

The SAM Spotlight

A Publication of Soft-Aid for the ITAM/SAM
Manager Community

In This Issue

[Feature Article: Microsoft Server Licensing 201 - What you need to know about licensing Microsoft server products part 2](#)

[Current Industry News](#)

Quick Links

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Industry News Archive](#)

Microsoft Server Licensing 201

What you need to know about licensing Microsoft server products Part 2 of 2

Author: Normand Bleau, SAM Consultant, [Email](#)

This is the second in a two-part series on Microsoft Server licensing. In the first part, the server/CAL licensing model was explained in detail, including new concepts from Microsoft and some of the variables that affect Server licensing decisions. You can access part one in our archive. This article will explain the Per Processor licensing model and elaborate on some of the other considerations in properly licensing Microsoft Server products.

Per Processor Licensing

"Per Processor" licensing is the second Microsoft server licensing model and is more straightforward than server/CAL licensing. It requires a Per Processor license for each processor that is accessible by the Microsoft Server product. Dual core processors are still considered by Microsoft to be one processor for licensing purposes. Other vendors do this differently (e.g. Oracle does not go by physical processor).

Per Processor licenses allow you to run the product on the server and an unlimited number

of users to access the product; this can be either internal or External Users, which Microsoft defines as people who are not your employees, contractors, or agents of your organization. External Connector licenses, which allow unlimited access by External Users, are not available or applicable under this model.

All Microsoft server products, except SQL Server, are licensed using one method or the other but not both. For example, Windows Server and Exchange Server are only available through the server/ CAL model. Similarly, Internet Security and Acceleration Server (ISA) and Host Integration Server (HIS) are only available through the Per Processor model. Microsoft SQL Server can be purchased through either model. Bear in mind, however, that Microsoft does not offer an External Connector license for SQL. This becomes a concern when customers (or other External Users) directly or indirectly access data stored in SQL Server. In most of these cases, a Per Processor license will be needed to allow for this access. If the SQL solution is for internal use only, then the server/CAL model may be more economical.

There is a breakeven point, however, where using the Per Processor model will be less expensive than the server/CAL model. The exact point depends on whether you are going to use SQL Standard or SQL Enterprise and how many processors are on the server(s). Be aware that there is no way to convert server/CAL licenses to Per Processor licenses. Therefore, you should consider future plans when deciding which method to use. Is the number of users accessing SQL server(s) expected to increase? Is there a possibility that the SQL database will need to be accessible to External Users in the future? Do you expect to add processors to the server in the future? Do you expect to load balance the SQL Server which other machines in

the future?

The Developer Environment

In my years consulting on licensing options, I have found that there is a common misconception about licensing requirements in a dedicated testing and development environment - namely, that paid licenses are not needed. This is not true; *all* Microsoft servers must be licensed regardless of how they are used. In testing and development environments, MSDN (Microsoft Developers Network) subscriptions are commonly used to accomplish this. There are a variety of MSDN subscriptions; each has different combinations of developer tools and production applications. These subscriptions are unique because they are licensed per developer (or "subscriber"), and not per system. Information on MSDN subscriptions can be found [here](#).

A developer can install and use any of the products provided by the subscription on any number of systems (PCs or servers) as long as those systems are used in a dedicated testing and development environment and only by the developer. For example, if you have two developers that use 10 servers in a dedicated development environment, you would only need two MSDN subscriptions (one for each developer). The 10 servers would be properly licensed as long as they are only installing products provided by the subscription. If you hired a third developer, you would need to purchase an additional MSDN subscription for him/her. In the absence of MSDN subscriptions, you would need to purchase licenses from one of

the other licensing programs.

The Virtual Environment

As virtual environments become more prevalent, it's important to remember that the products used in each instance must be properly licensed. In most cases, this means you will need a license for each installation you make in a virtual environment, just as if you were making the installation on a separate, physical system. Microsoft's Product Use Rights (PUR) allow some exceptions.

1. Windows Server 2003 R2 Enterprise allows one physical OS environment and up to 4 virtual instances. It should be emphasized that this applies only to R2 Enterprise; it applies neither to the original release of Windows Server 2003 nor to Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard.
2. SQL Server 2005 allows any number of instances as long as it has been licensed through the server/CAL model.
3. You are allowed any number of instances for any product licensed through the Per Processor model as long as the total number of physical and virtual processors does not exceed the number of software licenses assigned to the server. If the virtual environment is in a dedicated testing and development environment, then MSDN subscriptions, if in use, will provide the required licenses (as long as the installed products are included with the subscriptions).

Your individual circumstances and the specific

Microsoft Server products that you are acquiring impact the licenses that you need to purchase. As reviewed in this series of articles, there are variables that can play a role in developing the proper licensing solution. It is important to fully investigate the licensing requirements and consider any unique needs of your organization before making a purchase. Hasty or uninformed decisions often lead to an inappropriate licensing solution, resulting in noncompliance and/or paying more than necessary.

"Never confuse motion with action."

-Benjamin Franklin

Industry News

"4 Security Technologies Every IT Organization Must Have" Matt Clapham and Todd Thompson, *Technet Magazine* [More](#)

"UK Firm Pays Biggest Ever Fine Over Pirate Software" John Leyden, *Channel Register* [More](#)

"Managing Hardware Restrictions via Group Policy" Jeremy Moskowitz, *Technet Magazine* [More](#)

For more information about the security of your information, please read our Privacy Policy at

<http://www.aid.com/legal/privacy.htm>. This Newsletter is subject to our Terms of Use as listed at <http://www.aid.com/legal/termsofuse.htm>.

You should not rely on this E-Newsletter for legal advice or opinions. The information type should not be interpreted to be a commitment on the part of Soft-Aid. INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS E-NEWSLETTER IS PROVIDED 'AS IS' WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND. The reader assumes the entire risk as to the accuracy of any information presented after the date of publication and the use of this document.

Copyright © 2007, Soft-Aid, all rights reserved (but feel free to copy it, post it, quote it, think about it, and forward it to others so long as Soft-

Aid and its web site www.aid.com are mentioned as the originators and copyright holders).