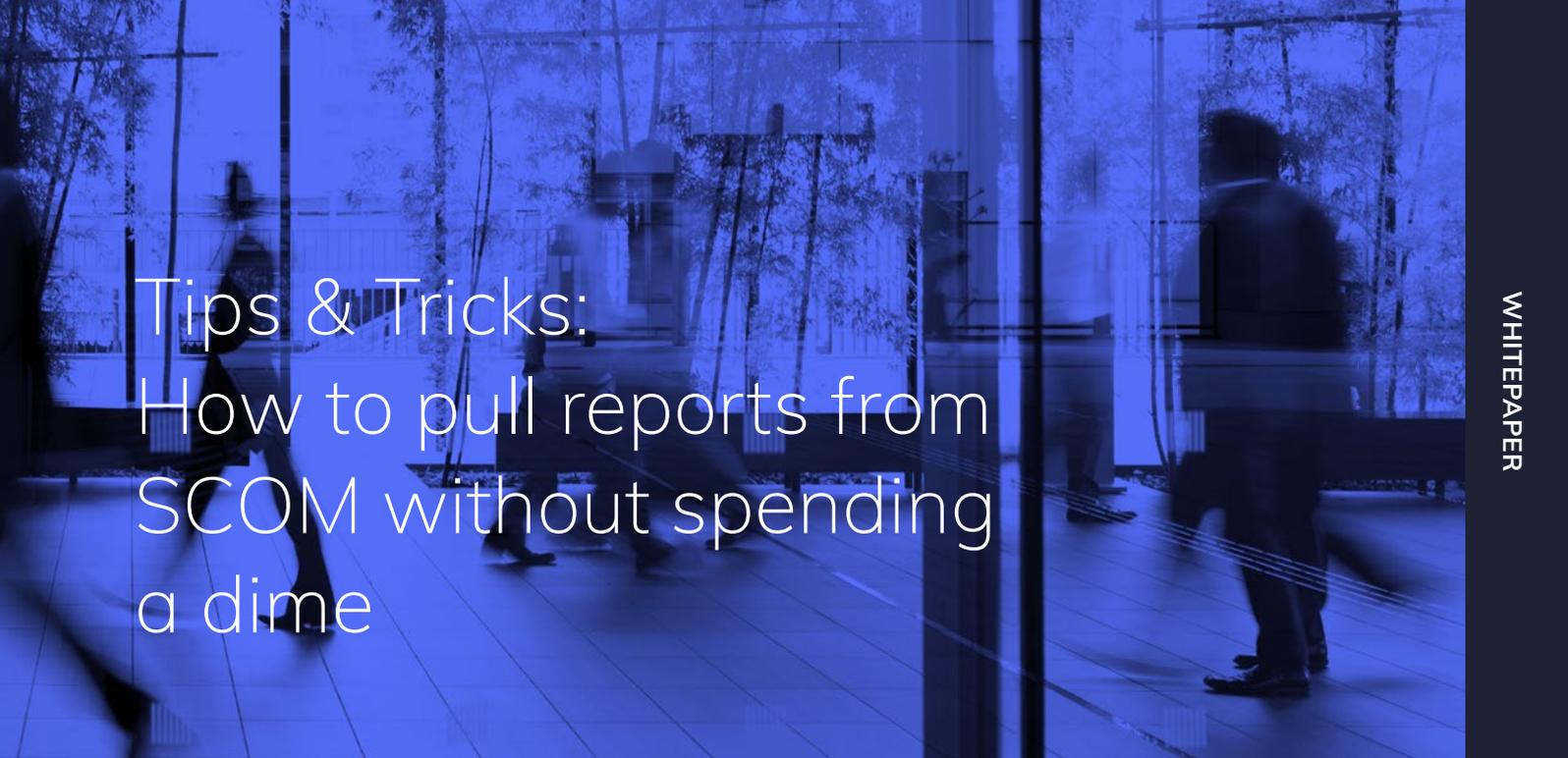




WHITEPAPER

Tips & Tricks: How to pull reports from SCOM without spending a dime



Tips & Tricks: How to pull reports from SCOM without spending a dime

A monitoring solution must not be an isolated island, siloed in the greater IT landscape. Sharing information about infrastructure health, availability, performance and most common support calls across teams, such as application developers, application administrators and IT management, is crucial for an efficient business.

Microsoft System Center Operations Manager (SCOM) has many powerful features, but many people are not aware of all of its capabilities. SCOM users frequently have questions about specific reports, which are available through SCOM's built-in generic reports library.

Microsoft SCOM's reporting capability is built on top of excellent Microsoft Reporting Services technology. Using this technology, it's possible to create complex, drill down reports with advanced data visualization in very short period of time. To simplify typical reporting tasks, Microsoft also provides set of predefined, generic reports that can be used as a basis to create specific reports based on your organizational needs.

Building a report in SCOM

Start by opening the Operations Manager console, then click on “Reporting” under the folder of the same name to find built-in reports. For a complete list and explanation of the purpose of each report, please [click here](#).

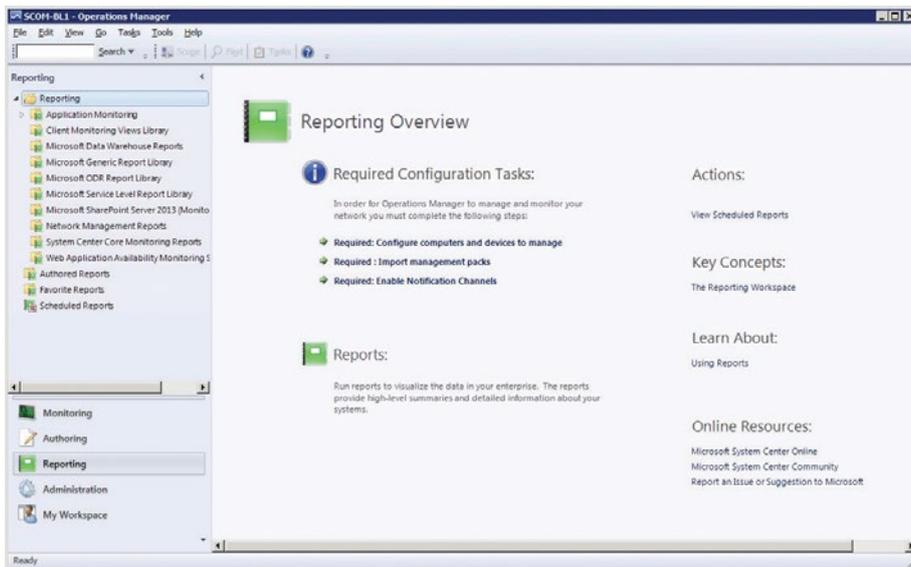


IMAGE 1:

Reporting tab within the SCOM console

Let's focus on the report options found within the Microsoft Generic Report Library. We will use generic reports to:

- Generate an application availability report using data collected from the F5 BIG-IP device via HYCU F5 BIG-IP MP
- Identify the most common occurrences related to application availability
- Track configuration changes on HYCU F5 BIG-IP MP virtual server configuration
- Show all overwrites in the management pack

We will also use pre-built report templates to show:

- Data warehouse properties
- Data volume by management pack

Application Availability Monitoring Report

Let's start with the Application Availability Monitoring report, which can be found under Microsoft Generic Report Library. Every report includes a "Parameters" section at top, where you can filter the default generic report to show exactly what data you are interested in seeing.

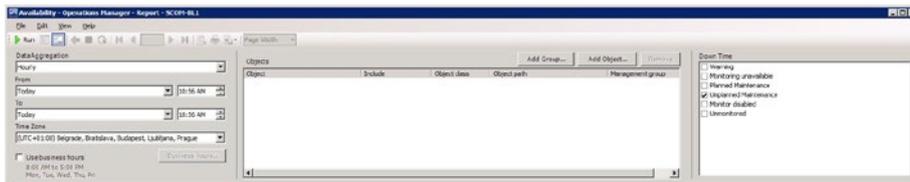


IMAGE 2:

Parameters section of Application Availability Monitoring report

Adjust the "From" and "To" parameters to show data for this month. Click on "Add Group..." to select "Virtual Servers" of "Virtual Server Group" class (F5 BIG-IP configuration representing application). In the popup window, type "virtual" to narrow down list, then click "add" and run the report. The result should look something like this:

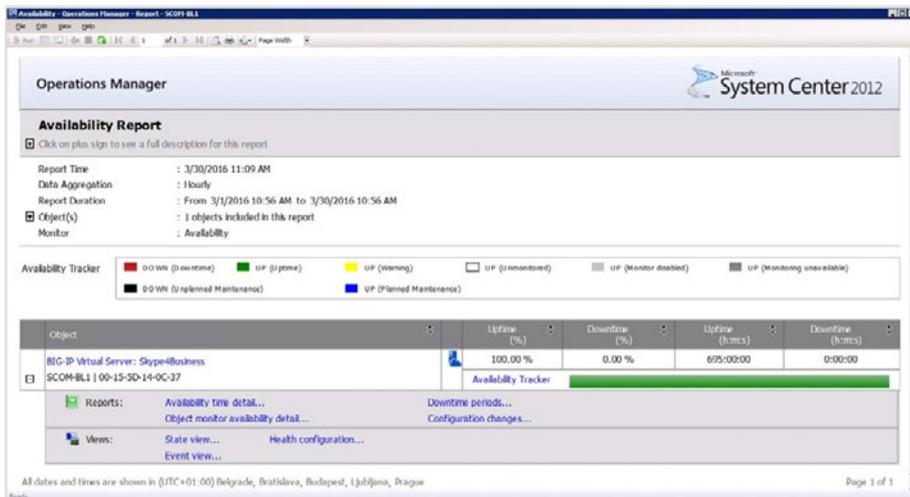


IMAGE 3:

F5 BIG-IP Virtual Servers Availability report

From this report, it is possible to drill down into the data further and learn more about availability time detail, including down time periods, configuration changes, and more. It's also possible to access different views directly from report, such as State, Health configuration or Event view.

To use this report later, you can save it to the management pack from the File menu. Any report can be printed, and report data can be exported as XML, CSV, Excel and other file formats. It's even possible to schedule report execution and, in combination with exporting data to machine readable formats (i.e. CSV), advanced automation scenarios are supported.

Most Common Alerts Report

Let's see a few more reports. Under Microsoft Generic Report Library, open the Most Common Alerts report. Adjust the time period of the report by changing "From" and "To" parameters, then run the report.

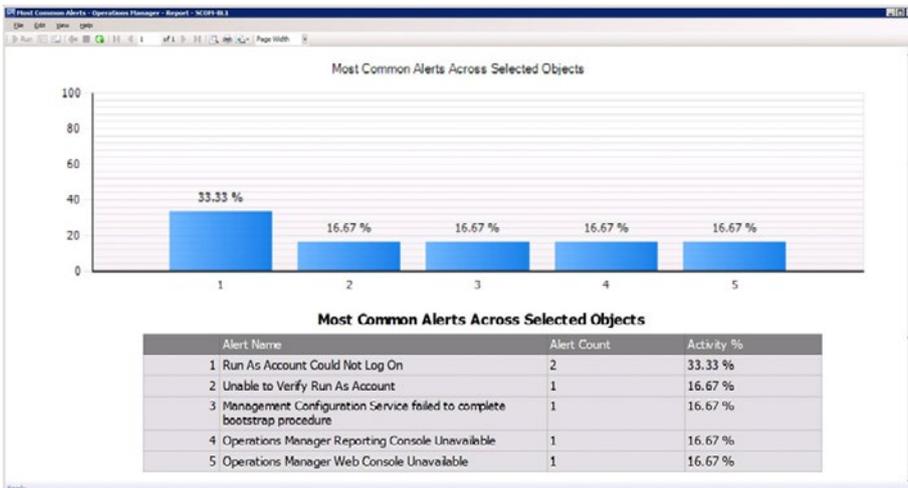


IMAGE 4:

Most Common Alerts report

Configuration Changes Report

Under Microsoft Generic Report Library, open the Configuration Changes report. Adjust the time interval and click on "Add Group". Add Virtual Servers Group (we are using HYCU F5 BIG-IP MP data for this report), and run the report.

Date Time	Change	Property	Old value	New value
2/11/2016 3:21:36 AM	Change value	ObjectId	213310	263013
BIG-IP Virtual Server: Skype4Business SCOM-BL1 00-15-5D-14-0C-37				
2/11/2016 3:21:13 AM	Change value	ObjectId	194798	244489
BIG-IP Virtual Server: Yahoo SCOM-BL1 00-15-5D-14-0C-37				
3/9/2016 3:42:30 AM	Initial discovery			
3/9/2016 5:21:45 AM	New value	Address		192.168.20.145
	New value	Description		
	New value	Device IP Address		10.49.14.93
	New value	Device Name		big_ip_11_6_0_m1on_3.hermes.si
	New value	Full Name		/Common/Yahoo
	New value	Port		80

All dates and times are shown in (UTC+01:00) Belgrade, Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Prague

IMAGE 5:

Configuration Changes report showing changes to BIG-IP virtual server

Overrides Report

Open the Overrides report under Microsoft Generic Report Library. Adjust the time period and hit "Run."

Override affect	Affected element	Affected property	New value	Enforced	Target	From	To
Big IP Override							
Discovery Configuration	FS DDDIP Device Discovery	InternalsSeconds	300	No	None	5/15/2015	#Error
Comtrade Management Pack for PS BIG-IP							
Discovery Configuration	FS DDDIP Device Discovery	InternalsSeconds	300	No	None	5/15/2015	#Error
Client Monitoring Overrides Management Pack							
Rule Configuration		Days	14	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Rule Configuration		Days	14	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2016	#Error
Client Monitoring Internal Library							
Discovery Property	Client Monitoring Application (Restio - Grouping Rule)	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Discovery Property	Client Monitoring Error Group (Billie's Grouping Rule)	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Discovery Property	Client Monitoring Entities discovery rule	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Rule Configuration	Client Monitoring Cds and Status (Facy) printer rule	TimeStatus/Facets/Touch	90	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Rule Configuration	Client Monitoring Cds and Status (Facy) printer rule	TimeStatus/Facets/Touch	90	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Rule Property	Client Monitoring Application (Unique Machines Affected Count Monitor - Error State Setter Rule)	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2016	#Error
Rule Property	Client Monitoring Application (Unique Machines Affected Count Monitor - Success State Setter Rule)	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2016	#Error
Rule Property	Client Monitoring Application (Unique Machines Affected Count - Perf Collection rule)	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Rule Property	Client Monitoring Application - Total IP Count Monitor Error State Setter Rule	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error
Rule Property	Client Monitoring Application - Total IP Count Monitor Success State	Enabled	True	Yes	Crash Lateness	5/13/2015	#Error

IMAGE 6:
Overrides report

Microsoft Data Warehouse Reports

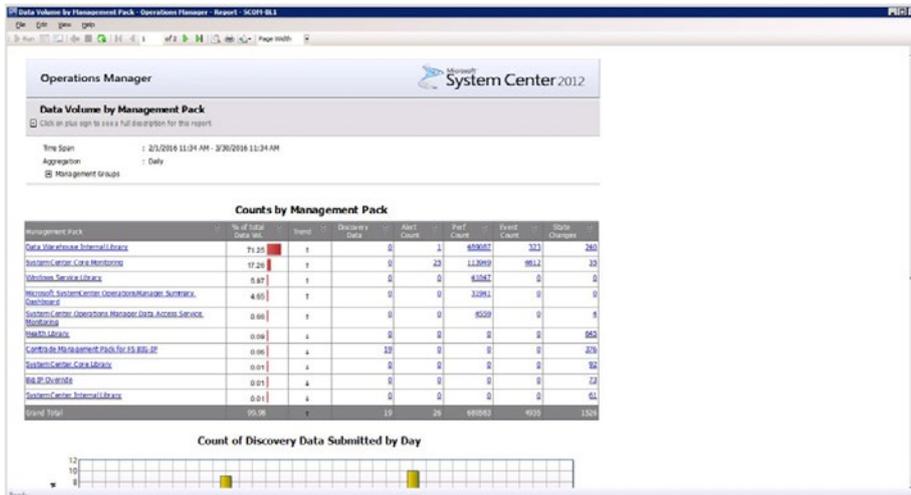
Let's take a look at the Microsoft Data Warehouse reports. Open the Data Warehouse Properties report. As no parameters are required to run this report, it is automatically executed.

Aggregation	Max Data Age (Days)	Number of records	Size
Alert data set			
Raw data	400	232	0.8Mb
Total:		232	0.8Mb
Client Monitoring data set			
Raw data	30	0	0
Daily aggregations	400	294	16Kb
Total:		294	16Kb
Configuration dataset			
Raw data	400	0	50.7Mb

IMAGE 7:
Section of Data Warehouse report

Data Volume by Management Pack

Let's take a look at one more report. Under System Center Core Monitoring reports run Data Volume by Management Pack. Adjust the time period and run the report.



From this report, you can see not only the current situation, but also trend information to help you better understand your environment needs.

Thanks to built-in reports, it's very easy to extract very useful data from SCOM, and open reporting technology allows you to create almost any report required. This reporting capability is a powerful feature of SCOM, as it provides access to information and it's easy to integrate the data with other IT systems. We've highlighted just a few reports available in the SCOM Generic Reports Library, but there are many others available within the console. If you can't find one for your reporting needs, you can develop a custom report with advanced knowledge of SQL and SCOM database, or work with a provider to design one for you.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT F5 BIG-IP MANAGEMENT PACK AND CUSTOM REPORTS THROUGH SCOM, VISIT WWW.HYCU.COM.

IMAGE 8:

Data Volume by Management Pack report

