

Teqtivity Analysis: Ghost Assets Cost Enterprises Up to \$5M Annually, New Report Finds

New quarterly report finds that inventory drift is a management failure, not a clerical one — with real consequences for security, spending, and audit readiness

CERRITOS, CA, UNITED STATES, April 14, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Teqtivity](#), an IT asset management platform serving enterprises globally, today released its [2026 Q1 IT Asset Intelligence Report](#), "The Ghost Asset Crisis: How Inventory Drift Is Reshaping IT Governance." The report draws on publicly available industry research to examine how the gap between asset records and what's actually in the field is widening — and what that gap is costing organizations.

The findings arrive as global IT spending is projected to reach \$6.15 trillion in 2026, a 10.8% increase year-over-year. Yet across many of the

organizations Teqtivity works with, a basic operational question still goes unanswered: what devices do we actually have, who has them, and where are they right now?

Hiren Has Mukh, Founder and CEO of Teqtivity, says the pattern is consistent: "We hear some version of that question in almost every conversation we have with IT leaders. The spending keeps going up. The complexity keeps going up. But the ability to answer simple questions about your own environment hasn't kept pace."

The Ghost Asset Problem

The report identifies "ghost assets" — devices still listed in records but no longer in verified



Teqtivity shines a light on ghost assets—IT equipment that exists on paper but is lost or stolen—which drain resources and create security risks.

custody — as a management problem, not a data entry one. They accumulate through normal business activity: fast hiring, role changes, gaps in offboarding, and refresh cycles where old devices are never formally retired.

In an organization handling 2,000 device transactions a month, that creates roughly 24,000 chances per year for records and reality to drift apart.

The financial cost is real. Conservative modeling based on direct observations across customer environments finds that a 7% accuracy gap in a 10,000-device organization produces between \$2 million and \$5 million in annual losses — through buying devices you already have, paying for hardware sitting unused, misallocating software licenses, and planning refreshes on bad data.

The security risk is equally significant. The average U.S. data breach costs \$10.22 million. And 71% of HR professionals report that at least one departing employee did not return their company device. Every device that doesn't come back is an endpoint no one controls — holding credentials, active sessions, and years of access history.

Hasmukh puts it plainly: "Most organizations treat ghost assets like an inventory problem. It's not. It's an access problem. A device that never came back is an endpoint you can't account for. You can't secure what you can't account for."

Evidence From the Field

The report draws on findings from Teqativity customer environments to show the scale of recoverable value. In one large enterprise engagement, fixing lifecycle gaps and clearing inventory blind spots surfaced excess devices, improved retrieval rates, and reduced unnecessary procurement — resulting in \$4 million in operational savings.

Three Things Making it Worse in 2026

The report identifies three forces compounding the problem this year: more technology being deployed faster, remote and hybrid work becoming the default rather than the exception, and compliance requirements that now ask for device-level records — not just policy documents. Each is manageable on its own. Together, they leave no room for guesswork.

Industry Signals: The Problem Spans Every Sector

The report also maps how this pattern plays out across industries. In healthcare, where the average data breach costs \$7.42 million and devices operate under strict regulatory mandates, untracked equipment creates direct compliance exposure. In financial services, identity-dense environments and constant regulatory scrutiny make device-to-user validation a governance necessity. In technology and SaaS companies, high turnover and remote onboarding accelerate the accumulation of ghost assets. The report finds that while the consequences vary by sector, the structural pattern is consistent: devices move faster than records are updated, and governance maturity has not kept pace.

How Organizations Are Responding

The report identifies three approaches emerging across industries. Some organizations are adding more monitoring tools. Others are running periodic audits and cleanup initiatives. A third group is building accountability directly into the moments when devices move — when someone is hired, changes roles, leaves the company, or when hardware is retired. The first two approaches tend to work temporarily before drift returns. The third changes the conditions that cause it in the first place.

"You can add more monitoring. You can do another audit. But if the process that governs how a device moves through your organization isn't structured, the gap keeps coming back," said Hasmukh. "We built Teqtivity to fix that at the process level."

What to Watch in Q2 2026

The report closes with two predictions. Ghost asset risk will grow fastest in organizations with large contractor populations or distributed teams, where device movement is high and governance hasn't caught up. Inventory drift will also surface more frequently during audits, as auditors begin requesting device-level custody records that most existing systems cannot easily provide — creating pressure on organizations that rely on periodic cleanups to stay compliant.

The full 2026 Q1 IT Asset Intelligence Report is available at www.teqtivity.com/teqtivity-it-asset-intelligence-report-q1-2026

About Teqtivity

Teqtivity is an IT asset management platform built to help organizations stay in control of their technology environments as they grow. By centralizing asset records and building accountability into how devices move through an organization, the platform helps teams maintain visibility and reliable data across distributed workforces and large device estates. Teqtivity is designed to scale without adding complexity — unlimited asset tracking and full platform features from day one. Learn more at www.teqtivity.com.

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