Volume Licensing reference guide

System Center 2012 R2

Microsoft

Introduction

This guide can help Microsoft Volume Licensing customers understand how Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 is licensed through Microsoft Volume Licensing programs. This August 2015 version replaces the previous version published in November 2013 with Product Terms and ECAL Suite updates.

This guide is for informational purposes and does not supersede or replace any documentation covering System Center 2012 R2 licensing. Specific product license terms are defined in the product's Retail Software License Terms, the Microsoft Volume Licensing agreement under which it was acquired, and/or the Microsoft Volume Licensing Product Terms.)

For more information, including the latest version of this guide, visit the Microsoft licensing website at www.microsoft.com/en-us/licensing/product-licensing/system-center-2012-r2.aspx.

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Product Overview

Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 offers solutions for managing datacenter resources, private clouds, and client devices.

Private Cloud/Datacenter Management

System Center 2012 R2 helps your organization achieve IT as a Service by enabling the following:

- **Productive infrastructure:** Deliver flexible, cost effective private-cloud infrastructure to your business units in a self-service model, while carrying forward your existing data center investments.
- **Predictable applications:** Deep application insight combined with a "service-centric" approach helps you deliver predictable application-service levels.
- **Cloud computing on your terms:** Deliver and consume private and public cloud computing on your terms with common management experiences across your hybrid environments.

Client Management

System Center 2012 R2 helps IT empower people to use the devices and applications they need to be productive, while maintaining corporate compliance and control.

Licensing Overview

With System Center 2012 R2 licensing:

- **Licenses are required only for endpoints being managed.** No additional licenses are needed for management servers or SQL Server technology.
- **Licensing model is consistent across editions.** Processor-based license, covering up to two processors for server management. User- or OSE-based license for client management.

Licensing Managed Servers

System Center 2012 R2 server management licensing maximizes your private cloud value while simplifying purchasing. All server management licenses (SMLs) include the same components and the ability to manage any workload. System Center 2012 R2 SMLs will be released in two editions differentiated by virtualization rights only:

- **Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter:** Maximizes cloud capacity with unlimited virtualization for high-density private clouds
- **Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Standard:** For lightly or non-virtualized private cloud workloads

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Components Included

- ▶ Operations manager
- ▶ Configuration Manager
- ▶ Data Protection Manager
- ▶ Service Manager
- ▶ Virtual Machine Manager
- ▶ Endpoint Protection
- ▶ Orchestrator
- ▶ App Controller

Server ML Edition Comparison

	Datacenter	Standard
Number of physical processors per license	2	2
Number of Managed Operating System Environments (OSEs) per license	Unlimited	2
Includes all System Center server management components	✔	✔
Right to run management server software and supporting SQL Server Runtime (SQL Server Standard Edition)	✔	✔
Manage any type of supported workload	✔	✔
Open No Level (NL) License and Software Assurance (L&SA) two-year price*	$3,607 USD	$1,323 USD

*Estimate Retail Price. Actual prices are set by your reseller.
Note: Components included in the Server MLs are not available separately.

Determining the Number of Licenses Needed

Server MLs are required for managed devices that run server Operating System Environments (OSEs). Licenses are processor-based, with each license covering up to two physical processors. The number of Server MLs required for each managed server is determined by the number of physical processor in the server for Datacenter Edition and either number of physical processors in the server or number of OSEs being managed for Standard Edition (whichever is greater). If you choose the Standard Server ML, you can add more licenses to a server to manage a greater number of virtual OSEs.

Examples	Datacenter Server MLs Required	Standard Server MLs Required
One 1-processor, non-virtualized server	1	1
One 4-processor, non-virtualized server	2	2
One 2-processor server with 3 virtual OSEs	1	2

One 4-processor server with 8 virtual OSEs	2	4

Multiple System Center 2012 R2 Standard licenses may be assigned to the same server to license the number of managed OSEs. Components included in the Server MLs are not available separately.

Flexibility to License Managed OSEs Running on Pubic Cloud Platforms
All System Center 2012 R2 Server Management Licenses with active Software Assurance qualify for License Mobility through Software Assurance benefits. With License Mobility through Software Assurance benefits, you can assign Server MLs to manage applications running on a public cloud infrastructure.

For more information, see [License Mobility through Software Assurance](#).

Transitioning to the New Server Licensing Model

If you have Software Assurance coverage on your current System Center licenses at the time of System Center 2012 R2 General Availability, you will receive the following System Center 2012 R2 ML grants listed below:

Current License	New License(s)
System Center 2012 Datacenter Server ML	System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter Server ML
System Center 2012 Standard Server ML	System Center 2012 R2 Standard Server ML

Note: You may migrate from System Center 2012 R2 Standard to System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter by purchasing a Step-up License.

Licensing Managed Clients

Client Management Licenses (MLs) are required for managed devices that run non-server OSEs. There are three System Center 2012 R2 Client ML offerings:

	Configuration Manager Client ML	Endpoint Protection Subscription	Client Management Suite Client ML
Components Included	Configuration Manager	Endpoint Protection	Service Manager Operations Manager Data Protection Manager Orchestrator
Included in Core CAL Suite	✓	✓	
Included in Enterprise CAL Suite	✓	✓	
Open NL L&SA two-year price*	$62 USD	$22 USD	$121 USD

*Estimate Retail Price. Actual prices are set by your reseller.

Notes:
- ▶ Client MLs are available on a per OSE or per user basis.
- ▶ Components included in the Client MLs are not available separately.

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Transitioning to the New Client Licensing Model

If you have Software Assurance coverage on your current System Center licenses at the time of System Center 2012 R2 General Availability, you will receive the System Center 2012 R2 Client ML grants listed in the following table:

Current License	New License
System Center 2012 Client Management Suite Client ML	System Center 2012 R2 Client Management Suite Client ML
System Center 2012 Configuration Manager Client ML	System Center 2012 R2 Configuration Manager Client ML
System Center 2012 Endpoint Protection subscription	System Center 2012 R2 Endpoint Protection subscription

Note: There are no step-up paths for Client MLs.

Planning for System Center 2012 R2

If you are planning to deploy System Center 2012 R2, either through upgrades or new licenses, please remember:

▶ Renewing Software Assurance is the best way to protect investments and provide access to new versions as well as Deployment Planning Services and technical assistance.

▶ Select your edition of System Center 2012 R2 based on virtualization rights:

  ▶ Datacenter Edition for highly virtualized private clouds

  ▶ Standard Edition for lightly or non-virtualized private clouds

▶ Core CAL and Enterprise CAL Suites will continue to be the most cost effective way to purchase client management products.

▶ Find out how flexible payments can help you get the IT you need and stay on budget. Visit www.microsoft.com/financing for program details or to learn more. Or contact your Microsoft Solution Partner directly, or call (800) 936-3500 in the United States and Canada.

Software Assurance Benefits

Microsoft Volume Licensing customers with active Software Assurance get more productivity value through their agreement by taking advantage of the new version software rights and by capitalizing on the deployment and productivity benefits included with Software Assurance.

Here is a list of just a few of the benefits that you can receive with Software Assurance for System Center:

▶ **New Version Rights:** Upgrade every license covered under Software Assurance to the newest version when available.

▶ **Deployment Planning Services:** Get in-depth planning assistance from qualified partners or Microsoft Services.

▶ **Step-up Licenses:** Customers with Active Software Assurance can step up one license of a lower edition to one license of a higher edition (for example, from System Center 2012 R2 Standard ML to System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter ML) for the difference in price of the two licenses and Software Assurance.

▶ **24x7 Problem Resolution Support:** Reduce time downtime and support costs with around-the-clock phone and web incident support.

▶ **Enterprise Source Licensing Program:** Access Microsoft Windows client and server source code for internal development and support purposes when you have Software Assurance for 1,500 or more licensed desktop PCs in the systems pool.

Your specific Software Assurance benefit eligibility can vary by Volume Licensing program (such as an Enterprise Agreement or Open Value Agreement), and the number of qualifying licenses you have enrolled in Software Assurance. For more information, see the [Software Assurance overview](#) page.

Enrollment of Original Equipment Manufacturer Licenses into Software Assurance

Software Assurance is available for the latest version* of the software: Windows Server 2012 R2. You must acquire Software Assurance within 90 days of your purchase (see the [Microsoft Volume Licensing Product Terms](#) for details). If you acquire Software Assurance for an OEM license, your use of the software becomes subject to the Product Terms for that product and the terms and conditions or your organization's Volume Licensing agreement.

*The latest version is determined by the most recent version available on the Volume Licensing Service Center.

Availability Through Volume Licensing Programs

Licenses for Windows Server 2012 R2 editions are available the following Microsoft Volume Licensing programs.

Edition	Volume Licensing Program				
	Enterprise Agreement (and Subscription)	Microsoft Products and Services Agreement*	Open Value (and Subscription)	Open License	Enrollment for Education Solutions
Datacenter ML	●	●	●	●	●
Standard ML	●	●	●	●	●
Client Management Suite Client ML	●	●	●	●	●
Configuration Manager Client ML	●	●	●	●	●
Endpoint Protection subscription	●	●	●	●	●

*Effective July 1, 2016, in markets where the MPSA is available, Microsoft will stop accepting new orders and Software Assurance renewals through existing commercial Select Plus agreements at your next agreement anniversary date. This retirement does not apply to government and academic Select Plus agreements. More information is at www.microsoft.com/selectfaq.

Volume Activation

A number of technologies are available to simplify the task of configuring the distribution and management of an organization's volume software licenses. These technologies include:

▶ **The Volume Activation Services server role:** Volume Activation Services is a server role in Windows Server 2012 (or later editions) that enables you to automate and simplify the issuance and management of Microsoft software volume licenses for a variety of scenarios and environments. With Volume Activation Services, you can install and configure the Key Management Service (KMS) and enable Active Directory-based Activation.

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- **Key Management Service (KMS):** KMS is a role service that allows organizations to activate systems within their network from a server where a KMS host has been installed. With KMS, IT pros can complete activations on their local network, eliminating the need for individual computers to connect to Microsoft for product activation. KMS does not require a dedicated system, and it can be cohosted on a system that provides other services. By default, volume editions of Windows 8 (or later editions) and Windows Server 2012 (or later editions) connect to a system that hosts the KMS service to request activation. No action is required from the user.

- **Active Directory-based Activation:** Active Directory-based Activation is a role service that allows you to use Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) to store activation objects, which can further simplify the task of maintaining volume activation services for a network. With Active Directory-based Activation, no additional host server is needed, and activation requests are processed during computer startup.

  Any computers running Windows 8 (or later editions) and Windows Server 2012 (or later editions) with a Generic Volume License Key (GVLK) that are connected to the domain will activate automatically and transparently. They will stay activated as long as they remain members of the domain and maintain periodic contact with a domain controller. Activation takes place after the licensing service starts. When this service starts, the computer running Windows 8 (or later editions) and Windows Server 2012 (or later editions) RD contacts AD DS automatically, receives the activation object, and activates without user intervention.

Review this [TechNet article](#) for further details.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **What's new in System Center 2012 R2 server management licensing?**

   System Center 2012 R2 server management licensing does not change from System Center 2012.

2. **Can you describe the product editions offered with System Center 2012 R2?**

   As with System Center 2012, System Center 2012 R2 server management licenses will be released in two editions, which are differentiated by virtualization rights only:

   - Datacenter: Maximizes cloud capacity with unlimited operating system environments (OSEs) for high-density private clouds

   - Standard: For lightly or non-virtualized private cloud workloads

   There is no differentiation between the types of workloads you can manage with either edition. The only difference between the editions is the number of OSEs that you can manage per license. Datacenter Edition allows the management of an unlimited number of OSEs per license. Standard Edition allows the management of up to two OSEs per license.

3. **How do I determine the number of Server Management Licenses (MLs) I need?**

   Server MLs are required for managed devices that run server OSEs. Licenses are processor-based, with each license covering up to two physical processors. For Datacenter Edition, the number of Server MLs required for each managed server is determined by the number of physical processors in the server. For Standard Edition, it is determined by either the number of physical processors in the server or the number of OSEs being managed (whichever is greater).

   - **System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter**
     Each license covers up to two physical processors. You must count the number of physical processors on the server, divide that number by two, round up to the nearest whole number, and acquire and assign that number of licenses to your server.

     Provided you acquire and assign to your server the required number of Datacenter Edition server management licenses, as described above, you can manage any number of OSEs on that server.

▶ **System Center 2012 R2 Standard**
For each managed server, count the number of physical processors and the number of managed OSEs. You need the number of licenses to cover the greater number (processors or OSEs).

Processor Count	Managed OSE Count
Each license covers up to two physical processors, so you must count the number of physical processors on the server, divide that number by two, and then round up to the nearest whole number.	Each license permits you to manage up to two OSEs, so you must count the number of OSEs you will manage on the server, divide that number by two, and round up to the nearest whole number.*

*An exception to this rule is when the physical OSE on your server is being used solely to run hardware virtualization software, provide hardware virtualization services, and run software to manage and service OSEs on that device. In that case, you count only the number of virtual OSEs you will manage on the server, divide that number by two, and round up to the nearest whole number.

Examples:

	Datacenter Server MLs Required	Standard Server MLs Required
One 1-processor, non-virtualized server	1	1
One 4-processor, non-virtualized server	2	2
One 2-processor server with 3 virtual OSEs	1	2*
One 4-processor server with 8 virtual OSEs	2	4*

4. **Can I purchase each of the System Center 2012 R2 Server Management License components separately?**

No. The System Center 2012 R2 Server Management components are part of an integrated offering to create and manage private cloud environments and are available only as part of System Center 2012 R2 Standard and System Center Datacenter MLs.

5. **Can I split 2012 R2 Server MLs across multiple servers?**

No, a single Server ML cannot be used to license two one-processor servers.

6. **Can I assign more than one System Center 2012 R2 Standard license to the same server to increase the number of OSEs I can manage?**

Yes. The breakeven point for moving to System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter is seven VMs per host.

7. **How much do the Server MLs cost?**

The Microsoft Volume Licensing Open License No Level (NL) US Estimated Retail Price (ERP) is $1,323 for System Center 2012 R2 Standard and $3,607 for System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter. For your specific pricing, contact your Microsoft reseller. Actual prices may vary. Microsoft does not determine pricing or payment terms for licenses acquired through resellers.

8. **Can I extend a Server ML to manage applications running on the public cloud?**

   Yes, with the License Mobility through Software Assurance benefit, you can assign a Server ML to manage applications running on a public cloud infrastructure. System Center 2012 R2 Standard licenses allow you to manage two virtual OSEs in a public cloud, while System Center 2012 R2 Datacenter licenses allow you to manage up to eight virtual OSEs in a public cloud. When you manage applications running on Azure, each Azure instance is considered to be one virtual OSE. For more information, see the Microsoft License Mobility through Software Assurance Customer Guide.

For More Information

▶ **System Center Licensing:** www.microsoft.com/en-us/licensing/product-licensing/system-center-2012-r2.aspx

▶ **Microsoft Volume Licensing:** www.microsoft.com/licensing

▶ **Volume Licensing Service Center (VLSC):** www.microsoft.com/licensing/servicecenter/

▶ **Microsoft License Advisor:** www.microsoft.com/licensing/mla

▶ **Volume Activation:** www.microsoft.com/en-us/licensing/existing-customer/product-activation.aspx