

Introducing Software Management Solution

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [About Software Management Solution](#)
- [Components of Software Management Solution](#)
- [What you can do with Software Management Solution](#)
- [How 6.x features compare to Software Management Solution 7.0](#)
- [Where to get more information](#)

About Software Management Solution

Software Management Solution provides intelligent and bandwidth-sensitive distribution and management of software from a central Web console. It significantly reduces desktop visits and lets you easily support your mobile work force.

Software Management Solution also lets users directly download and install approved software or request other software.

Software Management Solution integrates with the Software Catalog and the Software Library that are part of the Symantec Management Platform. By leveraging this information, Software Management Solution ensures that the correct software gets installed, remains installed, and runs without interference from other software. This integration lets your administrators focus on delivering the correct software instead of redefining the packages, command lines, and so on for each delivery.

For more information, see the topics about the Software Catalog and the Software Library in the *Symantec Management Platform Help*.

Software Management Solution combines the functionality of earlier versions of Software Delivery Solution and Application Management Solution. It also supports the software virtualization technology that was available in Altiris Software Virtualization Solution.

See [“How 6.x features compare to Software Management Solution 7.0”](#) on page 17.

Software Management Solution supports packages for the Windows, UNIX, Linux, and Mac operating systems. With few exceptions, all the functions in Software Management Solution work the same for all platforms. For example, you use the same method to create a delivery task for a Windows, UNIX, Linux, or Mac OS package.

For a complete list of the platforms that Software Management Solution supports, see the *Software Management Solution Release Notes*.

See [“How Software Management Solution integrates with the Software Catalog and Software Library”](#) on page 93.

See [“Components of Software Management Solution”](#) on page 14.

See [“What you can do with Software Management Solution”](#) on page 15.

Components of Software Management Solution

The components of Software Management Solution let you deliver and manage software on client computers.

Table 1-1 Components of Software Management Solution

Component	Description
Software delivery tasks and policies	You can use any of several methods to deliver software to client computers. The method that you use to create the task or policy depends on your delivery requirements. See “Methods for delivering software” on page 88.
Software Portal	The Software Portal is a Web-based interface that is installed on the client computers. With the Software Portal , users can request and install software with little or no administrator involvement. See “About the Software Portal” on page 161.

Table 1-1 Components of Software Management Solution (*continued*)

Component	Description
Tasks and policies for managing Windows Installer applications	<p>You can manage Windows Installer applications as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Repair broken Windows Installer applications. ■ Update the source paths for Windows Installer applications. <p>See “About managing Windows Installer applications” on page 192.</p>
Tasks for managing virtual applications	<p>You can use software virtualization to facilitate the management of most Windows-based software on managed computers. Software virtualization lets you avoid conflicts between applications. It also lets you quickly restore a broken application to its original installed state.</p> <p>See “Managing virtual applications” on page 217.</p>
Reports	<p>Predefined reports let you easily view and analyze your software management data. You can also create your own custom reports.</p> <p>See “About Software Management Solution reports” on page 82.</p>
Wise Toolkit	<p>Wise Toolkit provides the tools that let administrators create, customize, and manage installations.</p> <p>Wise Toolkit consists of the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wise InstallTailor ■ WiseScript for NS <p>See “About Wise Toolkit” on page 49.</p>

See [“What you can do with Software Management Solution”](#) on page 15.

What you can do with Software Management Solution

Software Management Solution lets you distribute and manage the software that is used in your organization.

See [“About Software Management Solution”](#) on page 13.

Table 1-2 What you can do with Software Management Solution

Task	Description
Configure the default settings for Managed Software Delivery policies.	<p>Configuration settings control the behavior of Managed Software Delivery policies. Rather than configuring these settings individually for each policy, you can configure the default settings that apply to all new Managed Software Delivery policies. Then you can change the settings for a specific policy only when needed.</p> <p>See “About Software Management Solution settings” on page 54.</p> <p>See “Configuring the default settings for Managed Software Delivery” on page 54.</p>
Perform an advanced software delivery.	<p>Managed Software Delivery simplifies your advanced software deliveries by letting you deliver software as a unit, which can include multiple software resources and their dependencies. For example, you can create a single Managed Software Delivery policy that installs an application and its associated patches and service packs. Managed Software Delivery can also run any task at any stage of the delivery.</p> <p>See “About advanced software deliveries” on page 96.</p> <p>See “Performing an advanced software delivery” on page 104.</p>
Perform a quick delivery of a single software resource.	<p>You can perform a quick delivery of a single software resource that runs with minimum configuration. You can use the task-based Quick Delivery method to specify the software to deliver, the action to perform, and the computers to deliver to. Because the software resources and the delivery settings are predefined, Quick Delivery makes it easy for administrators and non-administrators to deliver software.</p> <p>See “About quick delivery of a single software resource” on page 131.</p> <p>See “Performing a quick delivery of a single software resource” on page 132.</p>
Deliver a package without defining a software resource.	<p>Package Delivery lets you quickly push out any package regardless of whether it is associated with a software resource.</p> <p>See “About Package Delivery” on page 137.</p> <p>See “Delivering a package without defining a software resource” on page 138.</p>
Deliver the tasks and packages that were created in Altiris Software Delivery Solution 6.x.	<p>When you upgrade from Notification Server 6.x to Symantec Management Platform 7.0, you can migrate your software-related tasks and packages.</p> <p>See “How 6.x features compare to Software Management Solution 7.0” on page 17.</p> <p>For more information about 6.x data migration, see the <i>Symantec Management Platform Release Notes</i>.</p>
Deliver software to fulfill user requests.	<p>By using the Software Portal, users can request and install software through a Web-based interface with little or no administrator involvement.</p> <p>See “About the Software Portal” on page 161.</p>

Table 1-2 What you can do with Software Management Solution (*continued*)

Task	Description
Manage Windows Installer installations on client computers.	<p>You can create policies and tasks to manage Windows Installer applications on managed computers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Repair Windows Installer applications. You can proactively identify and repair broken applications on selected computers. If an application needs repair, a repair command is sent to the Windows Installer service to initiate self-repair. See “Repairing Windows Installer applications” on page 194. ■ Update the source paths for Windows Installer applications. You can update the source paths of Windows Installer applications with resilient source paths. The updated source paths point to the package servers that you designate. If an application needs modification or repair, Windows Installer can access the needed installation file from one of these servers. See “Updating the source paths of Windows Installer applications” on page 199. <p>See “About managing Windows Installer applications” on page 192.</p>
Manage virtual applications.	<p>You can use software virtualization to facilitate the management of most Windows-based software on managed computers. Software virtualization lets you avoid conflicts between applications and quickly restore a broken application to its original installed state.</p> <p>Software Management Solution lets you perform the following virtualization actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Virtualize applications during a Managed Software Delivery installation. ■ Deliver and install virtual layers with any Software Management Solution delivery policy or task. ■ Manage the existing virtual layers on the client computers. <p>See “Managing virtual applications” on page 217.</p>

How 6.x features compare to Software Management Solution 7.0

Software Management Solution 7.0 replaces the 6.x versions of Software Delivery Solution and Application Management Solution as well as some features of Software Virtualization Solution. Software Management Solution contains most of the functionality of those solutions as well as many new features and functions.

You can discover how to perform familiar 6.x tasks in Software Management Solution 7.0 by reviewing the comparisons between the features of the different versions.

Comparisons between the tasks in 6.x and the tasks in 7.0 are available as follows: