Microsoft Windows Desktop Operating System Licensing

Common Misconception:

"I don't need Windows on my PC/laptop because my licensing agreement has me covered"

Get the facts:

There are NO Microsoft Volume Licensing Agreements, NO Schools agreements, NO tertiary agreements that include the underlying full Windows desktop operating system. All these agreements that have Windows desktop licenses, are Windows UPGRADES, and require an eligible underlying Windows Operating System License (usually purchased via a System Builder).

Common Misconception:

"My old laptop no longer works, so I'll just transfer the Windows OEM license over to my new laptop"

Get the facts:

Even if the original laptop or PC is not longer in use, or if the software is removed from the original hardware, the OEM license is 'tied' to the device on which the software is first installed.

Common Misconception:

"I don't need Software Assurance for my Windows desktop - I just buy upgrades when I need to!"

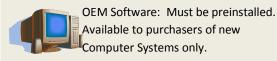**Get the facts:**

Software Assurance for Windows offers so much more than just upgrading to the latest edition of Windows.

Windows Licensing Basics

When licensing Microsoft Windows, it's important to understand the basics of what you can buy, and where from:

<u>Full</u> underlying Windows desktop licenses	
OEM Software: Must be preinstalled. Available to purchasers of new Computer Systems only.	Retail product: Designed for home users or small businesses needing a small quantity of licenses. Available from retailers in a packaged box including manuals and media (for installation).

Windows desktop **<u>upgrade</u>** licenses	
Microsoft Volume Licensing	For customers needing 5+ licenses. Volume Licensing offers programs to suit small businesses right through to large organisations. Windows available in Volume Licensing programs are upgrades only and require a FULL underlying Windows Desktop Operating System license.

Windows through Volume Licensing

When purchasing the Microsoft Windows Desktop Operating system through Volume Licensing programs, there are three options:

1. **Software Assurance only (SA):** Available only through Microsoft Volume Licensing programs within 90 days of an eligible Windows OEM license purchase. Software Assurance provides access to a huge range of business benefits to assist with deployment and management – summarised here in the section below.
2. **Upgrade:** For customers outside of the 90 day Window to purchase Software Assurance.
   In order to purchase an upgrade a customer must have a qualifying underlying desktop operating system license (usually purchased from an OEM)
3. **Upgrade with Software Assurance (U&SA):** Bundled suite available for customers wishing to purchase both a Windows Upgrade AND Software Assurance.

Software Assurance (SA) for the Windows Desktop Operating System

Software Assurance is available to purchase through Microsoft Volume Licensing Programs (such as Open Value). Software Assurance for Windows desktop operating systems offers the following benefits:

- **Windows 7 Enterprise:** Designed for business customers with features like Bitlocker, DirectAccess and Multilingual User Interface Language Packs.
- **Microsoft Desktop Optimisation Pack:** Add on subscription only available for customers with SA on Windows desktop operating system. Accelerates desktop deployments whilst managing software centrally.
- **Windows Virtual Desktop Access:** Allows a licensed device to access virtual desktop infrastructure and allows the single, primary user to remotely access their desktop from third-party devices such as home or contractor-owned PCs

- **Windows Fundamentals for Legacy PCs:** Enables organisations to run early operating systems that are not in a position to purchase new hardware.
- **Virtual OS rights:** Run up to four instances of Windows in virtual environments for each Windows license with active SA coverage.
- **New Version Rights:** For new versions of licensed software released, receive rights to those versions (for each Windows license with active SA coverage).

Windows Operating System Upgrade Paths

Eligible Underlying Licenses (by Volume Licensing Program).

All Windows Desktop Operating System Licenses are purchased through a Volume Licensing program are UPGRADES. The following chart shows eligible underlying software licenses that you may buy the upgrade for. Depending on which Volume Licensing program a customer is eligible to purchase within depends on which products are eligible underlying products to purchase the Windows Operating System Upgrade via a Volume Licensing Agreement.

Exceptions / Comments ▶	Open License and Open Value	Academic and Charity	Open Value CompanyWide or Enterprise Agreement		Select
			New	Existing	
	Excludes Academic, Charity & Open Value CompanyWide	Via any Microsoft Volume Licensing program	Includes Commercial and Government agreement types		Excludes academic
Windows 7 (32-bit or 64-bit)					
Enterprise	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Professional (diskless)	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Ultimate	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Home Premium	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Home Basic	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Starter Edition	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Windows Vista (32-bit or 64-bit)					
Enterprise	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Business	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Ultimate	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Home Premium	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Home Basic	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Starter Edition	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Windows XP (32-bit or 64-bit)					
Professional	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Tablet Edition	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
XP Pro Blade PC	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible	eligible
Home & Starter Edition	✖	eligible	✖	✖	✖
Windows 2000 Professional	eligible	eligible	eligible	✖	eligible
Windows NT Workstation 4.0	eligible	eligible	eligible	✖	eligible
Windows 98 (including 2nd Edition)	eligible	eligible	eligible	✖	eligible
Apple Macintosh	eligible	eligible	eligible	✖	eligible

Academic includes Campus & School, Select - Academic, and Open - Academic Programs.
For the most updated terms and conditions when Microsoft Windows Upgrades, please visit **www.microsoft.com/licenseterms**

Purchasing Genuine Windows

For customers that may have incorrectly licensed Microsoft Windows desktop operating system software there are solutions. Initially, for customers worried they may have counterfeit or pirated Windows software, check online. It's confidential and it's easy. Simply visit: **www.microsoft.com/genuine**

No matter your situation, if you have non genuine Windows licenses, you can get correctly licensed with Microsoft's Get Genuine Windows solutions. There are options available. If you are a business with more than five desktops, ask your trusted IT advisor about the "Get Genuine Windows Agreement" – an easy and cost effective way to get Genuine Microsoft Windows. For individuals or home businesses, ask your trusted IT advisor about the "Get Genuine Kit".