

For Software Assurance Customers

Microsoft® Asset Inventory Service

Microsoft®
Desktop Optimization Pack
for Software Assurance

- Microsoft Application Virtualization
- **Microsoft Asset Inventory Service**
- Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management
- Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset
- Microsoft System Center Desktop Error Monitoring
- Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualization

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

- 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: Components

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, chases referral links, PIDs, MSI history, and much more. The agent that enables all of this has a small footprint on the client. In order to minimize the impact on bandwidth, scanning is automatically randomized—at intervals that you can adjust—so that clients run at different times.

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 many titles representing the vast majority of commercially available software (i.e., purchased version of Adobe Reader vs. Free Adobe Reader), to produce meaningful application information. 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. Microsoft Asset Inventory Service analyzes how you have deployed your Microsoft 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.

Security and privacy

Microsoft ensures that the data gathered in this hosted service is secure and remains confidential to your organization. In addition to equipping our data center with a caged environment and redundant systems, we protect web sessions with secure socket layer (SSL), use Windows Live ID to authenticate users, and secure data transfer via Indigo-based protocols. Inventory data is not linked to customer names and not shared with anyone within or outside of Microsoft. A leading privacy firm will review all of our privacy practices.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service combines with five other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions. These are: **Microsoft 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®-based computers; **Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management**, which enhances group policy through change-management tools; **Microsoft System Center Desktop Error Monitoring**, which enables proactive problem management by analyzing and reporting on application and system crashes; and **Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualization**, which enhances deployment and management of Virtual PC images on a Windows Desktop while also providing a seamless user experience on a Virtual PC environment independent of the local desktop configuration and operating system.

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 setup 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 by providing further reach for discovery and efficient Software Asset Analysis tools.”

TERRY BLAKE
DIRECTOR IT PROCUREMENT,
EXPEDIA, INC.