

HCL's BigFix Inventory FAQ related to divestiture of BigFix to HCL and certified levels

On June 30th, 2019 HCL acquired from IBM, select IBM collaboration, commerce, digital experience, AppScan, & BigFix solutions.

Please refer to the following IBM page to find more information about the divestiture and additional FAQs info:

<https://www.ibm.com/products/hcl-divestiture>

BigFix Inventory is now an HCL product.

IBM and HCL have established a collaboration agreement aimed to continue to have BigFix Inventory accepted as an alternate solution to IBM License Metric Tool (ILMT) for IBM Virtualization Capacity reporting.

When requested by HCL, IBM will perform validation of BigFix Inventory updates to verify equivalence to IBM License Metric Tool (ILMT) version/release/updates.

On this page IBM will provide the ongoing information about BigFix Inventory validated updates plus a list of additional FAQs.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

In the event that HCL opts to terminate the validation process of BigFix Inventory or if the BigFix Inventory is not validated, Customers will be given up to six (6) months to move to the IBM License Metric Tool (or other IBM-approved sub-capacity licensing tool) to continue to meet the requirements for IBM Virtualization Capacity licensing. Customers can continue to use BigFix Inventory to generate audit reports during this time frame.

BigFix Inventory Validated Version/Release/Updates

The following table lists the BigFix Inventory version/release/update that has been validated by IBM for equivalence to the corresponding version/release/update of IBM License Metric Tool for IBM Virtualization Capacity reporting requirements.

ILMT is currently delivering a new update on a quarterly delivery cycle and for any ILMT update delivered by IBM the table lists the validated equivalent of BigFix Inventory.

ILMT Update	eGA	Validated equivalent BigFix Inventory	eGA	Notes
9.2.x	N/A	9.2.x	N/A	Delivered by IBM prior to divestiture to HCL
9.2.15	N/A	9.2.15.0	N/A	Latest BigFix Inventory update delivered by IBM prior to divestiture
9.2.16	August 5, 2019	9.2.16.0	September 24, 2019	First validated delivery from HCL after divestiture
9.2.17	October 19, 2019	9.2.17.0	February 17, 2020	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/1085865
9.2.18	December 16, 2019	10.0.0	April 3, 2020	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/1135882
9.2.19	March 26, 2020	10.0.1	July 8, 2020	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6120681

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9.2.20	June 29, 2020	10.0.2	October 13, 2020	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6237792
9.2.21	September 28, 2020	10.0.3	December 10, 2020	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6336847
9.2.22	December 14, 2020	10.0.4	March, 2021	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6377884
9.2.23	March 22, 2021	10.0.5	August 17, 2021	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6427561
9.2.24	June 21, 2021	10.0.6	September 29, 2021	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6464741
9.2.25	September 23, 2021	10.0.7	December 15, 2022	Important: The new capability introduced in BigFix Inventory 10.0.7 called ' <u>Software discovery in containers</u> ' is not accepted by IBM for license reporting. See question 12 below for more details. https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6488873
9.2.26	December 13, 2021	10.0.8	March 29, 2022	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6523728
9.2.27	March 21, 2022	10.0.9	July 12, 2022	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6562407
9.2.28	June 20, 2022	10.0.10	September 28, 2022	https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6590423
9.2.29	September 19, 2022	N/A		https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6616523

* BigFix Inventory 4th digit sub-versions (e.g., 9.2.16.1) are automatically certified unless otherwise noted

Frequently asked questions

1. Is BigFix Inventory an IBM product or has it been divested to HCL?

BigFix Inventory is now an HCL product. ILMT development and support remain with IBM.

2. Will BigFix Inventory continue to be updated with ILMT capabilities?

Changes may be introduced into BigFix Inventory based on updates made to ILMT.

3. Will BigFix Inventory be able to use the software catalog content delivered with ILMT updates?

As part of the validation process, ILMT software catalog updates may be incorporated into the BigFix Inventory software catalog.

4. *If HCL delivers a new release/update of BigFix Inventory can it be used for IBM Virtualization Capacity reporting alternatively to ILMT?*

Customers can use a new release/update of BigFix Inventory for IBM Virtualization Capacity reporting only if the new release/update has been validated by IBM.

Using non-validated version/release/updates of BigFix Inventory does not meet IBM Virtualization Capacity requirements.

5. *For IBM Virtualization Capacity is there any change in the customer obligations when using an IBM-validated version of BigFix Inventory?*

The customer obligations are the same as those applicable to ILMT, including but not limited to:

- Making sure to use the latest version of BigFix Inventory containing most recent counting logic for IBM licenses;
- Generating quarterly audit reports (or with the frequency as requested by IBM); and
- Retaining such quarterly audit reports for a period of not less than 2 years.

6. *ILMT tool updates can add support for new eligible processors, operating systems or virtualizations in relationship to IBM Virtualization Capacity. When can I expect to use BigFix Inventory for these systems as an alternative to ILMT?*

IBM will validate the closest version/release update of BigFix Inventory that will include ILMT's equivalent capabilities.

Customers should wait for IBM validation of BigFix Inventory before using it on newly added operating systems, virtualization platforms or processors supported by ILMT.

7. *When using BigFix Inventory, if there is an issue with the related ILMT capabilities or ILMT software catalog will customers be required to contact IBM Support for these issues?*

For any issue with BigFix Inventory, customers must contact HCL support. The HCL support portal is available at: <https://support.hcltechsw.com/csm>

HCL support will contact IBM Support and address issues as needed and required.

8. *When using HCL's BigFix Inventory are customers required to sign a non-disclosure agreement or license agreement with IBM for the ILMT equivalent capabilities that are included in BigFix Inventory?*

No. BigFix Inventory is an HCL product. For more info please visit HCL Software portal at: <https://www.hcltechsw.com/wps/portal>

9. *Do I need to pay for License and S&S if I am using BigFix Inventory for IBM Virtualization Capacity only?*

BigFix Inventory is an HCL product and any inquiry on licensing and S&S must be addressed to HCL Software. Please visit HCL Software portal at: <https://www.hcltechsw.com/wps/portal>

Customers can opt to use IBM License Metric Tool.

10. *How can I get a long-term commitment for BigFix Inventory to continue to be validated for IBM Virtualization Capacity and information about roadmap?*

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Any inquiry on validation commitments and roadmap on BigFix Inventory must be addressed to HCL Software. Please visit HCL Software portal at: <https://www.hcltechsw.com/wps/portal>
Customers can opt to use IBM License Metric Tool.

11. Will products divested to HCL be update in ILMT's product catalog?

IBM will not be updating ILMT's catalog for new releases of products divested to HCL.

12. Is BigFix Inventory accepted by IBM for license usage reporting of software running on Kubernetes or Red Hat OpenShift?

No, BigFix Inventory is not accepted by IBM for software inventory nor license usage reporting in Kubernetes or Red Hat OpenShift environments. IBM License Service or IBM License Service Reporter are the only IBM accepted tools in such deployment scenarios. In particular new capability introduced in BigFix Inventory 10.0.7 called 'Software discovery in containers' can't be used for contractual IBM license usage reporting in neither 'sub-capacity' nor 'IBM Container' licensing scenarios.