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Financial Institutions

Software Asset Management

Nextra Investment Management Sgr



Microsoft SAM service enables Nextra I.M. to manage software assets more efficiently

In a short period of time, thanks to the Software Asset Management (SAM) methodology and tools it has been possible to implement a correct procedure for managing software resources, with clear benefits in terms of efficiency improvement, cost optimization and saving of time.

In collaboration with



Requirements

Nextra Investment Management, the Banca Intesa group's asset management company, was founded in 2002 as a result of the integration of two of the most important Italian businesses in the sector of asset management, Intesa Asset Management and Comit Asset Management. In the past few years, the number of the organization's operative workstations has steadily grown, and today its network includes 520 Microsoft Windows XP clients, supported by about 80 Microsoft Windows 2000 Server systems.

The heterogeneity of the reports on software resources and the difficulty of managing such a dynamic client base could generate **diseconomies and risk factors**. Nextra I.M.'s objectives of improving the software management system were rapidly attained thanks to the Microsoft SAM (Software Asset Management) service, which allowed introducing new and effective tools for reporting, managing the workstations and planning IT investments.

"We were looking for an 'out of the box' tool that, besides providing software inventory capacities, could guarantee an easy move of the client systems from one cost center to another. Through Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager, Computerwide provided us with a Software Asset Management solution that was standardized but capable of adapting to our organization chart and to our authentication system".

Paolo Desperati
Responsible for the technological platform,
the very core of Nextra I.M.'s IT department.



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Stringent policies for IT resources management

"As our IT structure expanded, controlling applications became more complex and our software inventory was not supported by an adequate management methodology" says Paolo Desperati, who is responsible for the technological platform, the very core of Nextra I.M.'s IT department.

"The queries we ran on the systems in order to check the software installed on the different workstations were not accurate enough. As a consequence, we could not count on a detailed and reliable reports. In addition, the need to

manually locate the licensing documentation for all software products installed caused some **uncertainty**, waste of time and management inefficiencies".

Nextra I.M. introduced stringent policies for the security and reliability of systems and turned to Computerwide Networking Solutions, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and SAM Qualified Partner, to implement the Microsoft SAM service. In this way the company could create a Software Asset Management solution capable of **monitoring the usage of the application platform** as well as improving its management, in order to achieve its objectives in terms of cost saving, IT investments and compliance with licensing agreements terms and copyright laws. In this sense, Software Asset Management represents the discipline of reference for all organizations that wish to make the most of the software management, with the aim of preventing the risks, costs and inefficiencies deriving from the lack of a management system. And the Microsoft SAM service operatively fulfils these principles.

Solution

Control of risks and easy software resource management

Computerwide Networking Solutions carried out at Nextra I.M. the procedures laid down by the Microsoft SAM methodology, supporting them with Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager, a tool which Computerwide developed drawing from its previous experiences in this area with countless customers.

The SAM tools were later on customized and integrated with the workflow for updating the employee directory, in order to immediately associate each user to the software installed on each workstation.

Guided by the **Microsoft SAM methodology**, Computerwide recorded the Microsoft software installed on PCs and servers, gathered and organized the licensing

documentation, and analyzed the information collected in order to check that the existing application platform matched the licenses and reduce the non-compliance risks. Thanks to such a detailed information on the software in use, it was possible to identify areas for investment optimization, **improve the budgeting process** and certify the compliance of the installations to the terms of use. "Today we can clearly define the software assets present in our company", underlines Desperati.

"This information is essential for us, as it helps our IT department in checking for any clients which are not aligned with the authorized standard software configuration, evaluating the needs for updating systems to the latest technologies and allocating the software products where they are really necessary, for example by removing them from unused machines. In this way we can control our licensing need, attaining cost savings and investing the IT budget only on what we really need".

"Today we can guarantee extremely faster response times to inventory and license status requests, quickly producing reports supported by accurate data. In short, we achieved a saving on client management times and a greater overall quality for the IT service".

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Benefits

A standard methodology integrated with customized tools

The Computerwide Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager solution provides sophisticated and customized features which make the Microsoft Software Asset Management service all the more effective.

Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager, which is completely built on the Microsoft .NET technology, scanned Nextra I.M.'s network and generated summary and detailed reports for each workstation, thus feeding the recorded data and the digitalized licensing documentation into a document management system. With this tool, Nextra I.M. can **manage in real time** the inventory operations, the analysis of licensing needs, licenses allocation and deallocation for each PC or cost center, as well as the expiration dates of the license agreements. Furthermore, thanks to the multi-domain management integrated with Microsoft Active Directory, Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager allows automatically assigning PCs to users, guaranteeing a more dynamic resource management according to business requirements. When Giuseppe Biancini, IT manager at Nextra I.M., requested immediate and reliable reports on the state of the

General Information

Customer

Nextra Investment Management is the Banca Intesa group's asset management company. Founded in 2002 as a result of the integration of two of the most important Italian businesses in the sector of asset management, Intesa Asset Management and Comit Asset Management, Nextra I.M. administers assets for over 100 billion euros, and has about 1.5 million customers. The company's offerings meet **all investment needs** with mutual funds, Sicav, asset management and advisory services for institutional investors.

Requirements

The heterogeneity of the reports on software resources and the difficulty of managing such a dynamic client base could generate diseconomies and **risk factors**, as the expansion of the IT infrastructure made controlling the applications more complex and the software inventory did not appear to be supported by an adequate management methodology.

Solution

Computerwide Networking Solutions implemented the Microsoft Software Asset Management procedures together with the Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager tool to rapidly recover **full control over the installed software**, the licenses and the individual workstations. The new solution is integrated with Active Directory and allows automating several system management and reporting activities.

Benefits

The Microsoft SAM service and the Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager tool have allowed improving the **software resources management** procedures by introducing automated systems for verification, workstation management and accurate checking of IT expenditure. The reporting tools help in planning the software investments and allocating expenses to the various cost centers. By analyzing the existing Microsoft software and the licensing documentation, it was possible to ascertain the **compliance** of the installations with licensing agreements and copyright laws.





Computerwide Networking Solutions, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and Microsoft SAM Qualified Partner, is mainly active in the areas of integration, connectivity among corporate systems and Software Asset Management.

For more information about Computerwide Networking Solutions, visit:

www.computerwide.it

Products and technologies

Computerwide Master SAM –
Lan Licensing Manager
Microsoft® Software Asset
Management
Microsoft Windows® XP
Microsoft Active Directory®



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licenses and the corresponding purchases to be planned, a software selection was started to identify the product the best met the company's needs. "We were looking for an 'out of the box' tool that, besides providing software inventory capacities, could guarantee an easy move of the client systems from one cost center to another.

Through Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager, Computerwide provided us with a Software Asset Management solution that was standardized but capable of adapting to our organization chart and to our authentication system", says Desperati.

"Thanks to the tools for automated inventory, digital license management and integrated control on software resources introduced by the Computerwide solution, we were able to minimize the complexity of software management, and the benefits can be seen also in the optimization of the systems activities", continues Desperati.

"Today we can guarantee **extremely faster** response times to inventory and license status requests, quickly producing

reports supported by accurate data. In short, we achieved a saving on client management times and a greater overall quality for the IT service".

Business value

With the Microsoft SAM service and with the Computerwide Master SAM – Lan

Licensing Manager solution, Nextra I.M. today has a complete Software Asset Management system, fully integrated with the IT infrastructure. The company was issued with the Microsoft SAM certificate of **correct software management**, which proves the efficiency of its asset management system.

"We included Microsoft Software Asset Management in our best practices for software management, and we consider Master SAM – Lan Licensing Manager a valid asset and risk management system", concludes Desperati. "With these tools we can easily keep our clients standardized on the software platform defined and authorized by the

company. This greatly simplifies the task of infrastructure management".

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For more Information

For more information about Microsoft products or services, please call Microsoft Customer Service (02.70.398.398).

To access information using the World Wide Web, visit:

www.microsoft.com/italy/business/

For more information about Nextra Investment Management Sgr, visit:

www.nextrasgr.it

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