Datasheet

Hitachi Ops Center Automator

Hitachi Ops Center Automator automates management operations that minimize the time and effort of storage provisioning. The software orchestrates the delivery of storage resources and custom management controls to address diverse application workloads.

Automate Data Services Delivery

How can you efficiently optimize your data services? Take an automated data management approach to rapidly deploy your storage resources and meet evolving application requirements for performance and capacity.

Common infrastructure management tasks, such as storage provisioning, migrating data, configuring virtual machines, defining SAN orchestration, and setting up data protection policies, can increasingly consume IT staff's time. The storage provisioning process can be complex, requiring extensive planning and manual interactions. Errors from manual provisioning operations can easily delay resource delivery or introduce unnecessary application risks.

Hitachi Ops Center Automator enables you to simplify storage management operations by creating automated workflows that orchestrate the end-to-end delivery of Hitachi and third-party IT infrastructure resources. By using intelligent automated provisioning workflows, your administrators can accelerate the delivery of IT resources up to 70%.

Deliver on New Automation Initiatives

With many IT organizations striving to do more with less, many organizations lack the tools and skills required to execute and expand on new automated
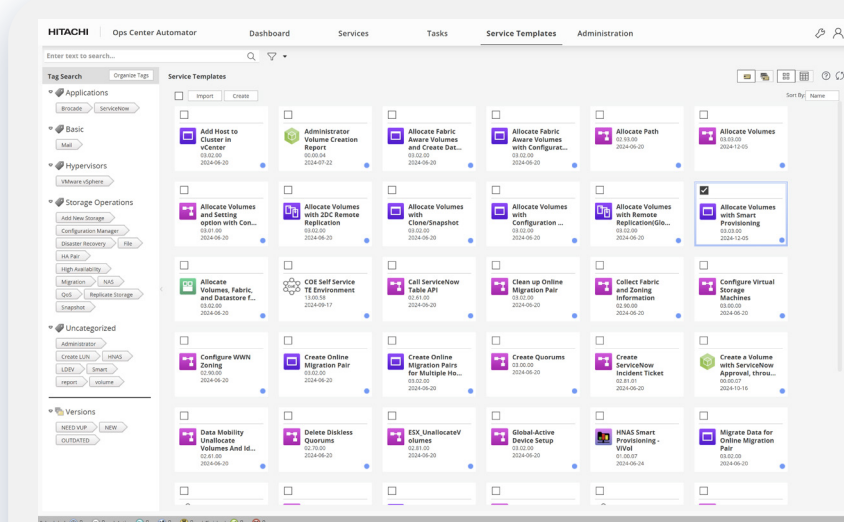

Figure 1. Hitachi Ops Center Automator Service Templates

management initiatives. Defining an initial set of automation policies can take time, something many organizations can ill afford. To streamline the process, Hitachi Ops Center Automator helps IT staff to accelerate your storage automation efforts by enabling them to:

- Utilize a broad range of predefined service templates that support automated workflows for configuring key IT resources on an application's data path.

- Access an integrated service-builder workbench, allowing your storage teams to edit or customize predefined workflow templates for your organization. There is no need to start from scratch.

- Integrate storage automation workflows into existing IT management frameworks with standards-based APIs for direct access to storage system configuration and management functions.

- Use, import or customize configuration service templates from Hitachi Vantara and our development community to make it easier to automate new storage management tasks.

- Access Hitachi Ops Center Automator Starter Pack, a fixed-cost service from Hitachi Vantara Professional Services, which provides everything needed to leverage and quickly deploy two complete automation tasks.

Customize As You Go

Ops Center Automator can automate and control a broad range of IT resources from Hitachi and other vendors, including host servers, virtual machines, SAN switches and applications, thus playing a key role in orchestrating end-to-end data management operations. Multiple tasks can be linked into a single automated workflow, such as provisioning storage, establishing data protection policies and defining SAN network zoning.

The rich set of standard Ops Center Automator service templates includes orchestrated management workflows in the following areas:

- **Storage service delivery**. Provision storage resources with defined quality of service (QoS) for performance, capacity and data protection services to meet recovery and uptime requirements.

- **Virtual machine deployment.** Operate and configure VMware, Microsoft Hyper-V and KVM (OpenStack cloud) resources to support virtualized application workloads.

- **SAN orchestration.** Define Cisco or Brocade SAN zones to meet network performance and data path resiliency requirements.

- **Application-specific automation.** Provide defined application storage resource configurations and perform application-specific tasks, such as acquiring Oracle Automatic Storage Management (ASM) information.

- **Advanced data protection services.** Orchestrate Hitachi Ops Center Protector for application-aware data protection functions, to set up and monitor snapshots, cloning, metro-clustering and remote replication.

- **Nondisruptive data migration.** Use automated workflow processes to execute a data migration task to a new storage array.

Smart Provisioning

Storage provisioning, a complex and time-consuming task, is often expected to be completed within difficult-to-meet timeframes. Manual provisioning requires significant forethought and planning. The provisioning process must contend with different classes of storage resources deployed to meet diverse application SLAs, improve capacity utilization and reduce costs.

Smart provisioning takes the guesswork out of manually identifying the available storage resources that would match the application's performance and capacity requirements. Ops Center Automator leverages AI to intelligently identify and select the best available resource based on historical performance trends. With this AI assistance, the highest performing and most cost-efficient storage resources are automatically selected and provisioned for a particular application workload in a fraction of the time.

Ops Center Automator is also fully integrated with the Hitachi Ops Center management suite to collect and correlate telemetry data across IT resources, identifying bottlenecks and prescribing fixes to help quickly resolve problems.

Fast Track IT Integration With REST APIs

As organizations modernize IT processes, they often implement the use of multiple management tools. These tools can simplify operations, but only if they can easily be integrated to work together.

To increase operational simplicity, Ops Center Automator utilizes standards-based REST APIs to integrate into existing automated workflows and scripts. These REST APIs can unify management operations by streamlining integration and customization of Hitachi storage configuration and provisioning functions into your existing IT management framework. For example, with the ticketing templates that Automator provides for ServiceNow you can easily integrate Automator storage provisioning services with ServiceNow workflows that further reduce time, effort and risk of errors.

Ops Center Automator also allows you to extend your automated management workflows to orchestrate Hitachi storage infrastructure using core modules from Ansible playbooks. This integration includes task-level idempotency to ensure the Ansible playbook does not repeat and run the same task multiple times. If Ansible identifies the same task has been running more than once, it will send the initial results instead of running the task over again. This streamlines Ansible integration efforts by easily orchestrating Hitachi storage management operations with your existing Ansible automated workflows.

Hitachi Ops Center Automator Benefits

- Enable IT staff to accelerate storage management automation efforts.
- Respond faster to business requests for storage resources and streamline new application deployment times.
- Fast track automation initiatives with Ops Center Automator starter packs and predefined service templates.
- Eliminate errors that could negatively impact storage resource availability, uptime and customer experiences.
- Optimize storage configurations to eliminate overprovisioning and lower costs.
- Ensure storage provisioning best practices are consistently followed to reduce risks.

Global Services

Hitachi Vantara Professional Services and Hitachi value-added partners can help you to quickly realize the benefits and cost savings of Ops Center Automator with assessment, planning, design, installation, management and support services.

In addition, Hitachi Vantara Professional Services offers the Ops Center Automator Starter Pack. It includes a preservice conference call, installation and configuration, as well as implementation and testing of two standard service templates. It also includes a knowledge transfer of the new orchestrated workflows to enable your IT staff to quickly leverage automation further.

About Hitachi Vantara

Hitachi Vantara is transforming the way data fuels innovation. A wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., we're the data foundation the world's leading innovators rely on. Through data storage, infrastructure systems, cloud management and digital expertise, we build the foundation for sustainable business growth.

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