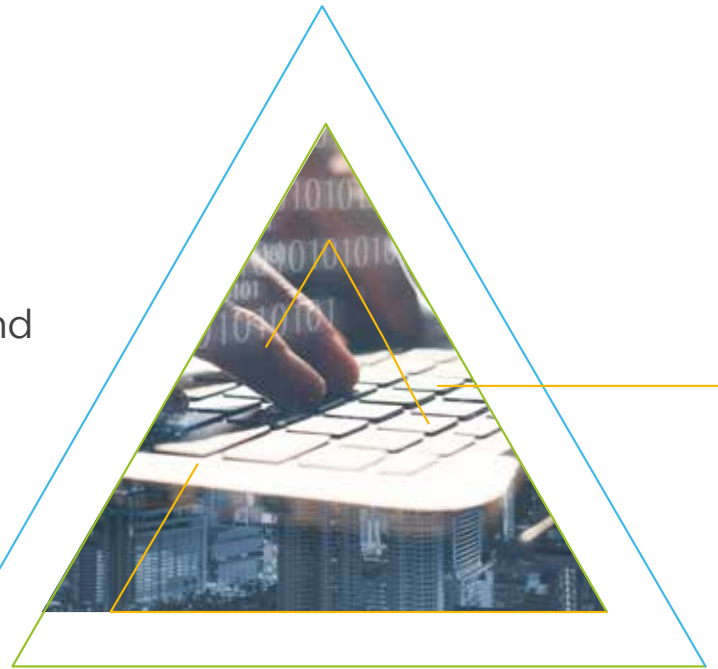# BigFix Inventory

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

- Identifies licensed and unlicensed software with drill-down granularity to pass more audits, limit security exposures and reduces annual software expenditures

- Reduces the time, effort and inaccuracy of manual inventory and analysis

- Manages assets on hundreds—or hundreds of thousands—of Microsoft Windows, UNIX, Linux and macOS endpoints

- Inventories all endpoints, whether on-premise or in the cloud

- Integrates with other asset management tools such as ServiceNow and IBM Control Desk

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?
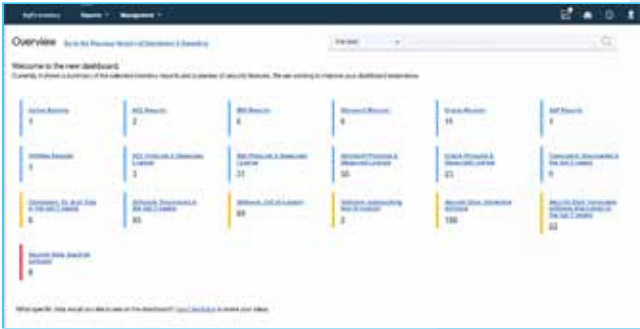
BigFix Inventory can provide answers, delivering deep asset management capabilities even in the most complex environments. It covers software vendors including IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, Adobe, SAP, HP, BMC, CA, Citrix, Corel, Symantec, TIBCO, and VMware. For IBM products with sub capacity licensing, BigFix 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.

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.
The built-in Software Identification Catalog simplifies the identification of specific software installations by providing

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.

Container Software Discovery

BigFix Inventory Container Software Discovery is an add-on feature that discovers and tracks usage of software in containers. Container support provides the ability for organizations to discover all Kubernetes container instances running in the cloud, similar to VM instances; retrieve basic properties of the containers, including their current status (running, idle, stopped, etc.); scan software in container images and assess whether the container instances are running software that is unused, blacklisted or whitelisted; track the usage of software running in containers; scan software in container images; and tag discovered software and later report on the purpose the software was deployed (e.g. test or production) and who deployed the software. BigFix Inventory Container Software Discovery helps organizations report on all software deployed in an environment including vulnerable software, avoiding over deployment penalties, and understanding usage and status of software running in containers.

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.

- **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 quantities in use and quantity history, which helps financial analysts see license usage over time.

- **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 threat.

Why BigFix?

The HCL BigFix endpoint management platform helps IT Operations with Continuous Compliance and Intelligent Automation to manage over 100 operating system versions, enabling streamlined management processes, tool consolidation and operational cost reduction.

Unlike complex tools that cover a limited portion of endpoints, the unified architecture of BigFix can effectively manage and ensure compliance of all servers, desktops, and mobile devices whether they are in the office, at home or in the cloud. BigFix can find and fix endpoints faster than any other solution – delivering greater than 98% first-pass patch success rates.

BigFix integrates with leading vulnerability management solutions like Tenable and Qualys to dramatically reduce the time required to remediate vulnerabilities. It also extends its well-established endpoint management capabilities to AWS, Azure, and Google clouds, enabling organizations to use a single solution to manage multiple clouds and on-prem in a consistent manner.

The unique approach of BigFix, coupled with thousands of out-of-the-box security checks, will enhance your security posture and automate the fight against ransomware and other cyberattacks.

The BigFix Family

BigFix is the only endpoint management platform that enables IT operations and security teams to fully automate the discovery, management and remediation of vulnerabilities and assets – for every endpoint, whether its on-prem, virtual, cloud or mobile– regardless of operating system, location or connectivity.

BigFix empowers businesses and organizations to find more, fix more and do more, faster.

The BigFix family includes:

- **BigFix Lifecycle** to automate endpoint lifecycle management by enabling software and operating system deployment, continuous compliance, self-service software catalog, power management, server automation, and vulnerability remediation

- **BigFix Compliance** to continuously monitor and enforce endpoint security configurations and ensure compliance with regulatory or organizational security policies using thousands of out-of-the-box compliance checklists.

- **BigFix Inventory** to discover and manage over 100,000 software titles, reduce software license costs and mitigate security risks of unauthorized software.

- **BigFix Insights** unifies and analyzes data from BigFix and third-party solution providers with deep analytics, new business processes, and powerful reporting.

- **BigFix Mobile** extends modern endpoint management capabilities to iOS and Android devices.

Visit www.hclfederal.com/bigfix for more information.

HCL

For more information

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

About HCL Software

HCL Software, a division of HCL Technologies (HCL) develops, markets, sells, and supports over 30 product families in the areas of Customer Experience, Digital Solutions, DevSecOps, and Security and Automation. HCL Software is the cloud native solution factory for enterprise software and powers millions of apps at more than 20,000 organizations, including over half of the Fortune 1000 and Global 2000 companies. HCL Software's mission is to drive ultimate customer success with its IT investments through relentless product innovation.

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