significantly increase the management efficiency of enterprise environments of all sizes and reduce the likelihood and impact of introducing configuration errors.

JBoss Operations Network provides a simplified GUI for editing resource configurations and settings that can address the needs of IT administrators, as well as developers and QA teams. The JBoss Operations Network web-based console makes it easy to view and change settings. Its command line API enables actions to be scripted and automated. Administrators can quickly identify which settings are available, make changes, and then apply them to selected groups of servers. Changes can be applied immediately or scheduled to be applied at selected times to avoid production interruptions.

All changes to configurations and settings are stored in the JBoss Operations Network repository to maintain a full audit trail. Administrators can view a graphical timeline of each managed resource and quickly identify every change, along with the details of that change. Administrators can also view historical performance for all inventoried systems and applications and correlate performance changes to recent configuration modifications.

As a result, when issues occur, administrators can roll back configuration changes easily. Changes made to servers, databases, even shell scripts, can be changed back to previous trusted states quickly and without compounding errors.

Automated alerts can also be configured to notify users when configuration changes occur. This allows administrators to know when any change is applied, including all of the details of that change.

JBoss Operations Network assists administrators in defining baseline configurations and tracking changes, managing "configuration drift." The baseline configuration for a server may include defining configuration file settings and related content to determine if key files were added, changed, or removed. Resource configurations change naturally over time, but administrators need to be able to track those changes to make sure that no unplanned or undesirable changes impact the resource. Defining a baseline configuration and monitoring for changes helps systems remain resilient and offers a way to revert a system to its baseline configuration if necessary.

MANAGE MORE, STRESS LESS

With JBoss Operations Network, administrators can manage their full middleware and application inventories with a unified approach, all through a "single pane of glass." A recent IDC study concluded that organizations that have implemented JBoss Operations Network to manage their JBoss Enterprise Middleware and applications were able to double the number of JBoss servers managed per system administrator from 38 to 84. These organizations saw benefits in both improved IT efficiency and operational cost reductions.

JBoss Operations Network is an integrated component of Red Hat's JBoss Managed Solutions and is also available to purchase as a stand-alone offering.

FIND OUT MORE

To learn more about JBoss Operations Network, visit redhat.com/jboss_on or contact a Red Hat sales representative.

For more information on the IDC report referenced in this brief, JBoss Operations Network: Measuring Business Impact and ROI, visit inquiries.redhat.com/go/redhat/jon-roi.

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