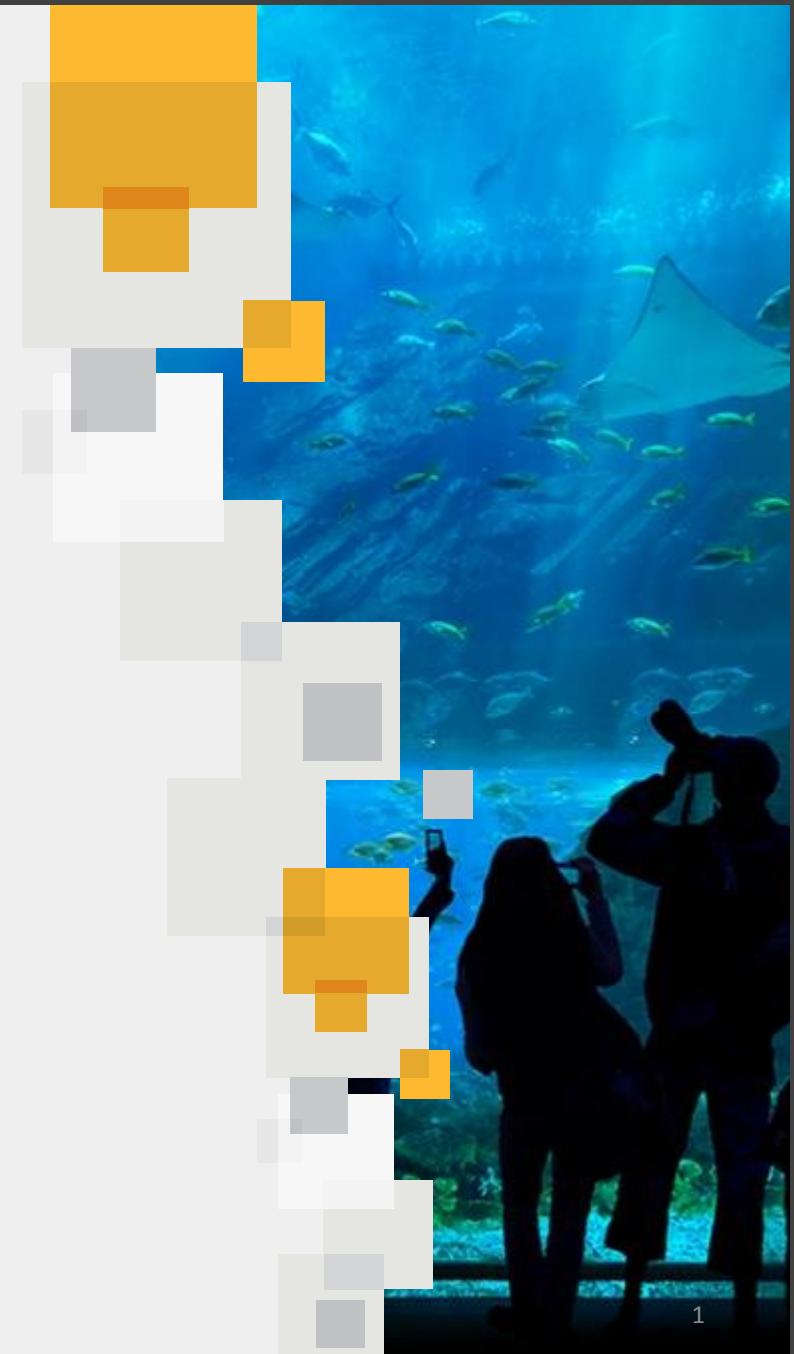




# ITMS 8.1 Upgrade Best Practices

Tomas Chinchilla and Ian Atkin



# Agenda

1	Options for moving to 8.1
2	Off-Box Migration Options
3	Best Practices
4	Notes from the EAP: Ian Atkin
5	Open Q&A



## Upgrade to 8.1 options

# Upgrade or Migrate??



Easiest/Quickest method

All settings retained

Minimal Operational  
downtime



Ensure Backups are  
recent.



New hardware/OS or SQL

Clean fresh Database

No Downtime &  
Lower risk



Longer process

Increased Complexity

Manual Configuration Steps



# ITMS 8.1 Operating Systems Support

- **Additional CMDB Database Support:**

- Microsoft SQL Server® 2012 SP3
- Microsoft SQL Server® 2014 SP2
- Microsoft SQL Server® 2016

- **Additional Site Server Support:**

- Windows Server 2016
- Windows 10 Anniversary Update

- **Additional Symantec Management Agent Support:**

- Windows 10 Anniversary Update 1 (Windows 10, version 1607)
- Windows Server 2016
- CentOS 6.0 - 6.8 and CentOS 7.0 - 7.2
- AIX 7.1 TL4
- OS X 10.12 Sierra
- RHEL 6.7, 6.8, RHEL 7.2
- Solaris 11.3
- SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 SP1



*Platform Support Matrix*

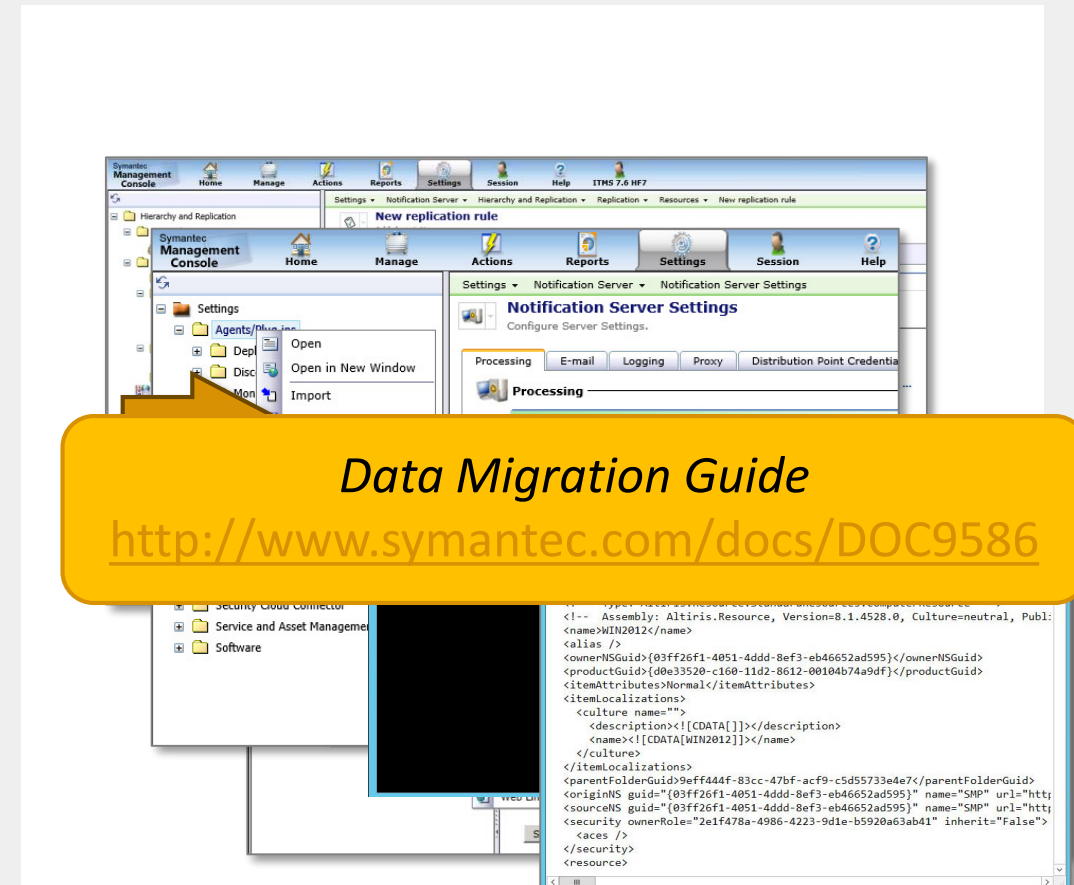
<http://www.symantec.com/docs/HOWTO9965>

**\*\* SMP on Server 2016 support is coming.**



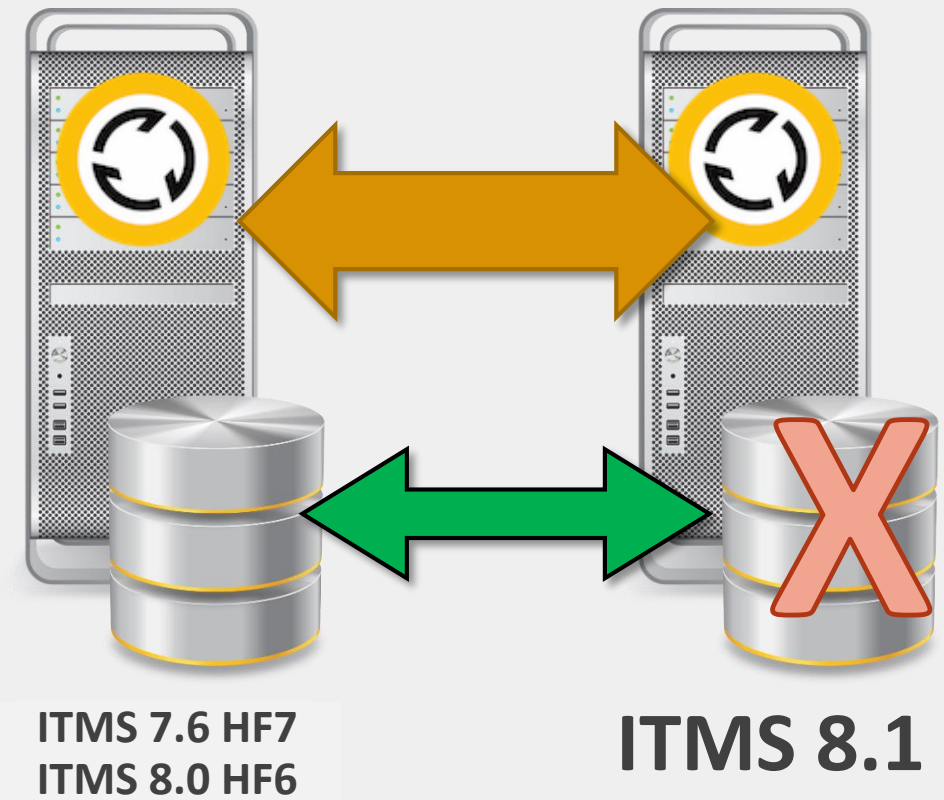
# Data Migration Capabilities

- Replicate data between the servers that have different versions of ITMS installed.
- Migrating data to ITMS 8.1 is supported from the following versions:
  - IT Management Suite 7.6 HF7
  - IT Management Suite 8.0 HF6
- Export and import data between servers with different versions of ITMS
- Allows Re-use of data objects from previous ITMS implementations.
  - Start with a clean database, then move the data that you require to the new database.
  - Keep the old Notification Server fully functional while setting up the new server.
- **Implementation TIPS:**
  - Performing an off-box upgrade to introduce a new hardware?
    - Symantec recommends that you keep using the existing database.
  - Migrating large amounts of data?
    - Symantec recommends using the standalone replication rules.
    - Migrates data that cannot be exported and imported between Notification Servers.
  - Moving individual data objects from one server to another
    - Use the manual export and import or the **ImportExportUtil.exe** tool.
    - Allows you to modify the data in the exported XML file before importing



# Migration – In-Place DB Upgrade

- Backup and Restore the “existing database” between SQL servers (existing & new).
- Use case (migrate to ITMS 8.1) is supported from the following versions:
  - IT Management Suite 7.6 HF7
  - IT Management Suite 8.0 HF6
- Export and import (backup & restore) database between servers with different versions of ITMS
- Allows re-use of database.
  - Start with a clean backup of your existing SQL CMDB, then move the backup over to the new SQL server and restore.
  - ***\* It's important to keep the same Service Accounts as well as domain (AD) \****
  - Keeps the old Notification Server fully functional while setting up the new server.
- **Implementation TIPS:**
  - Performing an off-box upgrade to introduce a new hardware?
    - Symantec recommends that you keep using the existing database.
  - No need for moving individual data objects from one server to another





# General Best Practices / Checklist





## Backup

- DB, SMP, Images
- Snapshot



## Health

- Altiris (SMP) logs
- Disk Space
- Logs (IIS, Windows)



## Health (Microsoft)

- OS System logs, defrag, disk cleanup
- SQL logs, DB size, Maintenance plans / defrag

# Preparation

- ☐ Plan your upgrade - *Infrastructure Design, SQL non virtualized and if it is then 90% reservation on that host, IOPS (4 logical drives, Data and Logs separate drives with highest IOPS), etc.*
- ☐ Backup existing DB and restore on new SQL.
- ☐ Backup your KMS keys.
- ☐ Cancel active tasks – truncate the following tables. (SQL)
  - ☐ ServerTaskInstanceRequests
  - ☐ ServerTaskInstanceStates
  - ☐ ClientTaskInstanceRequests
  - ☐ AgentBlacklist
  - ☐ **Also run the command:** “UPDATE TaskInstanceStatus SET InstanceStatus =3 WHERE InstanceStatus <= 1”
- ☐ Mind the SQL settings – parallelism, legacy, ad-hoc workloads, memory, etc. (*Performance, Performance, Performance*)
- ☐ Install 8.1 on top of restored DB (*if third migration use case*)

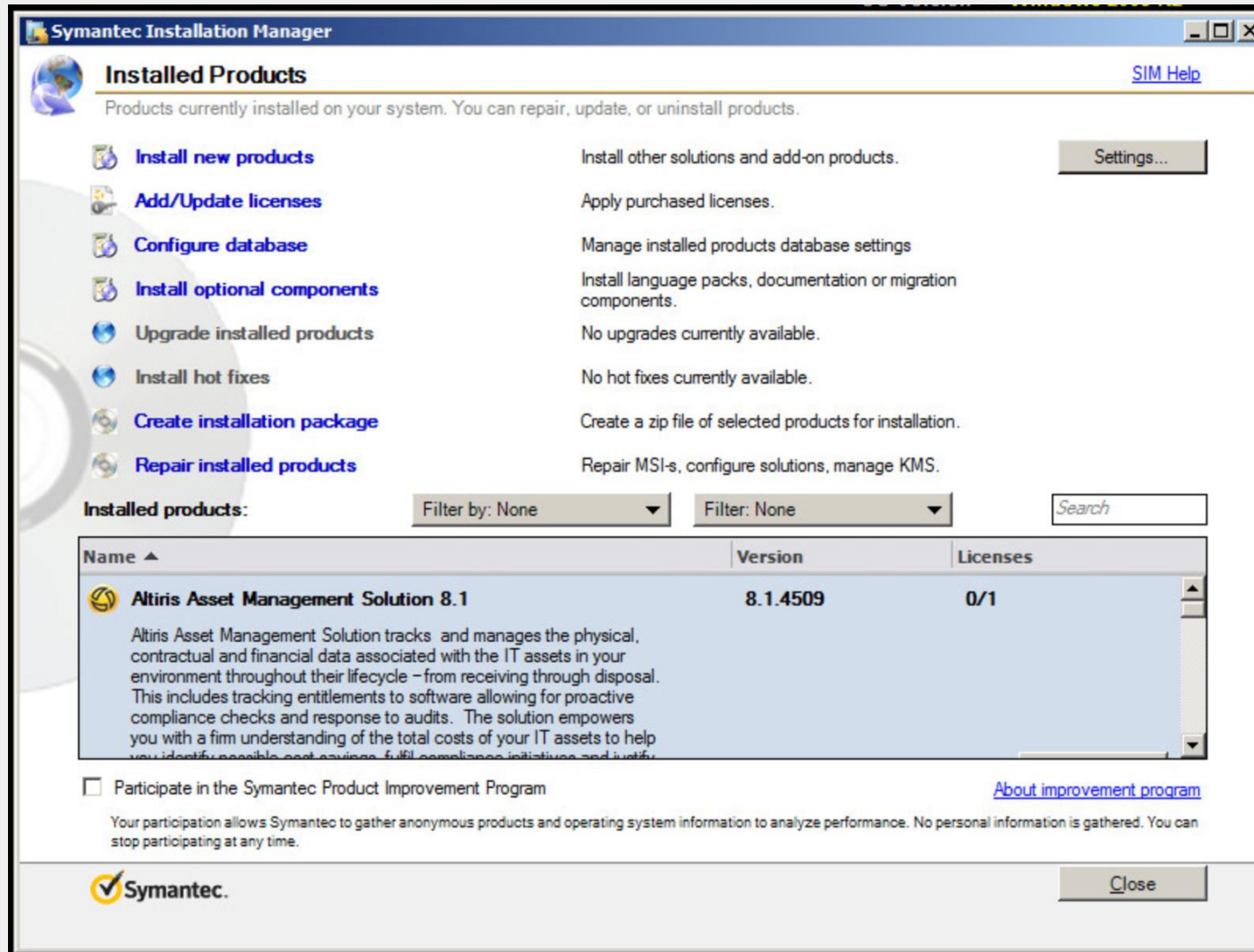
## Preparation – Contd.

- ☐ Mind the Certificate Conversation if we are using HTTPS whether internal or CEM.... PKI is the silver bullet internally (Never for gateway), Commercial Cert ONLY if AD Domain is routable (.Com, .Net, .Org, ETC)
- ☐ DO NOT Reboot immediately post install, give server a few hours to settle.
- ☐ Install Licenses (*can now combine them in the portal*)
- ☐ Turn all Agent and plugin upgrade's "ON"
- ☐ Software Library Redirect (if needed)
- ☐ Patch Management Redirect
- ☐ PM Import (*supersede switch – clean up*)
- ☐ Validate SQL Maintenance tasks (reference article with script)
- ☐ Recommend the use of a separate ACC account. (*Agent Connectivity Credential*)

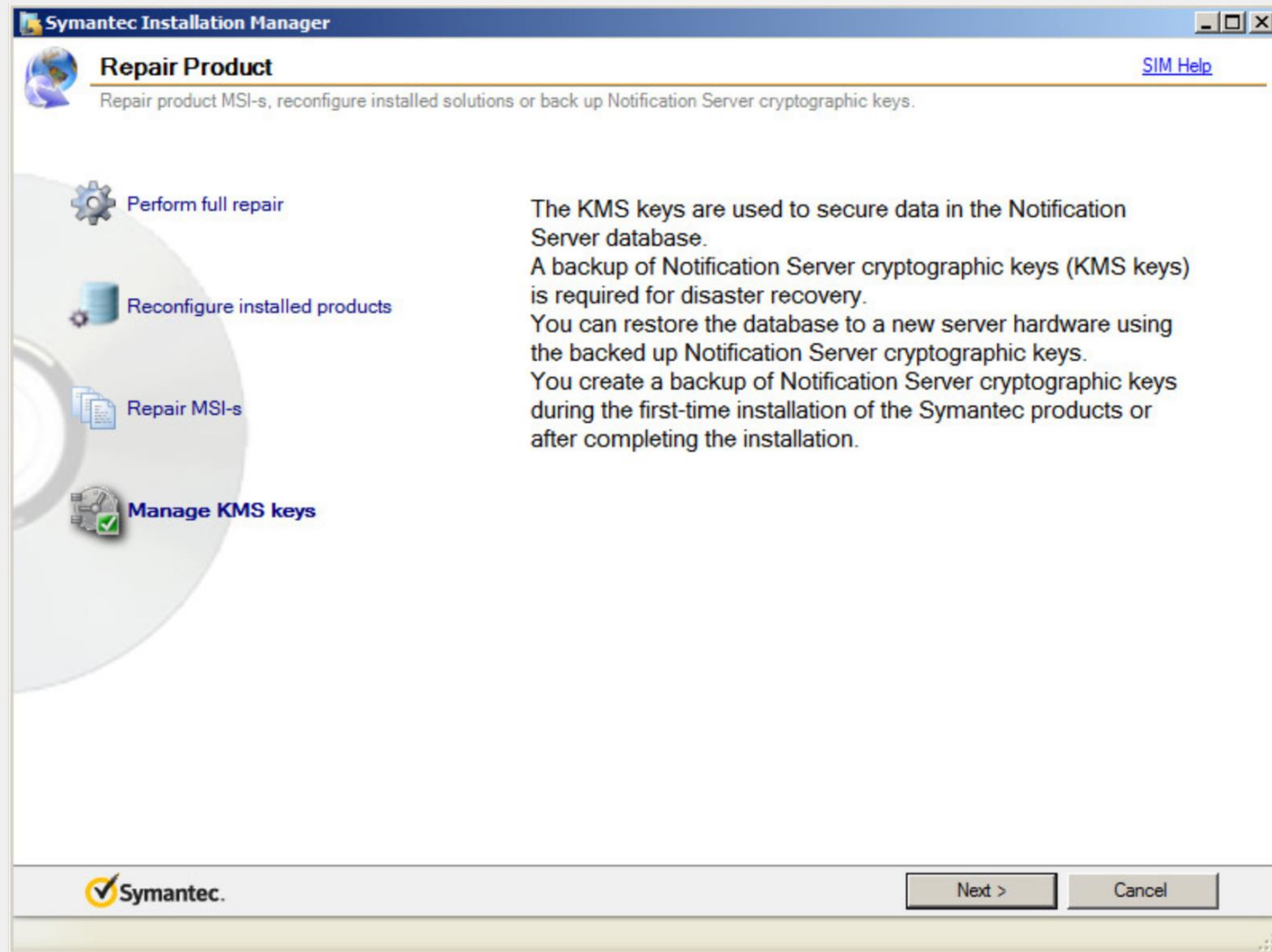
## Preparation – Contd.

- ☐ Redirect first site server and validate “Task Server” - (if not working then implement work-around to edit the XML file / recreate with new server name) - **TECH240742**
- ☐ Site Server IIS missing components? .Net and others that need to be present.
- ☐ Mind the Site Server Certificate’s Setting on the SMP (Specially if you’re using Deployment Solution)
- ☐ Migrate/Redirect endpoints "THE PROPER WAY" - Export existing server’s connection profile and import on new box, Empty Filter, add to proper Targeted Agent Settings as include/excludes, then place devices/filters on that filter. There is a method to this madness and that was the most flawless approach. Anytime we did it any other way we ran into issues.
- ☐ CEM: We can include/exclude CEM ..... We can have as a separate category as all they need to be is change entries on the gateways (cert’s conversation might be necessary but it will export with the new connection profile anyways)
- ☐ **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Always remember to page “DR, MU” after important policy/site server changes.... :-)*

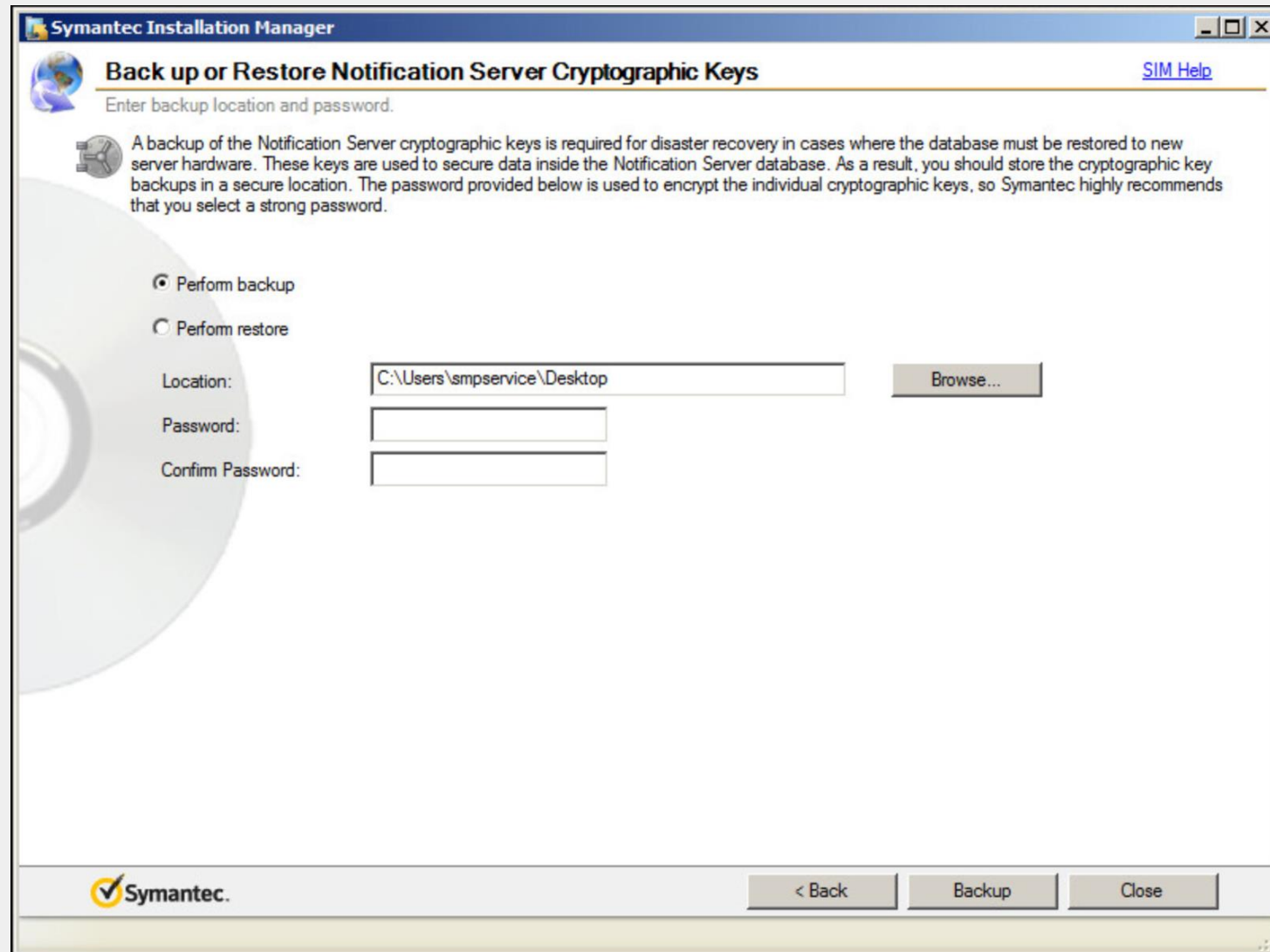
# KMS Backup.



# KMS Backup.



# KMS Backup.



The image shows a screenshot of the Symantec Installation Manager (SIM) window. The title bar reads "Symantec Installation Manager". The main window has a blue header with the text "Back up or Restore Notification Server Cryptographic Keys" and a "SIM Help" link. Below the header, there is a sub-header "Enter backup location and password." and a paragraph explaining the importance of backing up cryptographic keys for disaster recovery. The window contains two radio buttons: "Perform backup" (selected) and "Perform restore". Below these are three text input fields: "Location:" (containing "C:\Users\smbservice\Desktop"), "Password:", and "Confirm Password:". A "Browse..." button is next to the "Location:" field. At the bottom, there is a Symantec logo and three buttons: "< Back", "Backup", and "Close".

**Symantec Installation Manager**

## Back up or Restore Notification Server Cryptographic Keys

[SIM Help](#)

Enter backup location and password.


A backup of the Notification Server cryptographic keys is required for disaster recovery in cases where the database must be restored to new server hardware. These keys are used to secure data inside the Notification Server database. As a result, you should store the cryptographic key backups in a secure location. The password provided below is used to encrypt the individual cryptographic keys, so Symantec highly recommends that you select a strong password.

☒ Perform backup  
☐ Perform restore

Location:

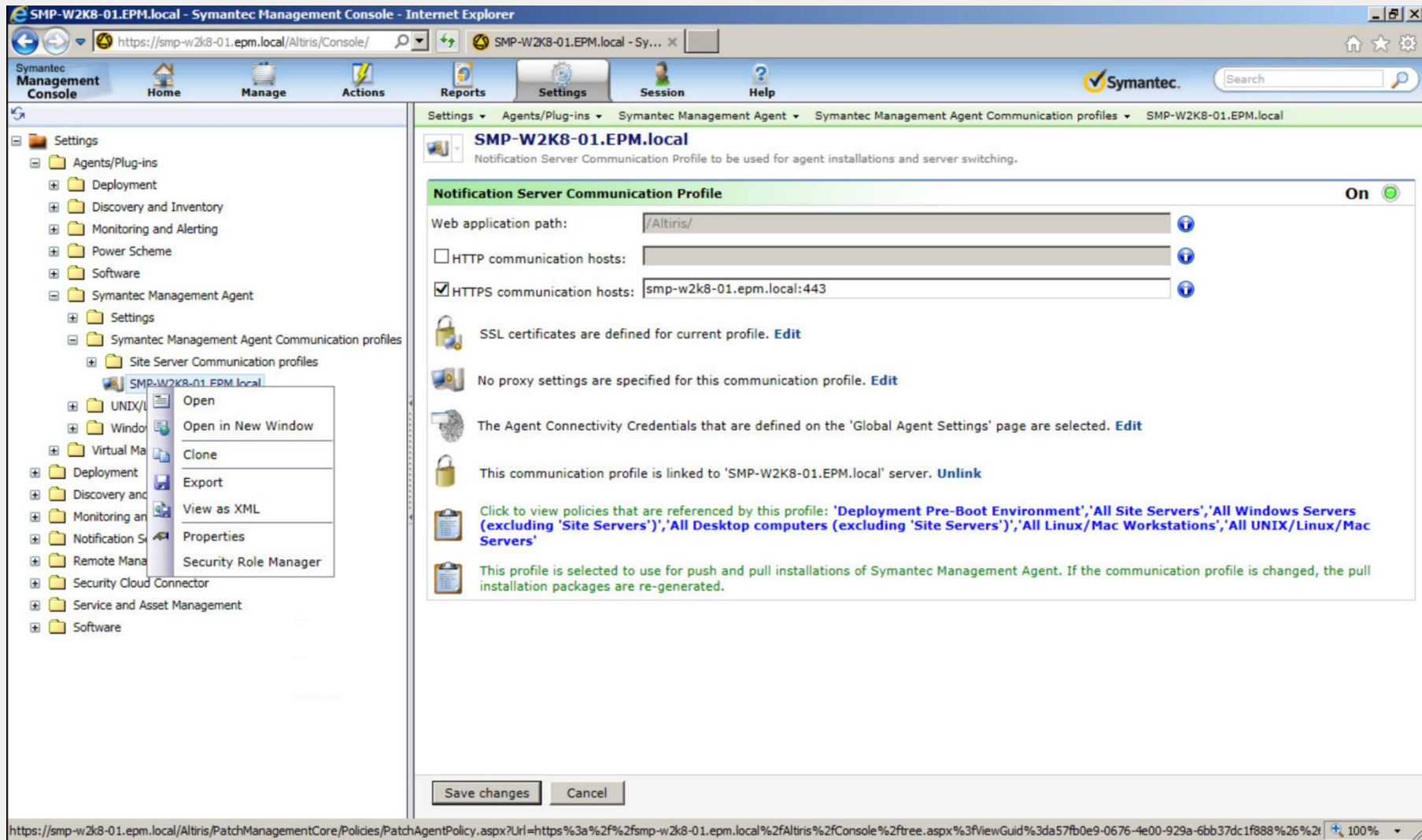
Password:

Confirm Password:



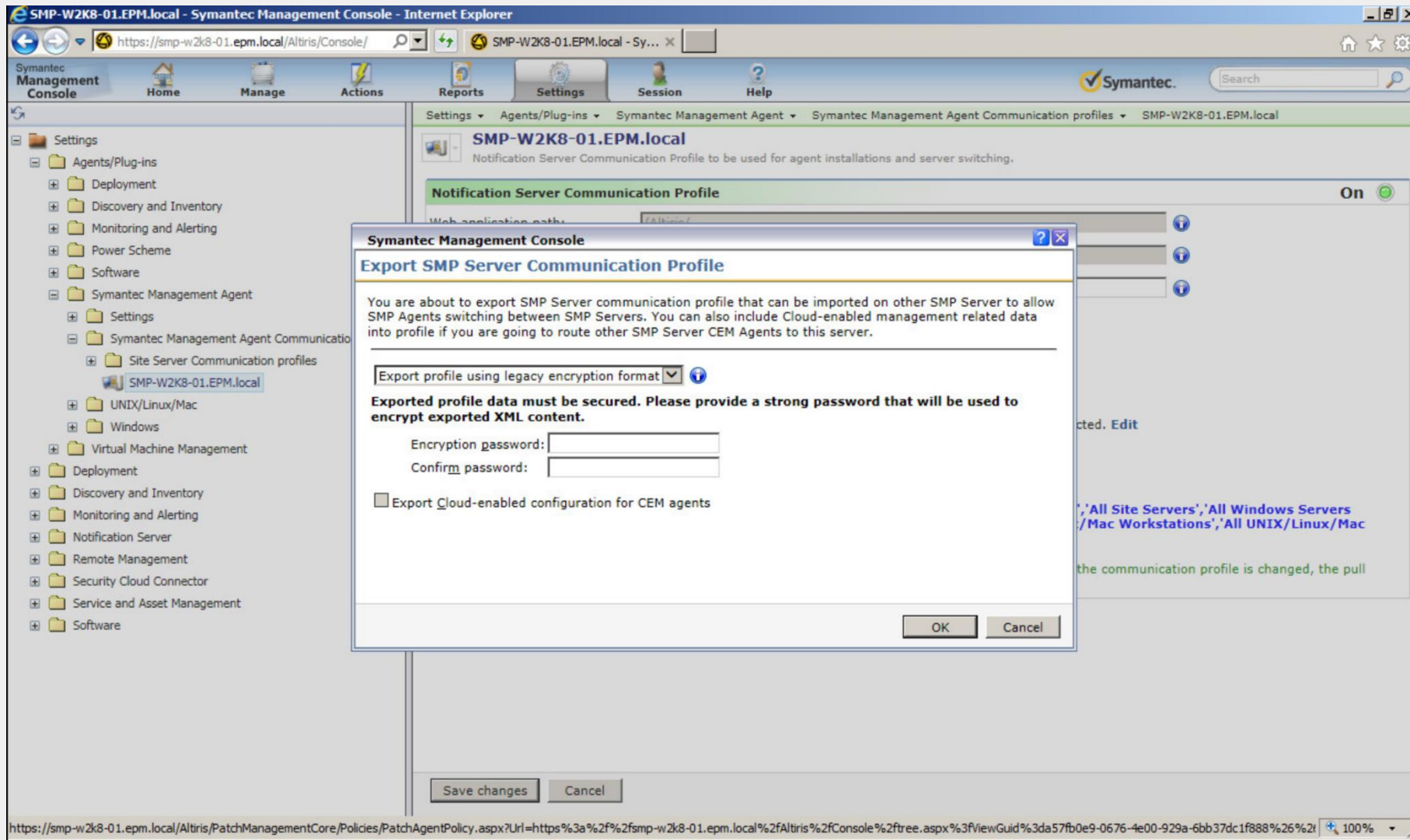


# Communication Profiles (Agent Redirect).

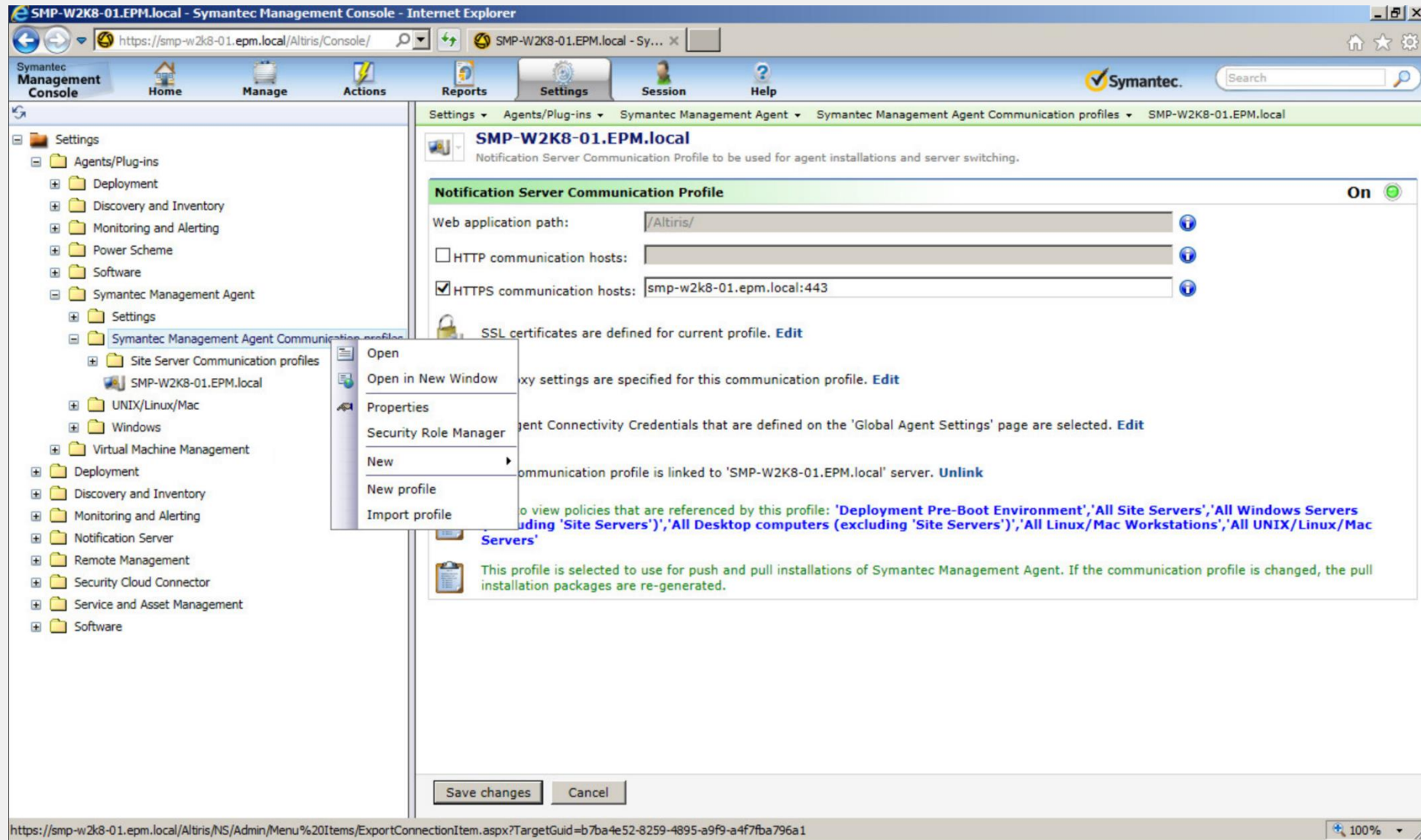




# Communication Profiles (Agent Redirect).



# Communication Profiles (Agent Redirect).





# Notes from the EAP: Oxford university

Ian Atkin **TRUSTED ADVISOR**

# About Oxford University

- Oldest University in the English Speaking World
  - It's reassuringly old
- Considered to be a “Pretty Good “University
- Collegiate Research University
  - 38 colleges, 70 departments, 20,000 students, 5,000 staff
  - Pretty darn complex
- Working at Oxford is pretty amazing





# The ITMS Environment

- Main environment
  - ~3500 Windows 7 nodes distributed across 60 subnets
- Solutions Used
  - Inventory, Software Mgmt, Real-Time, PCANYWHERE, Deployment (through GSS), WORKSPACE VIRTUALISATION

1 SMP, 1 Cloud Gateway, 1 Site Server, 1 Backend SQL Server
- Team Profile
  - Manger, Server Admin, Altiris Guru, Windows Expert, 3 software packagers



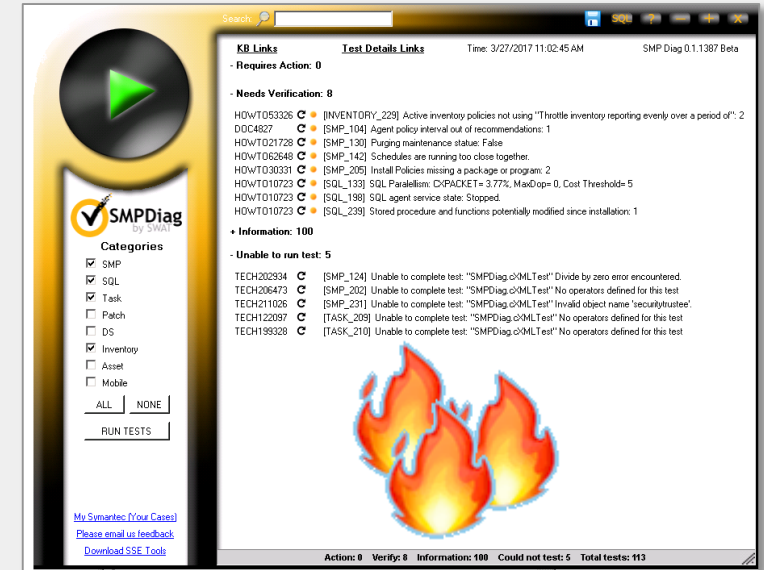
# Run Book Documentation

- My full Run Book provided on the Connect Community
  - <https://www.symantec.com/connect/articles/symantec-itms-81-upgrade-methodology>

- PREPARATION IS KEY 

# Advance Preparation

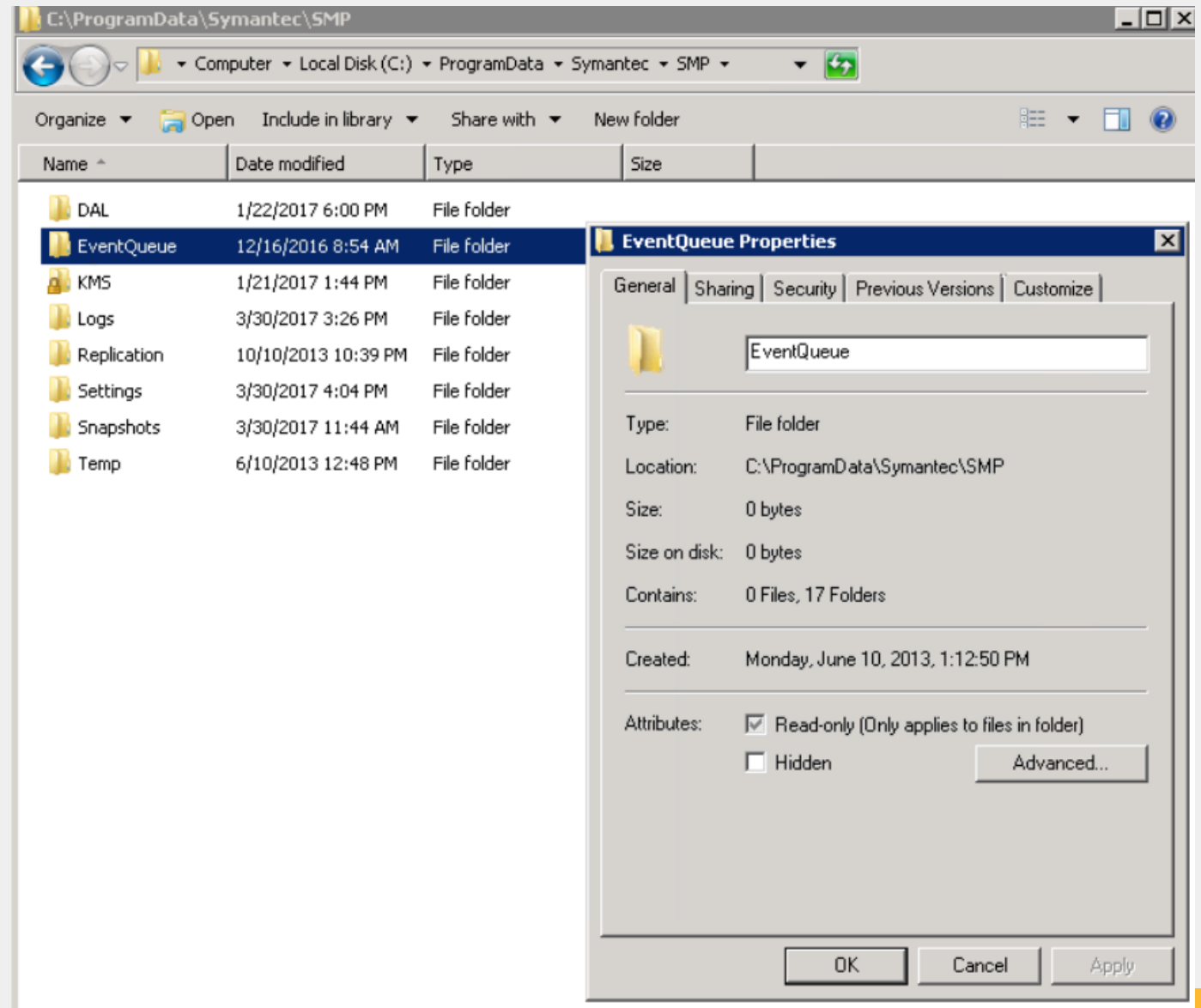
- Attend your live infrastructure!!!
  - Run SMP Diag
  - Logviewer
  - Consider server resource and potential ram/cpu/disk upgrades
- Prepare Test environment and Upgrade
  - Build the Upgrade Checklist
- Gather Testing Documentation





# Pre-Upgrade

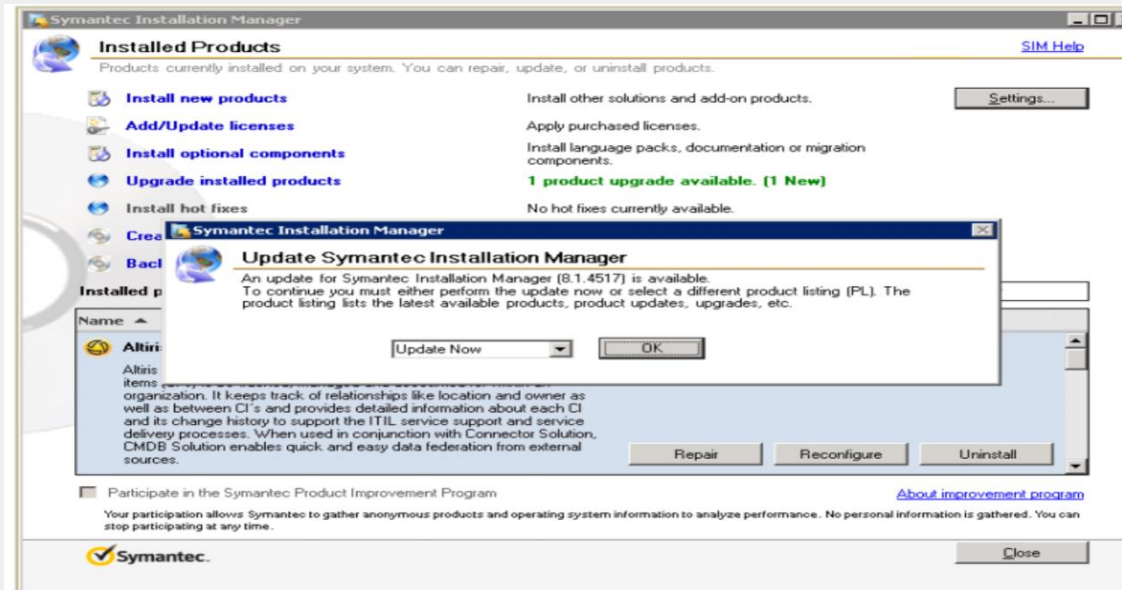
- Check backups
- Reboot SMP Server
- Check Logs
- Isolate Infrastructure (Firewall) and snapshot environment
- Check Event Queues empty
- Snapshot infrastructure





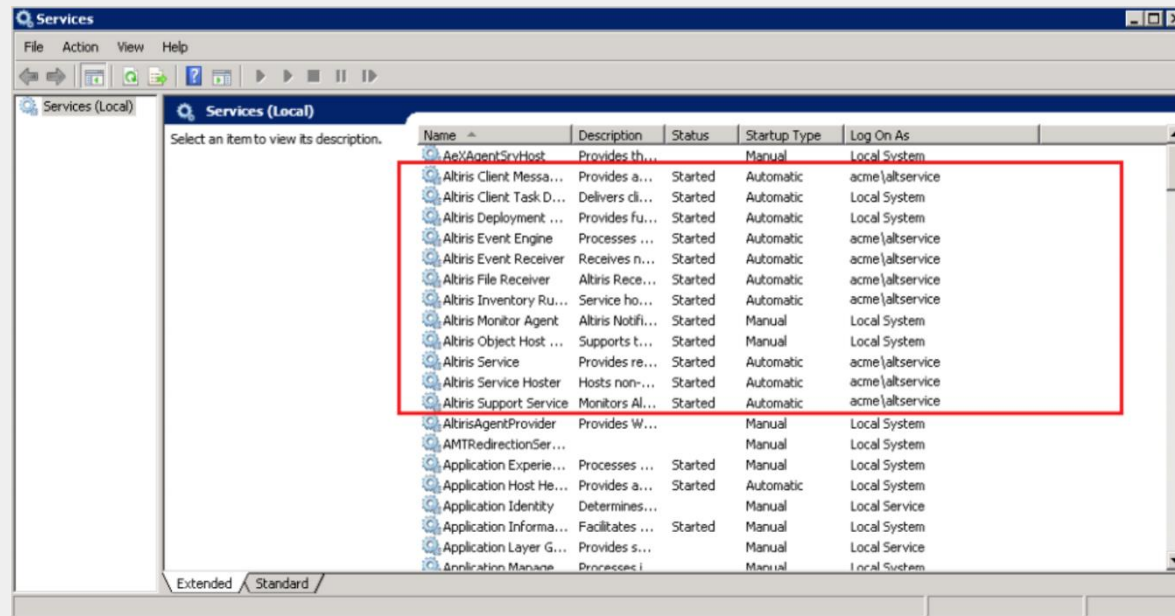
# Upgrade

1. Install Upgrade prerequisites on SMP
2. Begin preparing the download of new SMP files in Symantec Installation Manager (SIM)



## Upgrade cont...

1. Reboot the SMP
2. Check that there are no partial installs in SIM (CTRL+SHIFT+P)
3. Check that the SMP related services have started correctly.



## Upgrade cont...

1. Check the Targeted Agent Settings
2. Note: We rename our policy settings by prefixing them with “ON:” to indicate that they are enabled. This helps us locate the active policies faster for verifying those critical settings.
3. Validate Agent Upgrade Policies
4. Refresh IT Analytics Credentials
5. Windows Event logs and SMP Logs (Altiris Log Viewer)
6. Execute Testing Plans

## Upgrade cont...

1. Expose upgrade to client estate gradually (we use Windows firewalls to increase exposure)
  1. Upgrade Site servers
  2. Upgrade Internet gateway
  3. Upgrade a single client
  4. Upgrade multiple clients and test

# Final Words

- Testing plans important at every stage
  - Testing plan for client behaviour
  - Testing plans for standard console roles
- Plan and document your upgrade as much as you can in advance
  - Spreadsheet and tick off your tasks
- Get to know your server infrastructure!

## 8.1 Early Adopters

Completed customers





# Q&A



Thank you!

Tomas Chinchilla

[Tomas\\_Chinchilla@symantec.com](mailto:Tomas_Chinchilla@symantec.com)

**Copyright © 2014 Symantec Corporation. All rights reserved.** Symantec and the Symantec Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Symantec Corporation or its affiliates in the U.S. and other countries. Other names may be trademarks of their respective owners.

This document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as advertising. All warranties relating to the information in this document, either express or implied, are disclaimed to the maximum extent allowed by law. The information in this document is subject to change without notice.