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## Soft-Aid E-Newsletter for End-User Businesses

**Helping Assess the Business Issues of Software Compliance, License Evaluation and Best Usage**

**June 2004**

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In this issue

- The "Systems Approach" to streamlining software asset management (SAM)
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Dear David,

Welcome to the fifth issue of Soft-Aid's E- Newsletter designed to help end-user businesses address the business issues of software license compliance, evaluation, and best usage.

This issue focuses on the "Systems Approach" to streamlining software asset management (SAM).

The "Systems Approach" to streamlining software asset management (SAM)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In our last e-newsletter, we discussed the importance of setting clear roles for people involved in software asset management. The volume of data that is generated in the typical software asset lifecycle necessitates an equal vigilance. There are many pieces of relevant information when it comes to purchasing, deploying, and retiring technology assets. They include the sheer number and type of assets. An IT manager must consider the resulting permutations, which number in the hundreds, when properly deploying those assets.

**MORE**

To decide who receives particular software assets and how to deploy them, an IT manager must consider both user and system needs. User needs center around the intended use of software applications. System needs, however, focus on the present computing environment. Relevant questions include: can the application be supported by existing hardware? Or will other software pose a conflict? Or who is currently using prior versions?

Software Asset Management (SAM) tools nicely support these system needs. By producing an accurate and complete inventory of software and hardware assets, an IT manager has the right information to answer the questions posed in the prior paragraph. SAM compliance tools perform three key functions: they gather inventory data, store that data in conjunction with licensing information, and provide reporting mechanisms for usage and compliance. Data is gathered primarily through auto-discovery, but is also complemented by manual input. The goal is to centralize inventory and license records in the SAM tool.

Soft-Aid has partnered with best-in-class SAM tool companies that include Altiris and Eracent. Both tools provide all of the functions described above.

**For More Information**

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For more information on how we can deploy the Altiris and/or Eracent tool sets, please contact us.

Soft-Aid specializes in the creation and implementation of software asset management (SAM) plans for businesses. We would be happy to assist you with these matters.

Please take time to review our web site, www.aid.com

Please note: We are independent consultants and not formerly affiliated with any software vendor.

Past and Future Issues

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Next Soft-Aid E-Newsletter on Business Issues of Software License Compliance, Evaluation & Best Usage:  
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To read past issues, go to <http://www.aid.com/enewsletters/>

**We Welcome Your Input**

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Please send along your thoughts and comments on our e-newsletters.
We welcome your input.
Call us: 617-848-5800
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What Our Lawyers Made Us Say

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