

Accelerate resource delivery, reduce risk and maximize performance. Spend more time delivering business value.

DATASHEET

Hitachi Automation Director

Automate Data Center Operations

One of the biggest drains on a data center team's time is the administration of IT infrastructure resources. Provisioning storage, configuring virtual machines (VMs), SAN orchestration and setting up data protection services represent operational tasks that can easily consume up to 45% of IT staff time.

These processes are time consuming, and they take IT away from focusing on innovation and delivering value-added business initiatives. Operational tasks can also require many steps that introduce the potential for critical errors. Such errors can result in applications outages, reduce performance and even result in data loss.

Automation can help by ensuring resources are quickly and properly configured while staff work on the delivery of more complex services. Unlike many of today's automation software offerings, Hitachi Automation Director (HAD) supports a broad range of tasks and infrastructure resources to accelerate operational success.

Act Faster, With Less Risk

Designed to orchestrate the delivery and control of Hitachi and third-party infrastructure resources, HAD minimizes the time spent provisioning and managing resources by upwards of 90%. By using intelligent workflows administrators can streamline delivery of hypervisor, network, storage and data protection services.

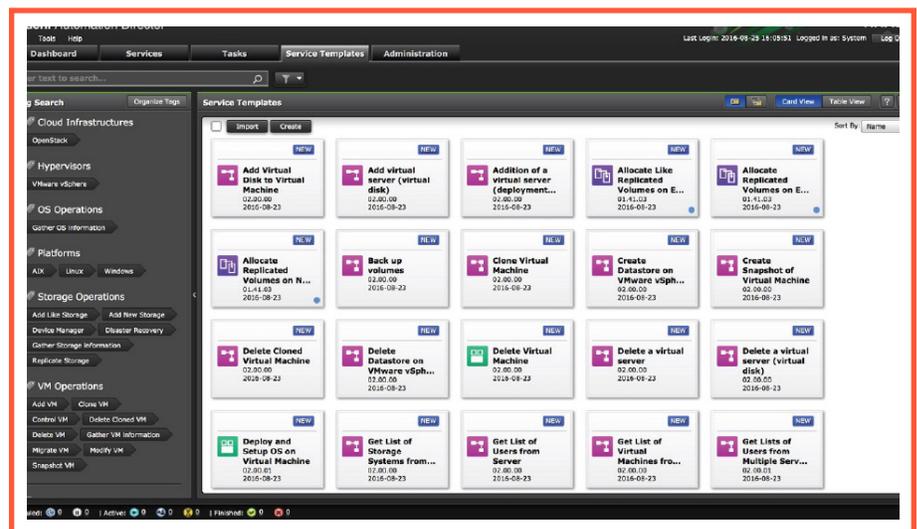


Figure 1. Predefined service templates make it easy to “choose and go.”

HAD operations use best practices ensuring that resources are consistently configured to meet business needs and service level agreements (SLAs).

Choose and Go

Defining an initial set of automation policies can take time. To help kick-start the process, Hitachi Vantara includes a broad range of predefined workflows for configuring resources (see Figure 1). HAD enables teams to quickly work on:

- **Virtual machine deployment.** Operate and configure VMware, Hyper-V and KVM (OpenStack cloud) resources to support virtualized workloads.
- **SAN orchestration.** Define Cisco or Brocade SAN zones to meet

performance and data path resiliency requirements.

- **Storage service delivery.** Provision storage resources with quality of service (QoS) and storage array data protection services, to meet recovery and uptime SLAs.
- **Application-specific automation.** Provide resources to applications and perform application-specific tasks, like acquiring Oracle ASM information.
- **Advanced data protection services.** Instruct Hitachi Data Instance Director (HDID), our application-aware data protection and copy data management software, to set up and constantly monitor snapshots, cloning, metro clustering and remote replication.

Each policy is based on best practices defined by our worldwide services organization and available as an easy-to-use policy (workflow), in which staff enter a few parameters.

Make AI-Assisted Decisions

HAD leverages AI to make real-time decisions about resource usage, enabling adaptive workflows that improve resource utilization, application performance and ultimately user experiences. Today, HAD offers AI-assistance in:

- **Smart storage provisioning.** AI examines arrays assigned to a storage policy and checks available capacity plus busy rate on each to avoid bottlenecks.
- **Fabric-aware provisioning.** AI takes input on zoning requirements, including number of paths and multipathing requirements. Then it examines the network topology and devices to implement the best zoning configuration.

Customize To Fit Your Needs

No two data centers are the same. They each have their own mix of systems and software as well as their own best practices. To ensure that HAD can support the unique needs of each organization, it is built with a customizable service catalog and service-builder function.

The service builder allows service templates from Hitachi and our development community to be imported, making it easier to automate new application tasks. It also allows administrators to either create their own, or customize the parameters of HAD predefined workflows.

Increase Simplicity With API Integration

As data centers are modernized, organizations often implement additional management tools in their environments.

HITACHI AUTOMATION DIRECTOR FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Infrastructure automation allows intelligent workflows to streamline delivery of hypervisor, network, storage and data protection services in less time.
- Application and hypervisor support covers key applications, including: Oracle; Microsoft Exchange, SQL Server and Hyper-V; VMware vSphere and OpenStack.
- AI-assisted decision-making allows real-time analysis to determine storage resource usage or network zoning requirements to meet SLAs.
- Customizable service templates with minimal required input can be used across different administrative users. Create once and use many, for efficiency.
- Robust API integrates with analytic software and third-party IT service management tools.

These tools can simplify operations, but only if they work together. Hitachi Vantara includes an API that other applications can call to have HAD automate tasks for them.

Through this API, HDID, Hitachi Storage Advisor (HSA), and Hitachi Infrastructure Analytics Advisor (HIAA) are completely integrated and provide a unified management platform.

The benefits of this API extend beyond Hitachi software. Third-party IT service management tools like ServiceNow can call the HAD API to provision storage while managing service ticket requests.

Combine Analytics With Action

Another key initiative in data center modernization is leveraging analytics to predict and recommend action. With tools like HIAA, data center staff can predict potential issues and resources needed to achieve SLAs. HIAA can also prescribe fault resolution and resource adjustments, so the data center runs at peak efficiency.

To turn analytics into action, Hitachi tightly integrates HIAA with HAD. HIAA predicts how QoS should be configured, then calls HAD to make changes to QoS settings automatically. This approach reduces time spent on manual operations and begins the journey to autonomous operations.

Business Benefits

Improve Operational Efficiency and Accelerate Innovation

- Enable staff to spend up to 45% more time on strategic initiatives that move the company forward.
- Optimize configurations to eliminate over-provisioning and reduce capital expense.
- Accelerate application deployment to more quickly implement new revenue initiatives and operational efficiencies.
- Ensure that best practices are consistently followed to meet strict service level goals and optimize resource configuration.

Services and Training

Hitachi Vantara Global Services and Hitachi valued partners help you to quickly realize the benefits and cost savings of Automation Director with assessment, planning and design, installation, management and support services.

Hitachi Vantara

Corporate Headquarters
2535 Augustine Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95054 USA
HitachiVantara.com | community.HitachiVantara.com

Contact Information
USA: 1-800-446-0744
Global: 1-858-547-4526
HitachiVantara.com/contact

