



Software ID Tag Identification for Creative Cloud Applications FAQ

Overview

Organizations have a need to determine, at any given point in time, the installation and license-related information about the software products deployed on their systems. This helps them in their Software Asset Management (SAM) tasks, and helps them to deploy the products effectively while also complying with the licensing terms, and to increase the productivity of users.

As the number of employees in an organization and/or the software products deployed increases, the problem of maintaining the installation and license-related information becomes more and more challenging. Identification of standard Creative Suite application installs compared to Creative Cloud subscription based applications can also be difficult.

The problem is addressed by the use of software tagging. Software tagging is the process of maintaining a set of tag files (.swidtag) on a client machine to determine the installation and license state of various software products. A software tag file is an XML file that contains information for identification and management of software products. The tag format that Adobe utilizes is the ISO/IEC 19770-2:2009.

For asset management, an administrator can run a SAM tool that scans the tag files on the client machine and parses them for analysis and reporting. Software tagging is thus an important part of Software Asset Management.

Software ID Tag FAQ

Where are Adobe's Software ID Tags located on a system?

The location is platform specific. For Acrobat 10 and 11; CS5, CS5.5, CS6, and Creative Cloud the .swid tag files are created in this locations after install/first launch:

- Windows XP: %ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application Data\regid.1986-12.com.adobe
- Windows Vista & Windows 7: %PROGRAMDATA%\regid.1986-12.com.adobe
- Mac OS: /Library/Application Support/regid.1986-12.com.adobe

Does the XML file need a special program to read it?

No. The .swid XML file is human readable and can be opened in a text editor.

How can identify between Creative Suite and Creative Cloud installs in the XML?

There are two tag attributes that can help to identify this:

- product title [Example: regid.1986-12.com.adobe_CreativeCloud-CS6-Mac-GM-MUL.swidtag]
- channel title [Example: Subscription]

Do the Software ID tags show info on each individual product?

No. In the case of installs of multiple Creative Cloud applications (i.e. Photoshop and Dreamweaver) only one Software ID tag will be present on the system.

Does every Adobe application available from the Creative Cloud have a companion Software ID tag?

No. Only the Creative Cloud applications that were part of the Creative Suite have them. Lightroom and Muse for instance do not have them presently.

Are Software ID tags considered the definitive SAM identifier for Adobe?

No. Software ID tags are simply a crucial piece to the SAM and deployment infrastructure that aid in the process of asset and inventory management.

Where can I get more information about Adobe's Software ID tags?

There is a document that was created in the time of CS5.5 that provides thorough info on the tag attributes of Adobe's tags entitled Software Tag Implementation in Adobe Products located on this site in eight languages:

<http://www.adobe.com/devnet/creativesuite/enterprisedeployment.html>

Do all SAM providers and deployment vendors support reading and reporting the Software ID tags?

Implementation of the ISO standard into SAM and deployment solutions has been slower than anticipated but many major vendors including Microsoft and JAMF Software made commitments to the standard in 2012. Please contact your solution provider for more info on their support.

Where can I find more info about Software ID tags?

<http://tagvault.org/>

