

For Software Assurance Customers

Microsoft® Asset Inventory Service

Microsoft®
Desktop Optimization Pack
for Software Assurance

Microsoft
SoftGrid Application
Virtualization

Microsoft
Asset Inventory
Service

Microsoft
Advanced Group
Policy Management

Microsoft
Diagnostics and
Recovery Toolset

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service delivers an intelligent and comprehensive view of your enterprise's desktop software environment. It helps reduce total cost of ownership of your application management lifecycle through advanced software inventory scanning and by translating inventory data into useful, actionable information.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service is an integral component of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance solution, a dynamic desktop solution available to Software Assurance customers that reduces application deployment costs, enables delivery of applications as services, and allows for better management and control of enterprise desktop environments.

Challenges with Discovering and Maintaining Desktop Software Assets

Among the most challenging tasks facing enterprise IT managers is getting an accurate handle on all the software installed on their desktops on an ongoing basis. This is critical for everything from license compliance and policy management to migration and true-up planning.

The basis of a sound software asset inventory management approach begins with the ability to track all corporate software installed and in use. With the proliferation and ease of access to software, this is getting more complicated every day. Software is used by geographically dispersed employees, making it very hard to get a real-time account of who is using what. Additionally, direct comparisons are difficult because of complex licensing methods such as instances where a license may only cover certain versions of a software title, or may include a full version title and particular intermediary upgrades. Licenses may also only be valid for a specified period of time, after which they must be renewed in order to continue their use.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service changes this multi-faceted, time-consuming endeavor into a streamlined, manageable task.

Microsoft®
Asset Inventory
Service

→ Translating software
inventory into
business intelligence

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service: Advantages

With Microsoft Asset Inventory Service, you benefit from:

- Effectively managing your software asset inventory to ensure compliance and optimize IT budgets.
- Identifying applications and installations that are contrary to your corporate policies.
- Analyzing usage to forecast organizational needs.
- Enhancing productivity in your IT infrastructure and amongst your staff.

Customer Impact:



Microsoft Asset Inventory Service reduces application management lifecycle TCO through advanced software inventory scanning and inventory tracking.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service: Components

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service delivers:

Advanced inventory scanning

Gather data on all of your software assets in a single “pulse” that takes just seconds per system—and is transparent to your users. It identifies all installed software by name, ISV, family, and category. It efficiently scans systems for software through Add/Remove Programs, .EXEs, chases referral links, PIDs, MSI history, and much more.

Comprehensive inventory reports

We help you make sense of your data. The inventory data is reconciled against the Microsoft Asset Inventory Service Application Knowledgebase with more than 430,000 software titles representing the vast majority of commercially available software, to produce meaningful application information (i.e., purchased version of Adobe Reader vs. Free Adobe Reader). This information can be transformed into actionable, browser-based reports that you can securely view online, anytime. You can see reports from an organization-wide perspective or drill down to view individual workstations/users.

Software license management

By getting the most complete view of the software installed on your PCs, you can ensure that licenses you’ve paid for have been deployed and are being used—and that all software within your enterprise is compliant with your license agreements. You can even compare software licenses discovered within your enterprise with tables of software purchased by importing purchase records into the system. Microsoft Asset Inventory Service analyzes how you have deployed your volume license agreements to help you manage true-ups, renewals, and license reallocation.

Easily administered service

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service was designed for your ease-of-use. As a service, which can be enabled in just a few hours, inventory data is securely hosted by Microsoft, so there are no servers for you to maintain.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service combines with three other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions: **Microsoft SoftGrid® Application Virtualization**, which dynamically streams software as a centrally-managed service; **Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset**, powerful tools to accelerate desktop repair, recovery, and troubleshooting of unbootable Windows machines; and **Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management**, which enhances group policy through change management tools.

To learn how Microsoft Asset Inventory Service and the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance can help you, go to <http://www.windowsvista.com/optimizeddesktop>.

“Expedia Inc. is a large, distributed, and dynamic family of global businesses. This technology enabled us to quickly and efficiently discover software installations in all remote, mobile, and corporate locations as well as a facility to compare these findings with our license entitlement information from an Independent Software Vendor. The rapid set up time, ease of use, and effectiveness positioned us to recover our investment eight times within 90 days of initiating the deployment. The capabilities of the service are a good compliment to our on-premise management platform by providing further reach for discovery and efficient Software Asset Analysis tools.”

TERRY BLAKE
DIRECTOR IT PROCUREMENT,
EXPEDIA, INC.

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