How To Promote Secondary Management Server to be Primary

8 August 2012
Important Information

Latest Software
We recommend that you install the most recent software release to stay up-to-date with the latest functional improvements, stability fixes, security enhancements and protection against new and evolving attacks.

Latest Documentation
The latest version of this document is at: http://supportcontent.checkpoint.com/documentation_download?ID=15461
For additional technical information, visit the Check Point Support Center (http://supportcenter.checkpoint.com).

Revision History

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 August 2012</td>
<td>Fixed errors in the procedure On the Secondary Server (on page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 April 2012</td>
<td>First release of this document</td>
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Feedback
Check Point is engaged in a continuous effort to improve its documentation.
Please help us by sending your comments (mailto:cp_techpub_feedback@checkpoint.com?subject=Feedback on How To Promote Secondary Management Server to be Primary ).
How To Promote Secondary Security Management Server to be Primary

Objective
This procedure explains how to manually promote a secondary Security Management server to be the primary if the original primary server fails.
This guide is relevant for distributed Management High Availability environments.
This guide might also be useful in standalone Full High Availability environments, if the promote_util tool fails to automatically promote the secondary member.

Supported Versions
Any version that supports Management High Availability

Supported Appliances
Any appliance that supports Management High Availability

Supported OS
SecurePlatform

Before You Start

Related Documentation and Assumed Knowledge
Key points:

- In Management High Availability, the active Security Management server has one or more standby Security Management servers, ready to take over from the active Security Management server when necessary.
- These Security Management servers must all run on the same operating system and version.
- The various databases in the corporate organization are synchronized on the standby servers and active server.
- In a Management High Availability deployment, the first installed Security Management server is the Primary Security Management server. This is used by the system administrator to manage the Security Policy. Any other Security Management server installed, is secondary.
- After a secondary Security Management server is installed and manually synchronized, the distinction between primary versus secondary is no longer significant. These servers are now referred to according to their role in the Management High Availability scenario as active or standby, where any Security Management server can be the active server.
- Changing a standby Security Management server to active, does not promote this server to be primary.
Impact on the Environment and Warnings

- Test in a lab first.
- Make sure you have a good backup of the secondary server.
- Do this procedure during down time.

Promoting the Secondary Server to be Primary

On the Secondary Server

1. Stop Check Point services: cpstop.
2. Backup the server: backup
3. Make sure this server is the Secondary server: cpprod_util FwIsPrimary
   0 = secondary server.
   1 = primary server.
4. Edit the objects_5_0_C file on the current Secondary server:
   - In the primary mgmt section, change primary_management (true) to primary management (false).
   ```
   :owner ()
   :performancepack (false)
   :primary_management (false)
   :product_versions ()
   :protect_internal_interfaces_only (true)
   :proxy_enable_override_settings (false)
   :proxy_override_settings ()
   ```
   - Remove the Deleteable (false) attribute from the AdminInfo section.
   ```
   :AdminInfo ()
   :LastModified ()
   :Time ("Wed Jan 19 14:28:34 2011")
   :last_modified_utc (1295447314)
   :By ("Security Management Server")
   :From (localhost)
   :chkpfuuid ("(0E60BE82-2308-1EB0-8E2D-000000000000")"
   :ClassName (host_cp)
   :icon ("NetworkObjects/Checkpoint/Hosts/Host_mgmt_CP")
   :table [network_objects]
   :name (cpmodule)
   ```
   - In the secondary Mgmt section, change primary_management (false) to primary management (true).
   ```
   :primary_management (true)
   :protect_internal_interfaces_only (true)
   :real_time_monitor (false)
   :reporting_server (false)
   :sc_portal (false)
   ```
- Add **Deleteable (false)** to the **AdminInfo** section.

5. In the registry, set the old secondary server to be the new primary server:
   ```bash
   cpprod_util FwSetPrimary 1
   cpprod_util CPPROD_SetValue SIC ICAState 4 3 1
   cpk_regedit -d //SOFTWARE//CheckPoint//SIC OTP
   cpk_regedit -d //SOFTWARE//CheckPoint//SIC ICAip
   
   6. Run `cpprod_util FwIsPrimary` again on the secondary server and make sure it returns 1.
   7. Remove the `$FWDIR/conf/mgha/*` files. These files are created again when you start the services.
   8. Make sure the `mgmt_ha` license is on the newly promoted Security Management server.
   9. Reboot the server.
10. Connect with SmartDashboard to the new primary server, and change it to **Active** in the pop-up window.
11. In **Network Objects**, delete the old primary object.
12. The former secondary server is now the primary and it is on **Active**.

If you should change name of the new primary Security Management server, see sk42071 (https://supportcenter.checkpoint.com/supportcenter/portal?eventSubmit_doGoviewsolutiondetails=&solutionid=sk42071&js_peid=P-114a7bc3b09-10006&partition=Advanced&product=Security).

**Creating a New Secondary Server**

1. Install a new Security Management server and set its type to Secondary.

![First Time Configuration Wizard - Security Management Installation Type](image1)

2. Match the HFA version to the new primary.

3. On the open SmartDashboard session to the current primary Security Management server, create the object for the new secondary server, including **Secure Internal Communication**.

![Check Point Gateway - New Sec_Mgmt](image2)
4. Save the policy and synchronize the database with the new secondary server.

Verifying

After the synchronization, in SmartDashboard, see that the former secondary server, is now the primary server and it is on **Active**. See that the new object is the secondary server and in **Standby**.
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