How to auto-deploy a print queue to specific machines using hostname matching

If your computer names follow a pattern, for example `MKTG102` for a PC in Marketing, you can install a queue automatically on every PC whose name matches. PDAgent must be installed on the PCs.

How deployment zones work

A **deployment zone** describes a group of PCs running PDAgent. Each zone can match PCs in three ways, one tab each in the **New deployment zone** window:

- **Hosts**: by PDAgent or by computer name (hostname).
- **IP range**: by the PC's IP address.
- **User logins**: by the users, or Departments, logged in on the PC.

A PC matches a zone only if it matches **all** of the tabs. Leave a tab on its first option (**All hosts**, **All IP addresses** or **All users**) to ignore it.

A Queue Deployment set to **Selected deployment zones** is installed on a PC when **any** of its ticked zones covers that PC. Zones are shared, so one zone can be ticked on several Queue Deployments. The **Deployment zones** tab lists every zone with its **Name**, **Include or exclude**, **Match hosts**, **Match IPs** and **Match users** settings, and when it was created and last modified. Use **Edit** and **Delete** to change or remove a zone.

The same zones control self-install: if **Self install** is set to **Allowed for selected deployment zones**, users on PCs covered by a ticked zone can install the queue themselves from the **Install print queue** option in the PDAgent Client.

Set up the deployment zone

1. Open **Resource Manager**.
2. In the tree on the left, expand **Print Management** > **Print Queue Management** and click **Queue Deployments**.
3. On the right, double-click the Queue Deployment. If it does not exist yet, create it first: see *How to manually create a Queue Deployment* or *How to copy an existing Windows print queue to a new Queue Deployment*.
4. In the **Deployment scope** section, set **Auto deploy** to **Selected deployment zones**.
5. Click the **Deployment zones** tab, then click **Add**. The **New deployment zone** window opens.
6. In **Deployment zone name**, enter a descriptive name for the zone.

7. Set **Include or exclude**:
   - **Only include those matching search parameters**: the zone covers only the PCs that match.
   - **Include all except those matching search parameters**: the zone covers every PC except the ones that match.
8. On the **Hosts** tab, set **Match hosts** to how names should be matched:

Match hosts	The PC's name must	Example	Matches
Hostname starts with	start with any of the values	`MKTG`	MKTG102
Hostname ends with	end with any of the values	`VM`	ACCOUNTS-VM
Hostname contains	contain any of the values	`LAB`	SCI-LAB-04
Regular expression (advanced)	match the regular expression	`^(MKTG|SALES)\d+$`	MKTG102, SALES7

9. Enter the values in the box below. For the first three options you can enter more than one value, separated by commas, for example `MKTG, SALES`; a PC matches if its name matches any of them. Matching ignores upper and lower case.

   Regular expression (advanced) takes a single regular expression, also ignoring case. It matches anywhere in the name unless you anchor it with `^` and `$`. Use it only if you are familiar with regular expressions.
10. Leave the **IP range** and **User logins** tabs on **All IP addresses** and **All users**, unless you also want to narrow the zone by IP address or user.
11. Click **OK** to save the zone.
12. Back on the **Deployment zones** tab, make sure the new zone is ticked, then click **OK** to save the Queue Deployment.

When the queue is installed

Each PDAgent checks for Queue Deployments whenever it refreshes its settings, so PCs that match the zone get the queue automatically. To apply the change straight away:

- to refresh one PC, click **PD Agents** in Resource Manager, right-click the PDAgent and choose **Refresh**, or
- to refresh every PC, click **PD Servers**, right-click the PDServer and choose **Send command** > **Refresh all connected PDAgents**.

If **Auto remove queues if not in zones or the Deployment is deleted** is ticked on the Queue Deployment, the queue is also removed from PCs that stop matching the zone. Queues that users installed themselves with **Self install** are never removed automatically.

Related articles

- *How to auto-deploy a print queue to IP ranges*
- *How to auto-deploy a print queue to specific PDAgents*
- *How to auto-deploy a print queue to specific users or Departments*
- *How to manually create a Queue Deployment*
- For every setting on the Queue deployment window, see *Queue Deployment Configuration*.

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