

BigFix Interview Questions and Answers

1. What is IBM BigFix?

IBM BigFix is an endpoint management and security platform that enables IT teams to automate patch management, software deployment, vulnerability management, and compliance enforcement across a wide range of operating systems and devices in real-time.

2. What is the current version of the BigFix Agent (Client)?

As of 2025, the latest available BigFix client version is typically v10.0.x. You can check the exact version using the BigFix Agent Control Panel on Windows or using command-line tools on Linux.

3. Where are BigFix logs located on the client?

Windows: C:\Program Files (x86)\BigFix Enterprise\BES Client__BESData__Global\Logs\

Linux/Unix: /var/opt/BESClient/__BESData/__Global/Logs/

4. What is the default port number used by BigFix?

BigFix uses port 52311 (TCP) for communication between the client, relay, and root server. This port must be open on firewalls.

5. How does BigFix work at a high level?

Clients evaluate Fixlets locally, perform actions, and report status via relays to the root server. Admins use the Console or Web Reports for monitoring.

6. What is a Fixlet in BigFix?

A Fixlet is a script or command package targeting specific issues like missing patches or misconfigurations. It includes relevance conditions and remediation steps.

7. What is the difference between Fixlets, Tasks, and Baselines?

Fixlet: Targets specific issues with relevance.

Task: General-purpose actions.

Baseline: A group of Fixlets/Tasks for bulk deployment.

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8. How do you troubleshoot a client not reporting to BigFix?

Check client logs, validate connectivity on port 52311, verify BESClient service, and use diagnostic tools or force relay selection.

9. How do relays help scale BigFix architecture?

Relays act as intermediaries that cache content and relay messages, reducing server load and enabling scalability.

10. How can you check the BigFix client version installed on a system?

Windows: Check BESClient properties or file version.

Linux: Use `rpm -qa | grep BESClient` or check version via CLI.