

LICENCE DASHBOARD v FAST COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Licence Dashboard has now become Europe's leading Software Asset Management tool, facilitating and driving more Software Asset Management programmes than any other application on today's market

Potentially, Software Asset Management tools are one of the most important aspects of a Software Asset Management implementation and can eliminate overspend and reduce instances of buying too many licences, the wrong licences or not buying enough. In addition, knowing with certainty that your organisation is compliant with the licensing terms puts you in a strong negotiating position with software manufacturers and prevents serious embarrassment.

Without a comprehensive Software Asset Management tool, the function of managing licences essentially becomes a manual process, one which is prone to error, complacency and eventually leads to regression. Most organisations end up using a number of spreadsheets to manage and track their entitlement; these documents become difficult to summarise and make it almost impossible to demonstrate effective audit trails which outline the allocation of upgrade paths and maintenance agreements.

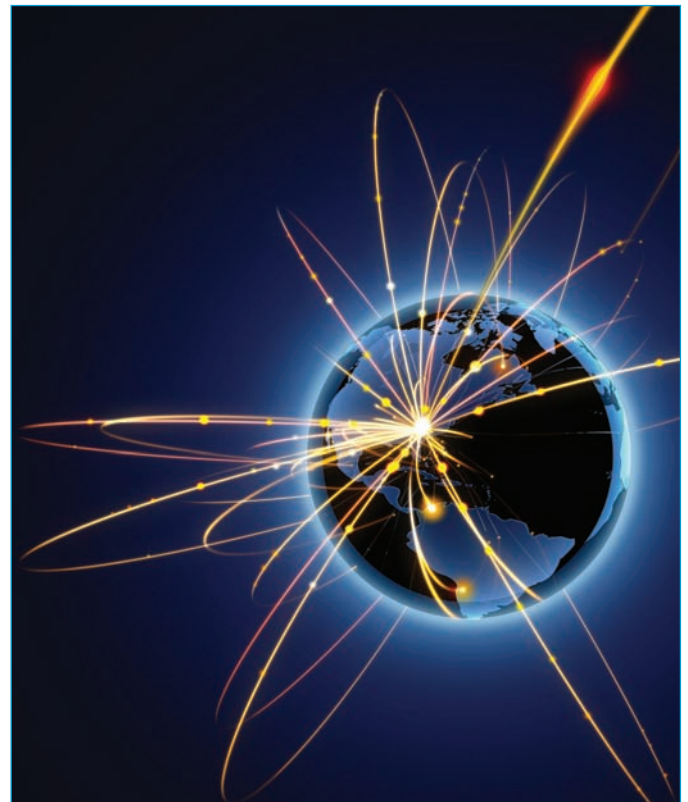
LICENCE DASHBOARD™

With Licence Dashboard, organisations can effectively and automatically control the entire lifecycle of their organisation's software assets from purchase, to upgrade and beyond. With its easy-to-use interface

authorised users to take control of software and licence inventories, combining all licence register and software audit information into a single reporting tool.

Unlike FAST Compliance Manager, Licence Dashboard has an intrinsic module called Data Cleanse that enables organisations to extract usage data from their existing discovery tools. As many organisations have already experienced, most software inventory tools on today's market are excellent at scanning the network for hardware and software information. Manipulating this software information into a format that enables you to identify your licensable products, however, is somewhat challenging. Therefore, the Data Cleanse module will enable organisations to extend the software recognition process of most software inventory tools and provide further distilling of scanned software, highlighting which installed products need a licence.

In addition, Licence Dashboard far exceeds the functionality of FAST Compliance Manager by including the following essential requirements:



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- a) From a single interface, Licence Dashboard can report the organisation's compliance status, highlighting what the organisation is entitled to install, how many times it has been installed or used, how many licences are still available and which software is non-compliant.
- b) Licence Dashboard can aggregate the organisation's installation rights by business unit/purchase centre, thus enabling organisations with multiple entities to publish their compliance status individually or globally.
- c) Licence Dashboard can record and track all licence types, such as device, user, concurrency, value units, processor, MIPs, client access licences, named users and site licences and many more. This includes managing usage information for Terminal Services, Citrix, Oracle, Midrange and Mainframe systems.

“This **unique product** enables organisations to comprehensively manage an **effective Software Asset Management programme**. At Microsoft we look at ways in which we can help our customers achieve ongoing SAM processes and provide long term benefits from being compliant - **Licence Dashboard enables you to achieve that**”

Amanda Sleight - Head of Licensing, Microsoft UK

Microsoft

- d) Licence Dashboard can associate licences to active and non-active purchase agreements, ensuring that all agreements are effectively managed and renewed. Even though the purchasing agreements have expired, most agreements continue to provide perpetual rights to software and in many cases they may need to be tracked, even though they are no longer used. For example, they may be acting as a base licence to recently purchased upgrades or maintenance licences.
- e) Licence Dashboard can differentiate between contract and non-contract entitlement and ensure all associated entitlement is effectively recognised. In addition, where continued tracking of contract entitlement is required, such as a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement, a function that enables automated true up calculations is essential.
- f) Licence Dashboard can report entitlement by the country of usage and ensure that all entitlement is allocated effectively. Many global organisations lose control of their global contracts and mistakenly allocate entitlement to countries that are not entitled under the contract.
- g) Licence Dashboard can effectively manage Client Access Licence (CAL) entitlement. As asset inventory tools only measure the instances of installation, they are unable to meter the CAL usage.
- h) Licence Dashboard maintains the relationship between upgrade licences and base licences, ensuring there is a comprehensive audit trail for all referenced licences.
- i) Licence Dashboard maintains and tracks maintenance agreements, ensuring that all renewals are actioned and that all version entitlements are maintained effectively.
- j) Licence Dashboard can facilitate the transfer of licences between different business units/purchase centres, thereby enabling effective load balancing of entitlement across the organisation.
- k) Licence Dashboard can distil software usage data and recognise licensable products, shareware, freeware and system drivers, thus fully understanding the organisation’s licence liability.
- l) Licence Dashboard can allocate licence entitlement effectively, ensuring that the correct licence metrics and constraints have been applied correctly.
- m) Licence Dashboard can manage surplus licences and have the ability to reserve them against future installs.
- n) Licence Dashboard can identify non-compliance or other discrepancies and analyse the root cause.
- o) Licence Dashboard can report a comprehensive audit trail of all changes made to the software and licences associated.
- p) Licence Dashboard can aggregate software versions, application suites and remove the technical attributes associated to software and replace with the licensable descriptions making it easier to allocate the correct licence entitlement.
- q) Licence Dashboard can effectively manage software entitlement across multiple geographical areas and the ability to publish entitlement across multiple purchasing centres without infringing the contractual agreements specified.
- r) Licence Dashboard can record all licence information, including terms and conditions, and cross reference to specific proof of licence documentation.
- s) Licence Dashboard can verify compliance for all licence agreements and report effectively to vendors in the correct format, for example the Microsoft Effective Licence Position (ELP).
- t) Licence Dashboard can provide an interface for managing all purchasing agreements, including associating the owner responsible for managing the terms.
- u) Licence Dashboard provides in-built licence logic that ensures that licence entitlement is correctly archived, aggregated and allocated to software usage.

In summary, with Licence Dashboard, organisations can effectively and automatically control the entire lifecycle of their organisation’s software assets from purchase, to upgrade and beyond. Whereas, by implementing FAST Compliance Manager, an organisation is only able to manage the organisation’s compliance status.

FIND OUT MORE

For further information on the Software Asset Management services we offer, contact the Licence Dashboard Team on **0845 265 1217** or email info@licencedashboard.co.uk

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