

LANDesk® Solution Brief: Software License Monitoring



Solving real IT challenges.

Reduce software costs and manage license compliance

The Challenge:

IT departments are under increasing pressure to control software costs and ensure license compliance. How many licenses are deployed, on which systems, and how frequently are they being used? These are questions that must be addressed if IT is to gain control of software assets and implement effective software compliance policies.

Cost of software

Software is expensive. You pay for it when you purchase it whether you use it or not. You pay for support. You pay to upgrade existing users and to equip new users.

Some of the most expensive software in your environment is the unused. Often a standard suite of applications is installed on all computers, whether the user has need for them or not.

Licenses are not always reassigned when employees leave the company. Policies and practices can change and applications can be replaced without notifying the asset management team.

To create a safety net against license violation or prepare for future need, some IT departments overbuy software licenses.

You shouldn't pay for software that isn't being used—whatever the reason.

Cost of license violation

Penalties for violating software license agreements can be very high, and litigation can drive costs even higher. Companies need to maintain compliance with their license agreements and be prepared to verify that compliance.

Downloading and running unapproved or unlicensed applications can end up being very expensive. Unintentional license violations can be subject to the same kinds of penalties

as intentional violations. You can't afford to let unauthorized software run on company computers.

The Gartner Group projects that by 2005 there will likely be a 20% increase in the number of audits ordered by both industry protection groups such as BSA, FAST and SIAA/SPA, and by software vendors themselves ("Ensure Software License Compliance Prior to an Audit" TG-19-3309). The chances that you will need to demonstrate compliance or risk penalty is increasing daily.

Aggressively manage software assets

Many companies implement software asset management policies. IT analyzes the software installed on each computer to reconcile license purchases with installs, to plan future software purchases, and to ensure compliance with existing software license agreements.

Even with automated inventory scanning this can be a difficult, time-consuming process that's prone to error. Reconciling software version numbers, name changes, and undocumented installs increases the chances of violating license agreements despite tracking efforts.

You need a comprehensive software monitoring, tracking, reporting, and license reconciliation solution.

OVERVIEW

Business Need—Reduce software costs and manage license compliance

- Purchase the right number of software licenses
- Respond to audit requests
- Reclaim and reallocate unused licenses
- Report software installations and license usage
- Deny unauthorized application launch
- Detect and remove unauthorized applications

Solution—Software License Monitoring from LANDesk Software

- Extensive application usage and license compliance reporting
- Application launch denial
- License tracking engine
- On-screen compliance status display
- Comprehensive or selective application and file discovery

The LANDesk® Solution

The LANDesk® software license monitoring solution gives IT the tools to implement complete, effective software asset management and license compliance policies.

Software license monitoring features include:

- Ability to scan for both known and unknown applications, and a disposition tool to define and track previously unknown applications
- Application launch denial to keep unauthorized software from running—even on computers disconnected from the network
- Full integration with LANDesk asset management for current, complete information about installed applications
- Extensive application usage and license compliance reporting
- Extensive license reporting features, including number of times each licensed application was launched, last date used, days since last used and total duration of application usage
- Easy configuration of license parameters, including number purchased, license type, quantity and serial number
- License purchase data, including price, date purchased, P.O. number and reseller information
- Installation tracking and reconciliation, including the license holder and physical location of the computer the license is installed on, as well as additional notes
- Aliasing to track software when vendor information or file names change
- Downgrade rights enables tracking for discontinued licenses

Know about all applications

The LANDesk inventory scanner can be configured to scan against a list of known applications or it can scan for all executable file types to give you complete software knowledge. Delta inventory scanning and file compression reduce the network traffic and computer resources needed to maintain full software asset information.

An application disposition tool enables you to define information for previously unknown applications and files, and associate them with licensed applications. Reconcile all software on your network so you can implement effective license control policies.

Easily define monitoring parameters

Quickly define an application group and assign applications to it with a simple drag and drop from the known applications list. Define license information, including number of licenses purchased and license type, serial numbers, date purchased and price, reseller information, and license holder data.

Once defined, you can then track license usage information for each install, including the number of times the application has launched,

the last time it was run, and the total time the application was open. Use that data to determine which application installs are being used and which are not, so you can recover and reallocate unused licenses and reduce (or expand) future software purchases.

Quickly reconcile installs versus licenses

Quickly reconcile current software installs versus licenses purchased for each monitored application. Current status is displayed for each application so you can easily gather information to determine actual license needs and either purchase or release licenses.

Track multiple versions of an application against the same license definition to ease compliance monitoring. Aliasing makes it possible to track applications even when information has changed, such as when a software vendor is purchased by another company.

If you know exactly how many applications are installed and how many licenses are used, you no longer need to overbuy to ensure compliance. Report on unused licenses to easily recover and reallocate them, or release them so you don't pay for unused software.

LANDesk® software license monitoring features leverage asset management data to quickly turn information into knowledge that can form the basis of ongoing IT planning.

Reduce costs, verify license compliance, and respond to audits while denying unauthorized application launches.

Deny application launch

Define a list of unauthorized applications and keep those applications from being launched. This protects your company against unintended license violations when users bring applications from home or download them from the Internet.

The unauthorized applications list on each managed computer is updated at the next inventory scan, so application denial functions even when computers are disconnected from the network.

You can also generate a denial history report to easily track attempts to launch unauthorized applications and develop effective application usage policies throughout your company.

Downgrade rights

Over time, licenses for older applications or platforms may be discontinued, which can be a problem for companies with custom applications that require those operating environments.

Downgrade rights enables administrators to “borrow” licenses from a newer application to assign to an older application for which licenses are no longer available. This supports accurate record-keeping and reporting while helping IT ensure that all applications used are represented with a qualifying license.

Respond quickly to audits

Compliance reporting means you can demonstrate your license compliance status at any time for both individual applications and for all the applications installed on a selected computer. You can also generate an overall compliance report to show compliance on all monitored applications at once.

Because all data is as recent as the last inventory scan, you can illustrate license compliance at any time and to a high degree of accuracy.

Rapid Results

Software license monitoring can return results from day one and help you immediately reconcile software installs versus license purchases. Use the information to plan future purchases and upgrades, and quickly get control of software asset compliance.

Integrated Solution

Software license monitoring leverages asset inventory data to quickly gain useful knowledge that can form the basis of ongoing IT planning. Full integration with software distribution and task scheduling makes it easy to maintain and report current software license usage and compliance knowledge.

Download a fully functioning 100-node, time-limited product trial so you can see for yourself how LANDesk® solutions can help ease your systems management pain from the first day of deployment.
<http://www.landesk.com>

LANDesk Software, the Leader for Software License Monitoring Solutions

LANDesk Software is the industry leading provider of easy to use, integrated solutions for desktop, server and mobile device management. LANDesk® solutions are proven, with more than 250 million managed nodes worldwide.

Find out for yourself. Call or visit our Web site to learn more about LANDesk solutions, then download a fully functioning 100-node, time-limited product trial so you can see for yourself how LANDesk solutions can help ease your systems management pain from the very first day.



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