

Licensing Windows desktop operating system for use with virtual machines

This brief applies to all Microsoft Volume Licensing programs.

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Summary

This licensing brief is an overview of the Microsoft Volume Licensing use rights for the Windows 8.1 operating system when running within virtual machines.

The licensing covered in this brief is described in the context of Software Assurance for the Windows desktop operating system (Software Assurance for Windows) and the Windows Virtual Desktop Access (VDA) subscription license under Microsoft Volume Licensing. For use rights provided with Windows preinstalled by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or purchased through other channels, review the license terms that accompany those products. You can find the Software License Terms for products purchased through these channels at www.microsoft.com/about/legal/en/us/intellectualproperty/useterms/default.aspx.

Details

Microsoft Software Assurance for Windows provides the greatest flexibility for how you use Windows. It includes access to unique products and license rights not available through other licensing programs. Software Assurance for Windows is the path to enabling flexible work styles by providing access to Windows instances in a variety of ways across devices.

You can separately license devices for use in virtual machines (VMs) that do not have or are not eligible for Software Assurance for Windows (such as thin clients) with a Windows VDA subscription to gain access to these benefits.

This brief provides an overview of the Windows virtualization rights available to Microsoft Volume Licensing customers. The information here applies only to licensing the Windows desktop operating system for virtualization scenarios. It does not address other licenses that may be required for specific scenarios, such as Microsoft Office licenses and Client Access Licenses (CALs).

For Windows desktop operating system software licenses acquired through the OEM channel, the Windows use rights are outlined in the Software License Terms that accompany the software. These license terms provide use rights to run Windows **locally** on the licensed device in a virtual operating system environment (OSE). However, they do not

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provide use rights for accessing Windows running **remotely** in a virtual OSE from the licensed device and are limited in other ways when compared to virtualization use rights provided with Software Assurance for Windows and Windows VDA subscription licenses acquired through Microsoft Volume Licensing. For example, OEM licenses do not permit remote access to a Windows virtual machine running in a data center.

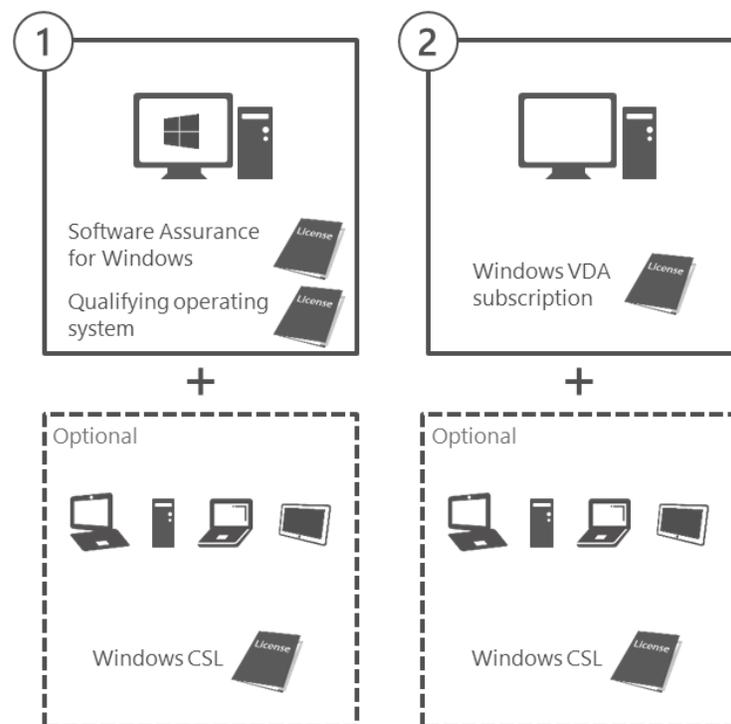
How to get Windows VDA Rights

Windows VDA Rights are available through three licensing vehicles. These use rights allow for a licensed device to access virtual Windows desktops either remotely and/or locally, depending on the licensing vehicle you are using.

Windows VDA Rights are available when the following occurs:

1. A device is licensed with a qualifying operating system license and is also covered by Software Assurance for Windows.
2. A device does not have a qualifying operating system (for example, a thin client) and, therefore, cannot be licensed with Software Assurance and is licensed with a separate Windows VDA subscription license.

Additionally, when a device covered with either of the above is also licensed with the separate Windows Companion Subscription License (CSL), Windows VDA Rights are extended for the primary user of the licensed device for up to four companion devices.



Vehicles for acquiring Windows VDA Rights

Notes:

- ▶ The "licensed device" is the device to which the qualifying operating system license, Software Assurance for Windows, Windows VDA subscription, and/or Windows CSL are assigned.
- ▶ For a list of qualifying operating systems, refer to the Microsoft Volume Licensing [Product List](#).

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Comparing the Windows VDA Rights

A few differences exist between the VDA rights granted depending on the licensing vehicle you are using (Software Assurance for Windows/Windows VDA subscription/Windows CSL).

Use Rights	Example	Licensing Vehicle		
		Software Assurance for Windows	Windows VDA Subscription	Windows CSL
1 Run up to four instances of Windows in a <u>remote virtual</u> OSE or one instance in a remote physical OSE (remote boot).	Access a Windows virtual machine on a server through the virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI).			
2 <i>Additionally to #1, #3, and #4:</i> Access Windows instances remotely through VDI using a third-party device when away from work (Roaming Use Rights).	Primary user of a licensed device accessing a Windows virtual machine remotely from a personally owned home PC.			
3 <i>Additionally to #1:</i> Run up to four instances of Windows in a <u>local virtual</u> OSE.	Windows virtual machines running locally on the licensed device.			
4 <i>Alternatively to #1:</i> Run up to two instances for Windows in a <u>local physical</u> OSE.	Dual boot on a licensed device.			

*Requires device to have an underlying Windows Pro or Windows Enterprise license.

Running instances of the software

For each license you assign, at any one time, you can remotely access up to four instances of the software running in virtual OSEs (only one instance per virtual OSE) on your servers (for example, on up to four different servers in your data center) from the licensed device.

For devices licensed with active Software Assurance for Windows coverage:

- ▶ At any one time on the licensed device, you can also run up to four instances of the software in virtual OSEs (only one instance per virtual OSE) and one instance of the software in one physical OSE. If you run all five permitted instances simultaneously, you must use the instance running in the physical OSE solely to run the following:
 - The hardware virtualization software
 - Software to manage and service OSEs on the licensed device

Alternatively, for each license, you can run on the licensed device at any one time two instances of the software in the physical OSE. If you choose this option, you cannot run the software in any virtual OSEs on the licensed device.

Note: You cannot run the software in the physical OSE on the licensed device under a Windows VDA subscription license.

Roaming Use Rights

The single primary user of the device licensed with active Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA subscription (work device) can do the following:

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- ▶ At any one time, remotely access one or more of the permitted instances running on your servers (for example, in your data center) from a third-party device.
- ▶ At any one time, run one instance of the software in a virtual OSE on a qualifying third-party device.

When the primary user is on your or your affiliates' company premises, Roaming Use Rights are not applicable.

These VDA Rights and the corresponding Roaming Use Rights are non-perpetual and are only active as long as the underlying Software Assurance for Windows, Windows VDA subscription and/or Windows CSL is active.

Editions: Customers can use Windows 8.1 Pro, Windows 8.1 Enterprise, or a prior version for any permitted instance running in a virtual machine. Likewise, customers electing the alternative right to run a second copy in a hard-drive partition on a device licensed with Software Assurance for Windows can use prior versions in place of a permitted copy or copies. (Refer to your agreement and the [Microsoft Volume Licensing Product List](#) for full information on prior version rights for Windows.)

Scenarios

The following business scenarios can help you understand how you can license the Windows desktop operating system in your environments.

Note: These examples are focused on scenarios for customers with Software Assurance for Windows, and/or Windows VDA subscription. They do not necessarily specify all licenses needed for the scenario. For example, Users or Devices also need to license for remotely accessing a VDI/Session desktop or application on Windows Server, if used, with the corresponding access licenses i.e. Windows Server CALs and RDS CALs. Some scenarios may also require Microsoft Office Professional Plus licenses. For simplicity, those separate licensing requirements are not always included.

Scenario	Description	Licensing Solution
Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Desktops	The Windows desktop operating system runs within virtual machines in the data center on a hypervisor platform (such as Hyper-V technology). These virtual desktops are accessed from either PCs, thin clients, or other devices.	Because the devices are accessing the Windows desktop operating system running within virtual machines, they would need active Software Assurance for Windows, Windows VDA subscription, and/or Windows CSL licenses, depending on the device type. Additionally, Roaming Use Rights would also apply, depending on the scenario and user.
Remote Desktop Session Host/Terminal Services Session Virtualization "Desktops"	A Windows Server operating system (such as Windows Server 2012 R2) is shared across multiple users via Remote Desktop Session Host running applications like Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013. Either PCs, thin clients, or other devices access these sessions.	Because the devices access a Windows Server operating system only, they do not need any additional licensing for the Windows desktop operating system. However, the devices/users need to be licensed for the session technology (such as Windows Server CALs and Remote Desktop Services [RDS] CALs). The devices accessing the sessions also need licenses for Office Professional Plus.

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Mixed VDI and Session Desktops

Some users access VDI desktops and some access session-based desktops or applications. In some cases, a particular device may need to access both simultaneously (for example, a user logs into a VDI desktop and then accesses a remote application or desktop through a session).

Users need to license only the devices accessing the VDI desktops for the Windows desktop operating system through Software Assurance for Windows, Windows VDA subscription, and/or Windows CSL licenses. Users/Devices need to license for accessing a session/VDI desktop or application on Windows Server with the corresponding access licenses (such as Windows Server CALs and RDS CALs).

Roaming VDI Users

A user is the primary user of a thin client at work that has been licensed for VDI. The user also needs the flexibility to access their VDI desktops from home or while traveling using their personal tablet device.

The thin-client device needs a Windows VDA subscription license to allow it to access up to four concurrent Windows virtual machines running in a data center. Because the user is a primary user of a device licensed for Windows VDA subscription, Roaming Use Rights apply, and the user does not need any additional Windows VDA subscription licenses for the tablet (or any other non-company device used off-premises).

Bring Your Own Companion Device (BYOCD)

The company provides employees with a primary work device covered by Software Assurance for Windows, or Windows VDA subscription and wants to allow employees to bring their own companion devices (such as tablets) to work and access a corporate VDI form those devices.

Because the primary work device is licensed for Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA subscription, the company can acquire a Windows CSL for the licensed device, which allows the primary user of that device to access a corporate VDI at work from up to four additional companion devices. Devices eligible for use under the Windows CSL include any type of personally owned device as well as corporate owned non-x86 devices.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

The company decides to let users bring their own devices to work and sets up VDI desktops for all users. Devices do not have a qualifying operating system (for example, they may be licensed for Windows 7 Home Premium). These users do not have access to any other devices.

The company needs a Windows VDA subscription license for one of the devices the user brings into the corporate environment. Then add the Windows CSL to cover up to four additional personal devices.

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Company-owned Windows RT Companion Device	The company provides a set of employees with both a primary work device covered by Software Assurance for Windows, or Windows VDA subscription, as well as a Windows RT device from which the employee can access their corporate desktop through VDI.	Beyond the license for the primary device with Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA, no additional Windows licenses are required. The primary user of a device licensed for Software Assurance for Windows or a Windows VDA subscription can use a Windows RT companion device to access a corporate desktop through VDI without acquiring a separate Windows VDA subscription license.
Contractor PCs	Organization A contracts some work to organization B and allows organization B's employees to access organization A's VDI desktops through organization B's PCs. Devices have a qualifying operating system (such as Windows 8.1 Pro).	Organization A will need to license devices that organization B's employees use to access organization A's VDI desktops with either Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA subscription license. Note: If devices accessing the VDIs do not have a qualifying operating system, they would need to be licensed with a Windows VDA subscription.
Local Windows Virtual Machines	An organization has a group of developers who need to test an application across multiple Windows images running in local virtual machine on PCs running Windows 8.1 Pro.	The PC needs active Software Assurance for Windows, which permits running up to four virtual machines concurrently.

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