



Microsoft Asset Inventory Service delivers an intelligent and comprehensive view of your company's desktop software environment. It helps reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) 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 Optimisation Pack for Software Assurance, 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 company desktop environments.

Challenges with Discovering and Maintaining Desktop Software Assets

Among the most challenging tasks facing company 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 licence 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 licence may only cover certain versions of a software title, or may include a full version title and particular intermediary upgrades. Licences may also only be valid for a specified period of time, after which they must be renewed.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service changes this multi-faceted, time-consuming endeavour 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 optimise IT budgets.
- Identifying applications and installations that are contrary to your corporate policies.
- Analysing usage to forecast organisational 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 Knowledge base 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 organisation-wide perspective or drill down to view individual workstations/users.

Software licence management

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

Easily administered service

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service is designed for ease of use. As part of this 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 Optimisation Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions: **Microsoft SoftGrid**, which dynamically delivers the virtual application solution; **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 Optimisation Pack for Software Assurance can help you, go to 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 licence 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 complement to our on-premise management platform, providing further reach for discovery and efficient Software Asset Analysis tools."

TERRY BLAKE
DIRECTOR IT PROCUREMENT,
EXPEDIA, INC.

