Setup and configuration of operating systems can be a very time-consuming effort requiring extensive knowhow. Columbus OSDeploy makes the company-wide distribution and operational configuration of Microsoft client and server operating systems reliable and efficient. The objective of an automated operating system or VMWARE ESX installation is a bootable computer which is configured according to company specifications and integrated, preferably without on-site manual intervention.

Conventional installation procedures require a series of manual interventions the duration and complexity of which is often underestimated. The missing OS configuration and the company-specific configurations often require that each individual computer has to be visited by a technician and configured manually:
- Network: System name, description, domain membership, DHCP or TCP/IP, DNS, WINS, etc.
- Desktop: Active desktop, colors, icons, screen resolution, start menu, etc.

Apart from the cost, many repeats of the same or similar work steps can lead to overseeing mistakes creating in turn an unstable or support-intensive environment.

OS Configuration

Preferences: Internet, keyboard, mouse, sound, screensaver, printer, etc.
Others: Special drivers, files, Windows registry settings, group policy and connection to a software distribution solution, etc.

1 Automated installation and configuration steps: for operating system, drivers and additions to run without manual interventions and do not require any interventions at the device.

2 Miscellaneous operating systems: Installation of VMWARE ESX and all 32/64 bit Windows versions incl. Windows 7/2008 R2

3 Uniform Windows PE: Save maintenance efforts by installing all Windows versions with the same Windows PE instance.

4 Plannable and scaleable: Time-controlled distribution of operating systems and the usage of Multiple Depot Server reduce network load.

5 Save money and improve the SLA: The work effort for the (new) installation of computers reduces to 1 minute, and agreed service levels are kept.

6 Open for the customer: Open scripts and batches allow for customization. You can also build emergency DVDs/sticks to be able to restore a device while you are travelling.

All settings for the operating system and the hardware can be made here in a convenient manner.
Functions
With Columbus OSDeploy, the configuration steps, which are usually carried out manually, are mapped by so-called “Jobs”. These are integrated in the automatic setup procedure. The technician is focusing on the creation of such jobs as well as their allocation, everything else is done automatically by OSDeploy. The result are fully configured and completely integrated computers!

Installation technology
Columbus OSDeploy supports all common setup technologies such as unattended setup and imaging/cloning. Select the procedure which suits you best and expand it by using the modular job technology. The creation of base images can be carried out simply by unattended setup. OSDeploy jobs in turn ensure as usual the configuration and integration of the system. For VMWARE ESX, the standardized installation via a Linux boot kernel with configuration templates is used - these are processed on the console.

Cost saving and benefit
Columbus OSDeploy has been used for many years in hundreds of companies and has installed more than a million systems. Benefit from existing jobs and knowhow and reduce your efforts considerably.

Huge savings potential
With OSDeploy the reworking of newly installed systems is no longer needed. The modularity and reusability of the OSDeploy jobs makes the updating of numerous disk images or the adaptation of customized scripts unnecessary. There is a simple way to generate disk images in OSDeploy.

Features
- Automatic installation of Microsoft Windows operating systems and VMware ESX
- Complete configuration and integration of systems without manual reworking
- Installation is carried out 100% remotely, no presence on-site required
- Scheduler allows a time-controlled installation (used e.g. for migration in phases, automatic setup of training rooms, etc.)
- Preboot Inventory
- Automatic allocation of jobs and distributed depots based on the hierarchical structure of the Columbus management console

Boot Media
- Network card with PXE support
- CD / DVD / USB
- Local hard disk

Setup technologies
- Unattended setup
- Disk imaging/cloning

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