

## First System Center Semi-Annual Channel release now available

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I am excited to announce that System Center, version 1801 is now available. Based on customer feedback, we are delivering new features and enhancements in this release including improved Linux monitoring support, more efficient VMware backup, additional support for Windows Server, and improved user experience and performance.

System Center, version 1801 is the first of our Semi-Annual Channel releases delivering new capabilities at a faster cadence. Semi-Annual Channel releases have an 18-month support policy. In addition, we will continue to release in the Long-Term Servicing Channel (LTSC) at a lower frequency. The LTSC will continue to provide 5 years of mainstream support followed by 5 more years of extended support.

### What's in System Center, version 1801?

System Center, version 1801 focuses on enhancements and features for System Center Operations Manager, Virtual Machine Manager, and Data Protection Manager. Additionally, security and bug fixes, as well as support for TLS 1.2, are available for all System Center components including Orchestrator, Service Management Automation, and Service Manager.

I am pleased to share the capabilities included in this release:

- **Support for additional Windows Server features in Virtual Machine Manager:** Customers can now setup [nested virtualization](#), [software load balancer configuration](#), and [storage QoS configuration and policy](#), as well as [migrate VMware UEFI VM to Hyper-V VM](#). In addition to supporting **Windows Server, version 1709**, we have added support for host monitoring, host management, fall back HGS, [configuration of encrypted SDN virtual network](#), [Shielded Linux VMs on Hyper-V management](#), and backup capabilities.
- **Linux monitoring in Operations Manager:** [Linux monitoring](#) has been significantly improved with the addition of a customizable FluentD-based Linux agent. Linux log file

monitoring is now on par with that of Windows Server (Yes, we heard you! Kick the tires, it really works).

- **Improved web console experience in Operations Manager:** The System Center Operations Manager [web console is now built on HTML5](#) for a better experience and support across browsers.
- **Updates and recommendations for third-party Management Packs:** System Center Operations Manager has been extended to support [the discovery and update of third-party MPs](#).
- **Faster, cost-effective VMware backup:** Using our Modern Backup Storage technology in Data Protection Manager, customers can [backup VMware VMs faster](#) and cut storage costs by up to 50%.
- **And much more** including Linux Kerberos support and improved UI responsiveness when dealing with many management packs in Operations Manager. In Virtual Machine Manager, we have enabled SLB guest cluster floating IP support, added Storage QoS at VMM cloud, added Storage QoS extended to SAN storage, enabled Remote to VMs in Enhanced Session mode, added seamless update of non-domain host agent, and made host Refresher up to 10X faster.

As well as consistent evaluation and license experiences across components.

Customers should consider supplementing System Center with [Azure security & management capabilities](#) for enhanced on-premises management and for the management of Azure resources. We have included the following updates in System Center, version 1801:

- [Service Map integration with Operations Manager:](#) Using the Distributed Application Diagram function in SCOM, you can automatically see application, server, and network dependencies deduced from Service Map. This deeper endpoint monitoring from SCOM is surfaced in the diagram view for better diagnostics workflows.
- [Manage Azure ARM VMs and special regions:](#) Using a Virtual Machine Manager add-in, you can now manage Azure ARM VMs, Azure Active Directory, and more regions (China, US Government, and Germany).
- [Service Manager integration with Azure:](#) Using the Azure ITSM integration with Azure Action Groups you can set up rules to create incidents automatically in System Center Service Manager for alerts fired on Azure and non-Azure resources.

## Get System Center, version 1801



Try System Center, version 1801 today at the [Evaluation Center](#) or the [Volume Licensing Service Center](#)