



Transforming the Way People Work

# Maximize Your IT Potential

Discovery Meets CMDB

Christine Morris, Chris Padmore, Madan Raja | October 23, 2024



# Agenda

## Welcome & Introduction

1. Why Use Discovery
2. How Discovery Works
3. Key Features
4. Use Cases and Benefits
5. Discovery Patterns
6. Common Discovery Errors
7. Best Practices
8. Q&A





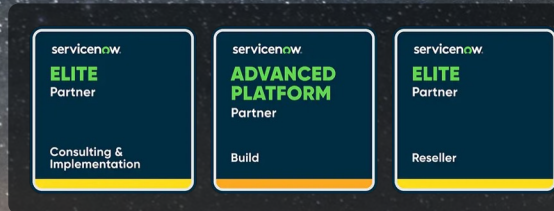
# Cask is with clients for what comes next – on the platform and in their business.

13+

Years ServiceNow Partner

5.4K+

Certifications & Accreditations

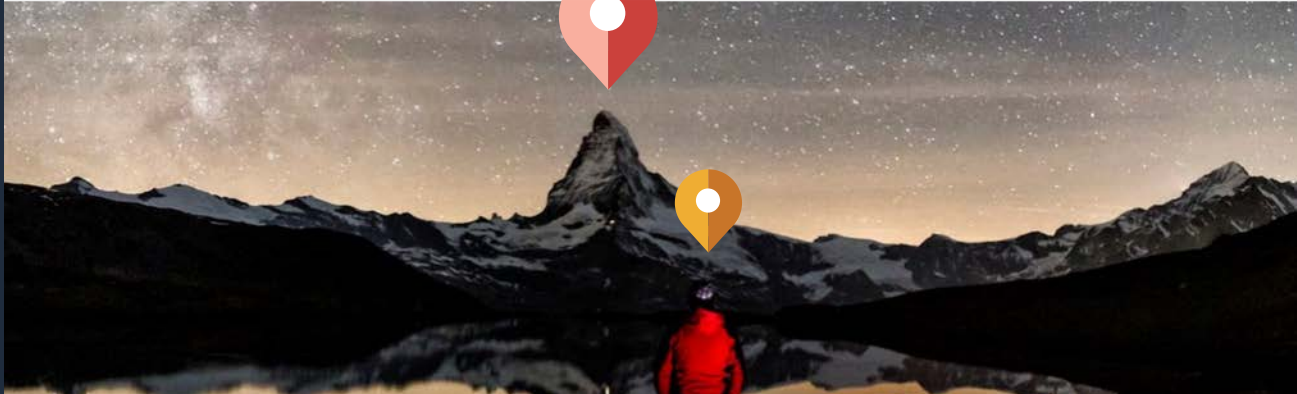


## 11 / 11 PLAs (Product Line Achievements)

ServiceNow Product Line Achievement Application Portfolio Management AMS	ServiceNow Product Line Achievement Hybrid Project Management AMS	ServiceNow Product Line Achievement App Engine AMS	ServiceNow Product Line Achievement Human Resources AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ IT Service Management AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ Customer Service Mgmt AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ Hardware Asset Mgmt AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ Software Asset Mgmt AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ ITOM Visibility AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ Vulnerability Response AMS	servicenow Validated Practice ✓ Integrated Risk Management AMS
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7 VALIDATED PRACTICES (Most of any Pure-Play Partner in AMS)

Cask is the only pure play ServiceNow partner with dedicated, fully certified practices across the platform.



IT SERVICE  
MANAGEMENT



IT OPERATIONS  
MANAGEMENT



IT ASSET  
MANAGEMENT



STRATEGIC  
PORTFOLIO  
MANAGEMENT



EMPLOYEE  
WORKFLOW



CUSTOMER  
WORKFLOW



SECURITY  
& RISK



APP ENGINE

## STRATEGY

Strategic Roadmapping

Advisory Consulting

Platform Strategy &  
Governance

Demand Management

## TRANSFORMATION

App Modernization

UX & UI Design

Product Management

Org Change Management

Testing & Quality Engineering

Program & Project Management

## IMPLEMENTATION & APP DEVELOPMENT

Product Implementation

Platform Engineering

Data Management &  
Integrations

App Development

## OPERATIONS & ENHANCEMENT

Continuous Cloud Innovation

Platform Architecture &  
Engineering

Functional Process Execution

Cask Reserve

# Introductions



**Madan Raja**  
Director, Delivery  
Cask



**Christine Morris**  
Director, Platform & Service  
Management,  
Cask



**Chris Padmore**  
Solutions Architect,  
ITOM Practice Lead,  
Cask

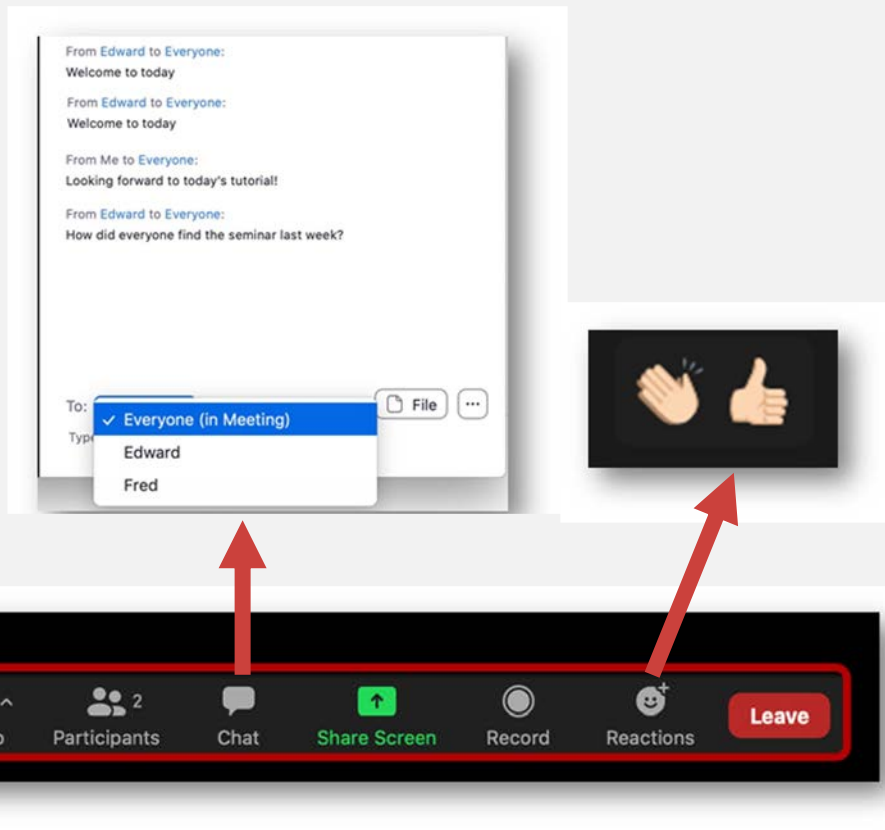
# Join the Conversation: Using Zoom

**Turn on Video** – Let's get interactive and enjoy ourselves

**Unmute** – Click the microphone icon to unmute and participate

**Chat** – Message everyone or just one person

**Get Help** – Use Chat



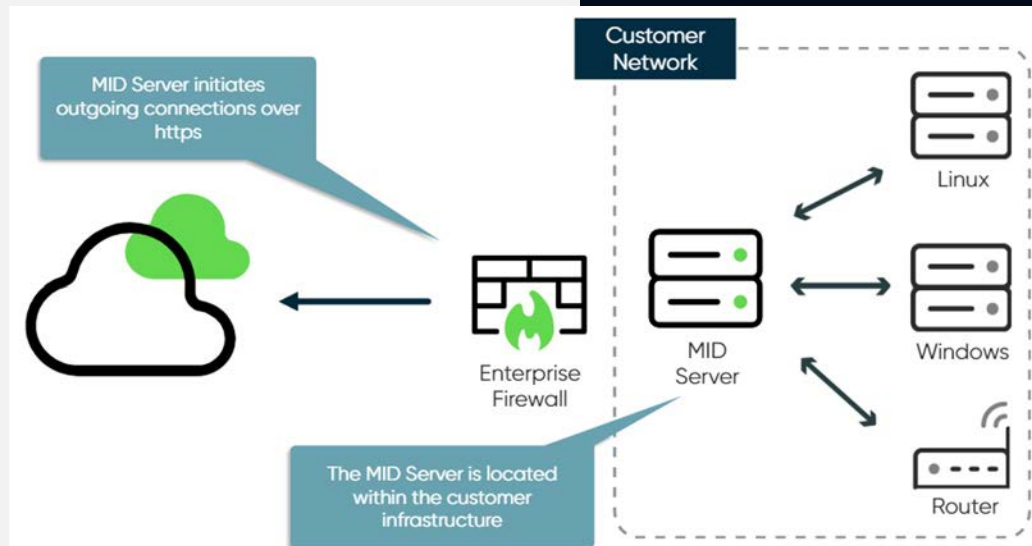


# 1. Why Use Discovery



# What is Discovery?

ServiceNow Discovery is a feature within the ServiceNow platform that automatically identifies IT assets, infrastructure, and resources within an organization's network.



# Why Use Discovery?

01

## IT INVENTORY

Provide up-to-date  
and **accurate** IT inventory.

## Software Asset Management

Provide almost **real-time**  
**insight into licenses**  
and model management.

## Incident Resolution

**Automation** of dependency  
maps to reduce MTTR  
for impacted services.

## Change Management

Improve IT Service management  
process visibility and effectiveness.

## Data Quality

Reduces human error  
due to manual entry.

## Reduce Unplanned Outages

Consistent data helps to identify  
trends which help **predict / prevent**  
**outages** for services.

## 2. How Discovery Works



# Discovery Phases

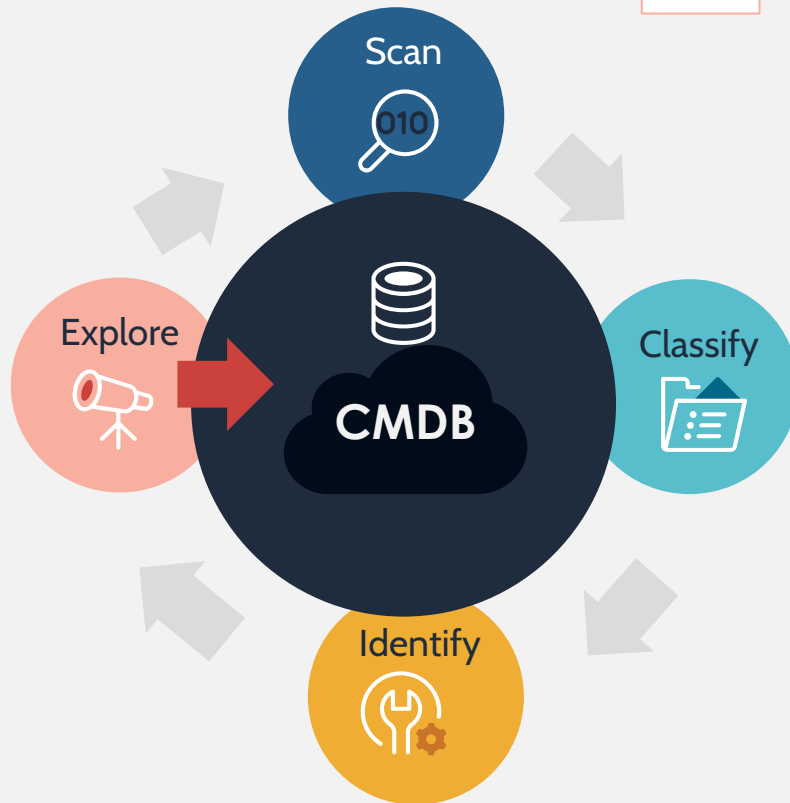
02

**Scan** your IT environment for discoverable configuration items

**Classifies** devices by operating systems

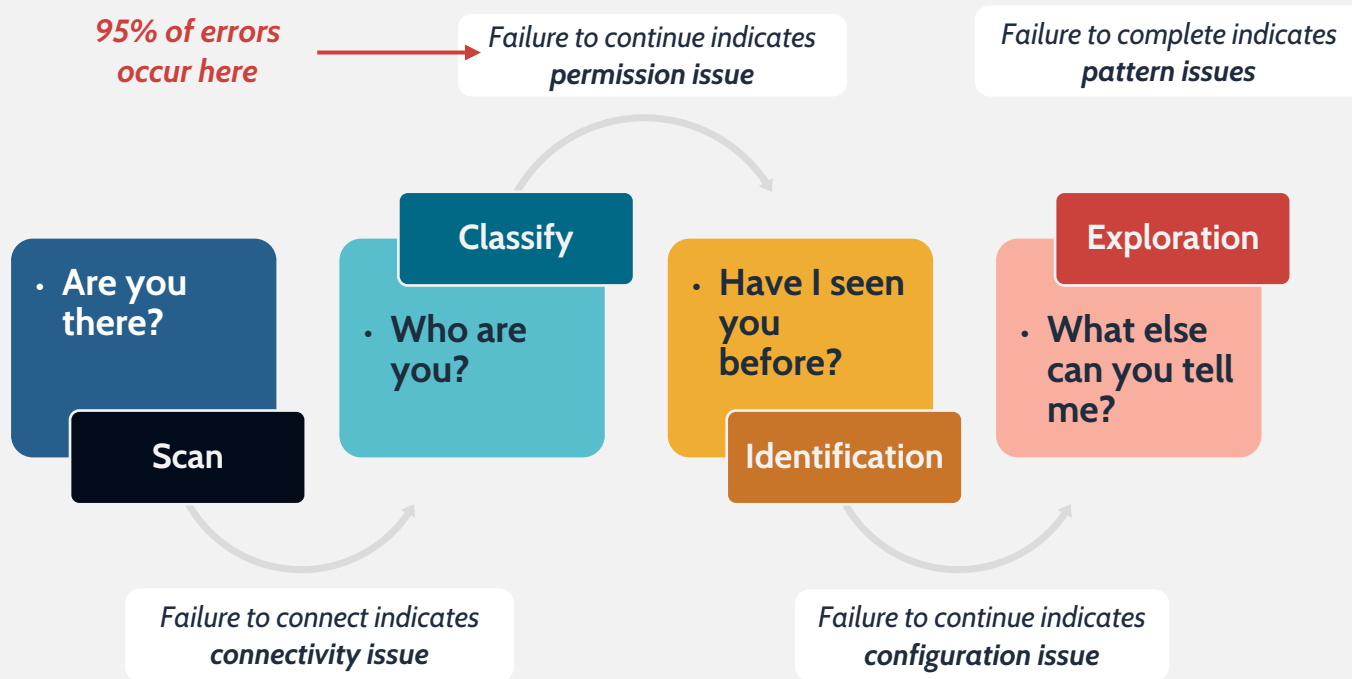
**Identifies** if the device needs updated or created accordingly

**Explores** the device for running processes, relationships to other devices, software installed network gear



# Discovery Phases

02



### 3. Discovery Use Cases



# Discovery Use Cases

03

SERVICE MANAGEMENT

ASSET MANAGEMENT

CONFIGURATION  
MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE

CLOUD RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

## Product Use Case

APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

APPLICATION DEPENDENCY  
MAPPING

IP DISCOVERY

NETWORK DISCOVERY

## Scenario Enabling Use Case

OUTAGE IMPACTS

IMPACT ANALYSIS &  
ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

CLOSED-LOOP CHANGE

IT Automation

# Use Case: Service Management

03

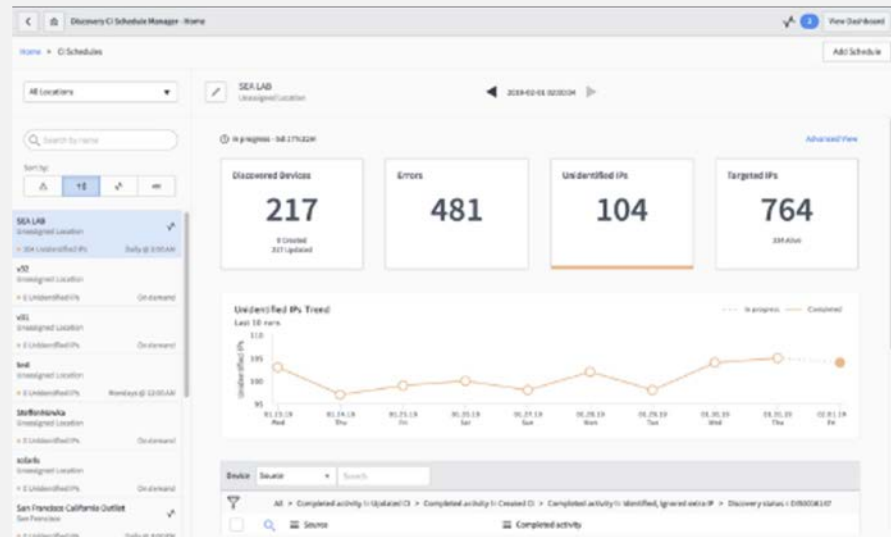
Service Management needs reliable CMDB to deliver results

**SOLUTION:** Automated Discovery creates and keeps accurate CMDB records

- Gain granular control over how often to discover CIs
- Discovery Dashboard highlights new and updated CIs

## OUTCOME: Trustworthy, accurate CMDB

- Decisions can be made based on confidence in the CMDB data
- Change Management can be verified before and after by Discovery



# Use Case: Asset Management

03

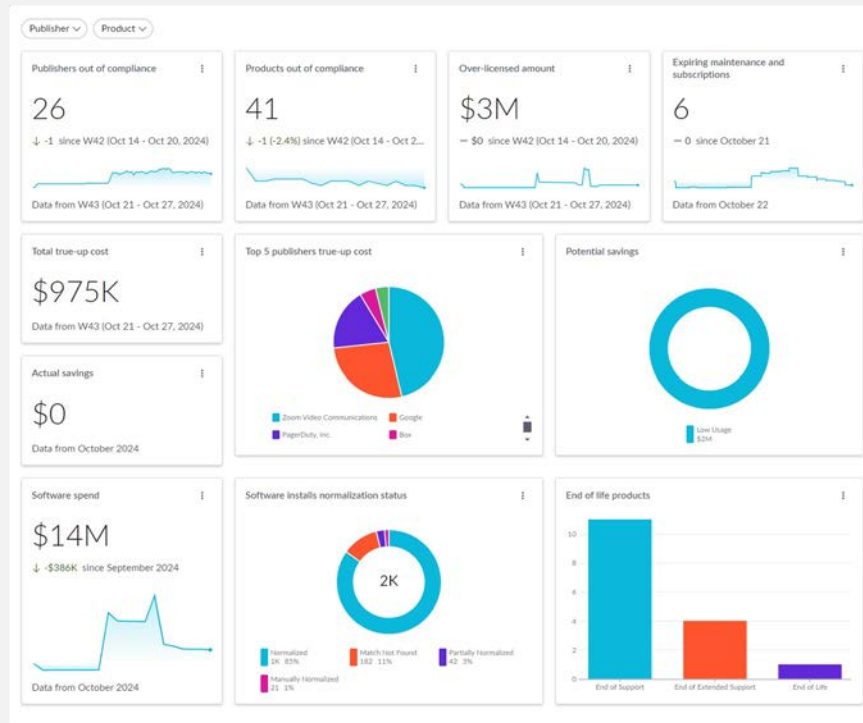
Asset Management needs accurate records of IT hardware and software assets

**SOLUTION:** Automated Discovery creates and keeps accurate asset records

- When Software Asset Management Pro is turned on, asset records are updated
- Discovered details like serial numbers tie assets to CI's

## OUTCOME: Full asset visibility

- Assets can be validated as in production
- Discovery data provides insight into license usage



# Use Case: Configuration Management Compliance

03

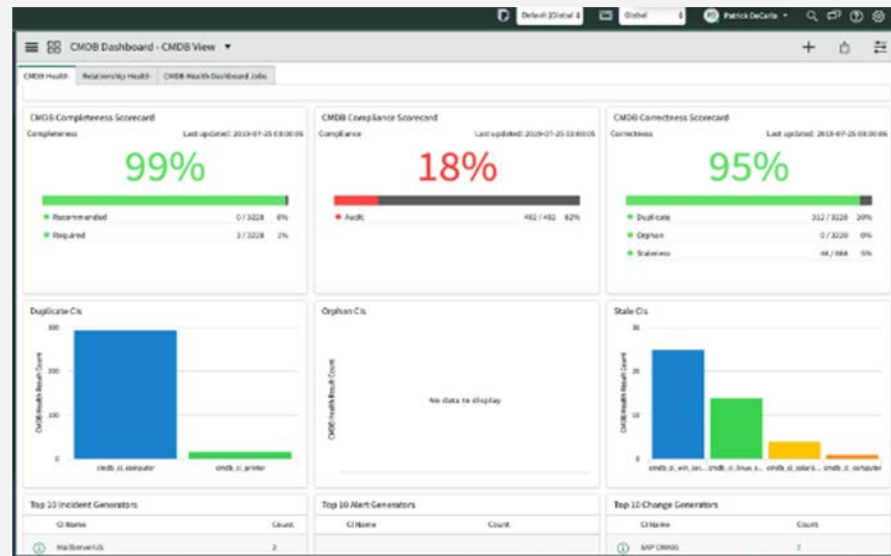
Discovery maintains accurate CMDB records to drive compliance results

## SOLUTION: Compliance and Audit results driven by Discovery

- Discovery creates and makes updates to CI records
- Compliance is measured per CI and scored in CMDB

## OUTCOME: Overall CMDB Health visibility

- Policy based compliance scoring to drive results
- Drill down capability to focus remediation efforts



# Use Case: Cloud Resource Management

03

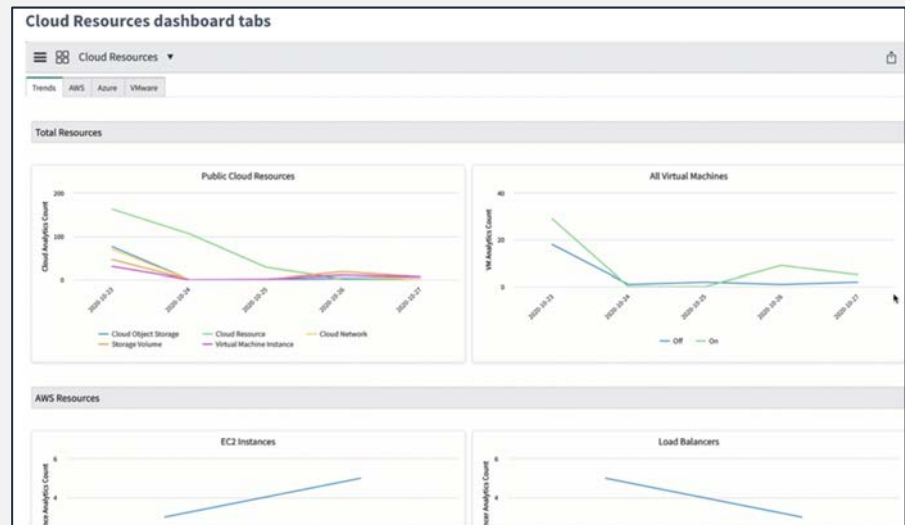
Gain visibility into cloud resources

## SOLUTION: Cloud Discovery

- Find resources in Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Azure clouds
- Populates the CMDB with the relevant CIs and relationships.
- Supports changes to CIs based on AWS and Azure events.

## OUTCOME: Complete picture of on-prem and cloud

- Leverage the same CMDB benefits for cloud configuration items as you do for on-prem
- Wide array of views on the Cloud Resources Dashboard supports multiple personas and use cases



# IT Automation: Use Cases

03

## Product Use Case

### Application Management

By identifying running processes of the servers, applications can be found through Discovery and be managed and reported on. Discovery provides a set of application classifiers (process classification) out of the box. Additional ones can be easily added through configuration.

### Application Dependency Mapping

In addition to the applications classified, Discovery also gather the active TCP connections information (if available) to automatically create relationships between applications that are communicating with one another.

### IP Discovery

IP Discovery is also known as credential-less Discovery. It leverages the open port information to determine the type of device. It does not actually update any CIs in the CMDB; instead, it creates a status report based on the given IP addresses.

This feature is great for acquisitions and mergers where there's not even a clue of how many and what kind of devices are out there.

### Network Discovery

Network Discovery can be used to gather the list of IP ranges within an organization and complement the CMDB with IP Ranges when these are unknown.

# IT Automation: Use Cases

03

## Scenario Enabling Use Case

### Outage Impacts

With our advanced mapping technology, not only are you provided the ability to understand what physical assets are under your control, but also, what applications they are running. We provide the insight of application dependencies so you can quickly identify the impact a server, or related services, have on your environment when they go down for maintenance or suffer an unexpected outage.

### Impact Analysis & Root Cause Analysis

With application management and auto application dependency mapping, it is possible to see the relationships between applications and servers (including virtualized CIs and its hypervisors), thus making impact analysis and RCA possible.

### Closed-Loop Change

With the incident/problem/change management process, the CMDB is a critical piece of the process. Discovery enables the CMDB population and can assist in making the closed-loop change possible by detecting the change to enable the scenario.

## 4. Features of Discovery



# Discovery Standard Ports (Agentless)

04

## TCP

- 135: **WMI** for Windows Systems including PowerShell discovery (ephemeral ports)
- 22: **SSH** for potential Unix Systems
- 80/443: **HTTP/s** for potential Web servers
- 427/5989: **SLP** and **WBEM** for storage via **CIM** (SMI-S)
- 5480: **VMAPP** for vCenter appliance

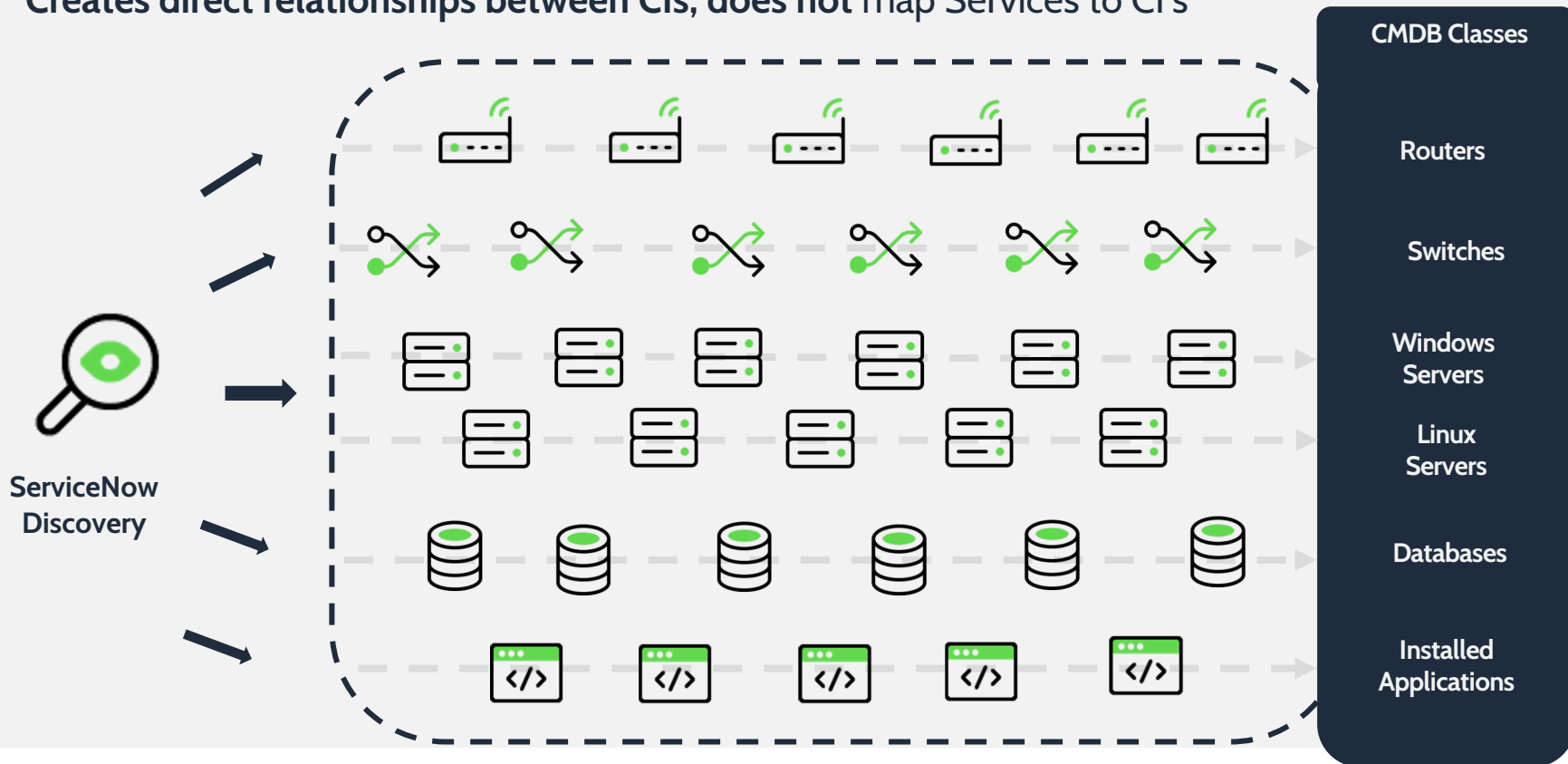
## UDP

- 161: **SNMP**. Discovery sends a single OID query (sysdescr) searching for a response from potential network devices.
- 53: **DNS**. Discovery queries the locally configured DNS server to resolve the name of each IP address.
- 137: **NetBIOS**. Discovery queries the local domain to resolve the name of an IP address.

# Agentless Discovery

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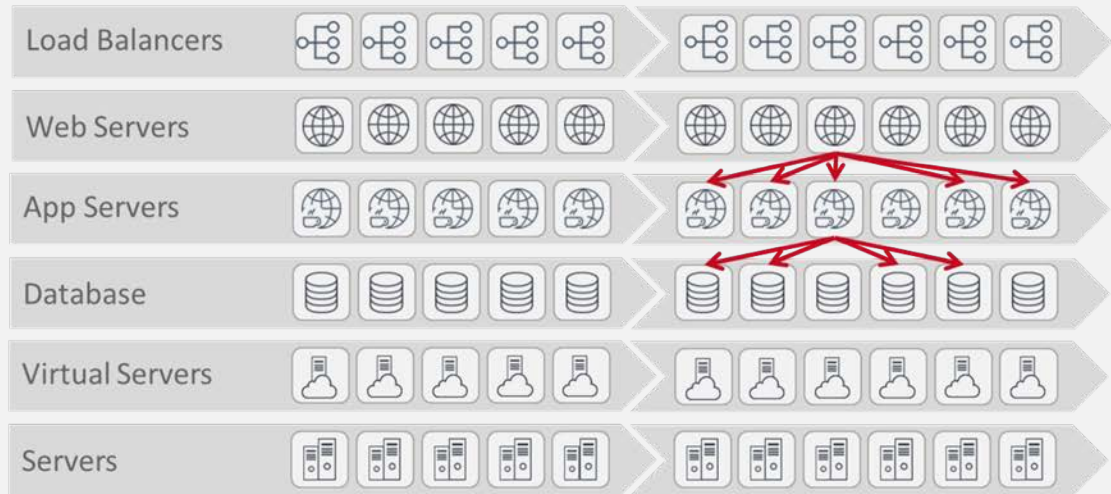
Creates direct relationships between CIs, does not map Services to CI's



# Discovery and Service Mapping

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## "Bottom-Up" Discovery



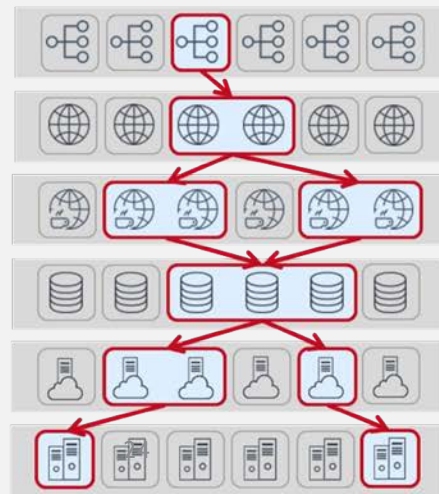
Infrastructure Discovery By Domain

Application Discovery and  
Dependency Mapping

Horizontal discovery tools

**With Service  
Mapping Only!**

## "Top-Down" Discovery

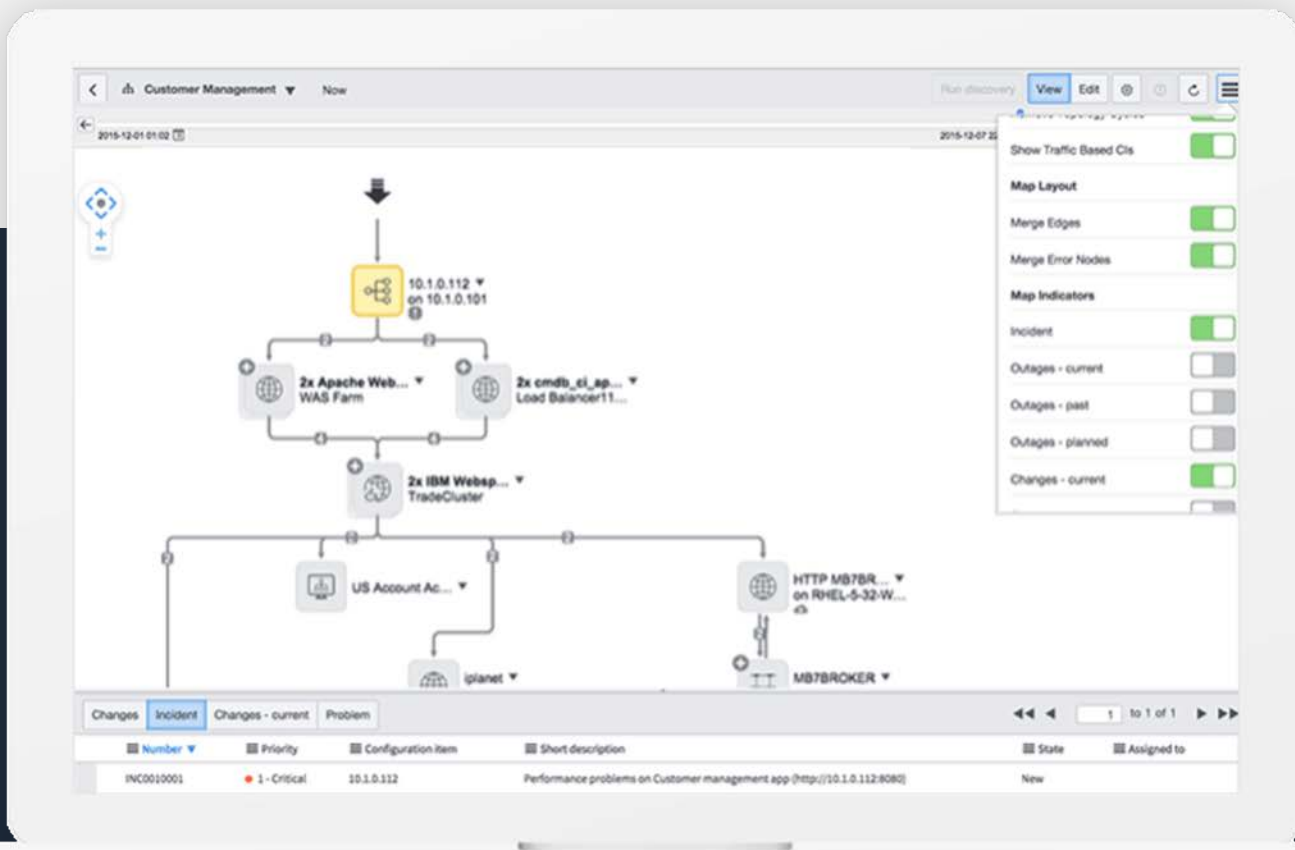


Service Dependency Mapping

Top Down mapping tools

# Sample Service Map

04



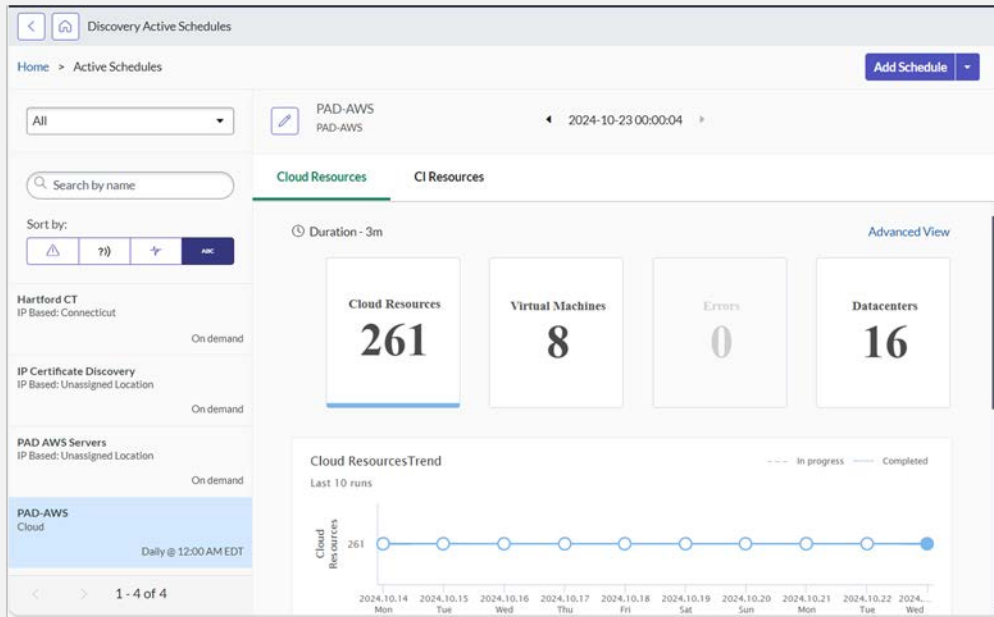
## 5. Discovery Schedules



# Discovery Schedules

05

- Schedules are used to define and control when Discovery executes and what it should look for.
- Schedules also handle the frequency and timing of when Discovery should trigger in your environment.
- A good Discovery strategy should ensure Discovery executes and completes successfully within a given window of time



# What Makes up a Discovery Schedule

05

The Name of the schedule should describe what's being discovered, where and at what frequency

You can set what should be discovered in the schedule. Configuration item is the default but there are other options such as Network and Cloud Resources

Your MID server selection should ensure the schedule uses the appropriate MID servers for the resources and IP ranges being discovered. You have the option to auto-select the MIDs, use a specific MID, or use a cluster of MIDs that work together.

The screenshot shows the 'Discovery Schedule - Hartford CT' configuration page in ServiceNow. The page is divided into several sections:

- Basic Information:** Name (Hartford CT), Application (Global), Active (checked), Location (Connecticut), Max run time (Days 00, Hours 00, Minutes 00), Run (On Demand), and Credential alias (Cloud\_Server\_Credentials).
- Advanced:** Include alive (checked), Log state changes (checked), Use SNMP version (v1/v2c), Shazzam batch size (1,000), and Shazzam cluster support (checked).
- Related Links:** Add to Update Set, Quick ranges, Discover now, Run Point Scan.
- Discovery IP Ranges:** A table showing the schedule's configuration for the 'Hartford CT' schedule.

Discovery IP Ranges (1)	Discovery Range Sets	Discovery Status	Global IP Exclusion
Schedule - Hartford CT			
Type	Summary	Type	Active
IP Network	192.168.1.0/24		true

If possible, have Discovery set the physical location for configurations items as they are discovered

Use credential aliases to control which credentials should be used for specific schedules, which helps prevent discovery from trying all available credentials.

As a best practice, break-up your IP ranges into smaller subsets. We want a single schedule to complete within an hour. Create multiple schedule to handle the different subnets

## 6. Discovery Patterns



# Discovery Patterns

06

- Patterns are a sequence of commands that gather details about infrastructure and generate the payload of data to be sent to the CMDB.
- ServiceNow maintains an extensive library of patterns which it keeps up to date via the ServiceNow Store
- You can update patterns to fit your organization needs by modifying the Identification section, or capture additional attributes by adding to the Extension Sections

The screenshot shows the 'Windows OS - Servers' pattern configuration page in ServiceNow. The page has tabs for 'Basic', 'Pattern', 'Tracked Files', 'Input Parameters', and 'Pattern Orchestrator'. The 'Basic' tab is active, showing the 'CI Type' as 'Windows Server[cmdb\_ci\_win\_server]' and the 'Active' checkbox checked. There is a 'Description' field. Below this are two sections: 'Identification Section' and 'Extension Section'. The 'Identification Section' has a 'New' button and a table with one row: 'discovery'. The 'Extension Section' has a 'New' button, an 'Add' button, and a table with three rows: 'Collect MSSQL Info' (order 1), 'Get Object Id For GCP Windows Server' (order 2), and 'Get Object Id For OCI Windows Server' (order 3). Each row in the extension section has a checkbox.

Identification Section	
Name	
<input type="checkbox"/> discovery	

Extension Section	
Name	order
<input type="checkbox"/> Collect MSSQL Info	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Get Object Id For GCP Windows Server	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Get Object Id For OCI Windows Server	3

# What Can be Discovered?

06

As a rule of thumb, if you can...

Log into something

Issue a command

And receive a response

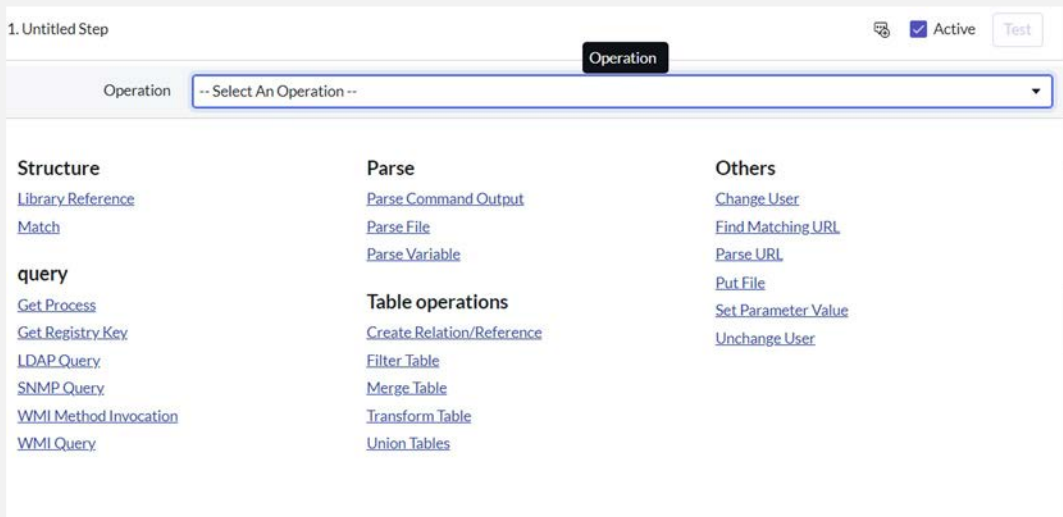
Then that technology can be Discovered



# How Do Patterns Work?

06

- Patterns work by gathering outputs from commands, and then manipulating the data to store on the configuration item attribute.
- As data is collected in one step and processes in subsequent steps, the pattern uses the data to determine how the next step should be performed until all relevant information is collected



# The Discovery Payload

06

```
"className": "cmdb_ci_win_server",
"values": {
  "os_address_width": "64",
  "short_description": "",
  "default_gateway": "172.31.80.1",
  "chassis_type": "Other",
  "virtual": "true",
  "os_domain": "WORKGROUP",
  "cpu_core_thread": "1.0",
  "sys_class_name": "cmdb_ci_win_server",
  "cpu_count": "1",
  "manufacturer": "Xen",
  "cpu_type": "GenuineIntel",
  "classifier": "5f48e47dlb59051023011f81bb4bcb0f",
  "ram": "2048.0",
  "cpu_name": "Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2686 v4 @ 2.30GHz",
  "os": "Windows 2022 Datacenter",
  "fqdn": "ip-172-31-81-172.ec2.internal",
  "os_version": "10.0.20348",
  "cpu_speed": "2300",
  "serial_number": "ec20fcf8-bfb5-593b-5c6a-1371099d7f3c",
  "model_id": "HVM domU",
  "ip_address": "172.31.81.172",
  "disk_space": "30.0",
  "object_id": "i-0e3f9bf1led743942",
  "name": "ip-172-31-81-172",
  "dns_domain": "ec2.internal",
  "cpu_core_count": "1",
  "host name": "ec2amaz-drpcf9d"
```



## 7. Common Discovery Errors



# Discovery Errors

07

- By its nature, Discovery tries multiple protocols and patterns to best identify how to access and interrogate the devices in your environment.
- As a results errors will results when it is unsuccessfully for one of many reason.
- Not every discovery error may be resolved, but the focus should be on resolving errors for what you expect in your environment and having an understanding of the remaining error.
- The goal should be to keep those expected errors to a minimum and look out for upward trends. This is usually an indication that something has changed in the environment, and Discovery will have to adjusted accordingly.

Active <b>Discovery Errors</b>					
	Created	Short message	Help	IP	Discovery status
	<a href="#">2021-10-10 06:58:43</a>	Canceled discovery of <a href="#">Pad-AWS- VM schedule</a> . Already at maximum number of active 'Scheduled' invocations (3) for a given schedule	<a href="#">Help link</a>	null	(empty)
	<a href="#">2021-05-21</a>	Failed Exploring CI Pattern, Pattern name: Amazon AWS Resource Inventory, To Check Pattern Log	<a href="#">Help</a>	ap-	(emotv)

# Common Discovery Errors and Remediations

07

Category	Message	Resolution
Configuration	Pattern Failed	Debug the pattern and walkthrough each step to determine the error. The pattern may need to be updated based on your environment
Configuration	Session Timeout	Based on your environment, the timeout for the specific protocol to wait for a response may need to be increased. You will need to increase the timeout until you receive consistent results and the error message goes away.
Network	Failed to establish connection	The MID server may not be able to communicate to the target host on the specific port. Verify the port is open on the target host and the MID server can successfully ping that host.
Credentials	Authentication failed	No credential could be used to connect to this specific device. Verify that the specific devices accepts the credentials store in ServiceNow or create a new one that does. If this this a device discovery should not try accessing, consider creating an exclusion list with the IP address and adding it to the discovery schedule
Internal	Unexpected error	These errors need to be reviewed on a case by case basis. They are usually caused by a permission issues with the Discovery Credentials not having the right level of access to execute a command or read a file.

## 8. Discovery Best Practices



# Keys to Discovery Success

## Follow Leading Practices

- Understand that Discovery is an iterative process, and it never ends
- Limit CMDB clutter and avoid a stale CMDB, a rule of thumb is if your organization does not support it, report on it, or has no governance requiring it, it shouldn't be collected
- Set intelligent discovery schedules
- Getting credentials early is critical to success
- Update patterns only when necessary, use extension section to gather additional data
- Not every Discovery error needs to be solved, focus on errors that prevent discovery from completing

08

# How to Get Started

08

## Preparing for a Discovery Implementation

### Identify ServiceNow Discovery Subject Matter Experts

- Assess in house expertise; and/or partner
- Assign roles & complete training
- Ensure CMDB teams and Discovery teams are working together to ensure consistency in collected data

### Ensure Resource Availability & Support

- Identify supporting team roles & responsibilities
- Ensure Security teams are engaged as early as possible to ensure credentials can be provisioned
- Engage Networking teams to ensure correct subnets are identified
- Engage Infrastructure teams to ensure scope of devices to be Discovered

### Confirm Current Inventory Numbers

- Always validate Discovery against existing reports
- Work with Asset teams and Infrastructure teams to validate number of devices and accuracy of Discovered data
- Identify gaps as soon as possible and adjust schedule or access as needed

# Getting Started Is Easy!

Cask meets you where your CMDB is today

Need a quick CMDB assessment  
and rapid remediation?



**CMDB**  
LAUNCHPAD

Need help managing your  
CMDB on an ongoing basis?



**CMDB**  
EXPERT ASSIST

Need to implement or overhaul  
ITOM including your CMDB?



**CMDB**  
ESSENTIALS



**LOOK FOR INSTALLMENT FIVE  
COMING IN NOV**



Tell us what CMDB topics you  
want to learn more about!

.....

Look for a survey  
following this session!

**Questions?**





# Thank you!

Questions?

Email: Madan Raja, [madan.raja@caskinc.com](mailto:madan.raja@caskinc.com)

