IBM Systems Director

Dramatically reduce operational complexity and costs. Significantly increase agility and efficiency.

Highlights

- Unifies the essential management of IBM servers, storage and network devices delivering a consistent look and feel for common management tasks that reduces operational complexity

- Integrates IBM's best-of-breed virtualization capabilities to provide new ways to simplify the management of physical and virtual platform resources

- Reduces energy costs and usage by monitoring and managing the energy and cooling needs of servers and storage

- Easy integration with enterprise service management tools from Tivoli® as well as other third-party providers

- IBM® Systems Director Editions provide options to select the level of leading management solutions based on your needs

Today a crisis is emerging in many data centers. Spending on administration and energy is growing rapidly and now exceeds the spending on the server hardware for many enterprises. IBM Systems Director is a unified platform management solution to help control costs by managing energy, virtualization and overall systems operations. It can help reduce system administration and energy costs by nearly 30 percent in a typical data center.[1]

IBM Systems Director is an easy-to-use point-and-click platform management tool that is authorized for use with IBM systems. It streamlines the way physical and virtual systems are managed across multiple operating systems and virtualization technologies across IBM and non-IBM platforms.

Becoming more efficient

IBM Systems Director helps administrators automate data center operations. Built-in automation capabilities enable IT administrators to schedule updates and configuration changes to proactively avoid problems, and reduce the administrative burden of routine maintenance. Featuring simplified discovery and automated configuration, compute resources can be quickly added for management. Powerful grouping capabilities with nesting of resources help organize resources for efficient operation. A simplified interface is used to create action plans for events that can trigger automatic responses such as e-mail notification or task execution.

To help drive system compliance and consistency, the update management feature can automatically notify users of out-of-date systems and provide simplified tasks to download and install updates.

Easy to use

IBM Systems Director features a user-friendly, web-based interface that helps guide administrators with an extensive array of wizards. Resource views of systems and groups clearly show relationships between physical and virtual resources. Customizable dashboards summarize critical resources and provide drilldown for detailed status.

Quick "time to value" is provided by a simplified deployment, installation and update process with default and custom installation options. A welcome page informs and educates administrators with summarized status reports and tutorials and assistance with common tasks.

IBM Systems Director helps simplify IT operations by providing a consistent management interface across the breadth of IBM systems: System x®, BladeCenter®, Power Systems™, IBM PowerLinux™ Servers, System z® and select IBM storage and network solutions. Non-IBM x86 servers can also be managed by IBM Systems Director.[2]

IBM Systems Director Editions provide pre-packaged offerings to meet your needs

IBM offers a complete set of platform and enterprise service management solutions that are designed to reduce complexity, manage virtualization, and manage energy of your IBM servers throughout the operational life cycle. IBM Systems Director Editions provide choices to select the package of simple-to-use automated management solutions from IBM based on your needs—from basic hardware management to more advanced cross-enterprise management. IBM Systems Director Editions are packaged to make it easier and more cost effective to purchase the features needed to manage servers, storage and networks in your data center. They let you seamlessly scale up as your infrastructure evolves and address major concerns associated with managing both physical and virtual environments.

IBM Systems Director simplifies the management of physical and virtual resources across the breadth of IBM systems

IBM Systems Director Editions are management solutions that helps you reduce operational complexity, improve the efficiency of IT staff and systems, and help control costs while meeting business requirements for service delivery.

IBM Systems Director Express Edition includes a set of management tools that can reduce operational complexity by providing a clear view of the relationships and health status of IT system components. IBM Systems Director Express Edition provides an affordable foundation for systems management. It provides the integrated tools needed to efficiently visualize and communicate the relationships of physical and virtual systems that are discovered, monitor their health, define and receive threshold alerts, and update system firmware and operating environments. Built-in automation capabilities enable IT administrators to schedule updates and configuration changes to proactively avoid problems, and reduce the administrative burden of routine maintenance.

IBM Systems Director Standard Edition includes features that can reduce the time and effort for workload deployment, as well as optimize energy usage and capacity. IBM Systems Director Standard Edition includes all of the capabilities of the Express Edition, and adds advanced deployment, monitoring and control features under the same console. With Systems Director Standard Edition, you can create and deploy virtual images that encapsulate an operating environment as well as any middleware and applications, while automatically configuring the storage attached network (SAN). Clients who may be facing energy cost or capacity concerns get the benefit of extensive electrical power and thermal monitoring capabilities across the data center. This edition also expands the discovery and health monitoring capabilities of the Express Edition to include networking systems.

IBM Systems Director Enterprise Edition enables superior performance and availability management, and the automated resource balancing required for a dynamic infrastructure. IBM Systems Director Enterprise Edition includes all of the capabilities of the Express and Standard editions and adds tools for more comprehensive availability and performance management, and more options for rapidly deploying and maintaining virtual server environments. This Systems Director edition with IBM's leading integrated management solutions—including the cross-platform virtualization management capability of VMControl™, the energy efficiencies of Active Energy Manager and selected Tivoli enterprise service management tools—drives greater operational management efficiencies. With the Enterprise Edition, you have the flexibility to deploy workloads into a pool of virtual system resources across multiple physical servers (called "system pools"), which can be managed with the simplicity of managing a single system. Troubleshooting is enhanced by including application status, identification of changes in the environment and predictive analysis of capacity. A built-in data warehouse and reporting enable you to analyze both real-time status and historical trends together.

IBM Systems Director, together with the high-performance IBM System x, delivers cost savings through virtualized environments.

IBM Systems Director's comprehensive systems management tools address today's challenges to ensure high availability and quality of services to meet business requirements for service delivery. To get the benefits of virtualization, energy and network management, you need "state-of-the-art" tools to view and effectively manage systems. IBM Systems Director offers among the best hardware management tools in the industry.

Managing virtualization

Virtualization has transformed IT and how it relates to business. Virtualized solutions unlock IT resources to achieve business goals by enhancing resource utilization, improving service levels and improving availability. Virtualization benefits extend beyond the data center by enabling faster time to market for new services based upon market demands. IBM Systems Director provides integrated virtualization management to help achieve the full potential of virtualization. Through one user interface, both virtual and physical resources can be managed.

A key feature of IBM Systems Director is IBM Systems Director VMControl. VMControl represents a transformation from managing virtualization to using virtualization to better manage your IT infrastructure. VMControl simplifies the management of virtual environments across multiple virtualization

technologies and hardware platforms, freeing you from "silos of virtualization" and delivering enterprise-wide visibility and control. A leading multiplatform virtualization management solution, VMControl is now available in three Editions (Express, Standard or Enterprise) to best match your virtualized environment.

VMControl Express Edition decreases infrastructure costs and improves service levels by providing complete virtual server life-cycle management for IBM server platforms. It manages virtual server resources to create, modify, delete and relocate virtual machines. It simplifies the management of virtual server environments by requiring fewer tools and a common interface across multiple platforms.

VMControl Standard Edition enables the creation and management of images to use when creating and deploying virtual workloads. It provides simplified virtualization management, which enables faster problem solving, a higher return on investment and rapid responses to changing business goals and strategies. VMControl Standard Edition deploys applications faster with virtual images and reduces deployment errors. Image sprawl is reduced by maintaining virtual images in a centralized library.

VMControl Enterprise Edition helps you to create and modify system pools, make dynamic virtual workload adjustments and move workloads within system pools, resulting in an optimized virtual environment with increased resilience to cope with planned or unplanned downtime. System pools are grouped computing resources managed as a single entity. VMControl Enterprise Edition also delivers the enabling technology required for cloud computing.

IBM Systems Director supports a wide variety of platforms including IBM Power Systems servers such as the IBM Power® 780.

Managing energy

IBM Systems Director Active Energy Manager™ is a unique energy management software tool that can provide a single view of the actual energy usage across the systems and facilities within your data center. It measures, monitors and manages the energy to help you understand and control data center energy consumption and costs. The scope of energy management can include facility providers as well, thus enabling a more complete view of energy consumption within the data center. Active Energy Manager helps you maintain service availability in your existing energy envelope, and improves energy efficiency to avoid costly data center upgrades or new construction.

Managing the network

IBM Systems Director Network Control provides integration of server, storage, and network management for virtualization environments across platforms. IBM Systems Director Network Control will discover, manage, monitor, and configure vendor-based network devices, leveraging existing IBM Systems Director functionality and integration of vendor applications. It enables a unified view to simplify network management tasks and reduce complexity and costs. Network Control also provides higher bandwidth and converged fabrics to help eliminate server, storage and network sprawl.

Integrated service management

IBM Tivoli Software, in combination with Systems Director, delivers integrated service management to help improve service, reduce costs and manage risk. IBM integrated service management—from the industry-leading platform management provided with Systems Director to enterprise-class solutions from Tivoli—provides the visibility, control, and automation across the service life cycle to shed light on and align assets across organizational boundaries to help you deliver differentiated services and achieve business objectives.

Enabling Smarter Computing

IBM Systems Director is the platform management foundation for achieving Smarter Computing. An integral component of IBM's Smarter Computing portfolio, IBM Systems Director helps transform system-level management. As a single point of control, IBM Systems Director helps give IT managers the tools and capabilities needed to perform centralized service management, allowing them to control, monitor, configure and manage all parts of the infrastructure, from servers to storage to networks—even power consumption. This type of increased visibility and control helps to create a highly integrated, optimized and automated IT infrastructure across all platforms, helping contribute to reduced complexity and cost.

IBM Systems Director for Linux on System z helps to simplify and reduce IT infrastructure.

IBM Systems Director combined with seamless integration with Tivoli, IBM's Integrated Service Management architecture, enables comprehensive and efficient management of IT resources through a single, unified, consistent management interface. IBM's Integrated Service Management provides Visibility. Control. and Automation across the business infrastructure.

For more information

Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner or visit:

- IBM Systems Director: **ibm.com**/systems/software/director/
- IBM Power Systems Management:
  ibm.com/systems/power/software/management/index.html
- IBM PowerLinux: **ibm.com**/power/powerlinux
- IBM System x: **ibm.com**/systems/x/index.html
- IBM BladeCenter: **ibm.com**/systems/bladecenter/
- IBM Systems Director for System z:
  ibm.com/systems/z/advantages/virtualization/director.html
- Tivoli: **ibm.com**/software/tivoli/

[1] Source: "Value Proposition for IBM Systems Director: Challenges of Operational Management for Enterprise Server Installations," Management Brief, September 2008, © International Technology Group, Los Altos, California.

[2] Use of IBM Systems Director with non-IBM systems requires purchase of an agent license.

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