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JumpStart Training

Course Summary

This course covers the fundamentals of the RightScale Cloud Management Platform. It provides this through extensive hands-on lab exercises using the RightScale Dashboard, as well as instructor-led presentations and demonstrations. The course is intended to be task-based whenever possible, with presentations and demonstrations used to introduce and support the lab exercises. This hands-on emphasis helps solidify learning by basing it on real-world experience.

Audience

The primary audience for this course is RightScale customers and partners. System Administrators, Application Developers, and Solutions Architects all will benefit from this course.

Prerequisites

Completion of the RightScale Kickoff call. Although this course is technical in nature, it does not require extensive prior use of the RightScale Dashboard.

Format, Length and other Value-Add Notes

This course is delivered as Instructor Led Training (ILT). It is 3 days in length. We can deliver the training either at your site, the Core180 facilities in Fairfax, VA, or at our facilities in Santa Barbara, California or London, UK. This course provides:

- structured learning delivered by an experienced trainer
- dedicated time devoted solely to training
- instruction in most RightScale features
- heavy hands-on lab percentage of class
- ad-hoc whiteboard and general Q&A sessions

“ I just completed training with RightScale, it was truly enlightening... I really didn't get it until now, it's a completely new direction for IT... ”

Michael De Silver, LTech

Key Objectives

- Use most of the features in the RightScale Dashboard
- Author and modify ServerTemplates and RightScripts
- Configure Deployments in the cloud and perform basic operations such as:
 - Monitoring
 - Basic troubleshooting
 - Configuration
- Build a fully functioning three tier Deployment

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Course Design

The course begins with a few introductory modules, then adds building blocks necessary for deploying in the cloud. Several additional features are covered along the way, building blocks are reviewed, and then an end-to-end (E2E) Deployment with multiple Server assets in the cloud is built from scratch.

- Introductory Modules -

Welcome

Briefly cover introductions, timing, level set expectations, etc.

RightScale Concepts

Here you will be introduced to basic RightScale concepts.

Included are logical concepts and RightScale components, as

Complete 3-Tier Architecture Demo

Here you will view a high-level demonstration of a basic complete 3-tier architecture from the build phase to a fully functioning deployment, well as terminology specific to the RightScale Dashboard UI.

Introduction to the RightScale Dashboard UI

Learn the basic look and feel of the Dashboard UI so that navigation and common terms become second nature and lessen the potential for confusion when communicating with other Dashboard users or RightScale support personnel.

- Building Block Modules -

User and Account Settings

Discover how to set user passwords, preferences, define roles, and how to use member accounts.

ServerTemplates

ServerTemplates are pre-configured Servers with built in best practices. You can think of them as the base building block when creating Deployments. This module includes best practices surrounding ServerTemplates, Deployments, and Servers along with their respective levels of configuration management.

Secure Communications

SSH Keys allow you to SSH into a Server directly, which is key if troubleshooting is required. For older RightImages they are also used for the execution of RightScripts.

Security Groups

Security Groups are basically firewalls for the Servers you deploy in the cloud. They are fairly simple to configure, but there are a few pitfalls to avoid.

Inputs and Credentials

The RightScale Credential store provides an efficient way of passing sensitive information to multiple server instances. Common use cases include connection information for DNS, databases, and code repositories. RightScale Inputs (similar in concept to parameters) are also introduced.

Sharing

Learn what can be shared in the Dashboard, how to configure a account group, share a private ServerTemplate, invite users to a sharing group, and publish RightScale components.

Reports and Events

Learn the primary reporting features of the RightScale Dashboard, and the Dashboard Events facility.

Developing RightScripts

In this module you will develop a basic RightScript, then layer on complexity to include various types of nputs, attachments, and documentation.

Storage

Storage options in the cloud along with their advantages and disadvantages are discussed. Best practices with respect to typical Deployments is also covered.

Monitoring and Alerts

Discover Alert Specifications and Alert Escalations, along with the role they play in monitoring your Server Deployments. RightsScale Monitoring and Alerts are key when it comes to autoscaling in the cloud.

Server Arrays

Learn common use cases for Server Arrays, how they are used for Autoscaling, and build your own Server Array.

EIPs and DNS

Learn what Elastic IP addresses are, and how they tie into DNS. This is a critical component in properly setting up your front end Servers.

Load Balancing

Load Balancing is discussed against the backdrop of a fairly typical deployment architecture in the Cloud.

Macros

Macros are executable snapshots used to create Deployments, Server Arrays, Servers or an existing Macro. They can be very simple, or quite complex. You will learn how to create and use Macros, then receive a demonstration on a more complex Macro that builds out a multi-tiered Deployment with the click of a button.

Services

Learn how to use the Support Portal, context-sensitive Help Text, Forums, and how to get in touch with Technical Support or Professional Services.

- End-to-End Deployment -

Having learned all of the concepts and mechanics required in the first two days, on the third day you will build a fully functioning 3 tiered Deployment in the Cloud. The first tier consists of two load balancers, the 2nd tier is a scalable application Server Array, and the third tier is a master and slave

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JumpStart: Course Agenda

Day 1

Welcome
RightScale Overview
Complete 3-Tier Architecture Demo
Dashboard Overview
User and Account Settings
ServerTemplates
Secure Communications
Security Groups
Deployments
Inputs and Credentials
Launching Servers

Day 2

Troubleshooting
Storage
Monitoring
Alerting
Server Arrays
Sharing
Macros
Elastic IPs
Dynamic DNS
Load Balancing

Day 3

End-to-End Lab Exercise
Miscellaneous Topics
Q&A, Course Wrapup

Please note the following:

- 1.) Due to the interactive nature of this class (discussion, use-cases, and hands-on labs), all times are approximate
- 2.) New materials are incorporated regularly and the order of contents is therefore subject to change
- 3.) Questions and Concerns?
Please contact Training (training@rightscale.com)

Note: See JumpStart Syllabus for Module Summaries