Columbus Imaging

Added value thanks to image management: Quick troubleshooting, simple rollouts and disaster recovery

The new Columbus image management makes software images much more flexible. Rollouts are drastically simplified and problems detected on the run are solved competently. Columbus Imaging provides the functions for efficient troubleshooting in an integrated package.

Imaging – more than just rollouts

Images, i.e. the mappings of drives with operating system data and, if required, also the installed applications and other data, are used today more or less exclusively for the setup of new computers. However, this does not exploit the full potential of the technology. Also during the life cycle of a system, there might be situations which require you to resort to images, e.g., to quickly restore a damaged system.

Keeping control over images

Images are not only huge files which need much space on servers. Columbus treats them as information containers which, apart from program files, store a lot of information about hardware and software. Thus, it can be decided from a central point which image will fit on an actual machine, when it has to be modified or even deleted. During the operation, the support staff can quickly find the image needed to repair the system in the image catalog.

Benefit and advantages

1. Centralized image management: All images are managed via the central console, regardless of the storage location — information about the content for deleting or renaming is only one click away.

2. Optimum security and SLAs: Disk imaging is the fastest method to restore a computer back to a defined status or repair security infringements such as virus infections.

3. Time and bandwidth control: Execute all actions at a defined point of time, from an actual date or at a predefined freely available network load — the ideal way for overloaded networks and training rooms.

4. Integrated solution: All Columbus modules are integrated in an infrastructure and console and compatible to each other.

Columbus Imaging provides a variety of hard disk operations for selected computers, including scheduling and bandwidth limitation.
Keeping service levels
Service Level Agreements (SLAs) determine in many companies how much time the support is allowed for troubleshooting – either by its own staff or by service providers. In case of severe errors the re-installation of the operating system image is often the only chance to reach the expected service level. Columbus Imaging provides all data and images.

Eliminate security risks by images
In case of a virus infection of one unit, a re-installation of operation system and programs is often the most secure solution. Because nobody can be sure that the virus scanner has detected and removed all instances of a virus or worm. Columbus Imaging provides the matching image for a quick new setup.

Managing images automatically
To find the correct image can be a challenge, especially if there is no time. Therefore, all data are automatically managed by the Disk Imaging Agent of Columbus. The agent analyzes continuously all existing images on the servers and provides them at the console. It will detect old, obsolete data and delete them.

Storing images securely and distributed
Images can be stored securely distributed on different servers in the company. The tools for the creation and optimum distribution of the images are simply a part of the image management.

Efficient distribution by intelligent technology
Overloaded networks are a hazard for operational security. Since during the rollout, the networks must bear an additional heavy load, Columbus Imaging has e.g. load balancers. They distribute the load to less busy times. A technology which is used also by other Columbus modules.

Perfect interaction – Imaging and SWDeploy
Modularity and still close integration – this applies of course for Columbus Imaging, too. The product uses the same console and is fully integrated if you work with several modules. Thus, you can initiate the re-installation of an image and the subsequent adaptation via Columbus SWDeploy.

Columbus Imaging – one step beyond
Client Lifecycle Management requires flexibility in all phases of the management process. This is clearly visible for imaging. Who uses imaging only for rollouts does not provide his support staff with the required flexibility for a quick reaction in problem situations.

High performance – and easy to use
Being part of the Columbus solution, Columbus Imaging does not need its own infrastructure wenn if it is used together with other modules. Also if Columbus OSDeploy is not used, our PXE server is sufficient to handle the communication between the clients and imaging in case of re-installation.

More imaging – better response times
The usage of Columbus leads to shorter response times of the support and therefore to a better fulfillment of service level agreements and higher customer satisfaction because it improves the proven concept of the imaging and enables its efficient use in many more situations.