HP UNIVERSAL CMDB CONFIGURATION MANAGER

Data sheet

Configuration Management Database (CMDB) technology provides IT organizations a shared single version of truth to support business service management, IT service management, change management, and asset management initiatives. These initiatives help align IT efforts with business requirements and run IT operations more efficiently and effectively.

As organizations grow however, so do the IT environments their IT departments must manage. With environments containing millions of infrastructure components or configuration items (CIs), IT must find a way to manage these burgeoning and increasingly complex environments more efficiently. Successfully accomplishing this depends on having the visibility the CMDB provides into the CIs and how various IT elements relate together to deliver the business service and is also increasingly dependent on the ability to establish and manage to configuration standards.

HP UCMDB Configuration Manager (UCMDB-CM) helps IT establish configuration standards and policies that improve the stability of the environment and enable delivery of standardized services. It also provides the ability to better manage and control the data in the UCMDB, such as allowing the authorization of changes to the data, or establishing policies that enforce geo-redundancy for select applications, thereby ensuring a higher quality of data for consumers of the UCMDB. This all provides for more effective change management, helps reduce risk of outages, prevents configuration drift, and saves IT staff time and ultimately the organization money.

How it works

UCMDB-CM version 9.20 is part of the UCMDB family of products and leverages the UCMDB foundation.

The UCMDB-CM delivers policy-based topology and baseline governance and enables a new constituency of users to do powerful analysis with the rich CI data and topology available in the UCMDB foundation. The UCMDB-CM provides tools to easily set up both topology and baseline policies and automatically determine where CIs are not in compliance with organizational standards.

The UCMDB-CM introduces the concept of composite CIs, which provide a way to collapse or compress other component or resource CIs into the lead CI to be managed as a single unit. Composite CIs simplify visualization and make reports easier to read and understand.

HP UCMDB-CM integrates with HP Operations Orchestration (OO) to facilitate other ITIL processes, via HP or third parties, such as opening a Request For Change, and also to enable remediation activities for configuration issues.

Configuration analysis

Configuration managers know that CIs serving the same purpose should have similar configurations in order to reduce maintenance costs and improve predictability. UCMDB-CM provides insight into the different configuration patterns that exist in the environment for a better understanding of how aligned or different they are. Identifying configuration deviations quickly means reductions in maintenance costs and management overhead, improved predictability and reliability of the IT environment, and lower risk.

Policy management

Policy management enables configuration managers to create rules that define standards to continuously and proactively monitor compliance. The UCMDB-CM supports baseline policies (saved models that act as baseline definitions of a policy, similar to a gold standard) and topology policies (which define the desired topology configuration). At a quick glance, configuration managers can see which policies are breached and in need of action.

State management

The UCMDB-CM allows configuration managers to manage and control configuration compliance issues, often brought on by high volume of change. A single dashboard provides one place to review and authorize these changes detected in the UCMDB, displaying policy status, changed CI attributes, and related RFCs (Requests for Change).

State management also helps the configuration managers and configuration owners understand what has changed and the potential risk of the changes to the environment. State management allows for control over how the configuration changes are managed by the CMS and consumed by other tools.

Advanced Configuration Analysis

When using UCMDB-CM's Configuration Analysis capabilities to create a new configuration model or policy, users have had the option to create the model from the ground up, or to create it by using an existing CI.

To simplify model creation within the context of a specific environment, UCMDB-CM's Advanced Configuration Analysis module enables model creation based on a group of chosen CIs. Building on our existing Configuration Analysis capabilities, this advanced module identifies patterns of similar configurations or segments based on user guidance and automates the generation of baseline configuration models, enabling customers to standardize their IT configurations. Advanced Configuration Analysis provides users the ability to:

• Understand how similar patterns of configurations appear in the environment

• Determine configurations easily that are out of alignment and could ultimately cost time and money if undiscovered

• Realize huge savings by understanding how standard configurations can remove risk and cost to the environment

Advanced Configuration Analysis provides visibility to the existing level of standardization, helps reduce the number of configurations by automatically suggesting the most prevalent ones to standardize, and helps keep the environment standardized over time, identifying and reducing configuration drifts.

Automation Risk Visualizer

UCMDB-CM now has the ability to execute HP Operations Orchestration (OO) automation flows. Automation Risk Visualizer is another advanced module that provides insight and visibility into the potential risk of executing OO automation flows. By providing understanding of the success rate of previous automation flows and visibility into potential collisions

for a particular flow, UCMDB-CM's Automation Risk Visualizer module helps make sure that OO flows will be successful. Automation Risk Visualizer provides insight into:

• Automation flow and whether a particular automation flow complies with organizational policies

• The potential impact to the affected environment

• Historical automation flow execution results

• Potential collisions with other automation or planned activities

Snapshot Comparison

When configuration changes are authorized, UCMDB-CM captures a snapshot or history log against both the Actual and Authorized state configurations that can be used later for comparison and analysis or as a change audit log. This feature is a very valuable tool for root cause analysis and problem determination on a detailed CI level.

Features and benefits

• Improves the stability and predictability of the environment

• Enables delivery of standardized services

• Helps avoid configuration drift by detecting and comparing changes to policies and enabling remediation to bring systems back into compliance

• Helps reduce potential policy breaches, risks, and security threats

• Automates software remediation, provisioning and patch deployment using HP Operations Orchestration

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