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Driving Clusters for High Availability and High Performance

The special clustering section in this issue is packed with expert guidance and best-practices techniques to help ensure high availability and high performance in a wide range of enterprise applications. Addressing concerns of small and growing data centers as well as global IT infrastructures, in-depth articles explore how to plan effectively for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 deployments, how to enable grids with Oracle Database 10g RAC, and how to leverage the latest advances in blade server clusters and high-performance computing clusters.



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TALK BACK

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Deploying and Managing SQL Server 2005 Across the Scalable Enterprise

By Tim Abels



The first in a series presenting prescriptive architectures and operational techniques designed to realize the scalable enterprise tenets of simplified operations, improved utilization, and cost-effective scaling, this article examines best practices for deploying and managing Microsoft SQL Server 2005 applications. Guidelines for integration with Dell management tools and Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) are accompanied by practical advice for efficient cluster and storage management.

End-to-End Change Management with the Dell OpenManage Server Update Utility

By Steve Fagan and J. Marcos Palacios, Ph.D.

The Dell OpenManage Server Update Utility is designed to identify, view, and automatically apply BIOS, driver, and firmware updates—helping to streamline the change-management process.



DRAC/MC User Management and Security Configuration

By Anusha Raghunathan and Sanjeev S. Singh

The Dell Remote Access Controller/Modular

Chassis (DRAC/MC) is a critical infrastructure component for authenticating and authorizing user access to the Dell Modular Server Enclosure, the chassis that houses Dell blade servers.

Automated BIOS Management Using the Dell OpenManage Deployment Toolkit

By Zain Kazim, Alan Daughetee, and Bala Beddhanan

BIOS management can be a time-consuming and cumbersome task for enterprise IT administrators. The Dell OpenManage Deployment Toolkit enhances operational efficiency by enabling automated and scripted BIOS management for Dell PowerEdge servers—helping administrators perform BIOS and configuration updates simultaneously on multiple systems.



Unattended Installation of Dell OpenManage Server Administrator Using the Microsoft Windows Installer Command-Line Interface

By Alex Akinnuoye and Bernard Briggs

Dell OpenManage Server Administrator (OMSA) uses Microsoft Windows Installer (MSI) technology to perform installations, upgrades, modifications, and uninstallations on Windows platforms. Using MSI engine parameters, administrators can set up and customize OMSA through the OMSA—MSI command-line interface.



Optimizing Console Redirection for Dell PowerEdge Servers Using HyperTerminal and Telnet Clients

By Paul Hoke

Dell PowerEdge servers allow administrators to remotely control and configure key settings using a variety of interfaces. This article describes procedures to configure and operate HyperTerminal and Telnet clients to optimize console redirection features.