

# Borland® Deployment Op-Center

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### General Questions

#### **What is Borland® Deployment Op-Center?**

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Borland® Deployment Op-Center is a single, cost-effective solution for monitoring, controlling, and deploying highly distributed and heterogeneous applications on multiple technology hosts, resources, and platforms across multiple physical sites.

#### **What types of applications is Deployment Op-Center designed to manage?**

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Deployment Op-Center is well-suited to manage highly distributed, mission-critical applications. Such applications may be deployed on multiple hosts and potentially across multiple sites (geographically separated data centers). Most likely, these applications use various technologies and resources, such as Web servers, middleware (based on J2EE,™ CORBA,® and Microsoft® .NET Framework technologies), database servers, and messaging backbones.

#### **How does Deployment Op-Center help me gain visibility over my deployments?**

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Deployment Op-Center provides a single console to view application resources deployed on multiple hosts and multiple sites. The console provides an intuitive graphical user interface (GUI) and easier-to-navigate hierarchical model that helps IT managers understand the logical and physical structures of complex deployed configurations.

The console provides three main views into deployed configurations:

- **Logical View:** Graphically displays the logical, application-level dependencies between configuration resources. Such dependencies describe order (resource X must start or stop before resource Y) and redundancy (resources X, Y, and Z are functionally equivalent, and two of them must be running at all times).
- **Physical View:** Depicts the association of resources to physical hosts. Allows viewers to understand exactly where each participating resource is physically deployed.
- **Document View:** Presents a persistent XML representation of the configuration, capturing the logical and physical application models.

All three views are bidirectionally synchronized; that is, changes made in any view are immediately reflected in the other views.

### **How does Deployment Op-Center help me increase application availability?**

Deployment Op-Center continuously monitors all resources under its management. As soon as a resource becomes unavailable for any reason, Deployment Op-Center automatically detects the failure. The problem is visually represented in the console, which a system administrator can use in the Logical View to easily navigate to and find the problematic component. Furthermore, Deployment Op-Center automatically tries to start the failed resource. If for any reason the resource cannot be restarted, Deployment Op-Center will try to start other functionally equivalent resources (assuming the failed resource was associated with a redundancy group). Op-Center can also automatically notify responsible staff of failures (using SMTP notifications) as well as event-management systems (using SNMP traps).

### **How does Deployment Op-Center help me deploy new applications?**

Deployment Op-Center is designed to create a dialog between development and operations teams. Developers can use Deployment Op-Center to create "Deployment Templates," which capture the deployment parameters of the application they are developing. For example, during development, a Java™ Message Service (JMS) server might be locally deployed on the developer's machine, but in a production environment, it is deployed on a dedicated server. Using Deployment Op-Center, the location of the JMS server can be modeled by the developer as a deployment parameter. When the developer finishes his work and delivers the final application to IT, he also provides the deployment template he created. At this point, the IT person responsible for the deployment of the new application (who is also working with Deployment Op-Center) is presented with a GUI that specifies all deployment parameters created by the developer. All he has to do is "fill in the blanks" and provide the required information based on the actual configuration of the production environment. When this stage is done, Deployment Op-Center will automatically deploy and configure the new application in the production environment. This powerful feature helps minimize the number of errors associated with the deployment lifecycle and accelerates the process.

### **How does Deployment Op-Center differ from J2EE performance management solutions?**

Deployment Op-Center is designed to complement performance assurance and management systems, such as Borland® Optimizeit® ServerTrace. Most performance management systems are focused on providing QA teams or IT staff with "transaction performance breakdowns" (i.e., how much time was spent on any application component participating in a transaction). Because of the inherent performance overhead associated with benchmarking, the application of such solutions in a mission-critical production environment is limited. Deployment Op-Center, however, is specifically designed to work in a production environment. It does not focus on transactional performance benchmarking but rather on monitoring availability, control, and deployment of mission-critical applications.

Another important difference is that most performance management solutions are focused on a single middleware framework based on a specific technology platform, such as J2EE. Deployment Op-Center is platform-agnostic: It works with multiple technology platforms, including J2EE, CORBA, and the Microsoft .NET Framework.

### **How does Deployment Op-Center add value to my existing enterprise event management solution?**

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Deployment Op-Center is designed to complement enterprise event management solutions, such as HP® OpenView,® IBM® Tivoli,® or BMC Patrol.® These solutions focus on the management and monitoring of network- and system-level components (e.g., routers, switches, and operating systems). They continuously collect events and correlate them in order to detect and isolate performance and availability problems. These solutions are typically shallow at the application level; difficult to implement, customize, and extend—and costly.

Deployment Op-Center is focused at the application level, by mapping how logical application structures depend on processes and components deployed in the IT environment. It is designed to be an easier-to-implement, cost-effective solution that is easier to customize and extend. It could even be used to provide application-level information to event management solutions by issuing SNMP traps or other kinds of notifications.

### **Does Deployment Op-Center replace the Borland® AppCenter™ product?**

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Borland AppCenter is no longer being developed or supported by Borland. Deployment Op-Center was built from the ground up to provide significant architectural advantages over AppCenter while covering about 80% of the functional footprint provided by AppCenter. From that standpoint, Deployment Op-Center is a logical replacement for AppCenter. It is important to note, however, that Deployment Op-Center is a new product, not merely a new version of AppCenter. If you are an AppCenter customer, please contact your Borland account manager for more information.

### **Can I evaluate Deployment Op-Center?**

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Yes. A 60-day trial evaluation is available for download at:  
[http://www.borland.com/products/downloads/download\\_opcenter.html](http://www.borland.com/products/downloads/download_opcenter.html)

### **How is Deployment Op-Center licensed?**

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Deployment Op-Center has two major components, Hub and Agent, each of which is separately licensed.

A *hub* is responsible for the orchestration of management activities across multiple hosts. For any managed domain (in a production environment), customers typically require a single hub license. A hub can control up to 50 managed resources. An *agent* must be deployed on every host where there are processes, objects, or applications that require monitoring and control. Both hubs and agents are licenced using the “per CPU, per server” model. Both licenses are node-locked.

### **How do I buy Deployment Op-Center?**

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Borland is a worldwide organization with offices in Europe, South America, Asia Pacific, Canada, and the United States. Please visit [http://www.borland.com/company/contact/where\\_to\\_buy.html](http://www.borland.com/company/contact/where_to_buy.html) or get in touch with the sales account manager in your local office through [http://www.borland.com/company/borland\\_worldwide.html](http://www.borland.com/company/borland_worldwide.html).

### **How does Deployment Op-Center fit into the Borland Suite of application lifecycle management (ALM) technologies?**

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Deployment Op-Center complements the Borland solutions for performance optimization and assurance. Borland® Optimizeit™ Suite can be used by developers to detect code-level performance issues. Optimizeit ServerTrace can help QA teams isolate J2EE-specific performance issues and hand them back to developers. Deployment Op-Center works in a production environment to help assure application availability. It can also be used by developers when defining parameters for the deployment structure, before delivering an application to IT personnel. Borland® Together,® Borland® Optimizeit™ ServerTrace, as well as Optimizeit Suite and Deployment Op-Center provide a complete solution designed to assure the performance and availability of mission-critical applications.

## Technical Questions

### **What types of resources can Deployment Op-Center manage?**

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With Op-Center's built-in and user-extensible templates, any distributed application can be managed throughout a mixed environment. Core capabilities include centralized control of lifecycle, monitoring, availability, and auto-recovery processes. Out of the box, Deployment Op-Center can monitor, control, and deploy many kinds of resources, including:

- J2EE middleware: Borland® Enterprise Server, AppsServer™ Edition, BEA WebLogic,™ and IBM® WebSphere,® Oracle Application Server, and JBoss®
- CORBA middleware: Borland® Enterprise Server, VisiBroker® Edition, Iona® Orbix,® the ACE ORB (Tao),™ and JacORB
- Web: Apache™ / Apache AXIS, Microsoft® IIS, and Tomcat
- Databases: Borland® JDataStore,™ Borland® InterBase,® Oracle, Sybase, Microsoft® SQL Server™
- Other: processes (executables), shell scripts (batch files), Java™ APIs

### **Is it possible to extend Deployment Op-Center capabilities beyond what is provided out of the box?**

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Yes. Deployment Op-Center is based on open-architecture concepts, designed to provide a pluggable framework for monitoring and control. It provides many extensibility mechanisms, including a built-in efficient scripting engine. It is possible to customize it to manage homegrown applications or other kinds of resources.

### **What happens if Deployment Op-Center crashes? Will my application continue to function?**

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Yes. Deployment Op-Center provides "nonintrusive" management. The managed application is completely decoupled from the managing system, such that if Deployment Op-Center crashes for any reason, your mission-critical application will continue to function normally.

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### **Can Deployment Op-Center automatically recover from crashes?**

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Yes. While Deployment Op-Center is built on top of proven and mature VisiBroker technology, crashes may still occur. Deployment Op-Center is engineered to recover from such crashes automatically, restoring system configuration to the exact state it was in before it crashed. Deployment Op-Center is specifically designed not to introduce a single point of failure into your deployment topology.

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### **Is there a limit to the number of resources Deployment Op-Center can manage?**

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There are no such limitations from an architectural standpoint. The low overhead of Deployment Op-Center enables it to efficiently manage hundreds of hosts and thousands of managed resources. The performance of the Deployment Op-Center hub in a large deployment will therefore depend on the amount of system resources allocated to it.

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### **What platforms does Deployment Op-Center support?**

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Deployment Op-Center supports a variety of platforms, including Windows,<sup>®</sup> Linux,<sup>®</sup> Solaris,<sup>™</sup> IBM<sup>®</sup> AIX,<sup>®</sup> and HP-UX.<sup>®</sup> For more detailed and up-to-date platform support information, please visit the Borland Web site.

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### **Are printed or PDF manuals available?**

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Yes. Complete documentation for Deployment Op-Center is available on the Borland Web site at <http://info.borland.com/techpubs/opcenter/>. View the documentation in PDF from your Internet browser or download the complete set to your hard drive.