



BigFix Capacity Planning

BigFix Scanner Supplement

an HCL Product



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REVISION HISTORY

Date	Version	Revised By	Comments
June, 4th,, 2025	11.0.39.0	BigFix	Initial distribution based on BigFix_Capacity_Planning-BigFix_Inventory_Supplement.pdf

Figure 1: Revision History

1 Introduction

This document is supplement to BigFix Capacity Planning document available here:

https://help.hcl-software.com/bigfix/landing/Technical+Documents/Landing_page_shared/Technical_Documents.html

This document covers extending BigFix deployment with BigFix Scanner for the purpose of using it in conjunction with BigFix applications like BigFix Inventory.

Please also refer to Capacity Planning documents for individual BigFix applications for additional information about transferred data from managed devices using BigFix Platform infrastructure.

Note: This document is considered a work in progress. Capacity planning recommendations will be refined and updated as new BigFix releases are available.

2 BigFix Scanner Overview

BigFix Scanner is an extension of the BigFix Platform Agent with monitoring capabilities. It is responsible for collecting additional information about managed devices.

For more information refer to:

https://help.hcl-software.com/bigfix/11.0/BigFix_Scanner/BigFix_Scanner/BigFix_Scanner_welcome_page.html

3 Capacity Planning

BigFix Scanner is deployed on the managed device using BigFix Agent, so only this element of infrastructure is covered in this document.

3.1.1 BigFix Agent

Review important information about hardware requirements for the BigFix client and the software and capacity scans that are embedded in it.

3.1.1.1 Processor and RAM

A BigFix client alone can consume up to 2% of the processing power of one processor core on an endpoint. However, the client is complemented with software and capacity scans that collect necessary software and hardware information from your endpoints. Although the capacity scan reports very low CPU usage, the software scan can consume substantial CPU resources while a scan is in progress. To decrease the impact of a software scan on the production system, it can be scheduled to run on the weekends or in the evenings. You can also run the software scan with the CPU threshold option that limits the consumption of your CPU resources.

Component	CPU	RAM	Comment
BigFix Agent	< 2% (default)	< 20MB	For more information, see: Configuring Client CPU Utilization
BigFix Scanner WSCANSW / WSCANFS	Single core, up to 100 %	< 80 MB	Configuration might be dependent per application like BigFix Inventory Initiating software scans with CPU threshold when global BigFix Scanner WSCAN CPU Threshold (available from 11.0.39.0) is not used. The software scan runs on demand, and can be monitored by checking the following processes: <code>wscansw</code> , <code>wscanfs</code> .
BigFix Scanner WSCANHW	< 1 %	< 20 MB	Applications like BigFix Inventory might use it every 30 minutes, and can be monitored by checking the following process: <code>wscanhw</code> .
BigFix Scanner Service	< 2%		Runs as a service in the background.

Figure 4: BigFix Inventory impact on BigFix Agent – CPU and RAM

3.1.1.2 Disk space

Data stored	Space required	Directory	Comment
BigFix Scanner: Binaries	30 MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linux: /opt/BESClient/tools/scanner • Windows: C:\Program Files (x86)\BigFix Enterprise\BES Client\tools\scanner 	
BigFix Scanner WSCAN Cache	~100 MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linux: /var/opt/BESClient/tools/scanner/cache • Windows: C:\Program Files (x86)\BigFix Enterprise\BES Client\tools\scanner\cache 	When provider_cache2 is used.
BigFix Scanner Service Database 11.0.38.1 and higher	100MB - 500MB+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linux: /var/opt/BESClient/tools/scanner/db • Windows: C:\Program Files (x86)\BigFix Enterprise\BES Client\tools\scanner\db 	When BigFix Scanner Service is deployed.
BigFix Scanner: Logs	20 MB+ (100 MB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linux: /var/opt/BESClient/tools/scanner/logs • Windows: C:\Program Files (x86)\BigFix Enterprise\BES Client\tools\scanner\logs 	<p>Default configuration is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 logs, 1 MB each for WSCAN • 10 logs, 1 MB each for Service <p>For debug purposes there might be needed to collect more data.</p>

Figure 5: BigFix Inventory impact on BigFix Agent disk space

REFERENCES

Technical Documents

https://help.hcl-software.com/bigfix/landing/Technical+Documents/Landing_page_shared/Technical_Documents.html

BigFix Scanner Documentation

https://help.hcl-software.com/bigfix/11.0/BigFix_Scanner/BigFix_Scanner/BigFix_Scanner_welcome_page.html

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