

BROADSTROKE
CONSULTING

CONFIGURATION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

For Test organization with data collected on 6/7/2013

Assessment Conducted By:
Broadstroke Consulting Inc.

This document contains confidential and proprietary information and may not be distributed outside the project team.

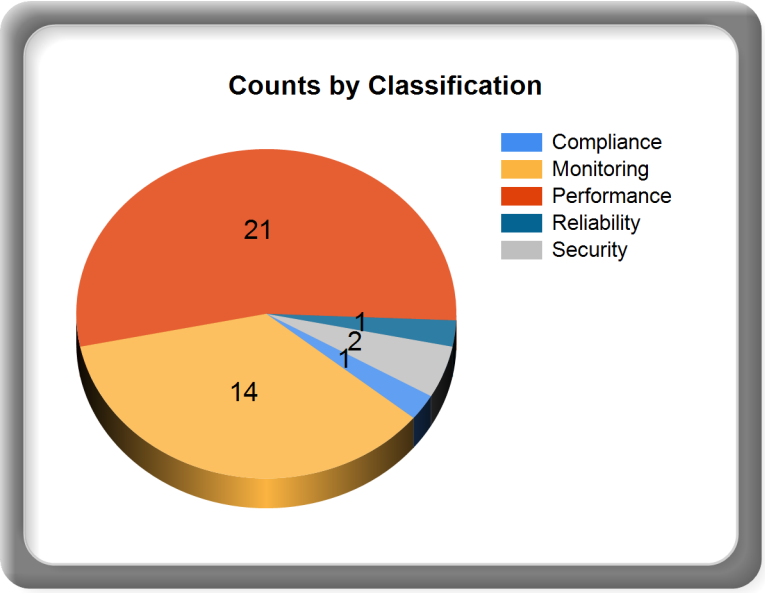
PURPOSE

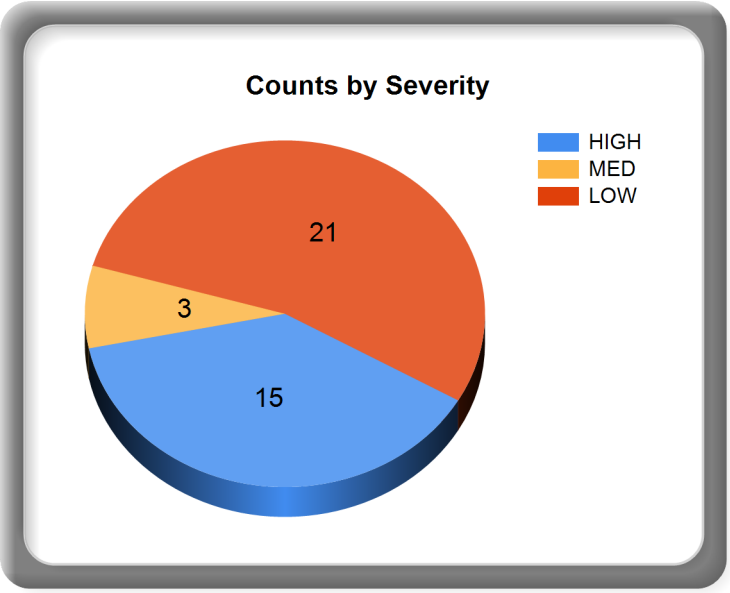
The Configuration Assessment process was developed as a way to systematically gather information of SQL Server environments and compare the environments to SQL Server Database Management principles and best practices. BSC has developed a list of criteria as a way to determine areas of interest. These areas of interest have been categorized by classification type. These types are Performance, Security, Monitoring, Data Integrity, Reliability, and Compliance. These classifications are then prioritized by severity levels based on general impact to an environment which help determine order the items discovered should receive attention for mitigation.

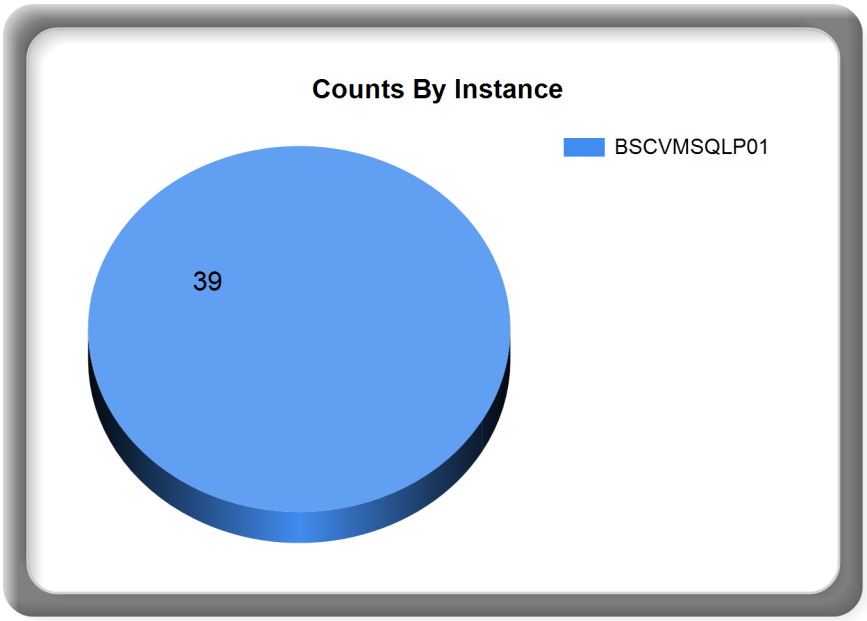
STATE OF ENVIRONMENT

The environment being assessed has 7 machine(s), 6 Instance(s) with a total of 136 Databases, and other windows services were discovered running in the environment. Please see Data Sheet for details.

The charts below provide insight into the total number of conditions discovered in our evaluation of the environment(s) by CLASSIFICATION, SEVERITY, and INSTANCE.






Counts By Instance
BSCVMSQLP01
39

HIGH PRIORITY - Monitoring		
No Notifications Configured for Alerts	OCCURRENCES:	14

Alerts allow your DBAs to have visibility into certain conditions of the SQL Instance. Having created them is a great thing, but not configuring any responses to when the alert is triggered is just as bad as not having them at all. Alerts in this current configuration will trigger when the condition it is monitoring occurs, but will not notify anyone of the event.

HIGH PRIORITY - Security		
Not on Most Current Service Pack	OCCURRENCES:	1

SQL Server service packs are released to help address any number of performance, security and data integrity issues discovered by the SQL Server Community. Not having your SQL Server patched to the latest level may leave the SQL Instance vulnerable to exploits, performance degrading events and potentially even data integrity issues.

MEDIUM PRIORITY - Performance		
CLR Enabled	OCCURRENCES:	1

Allows the embedding and use of DLL files in a database. Enabling this implies there are CLR object(s) in use. When CLR objects are executed, they do not use the same memory space as SQL Server. This functionality will require additional investigation into the amount of memory a CLR process consumes and accommodations must be made when setting the server's Max Memory setting. Not giving this an appropriate amount of memory space can cause a performance impact.

MEDIUM PRIORITY - Reliability		
Agent Job not owned by SA	OCCURRENCES:	1

SQL Agent Jobs not owned by SA have the potential to stop functioning when user accounts are removed. By making SA the owner of the job and this account not being able to be removed, ensures Agent Jobs will not fail because of removed users. The disabling of SA account does not eliminate the use of this account as a way to ensure all jobs run regardless of user account creation and removal.

MEDIUM PRIORITY - Security		
SA Is Enabled	OCCURRENCES:	1

SA is the System Administrator account created by default when a SQL Server Instance is installed. The account must exist and should be disabled right away. Knowing this account must exist for SQL Server to function; many unauthorized access attempts are made by attempting to guess the password of this account. Disabling this account will force the intruder to have to discover an account name before they can begin the password guessing stage.

LOW PRIORTY - Compliance		
Developer Edition Use	OCCURRENCES:	1

Developer Edition instances may need to be evaluated to ensure no Production Functions are being serviced by these instances. If Production Functions are being serviced your organization may not pass a Licensing Audit.

LOW PRIORTY - Performance		
Database Files on C Drive	OCCURRENCES:	20

Database files on the C drive are not recommended. Databases can grow unexpectedly resulting in a full C drive, which can cause the server to crash.

MITIGATION

BSC's approach to the mitigation of this list would be to address any High Priority items first. High Priority items can have a catastrophic impact to the security, integrity or availability of your data. Determining the best action to take in addressing these items will require BSC to take the business requirements surrounding the environment afflicted by these High Priority items.

After all the High Priority items have been either mitigated or documented, BSC would then proceed to mitigate the lower priorities in order of magnitude.

BSC would like to offer our services to help mitigate the critical items and partner with you to improve your company's visibility into the health of your SQL environment and to secure your company's data form unauthorized access.