Provisioning and Managing Windows Clients

For those looking for ways to deploy and efficiently manage the full life cycle of Windows clients (and servers) you might want to try the two MS System Center products listed below.

There is overhead involved in terms of setting up and maintaining a server to host these systems but it should pay off in the long run if your environment is a good fit for this solution.

MS System Center Configuration Manager helps you provision new and existing clients without the need to use a third party imaging software or the constraints of traditional system images. You can create multiple vanilla Windows OS images “linked” to third party applications and deploy them from the server, if the client is already part of the system, or through PXE boot if it is new hardware. You can also push and repair applications, among other things.

This link has general information about MS SCCM:

http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/en/us/configuration-manager.aspx

This link has an easier to read list of the major features of MS SCCM.

http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/en/us/dynamic-desktops.aspx

MS System Center Operations Manager is geared more towards daily system monitoring and management, mostly of servers but also applicable to clients.

This link has general information about MS SCOM

http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/en/us/operations-manager.aspx

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