

IBM Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution and IBM Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory

Highlights

- Manage hardware and software inventory efficiently
- Automate delivery of software and software updates such as patches
- Help reduce training costs with a solution that's easy to install and use
- Help minimize the amount of money, staff time and IT resources required to manage inventory and software distribution

Use an efficient, low-cost alternative to repetitive, expensive manual tasks

Understanding what hardware and software assets your business has, how much you have and where it all resides is vital. That information can help you:

- Optimize IT resources and assets to support your business needs.
- Manage licenses and IT investments to minimize costs.
- Rapidly resolve IT problems.
- Drive the effectiveness of your security and compliance initiatives.
- Give your end users the training they need to be even more productive.
- And much more.

However, repetitive tasks for collecting inventory information and for distributing appropriate software and software updates on all the Microsoft® Windows® PCs throughout a business are usually done manually and in person. These

tasks are expensive because they drain valuable IT resources and staff time away from higher-value tasks.

What's more, PCs are often widely distributed — across branch offices or mobile field employees. Getting the right IT staff and the machines they need to inventory and update in the same place is not only costly, it also hurts the productivity of both IT employees and end users.

To help your small or midsize organization efficiently and cost-effectively automate inventory and software distribution management, IBM has developed affordable, powerful IBM Tivoli® Provisioning Manager Express software. Not only is this software easy to install, use and manage, it also helps you maximize employee efficiency and lower costs.

Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory

Assets Users Groups Reports Tasks Admin Options

Removed column OWNER from query

Actions

- Software Summary by Selected OS
- Software Summary for selected assets
- Asset Info by Selected Operating System(s)
- Software by Selected Operating System with Totals
- Filescan for selected asset (s)

PC Hardware Summary

All <input type="checkbox"/>	Hwkey	Manufacturer	Model	Serial_No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	IBM	2366DG3	993H7KV
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	IBM	2722CDG	998D279
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	Compaq	Deskpro EN Series SFF	8913CBP41682
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	IBM	23734WG	L329P67
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	HP	ProLiant DL360 G3	7J36KYD1T02P

PC Hardware Summary Pg: 1,2,3,4,5 Next

Csd	Os_Version	Os_Build	Proc_Version	Proc_Speed	Drive_Letter	Hdd_Capacity
Pack 1	5.1	2600	Pentium(R) 4	1800	C	38154 MB
Pack 2	5.1	2600	Intel(R) Pentium (R) M processor	1400	C	35134 MB
Pack 6	4.0	1381		400	C	19069 MB

• Mark scan fresh

This is an example of the standard reports available from Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory. The horizontal scroll bar appears when users access reports that are wider than the users' browser windows. The lower portion of the screen displays the report elements that are hidden from view and are revealed by the horizontal scroll bar.

With IBM Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory, you can deploy robust inventory capabilities in a cost-effective package. And IBM Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution combines the same inventory capabilities with powerful tools for updating PC configurations and distributing software throughout your organization — giving you an integrated solution that's ideal for your business.

Track and report asset information

To implement an end-to-end asset tracking solution, use Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory (previously IBM System Information Center). You can manage the increasing complexity of your IT infrastructure and maintain end-user productivity — with minimal impact on system performance.

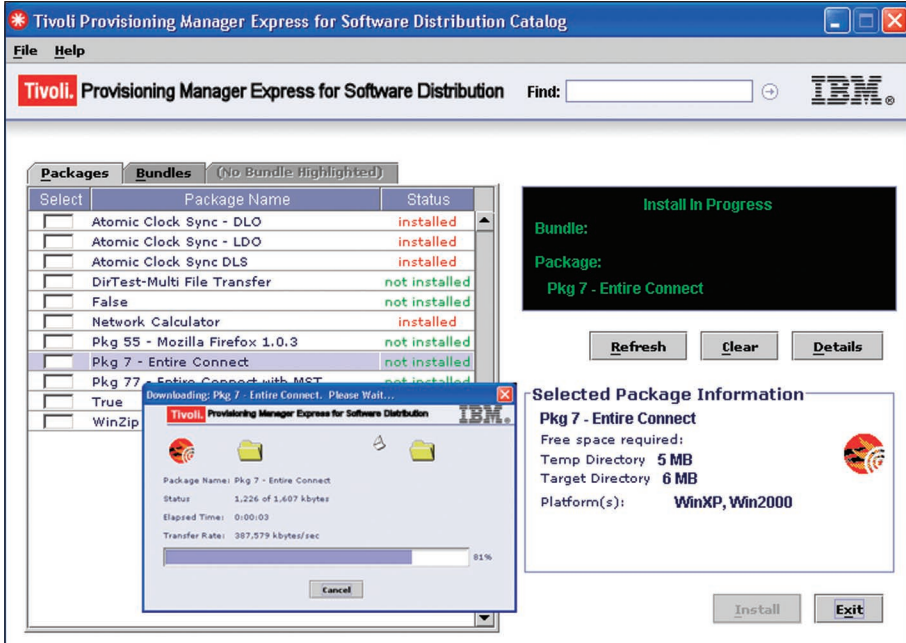
You can use Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory to accurately identify, track and report on hardware, software (including patches)

and owners — even when devices are in many different physical locations. Initially, the software looks for a standard set of frequently requested information. But through the easy-to-use administrative interface, your IT staff can also customize the data you collect. With the information that the electronic agent automatically gathers, and user-entered information such as a device's physical location and owner's department, you can identify and address common issues.

Any of the reports you save can be regularly generated on a set schedule and e-mailed to the parties you choose.

By leveraging inventory information you can:

- Rapidly identify which machines need a security patch and determine hardware and software prerequisites to help reduce failed distributions.
- Align software licenses and hardware exactly with your needs to avoid the cost of purchasing too many licenses and the potential penalties of having too few.
- Help speed license reconciliation by comparing executable files with a user-maintainable, Tivoli-provided list of licensable software.
- Simplify desk-side support and troubleshooting with easy-to-use tools for comparing current and historical configurations.



Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution makes it easy for end users to “pull” software applications from a secure, Web-based interface.

Manage software delivery and updates company-wide

Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution (previously IBM Software Delivery Center) combines the inventory management capabilities described above with a way to deploy software efficiently. IT staff can quickly create and distribute packages from their own machines. End users can take advantage of an easy-to-use Web- or Java™ applet-based interface to perform installation when it is convenient for them.

Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution offers flexible

“push” and “pull” capabilities. When distributing new software is urgent or when users are away from their desks, IT staff can deliver application software and patches without end-user intervention. They simply create a distribution list or select a predefined group, choose a package and hit “enter.”

Alternatively, IT staff can easily create a Web-based catalog, from which end users can select and install prepackaged software applications. When bandwidth must be tightly controlled, IT staff can use the same process to create installation CDs.

From the administrative console, administrators can flexibly schedule distributions and easily create packages. They can specify:

- Whether and for how long end users can defer installation, helping to maximize their productivity, facilitate compliance and maintain security.
- How long installation should be allowed to continue before the deployment “times out,” to make sure that bandwidth and time are not wasted on updating a PC that is not responsive or has a bad network connection.
- Whether installation should be done over HTTP or logical drive, or on a lockdown desktop.
- Whether a purchase order is required.
- Any other required steps, such as scripts that install prerequisites or pre- and post-installation instructions that should be given to users to make installation successful.

By automating software distribution, you help:

- Deliver access to the latest software versions and updates to keep users’ PCs up to date and available.
- Maximize software consistency so that administrators have fewer configurations to manage — and fewer problems caused by unusual configurations.
- Minimize staff time and resources used to distribute new software and patches.

Further simplify administration with combined inventory and software distribution capabilities

Because Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution seamlessly integrates inventory data and software distribution, you can use the software to do things that are not possible without an integrated solution:

- *Simplify distribution by using highly accurate system information.* Rather than build distribution lists manually, your staff can use inventory data to build dynamic distribution lists. For example, an administrator could direct the software to deliver a Microsoft Office patch to all machines that have Microsoft Office — and avoid the burden of identifying each target machine manually. As a result, you can “push” software updates out only to the machines that need them — precisely when they need them.
- *Automatically update inventory data.* The product updates software scans each time software distribution occurs, so your organization can consistently access updated, accurate inventory information.
- *Allow end users to maintain inventory data, if you choose.* Through an easy-to-use interface, end users can track and manage their own assets, reducing the dedicated IT resources needed for this task.

Take advantage of comprehensive, flexible reports

Both Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express products offer enhanced Web-based reporting. The software does more than just log data about assets and users. Some reports enable you to view success rates for package distribution. Plus, the event log analyzer helps IT staff looking for particular security vulnerabilities to detect relevant events.

Other reports help you share data about assets with financial applications, such as for purchasing and audits. Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express products each include a large number of prebuilt, standard reports that you can use for auditing and other purposes.

Furthermore, you can easily create customized reports to manipulate and mine data as needed. It's simple to add or remove columns of data, reorder columns and sort data on any column you choose — then save any report you build for future use. Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express software also enables you to filter out extraneous entries with just a few clicks. You do not need

to know structured query language (SQL) — the software keeps track of the changes for you.

Help reduce security and audit exposures

Because security and audits are pressing concerns for nearly every business, Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory helps you track compliance with your corporate security policies — and enforce them. For example, you can measure how end-user configurations align with corporate antivirus and firewall policies. Or determine if Windows users adhere to corporate password length and age guidelines.

Additionally, Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution extends these capabilities by deploying the latest updates to noncompliant end-user workstations. Update management is critical to maintaining available systems and protecting business data from computer viruses and other Internet-borne security problems. By decreasing the number of calls and service requests from owners of virus-infected systems, you help lower overall administration costs and resource needs.

Deploy an easy-to-manage solution designed for midsize organizations

Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express software was created especially for small and midsize organizations, in which ease of use and manageability are critical. Anyone who can install a Windows application can perform advanced inventory and software distribution management functions.

For example, Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution makes it easy to offer software to end users through an online catalog. IT staff can quickly create a software package with all necessary prerequisites and other requirements specified. When the package is created and posted to the catalog, end users can easily select the packages they desire and install them at their convenience, in an error-free manner.

Extend into other areas of IT management as you grow

Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express products are ideal for small and midsize businesses — and departments and workgroups within larger enterprises — that want to manage

inventory and software distribution on their Windows clients. And when your organization grows, Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express software provides a clear, simplified migration path to IBM Tivoli Provisioning Manager and IBM Tivoli Configuration Manager that will also allow you to continue using software packages used with Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution. And you can continue to take advantage of the skills your IT staff and users have developed by working with Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express software.

IBM teams to enable your unique business or technology requirements

For customers requiring additional services desiring even faster results, IBM Software Services for Tivoli (Lab Services), IBM Global Services and our extensive network of Business Partners offer deep technical and business expertise. Augmented services include planning and architecture, customization, best practices, integration, skills transfer, service offerings, custom on-site training workshops and premium support.

About Tivoli software from IBM

Tivoli software from IBM helps organizations efficiently and effectively manage information technology (IT) resources, tasks and processes in order to meet ever-shifting business requirements and deliver flexible and responsive IT service management, while helping to reduce costs. The Tivoli portfolio spans software for security, compliance, storage, performance, availability, configuration, operations and IT life-cycle management, and is backed by world-class IBM services, support and research.

For more information

To learn more about Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution, Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory and integrated solutions from IBM, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit ibm.com/tivoli/smb

You can also learn more about IBM Software Services at ibm.com/software/sw-services, IBM Global Services at ibm.com/services and IBM Business Partners at ibm.com/software/solutions/isv



Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution and Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Inventory at a glance

Client requirements:

- Microsoft Windows NT® 4.0 or Windows 9X; 2000, 2000 Pro, 2000 Server, 2000 Advanced Server or 2000 Data Center Server; XP or XP Pro; 2003 Enterprise or Standard; or Server 2003 Standard, Enterprise or Data Center
- Network connection (TCP/IP)
- Java (JRE 1.4 and above) (included in software)
- Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution agent
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 and above

Server requirements:

- Windows 2000 Server, Advanced Server or Data Center Server; XP Pro with Service Pack 2 or later; 2003 Enterprise or Standard Release 2; or Server 2003 Standard, Enterprise or Data Center
- Network connection (TCP/IP)
- Embedded version of IBM WebSphere® Application Server – Express 6.02 (included in software)
- Java J2SE SDK/Runtime (included in Tivoli Provisioning Manager Express for Software Distribution)
- Internet Explorer 6.0 and above
- IBM Cloudscape™ database 5.1 (included in software) or above to export captured data to any SQL-compliant database

Administrative console requirements:

- Any operating system that supports a Web browser (HTTP or HTTPS)

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U.S.A.

Produced in the United States of America
3-06

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