Linux Extension for AIDA64

User manual

v 1.0

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Linux Extension for AIDA64 is developed by Szilveszter Tóth, on behalf of ABSEIRA Ltd., the international distributor of the AIDA64 product family.

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1   INTRODUCTION

Developed for the business editions of the AIDA64 product family, Linux Extension for AIDA64 is a tool that enables companies to collect audit reports from their Linux-based clients. It can create a hardware and software inventory of networked Linux PCs in a format that AIDA64 Business and AIDA64 Network Audit can import into their database. It is not necessary to install Linux Extension for AIDA64 on each client separately, as the application can be run from a central shared folder. The software can be easily deployed in a corporate environment following the instructions in the Setup Guide, which is downloadable from our website.

1.1   SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Operating system: Linux kernel 2.6 or newer

Processor: Intel Pentium or newer

Memory: 32 MB or more

Available hard drive space required for installation: less than 5 MB

The program is completely vendor-independent and is compatible with all PCs. As far as the available functions are concerned, it is irrelevant if we run AIDA64 on a server or client operating system.

Further requirements:

- lshw package version is B.02.16 or later

- libc6 libraries (recommended)

- root credentials for running the program (recommended)

- iconv package (language-dependent)

If we need complete reports, we must run the program with root privileges. When run with lower credentials, the application does not have access to all hardware and software information, and, as a result, it can only create incomplete reports with notably fewer details.

The static version of the program contains most of the required libc6 libraries, but we only recommend using this on servers where libc6 installation is not possible.

1.2 FUNCTIONS

Using Linux Extension for AIDA64, we can collect reports – even automatically, if required - from Linux-based clients in a format that AIDA64 Business and AIDA64 Network Audit can import into their database to make a complete hardware and software inventory of all networked PCs at the company. The product can also be helpful when we purchase new systems and want to make sure that the purchased computers contain all the components we ordered.

Automated network inventory

Using command-line options, Linux Extension for AIDA64 can automatically collect hardware and software information from the PC fleet connected to the company network. The data collected from individual computers can be saved to CSV report files. The collected reports – together with the information gathered directly from Windows clients – are processed by AIDA64 Audit Manager, which can also provide network audit statistics and diagrams on hardware and software distribution-

Hardware detection

Linux Extension for AIDA64 uses lshw to provide information on the hardware configuration of PCs.

Software analysis

The software lists running processes, services and installed programs.

1.3 USER INTERFACE

Not having a graphical user interface, the program can be launched with terminal commands.

```
root@ubuntu12:/srv/share/AIDA64# ./aida64_x64 -e -l log.log -o /srv/share/reports/
root@ubuntu12:/srv/share/AIDA64# _
```

2   REPORT

Managing an inventory of hardware and software updates for an entire PC fleet on paper or even in Excel would require a lot of hard work and time. However, Linux Extension for AIDA64 can provide a very detailed inventory of all the hardware and software components in a PC, create a report of these (even automatically, if required) and send these reports to any selected computer or server. From there, all the system administrator needs to do is thumb through the reports and solve any potential problems.

2.1   CREATING REPORTS

Creating reports with Linux Extension for AIDA64 is easy. We just need to select the file corresponding to the used computer architecture, and then add the command-line options after the file: "./aida64 [options]".

Linux Extension for AIDA64 saves reports as CSV files as this format can be easily processed or imported to a database.

We need to make sure that reports are created in the same language! For example, if we have created reports in Hungarian but would like to change the report language to English, it is recommended to store the new reports separately from those previously generated as otherwise Change Manager will detect changes in almost all data.

2.1.1   COMMAND-LINE OPTIONS

- -h
  A brief description of supported command-line options (available only in English).

- -d
  Debug mode. Saves lshw debug information into an XML file in the current (or specified) directory. It is recommended to use it together with "-l".

- -l <filename>
  Writes all messages to a log file.

- -e
  Logs empty/unknown items. It is recommended to use it together with "-d".

- -o <path>
  Specifies the output directory.

- -g <language>
  Selects the report language. The specified language file has to be present in the /lng directory. The default language is "en" (English).

- -x <filename>
  Instead of running lswh, loads the XML file created previously by lswh.

- -n <hostname>
  Uses the specified hostname in the report. To be used together with "-x".
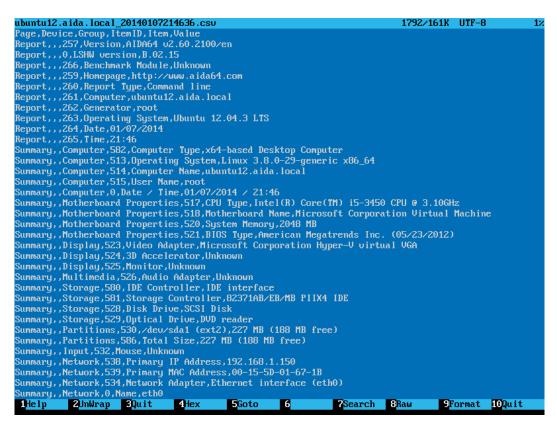
- -s <days>
  The number specified here determines the frequency of report creation in days. The default value is 0 (no scheduling). The program stores the last report creation date in a file (aida64_last_report) in the /tmp directory.

2.1.2 COMMAND-LINE OPTION EXAMPLES

- ./aida64_x64 -g hu
  Searches for the language file „/lng/hu.lng", and if it is available, it loads the Hungarian language file and then creates the report in Hungarian.

- ./aida64_x64 -d -e -l error.log
  Logs the errors in the log file "error.log".

- ./aida64_x64 -o /srv/reports/
  Saves the report to the specified /srv/reports directory.

- ./aida64_x64 -x /srv/lshw.xml -n Office-debian
  Converts the XML file created by LSHW to a CSV file, using the "Office-debian" hostname for the report.

- ./aida64_x64 -s 1
  Creates only one report per day, no matter how many times we run the program on the given day.

2.2 REPORT REVIEW

The program allows us to review the created CSV reports, however, this is not a user-friendly format.

If we need a human-readable format or want to process the reports, we need to convert them to HTML or import them into a database using AIDA64 Business or AIDA64 Network Audit. Manually, we can add reports to the report database in AIDA64 Database Manager, or we can automate the process using the Task Scheduler in Windows, in which we need to use the command-line option "/CSV2SQL <folder>".

3   REPORT CONTENTS

Summary

It gives a summary of the computer's hardware configuration, including information about the motherboard, displays, multimedia devices, storage devices, volumes, input devices, network, peripheral devices and the DMI.

Computer name

The host name as well as its NetBIOS and DNS names of the PC are listed here.

DMI

Desktop Management Interface (DMI) information, as defined in the SMBIOS specification, is listed here, such as details about the BIOS, motherboard, processor, memory controllers, port connectors and system slots.

CPU

Processor details are provided here.

Memory

Memory information, including physical and virtual memory, swap file size and Physical Address Extension (PAE), is provided here.

Operating system

Detailed operating system information is listed here, including installation date, uptime statistics and the version number of operating system components.

Processes

All running processes are listed here together with their properties.

Logical Drives

Available local and network drives with information about the file system, total size, free space and volume serial are listed here.

Routes

The defined TCP/IP network routes are listed here.

Installed programs

The programs installed on the operating system are listed here.

4   HELP

Using the command-line option-h, Linux Extension for AIDA64 will display all available command-line switches with a brief description for each. These provide customization options for network inventory and automatic report creation. This information is only available in English in the program.

```
Usage: aida64_x64 [options]

Options:
        -h               show this help
        -d               debug mode
        -l <filename>    write all messages to log file
        -e               log empty/unknown items
        -o <path>        output directory
        -g <lngcode>     select language (language file must exist!)
        -x <filename>    load xml file created by lshw
        -n <hostname>    this hostname will be used in report
        -s <days>        minimum number of days between reports, default: 0 (off)
```

Language

The language file is a simple text file containing key-value pairs. Besides the language-dependent settings, it includes error messages and category names used in the reports.

Contact

For technical support, please write to us (support@abseira.com), and attach the XML, CSV and LOG files the program creates when it is launched by the following command: "aida64 -d -e -l report.log".

License

This Linux software, which is an optional tool for AIDA64 Business and AIDA64 Network Audit, is developed by ABSEIRA Ltd. It can be downloaded for free from the official AIDA64 website.

Linux Extension for AIDA64 is a closed source software. Its license allows end users to run the program, but prohibits the modification, reverse-engineering and distribution of the source code.

Note: Even though we can create reports of an unlimited number of Linux-based PCs using Linux Extension for AIDA64, AIDA64 Audit Manager, Database Manager and Change Manager cannot handle more computers than the number of clients specified in the product license.

5   CONTACT

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ABSEIRA Ltd. is the international distributor of the AIDA64 product family.

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