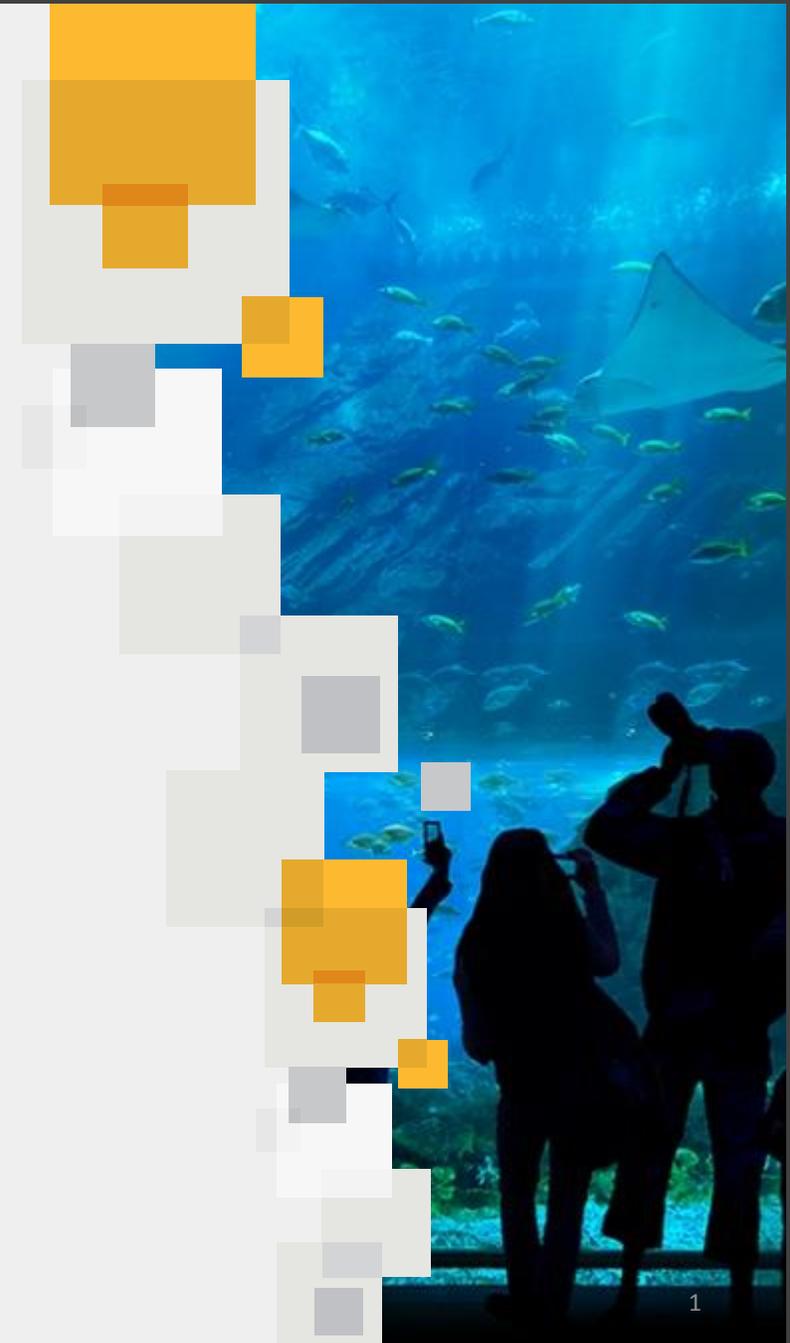




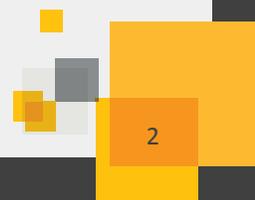
ITMS 8.1 Upgrade Best Practices

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

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



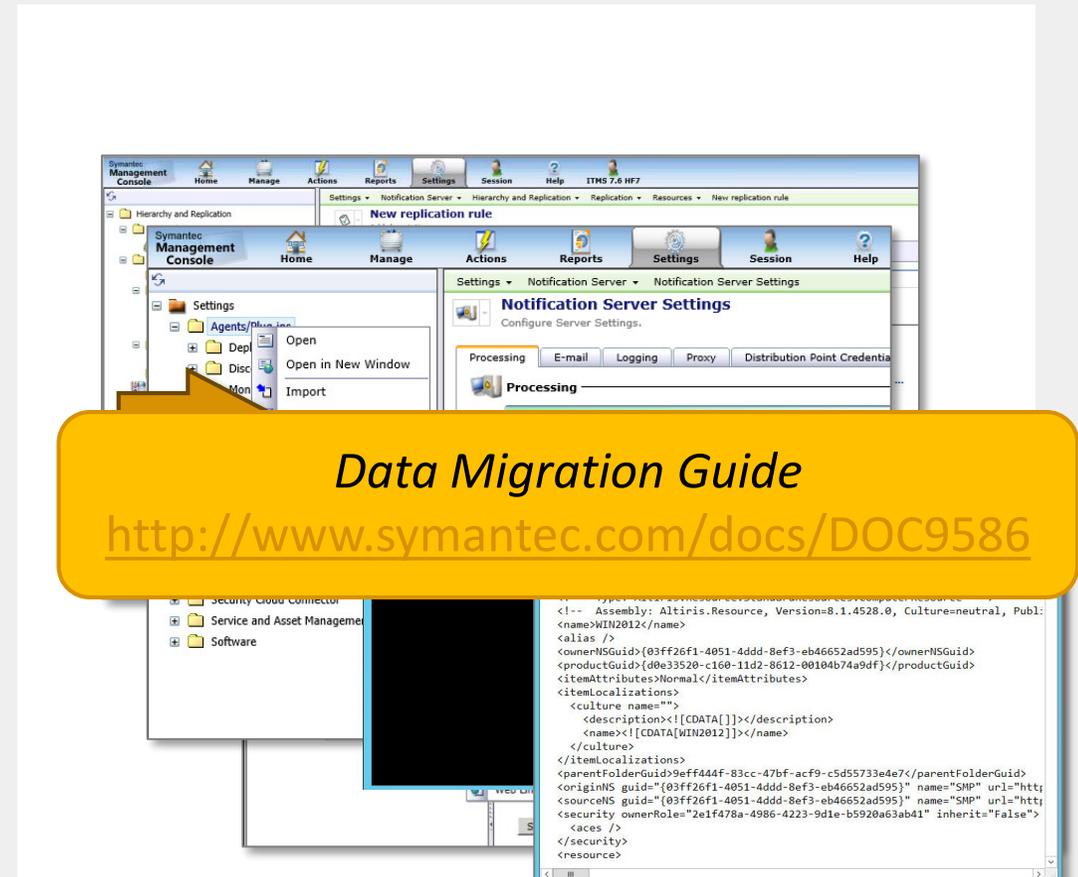
Platform Support Matrix

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



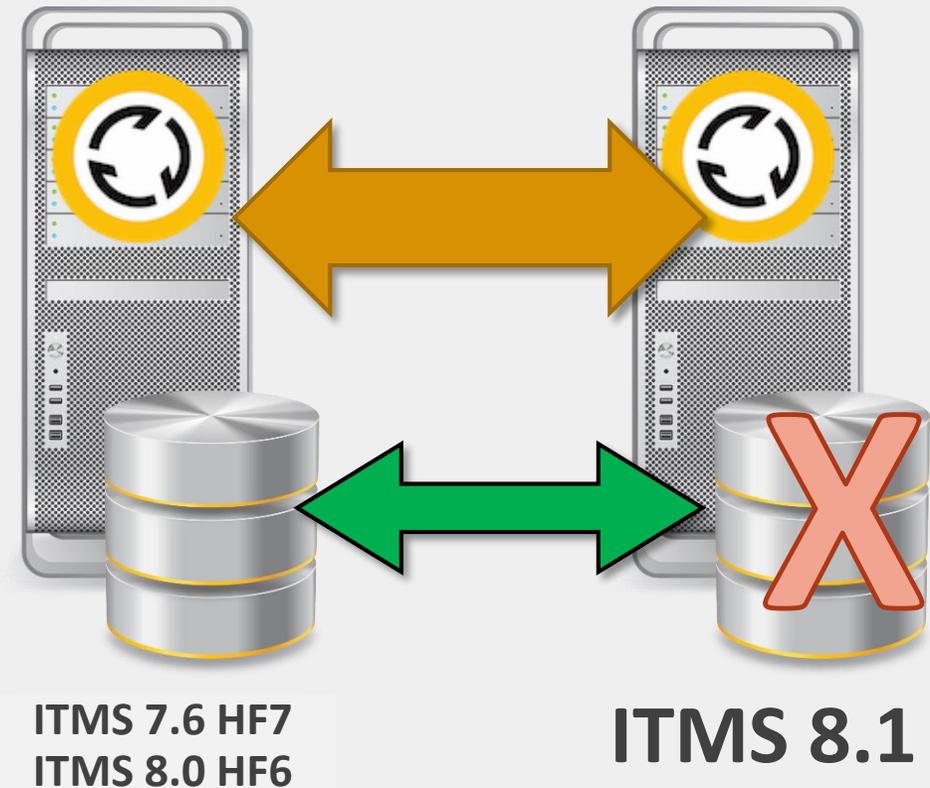
Data Migration Capabilities

- 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.

The screenshot shows the Symantec Installation Manager window. The title bar reads "Symantec Installation Manager". The main area is titled "Installed Products" and includes a "SIM Help" link. Below the title, there is a list of actions: "Install new products", "Add/Update licenses", "Configure database", "Install optional components", "Upgrade installed products", "Install hot fixes", "Create installation package", and "Repair installed products". Each action has a brief description. At the bottom of the window, there is a table of installed products. The table has columns for "Name", "Version", and "Licenses". One product is listed: "Altiris Asset Management Solution 8.1" with version "8.1.4509" and "0/1" licenses. Below the table, there is a checkbox for "Participate in the Symantec Product Improvement Program" and a "Close" button.

Installed Products [SIM Help](#)

Products currently installed on your system. You can repair, update, or uninstall products.

- Install new products** Install other solutions and add-on products. [Settings...](#)
- Add/Update licenses** Apply purchased licenses.
- Configure database** Manage installed products database settings
- Install optional components** Install language packs, documentation or migration components.
- Upgrade installed products** No upgrades currently available.
- Install hot fixes** No hot fixes currently available.
- Create installation package** Create a zip file of selected products for installation.
- Repair installed products** Repair MSI-s, configure solutions, manage KMS.

Installed products:

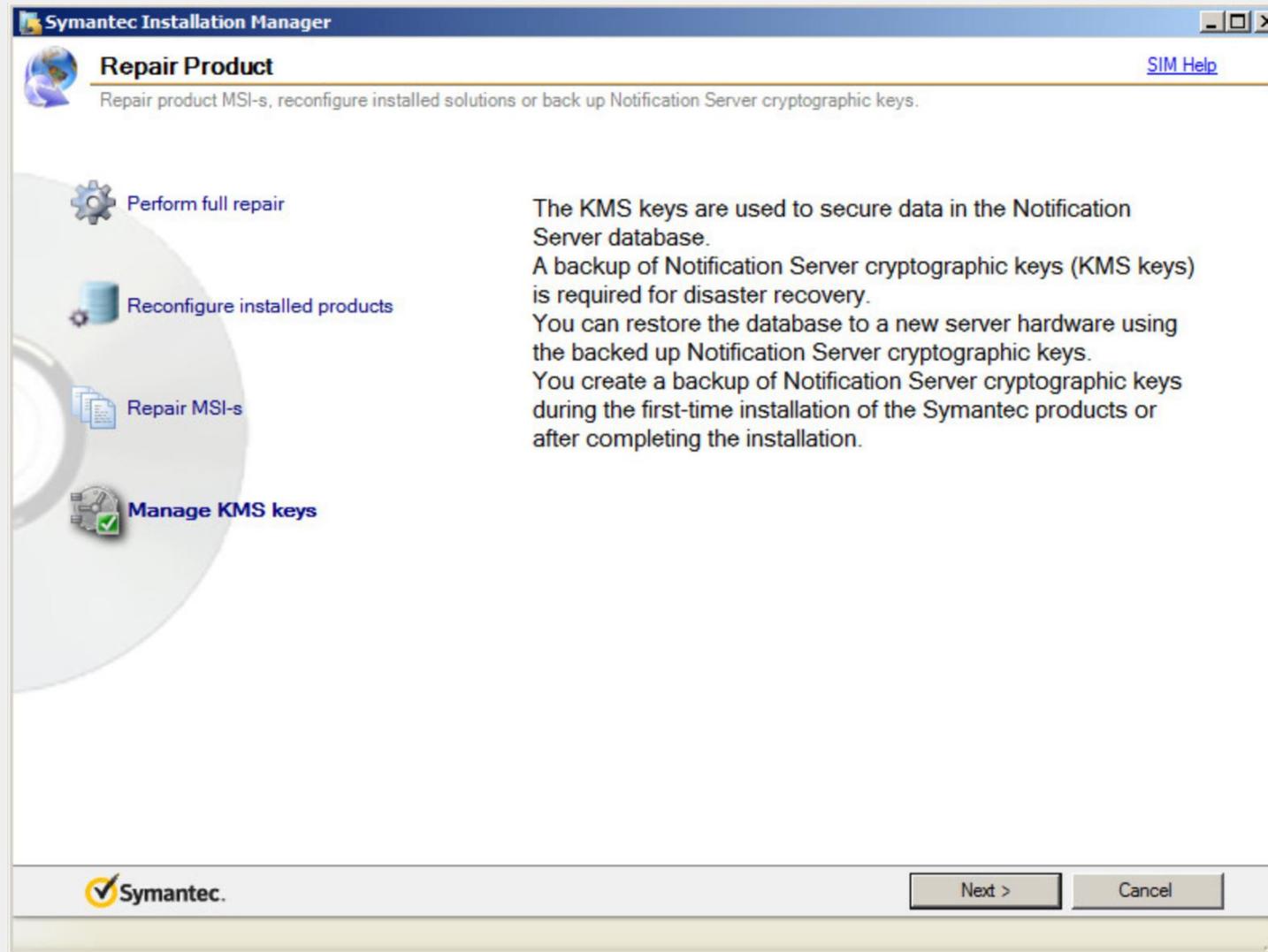
Name ^	Version	Licenses
Altiris Asset Management Solution 8.1 Altiris Asset Management Solution tracks and manages the physical, contractual and financial data associated with the IT assets in your environment throughout their lifecycle - from receiving through disposal. This includes tracking entitlements to software allowing for proactive compliance checks and response to audits. The solution empowers you with a firm understanding of the total costs of your IT assets to help you identify possible cost savings, fulfil compliance initiatives and justify	8.1.4509	0/1

Participate in the Symantec Product Improvement Program [About improvement program](#)

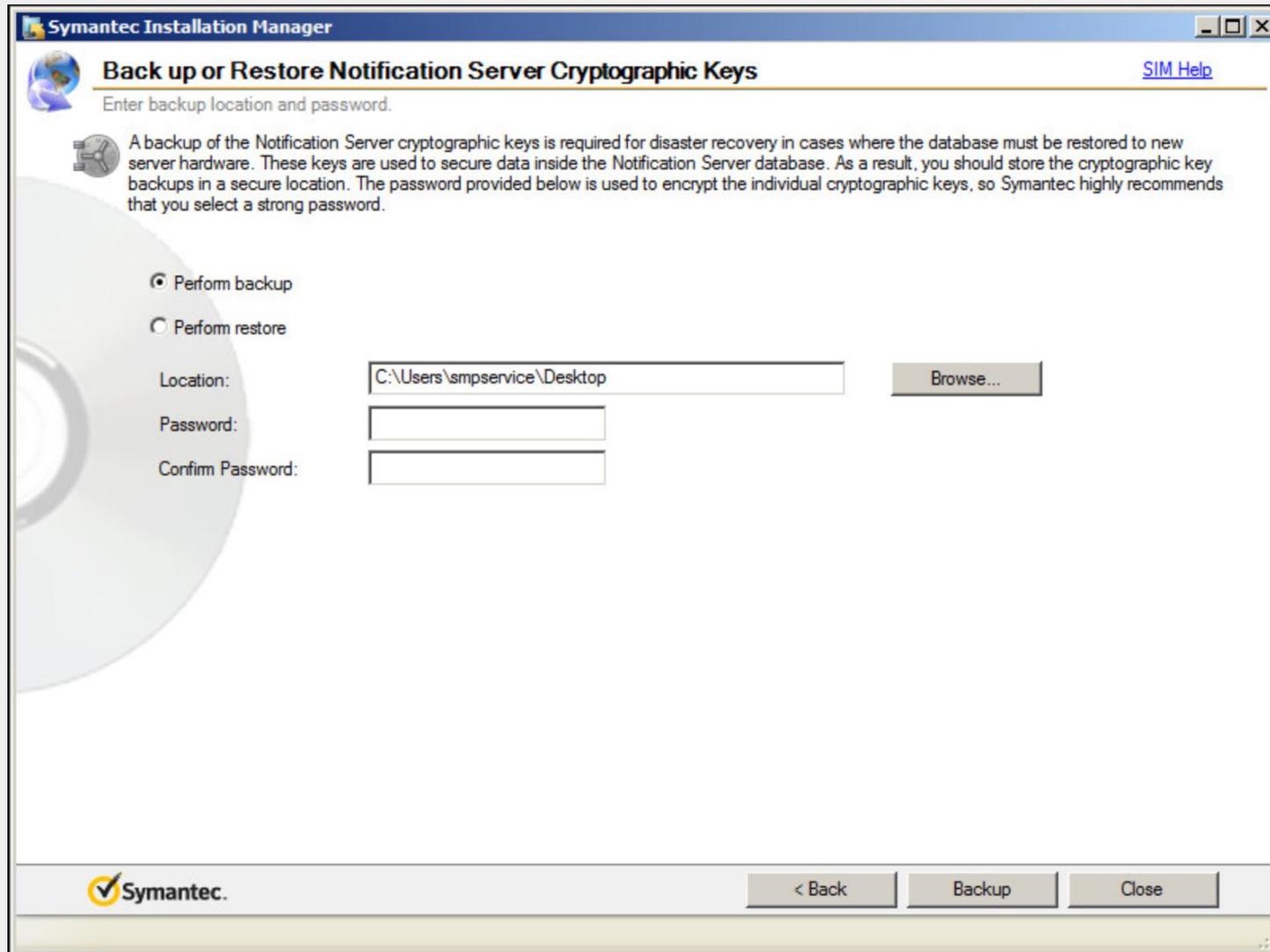
Your participation allows Symantec to gather anonymous products and operating system information to analyze performance. No personal information is gathered. You can stop participating at any time.

[Close](#)

KMS Backup.



KMS Backup.



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).

The screenshot displays the Symantec Management Console interface in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: `https://smp-w2k8-01.epm.local/Altiris/Console/`. The console's navigation menu includes Home, Manage, Actions, Reports, Settings, Session, and Help. The left-hand navigation pane shows a tree view of settings, with 'Symantec Management Agent' expanded to 'Symantec Management Agent Communication profiles', and 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local' selected. A context menu is open over this selection, showing options like 'Open', 'Open in New Window', 'Clone', 'Export', 'View as XML', 'Properties', and 'Security Role Manager'. The main content area displays the configuration for the 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local' profile, which is currently 'On'. The configuration includes:

- Web application path: `/Altiris/`
- HTTP communication hosts: (empty field)
- HTTPS communication hosts: `smp-w2k8-01.epm.local:443`
- SSL certificates are defined for current profile. [Edit](#)
- No proxy settings are specified for this communication profile. [Edit](#)
- The Agent Connectivity Credentials that are defined on the 'Global Agent Settings' page are selected. [Edit](#)
- This communication profile is linked to 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local' server. [Unlink](#)
- Click to view policies that are referenced by this profile: ['Deployment Pre-Boot Environment', 'All Site Servers', 'All Windows Servers \(excluding 'Site Servers'\)', 'All Desktop computers \(excluding 'Site Servers'\)', 'All Linux/Mac Workstations', 'All UNIX/Linux/Mac Servers'](#)
- This profile is selected to use for push and pull installations of Symantec Management Agent. If the communication profile is changed, the pull installation packages are re-generated.

At the bottom of the configuration area, there are 'Save changes' and 'Cancel' buttons. The status bar at the very bottom of the browser window shows the full URL and a 100% zoom level.

Communication Profiles (Agent Redirect).

The screenshot displays the Symantec Management Console interface in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: `https://smp-w2k8-01.epm.local/Altiris/Console/`. The console's navigation menu includes Home, Manage, Actions, Reports, Settings, Session, and Help. The left-hand navigation tree is expanded to 'Symantec Management Agent' > 'Symantec Management Agent Communication' > 'Site Server Communication profiles' > 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local'. The main content area shows the 'Notification Server Communication Profile' configuration page for 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local', which is currently set to 'On'. A modal dialog box titled 'Symantec Management Console - Export SMP Server Communication Profile' is open in the foreground. The dialog contains the following text: 'You are about to export SMP Server communication profile that can be imported on other SMP Server to allow SMP Agents switching between SMP Servers. You can also include Cloud-enabled management related data into profile if you are going to route other SMP Server CEM Agents to this server.' Below this text is a dropdown menu set to 'Export profile using legacy encryption format'. A bolded instruction states: 'Exported profile data must be secured. Please provide a strong password that will be used to encrypt exported XML content.' There are two input fields for 'Encryption password:' and 'Confirm password:'. A checkbox labeled 'Export Cloud-enabled configuration for CEM agents' is present and unchecked. At the bottom of the dialog are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons. The background console page shows a 'Save changes' button at the bottom and a status message: 'the communication profile is changed, the pull...'. The browser status bar at the bottom shows the full URL and a zoom level of 100%.

Communication Profiles (Agent Redirect).

The screenshot displays the Symantec Management Console interface in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: `https://smp-w2k8-01.epm.local/Altiris/Console/`. The console header includes navigation tabs: Home, Manage, Actions, Reports, Settings, Session, and Help. The left sidebar shows a tree view of settings, with 'Symantec Management Agent' > 'Settings' > 'Symantec Management Agent Communication profiles' > 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local' selected. A context menu is open over the selected profile, listing options: Open, Open in New Window, Properties, Security Role Manager, New, New profile, and Import profile. The main content area shows the configuration for the 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local' profile, which is currently 'On'. The configuration includes: 'Web application path' set to '/Altiris/'; 'HTTP communication hosts' unchecked; 'HTTPS communication hosts' checked and set to 'smp-w2k8-01.epm.local:443'. Below these fields, there are several informational messages: 'SSL certificates are defined for current profile. Edit'; 'Any settings are specified for this communication profile. Edit'; 'Agent Connectivity Credentials that are defined on the 'Global Agent Settings' page are selected. Edit'; 'This communication profile is linked to 'SMP-W2K8-01.EPM.local' server. Unlink'; and 'To view policies that are referenced by this profile: 'Deployment Pre-Boot Environment', 'All Site Servers', 'All Windows Servers including 'Site Servers', 'All Desktop computers (excluding 'Site Servers)', 'All Linux/Mac Workstations', 'All UNIX/Linux/Mac Servers''. At the bottom of the configuration area, there are 'Save changes' and 'Cancel' buttons. The status bar at the bottom of the browser window shows the full URL: `https://smp-w2k8-01.epm.local/Altiris/NS/Admin/Menu%20Items/ExportConnectionItem.aspx?TargetGuid=b7ba4e52-8259-4895-a9f9-a4f7fba796a1` and a zoom level of 100%.



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

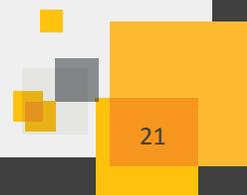




The ITMS Environment

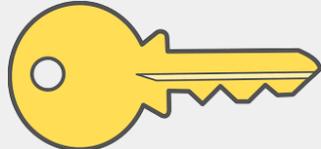
- Main environment
 - ~3500 Windows 7 nodes distributed across 60 subnets
- Solutions Used
 - Inventory, Software Mgmt, Real-Time, PCANYWHERE, Deployment (through GSS), WORKSPACE VIRTUALISATION

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



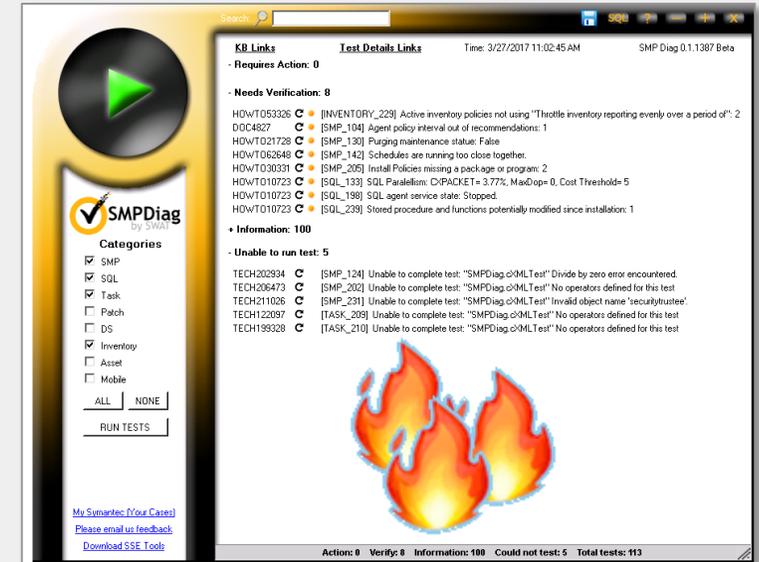
Run Book Documentation

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

- PREPARATION IS KEY 

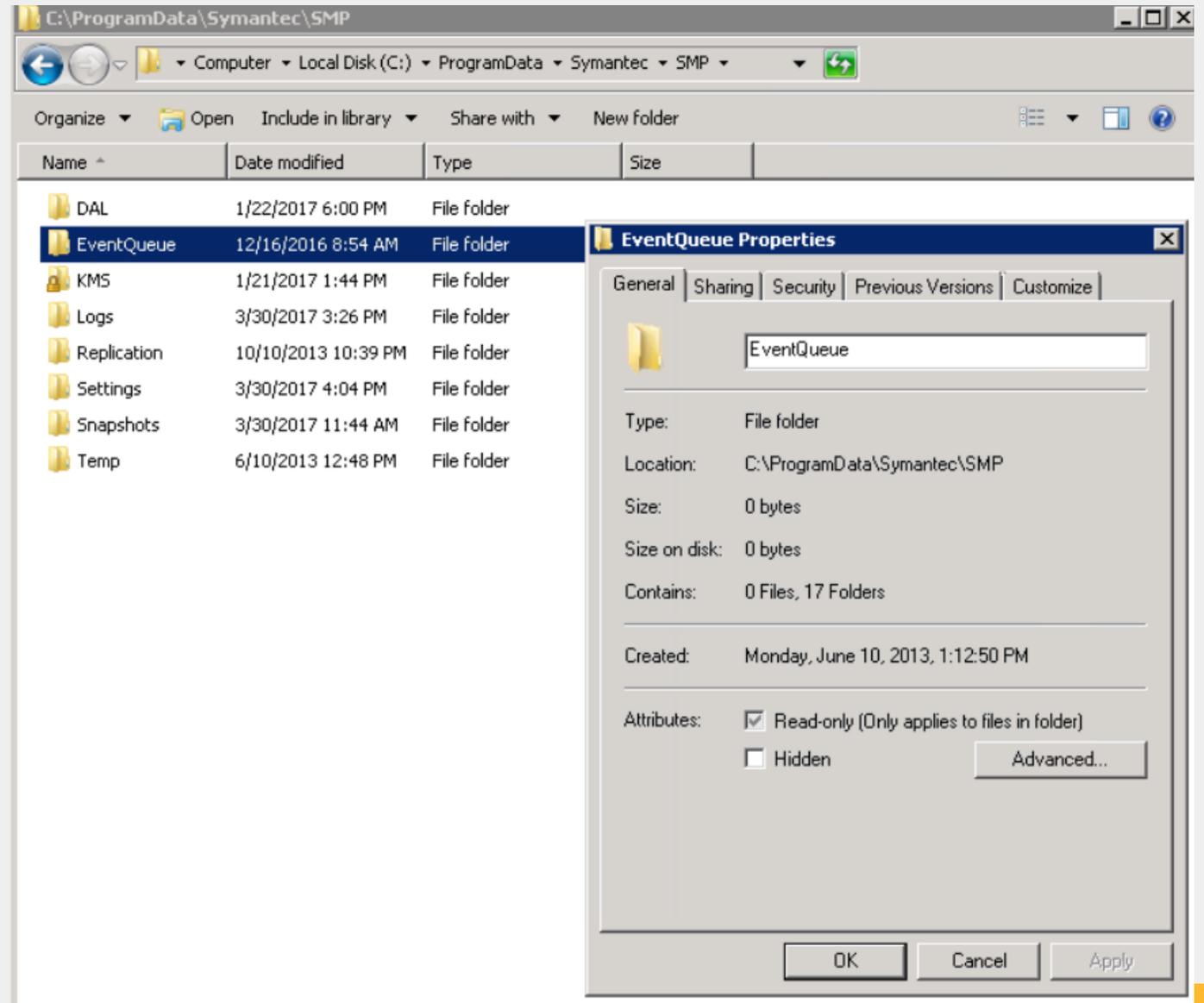
Advance Preparation

- 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



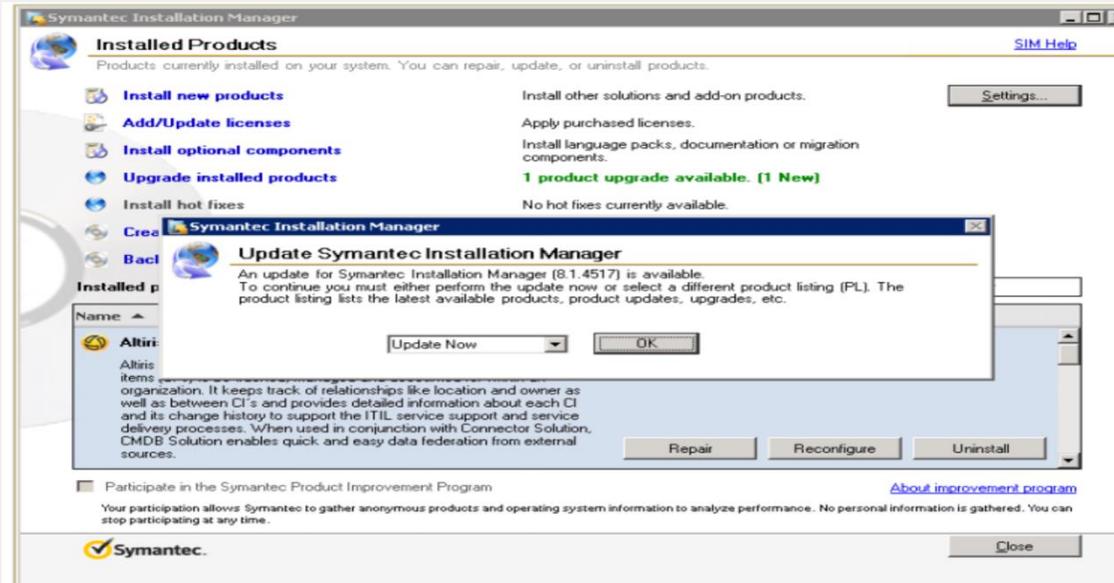
Pre-Upgrade

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



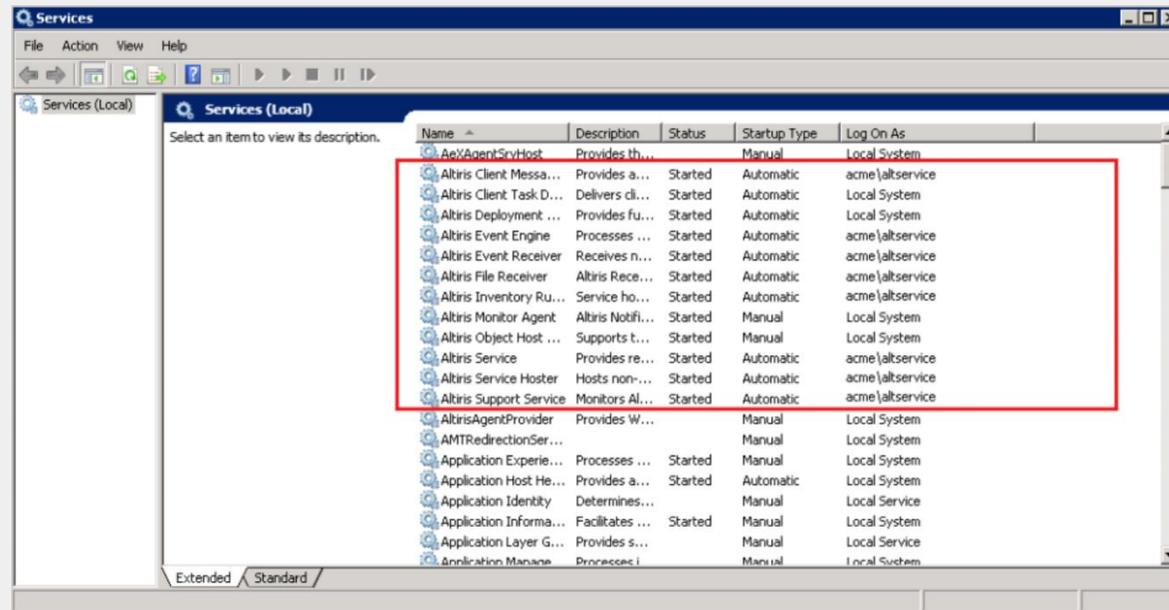
Upgrade

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

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