Upgrading to Vector Asset Management Version 6.0

This chapter describes how to upgrade to Vector Asset Management 6.0 from previous versions. We recommend you evaluate the new software using a test Site before updating your installation using this procedure.

Upgrading from a previous version of Vector Asset Management

This section describes how to upgrade a Vector Asset Management installation from a previous version.

1 Install the new Console

To upgrade to the new Console, insert the Vector Asset Management CD and follow the instructions for installing the Console. During installation of the Console, you can keep the existing key, or enter your new key. You can change the License Key at any time by clicking Apply a Key in the Vector Asset Management Tools program folder.

Note that the Remote Control, and HelpDesk modules require separate keys.

2 Upgrade your Sites

This section describes how to update your existing Vector AM databases.

To update a Site database:

1 When you first open a Site after you have installed a new version of the Console, Vector AM asks if you want to update the Site. Click the Yes button to continue.

Upgraded Sites cannot be used with previous versions of the Vector AM Console.

2 In the Vector AM Database Upgrade dialog, choose the features you want to update. Select:

Operations To update the operations to the latest Vector AM standard.

Groups To update the dynamic groups used to select and identify Clients for operations.

Distribution Package Definitions To add new software package definitions for use in software distributions.

Software Inventory Rules To add new application identification rules for use with software inventory operations. You are prompted each time Vector AM finds a modified rule so you can choose whether you want to update your defini-

tions. We recommend you accept the updates unless you have customized the rules for use within your organization.

3   Click the Upgrade button to apply the new features to the Site database.

The database is updated to the new standard.

You can run the Database Upgrade at any time by clicking the Upgrade Database Settings operation in the Site Management folder.

When the upgrade is complete, run hardware and software inventories for all Clients in the database to update the database tables.

3 Upgrade the Client Kit

When you create an Offline Area, Vector AM adds two Client kits: a standard installed Client kit and a One-shot kit that are pre-configured to create Clients that save their data to that Offline Area. If you intend to use this kit to update your installed Clients, or create new Clients for your Site, you must update the kit on your existing Offline Areas before starting any deployments.

To copy the new Client kit to an Offline Area:

1   Right-click the Offline Areas folder in the Console tree and choose Modify Offline Area from the shortcut menu.

2   In the Offline Paths dialog, select the Offline Area in which you want to place the new kit, and click the Edit button.

3   In the Offline Path, Share and Client Kit dialog, select the Copy Client Kit check box and Copy One-shot Kit check box, then click the OK button.

4   Click the OK button to close the Site Offline Areas dialog.

4 Upgrade installed Clients

We recommend that you upgrade the Vector Asset Management software on all Client PCs in order to take advantage of the improvements in the new version.

This section describes the various methods you can use to upgrade your Clients from the Vector Asset Management Console. If you want to upgrade your Clients using Active Directory, see "Deploying the Client using Active Directory" on page 34.

To update Clients using Interactive Client Deployment:

1   In the Client Deployment & Maintenance folder, click Deploy Clients Interactively.

2   In the Interactive Client Deployment window, select the Domain or Organizational Unit that contains the Clients you want to work with.

3   In the Node list, select the computers you want to upgrade, right-click and choose Deploy, Vector AM Client #1.

If no profiles are listed, choose Add new deployment profile. For information on creating profiles, see "Deployment Profiles" on page 23.

4   In the Confirm Deployment dialog, click the Deploy button.

To update Clients using Automatic Client Deployment:

1 In the Client Deployment & Maintenance folder, click Configure Automatic Client Deployment. The Automatic Client Deployment dialog is displayed. Select the Enable Automatic Deployment check box.

2 Click the upper Add button to select a deployment profile. The Deployment Profiles dialog is displayed.

3 Select the Vector AM Client #1 profile and click the Close button.

If no profiles are listed in the Deployment Profiles list, click the Add Standard Profiles button to create default profiles for your Site. For more information, see "Deploying the Client Automatically" on page 26.

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4 In the warning message, click the OK button. The Inclusion Filter dialog is displayed.

5 Enter the identification criteria for the nodes you want to deploy the new Client to and click the OK button.

Click the lower Add button if you want to assign multiple filters to the selected profile.

6 When you have finished selecting profiles for the deployment, click the Close button.

Vector AM will start to deploy the new Client when the Scheduler next runs.

To update Windows 95, 98 and Me Clients:

1 In the Software Distributions folder, click Distribute Software.

2 In the Select Clients dialog, select the Clients you want to update and click the OK button.

3 In the Select Package dialog, select Vector Asset Management Client 5.50 and click the Next button.

4 In the Select Install Type dialog, select Typical and click the Next button.

5 In the Client Filter dialog, click the Next button.

6 In the Settings dialog, enter the location of the Client Kit and edit any settings you want to change. Click the Next button.

7 In the Settings dialog, enter a Job name and enter the details of any files you want to use to log the deployment. Click the Finish button.

For more information, see Chapter 15, "Software Distribution" on page 149.

Upgrading the Software Application Library

When an older version Vector AM Console is upgraded to v6.0, any existing Application Library rules are exported to the Packages folder, with one file per Application. Once this has been done, the rules are deleted and replaced with a new Library. This reflects a change in library architecture from versions prior to v6.0. Any locally-defined rules can be re-imported using their files in the Packages directory. See "Exporting and Importing the Application Library" on page 118 for more information.

Fast and Full Software Inventory

Vector AM now offers two variants for collecting Software Inventory data: Fast and Full.

You can configure your AM Site to implement either variant depending on your needs, or you can implement them in combination, for example: daily Fast scans and monthly Full scans.

The "Fast" variant uses the Windows Program List in the Clients' registry only, while the "Full" variant uses information from the Clients' registry and also its file and directory structure. One significant advantage of the "Fast" variant is that the Windows Program List in the registry often contains details of the software vendor, version and install location as well as the application name. This means that identification rules can be generated automatically as part of the software inventory operation. Fast scans are enabled by default.

The "Full" variants process more data and so are slower to complete. They are also more comprehensive, for example allowing identification of applications that have not been properly installed. A "Full" scan also includes provisional identifications that are based on actual file version information and not on recognition rules. Similarly, unrecognized applications are those where none of the library rules are recognized and no version information was found.

Valid "Full" software inventory results rely on the Client having recently performed a directory snapshot. This feature is normally disabled, as it can present a significant load on Clients, network and Offline Area servers. Operations are included to enable and disable full inventory scans (i.e. directory snapshots). These can be scheduled to run at regular intervals on suitable groups of Clients.

For more information on the Fast and Full Software Inventory and related topics, please refer to the online Help and the Manual.