

GHOST[®] Solution Suite

PRODUCT BRIEF

AT A GLANCE

GHOST[®] Solution Suite accelerates and simplifies imaging, deployment, and other key aspects of the endpoint management life cycle.

KEY BENEFITS

- Time savings
- Cost efficiency
- Enhanced security

KEY FEATURES

- Industry-leading imaging engine
- Bare metal provisioning
- Inventory and asset management
- Delegated administration model

Overview

In a world in which the number of laptops and workstations is rapidly expanding, the imaging and deployment process is even more critical to organizations who are trying to keep users productive and control costs. When users are in the office or in school, it is relatively easy for IT to provision a new laptop for them, reimage their machine, or migrate their data to a new laptop. However, with the rapid expansion of remote work and learning, new devices are frequently shipped from a central location and re-imaging must be done remotely to minimize user downtime. The Symantec[®] GHOST Solution Suite (GSS) is the strategic solution to address these challenges.

Introducing Symantec GHOST Solution Suite

GSS is an industry-leading, award-winning solution for deploying and managing desktops, laptops, and servers. GSS enables customers to provision new devices, restore devices to their original state, migrate to the latest operating systems, inventory machines, deploy software, and perform custom configurations across multiple hardware platforms.

There are two editions of GSS:

- **GHOST Solution Suite** is for computers with client operating systems.
- **GHOST Solution Suite for Servers** is for computers with server operating systems such as Windows Server or various Linux distributions.

GHOST addresses key IT endpoint management challenges through the following core features.

Industry-Leading Imaging Engine

GSS provides a single solution for deploying desktops, laptops, servers, and thin clients across heterogeneous operating systems, including Windows and Linux. The solution simplifies image management and reduces the number of images needed by using Deploy Anywhere technology to provision hardware-independent images. It also enhances security as the consistent deployment ensures images provisioned to devices have the latest security updates and configurations, reducing vulnerabilities.

A significant part of the time required for imaging machines is expended while booting into automation. The longer a machine takes to get into automation, the longer the overall imaging process takes. GSS supports iPXE, which delivers dramatic speed improvements to the pre-boot automation process, shortening the overall downtime during deployment activities and getting end users back to productivity quicker.

The benefits of this feature include the following:

- Quickly capture and deploy images across diverse hardware
- Reduce storage needs with compact image formats
- Maintain image libraries for different groups or roles
- Integrate with existing infrastructure seamlessly
- Enhance security through consistently updated images

Bare Metal Provisioning

Whether onboarding new employees, initiating a bulk laptop refresh, or scaling operations, organizations often purchase devices in bulk, and provisioning these new devices can strain an IT organization. With GSS bare metal deployment capabilities, provisioning new systems can be done effortlessly. The wizard-driven interface provides intuitive setup and deployment, hardware-independent imaging ensures consistency, and PXE boot support allows for zero-touch installs. GSS also enables automated post-deployment configuration. This combination of features and capabilities ensures that GSS delivers consistent, rapid OS installations across any number of new devices.

Inventory and Asset Management

Operating system deployment and configuration is only part of the battle. Once a computer is in daily use, ongoing management is also an important area that must be addressed. GSS assists with several ongoing tasks by quickly and easily deploying and configuring software on managed devices, collecting inventory data regarding installed applications, as well as O/S migration. The solution also enables power users to perform advanced automation and customized scripting. Whether it is support for server-side scripting or conditional error handling, GSS provides unparalleled job and task management. Additionally, for organizations that are seeking more robust inventory and asset management, the Symantec portfolio also includes the IT Management Suite.

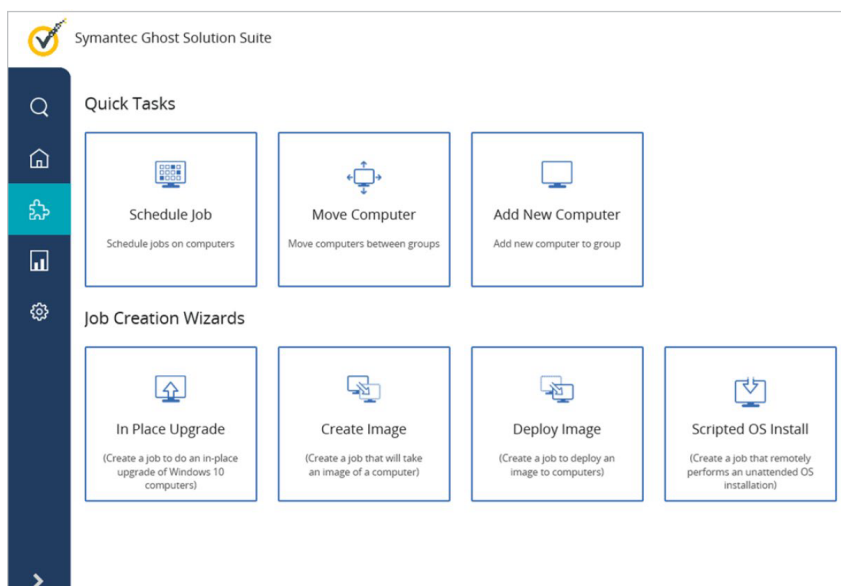
Delegated Administration Model

GSS also includes a modern web-based console designed specifically for technicians with minimal experience to perform required tasks. The GSS web console complements the full centralized management console and is simple to use with built-in wizards for common tasks, including migration and image deployment.

Quick tasks allow technicians to schedule existing jobs, move computers to groups, or add new computers for immediate provisioning of images. Quick tasks simplify complex processes into step-by-step flows that will make even the newest technician feel like a pro. Job creation wizards provide step-by-step guides to create the most common jobs executed in the console, allowing technicians to quickly create jobs and ensure consistency throughout the process. Jobs can be deployed using the web console and can also be edited in the full centralized management console.

The web console enables frequently run jobs to be delegated to frontline technicians to optimize resources and reduce costs. It is also highly scalable, so a large number of technicians can use it simultaneously.

Figure 1: GSS User Interface



Summary

Symantec GHOST Solution Suite is an industry-leading, award-winning solution for deploying and managing desktops, laptops, and servers. From a single management console, IT administrators and technicians can quickly and easily migrate to the latest operating systems, inventory machines, deploy software, and perform custom configurations across multiple hardware platforms and OS types, including Windows and Linux. This accelerates and simplifies imaging, deployment, and other key aspects of managing end-user devices and servers throughout their lifecycle with minimal training to optimize resources and reduce costs.

For more information, please visit: ghost.com



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