

Knowledgebase Article

Network Inventory Quick Start Guide

© Copyright 2001-2009 EMCO Software

What is EMCO Network Inventory

EMCO Network Inventory is an advanced, easy to use tool that helps systems administrators get up-to-date information about the hardware and software available on computers in the office Local Area Network (LAN) or Wide Area Network (WAN). Using EMCO Network Inventory, you can quickly scan all the computers in your network and generate a report about the hardware and software installed on the computers. You can also keep track of application licenses on all the computers in your network.

EMCO Network Inventory 5 performs fast and comprehensive PC hardware inventory and software audits with very little load on the network, it is low priced and very easy to use.

EMCO Network Inventory can help you answer such questions as:

- ▣ How many computers in your network are running MS Vista?
- ▣ Which computers are still running WinXP and have less than 1GB RAM?
- ▣ On which computers is Photoshop CS3 installed and how much did you spend for it?
- ▣ Do you need more software licenses or do you have enough?
- ▣ How much extra hardware would you need if you were to change the operating system?
- ▣ Are there any unwanted files like .mp3 or .avi files and who has them?
- ▣ Is there any adware or spyware on any of the machines in the network?

EMCO Network Inventory is one of the most popular inventory tools in the market. It is being used by industrial leaders, small businesses, governments, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.

Main Features of EMCO Network Inventory

Using EMCO Network Inventory, you can -

- ▣ Collect information about the hardware on computers in your network, such as the processor, memory, motherboard, video card, monitor, etc.
- ▣ Collect information about the Operating System and Service Packs installed on computers in your network.
- ▣ Automatically add new machines into the database using the Auto-Fetch schedule.
- ▣ Scan computers by using a specific domain name or a range of IP addresses.
- ▣ Get a list of installed applications and hotfixes, running processes and services, etc.
- ▣ Perform custom scans using user-defined specifications.
- ▣ Store all scanned information in a database.
- ▣ Search the registry of any machine on the network for a specific key or value.
- ▣ Keep track of all purchased software licenses, and calculate the number of licenses required for installed applications, taking versions into account.
- ▣ Compare the number of required licenses against available licenses.
- ▣ Automatically calculate license costs.
- ▣ Identify changes that may have occurred in licenses between networks or at different times on the same network.
- ▣ Generate print-ready reports in one of the following formats: PDF, HTML, RTF, JPEG, or plain text.
- ▣ Customize the information to be included in the reports.
- ▣ Create pie charts, bar charts or line charts from the collected data.
- ▣ Export data to Microsoft Excel.

Installing on the Local Machine

EMCO Network Inventory needs to be installed on just one machine in your network.

When you install EMCO Network Inventory, two stub files are also installed. Use these stub files to collect information from Windows 9.x and NT machines.



See "Installing on Remote Computers" for more details about using the stub files.

To install EMCO Network Inventory on the local machine:

1. Double-click on the Network Inventory setup exe file that you have downloaded from the EMCO Network Inventory Downloads page.



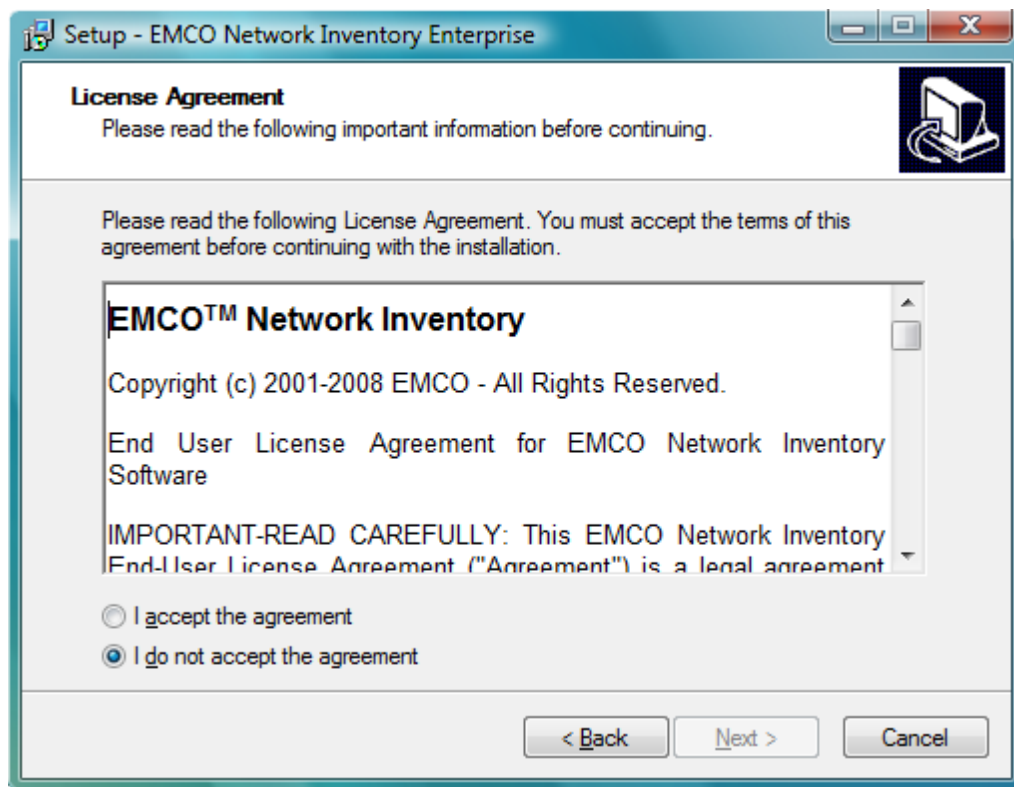
The setup file for EMCO Network Inventory Enterprise Edition is networkinventoryentsetup.exe, and for the Professional Edition it is networkinventoryprosetup.exe, and for The Starter Edition is networkinventorystartersetup.exe



If you have downloaded the archived setup file, you will have to first extract the above-named setup exe file from the zip file that you have downloaded.

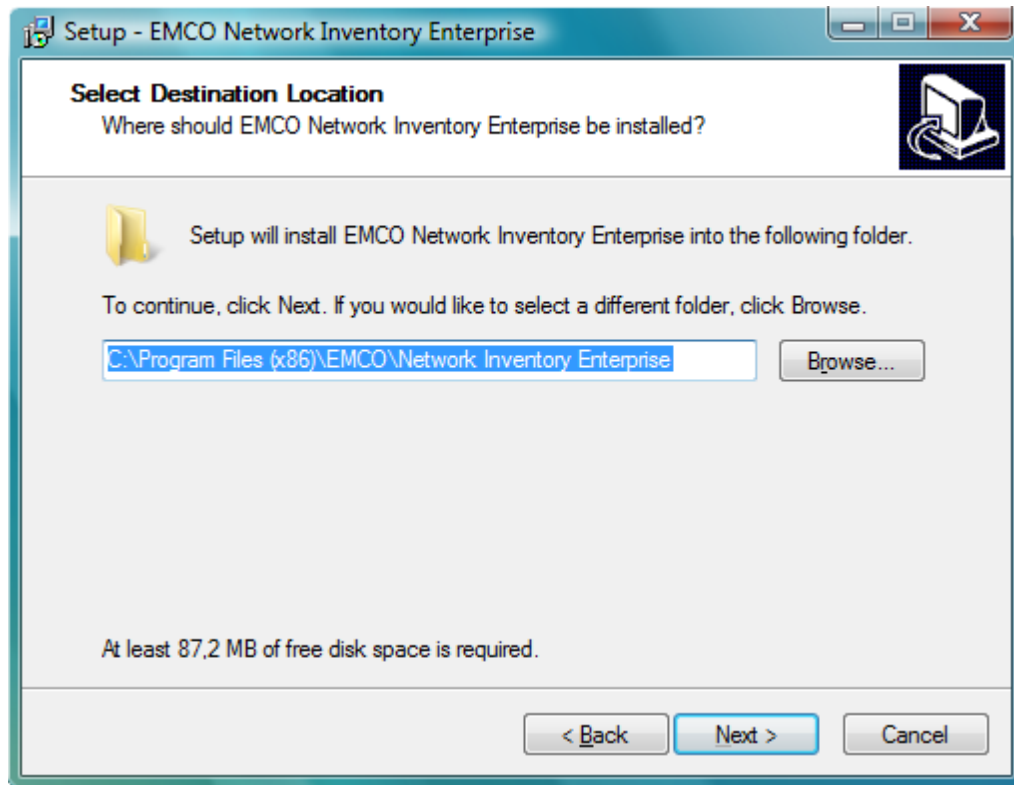
2. On the first screen of the setup program, click Next.

The License Agreement will be displayed.



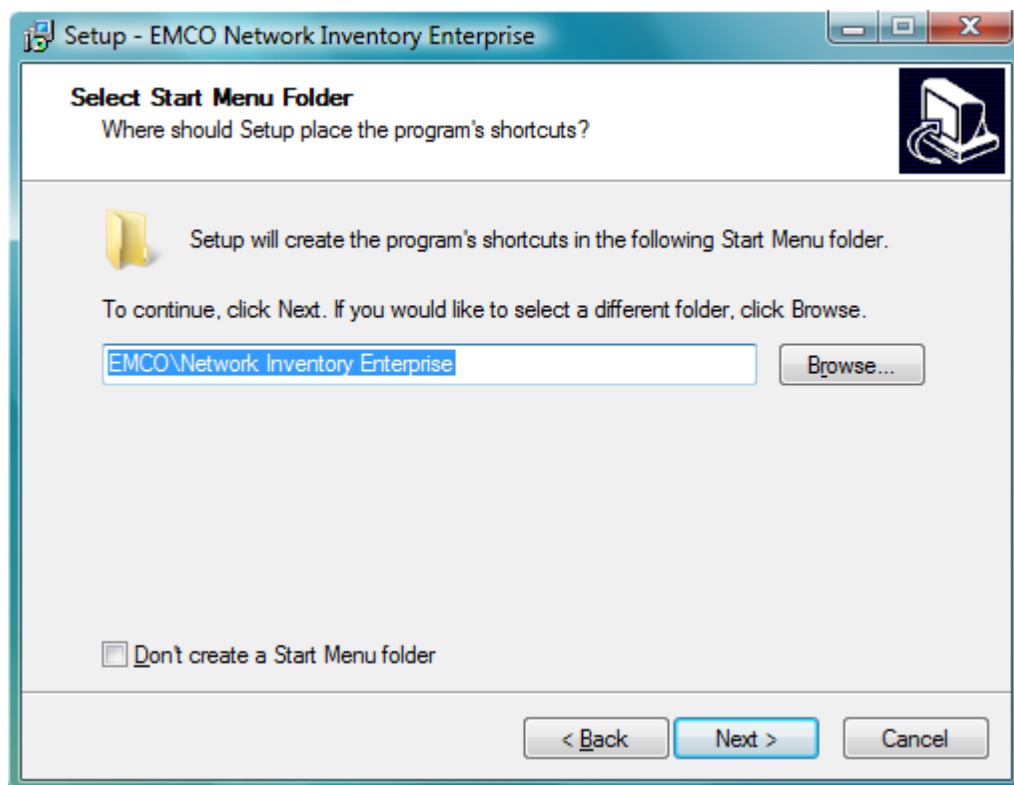
The EMCO Network Inventory License Agreement

3. Click on I accept the agreement and then click Next.



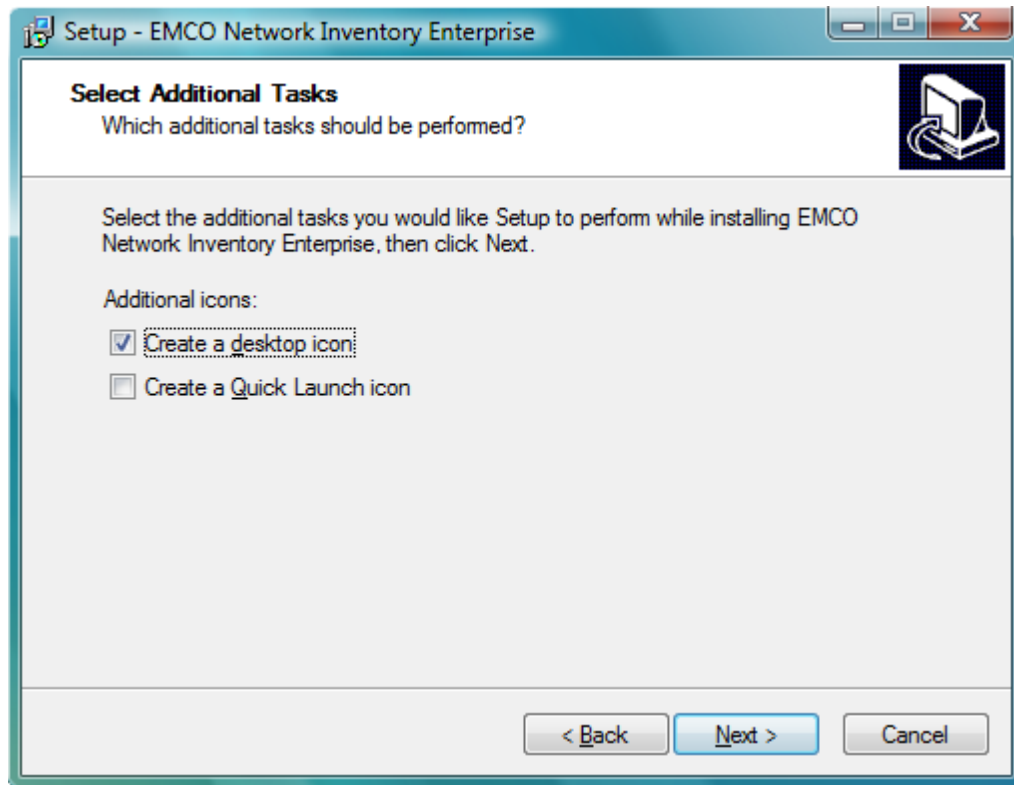
Select Destination Location

4. Click Next.



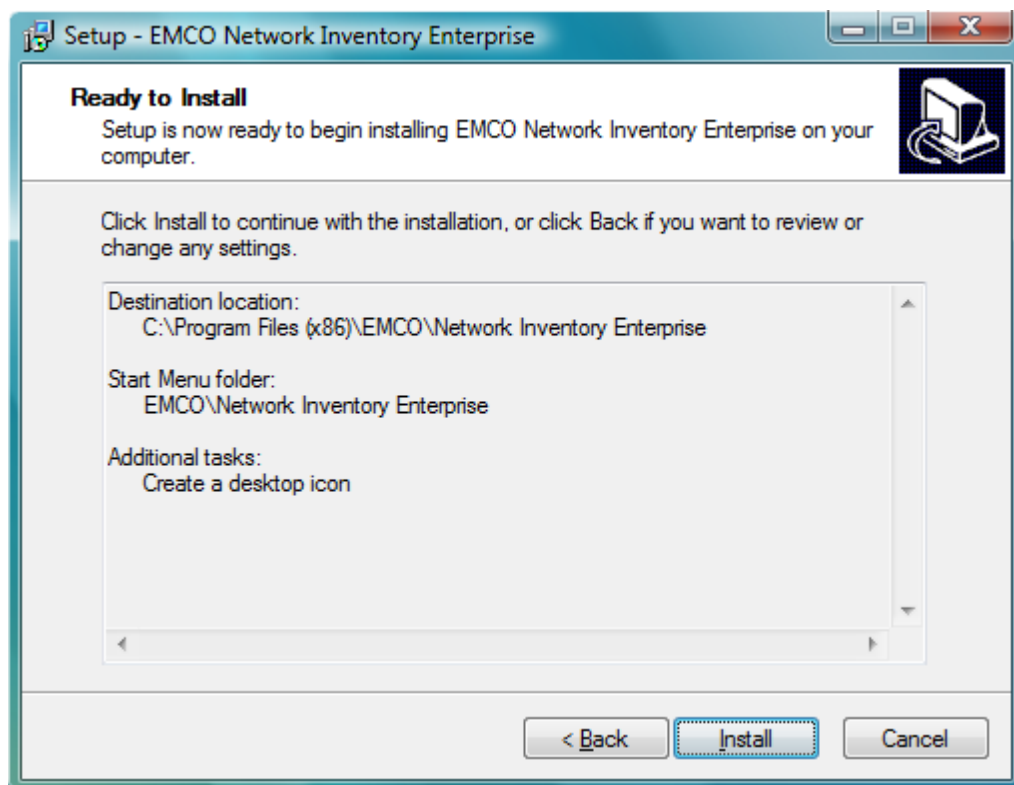
Select Start Menu Folder

5. Click Next.



Select Additional Tasks

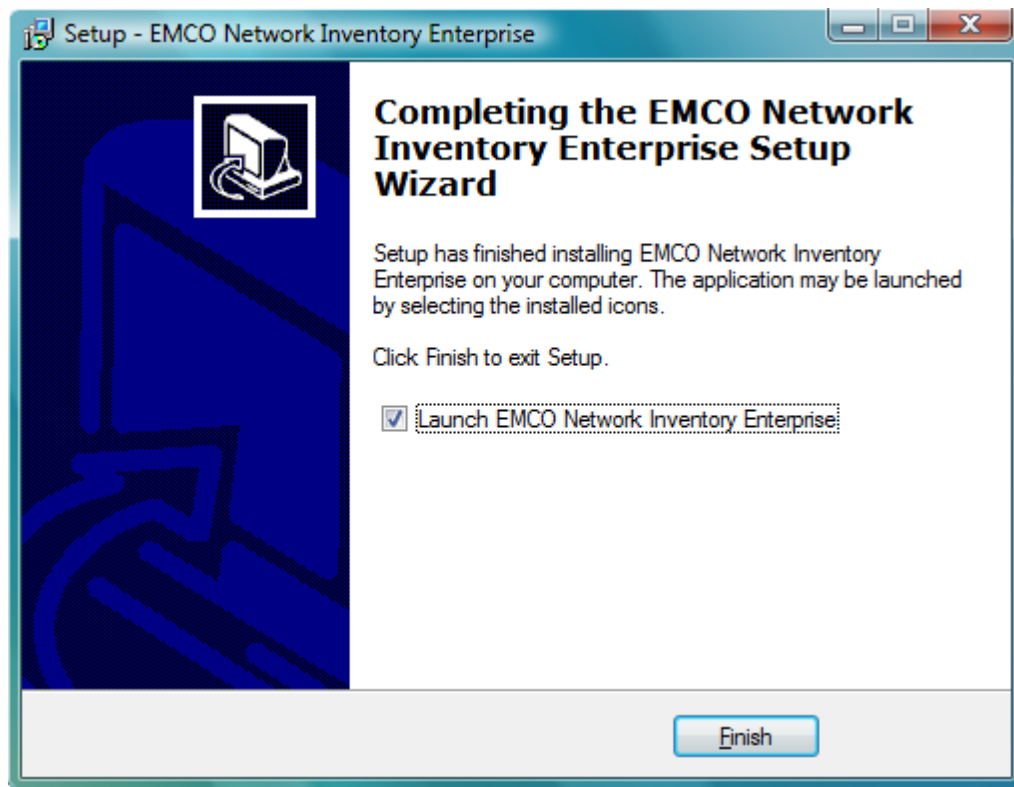
6. Click Next.



Setup Summary

7. Click Install.

The EMCO Network Inventory program will be installed to the desired location. Once the program is installed the following screen is displayed.



Completing the EMCO Network Inventory Setup

8. Click Finish to complete the installation. If you have selected the Launch EMCO Network Inventory check box, the EMCO Network Inventory is launched.

Installing on Remote Computers

It is not necessary to install EMCO Network Inventory on every machine in your network. Instead, EMCO provides special programs called stub analyzers to collect information from Win9x and NT machines. To use these stub analyzers, you need to copy the relevant stub analyzer files to the Win9x and NT machines and execute them. When you execute the stub analyzer on a computer, it collects the information about that computer and stores it in a file called <MACHINE NAME>.mdax5x (where <MACHINE NAME> is the name of the computer on which the stub analyzer is executed). You can then import this information into EMCO Network Inventory for charting, reporting and printing.



You should run these stub analyzers individually on each machine to collect the information of that machine, because if there is concurrent access for the data folder by more than one machine, it can corrupt the information and the data will not be consistent.

To use a stub analyzer:

1. Create a temporary folder on the computer that you want to scan.
2. From the C:\Program Files\EMCO\Network Inventory Enterprise\Stubs folder, copy the relevant stub analyzer file—MInfo9x.exe for a Win9x machine, or MInfoNT.exe for a WinNT machine—and the Options.ini and Default.csc5x files and paste them into this temporary folder.
3. If necessary, configure the Options.ini file to match your requirements.
4. Run the stub analyzer file—MInfo9x.exe or MInfoNT.exe. The stub analyzer will collect the information about the computer and store it in the <MACHINE NAME>.mdax5x file.
5. On the local machine, start EMCO Network Inventory, and import the scan data from the <MACHINE NAME>.mdax5x file.

The following table describes the commands you can use in the Options.ini file:

Command	Description	
UseDirectory=	Set this to 1 if you want the scan results should be stored in a folder. Otherwise, set this to 0 (zero).	UseDirectory=1
Directory=	Specify the name of the folder in which to store the scan results. This is used only if you have set 'UseDirectory' to 1.	Directory=c:\Temp
RunOnce=	Set this to 1 if you want to run the stub analyzer only once. Otherwise, set this to 0 (zero). RunOnce will only execute the stub if no data exists for the machine.	RunOnce=0
AllData=	If you set AllData to 0, specify what information you want to scan by setting the corresponding command to 1.	AllData=1



ShareAccess, NetworkPrinters, HotFixes, and UserAccounts are not available in Win9x.

Command	Default Value
BasicInfo=	BasicInfo=0
OSDescription=	OSDescription=0
WMIInfo=	WMIInfo=0
UseWMIforPhysicalMemory=	UseWMIforPhysicalMemory=0
DigitalProductID=	DigitalProductID=0
OfficeDigitalProductID=	OfficeDigitalProductID=0
InstalledApps=	InstalledApps=0
CustomScans=	CustomScans=0
Shares=	Shares=0
ShareAccess=	ShareAccess=0
Printers=	Printers=0
NetworkPrinters=	NetworkPrinters=0
MappedDrives=	MappedDrives=0
DiskInfo=	DiskInfo=0
CdromDrives=	CdromDrives=1
Processes=	Processes=0
StartupCommands=	StartupCommands=0
ProgramFolders=	ProgramFolders=0
Processors=	Processors=0
NetworkCards=	NetworkCards=0
EnvironmentalVars=	EnvironmentalVars=0
UserEnvVars=	UserEnvVars=0
Services=	Services=0
MemoryBanks=	MemoryBanks=0
DataSourcesODBC=	DataSourcesODBC=0
UserDataSourcesODBC=	UserDataSourcesODBC=0
HotFixes=	HotFixes=0

ScheduledTasks=	ScheduledTasks=0
Fonts=	Fonts=0

i There is no need to use the stub analyzers if your computers are operating under Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP Pro or Windows Vista SP1, and you have the required ports open. EMCO Network Inventory can directly scan computers that use these operating systems.

Getting Started with EMCO Network Inventory

In this section, we shall see how to -

- ▣ Start EMCO Network Inventory.
- ▣ Scan the network for data.
- ▣ View reports.
- ▣ Export the collected data to Excel.

Starting EMCO Network Inventory

To start EMCO Network Inventory:

1. Click Start > All Programs > EMCO > Network Inventory Enterprise > Network Inventory Enterprise.

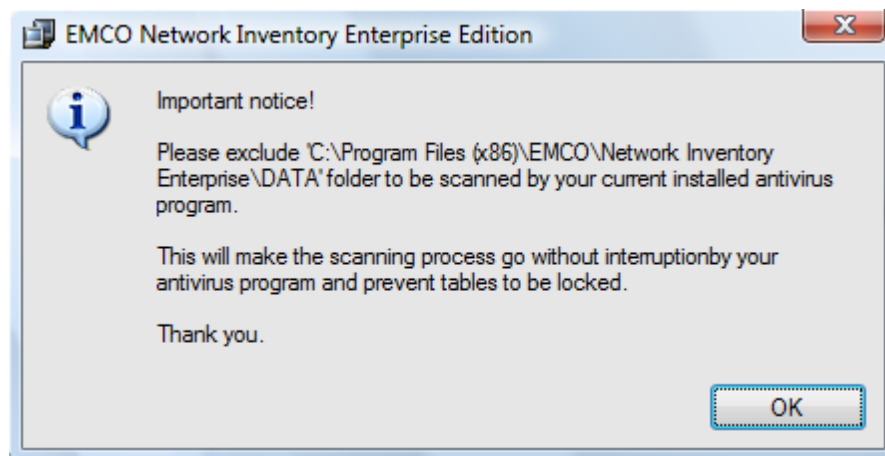
i If you have installed the Professional version of Network Inventory, you will have to select Start > All Programs > EMCO > Network Inventory Professional > Network Inventory Professional in the above menu.

If you have installed the Starter version of Network Inventory, you will have to select Start > All Programs > EMCO > Network Inventory Starter > Network Inventory Starter in the above menu.

OR

1. Double-click on the EMCO Network Inventory icon on your desktop.

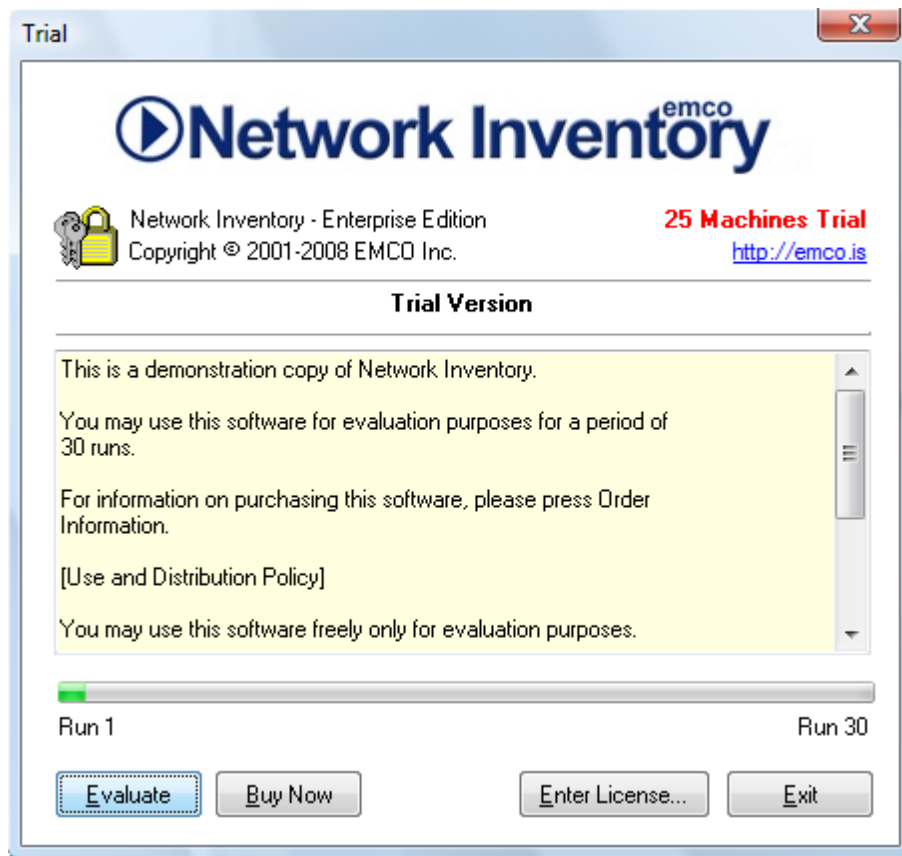
i If this is the first time you are running EMCO Network Inventory, the following message will be displayed:



Note down the folder name that is displayed in the message. EMCO Network Inventory will not be able to function properly if any other program tries to access the DATA folder. Therefore, you should exclude the DATA folder from your anti-virus scans. (Refer to your anti-virus program's user guide for more information on excluding folders from scans.)

After noting down the folder name, click OK to close the dialog box.

2. If you have not yet activated your copy of EMCO Network Inventory, the Trial dialog is displayed on the screen.



Closing EMCO Network Inventory

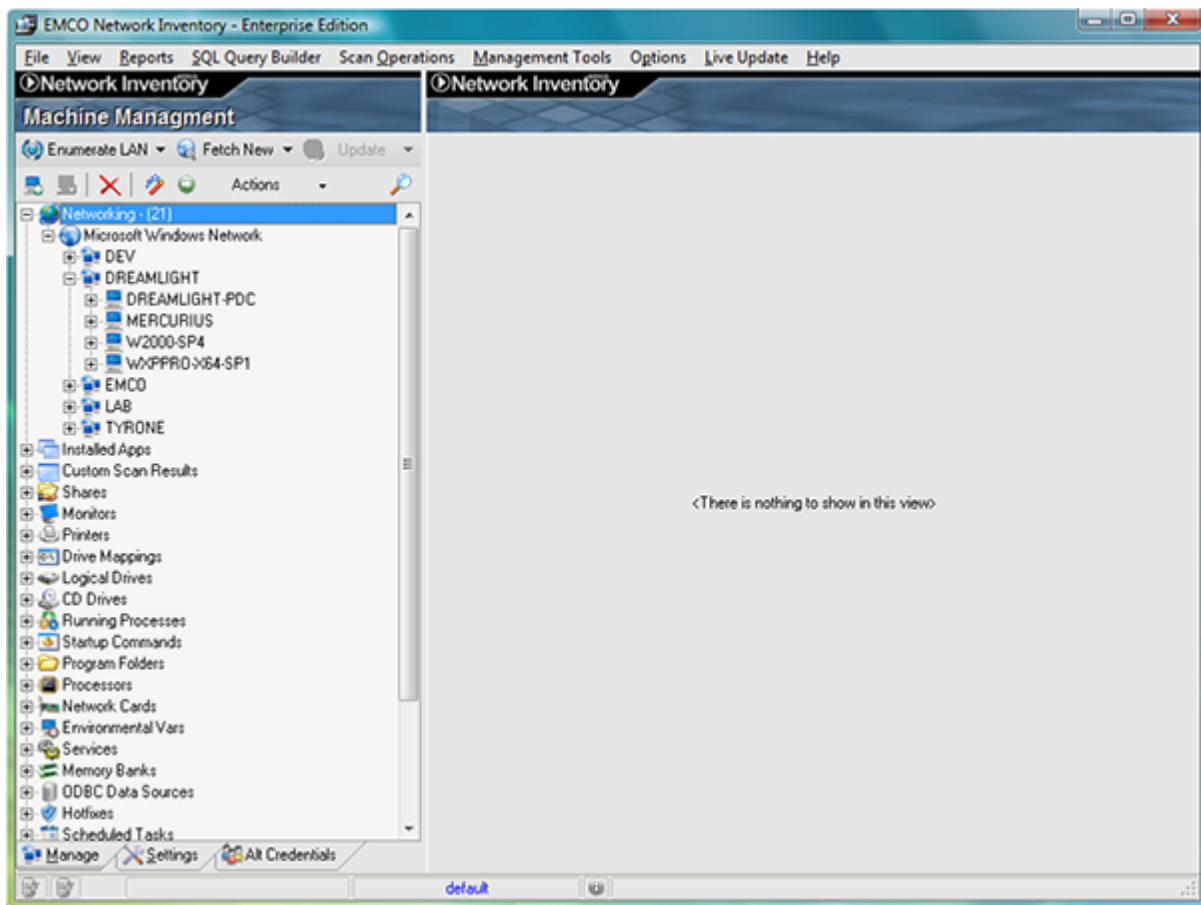
To close EMCO Network Inventory:

- ▣ Click File > Exit.

OR

- ▣ Click Close button at the topright hand corner of the EMCO Network Inventory program window.

The Main Screen



The Main EMCO Network Inventory Screen

Importing Data from the Stub Analyzers into EMCO Network Inventory

If you do want to get the scan information from the Machines running on Windows 9X you should install, configure and execute the stub analyzers on them. Once the stub analyzers have been run, you can import the collected data into EMCO Network Inventory's database.



Refer to the next section, 'Installing on Remote Computers' for more information about the stub analyzers.

To import the stub analyzer data:

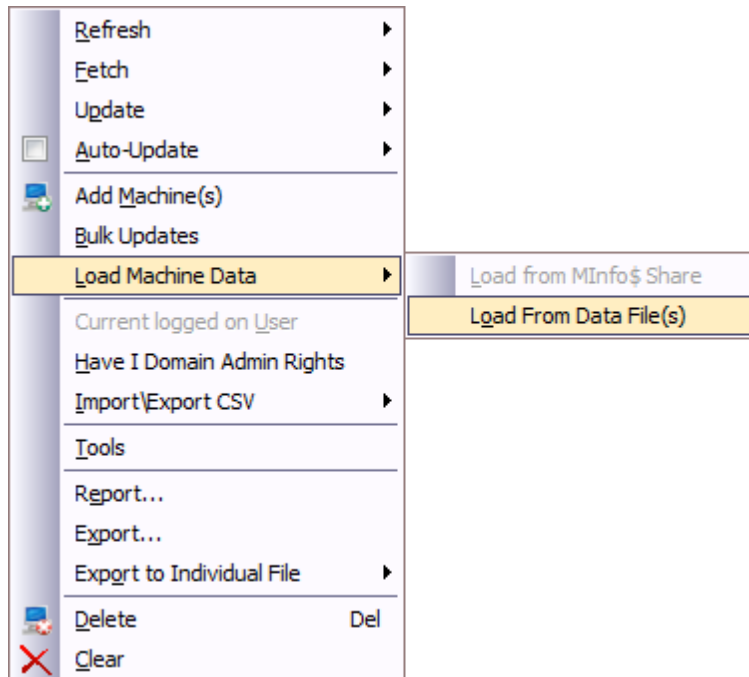
As you click on items in the left panel, the details of the selected item appear in this panel.

Select these tabs to (a) manage the information collected from the machines on your network, (b) change the EMCO Network Inventory settings, or (c) provide alternate credentials.

Select items from this list to view details and perform other operations on the collected information.

1. In the main EMCO Network Inventory screen, right-click on Networking.

- In the context menu that appears, select Load Machine Data > Load From Data File(s).

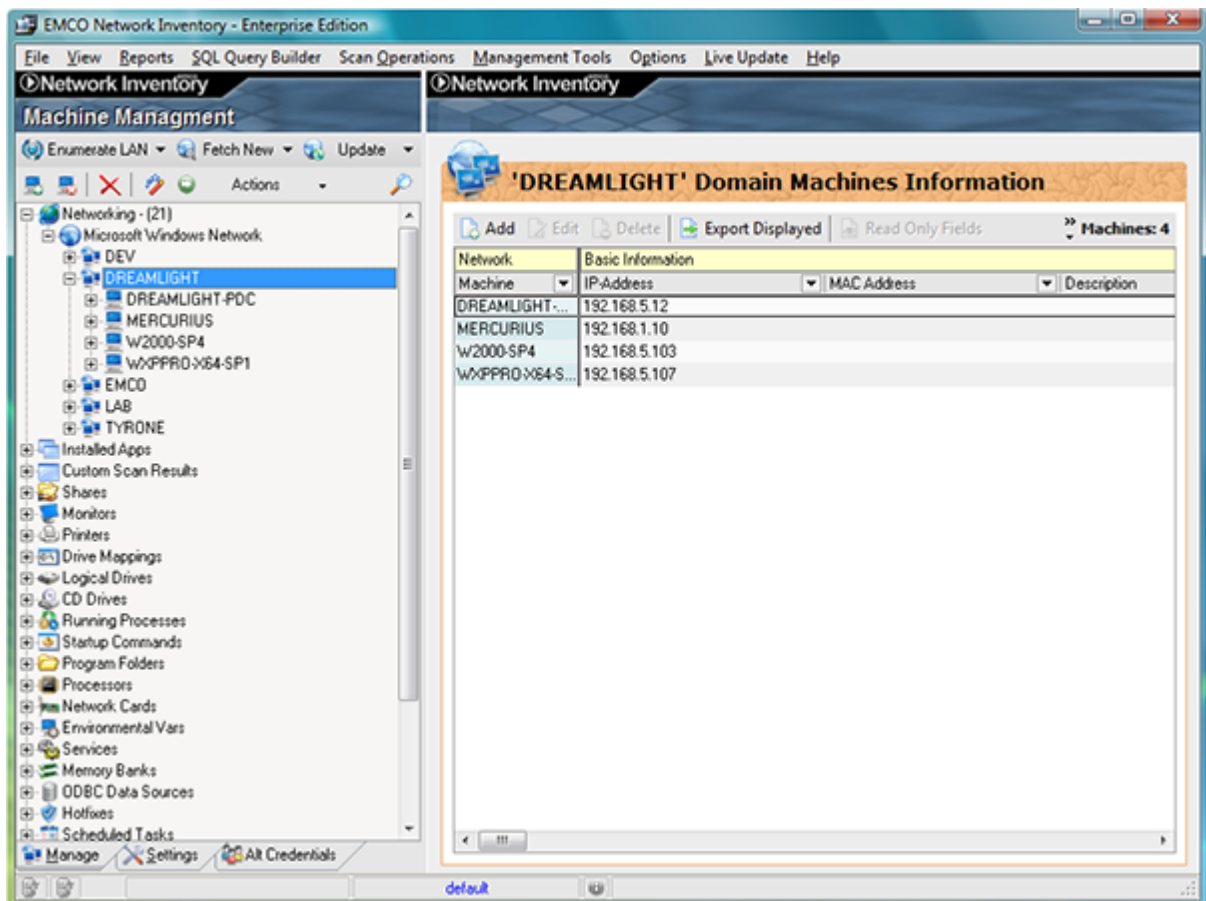


Load From Data Files

- In the Open dialog that appears, select the relevant <MACHINE NAME>.mdax5x file and click on the Open button.

The scan data from the selected machine will be imported into EMCO Network Inventory.

- If you now open any of the branches in the left panel of the main screen, you will see the imported data.



Main Screen after importing data

Scanning the Network

EMCO Network Inventory allows you to perform a variety of scan operations on machines in your network.

Use This Scan...	To...
Scan for File	Search the computers on your network for specific files and folders.
Scan for Disk	Search through the various drives on your local and remote computers for specific types of files.
Scan for Registry	Search the registry of local and remote computers for a specific value.
Scan Registry	Search the registry of local and remote computers for a specific key or value.



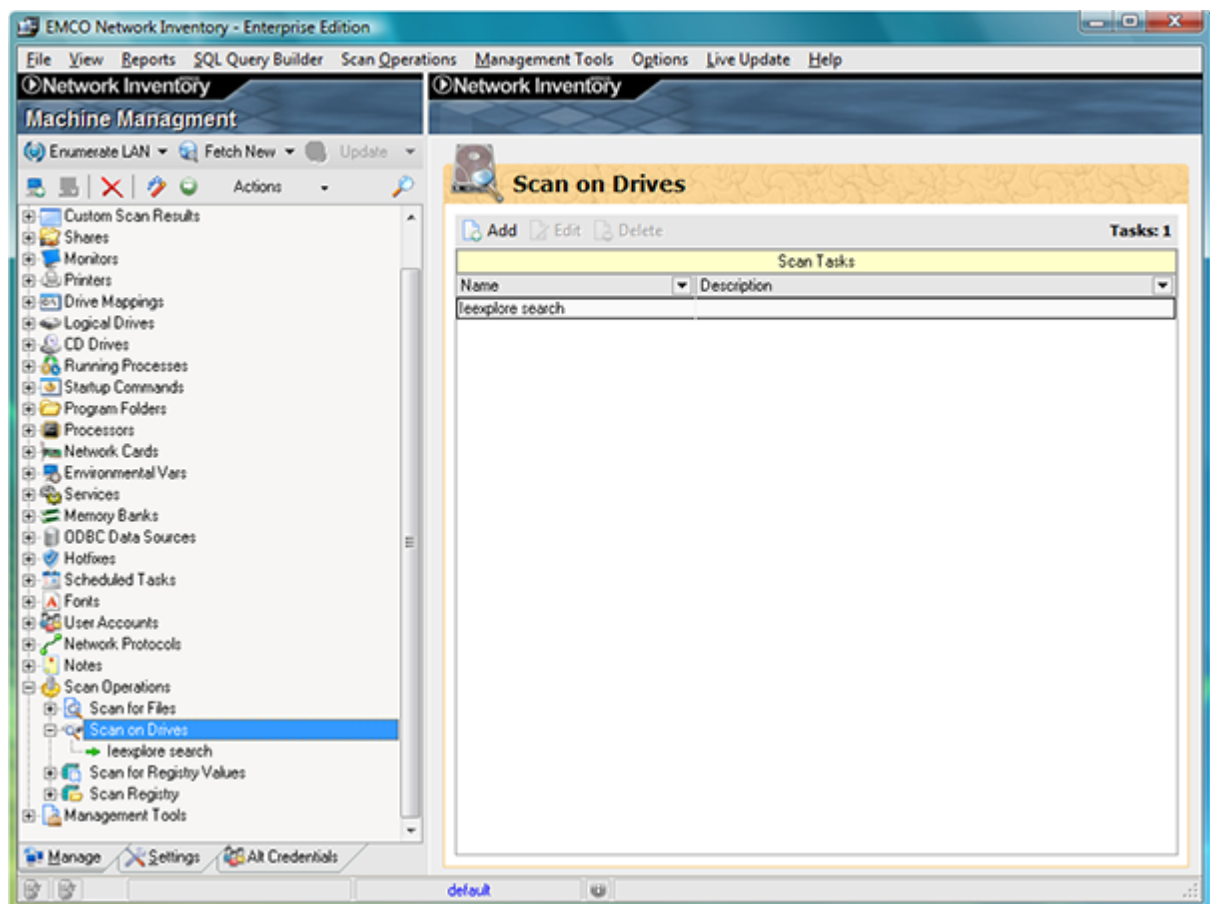
Scan for File, Scan for Disk, Scan for Registry and Scan Registry are available only in the EMCO Network Inventory Enterprise Edition.

Scanning the Network consists of two distinct operations

- ▣ Defining the Scan, and
- ▣ Executing the Scan.

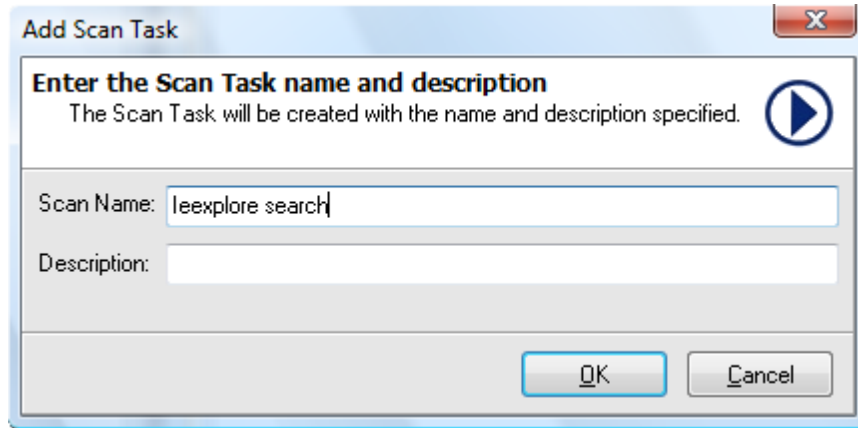
Defining a Scan Operation

1. Expand San operations node, and select one of the Scan nodes.



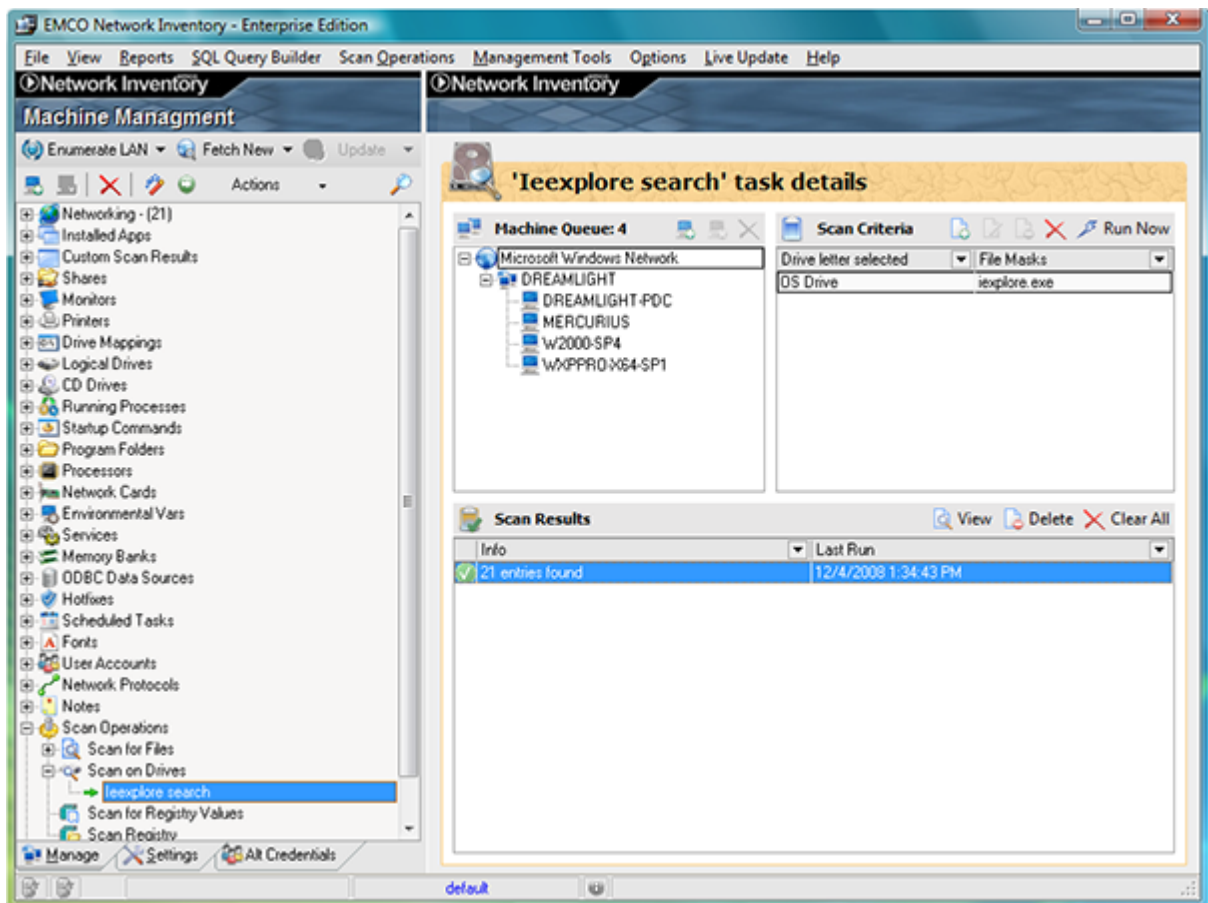
Selecting the Disk Scan node

2. Click Add button to add a new item. The Add Scan TaskDetail dialog appears.



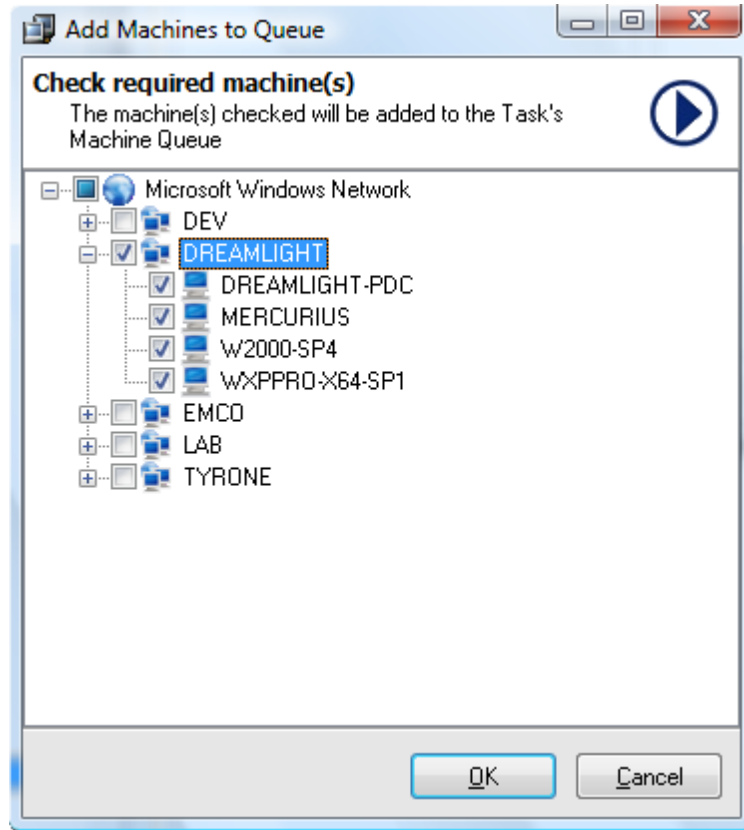
The Add Scan Task dialog

3. Type a name and description for the job and click OK button.
4. Auto expand the node and select your newly defined task.
5. Press the Add button to open the Machine Queue dialog.



Clicking on the Add Machine button

6. Check the required Machines.

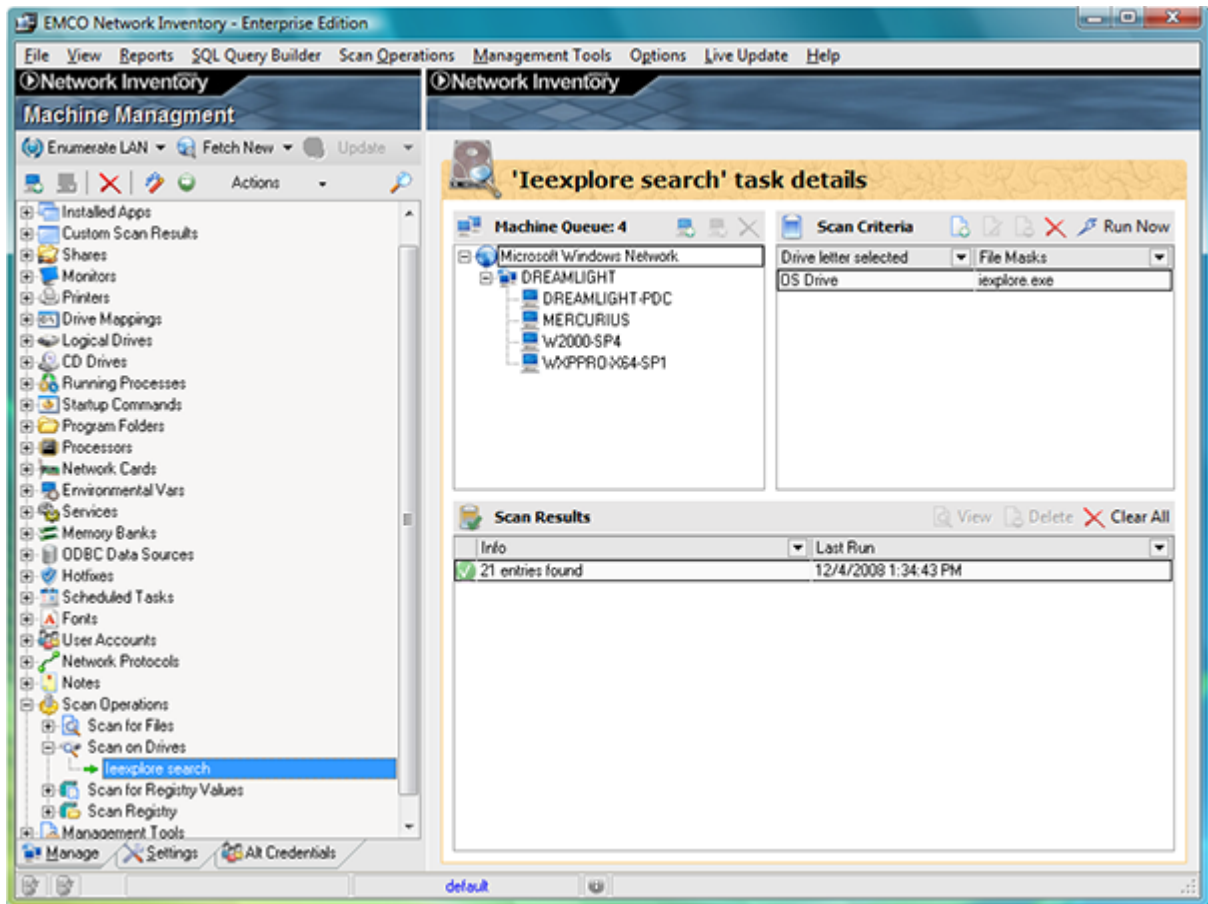


Machine Queue

7. Press OK button to proceed.
8. Specify the other settings of the scan.

Executing the Scan Operation

1. Click Run Now button to execute the scan. The scan is executed and the scan results are added to Scan Results.
2. Select the result you want to view details for and click View. The details for the selected scan result are displayed.



The Results of the Scan

Viewing Reports

Once you have collected data from the various machines on your network, you can view or print reports based on this data for all or selected machines.

To view or print reports:

1. In the left panel of the EMCO Network Inventory screen, expand the Networking node.
2. Expand the desired Network node.
3. Expand the Domain/Workgroup for which you want to view or print reports.

4. Select one or more machines from the list of machines in the left panel.



To select multiple machines -

- First, click on one machine.
- Hold down the Ctrl key and click once on each of the other machines that you want to use for the report.
- Release the Ctrl key.

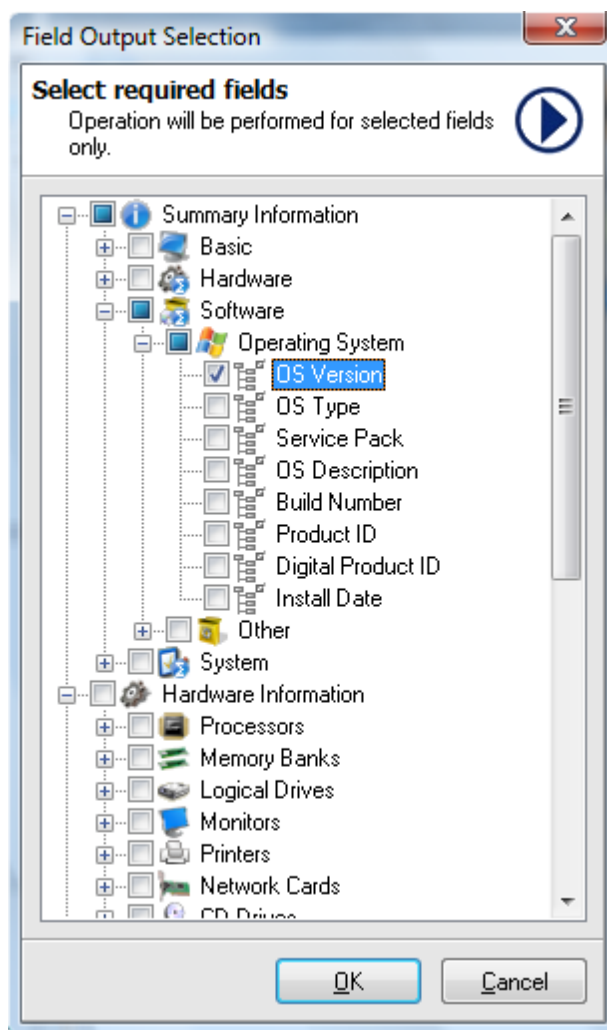
5. Right-click on any of the selected machines.

6. Select Report Selected > To Screen from the context menu.

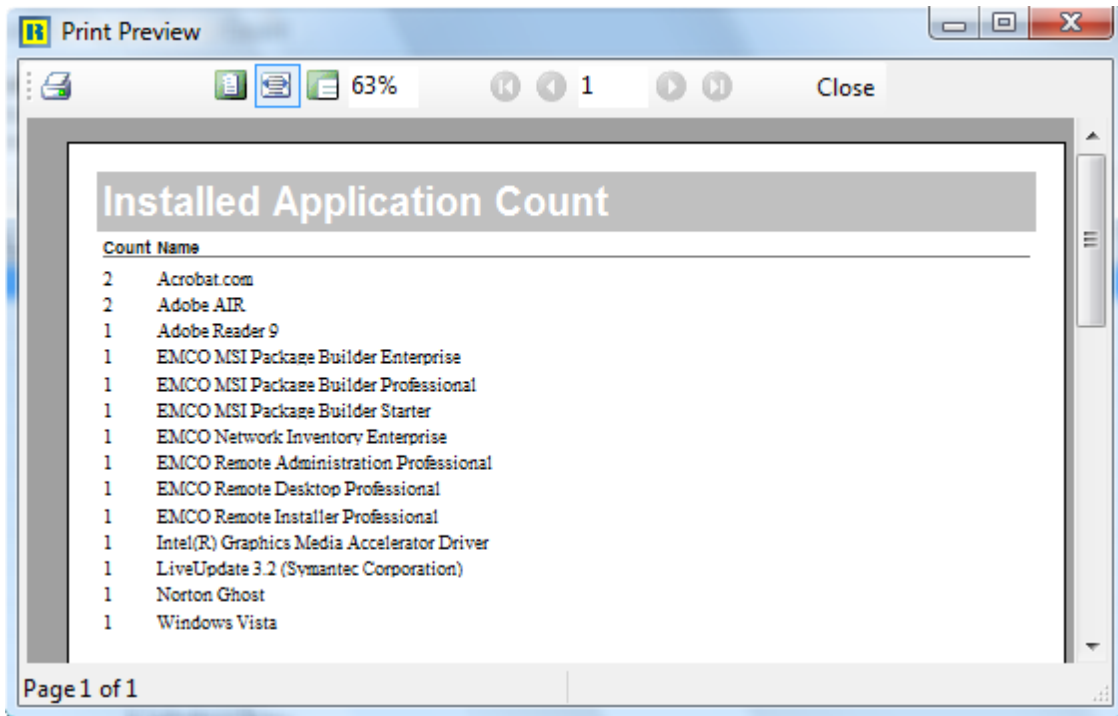


Instead of the screen, you can also send the report to a PDF, HTML, RTF, JPEG, or plain text file, by selecting To Individual File in the context menu.

7. In the Field Output Selection dialog select the fields that you want displayed in your report and click OK.



The Field Output Selection dialog



Viewing the Report

Exporting Data

You can export part or all of the data you have collected to an Excel file or Access database.

To export data:

1. Expand the Networking node on the left of the EMCO Network Inventory screen.
2. Expand the desired Network node.
3. Expand the Domain/Workgroup you want to view or print reports for.

4. Select one or more machines from the list of machines in the left pane.

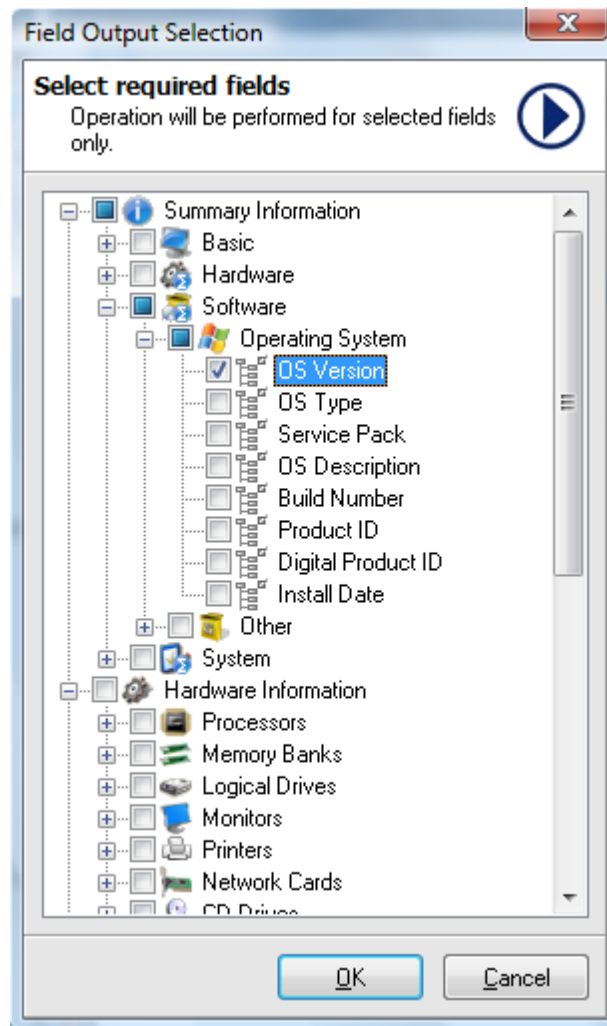


To select multiple machines -

- ▣ First, click on one machine.
- ▣ Hold down the Ctrl key and click once on each of the other machines that you want to use for the report.
- ▣ Release the Ctrl key.

5. Click on File > Export All.

6. In the Field Output Selection dialog select the fields that you want to export and click OK.



The Field Output Selection dialog

7. Type a name for the file you are exporting and select a file type from the Save as type drop-down list.

8. Press Save button to export the data.

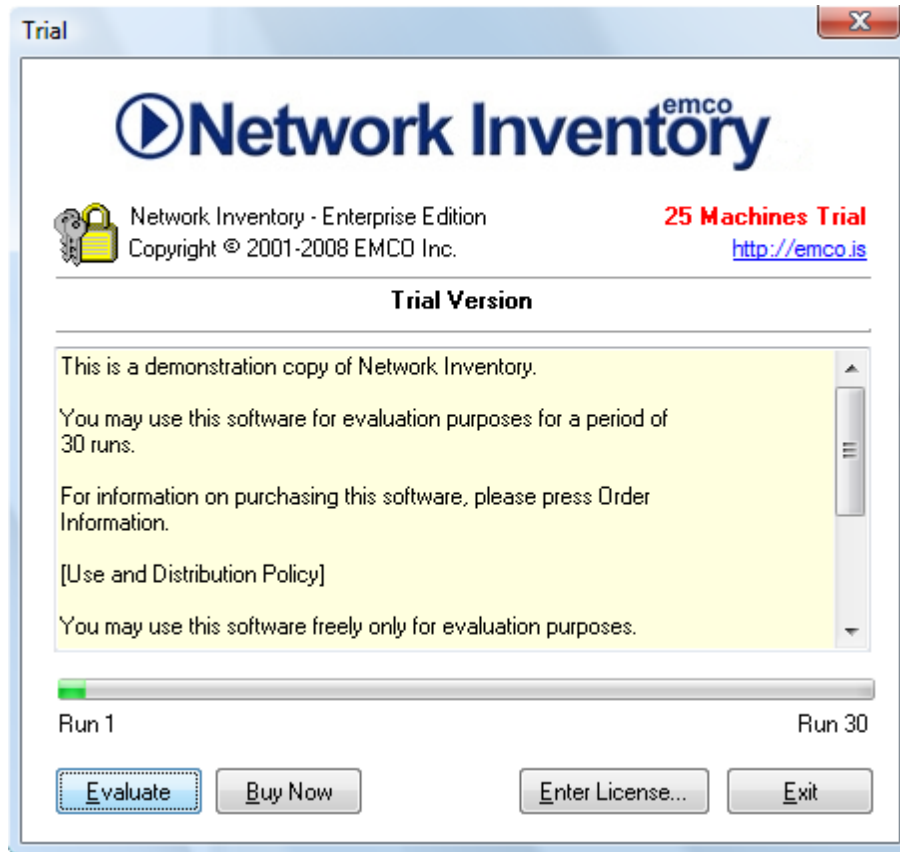
Activating EMCO Network Inventory

To avoid piracy of its products EMCOSoftware follows a license management system. Each product has a license file which shows that a particular product is registered to a certain company. When you download a trial version of a product, it generally comes with a free trial license allowing you to use that product during the trial period. When the evaluation period of that product ends it will not work any more until you purchase a license for it.

The free trial version of EMCO Network Inventory will only run 30 times. If you want to continue using the program you should purchase a license for it. When you purchase a license for EMCO Network Inventory a License Code is sent to you via e-mail.

To active the EMCO Network Inventory program:

1. Start EMCO Network Inventory.
2. In the Trial dialog that appears whenever you start the trial version of EMCO Network Inventory, press the Enter License Code... button.

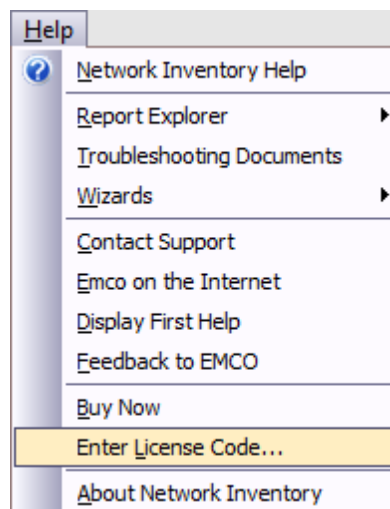


The Trial dialog

3. In the Enter License Code dialog that appears, enter the License Code that you have received via email, and click OK.



You can also open the Enter License Code dialog box by clicking on Help > Enter License Code...



The Help Menu

Your copy of EMCO Network Inventory is now activated.