

## **PUBLISHED**

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## **WRITTEN FOR**

IT Operations professionals

This paper looks at how the right technology can improve IT Asset Management, helping with IT teams' operational and security effectiveness

## **FORWARD**

A real-time asset database that automates the discovery of assets, without needing software agents, can help overcome the shortcomings of traditional asset management systems and processes. With up-to-date asset data, information is available to multiple teams – such as network, desktop, server, and security teams – giving them the confidence to see and manage all the assets they are responsible for.

## WHY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Operational and security frameworks that help staff effectiveness cite Asset Management as a critical component.

Whether you need to manage or secure something, you need to know:

- a) It exists
- b) Other attributes like where it is? which components it has? to understand better how to deal with it

Financial and lifecycle needs have traditionally driven asset management as a process. Many of the technologies on the market meet these needs but rarely help in other areas. This means asset management systems are not trusted by IT teams who need to use their data.

IT teams say their asset systems are out-of-date, inaccurate, and not easy to integrate into other operational systems. They, therefore, cannot leverage this data to help resolve issues – whether they be operational or security. This is one of the main limitations of traditional asset management systems.

Asset management must be more dynamic and real-time to enable IT teams to leverage their information. Such real-time data, if correctly used, can reduce downtime or the impact of a cyber security incident by getting to the target system more quickly.

Knowing "what data and systems you manage, and the business function they need to support" is critical for ensuring they are well managed and secure.

"Asset management encompasses the way you can establish and maintain the required knowledge of your assets. Over time, systems generally grow organically, and it can be hard to maintain an understanding of all the assets within your environment. Incidents can occur due to not fully understanding an environment, whether an unpatched service, an exposed cloud storage account, or a misclassified document. Ensuring you know about all these assets is a fundamental precursor to being able to understand and address the resulting risks. Understanding when your systems will no longer be supported can help you to better plan for upgrades and replacements, to help avoid running vulnerable legacy systems." NCSC

## WHY ASSET MANAGEMENT NEEDS AUTOMATION

ITIL's IT Asset Management states it is an "accounting process for monitoring assets whose purchase price exceeds a defined limit". Furthermore, ITIL's asset management process starts with "IT Finance Manager creates Fixed Assets (Capital Assets) in the Fixed Asset Register (FAR)..."

Both the definition and process described above immediately create a problem for asset management as a foundation for operational and security needs (it's not designed for it). It also needs a human being to do something, which makes it error-prone and can add cost.

It is much better to start with automated discovery. In fact, discovery should be continuous too. Such discovery finds all systems without a human being needed, which is much more scalable and dynamic.

To further reduce error, it is important that discovery works without the need to install software agents. If someone needs to install software on a device to discover it, it is really no longer automated. Many organisations are looking to reduce cost and complexity so installing agents is a backward step for them

Automatically discovered assets – stored in an asset database - can then be used to feed other systems (including traditional asset databases). Integration is a crucial capability of any real-time asset discovery system.

## HOW CAN REBASOFT HELP?

With Rebasoft, you can create and maintain an always up-to-date, accurate asset inventory. It will help ensure all your assets are accounted for and contain the information needed to support your operational and cyber security processes.

### REBASOFT:

- a) Discovers assets without needing to install software agents
- b) Uses the network infrastructure to build and maintain a real-time view of connected assets
- c) Collects and maintains detailed hardware and software information
- d) Classifies systems based upon collected data
- e) Allows users to set importance criteria for systems. i.e. So an infrastructure DNS server is more critical to an organisation than say a printer
- f) Through integration facilities, allows export of discovered assets to external systems
- g) Within the same installation, delivers other native capabilities, including monitoring and security that save money and complexity

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rebasoft's all-in-one systems help with Network Security, Asset Management, Asset Security, Vulnerability Management, Network Access Control. It can also save you money through retiring point monitoring solutions, importantly allowing cooperation of operations & security teams.

For more information, visit us at: <https://www.rebasoft.net/>.

### REFERENCES:

NCSC - National Cyber Security Centre <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/10-steps/asset-management>