



# **BigFix Inventory**

Maintain software audit readiness and mitigate security risks with software compliance and usage

BigFix® Inventory can identify an organization's licensed and unlicensed software with drill-down granularity to track software usage patterns and trends across Windows, UNIX, Linux and macOS endpoints. The solution dramatically reduces the time required to conduct a comprehensive software asset inventory for license reconciliation or compliance purposes. BigFix Inventory provides valuable insight into what the organization owns—and what it has installed but doesn't own, to understand potential security risk. It also identifies how often software is being used, which supports better planning, budgeting and vendor license compliance. The near-instant visibility into enterprise assets provided by BigFix Inventory is vital to optimizing asset control and streamlining operations.

Easy to use and centrally managed from a unified console, BigFix Inventory enables continuous asset assessment and reporting, delivering a low total cost of ownership (TCO) and a high return on investment (ROI). BigFix Inventory discovers applications, providing up to 4 digit version/release/update level information to precisely report critical versioning details. These insights translate into significant cost savings for organizations that are spending more than necessary on software licensing fees.

### **Highlights**

- Identify licensed and unlicensed software with drill-down granularity to pass more audits, limit security exposures and reduce annual software expenditures
- Reduce the time, effort and inaccuracy of manual inventory and analysis
- Manage assets on hundreds—or hundreds of thousands—of Microsoft Windows, UNIX, Linux and macOS endpoints
- Inventory all endpoints, whether on-premise or in the cloud

### Knowing your assets, managing them better

When it comes to understanding and managing software assets, organizations today face common challenges. What do you have? How can you reconcile what you've purchased with what's installed? Do you have the right applications available to the right users? How can you redistribute software to ensure its deployed to the best advantage? Overall, are you managing your assets in the most efficient and comprehensive way? Are you meeting compliance standards? And are you legally licensed for all the software installed on users' endpoints?

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BigFix Inventory can provide answers, delivering deep asset management capabilities even in the most complex environments. It covers software vendors including IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, Adobe, SAP, HP, BMC, CA, Citrix, Corel, Symantec, TIBCO, and VMware. For IBM products with sub capacity licensing, BigFix Inventory also measures the processor value units (PVUs), resource value units (RVUs), and processor cores available to and consumed by each software product.

BigFix Inventory provides infrastructure views and enables customized views of aggregate application counts, software usage statistics and compliance with basic license types. The solution can provide an understanding of the connections between software license management and desktop, patch, and security management processes. It can give you the focus you need to better manage your endpoints, reconciling the real-time endpoint state against application licenses on Windows, macOS, UNIX and Linux platforms in physical, private, and public cloud environments including AWS, Azure, and VMware. BigFix Inventory also provides IBM software discovery on Docker and Red Hat Openshift containers.

## Benefiting from an intelligent, agent-based approach

BigFix Inventory is a standalone product that provides capabilities either as an independent solution or in concert with other solutions in the BigFix family. It utilizes six different forms of discovery including a Software Identification Catalog (ISO 19770 enabled), customized template signatures, an installation registry, vendor-specific discovery solutions, ISO SWID tags, and hardware discovery. This data is gathered to create an inventory data warehouse where users can browse data and generate reports.

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This catalog is continually updated via a cloud-based service with information on commercial applications and publishers using four different sources (IBM for the IBM Software, Windows and Enterprise Unix signatures from a 3rd party vendor, and additional signatures created by the HCL Software Discovery Team). This discovery process is also easily extended to include tracking of homegrown and proprietary applications through customized template signatures—with no scripting or coding required. The BigFix Inventory approach is a significant change from—and advantage over—conventional management solutions.

Other solutions utilize endpoint agents that rely on instructions from a central command-and-control server and require lengthy scans to acquire inventory data. The BigFix Inventory agent itself provides the computational power necessary for assessment and reporting, which vastly enhances reporting speed. Rather than scanning endpoints all at once, the BigFix Inventory agent monitors changes and sends updates to the server as needed, enhancing efficiencies by avoiding bandwidth and endpoint CPU bottlenecks.

# Drilling down for insight and cost savings

BigFix Inventory enables two key software asset management functions—"always on" software inventory and analysis, and software asset and license management. The "always on" function provides a constantly updated inventory that drills down into software asset information, providing aggregated statistics and usage gathered by searching, filtering, sorting, viewing and exporting data on potentially thousands of computer properties. Software asset management is accomplished by utilizing discovered software through the constantly updated inventory, while software license management compares discovered software against the number of available licenses. Automating and streamlining operations enable IT organizations to radically reduce the number of hours and resources spent on inventory activities.

# BigFix Inventory provides a number of key capabilities:

- **Rapid installation and implementation** BigFix Inventory is a robust platform designed for speed, installation across an entire enterprise takes only hours. Other solutions, by contrast, often require months or longer to deploy. Once installation is complete, "always on" inventory captures software status and changes in near real time, boosting time to value to lower the total cost of ownership (TCO). Existing BigFix users can quickly add Inventory capabilities without requiring additional endpoint software or hardware.
- **Flexible, efficient design -** With the ability to handle hundreds of thousands of endpoints, BigFix Inventory provides simplified management and reduced hardware and staffing costs compared to traditional asset management methods that require dozens of dedicated back-end servers.
- Visibility into any asset BigFix Inventory can gain visibility into any endpoint across various network topologies in a heterogeneous environment and regardless of connection state, whether on the corporate network or via the Internet. Software discovery and usage monitoring is enabled on all platforms supported by BigFix, including all UNIX operating systems, and provides discovery of processes, file systems, hardware and usage. One component of BigFix Inventory is the Common Inventory Technology scanner that can also be used to gather data from endpoints and discover all signature types, including those that cannot be identified by searching only file names. Additionally, enhanced usage data monitoring can help prevent duplication of signatures and verify software entitlements. Persistent inventory and visibility ensure that software records are always up to date, accurate and complete.

- Rapid Streamlined catalog management The built-in catalog feature enables users to configure software asset content based on publishers, products and releases, and drill down to the package or file-data level. This built-in view, as well as the launch-in-context feature, gives users the power to leverage scan and registry reports for quick signature creation. The configurable catalog can then be exported into native format and uploaded into a new software use analysis installation before the initial import.
- **Ongoing analysis and reporting -** Because asset monitoring takes place continuously, administrators and financial analysts can generate the reports they need when they need them. Real-time reporting can deliver information on the health and compliance of software assets in minutes, regardless of the size of the environment. Reporting access, based on computer groups, is available to various roles and individuals in the enterprise, not just to IT operations managers.
- Integration with other solutions -To extend management capabilities, BigFix Inventory integrates with other asset management offerings, such as IBM Control Desk, which provides functions such as procurement and contract management. The combined platform delivers management across the full software lifecycle—from procurement through retirement—enabling an automated, self-service enterprise application store that streamlines the control of software requests, approvals, deployment and licensing.signatures and verify software entitlements. Persistent inventory and visibility ensure that software records are always up to date, accurate and complete.

#### **BigFix Inventory provides a number of key capabilities:**

- License Reconciliation and Penalty Avoidance Using BigFix Inventory, organizations can gain increased visibility into their software license consumption and usage while reducing the time and effort required to manually generate reports that show software license compliance and usage. BigFix Inventory can help organizations reduce the exposure of vendor-imposed software compliance fines and penalties due to over deployment and speed preparation of software inventory reports.
- IT Budget Planning Financial analysts can generate the reports they need in minutes, when they need them, regardless of the size of the environment. Reporting access, based on computer groups, is available to various roles and individuals in the enterprise, not just to IT operations managers. The All Metrics report shows current quantites in use and quantity history, which helps finanical analysts see license usage over time.

Product Name	Metric	Metric Quantity	Metric Quantity History 1/23/2019 - 00/21/2020
Microsoft SQL Server Enterprise Edition	Microsoft Physical Core with SA	💄 64 🌶	
Microsoft NET Framework	Install Seats	1/	
Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable (#64)	Install Seats	n/	
Internet Explorer	Install Seats	1/	
Microsoft Windows Media Player	Install Seats	E/	
Windows Defender	Install Seats	6/	

 Migration Planning - Migration planning can be simplified by using BigFix Inventory. Organizations who are migrating from an old version of Microsoft Office to the latest version, for example, can quickly BigFix administrators quickly determine which endpoints meet the prerequisites, and which need hardware upgrades. As a result, BigFix Inventory can help migration planners include accurate costs of migrations and develop precise execution plans.  Security Risk Mitigation - Many organizations do not know about the unauthorized software installations on their network and what risks this exposes them to. BigFix Inventory helps IT and Security organizations collaborate to secure the enterprise by monitoring for unauthorized software and removing software which pose a security

#### **The BigFix Family**

By extending your investment in the BigFix family, you can further consolidate tools, reduce the number of endpoint agents, and lower your management costs. Because all functions operate from the same console, management server and endpoint agent, adding more services is a simple matter of a license key change. The BigFix family includes:

- **BigFix Lifecycle** Enables IT and Security Operations teams to quickly discover, secure, and manage hundreds of thousands of endpoints within hours or minutes. It delivers the core "must have" endpoint management capabilities. Lifecycle provides an automated, simplified, patch process that achieves greater than 98% first-pass patch success rates across Windows, UNIX, Linux, macOS, AWS, Azure, and VMware instances, located on and off the enterprise network. BigFix Lifecycle also includes OS provisioning, software deployment, remote control, task sequence automation, and PC & Mac power management.
- **BigFix Compliance** Continuously enforces endpoint configuration compliance with thousands of out-of-the-box security checks aligned with industry-standard security benchmarks published by CIS, DISA STIG, USGCB and PCI-DSS. Compliance provides an automated, simplified, patch process that achieves greater than 98% first-pass patch success rates across Windows, UNIX, Linux, macOS, AWS, Azure, and VMware instances, located on and off the enterprise network.
- **BigFix Insights** New in BigFix 10, BigFix Insights enables teams to quickly report their organization's threat posture to executives and perform advanced analysis to drive business decisions. This new offering provides a powerful endpoint Data Lake and integration platform for deeper data insights across traditional endpoints, modern clients, virtual, and cloud instances. Insights leverages Business Intelligence (BI) tools to provide out-of-the-box and customizable reports.
- **BigFix Modern Client Management** New in BigFix 10, BigFix Modern Client Management (MCM) extends visibility and control of Windows 10 and macOS endpoints by leveraging a MDM API approach. It provides the ability to manage both modern and legacy endpoints using a single tool. New features of BigFix MCM include end-user-initiated enrollment, detailed inventory of endpoints, and a number of MDM actions such as remote wipe.

### Why BigFix?

BigFix is built on a unique, highly scalable infrastructure that distributes decision making out to the endpoints. This provides extraordinary functional and performance benefits across the entire BigFix family while reducing the cost of endpoint management and infrastructure complexity. BigFix features:

• A single intelligent agent- The BigFix Agent performs multiple functions, including continuous self-assessment and policy enforcement, with minimal impact on system performance. The BigFix Agent initiates actions in an intelligent manner, sending messages upstream to the central management server and pulling patches, configurations, or other information, to the endpoint in real-time. The BigFix Agent runs on more than 90 operating systems across Microsoft Windows, Linux, UNIX, and macOS.

- **BigFix Fixlets™** BigFix Fixlets are small units of automation that allow IT Teams to simplify their daily operations and focus on more complex operations. BigFix provides more than 500,000 Fixlets out of the box. The BigFix team iscontinuously updating the Fixlet library, with over 130 content updates a month. BigFix users, business partners, and developers can leverage Fixlets to create custom policies and services for endpoints managed by BigFix. A community library of Fixlets is available on BigFix.me.
- **Highly scalable architecture-** A single BigFix Management Server can manage up to 250,000 physical and virtual computers, over private or public networks. Managed endpoints may include servers, desktops, roaming laptops, and specialized devices such as Point-Of-Sale (POS) devices, ATMs, and self-service kiosks.
- **Multicloud support-** Cloud endpoints can be easily discovered and viewed alongside traditional endpoints, in a single user interface, with BigFix 10. Knowing what you have is half the battle, and BigFix 10 allows you to go a step further and deploy the BigFix Agent for complete visibility, control, and security of these endpoints. It allows you to manage endpoints running in multiple cloud environments simultaneously such as Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, and VMWare alongside physical and other on-prem endpoints.



#### For more information

To learn more about BigFix, contact your HCL Software representative, HCL Business Partner, or visit www.BigFix.com.

#### About HCL Software

HCL Software is a division of HCL Technologies that develops and delivers a next-generation portfolio of enterprise-grade software-based offerings with flexible consumption models, spanning traditional on-premises software, Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), and bundled managed services. We bring speed, insights and innovations (big and small) to create value for our customers. HCL Software solutions include DevOps, Security, Automation, Application Modernization, Data and Integration Infrastructure, and several Business Applications. HCL embraces the real-world complexity of multi-mode IT that ranges from mainframe to cloud and everything in between while focusing on customer success and building 'Relationships Beyond the Contract.'

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