

Release Notes

Miss Marple Agent

Version: 2.0

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1.1 Agent requirements

The following Miss Marple Agents are included in the standard functional scope:

Agent	Functionality	Supported platforms
Miss Marple Agent	<p>The Miss Marple Agent included starting with MMEE RC 1 is comprised of the following agents or services for the decentralized capture of client and server information and its transfer to a target directory.</p> <p>The Agent is provided as a local service on the client/server systems to be scanned; installation via setup is required.</p> <p>The Miss Marple Agent is available in the following two variants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Miss Marple Agent .Net 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For .Net 2-supported systems • Contains the Miss Marple Inventory Agent and the Miss Marple Metering Service ○ Miss Marple Agent .Net 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For .Net 4-supported systems • Contains Miss Marple Inventory Agent, the Miss Marple Metering Service, the Miss Marple Updater Service and the Miss Marple Server Agent modules 	<p>Important: The "Miss Marple Agent" cannot be installed on the same system together with the individual products "Miss Marple Inventory Agent," "Miss Marple Updater" or the "Miss Marple Metering Service."</p> <p>For Miss Marple Agent .Net 2: (.Net 2 Framework included as standard)</p> <p>Windows Server 2003 Windows Server 2008 SP 2 Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 Windows 7</p> <p>For Miss Marple Agent .Net 4: (.Net 4 Framework included as standard)</p> <p>Windows Server 2008 SP 2 Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 Windows Server 2012, 32- & 64-bit Windows Server 2012 R2, 32- & 64-bit Windows Server 2016, 32- & 64-bit Windows 8, 32- & 64-bit Windows 8.1, 32- & 64-bit Windows 10</p> <p>With additional installation of the corresponding .Net Framework, the agent can also be used on other systems.</p>

<p>Miss Marple Server Agents</p>	<p>Decentralized inventory of server applications (without remote access);</p> <p>available starting with MMEE 2016 RC1; included in Miss Marple Agent (see above); not available as separate module</p> <p>Supported systems</p> <p>Starting with RC1: SQL server and Active Directory</p> <p>Starting with RC2: Exchange Server</p> <p>Starting with RC4: Skype for Business, VMware, Hyper-V and SharePoint</p> <p>Starting with SP2: Oracle Server</p>	<p>.Net 4 Framework</p> <p>Windows Server 2008 SP 2</p> <p>Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1</p> <p>Windows Server 2012, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows Server 2012 R2, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows Server 2016, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows 8, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows 8.1, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows 10</p> <p>Additional dependencies depending on the server application (see Miss Marple Agent documentation)</p>
<p>Miss Marple Updater</p>	<p>Update Service for the distribution of updates and configurations to Miss Marple Agents and services (e.g. for Server Agents, Miss Marple Inventory and the Metering Service).</p> <p>Management of system groups and stages (e.g. for testing environments, SQL servers and similar); included in the Miss Marple Agent (see above); not available as a separate module</p>	<p>.Net 4 Framework</p> <p>Windows Server 2008 SP 2</p> <p>Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1</p> <p>Windows Server 2012, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows Server 2012 R2, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows Server 2016, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows 8, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows 8.1, 32- & 64-bit</p> <p>Windows 10</p>

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2 General information

This document describes all new developments of the Miss Marple Agent. The changes to each version are described in the following chapters. The changes to previous versions also apply for all subsequent versions.

It is not possible to migrate from Miss Marple Agent Version 1.XX to Version 2.XX.

3 Change history

3.1 New in Version 2.0

- » Implementation of different security topics

When transferring files from the Miss Marple Inventory Agent to the Server, a service endpoint can be used.

The Miss Marple Updater now uses asymmetric encryption to verify the distributed updates.

- » Proxy Server Support for file transfers via internet protocol (http (s), ftp)

3.2 New in Version 1.15

- » Bug fix: Miss Marple Metering Service

The registry keys will be released after reading the client name via the registry. The whole process can be disabled with the configuration option *metering.ReadRemoteMachineNameFromRegistry* (default: True)

- » Expansion of the Miss Marple Agent to include a Server Agent module for Oracle Server

The Miss Marple Agent has been expanded to include a new Server Agent module which inventories Oracle Server applications. In this way, license-relevant information can be recorded regularly in a highly automated way without having to access the server remotely.

The Inventory collects all license relevant informations for the hosts, features, options, parameters, users, and the deleted partitioned tables in the recycle bin.

Currently Oracle Server 10 or higher is supported.

3.3 New in version 1.14

- » Optimization of the inventory

The inventory has been optimized to improve the quality of the read out data.

3.4 New in version 1.13

- » Scanning virtual systems

Inventory using the Miss Marple Agent now also scans virtual systems of the virtualization providers VMware, Oracle and Microsoft Corp. on the scanned system. The results are saved in additional files.

- » Optimization of the Miss Marple Server Agent technology

Logging, SharePoint, MMA etc.

- » Bug fix: The updater now checks for updates every day

The interval at which the updater checks for new updates can now be set to values less than 24 days.

3.5 New in version 1.12

- » Support for the Internet protocol IPv6

Inventory via the Miss Marple Windows Agent has been expanded to include support for IPv6 addresses. In addition to IPv4, IPv6 addresses can also be read out. You can also configure in the Start Center whether IPv4 or IPv6 is to be preferred.

- » Data inheritance for Autodesk registry and SWID tags

The Miss Marple Windows Agent now encompasses additional information from the Autodesk registry as well as existing software ID tags. The data read out there is imported as license data and displayed in the "License data" area of Asset Management.

- » Scanning Windows apps

During the inventory process, Windows apps can now also be scanned.

3.6 New in version 1.11

- » Metering access to virtual environments (VDI)

The Miss Marple Agent has been expanded, and the accessing of virtual Windows client systems (VDI) by client systems has been inventoried.

- » Expansion of inventory to include the automatic identification of mobile devices

The inventory of Miss Marple Enterprise Edition now automatically records whether a scanned asset is to be classified as a mobile device using hardware information. This information can be relevant for the detailed consideration of special use rights, such as for the secondary use right of MS Office 2010 and for parallel installation on one mobile and one non-mobile device.

- » Expansion of the Miss Marple Agent to include a Server Agent module for Skype for Business

The Miss Marple Agent has been expanded to include a new Server Agent module which inventories Skype for Business server applications. In this way, license-relevant information can be recorded regularly in a highly automated way without having to access the server remotely.

The result is a complete list of Skype for Business users and specification of the required Standard, Plus and Enterprise CALs for each user. Module support for the versions Lync 2010, Lync 2013 and Skype for Business 2015 is tested.

- » Expansion of the Miss Marple Agent to include a Server Agent module for SharePoint

The Miss Marple Agent has been expanded to include a new Server Agent module which inventories SharePoint server applications. In this way, license-relevant information can be recorded regularly in a highly automated way without having to access the server remotely.

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The result is a complete list of SharePoint users and specification of the required Standard and Enterprise CALs of each user, as well as information on the available sites. Module support for the versions SharePoint 2010 and 2013 is tested.

- » Expansion of the Miss Marple Agent to include a Server Agent module for VMware

The Miss Marple Agent has been expanded to include a new Server Agent module which inventories VMware hosts. In this way, license-relevant information can be recorded regularly in a highly automated way without having to access the server remotely.

The result is a complete list of all host and guest systems, including their usage.

- » Expansion of the Miss Marple Agent to include a Server Agent module for Hyper-V

The Miss Marple Agent has been expanded to include a new Server Agent module which inventories Hyper-V hosts. In this way, license-relevant information can be recorded regularly in a highly automated way without having to access the server remotely.

The result is a complete list of all host and guest systems, including their usage and information on live migration.

Module support for the 2012 versions is tested. This function is only partially available under 2008 and 2008 R2.

- » Optimization of the module configuration for Server Agents: Storing and managing authorizations centrally

The Miss Marple Agent modules do not require administration rights to the instances to be scanned, as they run as a local system. This also preserves the security of your IT infrastructure. The local authorization required for the individual Server Agent modules can now be conveniently stored and managed centrally. A new model enables the creation and configuration of a credentials file for the Miss Marple Agent and the Server Agent modules contained within it. Access information (user name, encrypted password, server type and server name) can be stored in this credentials file and modified centrally at any time. The credentials file can also be conveniently shared via Miss Marple Updater. In this way, administration of the Miss Marple Server Agents occurs with even less expenditure.

- » Expansion of the Miss Marple Agent to include reading out the Unicode for correct conveyance of application and system names, including in non-Latin alphabets (e.g. Cyrillic, Chinese etc.)

Unicode is an international standard in which a digital code for every meaningful character and text element of all known literate cultures and sign systems is specified over the long term. By expanding the inventory process to include Unicode information, the basis of multilingual inventory and identification of applications was created. After this inventory, the database contains the correctly represented names in the original writing system of the inventoried object and the user interface of the standard client represents it in a similar way.

After a corresponding adjustment of the software catalog entry, software product names from other character systems can then also be translated to and displayed in Asset and License

Management in characters familiar to the user. This makes it possible to identify the same applications, despite a different system language, when inventorying international IT structures.

Note: *The prerequisite for this is the use of the latest inventory technology supplied with Miss Marple Enterprise Edition RC4. If an interface to a third system is available, it may also need to be adapted.*

- » Bilingual setup of the Miss Marple Agent (English and German)

Setup of the Miss Marple Agent is now available in two languages, English and German. When the EXE file is executed, the setup language (German or English) suitable for the system is suggested automatically.

Note: *The MSI file is created in English. If it is called up manually (e.g. via CMD), the language attribute may need to be actively transferred for the German version.*

3.7 New in version 1.10

- » Expanded software inventory taking

The Miss Marple Inventory Agent also records the language of the operating systems and programs selected during installation. This information is currently not displayed in the user interface.

3.8 New in version 1.9

- » Data transfer technology of the Miss Marple Agent expanded

The data transfer technology of the Miss Marple Agent and the Miss Marple Updater was expanded. To transfer inventory data from the client to the Miss Marple server, the protocols ftp (port 21), http (port 80) and https (port 443), as well as CIFS/SMB (file sharing), are now supported.

- » Optimized overview and differentiation of agent setups in the directory

All agent setup files were renamed from SETUP.EXE to their respective product names (PRODUCTNAME.EXE).

- » Start process of the Miss Marple Updater optimized

The start time of the Updater Service was optimized. Systems on which this service is installed thus start considerably faster than before this adjustment.

- » Optimized encryption of passwords in the Miss Marple Agent

A new silent parameter optimizes password encryption. The respective encrypted parameter can thus also be used instead of a plain text password.

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- » Miss Marple Inventory Agent transfer supports all file extensions

File extensions can be configured as desired for transfer via a ZIP file using the Miss Marple Inventory Agent. Thus files from customer-specific adaptations, in addition to standard files, can be transferred trouble-free.

- » Centralized saving of log files

For improved error analysis processes, the option for centralized saving of log files can be activated in the Miss Marple Agent setup. This enables possible sources of error to be identified faster and more easily.

- » Bug fix: Optimized identification of known SQL instances

The Miss Marple Server Agent identifies individual SQL instances (without an SQL server), even if a name has been assigned to them.

3.9 New in version 1.8

- » Silent parameter: Organizational unit (OU) scan

With a silent Miss Marple Agent installation, you can configure whether the allocation to an organizational unit (organizational structure) is to be scanned for each asset. ScanOU

3.10 New in version 1.6

- » Increased security for data transfer

A separate service account can be used to transfer information created by the Miss Marple Agent. In this way, access to the network release can be restricted, which thus also increases system security.

3.11 New in version 1.5

- » Configuration of the working directory

All files written by the Miss Marple Agent (log, transfer, metering output etc.) are stored in a common working directory configurable in setup.

- » Expanded information acquisition using Miss Marple Inventory

Data inheritance via Miss Marple Inventory was expanded to include the following attributes:

- › Additional processor data: threads, manufacturer, hyperthreading
- › Installation date (uninstall)
- › Scanning of the hosts of virtual guest systems (under Microsoft Hyper-V)

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» Miss Marple Agent: Support for the .Net2 and .Net4 Frameworks

In its full extent, the Miss Marple Agent requires that a .Net4 Framework be installed. To support systems without this version of the framework as well, the Miss Marple Agent is also available in a version for systems with the .Net2 Framework.

- › "Miss Marple Agent .Net2" for .Net2-supporting systems includes the Miss Marple Inventory Agent (Inventory.bat) and the optionally installable Miss Marple Metering Service.
- › "Miss Marple Agent .Net4" for .Net4-supporting systems includes the Miss Marple Inventory Agent (Inventory.bat) and the optionally installable Miss Marple Metering Service, the new Miss Marple Updater Service (see above for explanation) and the optional Miss Marple Server Agent modules for SQL, Exchange Server and the Active Directory.

» Scanning of Exchange Servers by a Server Agent

The Miss Marple Agent was functionally expanded to include the inventory taking of Exchange Servers through a local installation (i.e. dispensing with remote access). The Miss Marple Agent must be installed on an Exchange Server for this purpose. The collected information is transferred as a ZIP file via http, https, ftp or ftps to the Miss Marple server.

In this way, license-relevant server information can be recorded automatically, stored in Asset Management and kept up-to-date. By dispensing with direct connections (remote inventory), system security is supported to a great extent.

Note: For comprehensive use and evaluation of the recorded server information within Miss Marple Asset and License Management, the respective server optimization pack for Exchange Servers must be licensed.

- » Centralized configuration and distribution of updates: The new Miss Marple Updater

The new Update Service (Miss Marple Updater) included in the Miss Marple Agent serves to update individual Miss Marple services, such as the server agent, Miss Marple Inventory and the Metering Service. Configurations and updates can be distributed from a central location to defined stages (system groups). The decentralized inventory approach of the agent framework is thus expanded to include the advantages of centralized administration.

3.12 New in version 1.3

- » Scanning of SQL servers by a Server Agent

The Miss Marple Agent was functionally expanded to include the inventory taking of SQL servers through a local installation, i.e. without remote access. The Miss Marple Agent must be installed on an Exchange Server for this purpose. The recorded information is transferred as a ZIP file via http, https or file sharing to the Miss Marple server.

In this way, license-relevant server information can be recorded automatically, stored in Asset Management and kept up-to-date. By dispensing with direct connections (remote inventory), system security is supported to a great extent.

Note: For comprehensive use and evaluation of the recorded server information within Miss Marple Asset and License Management, the respective server optimization pack for SQL servers must be licensed.

- » Reading out of LDAP data by an agent

The Miss Marple Agent was functionally expanded to include reading out information from LDAP data. This could be personal data or host configurations, for example. In this way, asset and user information can be inventoried even more comprehensively.

By dispensing with remote access and the bundling of information into individual transfers as ZIP files via http, https, ftp or ftps, system security is supported to a great extent.

- » Expanded data protection for metering information

Activating the new "ShowNoTime" function suppresses times of day starting when the metering information is recorded. This ensures an even greater degree of information restriction in the sense of data protection up to the raw data level.

- » Silent setups: New parameters (LICENSEAGREE=ACCEPT)

If agents of the Miss Marple Enterprise Edition are installed via silent setup, the LICENSEAGREE=ACCEPT parameter must be set. This accepts the license conditions of amando software GmbH.

- » Bug fix: Importing file names from the inventory of programs (EXE) via MMLKHI

The MMLKHI is a component used for system inventory. It scans the installed software and searches for programs (EXE) on the hard drive. During the file scan, the date of the last time this file was used is also read out. If the file names of the scanned programs (EXE) were too long, error messages were output. Importing can now occur without error regardless of the file name length.

3.13 New in version 1.2

- » New: The Miss Marple Agent

The Miss Marple Agent is a pack supplied as part of the standard scope comprised of various agents and services for the inventory of client and server systems. The installation and configuration of these agents and services are carried out conveniently using a common setup. In this version, it includes the Miss Marple Inventory Agent and the Miss Marple Metering Service. The Miss Marple Metering Service can be installed as an optional service.

The agent framework enables highly comprehensive inventory taking without stressing system security through direct access. Thus now even more client and server systems can be scanned and data imported fully automatically into Miss Marple in a decentralized way.

Note: The individual agents and modules for inventory taking are still also available as individual products. The "Miss Marple Agent" cannot, however, be installed on the same system together with the individual products "Miss Marple Inventory Agent" or the "Miss Marple Metering Service."

4 Known restrictions

The following limitations are to be kept in mind when using the latest version of the Miss Marple Agent.

4.1 Restriction on Hyper-V inventory using the Miss Marple Agent

The Miss Marple Agent interface to Hyper-V is supported under Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2008 R2, but is subject to restrictions. Full functionality is not provided until Windows Server version 2012.

4.2 Restriction in device inventory

Inventory using the Miss Marple Agent cannot scan printers or scanners. For this reason, only monitors can be recorded automatically as part of device management.

5 Support information

If you have further questions or require support, please contact our Support team:

Miss Marple Service desk

You can reach our service hotline at:



Telephone: **+49 (0) 180 / 501 44 45**

(14 ct/min from German landline, max. 42 ct/min from German mobile network, calls from abroad can be significantly more expensive)

E-Mail: support-mmee@comparex.com

Current information on all aspects of Miss Marple is provided on our homepage at:

www.comparex-group.com