

Quota Points Frequently Asked Questions

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What is a QP?

A quota point (QP) is a measure of virtual resources (CPU, memory, and storage) used within the Microsoft® Windows® 2008 Hyper-V™ environment. A single QP represents roughly the same amount of resources as a single virtual machine. However, this equivalence is imprecise. An application that requires more virtual CPU power but less memory and storage area network (SAN) storage might use the same amount of virtual machine (VM) resources, so the equivalence is only to be viewed as a rough guideline.

The Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM) software package measures resource utilization for a given application engagement and expresses this utilization in terms of QPs. Engagement managers can see how many QPs their applications are using by checking with SCVMM.

Because the Microsoft Partner Solutions Center (MPSC) lab is always evolving to meet the technology requirements of our customers, the calculation of QPs will also evolve, but not necessarily the pricing model.

Why are QPs important to me?

The MPSC uses QPs to quantify resource use in a virtual environment. They are measured by SCVMM, and customers can query SCVMM to see how many QPs their applications are using after the environment is established. Measuring resources by using QPs also enables customers and partners to have more dynamic control of their resources. For example, engagement participants can try several different virtual configurations to achieve the performance or scalability that best meets their needs. They can then see how those changes affect the QPs they have anticipated using, and make decisions accordingly.

All MPSC programs—including the Virtual Innovation and Development Lab (VIDL), Partner Virtual Innovation and Development Lab (PVIDL), and Demo-Pilot-Production Program (D3P)—have QPs associated with them. See the associated datasheets and FAQs for VIDL, PVIDL and D3P programs for details. If the levels for either performance or scalability or both require more QPs than have been anticipated for a given engagement, more QPs can be purchased.

How many QPs do different engagements require?

Different engagements require different VM resources. Even among similar engagements, various requirements for performance or scalability will affect resource consumption and affect the number of QPs needed. The three examples that follow provide some ideas of what different engagements require:

1. The **Customer Immersion Experience (CIE)** application suite installation fits within a VIDL engagement and communicates with 10 laptops for these demonstrations. This engagement will likely need 16 QPs and will involve the following software:
 - Microsoft Office Communicator 2007.
 - Microsoft Office Excel® 2007.
 - Microsoft Office OneNote® 2007.
 - Microsoft Office Outlook® 2007.
 - Microsoft Office PowerPoint® 2007.
 - Microsoft Office SharePoint® Server 2007.
 - Microsoft Office Word 2007.
 - Microsoft SharePoint Designer.
 - Microsoft Office InfoPath® 2007.
2. A **Hosted Messaging and Collaboration Suite (HMC 4.5)** application installation fits within the parameters of a PVIDL engagement and will likely need 10 QPs for support.
3. A **System Center Mobile Device Manager (SCMDM)** application installation fits within either a D3P or PVIDL engagement and will likely need five QPs for support.

Note: These examples assume certain performance and scalability requirements. Your performance and scalability needs may differ, so the actual QP allocations for your engagement may be higher or lower.

Is there a difference between a QP and a VM?

No. QPs and VMs are roughly equivalent.

If I run out of QPs for my project, can I purchase more?

Yes. See the respective VIDL, PVIDL, and D3P FAQs for details.

How can I acquire additional QPs?

Acquiring new or additional QPs should be done through the engagement agreement process. Engagement participants can view existing or provisioned points for a given engagement through the SCVMM Self-Service Portal.

Does the introduction of QPs affect my existing VIDL or PVIDL engagement?

There will be no changes to existing engagements unless you decide to purchase additional QPs. Your engagement manager can tell you how many QPs are associated with your engagement, and by querying the SCVMM Self-Service Portal to see how many QPs your configuration is using, you will know how many resources are left for your application needs. If you need to acquire more QPs, your engagement manager can help.

What if I have an existing VIDL or PVIDL engagement and want to start a new engagement?

New engagements will use the QP system and you will need to enter a new engagement in our tools.

How do I know when I am reaching my QP total?

Your current allocation and usage of points figure is available through the SCVMM Self-Service Portal. If you are reaching your total allocated QPs, you can either change the configuration to use fewer QPs or you can purchase additional QPs.

Can I manage my own QPs?

Yes, by using the SCVMM Self-Service Portal.

Will the QPs associated with an engagement change over time?

As technology and resources change, the effective amount of resources associated with an engagement may change. However, such changes may or may not have any effect on the fees associated with MPSC engagements.

Does the underlying server and storage technology affect QPs?

Yes. Various server architectures use CPU, memory, and storage resources differently, which in turn affects virtual machine performance. QP estimates associated with MPSC engagements are based on the server and SAN configurations supporting the MPSC virtualization environment (consisting of Sun Microsystems Sunfire 4450 servers and a Compellent SAN). If you wish to use a different server or SAN configuration, the SCVMM might calculate QP utilization differently.

How many QPs will my own applications consume in a virtualized environment?

It is difficult to determine in advance what resources your own application will require to run at the performance levels and with the scalability you desire. The MPSC will estimate the amount of QPs your application will consume when provisioning your engagement. However, that is only an estimate, and once you are working with your application in a virtualized environment, you may find that you need to use more or fewer QPs to achieve the results you desire.