CLAIMS

~~We claim:~~

1. A method of managing servers, the method comprising:

receiving, through a user interface, a definition of multiple server states;

receiving, through the user interface, a defined configuration operation for each of the multiple server states;

determining, by a server configuration tool, multiple states of a plurality of servers;

determining, for each of the plurality of servers, one of the defined configuration operations to be performed based on the determined multiple states of the plurality of servers, including determining that a first server is in a first server state while a second server is in a second server state; and

instructing, by the server configuration tool, a server imager to perform, in parallel, a first configuration operation on the first server based on the first server state and a second configuration action on the second server based on the second server state.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the definition of multiple server states comprises receiving, for each of the server states, at least a server status and a server pool.

3. The method of any preceding claim ~~1~~, further comprising:

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new server state;

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new configuration operation for the new server state;

re-determining, by the server configuration tool, multiple states of the plurality of servers; and

when a third server is determined to be in the new server state, causing the new configuration operation to be performed on the third server.

4. The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new server state;

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a reporting operation for the new server state;

re-determining, by the server configuration tool, multiple states of the plurality of servers;

when a third server is determined to be in the new server state, causing the reporting operation to be performed.

5. The method of any preceding claim ~~1~~, further comprising:

causing the multiple states of the plurality of servers to be re-determined, including determining that the first server is in the second server state; and

instructing, by the server configuration tool, the server imager to perform the second configuration action on the first server based on the re-determined first server state.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the multiple states of the plurality of servers are re-determined automatically and periodically.

7. The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein causing the multiple states of the plurality of servers to be re-determined further includes determining that the second server is in a third server state, further comprising:

instructing, by the server configuration tool, the server imager to perform a third configuration action on the second server based on the re-determined second server state.

8. A computer program comprising ~~non-transitory computer-readable medium, storing~~ instructions that, when executed by at least one processor, cause the at least one processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving, through a user interface, a definition of multiple server states;

receiving, through the user interface, a defined configuration operation for each of the multiple server states;

determining, by a server configuration tool, multiple states of a plurality of servers;

determining, for each of the plurality of servers, one of the defined configuration operations to be performed based on the determined multiple states of the plurality of servers, including determining that a first server is in a first server state while a second server is in a second server state; and

instructing, by the server configuration tool, a server imager to perform, in parallel, a first configuration operation on the first server based on the first server state and a second configuration action on the second server based on the second server state.

9. The ~~non-transitory computer-readable medium~~ computer program of claim 8, wherein receiving the definition of multiple server states comprises receiving, for each of the server states, at least a server status and a server pool.

10. The ~~non-transitory computer-readable medium~~ computer program of claim 8 or 9, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new server state;

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new configuration operation for the new server state;

re-determining, by the server configuration tool, multiple states of the plurality of servers; and

when a third server is determined to be in the new server state, causing the new configuration operation to be performed on the third server.

11. The ~~non-transitory computer readable medium~~ computer program of claim 8 or 9, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new server state;

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a reporting operation for the new server state;

re-determining, by the server configuration tool, multiple states of the plurality of servers;

when a third server is determined to be in the new server state, causing the reporting operation to be performed.

12. The ~~non-transitory computer readable medium~~ computer program of any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the method further comprises:

causing the multiple states of the plurality of servers to be re-determined, including determining that the first server is in the second server state; and

instructing, by the server configuration tool, the server imager to perform the second configuration action on the first server based on the re-determined first server state.

13. The ~~non-transitory computer readable medium~~ computer program of claim 12, wherein the multiple states of the plurality of servers are re-determined automatically and periodically.

14. The ~~non-transitory computer readable medium~~ computer program of claim 12 or 13, wherein causing the multiple states of the plurality of servers to be re-determined further includes determining that the second server is in a third server state, wherein the method further comprises:

instructing, by the server configuration tool, the server imager to perform a third configuration action on the second server based on the re-determined second server state.

15. A system of managing servers, the system comprising:

at least one processor; and

memory, operatively connected to the at least one processor and storing instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving, through a user interface, a definition of multiple server states;

receiving, through the user interface, a defined configuration operation for each of the multiple server states;

determining, by a server configuration tool, multiple states of a plurality of servers;

determining, for each of the plurality of servers, one of the defined configuration operations to be performed based on the determined multiple states of the plurality of servers, including determining that a first server is in a first server state while a second server is in a second server state; and

instructing, by the server configuration tool, a server imager to perform, in parallel, a first configuration operation on the first server based on the first server state and a second configuration action on the second server based on the second server state.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein receiving the definition of multiple server states comprises receiving, for each of the server states, at least a server status and a server pool.

17. The system of claim 15 or 16, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new server state;

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new configuration operation for the new server state;

re-determining, by the server configuration tool, multiple states of the plurality of servers; and

when a third server is determined to be in the new server state, causing the new configuration operation to be performed on the third server.

18. The system of claim 15 or 16, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a new server state;

receiving, through the user interface, a definition of a reporting operation for the new server state;

re-determining, by the server configuration tool, multiple states of the plurality of servers;

when a third server is determined to be in the new server state, causing the reporting operation to be performed.

19. The system of any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the method further comprises:

causing the multiple states of the plurality of servers to be re-determined, including determining that the first server is in the second server state; and

instructing, by the server configuration tool, the server imager to perform the second configuration action on the first server based on the re-determined first server state.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the multiple states of the plurality of servers are re-determined automatically and periodically, and wherein causing the multiple states of the plurality of servers to be re-determined further includes determining that the second server is in a third server state, wherein the method further comprises:

instructing, by the server configuration tool, the server imager to perform a third configuration action on the second server based on the re-determined second server state.