## ServiceNow CMDB Integration how to guide

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### What is ServiceNow CMDB?

ServiceNow CMDB (Configuration Management Database) is a central repository that stores information about all the configuration items (CIs) in an organization's IT infrastructure. Configuration items include hardware, software, networking components, documentation, and more. The CMDB is a comprehensive database that provides a detailed and up-to-date representation of the IT environment.

By maintaining a reliable and up-to-date CMDB, organizations can improve their IT service management processes, enhance decision-making, and reduce the impact of changes and incidents on the IT environment.

# Forward Enterprise ServiceNow CMDB Integration

The Forward Enterprise ServiceNow CMDB Integration enables Forward Networks users to augment their ServiceNow CMDB with data stored in the Forward Enterprise database (AKA Network Query Engine or NQE).

The wizard-based workflow in the Forward Enterprise allows customers to:

- Add a ServiceNow instance connection and test it
- Choose a ServiceNow discovery source
- Define the data to be exported from Forward Enterprise

- Pull the list of CI configured in the ServiceNow CMDB instance
- Map the Forward data to the ServiceNow CMDB CIs' attributes
- Define which Networks configured in the Forward platform to synchronize from.

Once the integration is saved, Forward Enterprise will synchronize the data with the ServiceNow CMDB and provide a report after each successful snapshot collection.

# Pre-requisites

Following is a set of mandatory, recommended, and optional prerequisites for the integration. Take a look at them before configuring the integration in the Forward Enterprise platform.

### Summary

Following is a summary of the requirements.

### Mandatory requirements:

- Add read-only access to sys\_choice and sys\_db\_object system tables.
   It's required to pull the discovery source and CIs list.
- Create or identify an existing user with Asset Manager (itil), Model Manager (model\_manager), and User Administrator (user\_admin) roles.
   Required to push CMDB updates to the ServiceNow CMDB.
- Add a Forward Enterprise Discovery Source. Alternatively, identify an existing one to be used in the integration.

### Recommended requirements:

• Configure the ServiceNow CMDB IRE rules for each CI to be updated.

### Optional requirements:

- Create an OAuth API endpoint for external clients.
   To optionally add ClientID and Client secret to the integration connection in Forward Enterprise for add Security
- Add new Cls or Cl attributes.
   To allow users to map data that is not currently present in the ServiceNow CMDB (e.g. device CVE information)

Refer to the following chapters for more details on each requirement.

### Add read-only access to system tables (mandatory)

To enhance the integration's smoothness, Forward Enterprise imports the list of discovery sources and CIs from ServiceNow system tables to reduce the likelihood of errors during the configuration process.

By default, only a ServiceNow administrator can access this information.

An ACL (Access Control List) is needed to provide read-only access to the Forward user used for the integration.

Following are the tables that require read-only access:

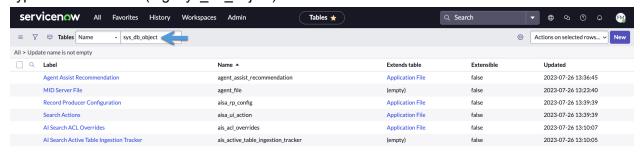
- sys\_choice: to get the list of Discovery Sources
- sys\_db\_object: to get the list of CIs

To check if an ACL is already present for a given table:

1. Navigate to "System Definition" → "Tables"

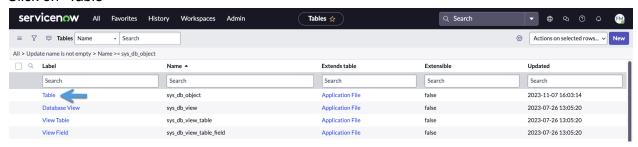


2. Type the table name (e.g. sys db object)

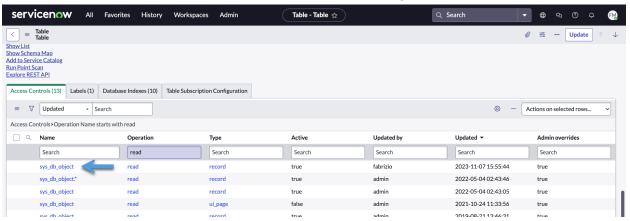


Then, press enter.

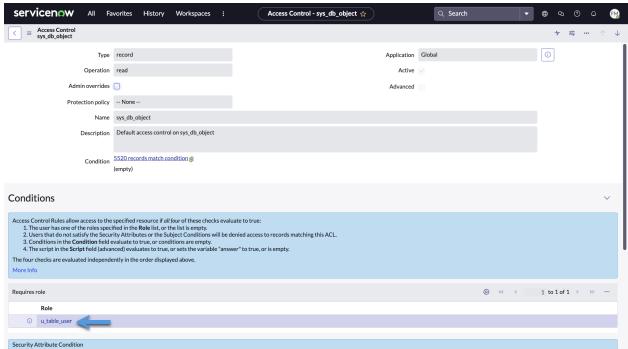
3. Click on "Table"



4. Select "Controls" → "Access Controls" at the bottom of the page



Click the ACL and verify the associated role[s].



The following curl commands can be used to verify the access to those tables:

```
curl --request GET \
--url
'https://<your_instance>.service-now.com/api/now/table/sys_choice?element=disco
very_source' \
--user '<username>:<passoword' \
--header 'Accept: application/json'

curl --request GET \
--url
'https://<your_instance>.service-now.com/api/now/table/sys_db_object?sysparm_qu
ery=nameSTARTSWITHcmdb_ci&sysparm_fields=name' \
--user '<username>:<passoword' \
--header 'Accept: application/json'</pre>
```

## Authentication (mandatory)

### Create or Assign ServiceNow user credentials

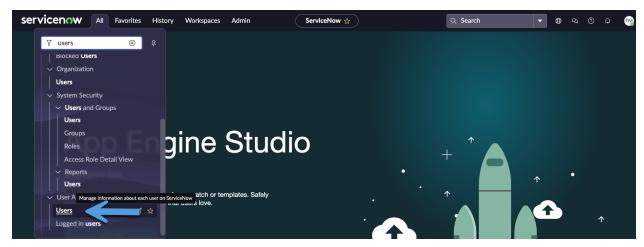
A set of ServiceNow credentials will be required when configuring the ServiceNow CMDB integration in Forward Enterprise, so that the system can send data to ServiceNow.

The credentials needed to update the CMDB in ServiceNow need the following roles:

- Asset Manager (itil): This role provides access to Asset Management features, allowing users to manage configuration items in the CMDB.
- **Model Manager (model\_manager)**: This role grants permissions specifically for managing configuration items in the CMDB.
- **User Administrator (user\_admin)**: This role is responsible for controlling access to CMDB data and configuration.

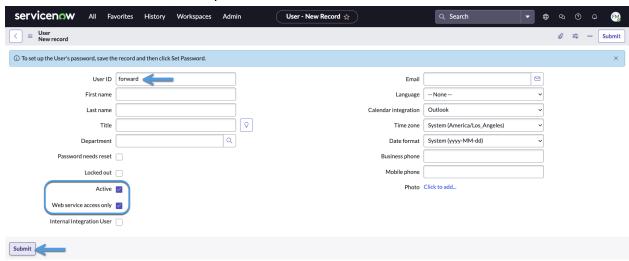
### To add a new user:

1. log in to the ServiceNow instance with an Administrator account, and navigate to "User Administration" → "Users".

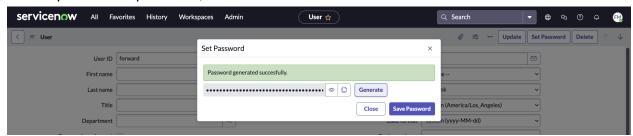


Then, click on "New" on the upper right.

2. Provide a "User ID" (e.g. forward), and select "web service access only". Ensure "Active" is selected, and "password needs reset" is disabled.



3. To set up the User's password, save the record and click "Set Password".



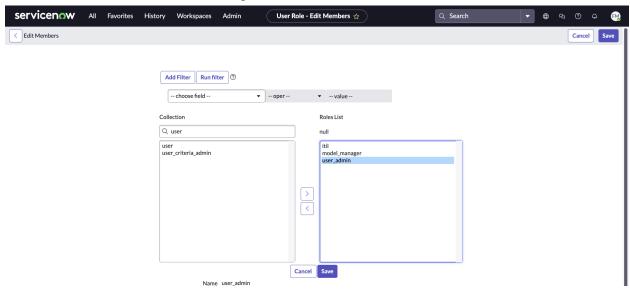
Click "Generate", copy the password (it will be used in Forward Enterprise later), then click "Save Password".

To assign the roles described above:

1. Open the user record, select the "Roles" tab at the bottom, and click on "Edit"



2. Search and add the itil, model\_manager, and user\_admin roles, then click "Save"

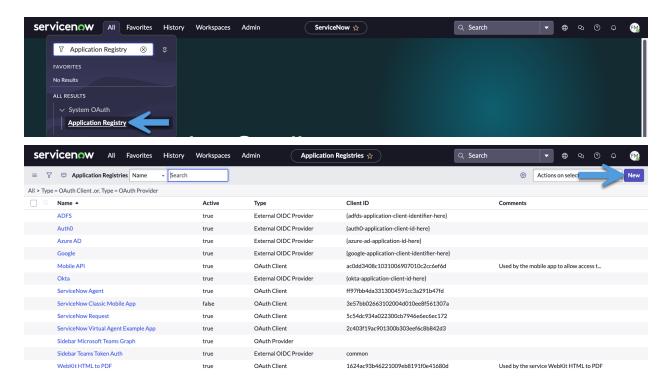


Several sub-roles associated with the roles selected are automatically added by ServiceNow.

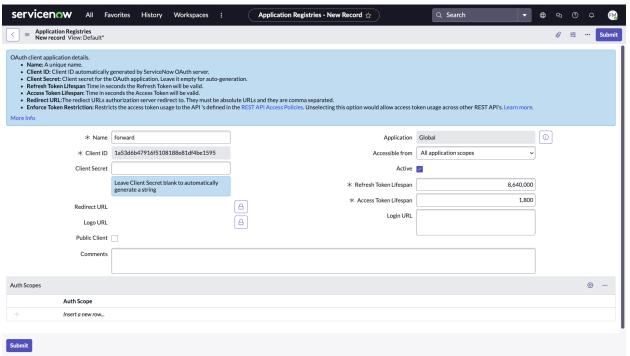
## Create an OAuth API endpoint for external clients (optional)

Create an OAuth API endpoint to allow Forward Enterprise to access system resources in the ServiceNow CMDB.

1. Log in to the ServiceNow instance using an administrator account, navigate to "System OAuth" → "Application Registry"



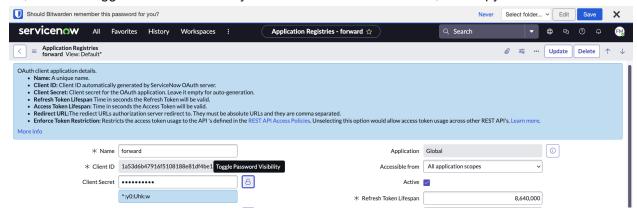
Then, click "New" → "Create an OAuth API endpoint for external clients".



OAuth client application details:

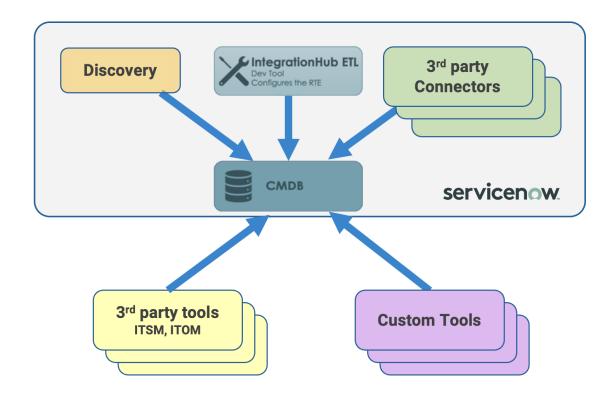
- Name: A unique name. It's the only required field.
- Client ID: Client ID is automatically generated by the ServiceNow OAuth server.
   Save the Client ID. It will be needed to configure the instance connection in Forward Enterprise.

- Client Secret: Client secret for the OAuth application. Leave it empty for auto-generation.
- 3. Click "Submit".
- 4. To copy an auto-generated **Client Secret**, select the forward application from the application list, use the "Toggle Password Visibility" icon to show the client secret, and copy it.

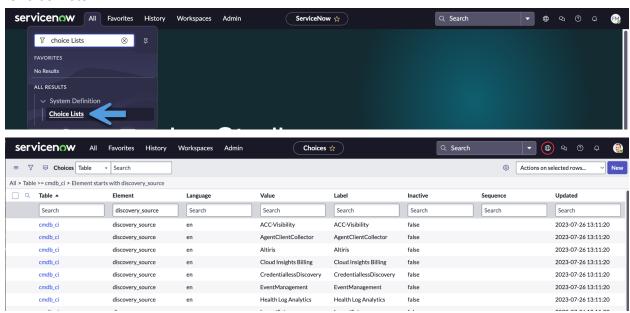


## Add or Identify a Discovery Source (mandatory)

ServiceNow CMDB CIs can be created and updated by different sources. Common sources are the ServiceNow Discovery, ServiceNow Graph Connector, 3rd party external applications, and custom tools.



To see the Data Sources configured in a ServiceNow instance, navigate to "System Definition"  $\rightarrow$  "Choice Lists".

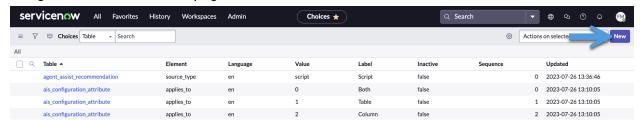


Forward recommends creating a new Data Source in ServiceNow to differentiate Forward Enterprise from the other data sources and assign it the highest priority.

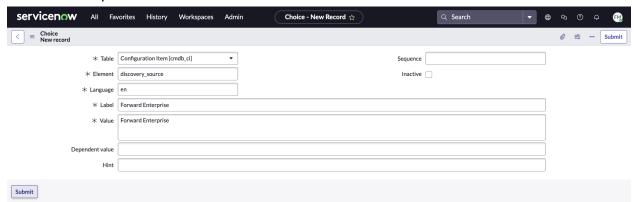
New sources can be added from the "Choice Lists" page or using a script.

### Add a new Data Source from the "Choice Lists" page

1. Navigate to the Choice Lists page and click on "New"

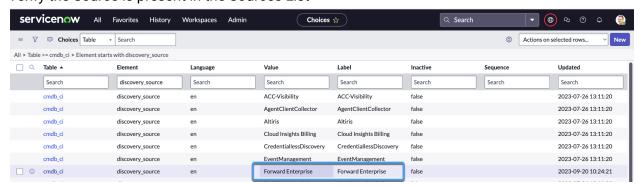


2. Input "Configuration Item [cmdb\_ci]" in "Table", "discovery\_source" in "Element" and "Forward Enterprise" in both "Label" and "Value".



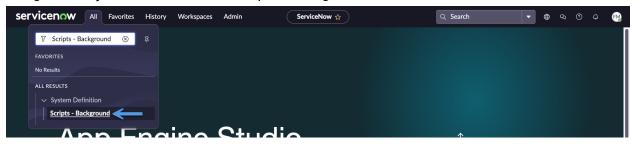
Then, click "Submit"

3. Verify the Source is present in the Sources List



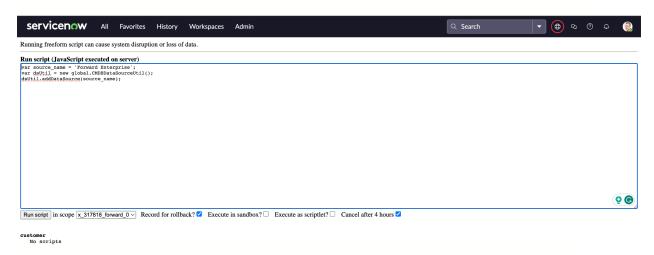
Add a new source using script

Navigate to "System Definition" → "Scripts - Background"



2. Copy the following JavaScript code and paste it into the "Run Script (JavaScript executed on server)" window

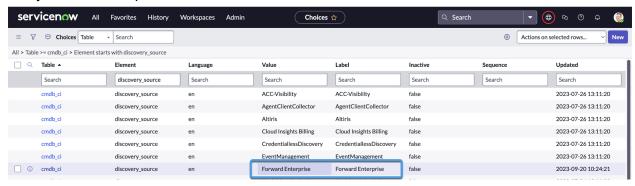
```
var source_name = 'Forward Enterprise;
var dsUtil = new global.CMDBDataSourceUtil();
dsUtil.addDataSource(source_name);
```



3. Click "Run Script" in the bottom left. Check the output. It should be similar to the following screenshot:



4. Verify the Source is present in the Sources List



### Configure the ServiceNow CMDB IRE (recommended)

The ServiceNow CMDB Identification and Reconciliation Engine (IRE) is a powerful tool that helps organizations identify and reconcile configuration items (CIs) from multiple data sources. This is essential for maintaining an accurate and up-to-date CMDB, which is critical for effective IT service management.

The IRE works by matching CIs from different data sources based on a set of configurable criteria. These criteria can include attributes such as serial number, MAC address, IP address, and hostname.

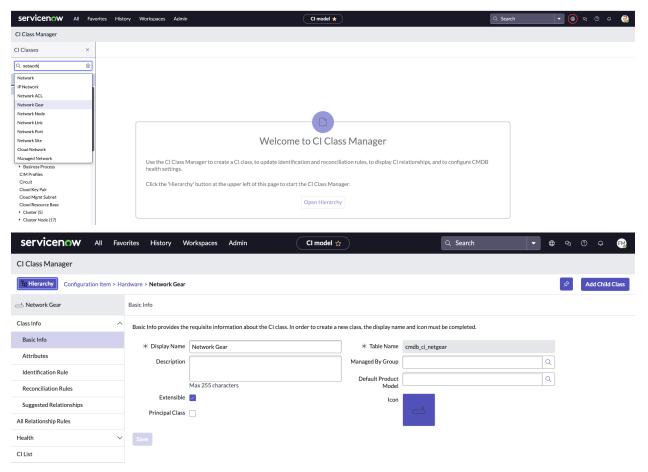
The IRE can also be configured to prioritize certain data sources over others and to handle duplicate CIs in a variety of ways.

Once the IRE has identified and reconciled CIs, it can update the CMDB with the most accurate and up-to-date information. This can help to improve the accuracy of IT service reporting and analytics and reduce the risk of incidents and outages.

To configure the IRE, open the "CI Class Manager" and follow the instructions below for each CI you want to import data into

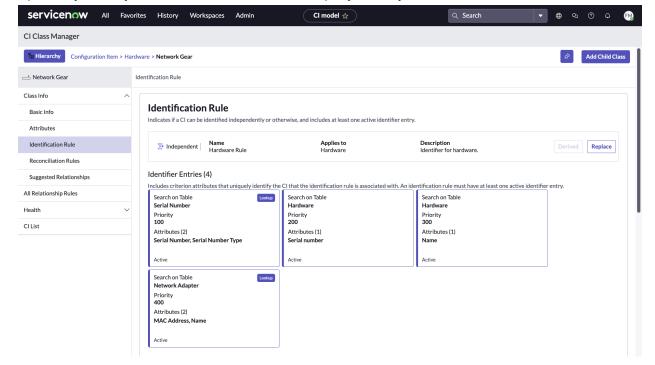


1. Click on "Open Hierarchy" and select the CI you want to configure using the "Search CI Classes" on the left

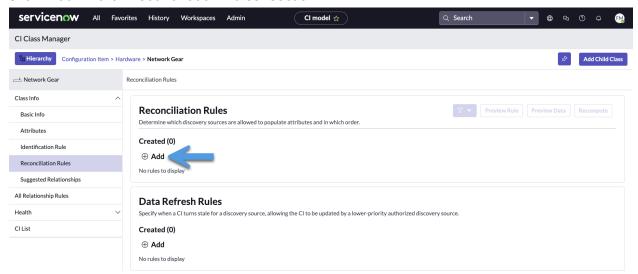


2. Navigate to "Identification Rule".

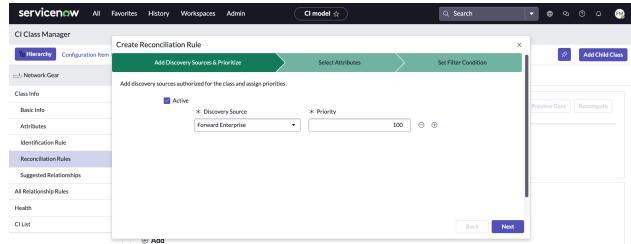
Optionally, modify the set of criteria used to uniquely identify the CI.



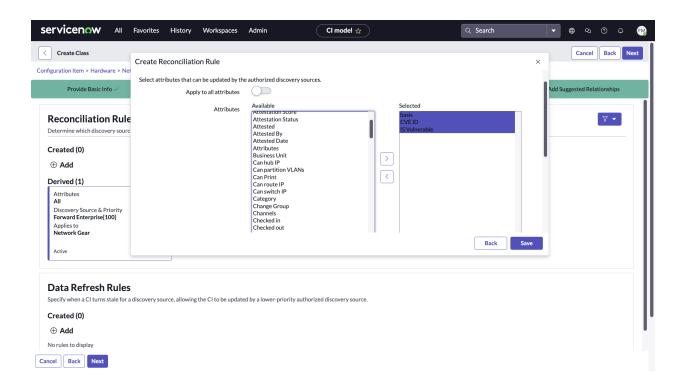
Navigate to "Reconciliation Rules".
 Click "Add" in the "Reconciliation Rules" section.



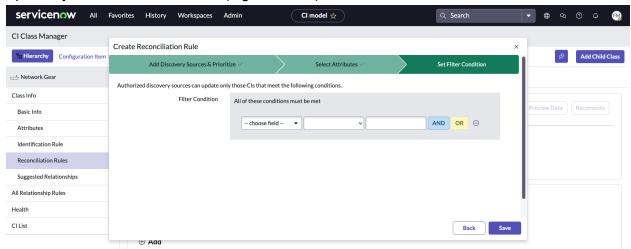
4. Select "Forward Enterprise" from the "Discovery Source" list, provide a source priority (e.g. 100), and click "Next"

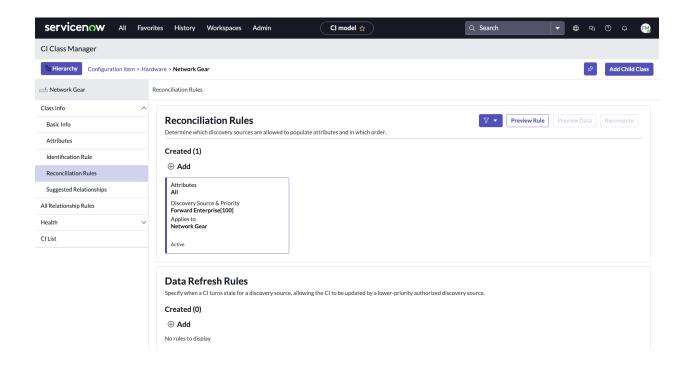


5. Select the attributes, and click "Next".



6. Optionally, set a "Filter Condition" (e.g. a vendor), then click "Save".



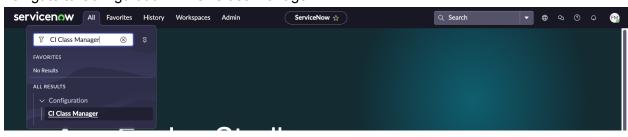


# Add new Cls (Optional)

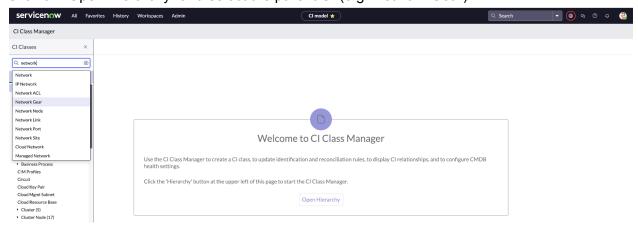
The ServiceNow CMDB provides a comprehensive list of CIs and attributes commonly used in IT environments. If you want to import Forward Enterprise data into CIs that are not present in ServiceNow CMDB, you need to create the CIs and their attributes first.

Before adding a new CI, you need to define its parent CI. Then follow these steps:

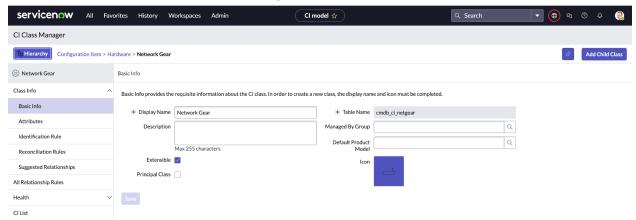
1. Navigate to Configuration → "CI Class Manager"



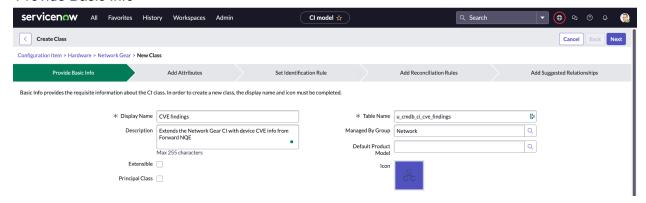
2. Click on "Open Hierarchy" and select the parent CI (e.g. Network Gear)



3. Click on "Add Child Class" on the upper right



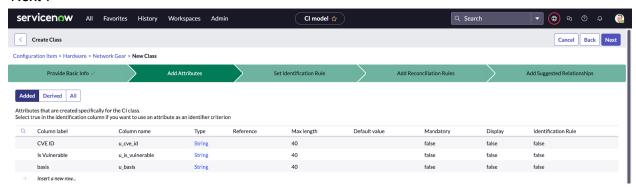
4. "Provide Basic Info"



5. "Add Attributes".

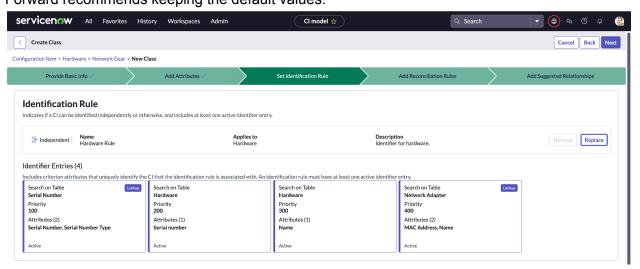
To add an attribute, double click "Insert a new row...", as a "Column label". By default, the attributes have a "String" type with a length of 40 characters. Modify it as needed. Click

### "Next".



6. "Set Identification Rule".

By default, the new CI inherits the Identification Rules from its parent CI. Forward recommends keeping the default values.

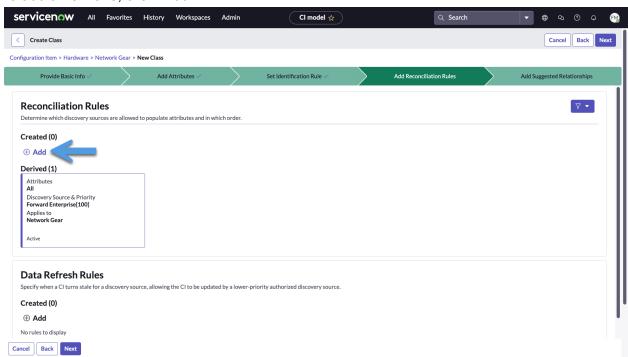


7. "Add Reconciliation Rules"

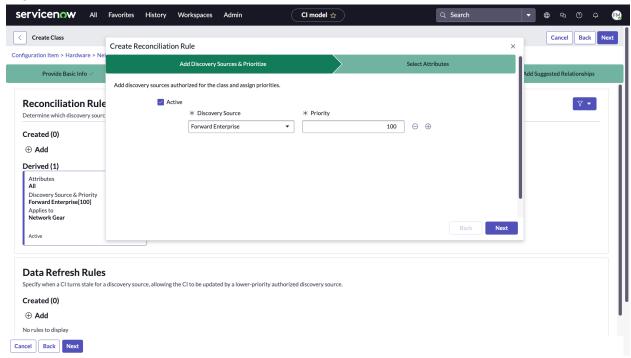
Click "Add" in the Reconciliation Rules section.

By default, the new CI inherits the Reconciliation Rules from its parent CI.

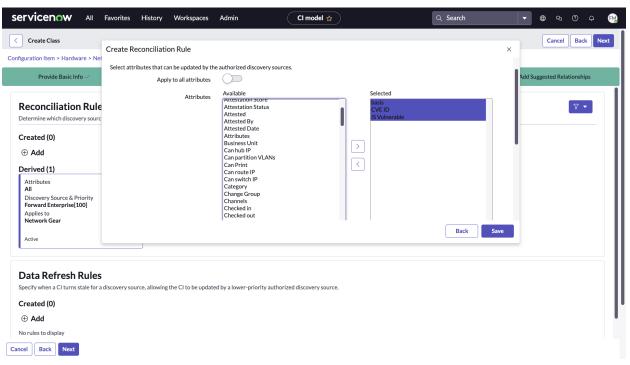
### To add a new one, click "Add"



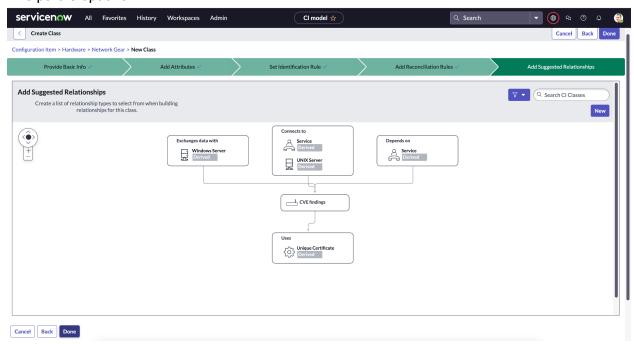
8. Select "Forward Enterprise" from the "Discovery Source" list, provide a source priority (e.g. 100), and click "Next"



9. Select the attributes, and click "Next".



- 10. Skip the "Set Filter Condition", and click "Save"
- 11. "Add Suggested Relationships" This part is optional.

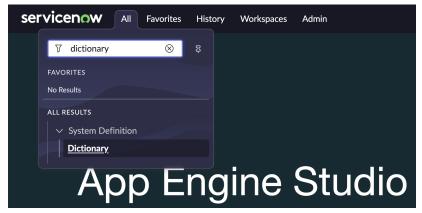


12. Click "Done" to complete the process

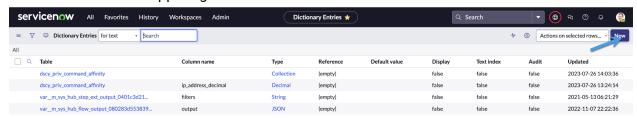
## Add attributes to an existing CI (Optional)

To add one or more attributes to an existing CI

1. Navigate to "System Definition" → "Dictionary"



2. Click on "New" on the upper right



Provide the CI table name, the new attribute type, and all the required fields for the given type. The example below shows how to add an IP attribute to the cmdb\_ci\_network\_gear CI:

