

Keeping tabs on what hardware and software you have within your organization is more than just good practice, it can also save you money. **By Rene Millman.**

Looking after an organization's assets, especially when they contain vital data, is essential. If it goes astray or is no longer visible to a systems administrator, alarm bells should start ringing.

Also important for a company's financial health is the ability to keep track of licensed software.

We put auditing software under the microscope this month. Some products are aimed at inventory

fraud analysis and security management auditing. Reporting is another item to consider, and all products had to keep a clear audit trail of what was happening to allow forensic analysis.

## Centennial Discovery Web Edition

<b>Version</b>	4.5
<b>Supplier</b>	Centennial (UK) Limited
<b>Price</b>	£16.80 per pc (500 pcs)
<b>Contact</b>	www.centennial.co.uk



This inventory application uses a technology called Lanprobe to meter software usage and discover devices on a network.

This version has a number of new features, including a client capable of deployment to a number of flavors of Unix and Linux (Sun Solaris, HP-UX, RedHat, SuSE). There are also a number of changes to the look and feel of the main console itself.

The installation requires SQL Server to be present, although a runtime implementation is included within the package.

The installation was about the easiest to perform in the whole Group Test, and once the console started there was a tip of the day that was actually useful. It told us how to get started on auditing a machine, and we followed its advice and installed the software on our test machines.

This was very quick to do, although we recommend that there is one domain where all computers



are members of that domain, in order that there are no failed installations. Computers in other workgroups may not install the client first time around. It must be said that it was really easy to find a solution to this problem and the situation was overcome in seconds.

The server can communicate with its clients either via a shared message folder for use with machines that do not use TCP/IP (such as older versions of Netware), or by the standard TCP/IP. Clients can also be distributed in other ways using email, disk or login scripts.

The console was very clear and data was easy to browse and analyse. The console also featured a query tool, standard inventory reports and alerting facilities.

It must be said that the auditing software was about the slowest we had seen. The same network infra-

structure has been used for all products and the remote server audit took a significantly longer time to finish compared to others.

The company were quick to point out that Centennial, used in a typical environment and not in a small testing environment, is fast in accomplishing 'Audit Complete' reports.

Once completed, the list of found software was accurate and detailed, with some minor errors in software usage reporting.

We found that, in general, this was by far the easiest and clearest of all the software tested.

### SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★☆
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>

**FOR** Quick and easy installation of both clients and server. Fantastic console.  
**AGAINST** Slow auditing times.  
**VERDICT** Support for multiple operating systems among the best in this test.



Quick and easy installation of both clients and server.

Fantastic console.  
 Rene Millman



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