What is a software audit process?

A successful license audit is more than just a count-up of assets. It should provide a strategic roadmap for the future too.

There are four key stages to conducting an effective software audit:

1. What do we have?

- A count of licenses held
- A count of software installs
- Which features/packages do we actually use?
- A calculation - too many or too few?

Now you know your current position.

2. What do we need?

- What is the current shortfall?
- What are our plans for the next 3-5 years?
- How will mergers and acquisitions affect our position?
- What can we divest?

The goal is to create an accurate bill of materials for license negotiations.

3. Negotiating for success

- Use your bill of materials as the focal point for talks
- Ensure all counts and estimates are accurate
- Don't assume your bills will be cheaper
- Enlist expert assistance – what you pay now will also affect future renewals

Preparing an accurate bill of materials in advance allows you to negotiate a deal that properly balances coverage, usage and cost.

4. An eye on the future

- Calculate success in terms of value received not renewal price reductions
- Maintain accurate usage and license counts at all times
- Plan and execute future audits earlier

License renewals are inevitable – but an effective audit can streamline the process considerably.

Ready to learn more about the software audit process?

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