Network Discovery & Asset Inventory

Achieve 100% visibility of all computers, servers & other IT assets across all platforms and locations

Challenge: Do you really know what's connected to your network?

Whether it's the foundation for effective IT Asset Management and SAM, managing migration or technology swap-out programs, managing divestitures or acquisitions or supporting business-critical Digital Transformation initiatives, there are many good reasons that you need to know exactly what's devices and software you have in use across the network. But creating 100% visibility of all devices – not just desktop computers – isn't easy and many organizations find that they need a helping hand. This where Certero's technology and experienced consultants can help.

Discovery vs Inventory: how are they different?

Discovery and Inventory are often confused but are, in fact, two separate stages of an effective ITAM or SAM program. Here's how they differ and why it's important:

Discovery

Discovery is the active identification of all assets connecting to the network, not just the devices you already know about. Relying on deploying agents to known devices will inevitably create gaps in the inventory.

Better to use a wide variety of discovery mechanisms – including network scanning and connectors to systems such as Active Directory and XenServer – to ensure that all devices (not just PCs and Servers) are found and identified.

Effective discovery will often help to identify devices, their type and location.

Beware tools & services that do not provide an Auto-discovery function – you will have black holes in your IT Asset repository!

Inventory

After a device has been identified, it can be inventoried either by deploying an agent to perform a full audit, or by using agentless inventory technologies.

Agents typically provide a richer set of audit information, but agentless inventory is often preferred in high-security or mission-critical environments or where devices cannot have an agent installed on them.

Effective inventory must provide a rich data set of hardware configuration as well as software install information.

Beware tools & services that do not provide a full hardware configuration audit, that do not track changes over time or provide software usage information!

Solution: Complete IT asset discovery & inventory from Certero

Approach

○ Initiation – a kick-off meeting to agree how the Discovery and Inventory Services will be delivered and the project scope using the preferred method of solution delivery.

○ Discovery and Inventory execution – Certero for Enterprise ITAM is deployed in the form (on-premise or cloud options available). The products are configured by Certero consultants and discovery and inventory is executed

○ Delivery of hardware and software inventory – this can take more than one form and will be pre-agreed before the engagement

○ Discovery & Inventory is ideally a continuous process, but can be delivered as a point-in-time project

Discovery

○ Certero's ITAM solution comprises a comprehensive set of tools which are used to discover all devices on the network, utilizing a number of different techniques.

○ Connectors are used to extract data directly from third party systems such as Active Directory, VMWare and XenServer.

○ Discovery is configured to scan across all networks and identify all active devices including printers, switches and routers – not just Windows devices.

○ Discovery process will learn the network structure if it is unknown.
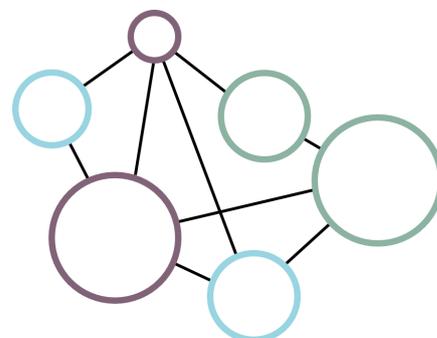
Inventory

○ Inventory is managed directly within the Certero Unified Platform and has no reliance on 3rd party tools to, for example, deploy an agent.

○ Deploys out-of-the-box and is fully flexible, utilizing agent, agent-less or a combination of both depending on the particular requirement.

○ Multiple methods can be employed to gather hardware data as accurately as possible, to the highest level of granularity, even including printer ink levels.

○ Inventory is achievable across all platforms: Windows, Mac OSX, Unix, Linux, Android, iOS, and even mainframe (zLinux).

○ Hardware inventory for PCs and Servers includes virtualization, CPUs, cores, cluster as well as detailed configuration information required to support service desk and security operations.

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About Certero

Certero deliver [.as-a-service] IT Hardware, Software, SaaS and Cloud Asset Management solutions and services, to help enable organizations to digitally transform their IT. We do this by challenging the traditional, outdated delivery method of disappointing point solutions, and instead deliver true unification across all platforms, from mobile to mainframe to cloud, delivered as SaaS in days, not months or years. Combined with our self-service solutions we support organizations to drive digital transformation agendas through increased efficiency and automation. With businesses in the UK, USA and Australia, Certero is a customer first company with a passion for customer success, earning the trust of some of the leading global brands across the finance, manufacturing, health, retail and technology sectors. That's why Certero is viewed number one, year on year for customer service as well as having the highest scores for product capabilities, making Certero a safe, trusted partner to help with your digitally transformation.