### Security Compliance Management Toolkit Series

### Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Security Compliance Management Toolkit series? How can I use it?

**Answer:** The Security Compliance Management Toolkit series is a collection of toolkits that together provide you with an end-to-end solution to help you plan, deploy, and monitor security baselines. The current series supports Windows® operating systems, 2007 Microsoft® Office applications, and Windows® Internet Explorer® 8.

These toolkits are designed to help your organization meet its security and compliance requirements by providing the following resources:

* Prescriptive, tested, end-to-end security guidance from Microsoft for Windows Server® 2008, Windows Server® 2003 R2, Windows® 7, Windows Vista®  Service Pack 2 (SP2), Windows® XP Professional SP3, 2007 Microsoft Office SP1, and Internet Explorer 8.
* Automated tools like the GPOAccelerator to help you configure and deploy recommended security settings.
* Configuration Packs for you to use with the DCM feature of Microsoft® System Center Configuration Manager 2007 R2 to verify that the Microsoft security guidance is deployed in your environment.
* Reporting functionality you can use to supply auditors with verifiable information that the computers in your environment are in compliance with best practices and the security recommendations for these Windows operating systems and Office applications.

Who are these toolkits intended for, and what types of organizations is the project designed to help?

**Answer**: The Security Compliance Management Toolkits are primarily intended for IT specialists, security specialists, and other IT professionals and consultants who plan deployments of Windows 7, Windows Vista SP2, Windows XP Professional SP3, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2003 R2, 2007 Microsoft Office SP1, and Internet Explorer 8. These Solution Accelerators are designed to help organizations manage security compliance requirements.

These Solution Accelerators are not intended for home users.

What are the requirements to take full advantage of the recommendations in these toolkits?

**Answer**: In addition to the Windows operating systems and Microsoft applications specified in the answer to Question 2, the following is required to take full advantage of these toolkits:

* The security guide recommendations.
* The GPOAccelerator tool — you must first install the Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) to use this tool.
* The desired configuration management (DCM) feature of Configuration Manager 2007 R2 to apply the DCM Configuration Packs to monitor your security baseline.

The security baseline environments referred to in the security guides are managed via Active Directory® Domain Services (AD DS) and Group Policy.

What are the benefits of using the Security Compliance Management Toolkits?

**Answer:** These toolkits are designed to help you efficiently manage the security and compliance process for the most widely used operating systems and Office applications from Microsoft. The toolkits help you to accomplish the following:

* Better understand your environment to apply security best practices.
* Accelerate the deployment of prescribed Group Policy-based security settings across your organization.
* Fully automate security checks in your environment.
* Monitor the health of your environment and prevent security setting "drift" over time.
* Take advantage of reporting capabilities available in Configuration Manager 2007 R2.

What is the GPOAccelerator, and why should I use it?

**Answer**: The GPOAccelerator is a tool that you can use to automatically create the GPOs that each Security Compliance Management Toolkit recommends. The GPOAccelerator allows you to perform in minutes what used to be an intensive manual process that took several hours to complete.

What are the DCM Configuration Packs?

**Answer:** The DCM Configuration Packs are designed to help your organization efficiently monitor deployed security baselines for Microsoft operating systems and Office applications. You can accomplish this by applying one or more of the Configuration Packs with the desired configuration management (DCM) feature of Configuration Manager 2007 R2. This monitoring capability helps to ensure that your security baselines do not change or drift from their prescribed values.

Has this Solution Accelerator been tested?

**Answer**: Yes. The guidance and tools were developed and tested on computers joined to an AD DS domain running the Windows operating systems and applications specified for the Security Compliance Management Toolkit series.

If the Windows operating systems and Office applications are secure by default, why should I use these Solution Accelerators?

**Answer**: Microsoft products are built from the ground up with security in mind, and are designed to protect your environment from attacks. The security baseline toolkits for these toolkits offer enhanced security options that you can use to deploy and monitor your environment. The default configuration of operating systems and applications may change over time due to mismanagement of Group Policy. The monitoring and verification capability of this Solution Accelerator is designed to inform you of security setting drift to help you mitigate it.

What is the recommended security configuration for most organizations? When should I use the SSLF recommendations instead of the EC recommendations?

**Answer**: Microsoft recommends the EC security settings for most organizations. The EC security guidance is appropriate for organizations of any size that operate Active Directory environments. The guidance in the Security Compliance Management Toolkit series only recommends the SSLF security settings for organizations in which concern for security is more important than functionality.

Will this Solution Accelerator be localized?

**Answer**: There are no plans to localize the Security Compliance Management Toolkit series at this time.

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