

# IBM Sterling Control Center Director

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## Highlights

- Simplifies Connect:Direct node maintenance
  - Deploys updates from a central console
  - Tracks Connect:Direct license consumption
  - Starts/stops Connect:Direct remotely
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## The smarter way to manage MFT environments

For companies operating in today's hyper-connected business environment, digital connections with suppliers, partners, and customers are critically important. According to recent IBM research, 55% of the internal and external system integrations that are the basis of these connections are conducted via file transfer. And surveys suggest that the amount of high-value data exchanged via file transfer is expected to double by the end of 2020.

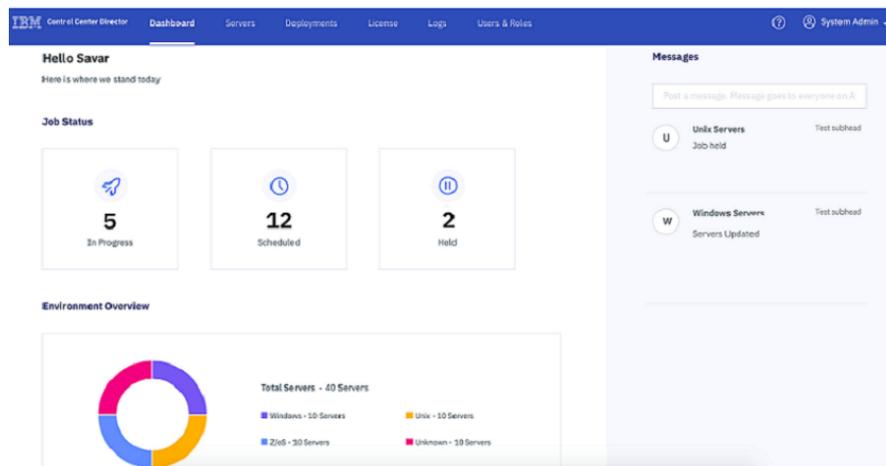
Administering the Managed File Transfer (MFT) environment under these conditions can be challenging. File transfer engineers and architects must keep track of an ever-expanding number of nodes and dispersed deployment environments. It is not uncommon for a large organization to have hundreds, if not thousands of nodes of connection.

The status quo for most IT organizations is a lack of visibility across the MFT environment, a lack of automation of processes, and increasing administrative costs and response times. IT organizations struggle to answer even basic questions, such as: What is the status of my MFT environment? How many endpoints are in my network? Which servers need to be updated? How can we update our MFT servers in a timely fashion?

IBM Sterling Control Center Director helps solve these challenges by providing centralized command and control over MFT nodes running IBM Sterling Connect:Direct. While Connect:Direct provides an industry-leading solution for security-hardened, point-to-point file transfers, Control Center Director enables you to easily manage your distributed Connect:Direct nodes, track license usage, and schedule and deploy patches and updates.

## Operate your MFT environment with efficiency

The ability to remotely schedule and deploy updates, patches and fixes helps to liberate your MFT operations teams from many of the labor-intensive duties required when managing a large or geographically dispersed MFT environment. Instead, with Control Center Director, updates, patches and fixes can be applied as scheduled jobs to apply the changes during a predefined maintenance window or during non-essential business hours.



*Dashboard with current job status and server inventory*

Using Control Center Director, administrators can download the available Connect:Direct packages and make them available to users in the solution. Within a few clicks, the updates are scheduled. Users and admins can then easily track the status of jobs and see which are complete. Jobs can even be put on hold to avoid conflicts with other processes—all from a central console.

Connect:Direct servers can be updated individually, or organized into server groups. Control Center Director makes it faster and easier to update and configure Connect:Direct nodes. It allows you to centrally track all jobs, providing visibility across all maintenance activities taking place in the network. With Control Center Director, you can now efficiently deploy, update and track Connect:Direct nodes so that no file transfer endpoint or node is left vulnerable.

## Govern your MFT networks with confidence

Control Center Director centralizes, streamlines and automates many of the MFT environment operations to improve governance, risk and compliance. Governance starts with knowing what is in your environment. Control Center Director can automate the discovery of Connect:Direct servers in your network, verify their version and determine whether they are properly configured.

Once updates are scheduled as jobs, the dashboard tracks job status, so you always know which servers are updated, which are in queue, and which jobs failed and need to be restarted. As servers are brought online or taken offline, Control Center Director keeps a current view of license utilization. Within a central dashboard, there is one place to go for fresh, reliable data about your MFT environment.

## **Scale to the enterprise**

Whether you're running a few Connect:Direct servers or thousands, the solution is purpose built to help manage and maintain them without burning out your staff. It makes it faster and easier to take care of your MFT environment. Central dashboards and remote update deployments allow operations staff to keep the environment current while freeing them up to work on other value-added activities.

Capability	Description
<b>Centralized Maintenance and Remote Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule distributed IBM Sterling Connect:Direct node updates from one centralized screen</li> <li>• Remotely Start/Stop Connect:Direct nodes or schedule upgrades from</li> <li>• Intuitive Web Console</li> <li>• Create server groups for easier management</li> </ul>
<b>License Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized visibility and control for license utilization management</li> <li>• Track all active Connect:Direct nodes in environment and compare usage to license entitlements</li> <li>• Manage and track license usage</li> </ul>
<b>Inventory Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides automation to discover Connect:Direct nodes in the network</li> <li>• Provides centralized visibility and management of Connect:Direct environments</li> <li>• See servers in their groupings using a tree view for a better understanding of the environment</li> <li>• See near real-time status of Connect:Direct servers</li> </ul>
<b>Governance and Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View and manage Connect:Direct configurations from a central console</li> <li>• Overview of Connect:Direct environment and the status of current version</li> <li>• Near real-time view of job status—scheduled, completed and on-hold</li> <li>• Broadcast messages to all Control Center Director users</li> </ul>

## Why IBM?

IBM is the leader in managed file transfer solutions, according to IDC. This means that more enterprises trust IBM for their file transfer needs than anyone else. We are committed to building reliable, secure and innovative solutions to enable enterprises to connect people and process across internal systems and with external partners, customers and suppliers. Building upon that legacy, IBM Sterling Control Center Director fills a need to improve the operational and maintenance experience for organizations that employ IBM Sterling Connect:Direct to run their mission-critical business processes.

## For more information

### Try **IBM Sterling Control Center Director** for free

IBM is providing a 90-day free trial to IBM Sterling Control Center Director to eligible organizations plus a 30 day allowance for deployment. [Start your free trial.](#)

To learn more about **IBM Sterling Control Center Director**, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit <http://ibm.biz/control-center-director>

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