Save deployment time with automated provisioning

Reduce admin-attended time by 99.1% per server

after initial setup vs. manual deployment

Bigger deployments deliver more meaningful time savings

10-server deployment: Save over 5 hours

50-server deployment: Save over 3 work days

using iDRAC9 vs manual deployment

Reduce hands-on deployment times to near zero* with iDRAC9 automation

New features in iDRAC9 v4.0 add automated OS deployment to existing Zero-Touch provisioning feature

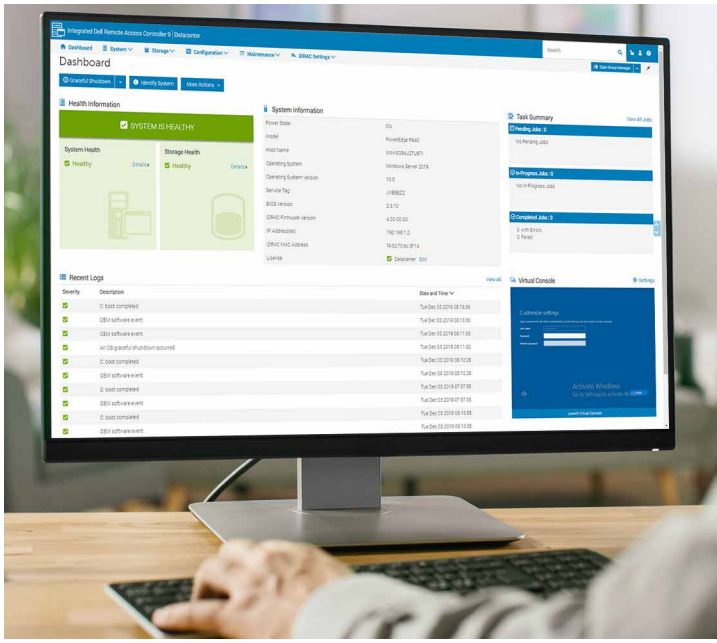
The move towards fully automating routine systems management tasks continues with the latest version of iDRAC9 v4.00.00.00 (or simply v4.0, as we'll refer to it from now on), which introduces Zero-Touch OS-level deployment to existing system provisioning automation. By adding automated OS deployment to existing RAID and BIOS configuration automation, admins can spend more time on strategic initiatives and efforts that help promote business growth.

In the Principled Technologies data center, our experts tested Zero-Touch automated system provisioning including OS deployment on a Dell EMC™ PowerEdge™ R640 server. After initial setup of the first server, Zero-Touch automation reduced hands-on (or administrator-attended) provisioning time for additional servers to almost nothing, and dropped administrator steps from 40 to just 4 compared to doing the same tasks manually. But most data centers have more than one server, and that's where the real savings come in. When provisioning 10 servers, organizations could save over 5 hours of administrator-attended time after the first server. For a 50-server deployment, administrators would save three 8-hour work days on provisioning tasks.

iDRAC9 v4.0 comes embedded on each new Dell EMC PowerEdge server, so check out these new features, available with Enterprise and Datacenter licenses, and see how much time Zero-Touch provisioning features can save your organization.

* When you order new Dell EMC PowerEdge servers with Zero-Touch provisioning enabled, hands-on deployment time drops to nothing.

Automating RAID configuration, BIOS setting changes, and OS installation with iDRAC9 v4.0



Embedded in each Dell EMC PowerEdge server is the integrated Dell Remote Access Controller 9—more commonly known as iDRAC9. iDRAC9 makes it easier for administrators to deploy and update the PowerEdge servers in their data center. While previous versions of iDRAC have offered extensive system provisioning automation, the latest version of iDRAC9 offers new features that further automate server deployment tasks. In addition to the existing BIOS settings deployment package, v4.0 includes OS-level features that allow administrators to push a full Microsoft Windows Server operating system installation out to a server or group of servers. These Zero-Touch provisioning features require either the Enterprise or Datacenter license.

Using a Dell EMC PowerEdge R640 server, we tested Zero-Touch provisioning features to see how much time and effort they could save administrators compared to doing the same tasks manually. To learn the step-by-step details of our testing, see the science behind the report.

Automating provisioning of servers saves admin-attended time

While iDRAC has had hardware-level Zero-Touch deployment features since the 12th generation of Dell EMC servers, v4.0 introduces Zero-Touch automation at the OS-level for even greater time savings. From start to finish, Zero-Touch provisioning including OS deployment dramatically reduced the amount of admin-attended time and steps it took to deploy new servers once the first server was in place, cutting over 30 minutes of manual admin time and 40 steps down to just 16 seconds and 4 steps. With Zero-Touch options enabled on new Dell EMC PowerEdge servers, administrators can get true Zero-Touch provisioning features.

The way we tested involved a few simple steps. Deploying the initial server and setting up iDRAC9 auto-provisioning features—a one-time task—took 25 minutes and 44 seconds of admin time; dramatic differences in attended time come for all servers after this initial setup.

Number of steps to provision a server

Fewer steps is better

iDRAC9 v4.0

✓✓✓✓ 4 steps

Manual 40 steps

Hands-on admin time

Less time is better

16s

30m 50s

How much admin time can your organization save?

If your data center is expanding rapidly, iDRAC9 Zero-Touch provisioning has the potential to save a significant amount of administrator time and hassle. Though we tested only a single server in our data center, multiplying the time savings as we do below can give you an idea of how much time you could save deploying various numbers of servers. If you deploy 10 servers, your administrators could save up to 5 hours of attended time.

Extrapolated number of steps to provision 10 servers

Fewer steps is better

Hands-on admin time

Less time is better

That's more than half of one 8-hour work day.

About Dell EMC PowerEdge servers

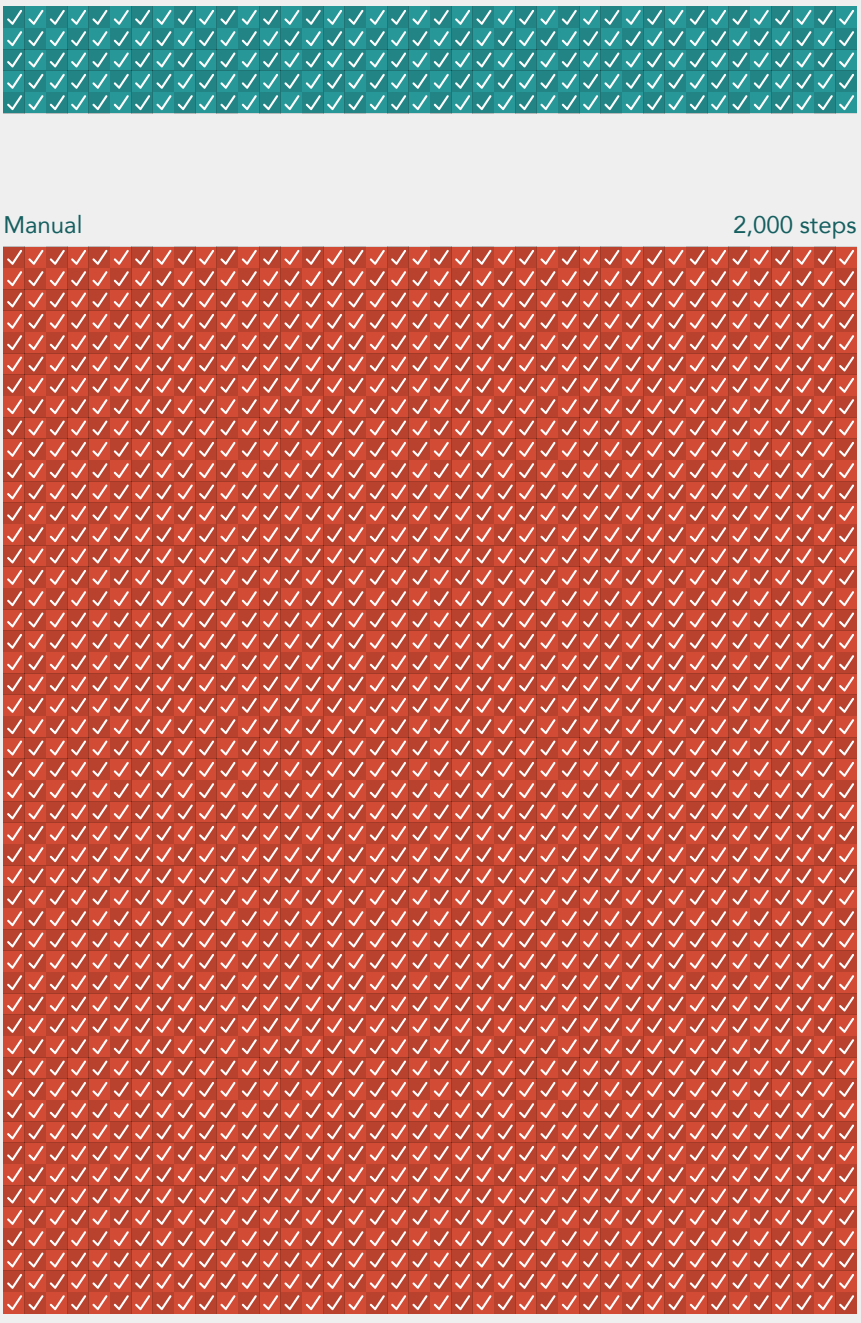
Dell Technologies offers a wide-ranging portfolio of servers to meet a variety of business needs. From scalable rack servers to modular infrastructure solutions and more, Dell Technologies embeds iDRAC9 v4.0 in PowerEdge servers to offer management functionality out of the box with no need for additional hardware.

To learn more about Dell EMC PowerEdge servers, visit https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-us/servers/index.htm.

Deployments of many servers would see even more benefits with iDRAC9. Administrators could save over three 8-hour work days using automated provisioning for 50-server deployments compared to doing those tasks manually. By minimizing deployment windows for new systems, organizations can extend their business capabilities faster and free up administrators to focus on other strategic tasks.

Extrapolated number of steps to provision 50 servers

Fewer steps is better



Hands-on admin time

Less time is better

13m 20s

25h 41m 40s

That's more than three 8-hour work days.

Conclusion

Maximizing the value of administrator time and deploying new systems quickly is critical to business success. With additions to existing Zero-Touch system provisioning features in iDRAC9 v4.0, administrators have an additional tool in their tool belt: They can now automate these routine tasks and compared to performing the processes manually reduce the time burden for server deployment by 99.1 percent. Give IT staff time back with iDRAC9 v4.0 and give them more time to innovate and help your business grow.

Read the science behind this report at http://facts.pt/cidan8p ►

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