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Engagent Domain Inventory
Deployment Options

One of the great strengths of Engagent Domain Inventory is its rich repertoire of deployment options. With this wide variety of options, EDI has been successfully installed in almost any configuration you can imagine.

Overview of Engagent Domain Inventory Architecture
EDI does *not* require that agent software be installed on the workstations you want to scan. In order to return extensive detail on hardware, software, and system configuration, EDI does need to launch an executable on the processor of the workstation. Leaving no footprint, this executable sends the results of its inventory back to a central server and disappears.

Login Script
By far the most common way to kick off the EDI executable is from a domain login script. The EDI executable is placed in a read-only network share available to all users. The login script for all users invokes this executable. The executable writes its results back to another network share. The line to add to the login script is in the following form:

```
\\server\public_share\invscan.exe /silent
```

Here \\server\public_share is the name of a network share. Invscan.exe is the executable found in that share. The /silent option invokes the Inventory executable without any notice to the user of the workstation. The Inventory executable is small and light, runs quickly, does not hold up the user of the workstation, and places very little traffic on the network. A scan need not actually take place every time the user logs in. The administrator can configure the scan to run only at specified intervals – say once a week or once a month.

One advantage of login script deployment is that it catches systems that only access the network infrequently. For example, a laptop used by a sales representative on the road will be scanned when it connects via remote dial-up networking.

Remote Execution
Some systems never do log into the network. For example, servers tend to just stay up and on all the time. Systems in a remote location may never access the domain. For these systems, the most effective deployment option may be to force execution of the software on the remote system using Engagent's utility RemoteExec. RemoteExec, which is easy to use and inexpensive, employs the DCOM functionality built into Microsoft's operating systems to launch the executable on the remote system.

Email
You can email the executable as an attachment, or email a link to the executable, and ask the recipient to click on the link to launch the executable. SMTP functionality included in EDI will send the inventory results directly back to the server.

Web
In some cases it makes sense to ask users to access a web site where a link will invoke the program, which can write its results back to a server by various means, including email.

Physical Distribution
Engagent Domain Inventory will even deploy to systems that are not connected to any network of any kind. The most common way to perform a scan on these machines is to send a CD or a floppy disk that will run the executable and write its results back to a floppy. You can, for example, mail the floppy out and ask that the end-user return it in an enclosed mailer.

Agent Installation
None of the above options require installing agent software on the scanned workstations. EDI is available in a version with agents, however, if you want them. You can install the agent version of EDI on workstations, either manually or using Engagent Software Distribution, RemoteExec, or another distribution package, and achieve extremely fine-grained control over the timing and configuration of inventory scans.

Call for More Options
The options above explain just some of the ways this executable can be deployed. Engagent's customer support representatives would be happy to work with you to find alternate deployment options that will exactly meet your configuration needs. Call us today to find out how this software can work for you.