

## Technical Data

### HP OpenView Software Distributor

#### Welcome to HP OpenView

HP OpenView is a complete family of products providing integrated network and system management (INSM) solutions for multivendor distributed computing environments. The HP OpenView solution consists of a family of management platforms, a complete set of INSM application development tools, an impressive portfolio of management applications, and a unifying architecture.

### XSD.TIF;4.355";3";TIFF

#### The New Way of Managing Software Distribution

HP OpenView Software Distributor, one of the HP OpenView management applications, is a full set of sophisticated tools that perform distributed management of software across the network. Software Distributor provides a central management organization, an industry-standard capability for single-point software distribution and management that reduces costs, improves service levels, and remains flexible enough to support unique software management policies. Software Distributor provides administrators the ability to push software to distributed systems. Users of those systems can pull software from any number of networked or local software depots.

When included as part of the HP OpenView management solution, administrators can use Software Distributor to successfully manage the complete distributed environment.

#### Features and Benefits

† **Industry Standard** → HP OpenView Software Distributor was selected as the basis for the electronic Software Distribution Services (SDS) for OSF's Distributed Management Environment (DME).

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IEEE Posix 1003.7.2 Software Administration Standardization efforts has also selected HP OpenView Software Distributor. HP has built upon these capabilities to provide a safe investment that will meet your needs today and continue to perform for years. Software Distributor follows these common interface and data format standards, providing common software packaging and management processes between different platforms.

‡ **Application and Data Integrity** → Automation of software distribution from a central location provides end users with the most recent application revision and accurate data sooner and at a much lower cost. Productivity is improved when everyone is working with the same software revision and same data set. In a client/server environment, it is absolutely essential that application revision changes at both ends are synchronized.

FIG1.PCX;3.75";2.7";PCX

Figure 1.

‡ **Cost and Time Savings** → Software distribution currently costs companies millions of dollars every year in media, travel costs, and time spent by skilled personnel. Software Distributor focuses on improving system administrators' productivity by eliminating or automating time-consuming software installation and update activities. Software Distributor assists administrators in managing every aspect of software configuration, verification, and removal, greatly reducing costs in media duplication, travel, and time.

‡ **Flexibility** → Software Distributor is highly flexible, fitting into any network environment. Companies can customize Software Distributor to satisfy their unique software management policies. A robust command line interface allows Software Distributor to be integrated into other network and system management environments. Software Distributor also will aid administrators in conforming with licensing agreements by providing lists of software installed on each node.

## Software Distribution Overview

Software Distributor supports a variety of distributed and standalone environments. This flexibility allows administrators and users to improve the overall process of software distribution and installation. (See figure 1.)

Systems can fill four roles in this model → developer system, depot,

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target system, and controller system. The role a system plays can change at any time to support a new policy or process.

After software is developed, it is packaged for distribution by the developer. The packaged software can be placed in a depot for distribution over a network or can be placed on a CD or serial media for distribution to non-networked systems.

One or more distribution depots contain software that is available for installation to other systems, called target systems, in the network. Multiple versions of a software product (for example, the same product with different revisions or target system attributes) can reside on a depot.

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The controller system is any system using Software Distributor to manage the software distribution process. It also is used to manage software installed on the depots and the target systems. When the administrator chooses a Software Distributor command to perform a distribution task, the controller initiates the task, providing the necessary information to one or more target systems.

Software Distributor is flexible and can adjust to a company's different software distribution policies. Any system may play a combination of roles, allowing Software Distributor to support the following typical distribution models: push, pull, and standalone.

**Push** → The **push** distribution model allows administrators to initiate a distribution and installation of software from a depot to one or more target systems. A central server plays the depot's role. The administrator's station becomes the controller when the administrator chooses a Software Distributor command. The systems receiving the **pushed** software become the target systems.

**Pull** → The **pull** distribution model allows end users to initiate software distribution and installation to their systems. The end user's desktop system becomes the controller, and by being the final destination of the software, it also plays the role of the target system. A central location or server continues to play the role of the depot.

**Standalone** → The **standalone** distribution model allows end users to initiate a software distribution and installation from local media (tape or CD-ROM). The end user's desktop system becomes the controller of an installation task, the target system, and the depot with the source being the local tape or CD-ROM.

## Designed to Meet Your Needs

Software Distributor, a complete software management product, focuses on improving administrators' productivity by automating time-consuming installation and update tasks. An administrator can install multiple copies of software on multiple target platforms from a single console. Following are steps that each software package goes through to be distributed to the network and, ultimately, to the target system.

## Software Packaging

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Software Distributor's packaging tools allow developers to easily package their solutions into distributable forms through a flexible keyword specification model.

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## Distribution Depots and Media

Software can be packaged for distribution in the following forms:

- | a serial tape (such as DDS, QIC, or nine-track) containing a distribution in a tar archive
- | a CD-ROM containing a distribution depot
- | a distribution depot located on the network

## Hierarchical Product Structure

Software Distributor supports products that are organized into products, subproducts, and filesets (collections of files). This hierarchical organization allows the administrator to specify installation of a product without inspecting the individual files within the product. It also provides flexibility when disk space is limited, to specify partial product installation through the selection of subproducts or filesets.

## Software Dependencies

Applications usually require other software to be installed on the target system for correct operation. This is considered a software dependency. Software Distributor manages the installation of all software required for the application to run. This includes software required before and after installation of the application.

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Software Distributor orders the installation of software dependencies appropriately, leading the industry in electronic software management.

### Support of Custom Control Scripts

Software Distributor allows each target system to be fully configured and customized during each step of the installation. Through the use of custom control scripts provided with the package, each target system is ready to run the software when the process is completed.

### Distribution Depots

Distribution depots are repositories of software available for installation, and often are used as the source of an installation task. The depots can be configured to support the policies of the organization as follows: from a centrally located software warehouse, to multiple depots arranged hierarchically, to a fully distributed solution on servers throughout the environment.

Software Distributor allows depots to simultaneously distribute software packages to multiple target systems and allows depots to be distributed on various servers. It also allows administrators to manage (create, populate, list, verify, and remove) distribution depots. System administrators can control the access to each individual software product on the depot.

### Software Selection

Before installation, the system administrator must select the software to install or update on the target machines. Software Distributor has a number of features to complete the task in a minimum amount of time.

### Software Catalog

Software Distributor helps the administrator locate available depots and retrieve detailed information on software products in the depot catalog. This information consists of product name, revision, descriptions, hardware, and software dependencies.

### Easy-to-Understand Information Display

Software Distributor provides an easy-to-understand graphical user interface (GUI) based on OSF/Motif<sup>®</sup>. The interface provides product

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navigation and information allowing the user to identify and select the appropriate products quickly and easily.

### Compatibility Checking

Software Distributor will, by default, only install compatible software on a target system. It checks the target operating system types, revisions, and machine attributes to determine if the product can be installed.

### Session Management

With Software Distributor, the administrator can save policy definitions, software selections, and target selections to named files. The administrator can then retrieve these named session files saved in previous sessions to further enhance productivity and streamline redundant tasks.

### Installation Analysis

Software Distributor automates the task of analyzing each target machine by performing a Series of checks between the target machine and the software to be installed. The target system can be checked to ensure all filesystems used during the installation are mounted and available.

A detailed disk space analysis evaluates the disk space on the target machine against the amount necessary for the software to be installed. By default, software will not be installed on a target unless enough disk space exists. Additional checks also can be performed.

Software Distributor checks the request to ensure the target system has the authorization to install the selected software. Requests from unauthorized target systems are denied.



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## Installation and Update

Software Distributor performs the primary task of software administration; it installs, reinstalls, or updates software from a depot onto one or more target hosts. Software Distributor supports both the installation and configuration of software products.

The user can install application software into its default location, or map the product to another location if another version is already installed at the default location.

## Reliable Distribution

Software Distributor ensures successful distribution using reliable connections from the source system to the target systems. If the link is broken between the source and target, the administrator is notified. The administrator is able to recover from the error and resume the software installation task.

## Task Monitoring

The administrator is kept current on the progress of software distribution tasks. A Software Distributor task operating on multiple targets displays progress information for each target. The interactive interface provides detailed information about each target's status.

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## File Compression

The administrator has the option to compress software files that are transferred during installation from a depot. Smaller files are sent, reducing the load on the entire network.

## Software Configuration

Software Distributor supports unique configuration of each target system. The administrator can perform this configuration as part of the installation task or can defer the actual configuration to another time. Multiple software versions can be supported on a single target system through this configuration process.

## Verification of Installed Products

Software Distributor provides comprehensive verifications of installed software on each depot or target system. From their central locations, administrators can build processes that monitor the integrity of the software within their networks.

## Software Management

Part of managing software is knowing what applications are installed throughout the distributed environment, which allows for better planning of software purchases and license conformance.

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From a central location, administrators can generate reports on the installed software within their network. Software Distributor stores the installed software information for each system in the Installed Products Database (IPD).

Each depot also has a catalog of software available for installation, and it contains all the information provided in the product packaging. Software Distributor can list the available products, along with their attributes, in various formats.

From a central location, the administrator can remove obsolete or unnecessary software products within the network. Software Distributor provides removal of software, target-specific configurations created by the product, and product files on depots or target systems. It understands software dependencies, and will not cause side effects on other products unless forced to by the administrator.

For More Information

For more information, please contact your HP Sales Representative.

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## Ordering Instructions

To order the following products, please contact your local sales office.

**J2326AA** HP OpenView Distributor Licenses

**J2325AA** HP OpenView Distributor Media and Documentation for Series 700/800

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