

Minimize the time spent provisioning and managing resources. Orchestrate delivery and control of IT infrastructure resources with Hitachi Ops Center Automator.

DATA SHEET

Improve IT Operational Efficiencies With Automation, and Free Staff To Focus on Innovation

Automate Data Center Operations

To succeed in today's data economy requires an approach where existing operational resources can be maximized.

Operational infrastructure tasks, such as provisioning storage, migrating data, configuring virtual machines (VMs), providing SAN orchestration, and setting up data protection services can easily consume up to 45% of IT staff time. For example, the extremely lengthy and tedious storage provisioning process requires extensive manual human interaction. Errors from such manual efforts can hinder performance, waste resources or even cause an application outage.

Designed to orchestrate the delivery and control of Hitachi and third-party infrastructure re-sources, Hitachi Ops Center Automator minimizes the effort spent provisioning and managing re-sources by upwards of 70%. By using intelligent workflows, administrators can streamline delivery of IT infrastructure, freeing up staff to focus on innovation and delivering value-added business initiatives.

Get Results Faster

Most businesses have an automation initiative or are planning one. However, research shows that more than half of IT organizations lack the skills and time required to deploy and execute automation. Defining an initial set of automation

policies can take time, something that many organizations can ill afford. To kick-start the process and enable IT staff to leverage automation faster, Hitachi Vantara provides help in several key areas:

- A broad range of predefined templates that support workflows for configuring resources (see Figure 1).
- A service-builder function that allows storage teams to edit predefined workflows or make them their own. There is no need to start from scratch.
- The ability to use customized service templates from Hitachi Vantara and our development community and import them into the configuration, making it easier to automate new application tasks.
- Hitachi Ops Center Automator Starter Pack, a fixed-cost service from Hitachi Vantara Professional Services, which provides everything needed to exploit two automation tasks quickly.

Choose and Go

Ops Center Automator orchestrates much more than Hitachi storage. It can control a broad range of data center resources from other vendors, including SAN switches, servers, virtual machines and even applications, playing a key role in automating end-to-end processes. Multiple tasks can even be linked into a single workflow, such as provisioning storage, setting up replication, and defining network zoning. The rich set of standard templates includes automated workflows in the following areas.

- **Storage service delivery.** Provision storage resources with quality of service (QoS) for performance management and data protection services, to meet recovery and uptime service level agreements (SLAs).
- **Virtual machine deployment.** Operate and configure VMware, Microsoft Hyper-V and KVM (OpenStack cloud) resources to support virtualized workloads.
- **SAN orchestration.** Define Cisco or Brocade SAN zones to meet performance and data path resiliency requirements for host-to-storage connectivity.
- **Application-specific automation.** Provide resources to applications and perform application-specific tasks, like acquiring Oracle ASM information.
- **Advanced data protection services.** Instruct Hitachi Ops Center Protector, our application-aware data protection and copy data management software, to set up and constantly monitor snapshots, cloning, metroclustering and remote replication.
- **Nondisruptive migration.** Use this greatly simplified process to execute everything needed to transfer data to new storage in as little as eight steps.

Smarter Provisioning

Provisioning is a time-consuming and complex task, and one that often must be delivered within time frames that are difficult to meet. The provisioning process

must contend with different classes of storage deployed to reduce overall costs. Manual provisioning requires significant forethought and planning and often still ends up being an inaccurate guess.

Smart provisioning takes the guesswork out by having the user identify the performance and capacity characteristics required for a given application. No more laborious and lengthy efforts required. Ops Center Automator leverages AI with Hitachi Ops Center Analyzer to select storage based on historical performance trends. The result is the highest performing yet cost-efficient storage that is provisioned in the fraction of the time.

Increase Simplicity With API Integration

As organizations modernize data centers, they often implement multiple management tools. These tools can simplify operations, but only if they work together. To increase operational simplicity, Hitachi Ops Center deploys a REST API that applications can call to have Automator execute tasks for them. This REST API unifies Hitachi Ops Center Advisor, as well as Automator, Analyzer and Protector into a single unified management platform.

The REST API enables third-party tools, such as ServiceNow, to integrate with Automator. However, with ServiceNow, a task such as storage provisioning still requires multiple tools and steps that delay execution and can translate into errors. With Automation and ServiceNow integration, provisioning storage can be limited to as few as six steps, reducing both effort and the risk of errors.

Combine Analytics With Automation

Automator is fully integrated with Ops Center Analyzer. Analyzer collects telemetry data across IT infrastructure, identifying

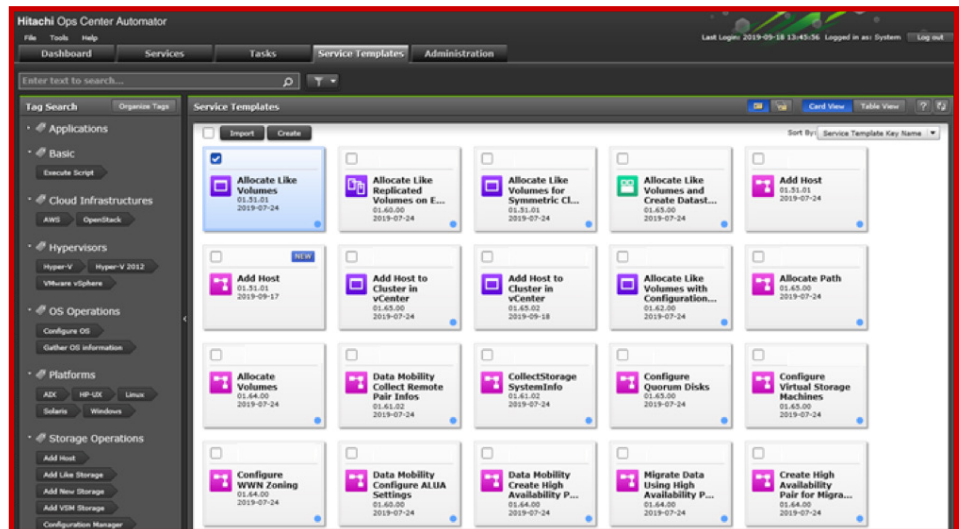


FIGURE 1. HITACHI OPS CENTER AUTOMATOR USER INTERFACE

trouble spots, determining root cause, and prescribing solutions. The integration simplifies monitoring of telemetry data and the required correction, freeing up IT staff from manual corrections. The automated approach is accomplished by Analyzer using the REST API to call services created in Automator to address specific issues. Other vendor's solutions stop at identifying needed actions. Ops Center identifies the required actions and automatically solves them.

Business Benefits

- Enable staff to spend up to 45% more time on strategic initiatives.
- Reduce provisioning time by up to 90%. Respond faster to business unit requests and streamline application deployment times.
- Leverage automation faster with Hitachi Vantara's starter packs and predefined service templates.
- Reduce mistakes that could negatively impact uptime and customer experiences.
- Optimize configurations to eliminate over-provisioning and reduce capital expense.

- Ensure that best practices are consistently followed to meet strict service level goals.

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

To leverage automation faster, Hitachi Vantara Professional Services offers the Ops Center Automator Starter Pack. It includes a preservice conference call, installation and configuration of Automator, implementation and testing of two standard service templates, and a knowledge transfer of the new workflows. Your staff can then be freed to focus on more critical tasks or leverage further automation.

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