

Flexera Data Platform Solutions for Micro Focus



Introduction

Micro Focus Asset Manager (AM) and Micro Focus Universal CMDB (UCMDB) help organizations manage their IT assets across the entire lifecycle, providing information about what assets exist, where they are, who uses them, and how they are used. However, the data powering these ITAM tools often comes from multiple disparate sources:

- Discovery solutions like Micro Focus Universal Discovery (UD/DDMI)
- Client management systems like Microsoft Configuration Manager (CM)
- Procurement systems like SAP and Ariba

Their effectiveness of the Asset Management solutions depends on the quality of the data powering them, data that must include both an accurate inventory of all deployed hardware and software, as well as the purchased entitlements.

The Data Platform ensures clean, accurate, high-quality data for ITAM initiatives. Leveraging Technopedia®, the most trusted and comprehensive hardware and software asset information source, the Data Platform aggregates and normalizes raw data from more than 40 different data sources to create a single, accurate, reliable version for accurate inventory and reporting. Data is enriched with market intelligence including end of life dates, hardware specifications, and more to enhance decision-making.

How It Works

Challenge in Deployment (Asset Inventory) Data

Collecting an accurate inventory of what is deployed in a given environment poses specific challenges:

- **Multiple Sources:** Organizations often have multiple data sources of inventory, including discovery solutions like DDMI/UD and client management solutions like Microsoft CM. Data from these disparate sources doesn't merge easily.
- **Data Quality:** Data from disparate sources creates inconsistencies that the IT team must reconcile manually.
 - **Inconsistent Data:** The system may contain multiple names for a single vendor, a single product, and/or multiple versions of a product. Inconsistency in nomenclature across the data sources creates conflicts or duplicates.
 - **Outdated Data:** The software catalogs or Software Applications Index (SAI) built into discovery systems is not updated often enough to keep pace with mergers, acquisitions, and new product releases. As a result, vendor and product data is quickly outdated.
 - **Incomplete Data:** "Discovered" data that comes from IT systems lacks end of life (EOL) dates, open source data, hardware specifications, and other vital market intelligence.

Lack of clean data results in inaccurate or incomplete inventory of deployed software.

At a Glance

The Flexera Data Platform integrates with Micro Focus Asset Management solutions including Micro Focus Asset Manager and Micro Focus Configuration Management System (CMS), which includes Micro Focus Universal Discovery and Micro Focus UCMDB. Using Technopedia, customers can augment UD's Software Applications Index (SAI) to benefit from a catalog that is updated at all times. Normalized data that is free of data quality issues can then be fed directly into Micro Focus UCMDB or Micro Focus Asset Manager for more efficient asset management processes.

Key Benefits of the Platform

- ✓ Support successful ITAM initiatives by reducing cost and risk
- ✓ Increase accuracy inventory and entitlement data for greater visibility into entitlements and deployments
- ✓ Establish a common language between purchasing and deployments
- ✓ Align end-to-end data for more accurate comparisons of purchases to actual implementations
- ✓ Review license terms and conditions that affect entitlement to determine compliance and reconcile results before reporting

Challenge in Procurement (Asset Entitlement) Data

Software Asset Management (SAM), especially for vendor audits requires an understanding of the entitlement profile. However, the purchase order (PO) is often the only business record containing information about what was procured, and POs are incomplete at best and difficult to decipher.

- **Part Numbers:** Vendors and resellers often use different part numbers for the same product, and POs often lack SKU information entirely or include a made-up part number simply to fill a mandatory field in the procurement system. This prevents determining entitlements based on part number.
- **Part Descriptions:** Part descriptions are typically unstructured data without a standard, easily understandable format. Additionally, they often bundle quantities and license packs, and sometimes maintenance and support as well, into a single line item. This prevents determining entitlement by part description.

Inability to accurately decipher purchase orders prevents a good understanding of entitlements.

Lack of End-to-End Alignment

- **Procurement and discovery systems report differently:** To effectively report for a software audit, IT managers must be able to determine what has been purchased but is not in use, as well as what has been installed and put into production. When product names in procurement systems do not align consistently with those in deployment systems, IT managers cannot track all software purchases accurately.

Lack of alignment between procurement and deployment data makes it impossible to reconcile purchases with deployments for audit reporting purposes.

How Data Platform Helps

Data Platform solutions for Micro Focus help resolve data quality issues in inventory as well as procurement data. Data is aligned using the common taxonomy of Technopedia, helping correlate data and report correctly. The Data Platform also provides further non-discoverable data such as license models, software lifecycle dates, etc for more successful asset management initiatives. As a result, companies can:

- Respond to vendor audits in a timely manner
- Avoid potentially significant true-ups
- Realize cost benefits from consolidation and optimization initiatives
- Minimize waste on unused assets
- Increase leverage in vendor contract negotiations

Data Platform Product Suite

Technopedia®

Technopedia is the most trusted and comprehensive hardware and software asset information source, with constantly updated information on more than 2.1 million hardware and software assets. It provides a common language for IT, enabling data from multiple sources to be mapped to a single identity.

Normalize®

Normalize provides organizations with clean, curated and complete data to create an accurate picture of their environment:

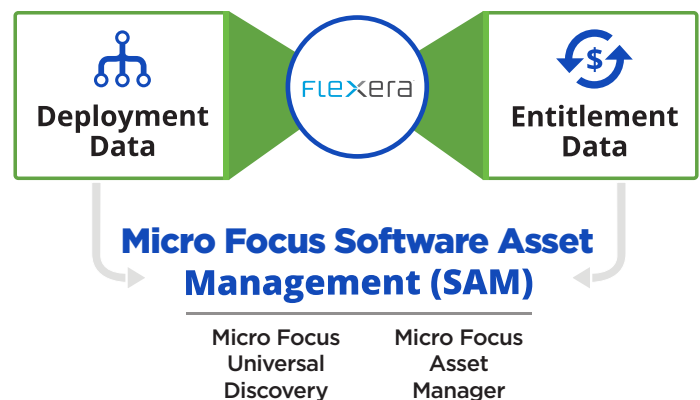
- It extracts inventory data from more than 40 different data sources, including discovery and procurement systems
- It leverages Technopedia to normalize data to a common identity to resolve conflicts and remove duplicates
- It enriches the data with non-discoverable market intelligence information, including end-of-life dates, license options, temperature ratings, and more
- It keeps data current via daily updates.

Technopedia Content Packs

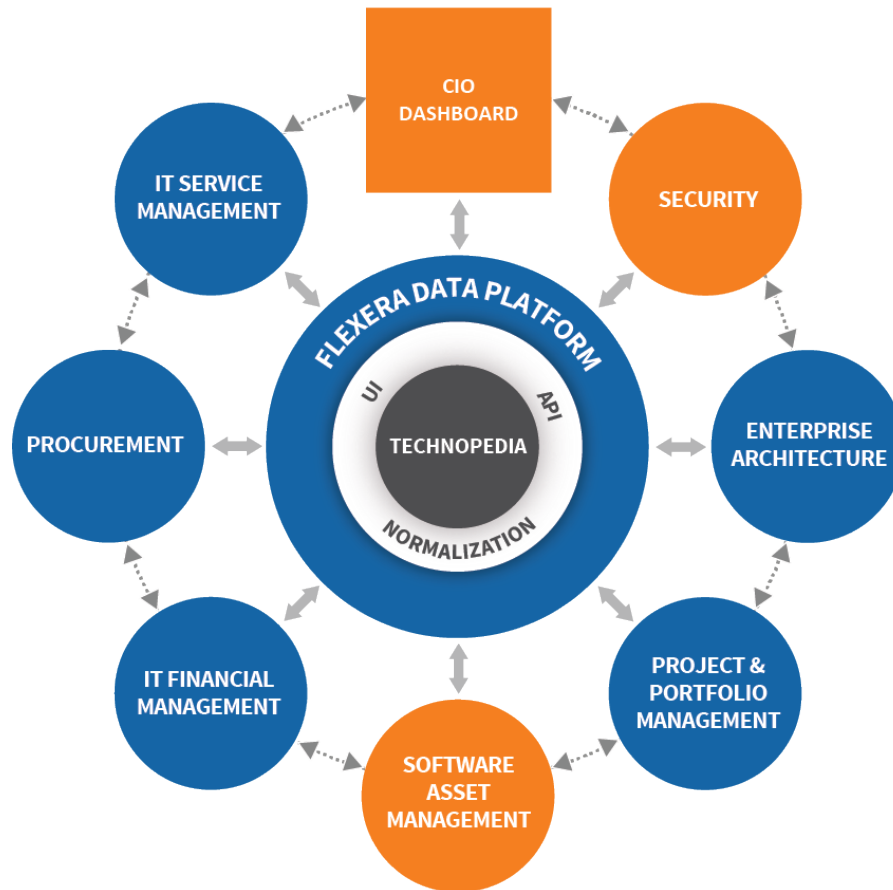
The Data Platform also provides content packs containing additional market intelligence tailored to specific IT initiatives. The Pricing content pack includes pricing data for hardware and software. The Procurement content pack automatically translates information from procurement systems to structured fields including SKU, vendor, manufacturer, term/perpetual, quantity, bundle, and others.

The Data Platform Integration with Micro Focus Asset Manager and Micro Focus CMS

The Data Platform adapter for Micro Focus Connect-IT Database Connector feeds both asset inventory and procurement data directly into Micro Focus Asset Manager for end-to-end asset management. In addition, users can augment the SAI built into Micro Focus UD and use Technopedia as the primary catalog for normalization, allowing Micro Focus UD to feed normalized data to Micro Focus UCMDB and Micro Focus Asset Manager.



The Flexera Data Platform Delivers Comprehensive, Actionable Intelligence on all IT Assets to Improve the Management and Performance of your IT Infrastructure



About Flexera

Flexera is reimagining the way software is bought, sold, managed and secured. We view the software industry as a supply chain, and make the business of buying and selling software and technology asset data more profitable, secure, and effective. Our Monetization and Security solutions help software sellers transform their business models, grow recurring revenues and minimize open source risk. Our Vulnerability and Software Asset Management (SAM) solutions strip waste and unpredictability out of procuring software, helping companies buy only the software and cloud services they need, manage what they have, and reduce compliance and security risk. Powering these solutions and the entire software supply chain, Flexera has built the world's largest and most comprehensive repository of market intelligence on technology assets. In business for 30+ years, our 1200+ employees are passionate about helping our 80,000+ customers generate millions in ROI every year. Visit us at www.flexera.com.

Find out more

For more information, call **+1 800-809-5659** or visit www.flexera.com to learn more about how Flexera can transform your technology asset data.