AssetMan

Engineering Computing
March 2016

Why

- we set up, tested iTOP asset mgmt but found:

  - too complicated for occasional use

  - poor APIs

  - database schema convoluted

  - configuring GUI was painful

Comments

- ITOP would require too much training and documentation because it is too complex

- We do not need something that complicated and 'powerful'

- Could you make it easier?

- If there is CSV output, we do not need advanced reporting features

- Wouldn't something like a spreadsheet be sufficient?

AssetMan

- a simpler asset management system

- simple to learn and use

- uses CSV (spreadsheets) for reporting

- integrated with InfoBlox, ONA and AUDIT so far, SCCM next

- can be referenced (eg. in RT tickets) with a unique URL

- simple queries with multiple parameters

- simple API for remote queries and updates

- partitions campus by distinct IT support units

- easy to extend

Read Only Attributes

- ONA and InfoBlox authoritative on many things

  - ipv4, ipv6, mac, dns, uplink device, port#, owner, etc.

- AssetMan presents their values as readonly but searchable by GUI or API

- Should we update InfoBlox from Assetman?

Read Write Attributes

- brand, model, serial number, etc.

- read/write data OWNED by AssetMan

- can be set or queried by GUI or by API

Change Log

- logs changes by ONA, InfoBlox or AssetMan

- read-only

- GUI and API access

Asset GUI Features

- search by any attributes with =, <, >

- supports * wildcards within search

- returns actual count of matches, but GUI only displays first 500 matches (due to browser limits)

- CSV feature returns all matches

- automatic switch to edit mode when viewing

Software Inventory

- also searchable with wild cards, <,=,> operators

- search by vendor, application, version or by install, uninstall dates

- GUI limited to 500 assets, due to browser limits

- Unlimited CSV output available too

APIs

- eight apis used by AssetMan GUI or other apps

  - read schema (eg. what is read/write, or readonly)

  - read asset db

  - write asset db (limited to read/write fields)

  - read asset/software db (CSV format)

  - read change log

  - read software db

  - read document db

  - write document db

Status Late March 2016

- GUI is mostly done – fine tuning left

- Introductory documentation is done

- Client/server Ethernet/IPv4 collection from ONA/InfoBlox is done

- client/server IPv6 is incomplete (just need some ONA help to match DNS with IPv6 addresses)

- PC Software via Audit, SCCM is done (several thousand computers)

- Mac software agent is written. Believe it should work with Casper as well as SCCM and standalone.

Missing Functionality

- default gui has some limitations on search criteria, like inability to specify a specific date range.

    - Advanced GUI API has no such limitations

    - Programming API has no limitations

    - We have a canned search facility to meet special needs, canned searches can be edited/extended without modifying source code

    - CSV output means people can make own reports

Next Steps

- Touch up GUI to make more consistent

- Make documentation context sensitive

- Minor adjustments to API to use JWT (JavaScript Web Tokens)

- Complete video tutorial

- Complete gap assessment