Performing quick software deliveries

This chapter includes the following topics:

- About quick delivery of a single software resource
- Performing a quick delivery of a single software resource
- About the Quick Delivery wizard
- Creating a Quick Delivery task with the Quick Delivery wizard
- Software settings for Quick Delivery tasks

About quick delivery of a single software resource

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. For example, help desk personnel can easily deliver hotfixes because all they have to do is select the correct hotfix from the Software Catalog. They do not need to know which package to select or how to create the command line.

Most organizations can use Quick Delivery for the majority of their software delivery needs. Quick Delivery helps you reduce the amount of time that you spend on routine deliveries so that you can devote more time to advanced activities.

See

The software that you deliver in this way must be defined as a deliverable software resource in the Software Catalog. If the software is not defined, contact an administrator who can edit the Software Catalog.

After the initial instance of a Quick Delivery task runs, you can edit and rerun it. For example, you can deliver the software to different computers or run a different command line on the same computers. You can also edit the delivery settings for the task. For example, you can change the user credentials under which the task runs.

See "Editing a task in Software Management Solution" on page 143.

If you need to perform compliance checks or other advanced delivery activities, use Managed Software Delivery instead of Quick Delivery.

See "About advanced software deliveries" on page 96.

Performing a quick delivery of a single software resource

You can deliver software without the need to know which package to select or how to create the command line.

See "About quick delivery of a single software resource" on page 131.

The software that you deliver in this way must be defined as a deliverable software resource in the Software Catalog. It must also have at least one command line.

Table 7-1   Process for performing a quick delivery of a single software resource

Step	Action	Description
Step 1	Create a Quick Delivery task.	The options for creating a Quick Delivery task are as follows: ■ Use the **Quick Delivery** wizard. The **Quick Delivery** wizard is the fastest and easiest way to create and run a Quick Delivery task with minimum configuration. See "Creating a Quick Delivery task with the Quick Delivery wizard" on page 134. ■ Create the task without the wizard. Use this method when you need to change the task's default settings or run the task on a specific schedule. You can accomplish the same goals by editing a task that you created with the wizard. See "Creating a task in Software Management Solution" on page 142.

Table 7-1   Process for performing a quick delivery of a single software resource
                     (continued)

Step	Action	Description
Step 2	(Optional) Change the task settings.	Every task inherits the default settings that control how the task runs. You can override the default settings for a particular task. See "Advanced options for tasks in Software Management Solution" on page 70.
Step 3	Schedule the task and select the delivery destinations.	When you use the **Quick Delivery** wizard to create the task, you select the destinations during the wizard. Those destinations apply to that instance of the task only. You do not have to schedule the task because it runs as soon as possible. When you edit the task or create it without the wizard, you define the schedule and the delivery destinations every time you run the task. Your options for scheduling the task are as follows: ■ Run the task now. This option runs the task as soon as possible, unless it must wait for a maintenance window. ■ Schedule the task to run at a specific time. See "Scheduling a task and selecting computers in Software Management Solution" on page 144.
Step 4	After the task runs, view the reports.	The Software Management reports let you monitor the software deliveries. The delivery reports provide information about the status of the software downloads and executions. For example, the software downloads for each computer, including the status and the download date. See "Running a Software Management Solution report" on page 83.

About the Quick Delivery wizard

The **Quick Delivery** wizard is the fastest and easiest way to create and run a Quick Delivery task with minimum configuration. During the wizard, you specify the software resource to deliver, the action to perform, and the destinations to deliver to. The resulting Quick Delivery task runs as soon as possible without further configuring or scheduling. We recommend that non-administrators use the **Quick Delivery** wizard because it provides the fewest options and therefore the fewest opportunities for errors.

Warning: When a Quick Delivery task runs automatically, you can recall, stop, or disable it only if the task needs to wait for a maintenance window.

The advantages of using the **Quick Delivery** wizard are as follows:

- It speeds the task creation.

- It does not let non-administrators change the delivery settings.
  In most cases, it is important to prevent non-administrators from changing the delivery settings when they deliver software.

- It sets the task to run as soon as possible.

When you create a Quick Delivery task without the wizard, it does not run automatically. You must run it or schedule it.

See "Creating a Quick Delivery task with the Quick Delivery wizard" on page 134.

See "About quick delivery of a single software resource" on page 131.

Creating a Quick Delivery task with the Quick Delivery wizard

A Quick Delivery task lets you deliver software without the need to know which package to select or how to create the command line. Creating a Quick Delivery task is the first step in performing a quick delivery of a single software resource. The **Quick Delivery** wizard is the fastest and easiest way to create and run a Quick Delivery task with minimum configuration.

See "Performing a quick delivery of a single software resource" on page 132.

See "About the Quick Delivery wizard" on page 133.

The software that you deliver in this way must be defined as a deliverable software resource in the Software Catalog.

When you run the **Quick Delivery** wizard from the **Software Catalog** view, it populates the most default information. However, you can run the **Quick Delivery** wizard from other areas of the **Symantec Management Console**. Your point of entry into the **Quick Delivery** wizard determines the amount of default information that is populated.

If you need to change the task's default settings or run the task on a specific schedule, create the task without the **Quick Delivery** wizard.

See "Creating a task in Software Management Solution" on page 142.

To create a Quick Delivery task with the Quick Delivery wizard

1   In the **Symantec Management Console**, on the **Manage** menu, click **Software**.

2   In the left pane, under **Software**, click the **Software Catalog** folder or expand it and select a subfolder.

3   In the right pane, on the **Software Catalog** page, select a deliverable software resource.

4   Click **Actions**.

5   On the **Actions** menu, click **Actions > Quick Delivery Task**.

6   In the **Quick Delivery Task** dialog box, specify the following items:

   ■ The software resource to deliver

   ■ The command line to run
     The list contains the names of the command lines that are defined for the software resource.

   ■ Whether to accept the maintenance windows

   ■ The destinations to deliver the software resource to

   See "Software settings for Quick Delivery tasks" on page 135.

7   Click **OK**.

See "About quick delivery of a single software resource" on page 131.

Software settings for Quick Delivery tasks

This section lets you define or edit the details of a Quick Delivery task, including the software that it delivers.

See "About quick delivery of a single software resource" on page 131.

When you edit a Quick Delivery task, the **Task Status** section appears beneath the **Software settings** section on the page. Under the **Task Status** section, you can schedule the task, select the destination computers, and view the status of the task.

See "Scheduling a task and selecting computers in Software Management Solution" on page 144.

Table 7-2   Software settings for Quick Delivery tasks

Option	Description
Name When you edit a task, this option is not labeled. In the upper left of the task page, you can click the existing name to edit it.	Identifies this task in any list of tasks throughout the product. Make the name descriptive enough for others to easily identify this task and the software that it delivers or manages. Follow your organization's standards for naming tasks, if any.
Description When you edit a task, this option is not labeled. In the upper left of the task page, you can click the existing description to edit it.	Lets you type a description to further identify this task and make it more recognizable. Do not include critical information in the description because it is not intended to appear in all the lists that contain the name.
Software resource	Lets you select the software to deliver.
Command line	Lets you select a command line to run. This drop-down list contains all the command lines that are defined for the software resource that you selected. If the software resource has multiple packages, be sure to select the correct command line for the selected package.
Package	Lets you select the package to deliver, if this software resource has multiple packages. This option is not available in the **Quick Delivery** wizard.
Advanced	Lets you change the settings that control how this task runs. See "Advanced options for tasks in Software Management Solution" on page 70. This option is not available in the **Quick Delivery** wizard.

See "Creating a task in Software Management Solution" on page 142.

See "Editing a task in Software Management Solution" on page 143.