HP ProActive Insight Architecture Redefines IT Administration

Overview
The volume and frequency of server management tasks, error alerts and installations are increasing expense, resource allocation and complexity in the infrastructure, costing organizations nearly $157 billion in 2012, according to IDC.[1] Today, management expenses are three times the cost of servers, driven by the growing complexity of IT solutions. It is anticipated that these issues will be multiplied with cloud computing, leaving organizations struggling to keep pace with mounting maintenance demands.

The HP ProActive Insight architecture, now available in the new HP ProLiant Generation 8 (Gen8) servers, fundamentally redefines how administration is performed across the entire server life cycle. Powerful new capabilities automate and simplify system provisioning, troubleshooting and software updates. As a result, IT resources eliminate as much as 69 percent of their routine update tasks, reallocating time to innovation.[2]

Incorporating three major innovations, the HP ProActive Insight architecture with Integrated Lifecycle Automation simplifies common tasks to keep systems running at peak performance, with an estimated 93 percent less downtime during updates than with previous generations.[2] These Integrated Lifecycle Automation innovations include:

— Intelligent Provisioning – enables organizations to get systems online three times faster with a fully integrated server and operating system configuration tool.[3]

— Active Health system – allows administrators to collect troubleshooting information five times faster by continuously monitoring more than 1,600 system parameters and securely logging all configuration changes.[4]

— Smart Update – a system maintenance tool with simplicity that systematically updates servers and blade infrastructures at the scale of the data center.[2]

Intelligent Provisioning for smarter servers
Intelligent Provisioning is a single embedded tool that automates server setup

and configuration tasks, eliminating physical media such as CDs and DVDs that complicate deployment, as well as 45 percent of traditional setup steps.[5] Other features include:

— Revolutionary pre-boot display for early status and setup information that appears three seconds after power-up.[6]

— Simplified system configuration with guided, profile-driven or scripted approaches for seamless integration with standard IT processes and getting systems online three times faster.

— Recognition of the latest firmware and software versions available to automatically update servers using the built-in smart capability.

Active Health automates diagnostics, delivers maximum uptime
Active Health, an industry-first technology, acts as a 24/7 "Mission Control" for servers with fully automated monitor, diagnostic and alert features designed to maximize uptime.

Available in the new HP ProLiant Gen8 servers, Active Health securely logs 100 percent of configuration changes in real time.[7] In minutes, administrators can export the Active Health log to an HP services professional for accurate and rapid problem resolution.[7]

Key customer benefits include:

— Enhanced problem solving with diagnostic tools that initiate analysis five times faster than previous generations.[4]

— Improved troubleshooting with consolidated health and service alerts and synchronized time stamping to speed root cause diagnosis across systems and solutions.

— Greater administrator efficiency with Active Health log which stores the data required for problem resolution, reducing time needed with support to reproduce or describe errors.

Smart Update for simple and systematic updates
HP Smart Update Manager is an automated system maintenance tool with o simplicity that systematically updates servers and blade infrastructures. It manages deployment of firmware, drivers and tools to execute system

updates in parallel across the infrastructure.

As a result, system administrators can automatically deploy updates to servers and blade infrastructure, streamlining processing and reducing operator time by 69 percent.[2] HP Smart Update Manager also:

— Reduces complexity by providing comprehensive discovery, analysis and compliance-oriented reporting.

— Improves system management by delivering updates to be scheduled, staged and deployed across hundreds of servers in many different configurations.

(1)   According to IDC's MAP Data Center, Dec 2011
(2)   Based on internal testing with a fully online firmware and system software update with HP SUM 5.0 vs. HP SUM 4.2.
(3)   HP ProLiant Gen8 is more than 3x faster than G7 SmartStart "attended server provisioning."
(4)   Based on internal testing to run and send the RPS report vs. Gen8 Active Health.
(5)   Reduced the number of steps from 9 to 5 by consolidating and automating steps.
(6)   Versus typical servers with a blank screen for one minute or longer.
(7)   Based on internal calculations.