

SCCM Query Collections: Simplifying Windows System Management

SCCM (System Center Configuration Manager) is a powerful tool used by Windows system administrators for managing and deploying software, updates, and configurations across a network of computers. One of the key features of SCCM is its ability to create and manage collections, which are logical groups of computers based on certain criteria. This article will explore the concept of SCCM query collections and how they can be effectively used in a Windows environment.

SCCM query collections allow administrators to define and dynamically update groups of computers based on specific criteria. These criteria can include hardware specifications, software installations, operating system versions, and much more. By creating query collections, administrators can easily target specific groups of computers for software deployments, updates, or configurations.

In a Windows environment, SCCM query collections can be particularly useful for managing software updates and ensuring compliance with security patches. For example, an administrator can create a query collection that includes all computers running Windows 10 and missing the latest cumulative update. This collection can then be used to deploy the necessary updates to those computers, ensuring they are up to date and secure.

Example 1: Creating a Query Collection for Windows 10 Computers

To create a query collection for Windows 10 computers, follow these steps:

1. Open the SCCM console and navigate to the "Assets and Compliance" workspace.
2. Select "Device Collections" and click on "Create Device Collection" from the ribbon.
3. In the "General" tab, provide a name and optional description for the collection.
4. In the "Membership Rules" tab, click on "Add Rule" and select "Query Rule."
5. In the query rule properties, click on "Edit Query Statement."
6. In the query statement properties, click on "Show Query Language" and enter the following query:

```
SELECT * FROM SMS_R_System WHERE OperatingSystemNameandVersion like "%Windows 10%"
```
7. Click on "OK" to save the query statement and then click on "OK" again to save the query rule.
8. Click on "Next" and then "Next" again to skip the "Deployment Settings" and "Summary" tabs.

9. Click on "Close" to finish creating the query collection.

This query collection will dynamically update itself based on the criteria specified in the query rule. Any computer running Windows 10 will automatically be included in this collection.