

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® Asset Inventory Service helps minimize risk by identifying unauthorized software on desktops, automatically captures software assets for all desktops—including mobile laptops—and validates that users are working from approved application versions. Through advanced software inventory scanning and by translating inventory data into actionable reports, it delivers a comprehensive view of your desktop environment.

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service is an integral component of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which helps mid-sized businesses make employees more productive by improving the reliability and security of desktops, minimizing end user downtime, and helping mobile users work from virtually any location.

## Challenges with Discovering and Maintaining Desktop Software Assets

Getting an accurate handle on all the software installed on corporate desktops on a continual basis can be quite challenging. Yet it is critical for everything from license compliance and true-up planning to ensuring that end users are working with the latest software versions and securing their desktops.

With the proliferation and ease of access to software, however, the task of tracking all of the applications installed is getting more and more complicated. Exacerbating this is the increasing number of geographically dispersed and mobile employees, which makes it 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 turns discovering and reporting on end users' software into a streamlined, manageable task.

Microsoft®  
Asset Inventory  
Service

→ Optimizing software inventory for enhanced security and end user productivity

## Microsoft Asset Inventory Service: Advantages

- Effectively manage your software inventory, even on mobile computers, to ensure compliance and optimize true-ups.
- Identify applications and installations that are contrary to your corporate policies.
- Automatically validate whether end user applications are up to date, helping keep users productive.
- Minimize security and compliance risk by identifying unauthorized software on desktops.

### Customer Impact: \$

Microsoft Asset Inventory Service helps enhance user productivity and keep unauthorized software off desktops through automated software inventory scanning and inventory tracking.

## Microsoft Asset Inventory Service: Components

### Advanced inventory scanning for local and mobile desktops

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, software publisher, family, and category. It efficiently scans systems for software through Add/Remove Programs, Start menu references and MSI history. 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. Because it requires only internet access, you can even capture data from mobile user machines that are disconnected from your network—without any manual intervention.

### Intuitive inventory reports ease compliance and security

We make it easy to make sense of your data. Your inventory is reconciled against the Microsoft Asset Inventory Service Application Knowledgebase representing the vast majority of commercially available software titles. This information can be transformed into actionable, browser-based reports that you can view online, anytime. View reports from an organization-wide perspective or drill down to individual workstations/users. Easily determine whether unauthorized software has been downloaded to desktops, decreasing organizational risk from potentially unsafe, unapproved software.

### Software license management improves true-up, renewal and reallocation planning

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 applications in use are the latest versions and are compliant with license agreements. Microsoft Asset Inventory Service analyzes how you have deployed your Microsoft volume license agreements to help you manage true-ups, renewals, and license reconciliation.

### Easily administered service is simple to use

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 set up or maintain.

### Security and privacy measures help ensure confidentiality

Microsoft helps ensure that the data gathered in this hosted service is secure and remains confidential to your organization. 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 four other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions: **Microsoft Application Virtualization**, which reduces downtime by helping eliminate PC application installation issues; **Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset**, which quickly repairs and removes malware from PCs; **Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management**, which drives the right security settings to desktops; and **Microsoft System Center Desktop Error Monitoring**, for proactively correcting and preventing PC crashes and hangs.

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

*“This technology enabled Expedia, Inc. 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.”*

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